

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL 20, 1925.

THE CONFERENCE FAILS.

There will be general disappointment because of the failure of the conference called by Premier Armstrong for the purpose of effecting a settlement of the Cape Breton mining troubles. The meetings, at which the Premier conferred at length with the heads of the British Empire Steel Corporation and the United Mine Workers, lasted several days, and Hon. Mr. Armstrong appears to have brought to bear all of the pressure at his command and all the influence he could exert in seeking to find common ground, but the effort was in vain, and statements issued by the chief participants after the conference hold out little hope for any peace in the mining district in the near future.

The only point upon which the representatives of the operators and of the men agree is in paying a tribute to the Premier for the earnestness and force he displayed in his endeavor to serve the public interest. He receives a certificate of character from both sides, but unfortunately matters as to mining coal stand just about as they did before the conference. In fact it may be said that nothing has been changed since work ceased many weeks ago.

In his own statement Hon. Mr. Armstrong says he has not abandoned hope and that he will continue his efforts, but he gives no indication as to what promising avenue of further endeavor he sees, nor is any visible. In reviewing the proceedings he credits all concerned with recognizing the importance of reaching a permanent agreement rather than merely a patched-up settlement. He himself, from the opening of the conference, sought to have work resumed at once pending the result of an investigation looking to a permanent solution. But the opposing parties were irreconcilable. The company insisted that the wages of 1924 were higher than are being paid for similar work elsewhere, and asserted that the Cape Breton miners have been receiving ninety per cent. of their peak wages, and that the company could not sell its coal at a profit at a ten per cent. cut on the 1924 scale. The representatives of the mine workers refused to consider work involving any reduction of pay. Thus the deadlock which existed before the conference continued throughout its sessions. The Premier, after very vigorous efforts to induce some concessions, finally suggested that the opposing forces split the difference for the purpose of having work resumed and so that it might go on while a thorough investigation of all the questions involved was being made, but this proposal was refused.

SAVING OUR FOREST CAPITAL.

Provincial Secretary Hetherington dealt with a most important question in his budget speech in pointing out how vital it is that New Brunswick's forests should be protected against fire. The average citizen scarcely realizes how slow forest growth is and how vitally necessary therefore is real conservation.

Dean Howe, head of the Forestry Department of Toronto University, recently issued a warning against the danger of postponing a proper forestry policy until forest capital had become impaired beyond remedy. The Dean says the extent to which the work of fire prevention has been undertaken is as yet by no means sufficient. He believes that insect pests can be effectively controlled. He throws some light upon the business of re-planting, saying that even if there were a law under which one new tree must be planted for every tree cut down that would not solve the problem of preserving Canada's forests for posterity. He has found that out of 1,000 to 2,000 trees planted per acre in a nursery area, only about 500 will survive, and of the 500 the trees eventually attaining a diameter of one foot would not number more than 150 to the acre. According to his figures, in order to produce the average sawing it would be necessary to plant seven or eight seedlings. He thinks it probable that for every tree 100 years old there were great numbers which perished. He says that the present time the average age of trees being cut for pulpwood in Ontario is eighty years, and that of pine sawlogs one hundred years or more. Artificial planting must hold a subsidiary place.

The right tendency, Dean Howe reiterates, must be toward preserving the capital stock of the forest undiminished, taking only the annual interest, that is, an amount of cutting equivalent to the total year's growth in the whole area involved. "In those areas relatively near the market, in terms of trees

best adapted for mechanical purposes, the capital stock is nearly exhausted," he says. "The annual accretion produced in yearly growth must have something to attach itself to. A bank would not stand steady depletion of its capital stock, and neither can the forests."

FRENCH FEARS.

Having been invaded twice in fifty years by German armies, France today is asking what guarantee she has against a third invasion by a Germany having perhaps twice the French population. The extent to which fear on this score is felt in France today is brought home sharply by a London correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, writing from Paris just before the fall of the Herriot ministry. He had previously been in Berlin, and he contrasts German confidence about the future with French uneasiness. He found in Germany that the people there are confident that their country will again become—and at no distant day—one of the great powers of the world. In France he found no such confidence in the future, and this difference he attributes to certain facts which the French constantly have in mind. To-day Germany is a nation of more than 60,000,000 people. France has about 40,000,000, not counting her possessions. The population of Germany is increasing, while that of France is stationary, if it is not declining. "If we look forward twenty years," says this writer, "which will be the dominant power in Europe? Will it be France, still but 40,000,000 strong? Will it be Italy, thinking not of Northern Europe, but of expansion to the south and east? Will it be the many little nations of the Balkans? Or will it be a prosperous, industrious Germany of some 80,000,000? There seems to be only one answer."

The French have not the slightest belief in any agreement Germany has signed or may be willing to sign. France is looking ahead, ten, twenty, thirty years, and her thought centres constantly upon security. When the French again embark upon a war of conquest, they reply that this may be so, but that the risk is altogether too great to warrant them in neglecting the only kind of insurance that they regard as effective. They contend that in the late war they had to do the bulk of the fighting for eighteen months, not, it is true, before they had any assistance, but before other nations could bring their full weight to bear in the land fighting. This view, of course, does not do justice to the British share in the war during the first eighteen months, nor does it recognize that France would have been beaten within that time but for Britain's help by land and sea. The French insist that they cannot take the chance of another invasion because Germany is willing to sign another treaty. They remember that in 1919 official representatives of Britain and the United States were prepared to make an agreement guaranteeing France against unprovoked attack by Germany, but that agreement has never been ratified; nor is it likely to be.

These are some of the reasons why France, greatly burdened with debt, turns a deaf ear to proposals of disarmament and is committed to the maintenance of a great army and to dependence upon that and upon the assistance of Belgium and Poland to compel Germany to remain disarmed. In a word, France believes nothing will hold Germany in check in years to come but the fear of military defeat.

A little of the winter weather we did not get in February and March turned up late last night and early this morning in the form of low temperature and a real snow storm. But with three weeks of April gone it is too late for us to get more than a very brief reminder of winter, and when we consider the extraordinary stretch of mild and fine weather in the two past months we cannot feel that we have any cause for complaint.

The seizure of \$20,000 worth of smuggled liquor at Miramichi affords some idea of the size of the rum-running industry. As was pointed out in the Legislature during the recent budget speech, the Dominion duty on liquor, plus provincial charges, make smuggling an inviting occupation for men who are not particular about the law. Probably the amount of liquor actually seized at Miramichi was but a small part of the cargo carried by the rum-running vessel from which it was landed.

His Conjecture.
Old Ritchie (in a lecturing mood): "I well remember the time when I hadn't a shirt to my back."
His Son: "That must have been a hot old football game, dad." What position did you play?

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Waitress."

The Coasters

(Thomas Fleming Day in "Songs of Sea and Sail.")
Overloaded, undermanned,
Trusting to a lee,
Playing l-spy with the land,
Jockeying the sea—
That's the way that coaster goes,
Through calm and hurricane;
Everywhere the tide flows,
Everywhere the wind blows,
From Mexico to Maine.

O East and West! O North and South!
We play along the shore,
From famous Fundy's foggy mouth,
From voes of Labrador;
Through pass and strait, on sound and sea,
From port to port we stand—
The rocks of Race fade on our lee,
We hail the Rio Grande.
Our sails are never lost to sight;
On every gulf and bay
They gleam, in winter wind-cloud white,
In summer rain-cloud grey.

Legging on and off the beach
Drifting up the strait,
Fluking down the river reach,
Towing through the gate—
That's the way the coaster goes,
Flirting with the gale;
Everywhere the tide flows,
Everywhere the wind blows,
From York to Beaverfall.

Here and there to get a load,
Freighting anything;
Rumping up with sparker towed,
Lodging wing-a-wing—
That's the way the coaster goes,
Chumming with the land;
Everywhere the tide flows,
Everywhere the wind blows,
From Ray to Rio-Grande.

Off Monomoy we fight the gale,
We drift off Sandy Key;
The watch of Fenwick sees our sail
Scud for Henlopen's lee.
With decks awash and canvas torn
We wallow up the Stream;
We drag dismantled, cargo home,
And fight the ships of steam.

Cargo reef in main and fore,
Manned by half a crew,
Rumping up the weather shore,
Edging down the blue—
That's the way the coaster goes,
Scouting with the lead;
Everywhere the tide flows,
Everywhere the wind blows,
From Cruz to Quiddy Head.

Where Sportsmanship's the Thing.

(Ottawa Journal.)
When Oxford and Cambridge met in their classic boat race last Saturday, the Oxford crew, losing the toss and compelled to take the rough side of the Thames, had their shell swamped and lost the race. Yesterday came a cable despatch stating that Cambridge, considering such a rule unfair to the vanquished, has taken steps to have it amended.

The rules being what they are, and sets having been made on the outcome, there was nothing for Cambridge to do but take the judges' verdict. They were the technical winners under the regulations and would probably have been the winners in any case; so they took the victory.
But the traditional British conception of sportsmanship would not down. Cambridge feels that there was a blur upon its triumph, that there was not a fair test of prospective strength; so, on its own initiative, it asks revision of the rules to make such an occurrence impossible in the future.

Oh! for a touch of that spirit in the professional sportsmanship of Canada! It is so much finer, so much more chivalrous and more manly than the code expressed by one of Hamilton's hockey players some weeks ago: "This is not a question of sportsmanship; it is a question of money."
On a Former Occasion.
(Kincaid Review.)
Some 30 years ago some bachelors in the Canadian West advertised in English papers for wives. The ad. was copied without charge in a London newspaper, but it was followed with this verse:
"A voice comes from the Colonies:
'O, by your lives, O send us wives!'
And back a voice responsive flies:
'O, by the powers, take ours, take ours.'"

CORNS

Quick Safe Relief

Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads stop corns burning instantly. Remove the cause—friction and pressure. They are thin, medicated, antiseptic, waterproof. Absolutely safe! Easy to apply. Get them at your druggist's or shoe dealer's. These Zino-pads for corns, callouses, bunions.

Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads
"Put one on—the pain is gone"

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YPRES BATTLE ANNIVERSARY IS OBSERVED

for the veterans and their friends. Among those in attendance were Com. Col. G. G. Corbet were survivors of that battle and in it, Dr. Duval, of West Saint John, made the supreme sacrifice.

The full surprised choir was present and, under the direction of F. J. Punter, gave inspirational music. Miss Ada Thompson was organist.

How It Started.

("Shanghai, for centuries the native habitat of long-haired women, started the feminine bobbed-hair craze on its way around the world," said Miss Laura A. Holden, Shanghai buyer for a large San Francisco style shop yesterday.—A. P. despatch.)
I am the girl who first was shingled. For I was there in the barber chair. When the scissors went chop-chop. Was the first of the long, long queue. Bobbed by a mandarin.
Who shingled my hair in that Shanghai chair.
With a wide and Chinese grin!

TELLS OF BATTLE.

After the service the parade re-formed and marched back to the cycling rink by the same route. On King street Col. Anderson took the salute in the march past.

Mr. Bertram, in extending a welcome to the veterans, paid a glowing tribute to the service they had rendered the nation and humanity.
J. C. Hart gave a brief description of the second battle of Ypres which began on April 22 and continued until May 3 during which time the Canadians held the line against the German invasion although vastly outnumbered. The Germans had the advantage of superiority of artillery fire and the additional dastardly weapon of gas. By sheer grit and heroism they saved the situation, and Ypres anniversary had been the recognized day for an anniversary parade of the veterans until Armistice Day was selected instead.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

The whole parade was under the command of James Gilbert Hart, president of the branch, assisted by the secretary, G. Earle Logan, and by Curtis P. Willis, who acted as sergeant major. Accompanied by the Carleton Cornet and Cadet Bands, the parade moved off to the church via Rodney, Union, King and Watson streets.

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DO NOT LET THE FIRE BURN THRU TO THE OVEN

What a pleasure it is to do things yourself and to know they are well done.
FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRE CLAY enables you to put the most durable of all linings in your own stove.
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