

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 11, 1923

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THE NATIONAL PORTS.

A Vancouver shipping man told the Royal Grain Commission yesterday that when the port serves the grain trade of the west as it should it will stand second only to New York. We can all admire the optimism of this Vancouver man and wish him luck. He does not seem to be at all discouraged by the constant failure of two other Canadian ports, St. John and Halifax, to get their fair share of Canadian traffic or the facilities to handle what is offered them. So far as St. John is concerned, the season is wearing on and the winter traffic must soon begin; but no effort is being made at Ottawa to provide the needed additional grain conveyors on the west side of the harbor or any additional facilities for the C. N. R. on the east side. If the Government had faith in its own railway system it should provide facilities, if it were determined to facilitate the movement of Canadian trade through Canadian channels it should see that there was no lack of facilities on either side of the harbor at St. John. The people of the Maritime Provinces are justified in calling for more serious attention on the part of the Government and Parliament to matters affecting the interests of the whole country. Doubtless the Maritime Board of Trade will direct attention in a forcible way to the disabilities under which we labor, and which ought to be removed.

AUTO TRAGEDIES.

Noting the fact that the State of New York had 382 automobile tragedies in one month, the New York Tribune points out that New Jersey had only 385 in seven months. That is to say, New York State, with little more than three times the population of New Jersey, had practically seven times as many of these tragedies. New Jersey has a stringent system of examination for drivers and of New York the Tribune says—
"It is an undeniable distinction for New York to be the only state in this part of the country that licenses people to drive motor cars upon its highways without any attempt to ascertain their mental or physical fitness for the privilege."

A writer in New Harper's Weekly says that 14,000 lives were lost in motor accidents in the United States last year, an increase of 1,600 over the total for 1921, but adds the comforting comment that "although the automobile accidents are increasing every year, they are decreasing in proportion to the number of automobiles." This writer, however, goes on as follows—

"Determined to reduce the number of automobile accidents, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, Kansas, Detroit and numerous other cities now are making plans for timely safety campaigns. The automobile season this year has brought with it greater problems than ever before on account of the great increase in motor production, and the question of reducing fatalities is being given special consideration by traffic officers and safety experts throughout the nation."

A country-wide survey to ascertain the causes of automobile accidents has been initiated by the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters. In New York city today a newly organized department of public safety has interested the board of education in an effort to minimize the loss of life by auto accidents. Safety lessons are being added to the children's school curriculum. The 25,000 public school teachers are advising students of the dangers that lurk in the streets. The department of public safety, which is affiliated with the police department, has had more than 1,600 auto drivers arrested during the past few months for failing to have any sort of working brakes on their vehicles. Police Commissioner Enright has appealed to auto owners to make sure that their vehicles are operating with the right kind of brakes. A squad is making daily brake inspections. More than 500 drivers have been convicted of being negligent, and more than \$8,000 has been collected in fines."

Whoever travels by motor car on the roads leading out of St. John realizes the need of some action to reduce the risk of tragedy. Roadless speed, failure to dim the lights at night, and a disposition to "hog" the road are far too much in evidence, and it is also clearly apparent that cars are not always in competent hands. The New Jersey system of examining every driver of a car has much to commend it. There is far too much danger to life and limb on our highways.

THE TWO TRADITIONS.

The Canadian movement for greater recognition and support of Canadian authors amidst the Manchester Guardian to cast a none too hopeful glance at our literary situation. That we have been for some time restless under a sort of literary bondage to the United States it thinks natural and hopeful. Quebec, in encouraging good writing by prizes out of provincial funds, reminds the Guardian that this is following the tradition of France and the Continent, where the encouragement of the arts is recognized as one of the duties of the government.

But such is not the English practice. "It will be interesting," the Guardian observes, "to see whether the rest of Canada will discard the British tradition of leaving books and plays at the mercy of competitive markets. In any case it is refreshing to find any great modern community being exercised because the voice of the artist is as a whisper beside the cry of the money changer." Evidently there is at least one tradition which the Guardian believes Canada might well abandon to its own benefit and the furtherance of art.

Last week a round of the London public libraries was made to find out what the people who frequent them read. The Guardian summarizes the inquiry by saying that while Conan Doyle and Dick Donovan are still extraordinarily popular, and Silas and Joseph Hocking and Wilkie Collins, Marie Corelli, Mrs. Henry Wood and Miss Braddon are much in demand, Thomas Hardy is not yet fully appreciated. It is noteworthy that in such public libraries there are more frequently asked for than before the war.

A mock City Council composed of young business and professional men is in process of formation in St. John. If the thing is taken up in earnest and the members give some real attention to civic matters there should be some hilarious moments for the citizens who follow the discussions of the real and the mock council. The members of the latter will be able to express themselves without fear or favor. They will not have any contractors at their heels, or the prospect of an election before them. To contrast their conclusions with those of the real council in regard to various matters should be a rare diversion for the taxpayers. By all means let the mock council be formed and its members endowed with intelligence and courage. It will add spice to life, and a new interest in civic affairs.

A Patrie: From a point of view apart from that of immediate convenience, it is a matter of some regret that the anthracite coal strike has been settled so soon. Had it been prolonged we in Canada would, as a matter of fact, have been compelled to have made yet more vigorous efforts to develop our own resources as regards combustible and find a substitute for United States coal and thus render ourselves independent of supplies from the neighboring republic. What remains now to stimulate our efforts in this direction is the exorbitant price we are asked to pay for American anthracite—a price which will, no doubt, be immediately increased as a result of the settlement of the present difficulties."

The Times-Star quoted a few days ago a letter from Mr. Roscoe Fillmore, a New Brunswick man who has travelled five thousand miles through Russia since April, and who said life was as peaceful and secure there as in this province. Today's despatches quoted Sir Donald Mann, just returned after a 2,600 mile tour in Soviet Russia, as declaring Canadian capital to be as safe in Russia as in Canada. If these observers have accurately gauged the situation a remarkable change has come over Russia in the last year or two.

The Social Service Council of New Brunswick has passed resolutions urging the establishment of an industrial farm and a home for the feeble minded. It urges a better law for the protection of children born out of wedlock, and the appointment of a superintendent of neglected and dependent children. These reforms are needed. Sufficient pressure upon the Legislature will get them. It is up to the people in the various constituencies to rally behind the movement.

The daily cables paint a harrowing picture of the suffering of the sorely stricken survivors of the earthquake in Japan. Hunger, disease and death threaten them, and the most distressing scenes greet those who seek to give relief. Hundreds of persons are reported to have committed suicide rather than to suffer. The world's pity is stirred and relief goes quickly—but for great numbers it will arrive too late.

SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE NAUGHT AVAILETH.

(By Arthur Hugh Clough.)
Say not the struggle naught availeth,
The labor and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor fallseth,
And as things have been they remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be base.
It may be, in your smoke conceals,
Your comrades chase e'en now the flies,
And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright!

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Nothing But Trouble.

"Ever have any trouble with your automobile?"
"Yes. Ever since I got it my wife's relatives have expected me to be their chauffeur."

Modern Complexities.
"John, our new maid is leaving because we don't like the things she likes."
"Good heavens! It's got so that one has to consider not only a girl's references but her preferences as well."

Not Much.
Mame—I don't know whether I ought to recognize him in the city or not. Our acquaintance at the seashore was very slight.
Mame—You promised to marry him, didn't you?
Mame—Yes, but that was all.

Why Woman Is So Changeable.
"The early origin of the habit of forming good resolutions is shown in the fact that every time Eve changed her dress she turned over a new leaf."

The Right Job.
Two men passing down a back street saw a big fat man, soiled and untidy, sitting on a box eating out.
"That's a baker," said one man.
"Geet! what a dirty-looking chap to be a baker," said the other man.
"Oh, that's all right," responded the first speaker, "he's just the fellow, you know, that makes the brown bread."

A Four-Year-Old's Revenge.
Little Jack had been so persistently taught that mother just had to give him a good spanking, and all that afternoon a desire for revenge rankled in his little breast. At length bedtime came and knowing that he said his evening prayer, asking a blessing upon all the members of the family individually—except one. Then rising turned to his mother with a triumphant look, saying as he climbed into bed, "I s'pose you noticed you wasn't in it."

His Mistake.
The artist lit his pipe and rubbed his hands with satisfaction.
"Well," he remarked, "these illustrations are done and a good batch, too."
"But what have you illustrated?" inquired his good wife.
"The artist," said Wood & Pulp are about to publish. You know I told you I had the order. Here is the volume."
"George, have you been drinking that horrid bootleg again?"
"Whaddya mean?"
"This is a patent office report that some congressman has sent you."

DIPLODOCUS ENDS JOURNEY.

Sandstone Encased Bones Weighing 25 Tons Arrive for Museum.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Diplodocus, the gigantic 80 foot long reptile which over eight million years ago waded through the swamps of what is now Utah, has just arrived in Washington. Dr. C. W. Gilmore, paleontologist of the U. S. National Museum, has reached here with the 25 tons of sandstone and fossil remains of this monster which were chiseled from the cliffs near Vernal, Utah, and hauled 135 miles across the mountains to the railroad.

Five years probably will be required to free the fossilized bones from the stone in which they are imbedded and mount the huge skeleton in the position in which it probably stood when alive. When completed it will be made the central feature of one of the large halls of the Museum.

Some eight to 12 million years ago this fossil creature was alive on the end of its slender tapering tail to the top of its head on its long neck and stood 14 to 18 feet high at the hips. It could stand in water 40 feet deep with its feet on the bottom and thrust its head above the surface. It is estimated that alive and in its skin it weighed from 16 to 18 tons.

Since its time, rocks have been laid down burying the lagoons and swamps in which it lived some 10,000 feet below the most recent strata. The forcing up and folding the layers of rock to form mountains brought these ancient rocks up to where the fossils were found, a locality set aside some years ago as Dinosaur National Monument and from which the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh has taken many specimens of the same species.

What was once low swamp has been raised during the ages to 4,000 feet above sea level. After cutting the fossils and their surrounding sandstone from the cliff, the 25 tons of material representing the remains of this swamp-living creature were carried 5,000 feet higher to get them across the mountains to the railroad 182 miles away.

One of the seventeen vertebrae of the neck of the diplodocus was three feet long, while one of the pelvic bones weighed, as boxed, nearly 2,000 pounds. For shipment the fossils were roughly hewn out of the stone, and much careful work will be required to move the remaining rock from around the fossilized bones.

WORLD TO GATHER IN LONDON TO TALK ABOUT ITS POWER.

Result May be to Broaden Field for Investment of Capital.

(William E. Brigham in Boston Transcript.)
Washington, Sept. 11.—America is preparing itself for its representation, including that of Canada, in the first World Power Conference to be held in London beginning July 1, 1924. This is a novel undertaking; not a conference dealing with military or political power, but that derived from streams and furnaces—primarily a waterpower conference, as far as the United States is concerned. Presumably this conference will be the first of many of its kind and it is hoped that out of their deliberations the field of capital investment will be materially broadened and the natural resources of any country, this and the other continents will be developed to the highest degree. The conference will be held under the auspices of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The organizing director is D. N. Dunlop, 38 Kingsway, London, W. C. 2, whose energy and ability promise a gathering of the leading engineering scientists of the world. The United States Government was second to the invitation extended by Mr. Dunlop to send delegates to the conference, but finally the matter came into the hands of G. C. Merrill, executive secretary of the Federal Power Commission, and since then a series of meetings has been held which has resulted in enlisting the interest of the leading engineering societies of the United States and the organization of an American committee which will insure an adequate representation of this country in the forthcoming conference.

In July, accompanied by J. B. Chaffin, director of the Water Power Branch of the Department of the Interior, Government of the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Merrill visited England, and incidentally dropped in on the inventor of the Edison light bulb, Thomas Edison, a man who has proved highly successful in assisting in the preparation of a programme for the conference and securing the largest degree of American co-operation. The vacation season is in full swing while the two Americans are abroad, but the committee already has been organized, and the chief representative occupying positions similar to their own with whom they conferred was that of Norway, nevertheless the conferences achieved very practical results.

In preparation for the visit abroad of Mr. Merrill an American executive committee already has been organized, of which the honorary chairman is Secretary of War Weeks, who also is chairman of the Federal Power Commission.

Other countries are contributing groups of equal eminence in their respective fields. The president of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association is the Earl of Derby. Associated with him as vice-presidents and members of the grand council are 56 other gentlemen of the highest standing in the engineering and business world. The Dominion Government will send a delegation as representative of that of the United States, and other countries which already have appointed national committees are France, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Holland. Chile, Brazil, Mexico and some other American countries will be invited to send delegates.

Three Objects in View.
The programme of the conference has been greatly simplified since the first tentative suggestions as to procedure were made and first world Power conference will concern itself almost exclusively with general questions of fundamental importance. No papers will be read during the conference, as all will have been published and distributed among the delegates before the delegates assemble. This procedure will make for a genuine conference, as the time will be given wholly to discussion and not to the reading of documents. No papers will be read during the conference, as all will have been published and distributed among the delegates before the delegates assemble.

The first will be the collection of all available information regarding the natural resources, as to water-power and fuel, and the way governing their use, of the participating countries. During the Peace Conference Mr. Merrill was called upon to furnish to the American delegation information with such facts as might be available with reference to natural resources which might be expected to figure in the settlement, and he was much embarrassed to find that no general fund of information upon this important subject was at hand. The conference also will give the United States and other nations an opportunity to explain their laws and practices, and it is believed that here America can make a distinct contribution to the discussions, for probably in no other country in the world have the laws relating to power production been more highly developed than here.

To Make Investment Safe.
Secondly the conference will afford an opportunity to disclose and set forth the conditions under which American capital may be safely and profitably invested in foreign water power. At present the laws and practices of many countries respecting power development are more or less chaotic, or at least attempts to invest in power projects involve contracts with so many different bureaus and so much red tape that the investor often finds himself discouraged at the start. It is believed by the American delegates that aside from the possibility of governmental interference no sounder investment for capital can be found than in power projects, and this belief is confirmed by the fact that these projects held up wonderfully during the war and came back to normalcy quicker than many other lines of enterprise.

U. S. Leads in Legislation.
Not one country is more important of all, the conference will give opportunity for the great engineers of the world to get together and become acquainted with each other, to discuss their problems, exchange experiences and to unite in an effort to rid the power field of the governmental red tape which now hampers its development. It will be the purpose to devise ways and means, not only to protect money invested in power projects but to bring about cheaper rates for power, to do away with petty interference and to systematize the legislation affecting power production.

HOW TO END GANG MURDERS.
(Syracuse Post-Standard.)
London and Paris and Naples have gangs as murderous as are those of New York. But London and Paris and Naples do not have murders like Kid Dropper's or funerals like his. The European gunman does not shoot down his enemy at the courthouse door in police presence, for he knows that he will pay the penalty surely and soon. When Cohen boasted of his deed and posed for his picture he said that he would get at the most five years up the river. The shame of that boast is that it was based on sound reasoning. Not one murderer in a hundred is executed in New York. The gunman can afford to take a chance. The city of New York has one-half as many homicides as all of France. The city of Chicago has twice as many murders last year. Few of them were executed. The murderer was in most cases apprehended and arrested. It was in rare cases that one was convicted, and in rarer still that one was executed.

PROTESTS USE OF AMERICAN BOOKS.

(From the Argonaut.)
Lord Shaw of Dunfermline tells an amusing story of an experience in the old days when the Scottish bench in Edinburgh was accustomed to dine at four o'clock in the afternoon, then went on till late or early, according to the cases before it. At two o'clock one afternoon a client called on a distinguished lawyer and was told by the serving maid that he was at dinner.

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