

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WASHINGTON PICKETING DAYS

Scenes Not Without Humor—Robert Emmet Doyle, Police Captain, Who Engineered Arrests.

Washington, April 21—Political picketing, often of the peaceful sort, and more often with militant accompaniments, was running epidemic in Washington for a time and the thousands of tourists who make the national capital their Mecca all year round saw bands of women slowly parading about the streets bearing banners with a wide variety of inscriptions.

Seemingly, every cause which wishes to impress its demands, arguments or protests on "the powers that be" ultimately adopts the picketing system which was first introduced in the capital by a branch of the women suffrageists about ten years ago. The latest to adopt the method are women espousing the cause of Irish freedom and there have directed their protests against the British embassy. Their campaign has caused somewhat of a stir because it is not without its international aspects.

The British embassy, for instance, is foreign territory; whether the sidewalk in front of it is American territory, no one has essayed to decide. Moreover, there is a federal law which penalizes any person who "assaults" a diplomatic representative of a friendly power. Whether the picketing of the embassy is an annoyance to the British diplomats, and whether an annoyance is an assault within the technical meaning of the law is an additional question.

Then there is involved the question of preserving the public peace, for disturbances often grow out of the picketing. Often, some woman passively expresses her disagreement with the banner the pickets bear by ripping them to bits and the pedestrian and the picket have a scuffle, with sometimes regular old-fashioned hair pulling. The police patrol clings up, both parties to the quarrel are hustled off to station house. Relief pickets immediately arrive. The police court gets another case. The personnel of the picketing forces furnishes an interesting study in human nature. They are women apparently from all walks of life. Many bear evidences of breeding, education and social position. Others are women who appear to be of the opposite types. Every picketing campaign brings out new charges that many pickets are "hired" for the work by others who are willing to provide substitutes and do not wish to picket in the streets in all sorts of weather.

The suffrage pickets who made a record for getting arrested, jamming the police court docket and finally having a hunger strike, patterned after their British sisters, were composed apparently of women of all classes. Many whose names are nationally known did picket duty, spent nights in a police station cell and finally did time in the workhouse. Some of them, if the truth were known, were freed by husbands who disappeared of their actions. There was more than one case of a husband promising the authorities he would undertake the responsibility of making his wife "be good," and more cases of stormy scenes at the workhouse when the husband arrived to take the wife home over her protest.

With the adoption by congress of the resolution for the woman's suffrage amendment to the constitution, the suffragists laid off, but they had fired an example in a local association of negroes who were demanding the dismissal of a man of their race from the local school administration. So the negro women in emulation picketed the streets surrounding the school administration buildings bearing banners. Their picketing, however, was intermittent, and the negro educator to whom they objected still holds his job.

British humor all but broke up the picketing of the British embassy, with its possibilities of disagreeable incidents of an international flavor, when on the first day the embassy officials sent out and invited the pickets in to afternoon tea. It probably was a temptation for a cold raw wind was sweeping the city, but the leaders pulled stern faces and declined the invitation.

The embassy is in Connecticut avenue

in the heart of the downtown business and residence district, not far from DuPont circle. The neighborhood might be compared to Fifth avenue in New York in the fifties.

Thousands of shoppers, tourists and government clerks and officials on their way to office pass by and for days there was always a small crowd watching the pickets and hoping for a scrimmage. The old and deserted Austrian embassy, once the scene of social gaieties in the prosperous days of the Hapsburgs, stands grim, silent and dusty just across the street. Nobody knows who owns it now; it is a highly valuable piece of property gone begging. Not far away is the house James G. Blaine occupied while secretary of state. Dolly Madison's house is not far off in another direction. Practically every building in the vicinity has housed some notable at some time or other and the neighborhood is a playground for the sightseeing wagons. The pro-Irish pickets selected a battleground where there will be plenty of onlookers.

The first arrests of the Irish picketers were not unaccompanied by elements of humor. The police captain who took them in was Robert Emmet Doyle, rosy-cheeked and blue-eyed, who possibly decay he was a son of Erin. The whole proceeding was conducted in the height of courtesy and polite formality. There was no "come along, you're pinched." Instead, Captain Doyle raised his cap, and with an engaging smile said: "Ladies, these are policemen who will place you under arrest." Then the men stepped back and the women did the job.

SMOKE OF PIPE OF PEACE AGAIN TO SCENT THE AIR

Romance of Wilderness Days Renewed at Hudson's Bay Company Celebration.

Winnipeg, April 21—With Indian fur brigades and York boats loaded with peltries on Red river, council fires burning at Lower Fort Garry and the smoke of the peace pipe scenting the air, the romance of wilderness days will live again at the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Hudson's Bay Company which will be inaugurated in Winnipeg May 3.

Sir Robert Kindersley, G. B. E., latest of the distinguished line of Hudson's Bay Company governors that began with Prince Rupert, valiant champion of the House of Stuart in the Cromwellian wars, will come from England and take part in the river pageant and in the subsequent street pageants which will be held successively in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.

The Red river pageant, which promises to be one of the most interesting historical spectacles ever staged in Canada, will start from the site of old Fort Garry, early capital of the company's once vast empire and about which Winnipeg grew, and pass down stream eighteen miles to Lower Fort Garry. Picked out in bravery of paint, feathers and beaded buckskin, Indians from a dozen tribes will man York boats and canoes in fur brigade formation. To do honor to the company to which their ancestors paid loyal allegiance, Crees will come from the shores of Hudson Bay; Swampy Crees from James Bay; Ojibways from the Lake Superior fur country; Plain Crees from northern Saskatchewan; Blackfeet, Piegans and Assiniboines from the prairies and the Athabasca and British Columbia.

A flotilla of freight boats piled high with bales of furs will trail in the wake of the York boats in charge of factors and trappers in pioneer costumes. As it glides in long procession through a countryside famous in Hudson's Bay traditions, past the site of old Fort Douglas, the scenes of Lord Selkirk's Red River settlements and the battlefield of Seven Oaks where Governor Semple and twenty men fell in conflict with their rivals of the Northwest Company, the pageant will seem to sail out of the past of 250 years ago.

When it reaches Lower Fort Garry, whose stone buildings and battlemented stone walls still preserve the picturesqueness of early days, two ancient brass cannons at the gate will boom a salute from their rusty throats. Within the walls of the old stronghold where the first treaty, was signed between Canada

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upon the ground in a wide semicircle will reply to orating by the sachems and chieftains. After the speeches, the Indians will present a wampum belt to the governor in ratification of their pledges of fealty, and will partake of an old-fashioned feast.

Street pageants will celebrate the company's birthday in Edmonton from May 6 to 8; in Calgary from May 11 to 13; in Vancouver from May 17 to 19; and in Victoria from May 21 to 24. Symbolic floats and tableaux, interspersed with Indians, trappers and dog teams, will picture the company's pioneer achievements while dominion, provincial and city officials, clubs, societies and civic bodies will swell the parades. During the pageants it is expected the five cities concerned will declare holidays.

BACK TO THE FARM

Betty and Billy Couldn't See the Point in Night Alarms.

Clinton, Mass., April 24—"Betty" and "Billy" have gone back to the farm, and Clinton's fire department has returned to its motorized efficiency. An up-standing pair of browns, the horses were the pride of the fire fighters until they became the cause of their disgrace.

Steak and fat from a farm in an adjoining town, they were obtained to pull the town's old fire engine while the new motor apparatus was being repaired. The browns swept out of the engine house to their first fire in a manner to make old firemen speak with happy reminiscence of the horse-drawn days. Then came a night alarm.

Back on the farm, "Betty" and "Billy" had been accustomed not to stir from sundown to sunrise, and no din of fire-gong or siren by anxious firemen would move them to answer the alarm. All the fire department's split-second aids to a quick start were lost on the browns. They refused to budge, the firemen had to go to the blaze with chemical lines, and the town folks laughed.

The firemen vowed the thing would not happen again, and the horses were put through a stiff training. They went to the day's fire with spirit, and the fire crew hoped they understood. But another night alarm came, and again "Betty" and "Billy" went back to the farm.



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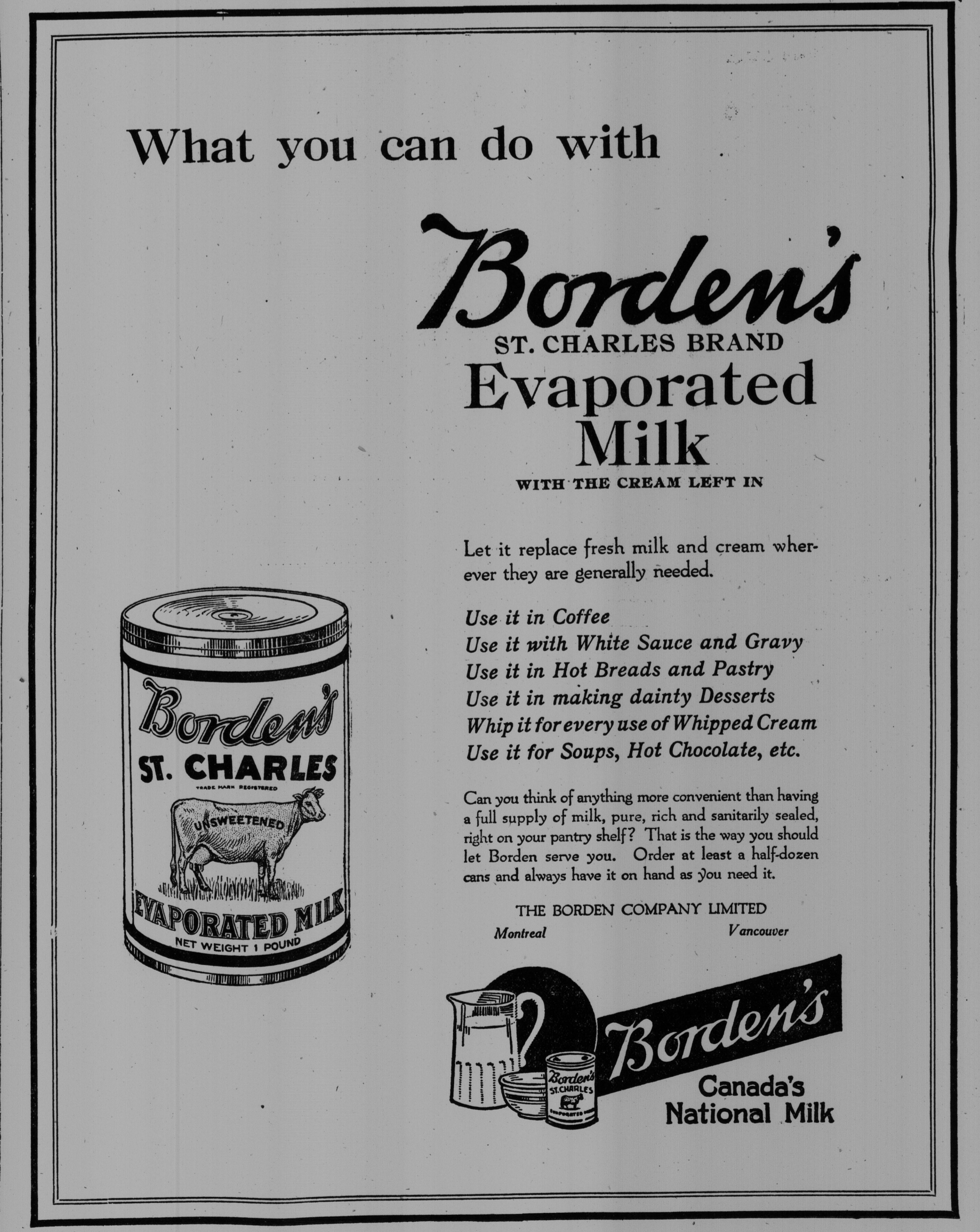
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