THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

(SEMI-WEEKLY.)

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HOW TO ESCAPE INFECTION.

The readers of the newspapers have received a new scare recently. A man died in New York of rabies last week and consequently the public have been regaled with all the old time superstition and heresies concerning hydrophobia. The victim in this case dressed the wound of a dog and died of rabies, which was sufficient to establish a long grist of illogical conclusions in the popular mind.

It is comforting in these parlous days of germs and infection to know that the human system is fairly well fitted to battle against germs, even without medical assistance. The person who is in good health stands always a fair chance of dying of old age notwithstanding the terror inspired by the advertisement of diabolical bacilli. Take the farmer's boy. He drinks from the brook, runs rusty nails into his feet, is bitten by excited dogs and cats, carries dead rats in his pocket, poulttices his finger with cobwebs from dirty corners, swims in stagnant green-mantled pools and arrives at manhood with a stock of vitality that makes him a power when he goes to the city or to college. In his case the germs got the worst of it. Nor is the city lad an easy victim. He manages to live and thrive despite the bacilli with long names and fearsome habits.

Over-civilized men may worry if it pleases them. Worry, indeed, unfits the subject to resist bacterial disease, but the barefoot boy, partly because of an ignorance that is bliss, is immune.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND ABSURD

The Montreal Witness, a paper that numbers among its clientele the most independent and thoughtful body of readers in Canada, denounces the tactics of the Opposition in the present hold-up in the following language:

"We doubt if any more brutal and altogether indefensible piece of parliamentary warfare has occurred in all parliamentary history than the hold-up of the estimates and of all the business of the country undertaken by the Conservative party for no more worthy purpose than to secure to itself, in defiance of the principles of the constitution, the control of the electoral lists in Manitoba and other parts. It certainly is unconstitutional to demand for the provinces the control of the parliamentary electoral lists, and if parliament chooses to take those lists out of provincial hands no one can make any reasonable objection, even if it took them into its own. But when the control of the lists is to be transferred entirely into the hands of the judges and thus placed out of the reach of political manipulation altogether, the demand of the Opposition becomes as egregious as their method of enforcing it is subversive of parliamentary liberty. The most painful part of this outrage is that the leader of the Opposition, who has so far shown himself an honorable statesman, should have been forced into it by a provincial government, with the aid of such sourced men as Mr. Foster and such a man as Mr. Taylor, whose prominence in the Conservative party has never contributed to public amenity. It cannot be supposed that the whole Conservative party is in sympathy with this piece of brigandage. There are many gentlemen in it. Whether these will make themselves felt remains to be seen.

A TEMPLE OF PEACE.

The opening of the Central American Court of Justice at Cartago, Costa Rica, last week is a material advancement in the interests of peace in a part of the world that has been a veritable theatre of revolutions and fratricidal wars. The opening was affected in the presence of the American, Mexican and Central American representatives and the occasion was signified by a munificent bequest from Andrew Carnegie of $100,000 for a Temple of Peace. The event will be regarded with enthusiasm by the apostles of international arbitration and with hopeful sympathy by the well-wishers of humanity everywhere. Though the event is not epochal, it is of exceptional promise, and suggestive of beneficent influences upon other nations that it is unwise for the over critical and skeptical to under-rate.

It is a happy sequence following the conclusion of the recent treaties of peace among the Central American States, though there have been disquieting occurrences reported from Guatemala since that time. There were those who tumultuously acclaimed the conclusion of the treaties as instantly and forever eliminating all trouble from the future of the Central American States. Judgment has never been regarded as a quality of those who expect all things in an hour. Though the disturbances in Guatemala have disappointed such sanguine expectations the work of the treaty makers has been by no means undone.

The most hopeful feature of the situation is that in the midst of turmoil and disquietude the American republics have renewed their adherence to the treaties and have given a substantial indication of their desire to promote their programme of justice and peace by erecting a permanent international court. That is what renders the events of last week auspicious and encourages the experiment.

A NEW FUNCTION FOR THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

Commenting on the significance of the movement recently inaugurated by President Roosevelt in bringing the Federal and State governments into conference with respect to the conservation of American resources, the Times points out that Great Britain has a vital interest in the question almost equal to the United States. Great Britain depends a great deal upon the United States for her food supply, and for supplies of other necessary things which are not produced in adequate quantity in the Old Country. There is also a warning for Canadians, who should take heed lest the skilled exploiters from across the line seek a new field on Canadian soil. Capitalists and manufacturers under the cover of a robber tariff policy have worked overtime exploiting the national resources of the American Republic for their own selfish ends. Their supreme watchword appears to be the exploitation and exhaustion of the world's resources in this generation.

There is, indeed, a lesson in the action of the Federal and State Governments in drawing closer together on this great question for every part of the British Empire. Considering the analogy between this vast territory of the United States with its widely diverse interests, climates, products and populations, and our own Empire, more diverse, though less geographically continuous, there is undoubtedly as great a necessity for a basis of new unity more directly concerned with our social and material needs. Here is a new function for the Colonial conference, the sole institution that we can point to as the analogy of President Roosevelt's conference. The example of this conference should stimulate more intimate and friendly inter-State relations and a more reasonable co ordination of all the parts for the common good of the whole.

AGE LIMIT OF MENTAL FERTILITY.

It is three years now since Dr. William Osler set the world talking over a jocose remark that fell from his lips while addressing the students of Johns Hopkins University. An opinion was expressed which shocked the public mind with regard to the age at which the fertility of the mind ceased. The version of the utterance placed the limit at forty years. The statement was really construed to mean the use of chloroform and other soporifics to spirit outworn genius to the Elysian shades.

The sudden rise of such a storm of vehement criticism obviously suggests the popular interest in this theme apart from the remark of Dr. Osler, and the essential point at issue is one upon which the appeal to history naturally throws light. Among those who have been led to examine the biographies of the illustrious who have contributed to the world's knowledge and progress were Prof. Dorland of the University of Pennsylvania and Mr. E. B. Simmons. The result of their studies have appeared in the Century Magazine for April, and the current number of Munsey's.

The two writers, though following different methods, have practically arrived at the same conclusions. Prof. Dorland examined the records of not fewer than four hundred workers and thinkers. He finds that the careers of usefulness which he examined began at twenty-four, and had an average duration of forty years. This suggests that the age limit of mental fertility at least extends to the age of sixty-four. But when it is considered that this is an average, and that the average covers the extremes, it will be observed that the limit may extend to any age. In fact Prof. Dorland cites cases of seventy-three famous men whose real work was done between the ages of seventy and a hundred. A few of the instances are highly interesting. Von Moltke, the German military strategist, won the Franco-Prussian war at seventy. Blucher was seventy-three when he reinforced Wellington, and Dandalo stormed Constantinople at the moss green age of ninety-six. Lord Palmerston died in harness at eighty-one, and Gladstone was eighty-four when he resigned his ministerial post. Lamarck finished his great work on natural history at seventy-seven, and Newton divined the law of gravitation at sixty, and continued an active and fruitful career in science and mathematics to the age of eighty-four. Goethe was eighty two when he completed "Faust." Titian dropped his brush only after he turned the century mark.

To get such a mass of such suggestive information on such an absorbing topic the world owes its gratitude firstly to Dr. Osler, and secondly and in greater measure to Prof. Dorland and Mr. Simmons for their laborious research.

To this pleasing array of facts many causes have contributed. First, it should be observed that hard work is not inimical to health. Longevity of life depends very much upon high enthusiasm, sobriety, cheerfulness, opportunity and an ulterior purpose coupled with hard work. The findings of Prof. Dorland and Mr. Simmons will be wholesome as a medicine, and will promote a message of hope and cheer to all who become informed of them. They bear out the philosophy of Browning that the finest wine of life is reserved for the last.

THE REPETITION OF HISTORY.

A united South Africa has long been predicted by British colonists the world over, partly because it is the way of contiguous colonies governed by our constitutional system, and partly by the analogy of Canada, Australia and even the United States. The British Empire is the fecund mother of self-governing nations and commonwealths, and their procreative causes and conditions bear striking resemblances in essential circumstances. The federation propaganda in South Africa has arisen out of inter-colonial quarrels of railway and customs policy. The Transvaal is the richest of the four colonies concerned and the largest purchaser and exporter. Hence the prosperity of the Cape Colony and Natal seaports, of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, and Durban, and the Cape Colony and Natal railways. But the natural harbor of the Transvaal is Lorenzo Marques in Portuguese East Africa, which is only one-third of the distance from Pretoria and Johannesburg to Cape Town or Port Elizabeth. Owing to a railway agreement among the four colonies involving mutual concessions, the Transvaal has patronized the Cape and Natal railways. But the years since the war have been years of industrial depression, and the present agreement is in obvious conflict with the Transvaal's real shipping interests. The colony is growing restive under an agreement which is considered more or less inequitable. It was to consider this agreement relating to the railway and customs union that an inter-colonial conference was called to meet at Pretoria last month.

The deadlock of interests suggests the causes that brought about the Canadian inter-colonial conference at Charlottetown and Quebec, out of which grew the larger question of Canadian federation. Similarly at Pretoria the conference which met in no excessively amicable spirit after two days' discussion and deliberation passed the following resolution, that is like the ending of a lover's quarrel:

"The delegates of the self-governing colonies have adopted the principle of closer union, and undertake to submit certain resolutions to their Parliaments with reference thereto. They also undertake to recommend to their Parliaments the appointment of delegates to a national convention for the purpose of framing a draft constitution."

The same difficulty of representation by population that distracted the Canadian Provinces has loomed at once in the foreground of the South African situation. How familiar to Canadian statesmen and historians is the protest of the Natal Times, that "Natal is entitled to equal representation, and that the resolutions of the conference strike at Provincial rights," and that of the Cape Times that "the resolutions give a chance to the big states to squeeze the smaller." This sounds like the voice of Prince Edward Island.

Other analogies are easily established. There is in Rhodesia and Bechuanaland a great undeveloped territory for future British Boer expansion which stands in the same relation to the colonies to day that our Northwest stood to the Provinces in 1867 and pre-Confederation days. There is a native question of greater proportions and intricacy than ever faced Canadian statesmen in the Indian. The native races of the subcontinent are not destined to vanish from the earth like the Red Man. The white races may and will undoubtedly control them but they will never displace them. There is, too, the question of the apportionment of power in the Federal Legislature between the Briton and the Boer, corresponding roughly to Lower Canada as against Upper Canada and the rest of the Confederation. For, although there is no actual racial division at the present time such a contingency must be precluded by an equitable apportionment of power in the Federal Assembly.

A LIBEL ON EDMONTON.

There is unquestionably a congestion of the Edmonton labor market. This is frankly admitted. It could not be otherwise. The large civic undertakings and the construction work on the Grand Trunk Pacific have created the impression throughout the West that there is an inexhaustible supply of work in Edmonton and district. Western cities have fostered this idea with a view to relieving themselves of their unemployed. The consequence has been, that even though there are more civic works under construction in Edmonton than in any other city in the West, and even though the Grand Trunk Pacific has in excess of 2,000 men employed on contracts directed from Edmonton, there is by no means an unending source of employment.

But though a congestion exists, conditions are not such as to justify or excuse the publication of such a gross libel as that which appeared on the front page under a display heading in the Toronto News in a recent Saturday issue. The News item referred to is as follows:

STARVING AT EDMONTON.

Hundreds of Foreigners Without Work are Begging a Living.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Edmonton, Alta., May 30.—The labor market here is badly congested, and hundreds of foreigners are on the verge of starvation and are begging a living out in the neighboring country. The railroad camps are not yet ready for extra gangs.

Even admitting the congestion of the labor market to be infinitely greater than it actually is, the indisputable fact remains no man with sufficient energy to eat need starve in Western Canada. There are hundreds of farmers, with whom any man seeking employment as a laborer can find work, for which he will receive not only his board but a small wage(as well. Hence the absurdity and the libel of the statement that foreigners are starving in Edmonton.

There is another element which enters into this question. It is the growing tendency upon the part of Eastern newspapers and Eastern people to seize every possible opportunity to administer a "knock" to the West. The West is too big to "knock" and too big to be "knocked," but the tendency of the East is none the less reprehensible on that account, nor is it any the less a near-sighted policy. The interests of the West and East are dependent one upon the other; they are each a part of the whole, and though the West is attracting more of the best men in the East each year there is no room for the admission and propagation of seeds of jealousy.

If there is a correspondent of the Toronto News in Edmonton, and he deliberately undertook to misrepresent the conditions existing here, he might be effectively treated with tar and feathers. But the responsibility for the publication of this libel on Edmonton does not rest there. The newspaper which will lend itself to the publication of any obviously untrue news matter of this character can by no plea justify itself, and be relieved of responsibility in the matter.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING AND HIGH TARIFFS.

The evils of high tariffs and their effect upon international banking was succinctly outlined by a prominent United States banker at a convention of American bankers the other day.

International banking is the provision of those facilities which aid financial settlements necessary for the exporter and the importer. A number of instances were given of customers of American goods in foreign ports who were debarred from purchasing because they were unable to secure exchange in dollars with which to pay for the goods purchased from American houses. Owing to the prohibitive tariff laws of the United States the exports of these foreign countries to the United States were so small that settlements even for goods imported there from the United States must be made through London. Importers of such goods are forced to settle with the house in Boston or New York by buying drafts in pounds sterling on London. The American houses, when they receive these drafts, sell them to a foreign exchange banker for so many dollars. Thus London gets a tribute from business that never originated there, and on a settlement which would have been made direct were it not for the prohibitive tariffs. It is clear that the purchaser abroad must stand all the loss of such transactions which react against the American exporter when he quotes competitive prices to foreign customers.

Nor would conditions mend if an American bank were situated in one of those foreign ports. Under the high tariff trading laws of the United States the larger proportion of all commissions must necessarily go abroad because in the absence of sufficient export trade from such a place to the United States, any American bank there would be compelled to settle with its United States head office through London or Paris. So also the inverse holds. Wherever such a foreign country clears most of its foreign goods, there it will also purchase most of its supplies. So it is that London and Paris are capturing an enormous fraction of the world's trade and levying their banking tribute upon it because of laws permitting their own merchants a freer hand in trading and bartering in the markets of the world.

Eliminating the banker, consider how it operates with the exporter, who is generally rich and does not have to borrow. Take, for example, the cotton that is sent out of the United States. Supposing for the cotton it was permitted to bring back some goods in return, the cotton or the money it represents would earn its way back. But high tariffs forbids importation and the United States exporter is compelled to ask for gold at a loss in dollars and in trading opportunities with the people to whom the cotton was sold. This explains why the nations of the world are more and more resisting the efforts of the United States to take their gold and provoking them to become independent of the products of the United States. The United States has no longer a monopoly of the cottonfields and the wheatfields of the world, and nations are not compelled to buy these products from them any more.

The United States has indeed enjoyed phenomenal prosperity because of her great natural productiveness and the ingenuity of her people, which however is more than counterbalanced by their enormous extravagance, but she has as a nation ignored the rule of "live and let live." A balance of trade is a good thing in a nation's favor, but there is a reasonable and natural balance of trade, and there is an artificial balance which assumes that the pendulum of trade must alway swing one way.

BLUNDERING OBSTRUCTION.

The Opposition at Ottawa have blundered in the policy of obstruction they have pursued with respect to the Election Bill. There are crises that may arise in the conduct of public affairs when the Opposition ar warranted in assuming that they represent the true state of public opinion beyond the walls of Parliament. The present Opposition have been singularly unfortunate in choosing the moments when they believe that they represent the true state of feeling in the country. Sir Chas. Tupper imagined that the country hardly meant what it did in 1896 in turning out the Tories. He was prolific in his prophecies that the present Government would not last longer than three months at Ottawa. That prophecy was made just 143 months ago, and there is yet no sign that the prophecy of this redoubtable baronet is soon to be fulfilled. As long as Tory prophets give a margin of 140 months, there is little to fear in the Liberal camp.

Again, the Opposition and the minority in the House have presumed to speak for the whole country, and have obstructed the supplies necessary to the ordinary operations of constituted government. This time again they have chosen wrongly. The point of dispute between the Opposition and the Government is not one upon which the country can be enthused into fury or flame. It is not broad enough. It concerns only a part of the Dominion. The issues involved are not supreme or fundamental; and being so, the Opposition have laid themselves open to the charge that they are willing to wink at what they stigmatize as blundering and corruption if only they may secure a franchise system that they believe gives them a party advantage. Further they have raised the suspicion in the country that they are simply puppets under the control of the Provincial ministers of Manitoba. They apparently are willing to lower the dignity of the Federal House and dance to the tune of the Roblin-Rogers-Macdonet.

No principle of responsible government is at stake nor is the ark of democracy to be lost in the woods. Surely it is consonant with the dignity and sovereignty of Parliament that it has control over the franchise that creates it.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The road to Heaven may yet be paved with aeroplanes.

Premiers Whitney and Gouin held their quartennial picnics yesterday.

Though the Mauretania was built on the Tyne she is no tiny affair.

It is easier to be good than great because there is less competition.

Never imagine you can dodge an argument with a woman by agreeing with her.

Evidently the investigating committee at the City Hall did not try their report over on the piano.

As long as the Saskatchewan runs so muddy Edmontonians will not suffer from aquamania.

Experience is a fine university, but it often graduates its students on the brink of the grave.

Why talk of the Southern Alberta country being dry when the inhabitants are climbing trees to keep their feet dry.

A Chicago waiter recently fell heir to $50,000, which proves the adage that everything comes to him who waits.

The Opposition's view of suicide is to talk themselves to death. That seems to be a doctrine of the Fosterian cult.

A Kansas farmer died from blood poisoning after being pecked by a hen. What a gruesome portent for henpecked husbands.

President Roosevelt fell off his horse the other day, but he didn't care. His only concern is that his friend Taft won't fall off the Presidential Christmas tree.

One of the paradoxes of our social life is that a cheap pew in the church seems more expensive than a dear box in the theatre.

A 'Frisco bartender died after drinking whisky and eating a banana, because that combination of diet generated an organic poison. Moral: Leave banana eating to the scientists.

The story is told of a farmer's wife in Muskoka who caught sixty-six black bass in two hours, while her husband did the housework. We believe that the woman caught the fish, but it is hard to believe the man did the housework in two hours.

There are politicians and newspapers that criticise the government for spending nearly a hundred millions a year. It is time some Canadians had learned that Canada is a hundred million dollar country. It should be remembered that the appropriations for any one fiscal year do not represent by any means the actual drain on the nation's income to be met by the proceeds of taxation. It is largely a book-keeping total.

That slowly intermitting murmur you hear is the voice of the West for a sufficient supply of harvest hands.

Harold Begbie says we have no "Milton-minded men" in Canada." What about Belial-minded men like Foster and Fowler?

The physicians of Ann Arbor, Mich., removed an eraser from the ear of a school girl. Evidently she wanted to get something off her mind.

Why will the newspapers make us nervous by suggesting that Mrs. Guinness is still alive and ready to do business in a new location?

After all, President Roosevelt does a lot of thinking while his enemies do a lot of talking. The more the President thinks the less there is for the professional politicians to talk about.

Great Britain's benign imperialism in India bids fair to be rewarded with the ingratitude of the proverbial spoiled child. That does not detract from the moral grandeur of the service, or sever one cord of affection that the Mother Country bears toward her dusky ward.

The Journal says Geo. F. Root is not "a free tradist." No. He is not a free tradist since he read a free trade speech at the Borden meeting in Red Deer. At that meeting Mr. Root declared so unequivocally for free trade that Mr. Haman's-Gallows Cockshutt hid his face. Better say Mr. Root is a fadist.

The manufacturers desire protection for everything but labor. That commodity they claim to purchase at the lowest competitive level. The open shop with its free competition is their strongest demand, pressed with all the organized force of their gigantic association. If they can get Japs, or any class cheaper than Canadians, they turn their fellow-countrymen out. Claiming this right, it is impious robbery then to tax the necessities of the workman by their policy of high protection.

Prof. Scott, of the University of Michigan, predicts that the English language will be extinct in 4,000 years. Judging from the strain Mr. Foster has put upon it this session, we predict it will stand a few million years yet.

The London Economist gives voice to the paradox that a revival of manufacturing and commercial activity depends to a great extent on whether depression makes money and raw materials really cheap, though there will be little improvement until the price of provisions falls to normal as it is pretty sure to be by the new harvest.

The Canadian Courier draws attention in a recent issue to the circumstance that British Columbia is rapidly getting the reputation of being the grumbling and screeching member of the Canadian Federation. It is by no means a conclusion that Vancouver has more trouble with immigrants than Toronto or Montreal. The fact is that it is apparently, to use a colloquialism, "fine hay" for McBride and his gang to detract the public mind from rational politics. Too much grumbling generally forfeits sympathy.

"A great fight for the people"—is the way the old Mail and Empire describes the parliamentary buccaneering of the Opposition on the Election Bill. It is in reality an insolent hold-up by the three Georges, each guilty in their individual and joint capacity of the defence of one of the most iniquitous franchise measures that ever disgraced the statute books of a free country. The people of Canada have not forgotten the part Mr. Foster took in the passing of the Franchise Act of 1885.

A magistrate of Hull, at a meeting in that city the other night, taunted Henri Bourassa that he was like his grandfather Papineau, and stated that the French patriot, after causing rebellion in '37, fled. In the eyes of his warmest admirers and his enemies Henri Bourassa has committed many indiscretions, but cowardice is no part of his failings. It is his fault that he fights, not wisely but too well. Taunts like those of the Hull magistrate are highly disrespectful to the great body of the French Canadians who have long ago forgotten the indiscretions of the early protagonists of responsible government in Canada, and remember only their undying services to the cause of political reform. The name of Papineau is not one to be ashamed of.

Chicago Tribune: It was a happy thought on the part of Sir Alfred Deakin, premier of the Commonwealth, to invite the American fleet to Australian waters. The Imperial Government was not slow in approving his action. The British government has done everything in its power in recent years to cultivate the friendship of the United States, and it is realized that the visit of the fleet to Australia would do much to improve the relations of the two peoples. Americans have always cherished toward Australians the warmest sympathy and friendship. There is much in the history of the island continent that resembles our own. The makers of that commonwealth have been confronted with the same problems, and have performed their duties with conspicuous success. The Australian States are framed in great measure upon the American structure, and all Americans are interested in watching the development of civilization in that country, where imperial influence is counterbalanced by a most virile and intelligent local sentiment.

Hordes of unemployed, monster monthly deficits have had their effect upon the party in power in the United States. "Political wisdom, whether viewed in the perspective of party expediency or the national welfare, demands," says the Chicago Tribune "from the Republican party, an unambiguous utterance on the tariff. In truth the Republican press have become alarmed at a policy of excessively high protection. This fear has spread to the manufacturers themselves who are afraid they are killing the goose that lays the golden egg. At the recent meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers, a body akin to our Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the members declared for a revision of the tariff by imposing such customs duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit, to the end that manufacturers, farmers, wage-earners and producers may have adequate protection. A position of this kind is certainly moderate compared with the policy adopted by the Canadian manufacturers in the "Haman's Gallows" tariff. But who is to so appraise the cost in order to compute the reasonable profit? This consideration would necessitate the creation of a permanent board of tariff and trade experts with powers analogus to the Canadian Railway Commission. It is interesting to note that such a board of tariff experts was proposed by the American National Association of Manufacturers.