

The Evening Times-Star

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THE LATE JOHN L. PECK

ALBERT COUNTY and the province lost a good and useful citizen when Mr. John L. Peck, M. L. A., went to his rest. For nearly half a century Mr. Peck had been active in business affairs in Albert county, first as a merchant, then as a lumber operator, and in turn taking up banking in a private way and building construction work. He was successful in all his ventures because he was a particularly alert and capable business man. Perhaps no man had a better knowledge of Albert county, its people and its affairs than Mr. Peck. He was a man of high character, and bore his part in all that related to the welfare of the community. Men valued his counsel in business matters and found it good. Entering the legislature in 1917, he has since been a member, and showed a clear knowledge of provincial affairs, especially in regard to the finances. His place will not be easily filled in the community where he has been so long a highly respected and influential citizen.

THE FREIGHT RATES

PREMIER RHODES of Nova Scotia has given to the press a statement to show how utterly incorrect are any references to the proposed lower freight rates recommended by the Duncan Commission as a subsidy to the provinces. Mr. Rhodes takes the Duncan report itself, and in clear-cut fashion proves from it that in reducing the rates as proposed the country will only be restoring a former condition, which was based upon and justified by the Confederation agreement. These proposals will simply be getting back their own, of which they have been deprived since 1912. The statement of the Nova Scotia Premier is timely, and it may be hoped will be published in the press of the whole country. Speaking in this city last evening, Premier Baxter took occasion to refer to the freight rate reduction, pointing out that if adopted it will have a beneficial effect on business. The whole matter will very soon be under discussion in Parliament, and it is well to let the country at large know and understand the feeling that prevails in the Maritimes in relation to all the recommendations made by the Duncan Commission.

THE THREAT OF CIVILIZATION

THE Chinese situation has been brought directly home to Canadians by the news that several hundreds of our fellow countrymen have been forced to leave the province of Szechwan. That this withdrawal is a precautionary measure is apparent. This much is in common with the recent evacuation of Hankow, but beyond that point there is probably little similarity between the two situations. Hankow had all the elements of a crisis of immense possibilities. One single shot might have set China and the world ablaze. And the fatal shot was not fired. Yet it is beyond credence that the last has been heard of Hankow. Lord Sydenham is by no means a warlike person, still he has voiced his voice in the Great Britain's contemplation of what cannot be described as anything but expulsion of British citizens from place after place by Chinese mobs. Despite Mr. Chamberlain's apparent complacency, this is not the kind of thing that Great Britain can tolerate. United States citizens also are involved in like indignities and as the Boston Post remarks, "What is sauce for the Nicaraguan goose, in the matter of American lives and property, ought to be sauce for the Chinese gander."

Were it not that the matter goes far beyond Chinese mobs and has its roots in the red councils of Moscow—as is fully apparent from Moscow's announcement—there would probably have been sharp reprisals long ere this. The governments of Great Britain and the United States are rightly walking warily. Nothing would suit Russia better than to see Britain embroiled in China and the United States in Central America, and there is no need to play into Russia's hand. Patience under the circumstances is likewise and has the appearance of lack of dignity, but it is probably the best policy. None-the-less there is a limit, as those who seek to overthrow civilization will discover, to their cost.

CHEMICALS OR OTHER WEAPONS

THE poison gas protocol stands out as an example of how broken agreements shake the future confidence of all round. Almost twelve years ago Germany launched the first cloud of poison, contrary to the Hague agreement of 1907, to which Germany was a party. Canadian troops were the chief sufferers from this treacherous use of a forbidden weapon. In the end the Allies were obliged to retaliate in kind. At the end of the war it was generally expected that the Allies would do something to prevent its further use.

In 1922 the Five-Power Pact signed at Washington laid down that Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy and Japan would have chemical warfare between themselves. Recently thirty-four nations signed the protocol at Geneva against the use of poison gas, but so far only in France has the protocol been ratified. In the United States its ratification is encountering strenuous opposition.

General John J. Pershing, who might be supposed to know, denounces poison gas as abominable. Senator Borah of Idaho champions the protocol. Against this, however, are at least two eminently practical men, Senator Wadsworth of New York and Senator Reed of Pennsylvania. Their contention is that the protocol is not worth the paper on which it is written. A country would still be obliged to enter a war prepared to use gas if necessary, because, they say, the enemy might at any time follow Germany's example. This suspicion is unfortunate, though undoubtedly Germany's past acts give it force, though possibly the contentions of others furnish more solid grounds for the legalization of chemical warfare. These authorities state that "the percentage of deaths from gas casualties in the Great War were insignificant compared with the percentage of deaths from casualties caused by other weapons." It is their expectation that other wars will be almost entirely chemical wars, and they hold out the hope that it will be found possible to put out of action large forces without inflicting death

or permanent injury. Meanwhile, because of Germany's treachery twelve years ago, all nations must, as contended by Senators Wadsworth and Reed, be prepared to use poison gas if necessary.

YOUNG FLORIDA RAMPANT

THE editor of the New York Times, having said his say about Florida in a form neither complimentary nor palatable to that state, has drawn a crossfire of invective and applause. That most of the former comes from Floridians is only to be expected, although apparently some citizens of the state fully agree with the Times' criticism of misleading and not too honest boosting tactics. Conspicuous among those who pursue the editor with an axe is a Jacksonville high-school girl. She does not mince matters. She says: "As a high school girl I wish to contradict your statement that Florida is at this time facing a serious reaction." "Have you ever," she continues, "heard a woman on the warpath with her tongue?" What a question to ask an editor. Few, however, of that peace loving fraternity would dare to employ so blunt an expression, which none-the-less invites the evasive answer: "Have you, my dear young lady, ever heard a woman on the warpath without her tongue?" The next sentence proves that Jacksonville high-school encourages frank self-criticism: "If so, you will remember that she told the world what she wanted to do, and then settled down to normal household peace." After that the gentle creature returns to Florida with: "Florida, it has been said, has had her boom, yelled to the world her golden wares, and therefore, womanlike, had her say. If you don't believe Florida is not facing a serious reaction, ask the old citizens, who have faithfully worked to make Florida what it is today, what the cold facts are."

All of which is indeed an inspiring exhibition of community pride, but does not prove or disprove much. Anyhow, a high-school girl has had her say.

Quebec has won the Governor-General's Challenge Shield awarded to the province showing on parade at the annual inspection the greatest number of enrolled cadets between the ages of twelve and eighteen, in proportion to the previous year's school attendance. New Brunswick stands sixth on the list. Following the affiliation of the Saint John Fusiliers with the King's Own Scottish Borderers, it has been announced that His Majesty has approved the alliance of the Canadian Engineers, non-permanent active militia, to the corps of Royal Engineers. "With the rank and pay of a Sapper"—an honor not to be despised.

Economy is to be the rule in municipal affairs in the city and county of Saint John. It has begun with a reduction in the grants to municipal institutions. Those responsible for their management are anxious to meet to the fullest possible extent the wishes of the Municipal Council, realizing that the tax burden is heavy. No doubt the Municipal Councillors, both in the city and county, will do their utmost during the year to get a dollar's worth of value for every dollar expended. If this be done, it is fair to assume that the record for 1927 will be satisfactory to the taxpayers as well as to members of council.

Other Views

JUST SLUSH.
(Sault Star)

WHERE is this craze for nudism to stop? Where is the jazz madness to end? Was there no virtue at all in the last generations' idea that decency was a virtue. Not a soul objects to seeing women's knees nowadays except for St. John's Eve's reason—most of them are not well shaped. Can you beat it, Stephen? Practically every American publication features sex stuff. The newspaper or magazine which does not is remarked. One New York publication, two years old, has as large a circulation in Canada as the Toronto Globe. It is made up of "confessions" of women. The stuff is pure bunk, being written by a regular staff of young girls who are ruined by doctors, dentists and bad carriers. A man who would be found reading the drive should be ashamed of his taste. But they pay an unusually good price for it, and Algoma buys many copies. It's just slush—the kind of suggestive reading that isn't good for immature minds. Perhaps you may find a few copies on your own shelves.

NATURE ON A RAMPAGE

AS Canadians, we are singularly fortunate in having escaped these forces of destruction. Our country is blessed indeed in being free from cataclysms that bring terror and death in their train. We may not have roses blooming in our gardens at Christmas; we may not be able to look out of our windows and see the Atlantic surf rolling in upon gleaming stretches of sand; we may not enjoy the novelty of walking in our garden before breakfast to pick a ripe orange from the trees. But there are compensations. When we go to bed at night we are reasonably sure of waking up in the same spot next morning. Our dinner is not likely to be swished from under our nose and carried to kingdom come, nor are we obliged to take a boat to the office. So, taken all round, things are pretty well covered up.

THE BETTER WAY.

IS the English coal strike, with its long drawn out and its losses to owners, workers and the public, with its sympathetic general strike, the straw that has broken the camel's back? Has it, in other words, taught the lesson already learned in many American industries, that co-operation and mutual understanding are safer, financially, economically and humanly?

At any rate, a conference between British government officials and trade union officials has proved so satisfactory that it may lead to a permanent organization. Whether these men with a vision can triumph over the die-hard who would create a revolution and the communists who want revolution is a question. Yet in them there is the promise of better things.

THE ENGLISH WAY.

AN American paper notices that in the attempt to prevent jay-walking the warnings placed on the streets of London are couched in these words: "Please cross here."

It may appear to be a simple matter that the people should be invited to please do a certain thing instead of being forbidden to do something else; but the American paper remarks with some force that the British people have never succumbed to the "Don't" idea as some other people have.

News and Views From The British Capital

LONDON, December 30, 1926.—The War Office has just issued a new manual on the training of Army signallers. Many changes have been made in this vital branch of military operations as the result of experience gained in different directions during the war, but though the importance of aerial communications is duly stressed, it is noteworthy that neither dogs nor pigeons are discarded on the Western Front. The men with the blue and white armlets that denoted the signalling wing of the "Blinking R. E." had as tough a time as almost anybody outside the actual front-line trenches. The Lancaster pigeon corps was personae grata with the C. O. of most brigades at Ypres, and his precious charges had their special gas masks. Dog messengers are now made the peculiar care of the Remount Department.

D. O. R. A.

Efforts still persist to get the wartime restrictions on the sale of tobacco and sweets removed. A memorial asking for a committee of inquiry was last year signed by 120 M. P.'s, but the Home Secretary was obdurate. This year another memorial, signed by 167 members, has been presented, and there is some talk of the Government's giving way. Though even this is doubtful, still more so is whether any committee would report favorably. That the restrictions are absurd, and indeed are indispensable, but rights and privileges once surrendered are difficult to regain. All sorts of people occasionally feel the inconvenience of not being able to buy sweets or tobacco after 8 p.m. on other nights and 9 p.m. on Saturday, but there is no nothing public discontent, and vested interests oppose any change. Shopkeepers cling to the restriction as either labor or money saving, and the automatic companies are heartily with them.

Hurricanes and Incense. Tropical hurricanes cast their ravages a vast distance. I learned today, from the director of a firm largely interested in incense, that the storm of last summer will lead to a shortage of incense next spring. One of the most important ingredients of incense is cassia, a plant which grows in the East Indies. The cassia is a shrub, and the leaves are used in the manufacture of incense. The cassia is a shrub, and the leaves are used in the manufacture of incense. The cassia is a shrub, and the leaves are used in the manufacture of incense.

Real Fireproof House (Boston Transcript)

CAN you imagine a house two stories high with walls of steel, a roof of steel, and a floor of steel, in every detail, and not a particle of anything inflammable in its construction? Such a house has been built by an architectural firm of Detroit, and is an example of 100 per cent fireproof construction.

Even the floors are made of asbestos composition laid on concrete which is supported by steel joists. Walls of the house are steel frame units connected and covered with insulating material and metal lath on both sides. Outside of the house is three-coat waterproofed stucco on metal lath. Inside walls are hardwall plaster on metal lath, leaving a dead space between.

This absolutely fireproof construction is carried out in every detail. The windows are of cottage casement type with steel sashes. The roof is built of steel trusses and covered with cement tile. All the inside partitions are of hardwall plaster on metal lath.

Doors, door and window trim, baseboards, picture mouldings, and chair rail are of steel, finished in enamel to represent walnut. Stair stringers and risers are also of steel with enamel finish. The stair treads are cement mortar on metal lath topped with composition flooring.

The architects state that it was erected at a cost no greater than that of a frame structure of good materials and workmanship built on the same plan.

To Extract Oil From Coal

THE erection of a large plant in Germany for the purpose of extracting oil from coal is reported in the German press. The new plant is being erected by the I. G. (German chemical trust) contiguous to the Leunaewerke, at Merseburg, Germany. The new "oil from coal" plant, it is said, will embrace twenty new large buildings, or twenty-three, including the firing plants. In ten of these buildings the hot coal and dust coal (light) will be liquefied. Special apparatus will be employed to recover hydrogen. The liquid coal and hydrogen will be sent to a refinery plant, which will produce high pressure. Fifteen large tanks will be provided to store the product resulting from the operation of this process. The entire project calls for completion within one year, according to reports. In addition to the "oil from coal" plant the Leunaewerke is also constructing a new calcium nitrate plant, two gas tanks, each of 2,800 cubic meters capacity, new silos and a new cooling tower. Six thousand workmen are said to be employed in the building projects of the concern, in addition to the personnel, numbering 10,000, already employed there.

Good Roads and Peace

PEACE among the nations of the Western Hemisphere was a theme emphasized by delegates from Mexico, Cuba and several South American countries at the Pan-American Day session of the American Road Builders' Convention in Chicago this week. All expressed the desire that constantly better relations be established between the nations of the Americas and emphasized the part modern international highways could play in bringing about these conditions.

The highway work being done in Mexico, Canada, Cuba and Chile was stressed by speakers from the countries. Outside the meeting many Latin-American delegates discussed with North American plans for a great highway, starting at Detroit, running directly via Texas into Mexico, then through Central and South America to Argentina and Chile.

The Position of Quebec

"WE in the province of Quebec have every reason to declare ourselves satisfied with our lot. Thanks to a stable policy, which even the disturbance of the war did not shake, we have been able to proceed to the establishment of works that are really constructive whereas elsewhere they have been restricted to a period of reconstruction. Thanks to our economic position the province of Quebec is the object of the regard not only of the whole Dominion but also of Great Britain and the United States."

Queer Quirks of Nature

THE VAMPIRE BAT HAS GREW SOME HISTORY

By Arthur N. Pack

THE true vampire bat is only slightly larger than the brown bat which flies about of a summer's evening.

A number of other varieties often are wrongly called vampires, but the only truly blood-sucking bats belong to the family Desmodus, and they are



Vampire Bat

all so alike that to describe one is to describe all.

The true vampire is highly specialized to live on blood alone; its dentition and digestive system are greatly reduced. It has no well-developed chewing teeth, and the teeth of the front of the jaw have developed into razor-sharp instruments for puncturing.

The vampire bites the victim and sucks its blood, and the list of animals which it will attack is a long one. Mules and horses will be attacked nightly in the regions where the bats live, and man is by no means immune.

The bat will bite a sleeping man and will do so cleverly that the man does not awake; often the bat will select the big toe if the foot is exposed, or it may bite on the ear or arm.

Many stories are related of the vampires, and it is not difficult to imagine the consideration which such stories would create in the minds of the timid.

Vampires have a great range and are found from Mexico almost to the end of South America. They are confined to the tropical zone for the most part.

Timely Views On World Topics

WEALTH OF THE MASSES CALLED AMAZING.

By MATTHEW WOLL, Vice President, American Federation of Labor.

THE latest official figures show that we have one automobile to every six persons in the United States. That is an average of one to every family. It is not a new thing, but it is a new thing that counts, but it is the significance of the thing that counts. The world has never seen such a wide distribution of good fortune, or whatever one cares to call it. The world has seen plenty of potatoes possessed of unlimited wealth, like the Princes of India. But never has such a spread of wealth come to the masses. This is an American achievement. It is an amazing achievement.

Generally, it is true, that factories are producing but little above what the market will absorb. Prices are fairly stable, goods are moving rapidly from maker to consumer and credit conditions are generally good. This argues against the imminence of any sudden shift or change. The dollar now has a high level. It is also a good omen that savings deposits are at a very high mark, and it is a still better omen that more than 75 per cent of all these savings deposits belong to wage earners, but there out of pay envelopes that are fuller than ever.

A nation whose people are universally well-off is an invincible nation, and a progressive nation.

"DOCTOR, do you think the anesthetic will make me sick?"

"No, madam," replied the surgeon, "I think not."

But still she was not satisfied.

"But," she continued, "How long will it be before I know anything?"

"Madam," replied the other gravely, as he signalled to his assistant that he was ready, "don't you think that is asking a great deal of the anesthetic?"

Just Fun

THEY say that a single oyster will lay from one to eight million eggs a year.

"Gosh! Think of the married ones!"

THE best way to work up an appetite is to have somebody promise to treat you to lunch.

BARBER (after cutting Senator's hair): "Wet or dry?"

Senator: "None of your business."

PEOPLE who live in tin houses shouldn't cast can openers.

HE'S SCOTCH

TAILOR (measuring man for suit of clothes): And how would you like the poodle, sir?

MacPherson: Well, just a wee bit difficult to get at.—Tilt-Bits, London.

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Poems I Love

BY CHAS. HANBON TOWNE.

"Sally in Our Alley," by Henry Carey.

THIS English poet, whose birth occurred somewhere about 1688, died in 1743, and left little of value save this well-known song. He is essentially a "one-poem poet"—a distinction not to be smiled at. It is something, after all, to have given the world even a single lyric so perfect.

Of all the girls that are so smart
There's none like pretty Sally;
She is the darling of my heart,
And she lives in our alley.
There is no lady in the land
So half so sweet as Sally;
She is the darling of my heart,
And she lives in our alley.

When she is by I leave my work,
I love her so sincerely;
My master comes like any Turk,
And bangs me most severely—
But let him bang his bellyful,
I'll bear it all for Sally;
She is the darling of my heart,
And she lives in our alley.

Of all the days that's in the week
I dearly love but one day—
And that's the day that comes betwixt
A Saturday and Monday;
For then I'm drest all in my best
To walk abroad with Sally;
She is the darling of my heart,
And she lives in our alley.

When Christmas comes about again,
O then I shall have money;
I'll board it up and box it all,
I'll give it to my honey;
I would it were ten thousands pound,
I'd give it all to Sally;
She is the darling of my heart,
And she lives in our alley.

My master and the neighbors all
Make game of me and Sally;
And, but for her, I'd better be
A slave and row a galley;
But when my seven long years are out
O then I'll marry Sally—
O then we'll wed, and then we'll bed,
But not in our alley!

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Pure wool, heavy jumbo knit, in colors navy, scarlet, maroon, fawn. Sizes 36 to 40. Special tonight \$5.95 Second floor.

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Mr. Pitfield's Hydro Notions

While every credit is due Mr. Warden C. Pitfield for his general patriotism and the powerful position he holds in the councils of big corporations, his opinions on public ownership must be regarded as biased by the very nature of his private interests.

We must expect this from the Director of a private corporation which ridiculed the Hydro while moving heaven and earth to possess it. So we duly note his prejudiced refusal to acknowledge that our own Hydro forced rates down to one-third of what they were. His remarks, therefore, are rather ill-advised, especially when he is Director of the Power Co. in possession of the Halifax Hydro—whose record for giving the public the benefit of a Hydro plant, built on government money, stands out in strange contrast to the gains handed over here in its entirety to the Saint John public, who operate their own Hydro for the benefit of all instead of a few.

Your Own Hydro