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Watch the Bear. It is reported that Turkey is willing to declare the Dardanelles open for Russia and closed to all other powers. The whole situation in Eastern Europe gives color to the view that Russia is making preparation for some great move in the near future. It may be very near. After Russia had obtained the passage of the Dardanelles for several of her torpedo boats, Roumania acting on the advice of her allies applied for permission for the passage in the straits, in behalf of warships she desired to have repaired in foreign dock yards. It is a significant fact, to say the least, that this request has not been granted, and is not likely to be, since it would clash with Russian interests. If Russian unarmed warships are allowed to pass through the straits, they will not return unarmed. The Porte might be inclined to grant the request for a consideration, provided he could do so without arousing other nations, as Germany and Austria, to inquire too persistently as to what it all means, and for what purpose. Great Britain has some interest in the matter, for which she has made great sacrifices in the past. The Bear will stand a little watching just now.

The Coal Situation. This has been the most talked of subject on this continent for the past few weeks. It is a cause for profound thanksgiving that the strike has ended. President Roosevelt who had conferences with the operators on the one hand, and Mr. Mitchell as the representative of the miners on the other, has succeeded in getting both parties to submit their differences to an independent Board of arbitration, to be appointed by himself. To this both parties concurred. In the meantime the men will resume work pending the report of the arbitrators. The effect of the strike has been far-reaching. Few persons had any idea of the number of interests that have been affected, nor the straits to which many persons have been reduced. Now that a peaceful solution of the differences as between employers and employes has been reached, has not the time come when the laws of the realm should be such as to make the conditions through which the various industries of the country have passed, an almost impossible thing. It does seem to us that a condition bordering on the intolerable, ought to be prevented if such a thing is possible. If there shall arise disagreements between capital and labor, and there will be such from time to time, then let the laws of the land be so amended as to compel a resort to a tribunal of independent men, who will adjudicate those differences. If men with large capital at their command can combine for their own advantage, then the men who work for them should be permitted to do the same if they so desire. Brawn and muscle have the same rights as the possessors of wealth—as much and no more. In the difficulty which obtained in Pennsylvania the blame was not all on one side. Co-operation on the part of Capital and Labor would be a blessing, and profit-sharing might afford a solution of some of the problems which confront our legislators. There will be many valuable lessons learned by this event. It is hoped that many will be greatly profited by them.

General Booth. This veteran leader of the Salvation Army spent Sunday, the 12th inst. in St. John. He was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Eva Booth, who is in charge of the Army in Canada. A rousing welcome was given them at the depot by hundreds of officers and soldiers from all points of the Maritime Provinces. Three meetings were held on Sunday, and they were rousing ones. The eye of the General has not grown dim, neither has his natural force abated. He

knows how to get and hold an audience. He looks old and worn and his long flowing white beard gives him a patriarchal appearance. On Monday he lectured on "The past, present and future of the Army." In his mind, it has come to stay. The God who raised up one man, can raise up another or others to carry on the work. General Booth was born in 1829, converted in 1844, and founded the Salvation Army in 1865. At the age of 15 he was a successful street preacher. From 1844 to 1902, from an ash barrel pulpit in the slums, of Nottingham, his native city, to the centres of civilization in the old and new world, there has been no more striking figure in the social and religious life of the civilized world than General William Booth. Blessings untold have resulted from his efforts. A born leader, a tireless worker, like his Master he has gone about doing good.

Wood Pulp Industry. Most of our people have very little idea of the enormous development of this industry in the manufacture of paper. In 1897 the total value of wood pulp exported from European countries was sixteen and one-half millions of dollars and this has risen to nearly 18,000,000 in 1900. While the manufacture of wood pulp was introduced into America in 1854 the process upon which the present industry was based was not introduced until 1867. In 1880 there were 50 mills in operation with a capital of nearly 2½ millions of dollars. In 1890 there were 82 mills representing a capital of nearly \$5,000,000, while in 1900 there were 763 mills with a total capital of \$167,600,000 and the product of these mills was valued at \$127,285,000. The growth of the industry in the Dominion has been much more recent. In 1900 there were 40 pulp mills in operation while 19 others were either in course of construction or in contemplation. In 1895 the total export value of Canadian pulp was nearly \$600,000, while in 1900 it had risen to \$1,274,000. In 1900 the total value of pulp and pulp products exported was \$2,718,000 and in 1901 this had risen to \$3,335,000. It will thus be seen at what a rapid rate this industry is advancing. A glance at the map of northern Canada discloses an enormous area covered by our spruce forests. This is considered the one wood which most completely fulfils the necessary conditions. It is computed that this area embraces 1,400,000 square miles and if the half of this is covered by spruce it would give 450,000,000 acres of spruce or a total of 4,500,000 tons of available pulp wood. It would seem from this that as this industry is yet in its infancy in Canada, there ought to be a great future for it in the next twenty-five years and this should give us cheaper paper. Combines may prevent this. Healthy competition is not an unmixed evil. Some benefits accrue, at least to the consumer.

Sir John Bourinot. This distinguished man passed away at his home in Ottawa on the 13th inst. at the comparatively early age of 65. In his death the House of Commons loses an eminent and scholarly man. Sir John was of Huguenot descent. His father was a native of Jersey, one of the Channal Islands. He was born in Sydney, Cape Breton. His mother was a daughter of the late Judge Marshall who was a well known temperance advocate and writer on religious themes. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Toronto. His earlier years were devoted to newspaper work and for some time he had the editorial management of the Halifax Reporter, and was also official reporter to the Nova Scotia Assembly. When the question of a Union of the Provinces into one Confederation was under discussion he was an avowed champion of such Union. In 1868 he removed to Ottawa and became

short hand reporter to the Senate. In 1873 he was appointed second clerk assistant to the House of Commons. In 1879 first clerk, and in 1880 was named chief clerk. He discharged the duties of this position with great ability and his "Parliamentary Practice and Procedure" has made him an authority on all constitutional questions. It is by this work that he will be most widely known, though he is by no means a stranger to literary fame especially in that of historical research. Institutions of learning have vied with each other in conferring degrees upon him. In 1880 Trinity University, his Alma Mater, conferred the degree of D. C. L., and Kings College on the occasion of its centennial celebration, conferred the same degree. Queens followed the example of Kings and conferred the degree of L. L. D., and in 1893 Laval made him Doctor of Letters. He was also honored by his sovereign for distinguished services to Canada and the Empire, receiving in 1892 a Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and in 1898 a Knight Commander of the same order. Sir John Bourinot was held in high esteem by both political parties. He was eminently fair in his decisions, and courteous to all. His place will be hard to fill. Thus it is that one after the other, the men who were active in founding this great Dominion are passing away. Only a few now remain. The generation of to-day owes much to these men.

Uralite. This is the latest invention of fireproof material. It originated in Russia, and was invented by a Colonel of the Russian artillery by the name of Ichenetsky. It is extremely light, is of great strength, is very durable and is manufactured in sheets of varying size and thickness, which makes it a first class material for building purposes. Its extreme lightness is another element in its favor. Although asbestos is the principal substance which enters into its manufacture, it is not the only substance of which it is composed. The asbestos is thoroughly disintegrated by being run through rollers with short, sharp, projecting pegs, which tear the fibres of the material to pieces during its passage between the rollers. As the shredded asbestos issues from the machine a blast of hot air plays upon it, and as it falls into bins specially prepared for its reception, the finely powdered mass is transferred to another mill where it is mixed with whitening especially prepared according to the color desired. After this it passes through various chemical processes of heating. These exercise a powerful hardening effect upon the substance; but to insure absolute stability, the sheets are once more steeped in the baths of silicate and bicarbonate of soda, respectively—washed and stoved. They are then finally immersed in a solution of calcium chloride to remove the remaining traces of the soda. The most noticeable feature of uralite is the facility with which it may be handled and adapted to other materials as a protection against fire. It can be glued and nailed without any fear of splitting during the latter process. It is specially available for paneling or other similar purposes, and can be grained or otherwise treated precisely as if it were wood. It does not swell or shrink under climatic changes, is waterproof, and is a complete electric insulator. It is capable of withstanding a great strain—13 tons per square inch in comparison with Portland cement, which is only capable of supporting 9 tons—so that it is an ideal material for floorings and ceilings. Its cost is very low, 7 cents per square foot. A practical proof of faith in its fire resisting qualities is attested by the fact that in London the fire insurance companies have decreased their rates where this material is employed from \$5.25 to \$1.90. If all that is said of this material is true it ought to revolutionize building, at least in cities.