

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 18, 1923.

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WHO IS RIGHT?

The Times is printing today an article by Mr. W. L. McPherson in the New York Tribune in which the writer justifies the present action of France, and attributes Germany's attitude not to poverty but to a determination to evade payment of her debts. This writer also recalls what the Germans planned to do to Belgium and France if they had won the war, and what they did do to those countries during the great struggle. One cannot read the article without feeling a degree of sympathy with the views expressed. The New York Tribune in an editorial article is quite as severe on Germany and says—

"German statesmen have learned nothing and forgotten nothing. They do not take the trouble to cover up their trail of false pretense. While Chancellor Cuno is excusing the coal defaults on the ground that Germany had not enough coal to complete her treaty deliveries, the managers of the Ruhr bluntly confess him of prevarication. They tell Mr. Cuno, the French Inspector General of Mines, that they have enough coal to make up the reparation shortages, but that they don't want to deliver it unless they are paid for it."

"The Tribune says further—

"The Reich has the coal and the coke. The 1922 production of coal is up to the level of the 1913 production, according to the latest reports. But Germany is reluctant to use her coal output productively to pay reparations."

"The German has replaced the coal which they surrendered under the armistice. They are using more coal on the railroads than they did in 1918. They have rapidly restored their merchant marine. According to British figures Germany ranked second in 1922 in ship construction. Her total was 681,485 tons. That of the United States was only 259,747 tons. It is estimated by a writer in 'The Evening Post,' Mr. K. J. Leduc, that nearly 5,000,000 gold marks have gone into railroad and marine reconstruction."

"Vast sums are also being spent building canals and deepening rivers and channels. It is plain enough why Germany does not want to pay reparations. She has what she considers a more profitable use for her wealth. She laughs at her creditors, who till now have failed to bring any genuine pressure to bear on her."

"There is, however, another side to the story. Mr. Roland Boyden, the unofficial observer for the United States on the reparations commission, and who is described by the Boston Herald as 'a competent witness,' gave out in Paris this statement—

"Mr. Boyden had hitherto confined himself to voluntary default on the part of Germany and the reasons which tend to lessen her culpability. If, however, he were making a report he would go further and would deal with the whole question of the failure of Germany in executing her obligations under the treaty and would explain that condition imposed by the treaty had been demonstrated by experience to be impossible and that the impossibility had affected not only Germany's financial situation and her financial obligations to the allies, but also her obligations like these in respect to coal and wood."

"He would further express the opinion which he had already expressed before the commission that the continuation of these conditions had already resulted in great loss of money to the allies and would result in still further loss so long as they were maintained."

"Evidently, the unofficial American observer shares the English view, that Germany is really unable to pay, and should be given more time. The British reviews last week were very outspoken in their criticism of France, and the Outlook declares that Premier Poincaré 'is assured of immortality as one of the most colossal of idiots, or alternately, the greatest of knaves who ever have strutted upon the stage of high human destinies.' The Spectator said—

"France, poisoned and intoxicated by a sense of wrongs, with mind dazed by fears and suspicions, is going to commit the extremity of human folly. . . . Short of a miracle she seems fated not to awaken to what she is doing until she finds herself ruined in purse and pride, without even the barren satisfaction of having performed a great feat at arms, and without a friend in the world."

"The Economist points out that the withdrawal of the American troops of occupation increases the very definite danger which cannot be disregarded—'that the occupation of the Ruhr may start a conflagration which may spread right through Central Europe and the Balkans, because the action of the United States authorities to the world France's complete isolation.'"

"The Nation says, 'French militarism being established, it will of necessity march through illegality to fresh seeds of perfidy and violence. There is only one way out of the posi-

tion in which M. Poincaré has placed us, namely, to follow the American example and withdraw both from the reparations commission and from the Ruhr and inform the French Government that it must abide by the logical result of its action. We should say to France, 'we wash our hands of reparations and resign all claims under the treaty; and we now look to you to pay us what you owe us.'"

"Referring generally to British opinion, an Associated Press dispatch says: 'The development of the situation arising from the French advance into the Ruhr is being watched in official circles with anxious interest, and some fears are beginning to be expressed that the British Government may be before long compelled to revise its attitude of benevolent dissociation from the French action. Never before during the long disputes over the reparations problem has the French policy been so strongly and universally criticised and deplored in London.'"

"Meanwhile France continues to put on the screws, and has already gone further than she had intended at the outset. The whole situation is charged with danger for Europe, and for America as well. It is not sufficient for Germany that she is committing a blunder which will have results injurious in the end to all Europe."

TOO MANY MINERS.

The fact finding commission looking into the coal situation in the United States has issued a preliminary report in which it says—

"There are more mines and more miners than the needs of the country require. This condition of over development is the underlying cause of the instability of the industry. We do not know accurately the extent of the burden, but it may well be measured by the cost of keeping in the industry an excess of perhaps 200,000 miners and their families and the excess investment in the mines."

"So long as this condition exists coal will be high. In 1921 the bituminous mines were operated only 149 days. The burden of over-manning and over-investment falls on the consumer. It is truly said by one journal that 'conditions in the soft coal industry are a menace to the public interest because they artificially and needlessly increase the price of an article of prime necessity.' The industry must be reorganized, and it will be difficult because both operators and union miners are opposed to the change. Yet when a strike adds to the already heavy burdens borne by the consumer the need of a change is obvious. There are too many miners, and too many mines."

The New York Tribune points out that "If the miners stayed at work all year—even on short-week basis—they would turn out 3,000,000 tons, or 250,000,000 more than the domestic and foreign markets have ever been able to absorb."

Universal regret and a sense of loss to the nation have been caused by the death of Hon. W. C. Kennedy, Minister of Railways and Canals. He had been ill for quite a long time, and had continued to perform the duties of his very exacting office when he should really have been seeking rest and recovery. The tributes paid him by Premier King and Hon. George P. Graham reveal the character of the man and the appreciation of those who knew him best. Mr. Kennedy made friends, even among political opponents, and was actuated by high ideals of public service. After a successful business career, during which he took an active interest also in public affairs, he was elected to Parliament in 1917, and re-elected in 1921, when his high character and eminent ability made him the Premier's choice as Minister of Railways. Unfortunately his health broke down before he had a full opportunity to demonstrate his quality as an administrator, and death has come to him while he was yet in middle life. His passing is a great loss to the public life of Canada.

Hon. R. J. Ritchie has again reminded the City Council of his willingness either to retire on an adequate retiring allowance or to accept an increase in salary. Ten years ago the Council favored an increase in the salary of the Police Magistrate, but it has never been awarded. The communication he has sent to the Council should be considered in a sympathetic spirit because of his long service and the fact that his salary has not been as large as the service rendered ought to command.

On Sunday night last conversation by wireless telephone was carried on between New York and Southgate, England, and the messages were heard with a distinctness that amazed those who listened. The world is on the eve of marvellous developments in the transmission of the spoken word.

LIFE IS NOT ALL.

(Rev. George Scott.)

Life is not all of cloudless days, Nor dawning with peaceful blooms, Nor breathing in sequestered ways The summer's burden of perfumes.

How could we love the balmy skies If winter came not in his time, How taste the morning's ecstasies Had we not heard the midnight chime?

The fabric of our lives is wrought Of stronger stuff than vain desire, No soul attains who has not bought His victory through scorching fire.

The record of our lives is writ In golden words or dusky hue Just as our inmost soul is lit With selfless aim and purpose true.

Night after day, day after night, The child grows fast into the man, And pain and pleasure infinite Blend into life's majestic span.

How foolishly we often say, These tasks of mine are all too great, Tomorrow shall my will avail.

Night after day, day after night, The years pass on with muffled feet, Our records vague and incomplete.

Life is not all of cloudless days, Nor pleasant shade by breezes stirred, Nor lingering in quiet ways, Soothed by the singing of a bird.

LOCAL NEWS

The regular weekly dance of the P. A. B. B. was held last night in their hall, Guilford street, west end. A large number were present.

The Epworth League of the Carleton street Methodist church held an enjoyable toboggan party at Lily Lake last evening. On return to church hall, refreshments were served.

Mrs. H. P. Newcombe, who is making a tour of Nova Scotia cities and towns in the interests of prohibition, left yesterday for New Glasgow, where she will address two meetings. On Sunday she will be in Pictou and from there will go to Halifax.

The "Polyanna" C. G. I. T. group of Centenary church, which Miss Edith Henderson is in charge, enjoyed an interesting meeting at the Natural History Society's rooms yesterday afternoon when William McIntosh gave a talk on Indian customs and legends.

An X-ray examination was made yesterday of Miss Jessie Jamieson's right leg to determine whether it had been broken when she fell on the hospital steps on Tuesday night. It was found that the leg was broken. Miss Jamieson was reported last night to be resting comfortably, and it is expected that she will be able to return to her home in a day or two.

At a meeting of the Council yesterday, Mr. J. McLean invited the members of the Council to view the demonstration of oil extraction from shale by the Hartman process, in Leitch-Governor Pugsley's garage today. Overlooking condition. The Council decided that the demonstration of the plant will not be in operation and the inspection has been postponed until tomorrow.

The case of the street railway motor-man, charged with a statutory offence, was resumed in the police court yesterday. Some further evidence was heard, and the case was then postponed until the afternoon, when the Magistrate settled the affair privately. Four juveniles were brought before the court yesterday afternoon on the charge of truancy and their parents were warned that the children must be kept at school.

The prosecution closed its case in the Circuit Court yesterday afternoon in the case in which Jack McAuley is charged with stealing from the premises of Oak Hall. When the defence opened, Mrs. Bishop, who conducted the hearing in the case, stated that the accused was in her house in Fredericton on Dec. 7, the day before the case was heard, and two other men had remained during the night.

The annual meeting of the P. P. and A. Union No. 86 took place last evening in Labor Hall. The reports showed the union to be in excellent condition. The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, M. Hastings; vice-president, B. Brown; financial secretary, W. H. Josselyn; recording secretary, A. Akerly; treasurer, H. Whippley; S. A., A. Reid; audit committee, A. Ellison and A. Dever; and A. S. S. A., Green, A. Dever and A. Ellison.

A vigorous new organization is the new Ladies' Aid of the Carleton Methodist church which was formed last evening at a meeting at the church rooms. A charter membership of twenty-five was enrolled and the officers elected were as follows: President, Mrs. W. Sharp; vice-president, Mrs. Henry Howley; treasurer, Mrs. Hedley Bissett and secretary, Mrs. W. Thorne. It was decided that the Ladies' Aid should meet each Monday and should work for church purposes.

The entertainment put on at the Seamen's Institute, last evening, by the members of the Maritime concert party was largely attended. Owing to the absence of the pianist, engaged for the evening, the performers were greatly handicapped as the two members of the party who were forced to fill in were not accomplished pianists. In spite of this handicap an excellent program was put on and the efforts of the performers were heartily applauded. Those who contributed to make the affair a success were: Mrs. Larkin, Judge, Sears, Hawton, Riley, Witsell, Fack, Maines and Bruin.

A. E. Smith, longtime manager of Regal Films, Limited, is believed to have been the last local man to see the ill-fated trawler *Bethuna* and the missing St. John men. Mr. Smith met the men on the train when they were on their way to Sydney to go to St. Pierre to join their ship. His vessel, on which he was going to Newfoundland, was diverted to St. Pierre because of the large freight offering, and he saw the men again there. When his ship left there for Newfoundland the men were on the dock and waved a farewell to him. Their possible fate since that time has given rise to grave doubts and fears.

Hon. W. C. Kennedy Dies Suddenly In Florida

Widespread regret will be expressed in the news of the death of Hon. William C. Kennedy, Minister of Railways and Canals in the King Government, which occurred suddenly last night in Naples, Florida, from heart failure. Hon. Mr. Kennedy was ill for several months last year and was a patient in the Royal Victoria Hospital. He underwent two operations for gall stones and was reported as recovered when he left hospital. His heart was weak, however, and he went south to recuperate.

Hon. Mr. Kennedy was popular not only with his cabinet associates but also with a large circle of friends to whom news of his death came as a great shock. He had many friends in St. John on his visit last year. A statement expressing his own personal regret and the loss which the country has sustained in the loss of the Minister of Railways was issued last night by Premier King. His sentiments were echoed by Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of National Defence, who has been filling Mr. Kennedy's position since his illness.

The death of Hon. Mr. Kennedy makes the first break in the ranks of the cabinet of Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, which took office on Dec. 29, 1921. It also leaves the cabinet portfolios at the present time. Since the illness of Hon. Mr. Kennedy, the Department of Railways and Canals, which administers the Canadian Government Merchant Marine as well as the Canadian National Railways, has been administered by Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of National Defence.

THE LATE HON. W. C. KENNEDY

as Acting Minister of Railways. Mr. Graham, it is expected, will continue as Acting Minister of Railways for the time being.

Born in Ottawa, on August 27, 1868, Mr. Kennedy was the son of William and Julia (Costello) Kennedy. He was educated in the separate schools of Toronto and in the De La Salle Institute, Toronto.

He began his business career with the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Company, Toronto, in 1887, and continued with this firm until 1897. Then he engaged in the gas and oil business at Windsor (Ont.). He was president of the Windsor Gas Company, Limited, from 1903 to 1917.

Mr. Kennedy married Glenora Bolton, daughter of George W. Bolton, of Detroit, Michigan, on May 8, 1907. He was a member of the Detroit Club and the Athletic Club, Detroit; Essex County Golf Club, Windsor; Ontario Club, Toronto, and the Rideau Club and Country Club, Ottawa. He was a Catholic.

He was open to the county residents and those from the city. This carried.

Councillor Bullock moved that all bills for presentation to the Legislature come before the bills and by-laws committee for consideration and approval before being taken to Fredericton. This carried.

Councillor O'Brien brought on the subject of forming the Stetson, Cutler & Co., that the Municipal Council would give favorable consideration to the matter of tax exemption should the mill be decided to rebuild the mill destroyed by fire last fall. He pointed out that the mill was valued at \$40,000, and that the office had a complaint about that. The mill employed a large number of men from the city as well as from Lancaster.

Several of the councillors agreed with this view and, on being put, a motion to have the County Secretary inform the company of such a decision carried.

A decision must soon be reached by the finance committee of the Municipal Council as to the ferry operating between Indiantown and Milford. The matter was left in the hands of this committee, with power to act. A new bill will be necessary, and this will be manufactured in Nova Scotia, as none of the bidders in the city would take the contract, and the bill towed here from Digby and the new boiler installed. The cost was estimated at \$4,000.

According to Councillor O'Brien's motion, the city, county and province would each pay a third of the cost.

The matter of purchasing fire-fighting equipment for Fairville was before the Municipal Council yesterday afternoon when Councillor Golding's resolution that the county advance the sum of \$10,000 for buying the equipment was adopted after a short debate in which objection was voiced to the present proposals that District No. 1 (Fairville), be assessed for this amount and that No. 2 (Beaconsfield), be assessed for the same amount.

The Associated Charities are in need of funds.

Funds of the Associated Charities have reached so low a level that it has caused considerable concern, and a committee has been appointed to devise ways and means of increasing the finances. W. Shivers Fisher occupied the chair at yesterday's meeting. Miss Grace O. Robertson, the secretary, reported a busy month. Percy J. Steel, having accepted the office of treasurer, was cordially welcomed at the meeting.

The following report for December gave the secretary information: Applications, 324; requests for employment, 42; employment was found for 30; recommended, 42; requests for relief, 20; seeking relief, 45; relief was procured for 43; visits made, 142; clothing was given to 8; asking for transportation, 3; cases investigated, 18; records given, 21.

When the finances were under discussion a special committee was appointed with the following members: Miss Grace O. Robertson, convenor; Percy J. Steel, Rev. W. H. Sampson, Miss Bertha A. Britain, Rev. Dr. David Hutchinson, Mrs. F. E. Macfarlane, D. J. Hill, Mrs. J. Powers and Miss Stella Payson.

On motion of Councillor Crossman, seconded by Councillor McLeod, the following were named for the Parish of St. Martin: Board of Assessors, R. A. Love, R. H. Brown, W. D. Seely; collector, S. McLean; clerk, Walter Miller; constables, E. Cogley, E. Burchill, R. Dunhill, S. Asburner, W. A. Black, G. Morrison, David MacFarlane, G. H. S. Adams, R. Crossman and R. McLeod. Mr. Merlin takes the place of P. L. Howard and Mr. Miller takes the place of William Smith.

The county secretary expressed a wish that W. A. Ross be appointed deputy secretary to have power of attorney from him to sign his name in cases where he was absent from the city.

The motion for the appointment was carried by a large majority.

Councillor Campbell then moved the deputy secretary be paid when necessary for him to act. Councillor Golding seconded this, but it was lost by a big majority.

The report of F. Waters on the taking of the plebiscite under the provisions of the Simonds-Savage Act, was received and placed on file. It showed that thirty-eight, voted against the act and nineteen for it. That it cost about \$7.50 for each vote cast. "Pretty expensive election," commented Councillor Wigmore.

Reports from W. H. Allingham and H. G. S. Adams, stipendiary magistrates, were received and placed on file.

The report from J. Verner McLeod, registrar, was received and ordered filed. It showed that receipts for the year amounted to \$5,306.70. Deducted from this is a salary item of \$4,760, leaving a balance of \$546.70.

New Business.

Under the head of new business, Councillor Frink moved that a bill be prepared for submission at the next session of the Legislature asking for exemption of taxation from the section of land in Beaconsfield district set aside of a public playground which would be open to the county residents and those from the city. This carried.

Councillor Bullock moved that all bills for presentation to the Legislature come before the bills and by-laws committee for consideration and approval before being taken to Fredericton. This carried.

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