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Manager.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 10, 1906.

POSTAGE AND LITERATURE.

The new British postmaster general in refusing to lower the postage on British periodicals sent to Canada is making a characteristic John Bull blunder and ignoring an opportunity to benefit British trade with this country and imperial relations generally to an extent out of all proportion to the slight loss to the postal department the change might involve.

Under present conditions American newspapers and periodicals are carried across the border and through all parts of Canada at the domestic rate, while the British publisher is handicapped by a rate which renders competition prohibitive. As a result this country is flooded with American papers and magazines, reflecting American sentiment, inculcating American ideals and circulating American advertisements, while equal or superior periodicals of British origin are unknown except in American editions with changed contents and filled with advertisements of American goods.

The greatly increasing importation of American manufactures into Canada of recent years is to a great measure due to this circulation of American advertising literature. A similar broadcast distribution of news concerning British products would undoubtedly counteract this and tend to deflect the current of trade. Also the dissemination of literature inspired by British sentiment, in the place of the trashy Yankee propaganda placed before the casual reader today, could not but tend to strengthen loathing imperialist ties.

But the British postmaster general has plastered a top-penny-happy postage stamp so tightly over his eyes that he can see nothing past its edge. There is another aspect to this Yankee literary invasion which should soon be carefully considered by the Canadian government, and that is its effect in suppressing the development of Canadian literature. Canadian publishers have as much right to protection as any other producer and at present they are confronted by conditions which make the success of expensive Canadian periodicals very difficult if not impossible.

THE CENTRAL RAILWAY LEASE.

Hon. Mr. Hill gave notice in the legislature last night of a motion favoring the perpetual lease of the Central railway to a syndicate of unknowns on the terms of the offer announced by the government a few days ago.

Mr. Hill must be in possession of some information on the matter which is not shared by the house, for there has been nothing yet made public to warrant such a motion.

In the first place the government has declared within a few days that the road, under its present management, will soon be clearing \$46,000 a year. The syndicate's offer is only \$21,000 a year, so its acceptance would mean an annual loss to the province, on the government's own figures, of \$25,000 a year, which is quite a lot of money these hard times. Then there is the possibility of the O. T. P. needing the line, which possibility is undoubtedly in the eyes of the prospective purchasers and which would greatly enhance its value. If

there is any money to be made at that end of the deal it might as well go into the provincial treasury as into the pockets of Messrs. Greenshields or their clients.

Also it must not be forgotten that 999 years is a very long time and very many people will be born and will dwell in this province during that time. While the government is only a thing of today its acts will carry over long after its members are forgotten dust and ashes. It is a serious business, this legislating for the future, and not to be approached hastily and inconsiderately. The government should possess itself of considerable more information than it has yet given out before any wise action can be taken on this important matter.

MAKING DISASTER A BLESSING.

In an interview since his return to Ottawa, Mr. Butler, deputy minister of railways, says that he is now drawing up plans for new I. C. R. shops at Moncton, which will be thoroughly up-to-date in their construction, and which, by the economy possible in their management, will greatly reduce the expenses of this department of the government.

The saving possible by new methods in the repair and construction of rolling stock is so great that some American roads have recently demolished their old works. In some instances the result has been a lessening of the expenses connected with this part of railroad work by half. Mr. Butler's experience along this line has been ample and it may be considered certain that the new shops will be inferior to none in plan and equipment, and that the ultimate result of what seemed a great disaster will be a saving to the I. C. R. and a great boon to Moncton and the maritime provinces generally.

The newspapers whose business it is to support the local government declare that the attorney general's recent speech, in which he characterized honorable gentlemen opposite as "wily and malicious liars," was warm and forcible but contained nothing improper or unjustifiable, while Mr. Hazen's retort was vicious, brutal, degrading and ungentlemanly. Opponent papers say that Dr. Fugate's ebullience was vulgar, slanderous and in bad taste and that the opposition leader's rebuke, under the circumstances, was fair and temperate and unobjectionable. Those who read both sides will come to the conclusion—the correct conclusion—that the violence and temper displayed in the debate was discreditable to both politicians and out of keeping with their good records in this regard.

The courage and confidence with which Mr. Chamberlain faces the situation in Great Britain is aptly illustrated by the following quotation from his recent speech on the address in the British parliament: "remember that Sidney Smith was very disheartened at the tremendous defeat of his whig friends. It struck him to go out and sow some mustard and cress in the garden. A few days later it was sprouting according to its usual custom, and he saw that the general operations of nature were proceeding without interruption. He then began to recover."

A despatch from Victoria, B. C., says that a big lumber concern there which has been employing Chinamen for years has decided to employ none but white workmen hereafter. Sentiment or union coercion has nothing to do with the action, it is claimed. Though Chinese labor costs less money the management has determined that native workmen give so much value for their wages that they are cheaper in the long run. If this is true it robs the yellow peril bogey of a lot of its menace as far as this country is concerned.

The British M. P.'s have joined the grand procession of salary grabbers. By a majority of 238 they claim a sessional indemnity of \$1,500 and the premier has given his cordial assent to the principle, though declining to put it into force just now. It is intimated that the agitators will go their Canadian electioneering a little better by getting their election expenses paid from the public purse also.

GLEANE COMMENT.

NOT DESERVING OF GOOD LUCK.

Three Germans were sitting at lunch on the second morning of a mutual friend, when one of them remarked: "I'll tell you what. A man who marries a second time doesn't deserve to have lost his first wife."—Life.

UNANSWERABLE REASONS.

There are two unanswerable reasons why the west ought not to complain of the Intercolonial. One is that the money on the canals, which have never paid anything, than on the Intercolonial, and the canals have been made free of tolls. The other reason is that the freight traffic on the Intercolonial, which has been carried below cost, is Canadian, while the freight on the canals, which has been carried above cost, is foreign. The fact ought to stop the complaints.—Charlottetown Guardian.

HAMILTON, Ont., March 7.—The grand jury brought in true bills at four o'clock yesterday against fourteen plumbers charged with conspiracy. The trial will begin today and may last a couple of days.

THE JUDGES.

Cries of horror still come from the Laurier press at the very recollection of the criticism of the Canadian judiciary that was recently made on the floor of the Manitoba legislature.

There seems to be something so unspeakably terrible in raising the voice in protest against the decision of an unjust judge that these papers are only equal in horror, without attempting to put their objections to the criticism into plain English.

Sweeping denunciations of the judiciary is not merely unjust—it is indefensible. But judge-worship is not merely stupid and sickening—it is immoral.

If, on the other hand, judges become possessed of the idea that their position makes them immune from criticism, they would be less than human if they did not in time abuse such immunity.

The only safe and sane course in dealing with the judges is to avoid all criticism where its justification is in any doubt, and to be unsparring in denunciation of any deliberate wrong of which a judge is obviously guilty.—Winnipeg Tribune.

NEW TIDES.

An ordinary news despatch from Halifax states that the last of the Imperial troops sailed away from Canada and the steamship Lake Umbagog on March 5. Thus quietly and without much attention another of the links which have bound us to the Empire has been broken.

The last of the British troops, established in the Dominion and henceforth the Dominion undertakes its own defense. The event marks an epoch in Canadian history. It is only three years less than a century and a half since, on the thirteenth of September, in the year 1759, the battle of the Plains of Abraham was fought and the first garrison of British troops established in Canada. But what wonders of history are compressed in that comparatively brief period!

No story that ever was told is so full of incidents deserving commemoration, and it will not be without the deepest regret that the older generation of Canadians will see in their minds' eye the picture bearing the last of the British troops, as they departed from the shore.

Indeed, we think there is a cause for regret that this last expression of the protection on which we still must rely should have been flung from our shores. But though the King's soldiers have gone, the flag we planted on these shores still flies, and Canadian manhood assumes to a certain extent the duty of guarding it and the precious heritage it represents.

There was some discussion with regard to the question whether cost in certain cases should be left to the discretion of the judge.

Mr. Pickett pointed out that there was a long interval between November and February, when no appeal court could be sitting. He thought that the judges might be made six instead of five and that half of them might be held in St. John.

Mr. Allen said this would cause a great deal of inconvenience in respect to papers which were kept at Fredericton.

Mr. Wallace, referring to sub-section 2, section 7, of the bill, which provided that a trial judge may sit in the appeal court, said that one of the appeals judges is ill, and it was the opinion of the Barriesters' Society that a judge should not sit in appeal on his own judgment.

Mr. Clarke asked if there was any way to compel judges to write out their judgments within a reasonable time. Great inconvenience is at present caused by the dilatory methods of some of the judges.

Mr. Wallace thought as there would be so much chamber work before the judges under the act they should be required to sit in chambers on certain days of the week.

In reply to inquiry by Mr. Clarke, Mr. Allen said that the registrar had the power to issue summonses in certain cases in the same manner as one of the judges.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the desirability of having a deputy judge of the equity court has also been discussed. A great many matters are now referred by the judge in equity to the clerk of the pleas.

As the rules are very voluminous, forming a book of about four hundred pages, it was thought that it might be necessary to appoint a commission to deal with them and make alterations where they seem to conflict and that they should be brought into force by proclamation. This question, however, is not yet decided. The committee adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock.

COMMISSION MAY DEAL WITH JUDICATURE ACT

Legislative Committee Finds Difficulty

Reading Through the Voluminous Rules of the Measure.

FREDERICTON, March 7.—The select committee appointed to consider the judicature bill met this afternoon. Mr. Allen in the chair. The other members of the committee present were Messrs. Tweedie, Hazen and Clarke. The attorney general, who is also a member of the committee, has not yet returned from Montreal. The Barriesters' Society was represented by Dr. Earle and the St. John Law Society by Messrs. Wallace and Pickett.

Mr. Allen stated that the rules were copied mainly from the English and Ontario acts, and that where this was done the wording of the rule was adopted, so that cases decided elsewhere on these rules might apply. The larger part of the rules are from the English statutes.

In reply to a question from Mr. Wallace, Mr. Tweedie said that the Barriesters' Society had asked for the judicial act and that the clerk of the pleas had communicated with the Barriesters throughout the province, and in favor of the change.

Dr. Earle—There is no doubt that a very large majority of the barriesters are in favor of the act.

Mr. Allen—The opinion of the bar was that an act should be drawn up similar to the English act because the English and Ontario reports are no longer of any use to us in practice.

Mr. Pickett—It is also complained that when a case is taken to the supreme court of Canada the judges do not understand our practice.

Mr. Pickett—Our young men are all in favor of the act, many of whom have studied law at Dalhousie and are familiar with the practice.

The gentleman representing the St. John bar then proceeded to point out the incidents of the bill which required attention. They stated that they had been sent to assist in facilitating the passage of the act by making suggestions.

Mr. Pickett asked whether they had considered the question of arrest, which was not in the English act.

Mr. Allen—That has been left as it is at present. I do not see why we should have to go to a judge to hold a man to bail.

Mr. Wallace thought that special bail should be abolished, and the opinion of the bar seemed to be in favor of that idea.

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TEMPERANCE PEOPLE

WERE NOT UNITED

George E. Corbett's Views on Con-

test in Annapolis.

George E. Corbett of Annapolis Royal, who is in the city, says the recent by-election in Annapolis county is no criterion of the strength of the respective parties, as fully half of the conservatives who voted marked their ballots for O. T. Daniels.

The temperance people did not stand together either in the support of the candidature of the Rev. Mr. Gaetz, even of one of them of the several ministers, or as Mr. Gaetz, having openly supported Mr. Daniels. In the case of a straight party fight at a general election, Mr. Corbett thinks the result might be different.

WHAT! HO!

If the McNaught bill against treating becomes law Rev. Dr. Garman will no longer be able to take Rev. Dr. Milligan to the King Edward for a friendly chat on the Higher Criticism.—Toronto News.

LOOKS THAT WAY.

Write says emphatically that conditions in Russia are different from those of every other country. The world has had some such suspicion of this for some time.—Bangor News.

WILL SIFT CASE OF ELMER YOUNG

State Department Has Ordered an Inquiry

As to Detention in Nova Scotia as Witness at the Trial of Hope Young.

BOSTON, Mass., March 7.—Elmer D. Young of Boston, father of six-year-old Minnie Young, for whose murder at Plymouth, N. S., in June last, Hope Young was sentenced to death on the gallows, and after being granted a new trial, went violently insane, has succeeded in interesting the United States government sufficiently in his case to have him removed to the United States and placed in a hospital at Washington.

The investigation has been quickly progressing for several months, and in interview yesterday Elmer Young declared that he expected soon that a commission would be appointed to come to Boston and take the testimony of himself and witnesses.

Young is a notary public at 235 Washington street, Boston, and at the time of the discovery of the child's death was declared by Hope Young to be the "guardian" of the little one. At that time he declined to make any statement whatever, but went on to Digby, where Hope Young was in jail. He visited the scene of the crime at Plymouth and secured possession of Hope Young's own baby, and according to the authorities attempted to escape the jurisdiction of the crown by making his way to Boston.

A telegraphic request of Deputy Sheriff Burnham of Digby, however, Young was arrested by the police at Yarmouth and later taken back to Digby, where he was detained as a witness until after he had testified at Hope Young's trial, when he declared that he was the father, not only of Hope Young's own baby, but of the murdered child, whose mother was a Marie Ward of Boston.

In order to give the authorities a legal hold on Hope Young's 18-months-old baby, they were obliged to "arrest" the child as a witness in the case, and she has since been known throughout the country as "the youngest prisoner ever arrested in Nova Scotia."

At the time of the arrest in Yarmouth Young succeeded in interesting in his case the then United States Consul Carter, who has since died, and who, Young declares, offered to go on his bond, and visited him in the jail. He makes no complaint of his treatment at the Yarmouth jail, except that he was detained, but complains that, while at Digby, he was confined in an underground cell and furnished with ordinary prison fare.

In a copy of the report of the present consul to the state department which reached Boston and is now in Young's possession, the present consul at Yarmouth, Edward A. Crockett, as well as Vice-Consul W. B. Stewart of Digby, both report to the state department that Young was given all of his legal rights and that he was detained at Digby by a perfectly legal order.

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HARD TO BELIEVE. Humorous Humor—Was the man, Bill, is he that dare the guys out alaska, spends good money advertising for work. FRANK JUDGE.

A SMOOTH ARTICLE WAS MR. MULLIGAN

Skipped, Bag and Baggage, Owning Many People.

The retail merchants of St. John have the reputation of being rather wary, but a gentleman who drifted into the city during the month of December last, proved to be too smooth for them. He walked into about a dozen of the principal merchants in their respective lines with neatness and dispatch. Mr. Mulligan represented himself as a commercial traveller and claimed to be representing the Salada Tea Company. At any rate, he was a pretty hot cup of tea himself. Mr. Mulligan, his wife and five little Mulligans were soon domiciled in a nice flat at 4 Wentworth street. He proved a most satisfactory tenant in every particular except that he failed to pay his rent.

Mr. Mulligan during his brief sojourn in the city accumulated a considerable quantity of goods and chattels, all which he bought on credit. He owes a furniture man, a carpet dealer, a stove merchant, his grocer, druggist and a doctor, and no doubt many others. The other articles left behind by the Mulligans when they moved out were a piano and sewing machine, which are being held by the landlord for rent.

Mulligan and his family slipped quietly out of the city a few days ago, and it is thought went to Quebec. It is estimated that Mulligan got away with about \$700 or \$800 worth of goods.

Mary (the housemaid, to her friend)—We have matters at our church.

Friend—That's nothing, we have linen up at the aisle, and they burn insects at both services.—London News.

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BODY FOUND: WAS BADLY SCALDED

ROCKPORT, March 7.—The body of one of the three men lost in the sinking of the tug Willard, off the entrance of Rockport harbor, a little over a week ago, was recovered today, but has not been identified. The body was badly scalded, a condition due perhaps to the explosion of the tug's boiler when she went down. As George Grignon, the steward of the boat, was the only man known to have been on board at the moment of her sinking, it is supposed that the body found today was his. It lay only a short time on the bottom of the harbor.

The owners of the tug will begin work tomorrow with a view of raising her.

TORONTO, March 7.—The deficit of \$105,738 in the Presbyterian church receipts, reported a week ago, has been almost entirely made up. When it was realized that the time was short and the needs were great money seemed to pour in from every quarter. The deficit cannot yet be given definitely but could be cleared up by April 20. Each of the funds, except that of aged and infirm ministers, are now out of debt.

TORONTO, March 7.—Writing from Maple Creek, Sask., a correspondent states that last week ploughing was being done and the weather was all that could be desired. The town well had been sunk six hundred feet. At 120 feet plenty of water was found. At 400 feet a seven foot bed of coal was passed through. The gas is the object of the town, and the contract calls for 1,000 feet or more if indications warrant it.

American immigrants are coming in every day and the land in the vicinity is being sold rapidly. Two elevators are proposed.