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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1913.

MR. PUGSLEY'S DOWNFALL.

Mr. Pugsley is living up to his reputation as the stormy petrel of the Opposition. There is a marked difference in the member for the City of St. John when he was Minister of Public Works in the Laurier cabinet and his attitude today as a simple member of the Opposition. Mr. Pugsley is a changed man, because he is a disappointed man. Now he becomes, when thwarted, not merely irritated but angry, and is in a fair way to gain the reputation of a political mountebank. He will become a choice exhibit of the House of Commons as the one man who is liable at any moment to break out into spasms of uncontrolled rage.

Mr. Pugsley gave his second exhibition on Tuesday night in the House of Commons, when, with Mr. Lemieux he lashed himself into a fury. The House was quietly considering the estimates of Mr. Hazen, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and had come to the discussion of a vote of \$3,000 for the pilotage commission, when Mr. Pugsley proceeded to discuss the patronage system in St. John as regards dredging contracts. He was properly called to order by Mr. Middlebro, who was chairman at the moment, on the ground that he was wandering from the vote under discussion. Mr. Pugsley became "peevish," then irritated and finally angry. The public and the constituents of Mr. Pugsley have a right to know why the member for the City of St. John impedes public business, especially the voting of money for carrying work to a successful issue already entered upon.

There is but one apparent reason. The former Minister of Public Works has not become climatized to the barren wastes of Opposition. He has been accustomed since his entrance to public life to trim his sails to suit every wind that blows. He has yet many sails, but there is no wind. He regards the party in power with hungry eyes, but no favoring wind blows from that quarter. There is a dead calm in that region. The political mariner, who has sailed many a political sea in different kinds of craft, sees no chance to return to his former avocation and he is unhappy.

Mr. Pugsley has become quite brazen in his confession of anger. When Mr. White, the Finance Minister, suggested to him on Tuesday night in the House that he was cross he denied it. He went further and here are his words: "I do not think 'cross' was a proper word to use. I was angry and indignant. What I sought to do was to prevent what I thought was a flagrant violation of the rules of the House, which gave to every member the right to speak, and which precluded a chairman from ignoring a member who was upon his feet. I went forward to the chairman; I did not get in front of him, as some papers have stated; I did not touch him, as the Halifax Herald has stated; but I emphasized in the strongest way possible (here Mr. Pugsley clenched his fist and shook it) the fact that the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Neely) was upon his feet and that he was entitled to address the chair. The refusal of the chairman to allow him to be heard, and his turning his back upon him immediately after the Prime Minister said that the discussion had gone far enough, convinced me that an attempt was being made to preclude discussion. That is the reason why I was indignant. The word 'cross' does not at all express my feelings."

This is as strange a confession of weakness as ever fell from a man's lips. It is doubly so in the case of Mr. Pugsley, who always prided himself upon his self-control. His guns are now unmasked. His enemies can more easily penetrate his defences. Exhibition of anger in the case of a public man is dangerous. He soon loses force and conviction. Anger has always been a poor argument.

DEVELOPING THE WEST.

The marked progress in the extension of transportation facilities in this Province and more particularly in the development of the Winter Port since the Borden Government took office eighteen months ago is equally marked in Western Canada. Going to the heart of the continent, the Laurier Government the West suffered in 1911 one of the worst grain blockades in its history. Although the crop to be handled was as heavy and the season for threshing was as late, this year's crop is being disposed of without congestion. The Government have not been satisfied with meeting immediate conditions but are also preparing for the great expansion of Western trade which must come. A large government-owned grain elevator is being constructed at Port Arthur, the National Transcontinental is being rushed to completion to give another outlet, and the Hudson Bay Railway is all under contract, and will be completed at no distant date. To provide still further for the future, a system of internal storage elevators will be built at important points.

To further assist agriculture, the Government have set aside \$10,000,000 to be spent in co-operation with the provinces. This is the first attempt of any Federal Government to give adequate assistance to the farmer. The grant will be devoted to improving agricultural conditions and more scientific methods of farming will be introduced and explained. Through this encouragement to agriculture by the Federal Government, the Western farmer will reap greater reward for his labor.

The new legislation in the Bank Act, which will permit the banks to make loans to the farmer on the security of his grain and stock, is of far-reaching importance and will permit him to pay his indebtedness and still hold his grain for a fair market. Many other much needed reforms have been brought about and more will be inaugurated. The progressive policy of the Government is in evidence in all the provinces of the Dominion and has proved of immense benefit to Western Canada.

A WELCOME INNOVATION.

There is no traveller on a railroad in Canada or the United States but has noted the sphinx-like attitude of employees when a train is held up somewhere between stations. These gentlemen always act as if the secret of an Empire were in their keeping—and they keep it, no matter how often enquiries are made.

This being the custom, an innovation on the Pennsylvania Railroad, in the United States, is all the more conspicuous. According to a statement in the Boston Post orders have been given that when a train is delayed trainmen shall pass immediately through the cars announcing the cause of the delay, its probable duration, and, if necessary, the best way of reaching a destination.

This may seem revolutionary, but as the Post remarks, it is sound common sense. Passengers are often put in bad humor by unexplained delays. Once frankly tell them, and they lose their feeling of being ill-treated. It certainly pays to make the travelling public friendly instead of hostile.

VISCOUNT KNOLLYS.

It is announced that Viscount Knollys, senior private secretary to His Majesty King George, will retire at an early date. Lord Knollys is well known throughout the Empire for his close association with the Royal Family for nearly half a century.

The retiring private secretary is seventy-six years of age, and forty-two years ago became private secretary to the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward. He has thus occupied a secretarial post at Court for nearly fifty years. He was regarded by the late King not merely as a highly placed official, but as His Majesty's trusted and intimate friend.

Various marks of Royal favor have been conferred upon him from time to time and after King Edward's accession he was raised to the peerage as a Baron. It is said that Her Majesty Queen Alexandra desired to be the first to acquaint him of the King's pleasure, and that the first intimation his lordship received was a note in Her Majesty's own handwriting addressed to "Lord Knollys of Caversham." In the present reign he was raised to the dignity of a Viscount.

COST OF BALKAN WAR.

The London Economist figures the cost of the Balkan war at \$152,350,000. Its calculation is based on the assumption that the average cost of each fighting man is \$250 per day. It reckons that the five states engaged put 1,000,000 men in the field. Thus, according to the Economist's computation, sixty-four days of war cost Turkey \$1,000,000 per day.

Bulgaria, which had been engaged forty-seven days when the armistice was declared, was under a daily expense of about \$500,000 during that period, while Servia got off for \$500,000 daily. The expenses of Greece and Montenegro were smaller.

The cost of mobilization and maintenance during the armistice are roughly estimated to bring the war's direct cost up to \$175,000,000. The indirect cost to the nations engaged and to those non-participating States which were, in a way, involved, is reckoned to be still larger.

From the Fan's Private Book.

"Flogged the bull" is the latest way of saying that a player hit the ball. The writers must keep pace with the times. The following is a list of changes of dialect—Mississippi Journal.

DIARY OF EVENTS

FIRST THINGS

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

The first copies of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in book form, were placed on sale sixty-one years ago today, Mar. 20, 1852, and within a week over 100,000 copies had been sold, while the publishers were far behind with their orders. Within a year more than 300,000 copies were disposed of in the United States alone, while large numbers had been printed and sold in twenty different languages.

The work, crude as it was from a literary viewpoint, had an immense popularity and undoubtedly had a great influence in strengthening the abolition sentiment in the northern States. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was originally published as a serial in the "National Era," an anti-slavery paper published in Washington, and Mrs. Stowe received \$300 for the serial rights.

A number of book printers refused to accept it for publication, but John P. Reid, a young Bostonian, decided to take the risk, but not without fear and trembling. He made a fortune out of the venture, as did Mrs. Stowe.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

HON. JOHN H. WARD.

Hon. John Hubert Ward, who married a daughter of the late Whitehead Reid, will pass his forty-third birthday today. He is the second son of the first Earl of Dudley, and a brother of the second Earl, who has held many high positions, including those of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Governor General of Australia.

The Ward family has long been prominent in English history. His grandfather, having been created over three centuries ago. Hon. John Ward is a favorite at court, and has served as equerry in ordinary to King Edward VII., equerry to Queen Alexandra and extra-equerry to King George.

DR. DAVID H. GREER.

Dr. David Hummel Greer, who succeeded the late Bishop Potter as head of the Anglican diocese of New York, is a native of Wheeling, W. Va., and will begin his seventieth year today. He entered upon his clerical career in 1866, at Clarkburg, W. Va., and was rector of churches in Covington, Ky., and Providence, R.I., before he was called to New York a quarter of a century ago.

Last winter while the dynamite conspiracy trial was in progress at the diaspora, the good bishop visited the Hoosier capital and upon applying for admission to the court room, was thoroughly searched for weapons or explosives before he was permitted to enter.

DR. CHARLES ELLIOT.

Dr. Charles William Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard, commences his sixtieth year today. The venerable educator, globe-trotter and author of "The new religion" is a sworn foe of woman's suffrage and socialism, but he is a grandson who is a leader at Harvard in both movements.

CRITTENDEN MERRITT.

Crittenden Merritt, writer of romantic tales of adventure, was born in Baltimore forty-six years ago today, and has been a naval academy student, insurance clerk, architectural draughtsman, reporter for San Francisco and New York, and a war correspondent in Cuba, the Philippines and South Africa.

DR. MARTIN SCHERMERHORN.

Dr. Martin Kellogg Schermerhorn, of the Harvard department of philosophy, was born at Durham, N. Y., seventy-two years ago today. His meritorious career as a clergyman has been a remarkable one. Ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian church in 1867, he left that denomination after three years to become a Unitarian, and was the pastor of flocks in Buffalo, Boston and Newport. He was next attracted to the Anglican faith, and became a priest of the French, Episcopal church. After twelve years he returned to the Unitarian ministry, serving at Richmond, Va., Ottawa, Ont., and Williamstown, Mass.

Dr. Schermerhorn holds that animals are gifted with power of thought and imagination. Life, he thinks, is not confined to animals and plants, but is a whole universe is all in all. "It is obvious," he adds, "that the evolution from so-called matter to human life is possible."

THE PASSING DAY.

HOLY WEEK IN MEXICO.

"Barbarous Mexico" is one of the most intensely religious countries of the globe, and this fervor of superstition will reach its utmost pitch during the three days beginning today. Coming on the heels of a national tragedy, and commemorating the great tragedy of Christianity, the Semana de los Muertos is not a season of unrelieved gloom. As of yore, the streets of the City of Mexico will blossom forth with many booths in gay colors, where hawkers will sell clay and paper images of Judas, as well as Mexican confessions, popovers, fruits and other wares.

In the cathedral at Mexico City the most elaborate religious services of the day will centre. On Holy Thursday the altar holding the blessed sacrament is brilliantly decorated with flowers, and ablaze with hundreds of candles. Upon this altar are also placed statues of the patriarchs and prophets, as well as of the leading figures among the early saints. On Holy Thursday morning the blessed sacrament is carried in procession, with pomp and ceremony, to the altar.

THE POET'S CORNER

NO MAN CAN ESCAPE.

No man can escape from a woman's love
When once such a love has been given,
No refuge as safe as a woman's heart
For a life that's been cruelly driven,
And the winds of hate and the storms of pride
Are broken and scattered like spray
When a man returns and a woman forgives
The errors which marked yesterday.
No man can escape from a woman's prayers
No matter how far he may go,
For God answers prayer, the methods he takes
Are strange to us mortals below.
When prayers mix with tears and sorrows with love,
And souls that are hardened and estranged,
There's something that moves man's hardness of heart
And urges repentance complete.

No man can escape from the love he has felt
For the children he brought into life,
No matter how long he's estranged from their thought
Through sin and its consequent strife;
For there's something divine in man's love for his child,
There's something that makes its appeal
To his innermost soul and moves him to show
The love which a father can feel.
No man can escape from himself though he aims
To forget or deny wicked deeds,
He may outwardly show to the world a calm mien,
But within his heart silently bleeds;
No bandage save Love can stanch men's wounds,
No friends can displace kinship's ties,
The love of his own, their prayers
And himself.
No man can escape if he tries.
—Charles L. H. Wagner, in Boston Transcript.

THE STARS.

(By Mary Mapes Dodge.)
They wait all day unseen by us, unfelt
Patient they bide behind the day's full glare;
And we who watch the dawn when they were there,
Thought we had seen them in the daylight morn,
While the slow sun upon the earth-line knelt,
Because the teaming sky seemed void and bare,
When we explored it through the dazzled air,
We had no thought that there all day they dwelt.
Yet were they ever over us, alive and true,
In the vast shades far 'up above the blue,
The brooding shades beyond our daylight ken—
Serene and patient in their conscious light
Ready to sparkle for our joy again—
The stars, the jewels of the short-lived night.



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