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The C. P. R.'s Annual Report.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has issued its twenty-second annual report. This report indicates that the C. P. R. is sharing largely in the general prosperity of the country. The net earnings for the year ending June 30, were \$15,836,845, giving a surplus for the year, after paying all fixed charges and dividends, of \$3,973,960. The working expenses for the year amounted to 63.85 per cent. of the gross earnings, and the net earnings to 36.93 per cent. as compared with 62.44 and 37.56 in 1902. The report refers to the acquisition of the Elder-Dempster Steamship service, and referring to improvements, states that the directors will ask authority to expend \$5,000,000 during the next year on various classes of equipments in addition to all orders that have been already placed. The report also states that notwithstanding the large outlay in the past at the more important termini of the road—St. John, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, the facilities at most of these points are quite inadequate to meet present demands, and as a result there is frequent congestion, resulting in inconvenience and expense to everybody concerned. With a view to remedying these conditions and that the work of bringing the property of the Company up to a high state of efficiency may be continued, the directors ask the Company to authorize the expenditure of capital for these general purposes to an amount not to exceed \$4,500,000.

Prohibit Cigarettes.

Some discussion occurred the other day in the House of Commons at Ottawa, in connection with the Cigarette clause in the Criminal Code Bill. This clause provides that cigarettes or tobacco in any form must not be sold to minors under eighteen years of age. Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Minister of Justice, intimated his intention of dropping the clause as it was not acceptable to the women of the W. C. T. Union. Members on both sides the House, however, protested against the clause being dropped, holding that it was in the right direction. Mr. Fitzpatrick finally announced that he would bring in a clause this session to meet what was really wanted. He did not expect that he could satisfy everyone, but believed that he could frame a clause to meet the evils of smoking among boys. This is a laudable ambition, and we wish the Minister of Justice success in his endeavor. In our opinion the most effectual, and probably the only effectual, way to discourage smoking among boys through legislation is to prohibit the cigarette altogether. The cigarette is a constant temptation and inducement to a boy to become a smoker. Thousands of boys who would not acquire the tobacco habit, if there were no other means to it than pipes and cigars, will learn to smoke cigarettes, and as long as the tobaccoists keep them for sale the boys are likely to have them in spite of law to the contrary. No doubt the prohibition of cigarettes will be strongly opposed the cigarette being of great importance to the trade, from the very fact that it is so influential in constantly increasing the great army of smokers.

The Jews and East Africa.

Reference was made in these columns a week or two since to certain proposals from the British Government submitted to the Zionist Congress lately held at Basle, Switzerland. The proposal was made on behalf of the Marquis of Landsdowne, British Foreign Secretary, by Sir Clement Hill, Superintendent of African Protectorates under the Foreign Office, and was communicated to the Congress through a Mr. Greenberg, one of the delegates. According to an article in the *New York Outlook*, Sir Clement says that Lord Landsdowne is prepared to entertain favorably proposals for the establishment of a Jewish colony in East Africa in such a manner as to enable its members to observe their national customs, and is prepared to discuss the details of the scheme. These would include the grant of a considerable area of land, the appointment of a Jewish official as chief of the local administration, and permission to the colonists to have a free hand in municipal legislation. On its part the British Government would have the right of general control, and of reoccupation if the settlement should not be successful. It is said that the territory to be offered for this purpose is an elevated tract of land, two hundred miles long on the Uganda Railway. The Commissioner describes this region as almost unparalleled in tropical Africa, being admirably watered, fertile, cool,

covered with noble forests, almost uninhabited and as healthy for Europeans as is Great Britain. The Zionist Congress appointed a committee to be sent to South Africa to investigate the situation. It is not understood, however, that the acceptance of the offer as to a settlement in South Africa would put an end to the efforts which have been in progress for the re-establishment of the Jewish nation in Palestine.

Bounty-Fed Sugar in Great Britain.

An instance of departure from the strict principles of free trade is seen in the exclusion from the British market of bounty-fed sugars. This regulation went into effect with the beginning of the present month. For some years past a number of European countries—including France, Germany, Austria, Denmark and Russia—and also Argentina in South America, have encouraged their sugar producers by the payment of bounties. Jamaica found it impossible to compete successfully in the British and other markets with this bounty-fed sugar, and with a view to assisting the Colony, the British Government took steps to exclude bountied sugar from the home market. The result of conference on the subject was that Germany, Austria and France concluded to discontinue the paying of bounties to their sugar producers rather than suffer exclusion from the British market, but Russia, Denmark and Argentina determined to hold on to the bounty system. Their bountied sugars are accordingly now excluded. This should bring considerable relief to Jamaica sugar producers, but it may be doubted whether it will be worth nearly as much to the colony as it will cost the mother country. It was a valuable consideration for the people of Great Britain to be able to secure their sugar at a price below that at which it could be profitably produced, because a number of countries were willing to pay their sugar producers bounties on all exports of the article to other countries. It enabled Great Britain to save largely on its sugar bill. It gave the British workman cheap sugar, and therefore raised his standard of living. And besides it afforded an impetus to industries into which sugar enters largely as raw material, especially the production of jams and confectionery, and by stimulating the manufacture of jams it encouraged also the raising of small fruits, so that altogether the bounty-fed sugar imports were quite a valuable windfall to the British Isles, whatever the results may have been to the countries which promoted the system. The only class in England who gain by the exclusion of cheap sugar is that of the sugar merchants who seized their opportunity before the new regulation came into effect to lay in large stocks of the bountied sugar which they will be able to sell at the higher price which will now prevail.

English Methodist and the Education Act.

There are Methodists and Methodists in England—several bodies of them, including Wesleyan Methodists, Primitive Methodists, Free Church Methodists, New Connexion and several others. There is no uniformity of attitude toward the Education Act on the part of English Methodists. Some of them apparently approve of it as little as any other Nonconformists. The attitude of the Wesleyan Methodists, which is the largest body, is in general not antagonistic to the Act, although their attitude in this respect is by no means unanimous. The more friendly attitude of Wesleyan Methodists to the measure is said to be explained by the fact that they do not object, or object less strongly than other Free Churchmen, to the doctrinal teaching of the Anglican Church, and by the fact that they have denominational schools of their own which are protected under the new law. The Primitive Methodists, however, which are next in numbers to the Wesleyans, are strongly opposed to the Act and are numbered among the 'passive resisters.' A member of this body, Rev. John Smith, of Norwich, England, now in Canada, is reported by the *Montreal Witness* as giving the following account of the attitude of his church: "We are 'passive resisters,' he said. They may do what they like, they may seize our goods, they may sell us up, they may imprison us, but we will never pay." As to the issue of the struggle Mr. Smith said: "Our aim is to make the Education Act unworkable. In many districts it has not yet come into force. All the Welsh County Councils have declared that they will not enforce it, and so has the Cambridgeshire County Council

When the year has elapsed and the crash with these bodies and all the resisters comes, the Government will realize what is opposed to it. Here is the situation. There are sixteen thousand headmasterships or headmistressships, from which all Nonconformists are excluded. The applicant to be eligible must have been confirmed by a bishop. Adherents of the Church of England are protected by sectarian tests. What we demand is an amendment that no applicant shall be asked to which church he belongs. The Liberal leaders have promised us that if they are returned to power that will be the first question which they take up. And it will be a more popular move than Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal policy, for when Mr. Chamberlain admitted that the carrying out of his scheme would mean a tax upon foodstuffs he killed his chances. The British workman will not vote to add to the price of his loaf. He has done something for the Empire lately. He is paying for the war; he gave up his sons to be slaughtered. He thinks it is about time the Empire did something for him. England is free trade, and will remain so."

The Macedonian Insurrection.

There is probably much exaggeration in the accounts which European despatches give concerning the condition of affairs in Macedonia and Bulgaria. But making all allowances for over statements and deliberate inventions, it cannot be doubted that the whole country is in a state of wild excitement and insurrection, and that terrible outrages are being committed by the Turkish soldiery by way of reprisal upon the insurrectionaries, whose own methods of warfare are none of the most civilized. A Macedonian newspaper estimates that 150,000 women, children and old men are hiding in the mountains of Macedonia, while in places the Turks are burning the forests and killing all who seek to escape. In the Vilayet of Monastir from 30,000 to 50,000 Bulgarian inhabitants are estimated to have been massacred by the Turks and every village in the Vilayet has been destroyed. The refugees in the mountains and forests are said to be dying of starvation. There can be no doubt that the state of the country is one that calls loudly for foreign intervention. The condition of Macedonia, or of any other country under Turkish domination, may well seem insufferable and lead to revolt. They would certainly be more sympathetic felt for the Macedonians if they were more reputable in character and in the methods by which they seek deliverance from their oppressors. But it is certainly high time that the Turk was driven out of Macedonia and a better condition of things inaugurated. The difficulties of the situation and the mutual jealousies of the Powers have so far prevented intervention, but it seems almost impossible that the present condition of affairs can continue.

Steamship Line to France.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier last week explained to the House of Commons in committee the proposal for a direct steamship line between this country and France, for which a subsidy is asked not to exceed \$35,533 a year. A contract, the Premier said, had been entered into with M. Columbar who had undertaken to give a service of eighteen trips in the year—twelve in the summer and six in the winter months. It was explained that an attempt had been made previously to secure such a service but nothing had come of it. The Government believes that by a direct line to France it will be possible to develop a very good and profitable trade. Canada has a commercial treaty with France covering certain articles but is unable to reap the full benefit of the arrangement for the lack of a direct line of steamers. Notwithstanding this, there is a considerable trade, but the difficulty met with in developing trade with France as with other European countries is the double tariff imposed upon other than direct importations. The proposal for a direct steamship line was favorably discussed by members on both sides of the House. Hon. Mr. Prefontaine, Minister of Public Works, quoted from the detailed returns to show that practically no fruit was imported from Canada, and that only \$175,000 worth of wheat, grain and flour, out of a total importation of \$6,000,000, came from Canada. In many other items of agricultural products there were great opportunities for trade, and he estimated that there was a possibility of Canada capturing \$25,000,000 of the total \$113,000,000. Mr. Prefontaine quoted a member of the firm of Columbar Bros., Bordeaux, who were willing to undertake the service, who estimated that Canada might furnish \$7,000,000 worth of staves and large quantities of pulp to France annually. There had also been a contract offered for 400,000 railway ties annually for ten years. The difficulty in the past had been to obtain return cargoes from France, but the firm now interested had the experience which would enable them to supply that freight.