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ST. JOHN STAR.
ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 8, 1934.

THE SENATE.

Since Parliament opened, several propositions differing materially in their principles, have been presented with regard to the constitution of the Senate. Although none of these have led to any serious consideration there has been sufficient discussion, of a more or less desultory nature, to create the impression that there is actually in existence some sort of movement in the way of senate reform. It is naïvely admitted by the grandfathers of Confederation—those still forming a majority in the upper house—that they could perhaps manage to get through a little more work without hurting themselves, and maybe render some trifling service to the people who pay their salaries, without incurring their constitutional. Still whatever belief there may exist that the senate itself desires to be reformed is distinctly erroneous.

A thoughtful member of Commons, one Lancaster by name, has advocated the abolition of the upper house, and suggests as a means of bringing about this end, that a resolution embodying the change be presented to the imperial parliament. It is of course necessary that the body which created the senate should have a voice in any proposal affecting it. But, however, laudable Mr. Lancaster's ambition may be, the suggestion to abolish the senate is almost in the nature of an insult to that venerable institution. The state of the upper house has never been an issue in Canadian politics, it has not been made a part of any policy, and hence such a radical move could not well be expected to attract much support without direction from the people. If reform is to come—and there are many who think some benefit might be wrought by a judicious change—such reform must under existing conditions originate in the senate itself, and a variation in the constitution or working of that body will be considered by the government only upon the request of the chamber to be affected. Such a resolution leaves before the people of Canada only one serious proposal, respecting the upper house, namely that brought forward a few days ago by Hon. Mr. Scott. It is true that during the past decade there have been a great many suggestions of a somewhat similar nature, but few so forcibly presented and backed by such wide experience as Mr. Scott possesses. Yet it is not apparent that any in the past have aroused more enthusiasm or interest among the senators themselves than did this most recent suggestion which was heard by only a score or so of members. It is to be feared that as in many other things, some of the senators talk senate reform merely for recreation, or as a means of passing the time while pretending to be busy. Doubtless some few, like Mr. Scott, realize that the institution to which they belong could be made a much more valuable working force than it now is, but generally speaking they are disinclined to disturb the existing order of things, so long as this indifference is displayed, and so long as the senate continues to be some a less and less valuable branch of the government, just so long will the feeling grow among the electors that the upper house is not wholly necessary. And by and by its extinction will become a live issue—not as in the case of the House of Commons in Britain, which does too much work, but because on the contrary it undertakes too little and fails to provide an adequate return for the outlay made on it. The senate, if it were conducted in a manner consistent with the abilities of the men who form it, could find many valuable opportunities for effective work, but it is not unfair to suggest that the men who—chiefly because of service in other positions—have been honored by elevation to the upper chamber, now desire first of all, to lead the simple life and to avoid all subjects of a controversial nature.

THE DEATH SENTENCE.

Many people in New Brunswick will breathe easier because of the verdict of death pronounced on the murderers of Edward Green. It is a very serious matter but in this case there can be nothing but agreement with the verdict. The murder for which these men must suffer was planned in cold blood simply for the sake of the victim's money and it is impossible to find a single circumstance to mitigate the brutality and repulsiveness of the crime. Under some circumstances those who have red blood in their own veins find it hard to condemn a fellow-being to death for murder which may have been committed in the heat of passion or where the man considered that his honor was concerned. In this case, however, there is no excuse to be offered for the perpetrators of the crime and no appeal for sympathy for the

NEWS OF EASTPORT.

Lubco Sardinia Company Will Rebuild Old Factory Burned During Last Season.

EASTPORT, March 6.—The Lubco Sardinia Company will rebuild as once the big factory which was destroyed by fire during the season of 1933. The new structure will be of steel and concrete and will be fitted up in the most approved fashion. The cost of concrete work will be correspondingly lessened. When a sardine factory pretty well seasoned with oil is set on fire there is not one chance in a thousand of saving anything, but the water-submerged foundation rapidly spread the flames. On this account insurance rates are very high, and the owners who have experienced one or more fires are beginning to realize that wood is not the cheapest construction material after all. The big can-making plant of the American Can Company here is an object lesson in this respect. The big concrete and steel foundation of concrete and it is said that in the future more of this kind of construction will be used. Rumor has it that the Seacom Cannery Company contemplates in the near future the erection of a big concrete and brick factory on the site now occupied by the wooden factory known as No. 4.

It is expected that the big can-making plant will be started up during the present month, probably about the third week in March. The sardine packing season opens, according to law, on April 15, and it has been customary to start the manufacture of cans a month ahead of that date. Shipments of sardines to market are being made regularly from both Eastport and Lubco, and by the time open season arrives, the amount of goods on hand from the 1933 pack will be comparatively small. There is going to be a better demand for Eastport sardines in the future, according to opinion of parties who have close touch with the markets. The improvement in the quality of the goods being packed is a matter of which the public is becoming more and more aware. The watchword of the packers who have earned by honest means a belief that demands a good article and is willing to pay for the same. With the improvement in the quality of the goods, the slightest difficulty in putting up a sufficient quantity of goods to supply the market is a matter of which the supply of little fishes is available and as detectable a dish in the way of sardines as can be obtained. The quality of the product and a consequent injury to the business ought to bring the Eastport sardine into the favor of the consumer, and the fact that the manufacturers realize and are determined to maintain the goods at a high standard hereafter.

WIDOWED AT SIXTEEN; GIRL ADRIFT, HUNGRY

Arkansas Child Married at Thirteen and a Mother at Fourteen.

ST. LOUIS, March 6.—Ester Richardson, married at 13, a mother at 14, a widow at 15, and homeless, penniless and adrift at 16, is the story of a girl who has been through a life of suffering and hardship. Her mother, Mrs. Esther Pryor, but when she came to St. Louis from Arkansas, she took for her child, she resumed her maiden name, and she was married to a man who was a child-widow. She was married three years ago at Terre Haute, Ind., to Charles Pryor. He was 18 years old. He deserted her, she says after her baby, Elsie, was born, two years ago. Two years ago she learned that he had been killed in a gambler's fight in a mining camp in the Ozarks. Last year the girl lived with her parents on a cotton plantation near Atkins. During the fall and up to Christmas she worked as a cotton picker. When the season closed and there was nothing for her to do, she came to St. Louis, arriving New Year's Day.

LOST JOB IN 10 DAYS.

She went to the home of her uncle, Sherman Mercer, 234 South Eleventh street. She obtained employment at the Fulton Bag Company, at Seventh and Poplar streets, but was discharged after ten days. Not wanting to tell her uncle of the loss of her employment, she left his home without telling where she was going. She rented a room at 308 Olive St. For four days she was ill. Her little store of money was soon gone. Her room rent was due Friday night. She could not pay it and so she left the house and wandered about the streets. At 11 o'clock a policeman saw a man talking to her at Fifteenth and Pine streets. He took her to the Central District station and placed her in the care of Matron Kintzing.

YESTERDAY HE UNCLE WAS NOTIFIED.

Yesterday he uncle was notified. He called for her and took her home with him, and told the police she could have a home with him as long as she wanted to stay. The young mother hopes to obtain employment that will enable her to bring her child to St. Louis. The little one is now with the mother's parents in Arkansas.

BEAT HIM.

Guzzle (after he had succeeded in waking his wife)—Open the door! Mrs. Guzzle (head out of the second story window)—Are you sober? Guzzle—Yesh. Mrs. Guzzle—Then say "reciprocity."

THE USHER WOKE UP.

At a certain county court the judge is in his private capacity a kind hearted man. The usher of the court is aged—very aged—but as he had been a faithful servant for many years he was retained in that capacity. One morning he fell asleep in court and began to snore. The noise he made naturally disturbed court proceedings, but the judge displayed great tact in dealing with the matter. "Usher Jones," he called out loudly, "some one is snoring." The usher woke up. He jumped to his feet and glanced around him. "Silence!" he roared. "There must be no snoring in court!"—Exchange.

A Tonic or a Stimulant?

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a tonic. It does not stimulate. It does not make you feel better one day, then as bad as ever the next. There is not a drop of alcohol in it. You have the steady, even gain that comes from a strong tonic. Ask your doctor all about this. Trust him fully, and always do as he says.

THE QUESTION OF INCREASING THE NAVY

(Harold Spender, in the Daily Chronicle, London.)

It is agreed by everyone who has followed the official return that Great Britain at present possesses a complete preponderance of ships, amounting to slightly more than a Two-Power standard. If we include European powers only, the Cavalor return of last season gave British battleships at 27, American at 26, and German at 22, making an equality in numbers between Britain on the one side, and the other two powers combined on the other. The "Naval Annual" of 1933, including all the ships building, gives Great Britain at 33, Germany at 23, and the United States at 23, leaving us a majority of three over both. We launched three new Dreadnoughts last year, against the German one, and three new Invincibles cruisers. At the present moment, therefore, our superiority is greater than ever, and these figures do not take into the reckoning our immense superiority in tonnage and in personnel.

REASONS FOR "GOING SLOW."

To answer that, it is necessary to remember two important points. (1) Building in excess is a source of strength, but of weakness. The ships may become obsolete and yet the money will be spent. The moral of the last few years is surely that we should keep our resources well in hand and keep a careful eye on the construction of new types. Nobody has said this more clearly and yet the money will be spent. The moral of the last few years is surely that we should keep our resources well in hand and keep a careful eye on the construction of new types. Nobody has said this more clearly and yet the money will be spent.

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Those estimates rose to £13,000,000, being an increase of £3,000,000 in the year. The vote for new construction rose to £1,385,000, being an increase of £225,000. The vote for armaments rose to £2,774,000, making a total German vote for construction and armaments of £4,159,000. Meanwhile the English vote for armaments and construction, though still higher, were reduced:

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On the other hand, the opponents of the plan held the following considerations:— (1) Our immense superiority both in quantity and quality of sailors. At present our navy possesses 128,000 men against the German 47,000, mainly conscripts. (2) The fact that, even if the German programme be carried out, we shall still, even in 1935, have a large superiority in battleships over the Dreadnoughts. "The Naval Annual" gives this superiority at 51 to 27. If we add the American 25, we shall still, on the present building schemes, have a practical equality of battleships—51 to 52.

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