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Friday, April 1, 1921.

Explanations Are in Order

The Ottawa Journal in a vigorous
editorial calls attention to the
serious menace to Ontario, Manitoba
and the whole Dominion to be found in
the grants of enormous pulp and timber
lands in the Kenora district to the
Backus corporations by the Drury ad-
ministration, and in the opposition by
these interests to joint legislation by the
three governments protecting the water
powers and storage facilities in the
Winnipeg River drainage basin. Little
attention has been paid in Western
Ontario to this Backus deal and prac-
tically nothing is known of the facts of
the case. However, Western Ontario
is the birthplace of hydro and as a dis-
trict which knows the value of electrical
development to the nation, is vitally
interested in the future of probably the
greatest water power resources in Can-
ada, next to Niagara, let alone the
question of the disposal of our great
Northern Ontario timber resources. If
the facts are as outlined by the Journal
and there is no reason to doubt its
statements, an aroused country should
see that action is taken immediately to
bring pressure to bear upon the Ontario
and the Dominion governments to pre-
vent the handing over to a foreign
corporation the resources of a regular
empire in extent. It is hard to believe
that the Drury Government would delib-
erately ignore public rights and would
hastily pay into the hands of a for-
eign corporation. It is contrary to all
the principles of the present adminis-
tration. Whatever people may think of
the Farmers' Government there is gen-
eral confidence in the honesty and in-
tegrity of Premier Drury. He should
clear this matter up.

Mr. E. W. Backus is the head of large
pulp and paper corporations which own
enormous pulp and paper areas in On-
tario and Minnesota contiguous to
Rainy River, Lake of the Woods and the
boundary waters of that district. His
interests include power and storage
dams at the outlet of Naniakan Lake,
at the outlet of Lake of the Woods, and
a promise from the Ontario Government
of a concession covering a power de-
velopment at White Dog Falls, on the
Winnipeg River, 24 miles below Kenora.
Recently the Ontario Government has
by formal agreement, confirmed him in
possession of the pulp wood berth
known as "The Lake of the Woods
timber limit," with an area aggregating
1,460 square miles. The same Govern-
ment has, within the last few weeks,
sold him another berth known as "The
English River limits," with an aggre-
gate area of 2,500 square miles. These
two limits, along with his previously
acquired pulp limits contiguous to Rainy
Lake, place Mr. Backus in possession
of practically all the pulp wood areas
of any value in the Lake of the Woods
district.

With his ownership of these timber
limits and water rights, Mr. Backus
controls the power development of the
Winnipeg River basin, which means
most of the electrical energy likely to
be developed for Manitoba. The City
of Winnipeg and the Province of Mani-
toba, as well as the Dominion Govern-
ment, are interested in the develop-
ment of energy, much of it already de-
veloped, was at stake. As a result of its
objections a conference was held at Ottawa
on January 31, at the instance of Pre-
mier Meighen, between representatives
of the three Governments interested.
It was decided at this conference that
the best way of providing for the max-
imum possible advantageous use of the
wonderful natural facilities of the Win-
nipeg River drainage basin for power
development would be providing
proper control facilities at the outlet of
Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, in the
Province of Ontario, by means of a joint
control board, to consist of four engi-
neers, two appointed by the Dominion
and two by the Province of Ontario. It
was agreed that the most satisfactory
way to constitute such a board would
be by concurrent legislation of the
Dominion Parliament and of the Legis-
lature of Ontario, both governments in
a sense pooling their respective interests
and rights in the waters in question. A
bill was drafted and approved by Sir
James Lougheed, minister of interior,
and Premier Drury. The bill was in-
troduced in the Senate, carried there
and is now before the Commons. On
March 2 the bill was introduced in the
Legislature of Ontario, but apart from
its introduction no progress has been
made. The Journal charges that the
bill is being held up owing to the active
opposition of Mr. Backus and his as-
sociates.

The Journal sums up the situation in
the following manner:
"The Manitoba Government is
justly alarmed and active in this
matter because over 400,000 horse-
power of electrical energy, much of
which is already developed and most
of which if not all, will be developed
within the next 25 years, is at stake.
Mr. Backus is allowed to carry
out his plans and is left in undis-
puted control of the dam structures
at the outlet of the large lakes in
the Winnipeg River drainage basin.
He will be able to dictate terms for
every one of the nine developed and

undeveloped power sites on the Win-
nipeg River within the Province of
Manitoba. Even if he only charged
one dollar per year toll for each de-
veloped horsepower, he would be in
a position to exact an annual
revenue from the Manitoba water
powers of \$500,000. This amount if
capitalized at five per cent, repre-
sents a potential interest to him of
\$10,000,000. It is probable that Mr.
Backus would be more inclined to
charge several times that amount of
rental and no person has a keener
appreciation of the value of cheap,
dependable hydro-electric energy in
and around a city like Winnipeg
than this same Mr. Backus.

"When one realizes the wonder-
ful combination of lake, forest and
stream which Nature has placed in
the Lake of the Woods district, the
threshold of the Western Canadian
timber power rapidly would realize the
importance of cheap, dependable
power and an available sure supply
of newspaper to meet the needs of
industrial, commercial and domestic
of the Western country, one conclu-
sion is that the three governments
concerned must so protect those re-
sources from private exploitation
and so provide for the future needs
of the Canadian provinces concerned
that their enjoyment shall be in
the interest of Canada primarily and
not of the Western United States
or of an American citizen whose
lack of regard for Canadian inter-
ests and whose defiance of the
King's Government in Canada has
already made him notorious."

It was Mr. Backus' firm, by the way,
during the war, which defied the orders
of the paper controller to supply West-
ern Canadian newspapers with a suffi-
cient news supply. The granting of
such enormous tracts to one firm, even
on advantageous terms to the province,
is questionable policy. However, this
can be fairly defended, but there is no
possible defense for a policy which
would hand our great water power
resources to a foreign corporation and
endanger the future electrical develop-
ment of a whole province.

A Tablet for the "Peace Portal"

Philosophers aver that there is more
creative force in thought than the world
is yet willing to admit. If this philoso-
pher postulate holds, then the
"Friends," more than any other asso-
ciated body of men and women, are the
great pioneers of the belief in that
world peace which is becoming man's
chief "star of hope."

Canada and the United States cele-
brated, a short time ago, the anni-
versary of one hundred years of peace
between the two countries. The great
event, which remains as a memorial and
a lesson to the world, was the signing
of the "Treaty of Amity and Commerce,"
which could not be passed over casually
by the British or the American Society
of Friends and they determined to signal-
ize their renewed faith in the ultimate
triumph of the principles for which
they stand, in a tangible way, that
includes Canada, as is shown by a
notice culled from The Boston Trans-
cript:

"A notable tablet has been handed
over at Jordan's, Buckinghamshire,
England, where the great-grandfather
of William Penn and his family, by a
representative of the British Society
of Friends, and a representative of the
American Society of Friends, includ-
ing Mr. S. Hill, who originated the
concrete road that links Canada and
the United States. It bears this in-
scription: 'This tablet is presented by
American friends marks the place
where a piece of timber given by the
British Society of Friends from the
Mayflower Barn at Jordan has been
taken to be placed in the High-
way, also known as the Peace Portal,
located on the boundary between the
United States and Canada. This
gift commemorates our common an-
cestry and especially the peace
which has lasted for more than 100
years between the United States
and Great Britain. February 12,
1921.'"

Canadians As Empire Builders

Canadians are playing an important
part in the development of British West
Africa. A Canadian, Major-Gen.
Guggisberg, is governor of the Gold
Coast, General Guggisberg is a native
of Oakville, Ont., and served with
distinction in the British army during the
war. It was Lloyd Harris, as head of
the Canadian mission in London, who
brought Gen. Guggisberg and Major-
Gen. Stewart, of railway fame, together.
As a result, Gen. Stewart, who was
commander of transportation in France,
has been awarded a contract for the
construction of a great modern harbor
at Tagardi, the chief port of the dis-
trict, and for the building of
thousands of miles of railways to tap
various portions of this part of Africa.
The work will take from three to six
years to complete and already some 30
engineers, construction superintendents
and physicians, nearly all Canadians as-
sociated with Gen. Stewart in France,
have left for Tagardi. The Gold Coast
is said to be one of the richest portions
of Africa, with great manganese iron
mines, mahogany, cotton, rubber, gold,
oil, etc.

The Dominion is indeed playing a big
part in empire building in Africa,
and it can be taken for granted with
two such enthusiastic Canadians in
charge a large amount of business will
be turned to the land of the maple leaf.
A Canadian steamship line to West
Africa has already been inaugurated.

NOTE AND COMMENT

"Salvaging civilization" under Euro-
pean conditions is a chaotic job.
There are many things in this little
old world that need more than a "once
over."

Ice cream has gone down 10 per cent.
per gallon, wholesale. The public pays
it down every little now and then at
20 cents per portion.

A vigorous effort is now being made
to increase the population in France
through salvage rather than through
production. Save the child and you
save the race.

The Third Column

FRIENDS.
These friends of mine, I count them
as
To find the things I love them for.
Here's one who brings me merry smiles
And makes me glad as any child.
The glad days of long ago
When youth's delights were ours to
know.
We shared the very self-same joys
In that departed land of boys.
Studied the self-same books and knew
The orchards where the apples grew—
No gold could change, no time could
dim
The luster of my love for him.

I cannot find that pomp and fame,
Are useful to these friends I claim,
Their love is built on many years,
Sometimes in joy, sometimes in tears:
Here is a friendship which was made
When sorrow at my door was laid,
And he came softly to my room,
And in the silence of the gloom,
Sat with me through those hours of
care,
Seeking to soften my despair.
Shall I exchange for greater men
The friend I leaned upon back then?

I run my list of friendships through,
And though the number is but few,
I find my life is woven so
With memories of the long ago,
And kindly hands stretched out to me,
That whosoever I turn I see
The smiling face of one who's stood
To help and cheer me when he could.
I have not loved these friends of mine
For fortune's gold or pomp's design,
Or station's brilliant display—
Thank God, our friends aren't made
that way.
—Edgar A. Guest.

TALK IT OUT

Everything has to have an outlet. The
big engine has to "blow off steam" oc-
casionally or else it just buckles up and
dies of self-violence.

People who continually suppress every
feeling that surges up in them, per-
form the same task as the teacher does
when she whips her pupil instead of
kindly teaching the avoidance of mis-
takes—only in the case of the one who
suppresses, the faithful nerves are
whipped.

We grow as we interchange ideas and
experiences.

We learn as we come to realize the
uselessness of carrying all our thoughts
around in our own head bag.

If there is something that hurts in
you somewhere, find somebody whose
soul has responsive springs to it and
try to play upon them for awhile. Both
souls will benefit from the process.

In other words, talk it out.
It's a very perfect world. There are
bound to be those who will take ad-
vantage of your trust and confidence.
But somehow the very air likes to feel
the touch of sincere and honest con-
fession.

So, talk it out, somehow or other.
To be afraid to utter the life
roots of your best instincts.

The mountain spring doesn't suppress
—and it doesn't mind who comes to par-
take of its cool dripping.

Find the throttle in your great hu-
man machine—and pull it when the
steam gets too heavy!

—George Matthew Adams.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTEBOOK

I was sent allowed
out this afternoon
on account of some
of my actions, and
I was up in my
room feeling bum
and all of a sudden
I could hear the fa-
lows yelling and
playing outside,
and all of a sudden
I thawed, G. I know
what I'll do. I'll
make a rope out of
sheets and things like they do in books
and escape out the window.

Which I started to do, and I tied my
sheets and pillow case together without
making very long of a rope, so I went
over to my sister Gladis' room and
Gladis was in there powdering her
nose and trying to look as if she thawed
she was bewtill, me saying, Hay Glad-
dis, do me a favor, will you?

I doubt it, what do you want? sed
Gladis, and I sed, Loan me your sheets
and bolster case for a while, will you?

I thawed it would be something sen-
sible like that, sed Gladis, and I sed,
Well will you, Gladis?

Swell chance, sed Gladis. Meaning
she wouldn't, and I went down in ma's
room and nobody wasent there, and I
quick pulled the sheets from under-
neath the covers and took them up to
my room and tied them on, making
pritty long of a rope, and I hung it out
the window to see the effect, thinking,
Holey smokes, G. I gess maybe I wont
use the rope.

And I pulled it back in again and just
then I herd ma say, Well for goodness
sake what happened to my bed? Prob-
ably looking kind of different on account
of me pulling the sheets out, and I quick
called down. Are you looking for your
sheets, ma?

O, so thats it, is it? Have you gone
krazy? sed ma.

No, ma, I'll throw them rite down,
I sed. Thinking it would be safer to
throw them than take them, my ma
didn't wait, coming running up before
I had them half undid, and she gave me
a couple of terse cracks and undid
them herself and then gave me a cuppie
of fears more.
—Lee Pape.

The Bird Bulletin

Contributed by London Ornithologi-
cal Society

The casual observer might jump to
the conclusion that the unfavorable
weather of the last few days would
prevent the arrival of any new species
until a change occurred. Perhaps those
noted below were near-by when the
cold came, or even farther north than
London, which would evidence a re-
verse migration, due to discouraging
conditions. Migration is not an event
that is seriously feared by the birds,
and they sometimes seem to revel in
flight for its own sake, just as many
of us would undoubtedly do if we felt
positive that the landing would be all
that might be hoped. It is more than
10 years ago that I stood near the end
of Point Pelee in the early days of
an August morning and watched hun-
dreds of hundreds of purple martins
leave the Point and disappear across
Lake Erie, drifting slowly along against
a south wind. None were seen taking
advantage of the wind and traveling
north, seeming to prefer to float lazily
along, drifting hither and thither as
they tacked through the breeze. The
next morning the wind was south and,
standing at the same place, we saw
many martins, presumably the identical
ones of the day previous, recross the
lake from the south and enter Ontario
once more. Here was a clear demon-
stration of freedom of travel among
birds, showing unmistakably that mi-
gration is often regarded as a sort of
sport.

Perhaps the same thing has occurred
just now, to account for the arrival on
the 20th of the two grebes, pied-bill and
horned, and the ring-necked duck, and
on the 31st of the hooded merganser.
The swamp sparrow, which was sing-
ing on its breeding grounds at the

ponds, was probably an exception to
the application of our surmise. The
horned grebe constitutes another "city
record," for which March, 1921, has
become noted, and the others are close
to the earliest of former years.
W. E. SAUNDERS.

WHO SAID

"My country is the world and
my religion is to do good."

The author of these words was
Thomas Paine, the English political
writer and author of the famous essay
"Rights of Man," written in answer to
Edmund Burke's "Reflections on the
French Revolution," and "The Age of
Reason."

It is a little known fact that Thomas
Paine played a prominent part in the
American revolution. Paine migrated
to America in the year 1774, at the
age of 37, with a letter from Ben-
jamin Franklin, who was in Europe as
the representative of the colonists.
On his arrival in the new world
Paine threw himself heart and soul in
the movement for independence.
His pamphlet, entitled "Common Sense"
and his periodical, called the "Crisis,"
gave him right to be considered one of
the founders of the American Republic.
In both of these efforts Paine urged
separation from England, and so well
did he argue his case that he made him-
self immensely popular with the Ameri-
cans and immensely unpopular with the
supporters of the crown in England.
In 1787 Paine returned to England
and the next year published his "Rights
of Man." A prosecution was commenced
against him for this work, but while
the trial was pending Paine was chosen
a member of the French national con-
vention and escaped to France. He
took part in the trial of Louis XVI and
voted against the imposition of the
death penalty. This offended the
Jacobins and later in the year Paine
was arrested and thrown into prison and
escaped the executioner's axe by a
close margin. Just before his imprison-
ment Paine published the celebrated
"Age of Reason." This work did much
damage to his reputation in America
and led to his being expelled from the
country. Paine spent the remainder of
his life occupied with the study of
financial questions and some pet
mechanical inventions. He died in 1809.
—Wayne D. McMurray.

THE FREE PRESS LETTER BOX

RIGHT OR WRONG?

Editor Free Press: I have noticed,
with amazement and envy, that al-
most any 15-year-old schoolboy has
no difficulty in deciding whether pro-
hibition is a good or an evil measure.
Personally, although I have given the
subject much earnest study, I have
never been able to arrive at a conclu-
sion on this subject, not being gifted
with the profound sagacity which is so
common amongst the prohibitionists.

Of course, it is a fact that a ma-
jority of the people vote for it, I must
leave it to them. It is no argument in
its favor. The majority of the people
prefer the motion pictures, idiotic vaude-
ville, and the most vulgar amusements,
and there is no doubt that they would
vote for them, but that is no reason
why the writer, or any one else, should
be compelled by them to think the same
as they do.

History abounds with instances when
the majority vote is nothing more o-
less than a vote for the devil in the
sixteenth century the majority in many
communities, including the university
graduates and the clergy, were in favor
of burning alive and those who did not
happen to think the same as they did
on theological questions. A majority
of the people of New York vote for a
sectary rather than a unitarian, and
steadfastly support Mayor Hylan and
his corrupt assistants.

Can the prohibitionists explain why
it is, that up to the year of the war,
all the nations which had the biggest
trade, consumed the most alcohol.
"Pussyfoot" Johnson says that Eng-
land must turn proper things and
to hold their own in commerce. How
does he explain that in 1914 the two
wealthiest countries on earth were
Great Britain and the United States,
and in that same year they drank far
more beer and whisky per capita than
any other nation.

The great majority of doctors consider
that alcohol reduces efficiency, pro-
duces nothing. At any time you can get
a majority of the medical profession to
sign an opinion, which five or ten years
hence they will flatly deny. I myself
studied medicine for years and I know
what I am talking about. A few years
ago this medical profession were all
for pulling the sheets out, and I quick
called down. Are you looking for your
sheets, ma?

O, so thats it, is it? Have you gone
krazy? sed ma.

No, ma, I'll throw them rite down,
I sed. Thinking it would be safer to
throw them than take them, my ma
didn't wait, coming running up before
I had them half undid, and she gave me
a couple of terse cracks and undid
them herself and then gave me a cuppie
of fears more.
—Lee Pape.

FREE PAINS

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ENGLISH & Scotch Woolen Co. Tailored-to-Measure Suits & Overcoats are tremendous values; they are good Clothes and are worth a great deal more than our Standardized Prices.

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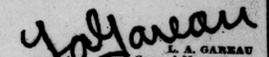
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Trousers—We are showing exceptional values in old trousers from special trouser lengths. Many of these cloths are shown in very limited quantities, and are exceptional values.

Out-of-Town Men—Write for Free Samples, Fashion Plates, Self-Measure Form and Tape Line. Ad. (dress 851 St. Catherine St. East, Montreal.

HARD TO WASH AWAY—We note the shipment of 17,000 pounds of soap from Chicago to Moscow. It will need much more than that to wash away the stains of these last year or five years.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

WANTS THAT BEDROOM SUITE—We know now why Mr. Dewart is so urgent about becoming premier—he wants to repose on the elegant bedroom suite enjoyed by Mr. Drury.—Quelch Herald.

drunk, they just shoot him, and that's all there is about it. I would recom-
mend this method to the prohibitionists
as being most effective, also deterrent
to others. So far a dead man has never
been known to get drunk. It is the
prohibitionists desire to make it im-
possible for a citizen to drink one tea-
spoonful of "liquor." When we are
compelled by legislation always to do
right, and it is no longer possible to do
wrong, we will not be dead in body like
Trotzky's executed soldiers, but morally
we will surely be.
"PERSEUS"
London, March 21, 1921.