

The St. John Standard

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THE INTERCOLONIAL.

The Ottawa Journal, "we would not care to say intentionally—seriously misrepresents the motives which prompted the delegation of Maritime Province Members of Parliament to seek an audience of the Government with regard to the future of the Intercolonial Railway. Our Ottawa contemporary says that the object of this interview was, according to Nova Scotia dispatches, the return of the Intercolonial to patronage, and it instances a number of abuses, long since cast aside, that might be revived. The Journal is entirely in the wrong. If the delegation asked for what it set out to ask for, it was absolutely in the right and will receive the support of residents in the Maritime Provinces of all shades of political opinion.

The Intercolonial is wholly and entirely a Maritime Province railway, constructed specially for the purpose of serving Maritime Province interests. As long as the headquarters were at Moncton, and it was under the direction and control of men familiar with Maritime Province needs and requirements, a fairly decent and satisfactory service was provided. It did not always pay its way on railways in Canada—not even the C. P. R. does that. But at least it was operated in a way that attempted to give satisfaction to the community it served.

With the absorption of the Intercolonial into the National Railway system, a change came over the situation. The primary reason for the existence of the railway has been lost sight of altogether; instead of serving the interests of Maritime Province people, it has been made to serve the interests of other parts of Canada. The earnings of the road have gone to help pay deficits incurred on other lines; it has been controlled from Toronto, by managers who "know not Joseph," and whose sole object has been to run the railway system on the safest possible lines. Representations by Maritime Province interests as to the inadequacy of the service or the discriminatory principles followed, have met with no satisfactory reply; the Railway Board is not concerned about the well-being of the Maritime Provinces.

What the delegation went to Ottawa for was to endeavor to get the headquarters of the Intercolonial re-established at Moncton, under the charge of officials thoroughly familiar with Maritime Province needs, who will endeavor to operate the system for the purpose for which it was built. So long as the Intercolonial is simply operated to help out the general railway business of the country, the Maritime Provinces will never get just or fair treatment. There is no desire to depart from the principle of Government ownership, in fact under that ownership the Government is in the position of trustee for the public, and the terms and objects of the trust, as far as the Intercolonial is concerned, are laid down in black and white by the B. N. A. Act. All that the Maritime Provinces ask is that these terms as so laid down be adhered to.

CANADA'S FOREST WEALTH.

We published yesterday an interesting and instructive communication from Mr. F. J. D. Barnum on the sore need that exists for a better system of conservation of the national forest wealth. Those who have given this subject any consideration, will agree that his words of warning regarding the depletion of forests are timely, and support the views already expressed by forestry men and others in the Dominion that Canada's "boundless" forest wealth is not only not boundless, but is within measurable distance of exhaustion.

It is a condition of affairs that seems to be recognized by an increasing number of persons, but as yet no general tendency towards replacing wastage on a large scale has been manifested. Reafforestation will surely have to come. A Canada without forests would be a sorry spectacle indeed, and yet the country is slowly but inevitably approaching the day when timber will be scarce and hard to obtain. The pulp industry has swallowed up large tracts of forest growth and the plan is already being set on foot.

Apart from the industrial difficulties of an actual shortage of timber, there is another side to the problem. That is the effect of the absence of trees on climate and agriculture. Besides being of potential value as standing timber, trees also play a large part in conditioning the soil by attracting and conserving moisture. Precipitation is greater where trees are plentiful, and it is known that where there are no trees drought is more frequently encountered than where they exist in considerable numbers. The trees also shelter the snows in early spring, resulting in slower dissolution and therefore a steadier and more lasting supply of moisture. A well-wooded country is one that does not need irrigation. It will be seen that the loss of forest wealth goes deeper than the mere loss of so much timber or pulpwood.

Information as to the practicability of reafforestation is not difficult to obtain. The planting of large areas that have been denuded has proven not so difficult or costly as had been anticipated. By planting 10,000 acres a year, sufficient trees would grow to supply in fifty years fifty million feet a year more timber than the present annual cut, and the cost would be about \$200,000 a year. Considering the ultimate benefits that would come, such an annual outlay would be small. Whatever way one looks at the question, it becomes clearer that more attention will have to be given to this vital matter of replacing the forest wastage of Canada.

REMEMBER OUR LANDMARKS.

Referring to the burning of the first legislative building in Fredericton, the London Free Press says: Nine lines in the news dispatches of Thursday sufficed to tell of the destruction by fire in the City of Fredericton, N. B., of the building that housed the first New Brunswick Legislature. This Legislature met in 1788, but five years after the first contingent of the United Empire Loyalists arrived in the City of St. John, N. B., in a search for a country where, without peril to their lives, they could continue loyal to England's King. Yet the building which housed this first Parliament of Loyalists, surely of historic value to the country at large, is now a heap of debris and cannot be restored in its originality.

The people of the southern part of New Brunswick, from Fredericton to the City of St. John and along the coast of the Bay of Fundy, are wont to pride themselves upon their Loyalist ancestry, yet they permitted this venerable building, every nook and corner in it teeming with the romantic history of the early days, to pass without any effort at its preservation. For the fire of this week was but the last step in its passing. A plain, two-story frame structure on the southern side of Queen street, and but a stone's throw from the present legislative halls of that province, "the old coffee house," as it was known, has in recent years housed alike a Chinese laundry and a small printing establishment. When the men who framed New Brunswick's first laws, the forebears of families who often since that time have given freely of their sons to the making of the Canadian nation (witness the Hazens, the Farris's, the Blairs, the Stocktons, the Tilley's, the Wiltons, the Carvells, the Carletons, the Simons and the Robert's) once wrangled, fought and legislated with a vigor and a singleness of purpose which has since characterized the statesmen who have come from the East, a soft-eyed Celestial has been permitted to live and carry on his calling, until a fire at last laid low the little old building.

It is related of the old coffee house that it was the scene of the quarrel that led to the only duel ever fought in New Brunswick. Two doughty and choleric gentlemen of that day engaged in heated dispute; the blow was passed and the party adjourned to the field in the rear, where, with four-foot swords, they sited at each other until honor was appeased, and, incidentally, no one seriously hurt. The fire which destroyed the Fredericton Legislature robbed the Historic Landmarks Association, or some other equally worthy organization, of an opportunity to preserve what was really one of Canada's most noted old landmarks. But there are many others still extant. In the City of St. John, for instance, the site of the old French fort, so heroically defended by Lady La Tour, is now used by business to try their teeth and knives of recent section, not even a stone tablet marks it. Canada is rich in history, history of the present as well as of the past. It is fitting that the chief attention of the people shall be directed to the development of the future of this young nation. But it is also well that such historic old buildings as that destroyed in Fredericton this week should receive some little share of the respect to which their age and historical association entitles them. In the struggle for the material things of the present let us not totally forget the past. There are many old landmarks in Western Ontario which are being allowed to go into disrepair.

"This is getting to be a short world," says the Toronto Saturday Night. This remark is called forth by the fact that at Brantford, Ont., the other day, at a meeting presided over by the President of the W. O. T. U., a resolution was passed calling for the compulsory record of all private wine cellars, and furthermore that such laws be enacted as will prevent the serving of liquor at any private entertainment where more than three outside of the immediate family are present. The Toronto Journal does not see just how this enactment could be carried out, but says that "apparently the proper way would be to 'take the private residences of all 'citizens showing a light after six p. m., raided by the police and noses counted. To this could be added a 'general line-up of all inmates in 'order that peddlers could be produced and family trees exposed to 'the searching eyes of allowing 'three outsiders to sit at one's table. 'What do you say to that? 'If we are going to wear crepe, let 'us do it properly.'"

Women are gradually "coming into their own," or what they seem to regard as their own. A third lady M. P. has now been added to the British House of Commons, in the person of Viscountess Windeor, the nineteen-year-old bride of the heir of the Earl of Plymouth. She was elected by acclamation by the Ludlow Division of Shropshire, in which constituency her husband has a residence. This achievement of Lady Windeor is remarkable. When Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintingham were elected to Parliament, their candidatures were in each case strengthened by the fact that a wife was succeeding a husband. And they were not young. Nor was Countess Markievicz, who was elected in Ireland as a Sinn Feiner, and of course did not take her seat. But the success of Lady Windeor will make it clear that it will be just as tradition grows, it will be just as well, however, if this sort of thing does not happen too often. As a vindication of the principle that youth must be served—in Parliament as well as out of it—Lady Windeor's election is unobjectionable. But an epidemic of teen-age candidatures would hardly be regarded with equanimity.

The Walkerton Square recently announced that that town had more pretty girls to its size in the province. And now it is said the newspapers in rival towns are jeering about the square feet of the Walkerton girls. When any town makes a boast of that kind, it should be worded with the utmost caution.

THE LAUGH LINE

Probably Not. "Gladly, I love you, I can't live without you!" "Well, uh—good lawd, man!" interrupted Miss Gladys Guggles. "Doesn't you never aim to do no work a-tall?"—Kansas City (Mo) Star.

To Insure Silence. Wife (during spat)—My dear Henry, don't harbor the idea that I am ignorant. I know a good deal more than care to tell. Hub—I wish, my dear, that you'd fill up on that sort of knowledge.—Boston Transcript.

The Ruling Passion. He owned a handsome touring car. To ride in it was heaven. He ran across some broken glass—Bill \$14.97.

He took some friends out for a ride. "Was good to be alive. "I know a good deal more than care to tell. Hub—I wish, my dear, that you'd fill up on that sort of knowledge.—Boston Transcript.

He started on a little tour. The fastest sort of fun. He stopped too quick and stripped his gear—Bill \$90.51.

He took his wife downtown to shop. To save carfare was great. He jammed into one lamp-post—Bill \$268.

He spent about all that he had. And then in anguish cried: "Till put a mortgage on the house And take just one more ride."—New York Mail.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Six Chinamen. (St. Catharines Standard.) Only six Chinamen have ever entered the penal institution at Portsmouth, Kingston, which shows that about the only crimes which the Chinese ever commit in this island is to mix our collars up, and to attempt the sounding of the conch horn "in the English way. Outside of that, he is a good citizen.

Old and New Diplomacy. (Mail and Empire.) The re-entry of Viscount Grey into British politics has been enthusiastically welcomed by the Asquith group. The former Secretary for Foreign Affairs has indicated his opposition to Lloyd George's foreign policy, or rather his method of conducting that policy, and proclaimed himself in favor of a return to regular diplomatic exchanges as a means of restoring the friendship of nations, no longer strained. That is, Premier Poincare's disinclination to continue round-table conferences with Lloyd George has found a supporter in Britain.

The problem before Britain at present is not that of maintaining peace in an armed camp, of balancing alliances, and checking diplomatic torques that will lead to compromises on national aims to achieve a common goal. The great task of statesmanship now is that of procuring concerted action, as far as possible, to restore a peaceful attitude and revive confidence in the permanence of the Versailles settlement. It might be possible to achieve this result by more obvious respect for the clashing nationalisms of the Continent than Lloyd George shows, by dealing with each nation separately. But, any rate, the endeavor to get results by personal conferences of heads of Governments or States, by round-table discussions and bargaining, by reviews of conditions that will lead to compromises on national aims to achieve a common goal, has not been fully tried. The Supreme Council of the Allies did this work relating to war problems, but it has reached the end of its usefulness. France finally has balked at being constantly in a minority, and having to give way to the British, Italian and Japanese group, even in matters of facting Germany.

The desire by M. Poincare to resume old-fashioned diplomatic negotiations, by ambassador or special envoy, arises from France's failure to get her way in the League of Nations. His remarkable facility for making conditions seem to be what he thinks they are has been too much for French political leaders. But diplomatic processes are slow-going. They leave time and opportunity for press campaigns, and for subtle manoeuvres. The Asquith group of politicians has been thoroughly disgraced by the war, and its part in misbanding Britain's share of it, and even Viscount Grey will not find it

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Benny's Note Book

I wasn't allowed to go out this afternoon on account of having a bad cold getting worse, and Mrs. Hews came to see me, and they started to talk about bringing up children, Mrs. Hews saying, Appeal to their reason, that's my motto that I go by, appeal to their reason, I always say. Absolutely, and ma, that's the very principle I invariably use with Benny, whenever I tell him to do something I explain to him just why, and I never tell him to do anything unless he sees its for his own good. Quite right, kindly, and Mrs. Hews, and ma said, Absolutely. And pretty soon Mrs. Hews went and I sed to ma, Hay ma, can I go out now? Certainty not, with a cold like that, certainty not, sed ma. Well, goah, G, ma, you told Mrs. Hews I didn't had to do anything unless I saw it was for my good, and I sed how staying in the house is for my good, on I mite as well go out, I sed, and ma sed, What nonsense, I want it for your own good not to make your cold any worse? Well, maybe, but I can see that it is, and you sed I had to see it for myself, so I sed I'll go out, I sed, and ma sed, I guess you'd do nothing of the sort, the idea. Well G wim ma, didn't I tell you I can see how its for my good to stay in? I sed, and ma sed, You'd see it if you had the slightest particles of sense. Well, goah, G, ma, hoohy smooke, I sed, and ma sed, No arguments, please, you mind wai I tell you weather you see or weather you dont see. Which I did. Proving people only appeal to your reason as long as it works.

Went Much Farther. "Please, doctor, come at once to father. Mother's taken 'is temperature an' it's gone down." "That's all right; my dear—that's splendid." "Tain't all right; it's gone right down. 'I've swallowed it."—Punch.

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Investigations of the Medical Research Committee (composed of eminent physicians and scientists) would seem to show that no matter what quantity of food may be taken, if such food is deficient in Vitamins, you gradually lose flesh and become thin and weakened, while a much smaller quantity of food, rich in Vitamins, quickly produces good firm flesh, and increases weight, strength and energy, provided your blood contains a sufficient quantity of oxygenated oxygen to enable you to assimilate your food properly. Without organic iron both food and Vitamins are absolutely useless, as your body cannot change them into living cells and tissue unless you have plenty of organic iron in your blood. Blood examinations by physicians all corroborate the fact that a deficiency of Vitamins, and this is often the real underlying cause of thinness, is the cause of poor blood conditions and it is for this reason that Vitamins are so valuable. Vitamins without organic iron are not part of the Vitamins, but it is the iron which makes them so valuable as they are absorbed into your blood. It is absorbed into your blood, this first step in the process of building up your body. It creates tremendous power and energy. It makes your blood rich and healthy. It merely means that your body will assimilate every one of your Vitamins and use them to build up your body. For particulars consult your local physician.

Obituary. John R. Hamilton. Many friends here will be sorry to learn of the death of John R. Hamilton which occurred on January 31, in Bath, New York. He had gone to the U. S. Metropolis some time ago on business and was stricken with paralysis while there. Mr. Hamilton was in his 78th year, a veteran of the civil war and a resident of this city for over half a century. He is survived by his wife and six children. Miss Ida M. at home, Hubert N. of this city, Alfred E. and Winfield B. of Moose Jaw, Wilbur A. of Montreal, Mrs. M. Murray at Calgary. Interment took place yesterday at Bath, New York.

Mrs. Howard MacLean. Fredericton, Feb. 2.—The death occurred at Bath, N. B., Thursday morning, of Mrs. Howard MacLean, aged 67 years. Deceased is survived by her husband, three daughters, Miss Margaret, at home, Mrs. Watson Smith, of Nashua, N. H., and Mrs. Cecil MacLennan, of St. John; three sons, Norman and John, at home, and Ernest of Indian Bridge; and two sisters, Mrs. H. H. Gentry, of this city, and Mrs. Martha Gustaf of Philadelphia.

Thomas H. Porter. Fredericton, Feb. 2.—The death occurred at St. John, Wednesday night, of Thomas H. Porter of this city, after a long illness, aged 93 years. Deceased is survived by his widow, one son, Byron, of St. John; one daughter,

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