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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1922

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THE SENATE

It is noted that the Conservative press is now finding the Senate an interesting topic of discussion. The Kingston Standard speaks frankly, now that no Standard speaker can be appointed to that body. It says the senate as at present constituted is an anomaly, and adds:

"It was established to help in the government of this country as a sort of second thought for proposed legislation. But it has drifted away from that to a great extent. One unsatisfactory result of this is that the senate can be made to represent a party through appointments during a term of years, and that party on being turned out of office can interfere with and defeat if it chooses the legislation of the new government through the senate."

The Stratford Herald is quite cynical regarding senate reform, and does not look for any action by the present government. It says:

"Just as soon as enough Conservative members die off and are succeeded by Liberals to change the political complexion, the reformation from a Liberal point of view will be considered complete."

A branch of parliament which is the subject of such comments as these is not as impressive as might be desired. Perhaps the new government may, after all, consider senate reform or abolition worthy of some consideration.

UNHAPPY RUSSIA

Conditions in Russia are thus strikingly presented in an article in the Chicago Journal:

"On Jan. 5 despatches from Russia said that at least 5,000,000 persons in that country would die of starvation and of famine-borne disease before the next harvest. Typhus fever is already at work, as might have been expected. In many towns frozen bodies are piled in stacks and windrows, waiting burial, while living skeletons of children are being brought as fast as possible to feeding stations. In many cases children are in such a state that death offers the only relief. On Jan. 6 William N. Haskell, director of American relief work in Russia, reported that he believed American and allied aid would save from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 Russians who otherwise would die of starvation or sickness in the next few months. These two despatches do not contradict each other. They are supplementary. Taken together they show what would happen if outside relief were forthcoming. In that case a minimum of 10,000,000 human beings, inhabiting one of the richest agricultural regions of the world, would perish of hunger and diseases dependent on hunger before another crop could be gathered. Nothing like this has ever been known in a white man's land before."

Naturally one looks for the cause of so appalling a condition of affairs, and the Chicago Journal finds it in communism. It says:

"The Russian famine is the perfect fruit of communism. The war caused vast loss and distress, of course; but the soil was left, and people enough to till it, so that starvation was needless. Then came the 'proletariat' which took the crops the peasant had raised, without giving him any return. Naturally, inevitably, the peasants cut down their cultivated acreage until there was no margin of production left against a bad season, and then, when all surplus had been stolen and used, the bad season came. While memory of the Russian famine lasts, communism should be anathema among all thinking men."

But Russia's troubles are not yet over. The malign influence of Lenin and Trotsky still prevails. While they have been forced by the conditions they brought about to abandon much of their former policy, they still cling to office and go on humbugging the people, of whom so large a proportion are in dire ignorance.

Mr. Walker Melville, before the Canadian Club last evening, presented with clearness and force the case for having Canadians classed as such in the census. On this point the Brantford Examiner says: "Now that the census returns of Canada are undergoing classification and discussion it would be a good thing if the new government remedied an abuse that has existed a long time in the tabulation of the population of this country. It is a monstrous fact that even in the last census there was no opportunity afforded for the registration of Canadian people as Canadians. This is a condition too ridiculous and indefensible to be tolerated any longer, and the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King will make no mistake in rectifying the error as soon as possible. In the last census there were countless numbers of the people of Canada who desired to be classified as 'Canadians' who were denied the privilege."

Montreal Gazette: "A Paris specialist claims to be able to judge character by observing the way in which the subject breathes. It would be interesting to hear his diagnosis in the case of an asthmatic fat man who had just climbed three flights of stairs."

THE TEACHING OF FRENCH

The Toronto Globe offers some biting comment on the attitude of a school trustee who declares that only the "British language" should be taught in the schools and condemns the use of French. The Globe points out that Quebec is a British province, and asks if French is not therefore a British language. It further asks if Quebec is less British than the United States Congress, where only English is spoken, or whether Congress is more British than the Dominion parliament, where both languages are used. The majority of the people of the British Empire speak languages other than English. With regard to French, the Globe points out that a knowledge of it is of great value in Canada, and adds:

"French is a language, not a disease. To treat it as a disease will make Toronto look ridiculous in the eyes of intelligent people."

The teaching of French in Canadian schools is most desirable. A knowledge of the language is not only a convenience but it opens to the reader the rich literature of a great people. Those who go about seeking to arouse prejudice against the language are badly advised. Fate has made Canada English and French. Immigration will introduce new national elements, but English and French the country will largely remain. It is well to realize the facts and labor for harmony rather than discord.

Hon. R. E. Finn, addressing the Railway Commission in Halifax yesterday, declared that unless the maritime provinces got lower freight rates the relations of these provinces with central and western Canada will become weak and general dissatisfaction with confederation will be liable to lead to disintegration. Railway freights are not all. There is the question of maritime port development and the recognition by the other provinces of the spirit of confederation.

Hon. F. B. Carvell says the Board of Railway Commissioners has no jurisdiction over the Intercolonial section of the C. N. R. The C. N. R. board simply applied the commission's rulings to that section. This would appear to throw the people back to an appeal to the C. N. R. authorities for a continuation of the policy inaugurated by the government of Sir John Macdonald, which recognized the special claims of these provinces.

The settlement of the wage question on Canadian railways suggests the propriety of considering a reduction in freight rates.

Japan will probably be wise enough not to antagonize Britain and America in the matter of her relations with China.

ONTARIO LEADS IN HOUSING PLAN

Town Planners Told How the Province Took Advantage of Loan.

(Toronto Globe.) Speaking on the results of the Federal Housing Loan in the dominion before the members of the Short Course in Town Planning at the University of Toronto yesterday, W. D. Cromarty of Ottawa stated that Ontario had availed itself of the loan to a far greater extent than any other province, and that, on the whole, the efforts of the various Ontario municipalities had met with success. There were, however, one or two inefficient studies of the problem on the part of the local authorities.

Hig showed many pleasing examples of modest house building in various parts of the province, together with one or two American examples, and said that Canadian endeavors were, on the whole, superior.

Suit Houses to Climate.

An interesting addition was made to this lecture by Mr. Govan of the Parliament Buildings, well known in housing circles, who said that he was pleased to see that the programme the world Ontario had been stressed, because our ideals in small houses were apt to be turned by the influences of American journals toward houses suitable to Florida and California, but totally inappropriate to a province that has to consider its coal bill for six or eight months in the year.

He pointed out that by proper attention to maximum exposure to the south, together with the employment of insulating devices and materials for the walls, the coal consumption of every six-room house in the province might be reduced by two tons.

The Zoned City.

J. B. O'Brien explained how many difficulties even under existing imperfect legislation might be overcome by a body of citizens really determined to better their city.

H. L. Seymour continued the subject of zoning, which means the sorting out of a city so that each part of it is assigned to and designed for certain definite functions. Under this system there would be more or less defined business areas, factory areas, residential areas of various types, etc.

TO A FACE AT A CONCERT.

When the low music makes a dusk of sound
About us, and the viol or sax-horn
Swells out above it like a wind from
lorn,
That renders seeking something never found,
What phantom in your brain, on what
dim ground,
Traces its shadowy lines? What vision,
born
Of unfulfillment, fades in mere self-scorn,
Or grows, from that still twilight stealing round?
When the lids drop and the hands lie
unstrung,
Dare one divine your dream, while the
chords weave
Their cloudy web from key to key
and die—
Is it one fate that, since the world was
young,
Has followed man, and makes him half
believe
The voice of instruments a human
cry?
—From Sill's Collected Poems.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Comforting.

"So you loved and lost?"

"Well, no, I didn't lose exactly. You see when she returned my presents, she accidentally put in some of the other fellows'."—Boston Transcript.

A Word to the Wise

A colored preacher in Alabama had at one time served a short jail sentence and was fearful lest his congregation discover the fact, as in his later years he had been a model of rectitude.

One Sunday, rising to begin his sermon his heart sank to see a former cellmate sitting in the front row.

Quick thinking was necessary. Fixing his eye on the unwelcome guest, the preacher announced solemnly:

"Ah takes mah text dis mornin' from de sixty-fourth chapter an' fo' hundredth verse of de book of Job, which says: 'Dem as sees and knows me, and says nothin', dem will Ah see later!'"—American Legion Weekly.

Retiring President of Empire Club Impresses Lesson on Members.

"Canada's best line of action is first to determine what is best for the Empire, then what is best for Canada, and how it can be fitted in for the best good of the Empire," declared Brig.-Gen. Charles H. Mitchell in his address last week before the members of the Empire Club of Toronto on retirement from the presidency of the club. Sir William Hearst succeeds Gen. Mitchell as president for the coming year.

In a rapid survey, Gen. Mitchell gave an outline of world conditions as they affect the British Empire, and briefly surveyed the conditions existing at present in each part of the Empire.

Canada the Golden Link.

Canada the speaker characterized as the great golden link in the Empire, "golden in resource, golden in industry, golden in opportunity." The problem for Canada today was as to how she would take her place in the League of Nations of the British Empire. There were other problems that concerned population, finance and stabilization, and these would have to be faced by the Empire, which only an Anglo-Saxon could appreciate.

"Why should we not be cheerful in facing these problems of today?" Gen. Mitchell asked. "I do not mean to utter platitudes, but we have so much to be thankful for today. The world is a Washington Conference for the Limitation of Armaments, the improved conditions in Ireland, the economic and industrial improvement that had been noted in Britain were all conditions sufficient for optimism. It was a good common-sense and hard work that the British Empire was held together."

He said that to maintain our British ideals and to resist all influences from within or without that tend to break down these ideals, we have lived for it and fought for it. Let us work for it that we may hand it down to our successors as a great better Empire than it has ever been before."

FATE OF W. J. BLACK HANGS IN BALANCE

Will Former Tory Organizer Retain Position as Deputy Minister?

(Staff correspondence of Toronto Globe.) Ottawa, Jan. 18.—The future of W. J. Black, Deputy Minister of Immigration and Colonization, is still in doubt. Mr. Black was formerly in charge of soldiers' land settlement, and it is admitted, he made quite a success of the job. His organizing ability attracted the attention of ex-Premier Meighen, who it is said, induced him to become organizer for the Conservative party. Before the election he quit this post, becoming deputy minister of immigration. In civil service circles Mr. Black is recognized as an outstanding man in his present position, but the question is being debated if this government can stand for a former party organizer in an important government post, even though his work did not appear any too zealous as a party man. On account of the pressing immigration problem a strong opinion is required as to whether Mr. Black should be retained.

BRITISH COAL OUTPUT.

British coal production reached 5,026,800 tons in the week ending December 17, 1921, which was the highest weekly output during the year and the first week's production in excess of 5,000,000 tons. Output in the last half of 1921 amounted to more than 100,000,000 tons, and was about 44,000,000 tons greater during the first half of the year, which, however, included the strike period.

According to official board of trade figures received by the Bankers' Trust Company of New York, from its English Information Service, British coal output averaged 4,244,000 tons weekly, following the settlement of the coal dispute, or about 274,000 tons per week better than the average production prior to the strike. Total output for the year was approximately 160,000,000 tons, but this low tonnage is accounted for by the fact that only 179,000 tons were produced between April 4 and July 4, the period of the coal stoppage.

ON IMMIGRATION AGAIN FORESEEN

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—Nothing shows the necessity of a wise and well-considered policy of immigration more than the fact, well known to all immigration officials on this side of the water, that a horde of immigrants is waiting on the other side for a letting down of the barriers. For example, it is said that there are not enough ships to carry all the Jews of Roumania, Poland, Lithuania, Russia, and elsewhere, who would come if they could be sure of admittance. As it is, the Canadian immigration officials have found a more determined effort on the part of these European Jews to enter Canada than from any other race or nationality.

Flock to Cities.

The objection to these immigrants is not on racial grounds. The trouble is that they all gravitate to the already overcrowded cities, making still worse the disparity that exists between the rural and urban populations of Canada. What Canada needs is experienced farmers of good character who will go on the land and make a success of it. There are scores of thousands who can be encouraged to come to Canada if proper arrangements are made for looking after them when they get here and giving them dependable advice and assistance.

Canada has had a do-nothing policy in immigration for many years. The influx in Laurier's time fell away. No considered policy has taken its place. The attitude today is very largely one of exclusion. This will be so until a businesslike way has been devised of reaching the people that are wanted in this country. If this is not done, men most in touch with the problem say, the influx will be beyond them in five years.

Powerful Lobby.

It is no secret here that during the time since the armistice a strong lobby has been conducted in Ottawa for the admission of Jewish immigrants. No one denied that the Jewish immigrant seemed to have a friend at court with influence and money. Around the corridors of Parliament last session it was asserted that where a body of immigrants were held for deportation, fluence had been brought to bear in many cases to revise the verdict against the Jews, while men of other races had to go back to the lands from which they came.

In this time of unemployment it is easy to see how much more serious would be the situation if scores of thousands of these people were allowed to enter Canadian cities.

Saved From Streets.

With regard to ex-service men who applied to come to Canada from Britain, the Canadian representative approved of only 5,000 out of 35,000 men. If he had not done so, a large number of the extra 30,000 would now be walking the streets of Canadian cities out of work.

It is reported that the influences which have secured the entry of so many Jews already will be brought to bear on Parliament at its next session, and that there will be a strong lobby in favor of the open door for immigration. The problem is not how to get people, but to get those that will go on the land.

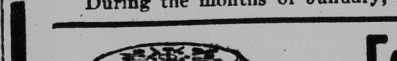
PREMIER MARTIN AND MR. WIGMORE

Statement of Saskatchewan Government Leader About Liquor Licensing.

(Special Despatch to The Toronto Globe.) Regina, Jan. 18.—A resolution urging the Federal Government to exercise its powers to abolish export liquor houses in Saskatchewan was unanimously adopted by the Saskatchewan Assembly today.

Speaking on the resolution, Premier Martin referred to the fact that Provincial legislation of 1917 to prohibit houses had been ruled out of the courts, but announced his intention of bringing in legislation this session to restrict the right to stock liquors in the Province to bonded warehouses, applications for

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What Does Man Know That No Woman Knows?

The competition will be open from January to March, 1922, and the points covered comparative facility of production of the various substances used; increase or decrease of average power obtained compared with petroleum and gasoline; the possibility of blending the proposed product with gasoline for use in motor engines; the percentage of alcohol and other substances of French origin; average horsepower cost per hour and the originality of the process.

Double Export Tax.

The Government is also introducing legislation to double the tax on export liquor warehouses, to make \$2 annual assessment against each of the 23 houses in the province \$2,000. Referring to this, Mr. Martin said that the position of the Province had been misrepresented in the Federal House by Hon. R. W. Wignome, then Minister of Customs, who in reply to a question from O. R. Gould, Assiniboia, said the Province was licensing export liquor.

The premier produced correspondence in which he asked Mr. Wignome to correct the statement in view of the fact that licensing conveyed with it the power of control. Mr. Wignome replied evading the question of licensing versus taxation, but enclosed a list of export liquor houses in the province, "all of which," he said, "I am advised have been licensed in the Province of Saskatchewan."

Charges Misstatement.

In his reply, dated May 3, 1921, Mr. Martin repeated his statement that the province had not licensed and liquor houses, saying: "I am quite sure that on reflection you will come to the conclusion that the answer you gave in the House of Commons contains a misstatement, not only as to the position of the province, but as to the constitutional position, and I think some statement

should be made in the House of Commons that will correct the erroneous impression that has gone forth."

No further reply came from Mr. Wignome. "He did not think it worthy of reply," commented the Premier.

MOTIVE POWER FROM ALCOHOL

Beaters Agricultural Society, in the Department of Herald, authorized a committee to organize a competition to discover a practical and economical motor fuel, with alcohol as the basis of its composition. Prizes totaling 200,000 francs have been placed at the disposal of the committee, of which 100,000 francs will be awarded to the competitor whose product gives the best results.

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