

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

It is issued every Wednesday and Saturday by the Telegraph Publishing Company, of St. John, a company incorporated by Act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

ADVERTISING RATES: Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion, \$1.00 per inch.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Sent by Mail to any address in Canada at One Dollar a year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All remittances must be sent by post office order or registered letter, and addressed to the Telegraph Publishing Company.

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Wm. Somerville

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 27, 1908.

CANADA'S ADVANTAGE

If the United States had all, or nearly all, the pulpwood, and we had the pulp and paper mills but had about exhausted our supply of raw material, what action would the United States take?

But what is Canada doing? The other day at a hearing before the commission which is investigating the alleged American white paper trust the president of the trust was asked what would be left to the paper industry in the United States if the Canadian government levied an export duty on pulp wood and wood pulp.

His answer was that within a few years the paper industry in the United States would be practically out of business. "Here," says the Ottawa Citizen, "is testimony from headquarters which discounts all the allegations that the paper manufacturers of the United States were not dependent upon Canada for their raw material."

Dr. J. W. Daniel, M.P., in discussing the Ross rifle in the House more than a year ago, gave a correct account of the experience of the Third Artillery in using the weapon in question. The breach-blocks of two rifles flew open when the rifles were fired. The men who fired those rifles would have been less liable to injury if they had been in battle—provided they were armed with a safe weapon for use against the enemy.

It is bad enough to give the citizen soldiers an unsafe weapon. To what extent the Minister of Militia is to blame for the defects of the gun is a question that would be easy to decide if we knew the whole story of the Ross bargain. In any event Sir Frederick, by ordering more rifles of the pattern after the first lots proved defective, has assumed a terrific responsibility. It is true that he may have been angry last week when he heard so many damaging statements made about his favorite arm, but that cannot excuse his insinuation that the report from St. John about defects in the rifle was inspired by a desire to explain the failure of the local corps to perform its rifle practice.

Sir Frederick might as well have said that the local officers were not officers and gentlemen. The annual practice of the corps was not carried out because the Ross rifle had proved to be too dangerous to experiment with. Dr. Daniel, when he spoke of the artillery's experience with the Ross, said the facts pretty well justified Mr. Bergeron's assertion that the rifle was more dangerous to the man at the butt end than it would be to an enemy at whom it had been pointed. Sir Frederick owes the local corps an apology and a rifle of safe pattern and manufacture.

The Montreal Star dwells at length upon the Ross rifle debate, emphasizing several wretched features of the situation in which the government, and unfortunately the country also, are placed by the Minister of Militia. The Star says in part: "As to Sir Frederick, where is there a man more accustomed to taking desperate chances than he?"

"So, in this case, he took another chance. He has never yet found the Opposition very unkind to him, though they have ruthlessly set down his companions in arms. The political graves of fallen ministers 'strew his path,' but still he marches on. Berdon, the Immune, should be his title while the present kindly conditions exist. Thus he was able to tell Parliament that every one of the Ross rifles turned out were serviceable weapons to be placed in the hands of the militia. The militia have the misfortune to think otherwise with astonishing unanimity; but, then, the militia must do their thinking at the wrong end of the 'perfect rifle.' They do not feel so secure as Sir Fred does in Parliament. The Northwest Mounted Police will be astonished to hear

ticians and diplomatists will do well to heed it. There is unquestionably a limit beyond which, in the interests of posterity, no people can afford to pledge its future action. Circumstances alter rapidly. The strong man armed can count upon a certain prospect of peace. But, if he rashly engages to make no use of his advantages, the toll and cost that he has expended in the preparation and maintenance of them will be wholly thrown away. All history points this moral. Among nations of disproportionate fighting power there can be no stable agreement with regard to arbitration. The gain of one must be the loss of another. Unless some common calamity levels all the nations to an equal impotence, or some universal benefit dowers them with equal strength, arbitration in all important matters must remain an academic theory. The influence of the Man of Blood and Iron is still strong in Germany. Sentiment has never counted for much in the councils of the Fatherland. Teutonic statesmen believe in battleships and army corps more than in agreements and confederacies. The effects of the rebuff which they have given to the American proposals will reach far beyond the limits of their own country. Each first-class Power will take the hint. It is to be hoped that England will realize the value of this blunt honesty, and look carefully to her own standing and position. We are not yet in Utopia. A glowing past and a golden future are not such valuable assets as a present readiness to face all emergencies. Without this last possession the past may be wiped out and the future may never come into existence."

SIR FREDERICK SHOULD EXPLAIN: In reports of the Ross rifle debate at Ottawa last week, Sir Frederick Borden was quoted as saying, in regard to the defects found by St. John militiamen who used the rifle, that the trouble here "was not reported by the local officer until it was necessary to find an excuse for the failure of the corps to perform their required rifle practice." Sir Frederick will be asked to explain this enigma at the St. John Artillerymen. There are no facts to excuse it. It indicates, probably, that the Minister of Militia is hard put to it to answer the attacks made upon the weapon to purchase which he has employed the public funds so extensively.

Dr. J. W. Daniel, M.P., in discussing the Ross rifle in the House more than a year ago, gave a correct account of the experience of the Third Artillery in using the weapon in question. The breach-blocks of two rifles flew open when the rifles were fired. The men who fired those rifles would have been less liable to injury if they had been in battle—provided they were armed with a safe weapon for use against the enemy. When a breach-block flies back the man behind the gun may escape serious hurt, but he is quite likely to lose his eyesight or his life.

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"So, in this case, he took another chance. He has never yet found the Opposition very unkind to him, though they have ruthlessly set down his companions in arms. The political graves of fallen ministers 'strew his path,' but still he marches on. Berdon, the Immune, should be his title while the present kindly conditions exist. Thus he was able to tell Parliament that every one of the Ross rifles turned out were serviceable weapons to be placed in the hands of the militia. The militia have the misfortune to think otherwise with astonishing unanimity; but, then, the militia must do their thinking at the wrong end of the 'perfect rifle.' They do not feel so secure as Sir Fred does in Parliament. The Northwest Mounted Police will be astonished to hear

of this testimony from the 'responsible Minister'; but, then, the N.M.P. are a body of practical fighters, whose lives may pay the penalty if they are caught at a critical moment with a rifle which will not kill—the right man.

"The importation of important parts of the Ross rifle did not seem to Sir Frederick to be worth the mentioning. In fact, that appears to have been the opinion of most of the friends of the Ross rifle when they were giving their sworn testimony before the Public Accounts Committee. The country knew nothing of the wholesale manner in which components of this 'Canadian rifle' were being brought in from various American factories until the Star undertook the investigation of the matter and made its revelations. "Sir Frederick says that other businesses are not being financed by the Dominion government on the understanding that they will give Canada a domestic source of rifles in war time, does not appear to the Minister of Militia to be important. A little detail like this, be it ever so small, is a little detail that is overlooked. Yet the fact remains that Canada has been deceived into advancing three-fourths of the purchase price of these rifles under the belief that thereby we were establishing a self-sufficient Canadian rifle factory, whereas the truth has been that American workmen have been engaged in different parts of the United States in preparing the material for this Canadian gun which was to make Canada independent of the world. We would not buy in Britain, for we must be self-sufficient; so we bought in a foreign country."

"The militia of Canada owe a debt of gratitude to the men who have forced this question before Parliament in spite of the Dual Alliance of the Minister of Militia and the chief military critic of the Opposition. It is a pity that the men behind the gun in question—the Ross rifle—should be able to hypnotize Parliament; into neglecting the reasonable complaints of our volunteer soldiers and compelling them to endure the demoralizing discouragement of preparing for war with a weapon which they distrust."

LILY LAKE TROUT

The opening of the fishing privileges at Lily Lake on Saturday proved that good-sized trout can be taken there with the fly, and that the flies commonly used by fishermen on the other lakes and streams of the province will prove effective. If the guardians of the lake will be guided by fishermen they will permit the anglers to begin at four o'clock in the morning, instead of at five. The size of the fee charged is a difficult matter for discussion. Too much fishing is not desirable, for the lake should not be fished out. As bait fishing is forbidden—and very properly—might be thought well to reduce the charge for any time occupied after the first hour.

The little trout with which the lake was stocked a few years ago have grown well and are now about ten or eleven inches in length, of good proportions and coloring, and very game. Besides these there are many of the old original stock, some of which are large enough to inspire the fishermen with that sort of hope that gets a man out of bed before the sun and causes him to whip the water for hours after hour. As all the fish taken are inspected by the caretaker under the present arrangement, it has been suggested that interest would be added to the proceedings if a prize were offered for the biggest trout caught during the season. The Lily Lake experiment shows that many of the lakes and streams in the province which have been cleared of fish by lack of protection against pothunters, dynamites, nets and seaweed, could be restocked within a few years. It would be a paying investment. The fish caught in Lily Lake on Saturday were found to have a fine flavor. The day was not favorable for fishing. With good weather fine sport will be available, and that, too, within gunshot of the city.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The New York Tribune recently said that treaties and agreements affecting Canadian and Newfoundland interests had in the past been made despite the protests of the governments of those provinces. They were made because they had no power. It is in this very power which Great Britain, with all its force and solemnity that attaches to a treaty, has now placed in the hands of Canada, and Mr. Maurice Low, in writing to a leading London journal from Washington, anticipates that the change will "put an end to the practice so often employed by statesmen of the United States in the past of suggesting to the British government the coercion of Canada."

The Ross rifle led to some spirited exchanges in the House of Commons Friday, but the casualties were not severe. Every member of Parliament should be compelled to go to a range with a Ross rifle fresh from the factory and fire fifty rounds of service ammunition. The survivors should then vote on the retention or rejection of the weapon by Canada. If retained an agreement should be made with the United States that in case of war they will remove to Canada the American factories in which eleven sections of the Ross rifle are now made. Taxpayers who have read much about the rifle are wondering what influences operate at Ottawa to prevent the publication of more particulars concerning the hypnotic effect of this weapon upon our public men. In Canadian politics there is no greater absurdity than this Ross rifle business.

From the military standpoint the whole arrangement is impossible.

Frederick, N. B., May 22.—The house met at 3:15 p. m.

Hon. Mr. Hazen submitted the report of the law committee; Hon. Mr. McLeod, of the standing rules committee; Mr. Clark, of the municipalities and Mr. Slipp of the corporations. This latter report recommended that as the application for incorporation of the Northern Pulp & Paper Co. had been withdrawn, the fee be returned.

The time for introducing private bills was extended till Tuesday next.

Hon. Mr. Murray, answering the report of the law committee; Hon. Mr. McLeod, of the standing rules committee; Mr. Clark, of the municipalities and Mr. Slipp of the corporations. This latter report recommended that as the application for incorporation of the Northern Pulp & Paper Co. had been withdrawn, the fee be returned.

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LEVEL LIGHT FOR MONCTON STREET RAILWAY CHARTER

Old Company, that Abandoned Field Ten Years Ago, Wants Rights Restored.

City Delegates Claim That Having Sold Every Dollar's Worth of Their Property, They Have no Claim—F. M. Sprout Wants Statement of Receipts of King's County Probate Office—House Adjourns Till Tuesday.

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REFRIGERATORS NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY.

We have just opened up a first-class lot which we offer at reasonable prices. These run from \$7.15 to \$42.00. All are well made and are highly finished with walls insulated by the best known materials for that purpose. The best have provision chambers lined with white enamel.

See them while the stock is complete.

W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd. Market Square, St. John, N. B.

Canada. (By Dr. Albert D. Watson, Toronto.)

Upon the wind's wild pinion / Neath blue Canadian skies; / And when the breeze bear it / Aloft on tower or flood, / It wakes the kindly spirit, / It stirs our Viking blood.

The Fathers of our nation / Have bidden sure and strong / On treaty's foundations / Of valor, truth and song; / They came while yet 'twas morning / They thronged the true and best / And banded banners soaring / They draped the dauntless West.

Our might shall melt the mountains, / Our commerce gird the seas, / Our forests, fields and fountains / Give music to the breeze; / They thronged the true and best / And banded banners soaring / They draped the dauntless West.

Build them a flaming altar / And with it sacred fire, / Of love and patriot ardor, / The land of our desire, / Oh happy consummation, / Oh destiny sublime, / To be a righteous nation, / Standard for all time.

In the Flower Factory. Lisabetta, Marianna, Flaminia, Teresa, They are winding stems of roses, one by one, one by one.

Little children who have never learned to / Terminate their crying that her fingers ache / Today, / They flaminia nodding when the twilight / Slips in grey.

High above the clattering street, ambalances / And fire-gonged crimson petals, one by one, / One by one, / Lisabetta, Marianna, Flaminia, Teresa, / They have never seen a rose bush nor a / Flower in bloom.

They will dream of the vendetta, Germania, / Or a Black Hand and a Face behind a / Grating. / Never of a wild rose thicket nor the / Slap of a cricket, / But their tired lips will utter with / Tristram's hysterical screams.

Lisabetta, Marianna, Flaminia, Teresa, / They are winding stems of roses, one / One by one, / Let them have a long long playtime / Lullaby, / Fill their baby hands with roses, / Joyful / Florence Wilkinson in McClure's / CAREERS FOR MILLIONAIRES.

(Tribune, Winnipeg.) / A career for youthful millionaires / Calculated to occupy their time and so keep them / Out of mischief, or worse, is suggested by / Mr. Louis R. Ehrlich, the well-known / American art dealer. He would have them turn / Connoisseurs in art and give to public institutions / The benefit of their knowledge as well as of their / Funds. He would have them recognize it / "As a public service." What a recognition it / "Is, if you will, richeses oblig- / "ing. It might be paralleled by a similar / Class obligation that leads the sons of / English nobility to the study of the / Language of the land in which they are / Born. This is an extension of a criticism / Which this paper recently made upon the / Moneyed class in saying: "Among the rich / There is no more appreciation or public spirit / To compensate the country for the bad / Influence of their misdeeds."

TRY THESE. (Houston, Tex., Post.) / The Seaside Club met and the following / Questions were asked, answered, and dis- / cussed: What faithful wife set herself / A never-ending task of weaving tapestry with / Her husband was at war with the world, / "Mother Goose" were especially congenial / "Neighbors." What well-known literary / Couple were never separated for a day / During the hour of their life? What saved / Her husband's life by sucking poison / From his wound? Whose bad temper has / Rendered the name proverbial for a coldly / Eternally hopeful, while his wife was eter- / nally hopeful? What character in fiction is / "Ally faithful? What woman in fiction has / Her husband through her? What woman / In mythology lost his wife through looking / Back? The wife of what Roman was a / Suspect? What character in fiction is a / Model of wife's patience and forbearance?

WATERED STOCK. (Toronto Globe.) / The Hamilton Times seems surprised to / Find the Globe looking forward to a / Street car fares at the rate of ten for a quarter / Under civic operation. The idea is very / Far from Utopian. The amount of interest / Now paid on watered stock and the \$450,000 / Paid yearly as the city's percentage of the / Gross earnings would easily give a / Reasonable fare. The Times does not / Seem to understand that a very large pro- / Portion of the street car passengers in / This city already use tickets sold at the / Rate of eight for a quarter.

GARNETT'S DONATIONS. (Mail and Empire, Toronto.) / Up to date, Mr. Carnegie has given away / \$1,000,000,000 and he is about the most con- / spicuous modern example of the Biblical say- / ing about the man that giveth yet increaseth. / The explanation is that Mr. Carnegie gives / Only the interest on his money.

MT. ALLISON ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES HAVE BEGUN

Sackville, May 24.—Saturday afternoon saw the interclass track and field sports of Mount Allison A.A.A. on the exhibition track. All the events were well con- tested and two records were broken. The class championship was won by 1908. In the evening a grand reception was held in the Ladies' College. As usual, the reception was attended by a very large number, many being present from all parts of the province. The following program- me was rendered: Song—Serenade, Gounod. (Violin obligato, Roy Smith.) Reading—Aunt Rosa's Advice, Anon. Glee—Boys of the Old Brigade, Bart. Citizens' Glee Club. Duets—Natura, Mrs. Critch. Musical Instrumental—Gipsy Music, Mrs. Critch. Members of the Orchestra. Reading—Serenade, Let Me Rest, Anon. Roy Smith. This morning the annual sermon before the theological union was preached in the Methodist church by Rev. W. A. Outer- bridge of Stellarton, N.S. The discourse was most eloquent and was heard with close attention by a very large con- gregation. Music was rendered by the church choir, assisted by Miss Midway Smith, '07, of Halifax, and was under the direction of Professor Horsfall, director of Mount Allison Conservatory, who was also organist. The Anthems were "Jesus Precious Saviour," with solo parts taken by Miss Smith, and Miss Ella W. James, of Sackville, and "Lead, Kindly Light,"