

The Evening Telegram.

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Tuesday, December 31, 1912.

Review of the Year

TO-DAY brings to a close a year full of incidents of first-class importance, so much so that the year 1912 will long be remembered as a red letter year in the history of mankind. We purpose to review briefly some of the events of 1912 which loom largely before the face of mankind.

TURKEY LOSES LYBIA.

The war which broke out like a bolt from the blue between Italy and Turkey in September of last year gave little promise of the military debacle of Turkey during the past few months. When Italy declared war on Turkey, without the usual prolonged controversy of despatches between diplomats, it was recognized that Turkey was in a tight corner in regard to Tripoli. The only access to the Africa of Turkey from her European and Asiatic dominions was by sea. Turkey was notably weak at sea, and Italy was notably strong in ships of war. Turkey could not reinforce her troops in those dominions by additions or keep them supplied with ammunition and engines of war. She had to rely on the troops already there and such aid as the fanatical Arabs of the interior could give her. It was believed she had a splendid army available in Europe and Asia, but she could not bring it to bear either to attack Italian territory or to defend Tripoli. The "walk-over" she had had in her war with Greece in the nineties gave rise to this illusion, and the fact that her army had been reorganized by German officers completed the illusion. Crippled as Turkey was in Africa, Italy seemed unable to bring the war to a close, and the outlook seemed much like stale-mate in favour of Italy when an outbreak occurred in the Balkans which precipitated peace and made it essential for Turkey to close hostilities with Italy. By the Lausanne Treaty, Italy obtains the sovereignty of Lybia, whilst she undertakes to recognize the religious authority of the Caliphate.

DEBACLE IN THE BALKANS.

At the time the Balkan League forced war on Turkey, the troops of the latter were scattered throughout Asia Minor, Syria and Arabia, as well as in European Turkey to protect ports from attacks by Italy. The troops of the Balkan League are said to have numbered 430,000 as against the 270,000 men the Turks had available in Europe. The Turks had, however, the advantage of being on the defensive, and the aid of fortresses and fortified lines. In a remarkably short time, some seven weeks, the military strength of Turkey in Europe was found to be an illusion. The Turks collapsed in all directions and have been forced out of every position in Europe except Scutari, Adrianople, and the small tongue of land in Thrace, behind the Tchatalja lines which protect Constantinople. Turkey was unprepared for war. Her soldiers not only lacked ammunition, they had not even food to keep them from starvation. The failure of the Turkish commissariat broke the back of the war and reduced Turkey to her present straits.

DRIVING OUT THE TURKS.

The Turkish Government appealed to the Powers several times for intervention, but the Powers declined to intervene. They contented themselves in coming to an understanding among themselves to limit the area of the war as much as possible. The Porte has ever been ready to take advantage of the disagreement of the First Class Powers, and she hoped much from similar dissensions in her present struggle with the Balkan League. The competing interests of Austria and Serbia as to territory on the Adriatic shores formed the main difficulties in keeping the European Powers out of the embroglio. Diplomacy appears to have been unusually successful in weathering this obstacle, and has found a means of pacifying both Austria and Serbia. The aim of the Government clean out of Macedonia and Thrace, except from the tongue of land behind the Tchatalja lines, and to leave Turkey with only Constantinople. This is the rock on which the negotiations for peace may split.

WHAT ABOUT CONSTANTINOPLE?

Unless the Turks accede to these terms the Balkan Leaguers declare that their troops will force the Tchatalja lines and dictate peace at Constantinople. On the other hand the Turks claim that with their Asiatic troops they can not only hold the Tchatalja lines, but that they will relieve Adrianople and repossess themselves of the territory

they contend should be left to them, by the projected Treaty of London. The chief bone of contention is the possession of Adrianople. The Turks are determined to hold on to it, not only from its strategic importance, but also because of the sacred character of some of its fanes. Should the war be resumed, the Tchatalja lines be forced, and the allies enter Constantinople, the fate of Adrianople will be sealed and must fall to the allies eventually. It is highly improbable, however, that Bulgaria would be allowed to retain Constantinople, but it is quite within the range of possibility that Constantinople may be made a free and independent city under its own autonomy, guaranteed by the Balkan allies and all the First Class Powers.

THE CROSS AND THE CRESCENT.

The ultimate aim of the allies is said to be to drive the Turks from Europe and to sing the Te Deum in the Mosque of Sophia, which was an ancient Christian Church converted by the Turks into a mosque. Such a festival would mark the close, so far as Europe is concerned, of the most humiliating failure of Christian civilization and bring to an end the old Eastern Question with its perennial crop of iniquities against which the great Gladstone thundered in the seventies. During the present generation Turkey has been driven from the Pruth until all that is left to her in Europe on the mainland at this stage of the present war are the fortresses of Scutari and Adrianople, and Constantinople. It looks as if Gladstone's wish is to be consummated and the Turk as a ruler is to be driven bag and baggage out of Europe. The Crescent as a political power has been now in the wane for many a generation. Even after the Moors had been driven out of Spain, Mohammedans maintained their rule in all the African countries watered by the Mediterranean; but now Morocco has gone, so has Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Egypt, and it would look as if Mohammedan rule is to be confined to Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia and Persia, and even the latter is now largely under the influence of Russia and Great Britain. Those of our day may see the Cross prevail over the Crescent in Constantinople, and it may not be a far cry for our children to see the Holy Land rescued from the Infidel and the ambition of the old Crusaders achieved.

SELF HELP IN STATE CRAFT.

As the Balkan people have had to work out their salvation mainly by their own effort, so the Chinese have broken the Manchu fetters by themselves. The Christians of Turkey bore the iniquities of Ottoman rule for well over five hundred years, and the Chinese bore the brunt of Manchu domination for half that time. The Manchu dynasty was forced out and the formal abdication of the Celestial Emperor was declared in February last.

EAST IS EAST.

With a magnanimity as inspiring as the spirit he had given to the revolution, Dr. Sun Yen stepped down from the Presidency to give place to the most experienced and able statesman in China, and the fortunes of the new Republic were placed in the capable hands of Yuan Shi Kai, who has been spoken of as the greatest of the world's living statesmen. He has chosen as foreign adviser a British journalist, Dr. Morison, the Times' correspondent in China. The Chinese Republic has now weathered its first year and the world will await with interest this new experiment in Oriental politics. As the Manchus were the reactionaries in China, so the Imperial Dynasty and the old nobility were the leaders of material progress in Japan. The death of the Emperor last July, however, brought in its train a strange survival of the old ideas and practices of Japan. Among the prominent figures at the obsequies of the Emperor was General Nogi, the hero of Port Arthur. Immediately afterwards the General and his wife committed suicide as a mark of devotion to their dead Emperor and friend, and as a warning to the old nobility not to forget their ancient virtues in adopting modern ways.

A HOUSE DIVIDED.

Leaving the Far East and crossing the broad bosom of the Pacific, we come to the New World. Here the election of a President for the United States of America has been the greatest event of the year. As is well known and was expected, the election resulted in the choice of Dr. Woodrow Wilson, the democratic candidate. The members of the Electoral College were chosen early in November, at what is known as the Presidential Election. As a matter of form the body of voters merely chose the members of the Electoral College, who will meet and elect the President on January 13th. In reality, however, the members chosen were all pledged to support regularly nominated candidates, so that it was known immediately after the November meeting who the next President would be. Dr. Woodrow Wilson enters upon

his duties on the fourth of March next, and it will be the first time for sixteen years that the occupant of the White House has been a Democrat. But that is not the only remarkable feature about the Presidential Election; there is another much more remarkable circumstance and that is that President Wilson is a Minority President, and that the Republicans were shown to be in an overwhelming majority during the elections. But they were divided. There had been a revolt against the rule of Cannonism in the House of Representatives. The revolt had spread through the rank and file of the party, and resulted in a great fight in the Republican Convention. The insurgents were defeated at the regular Republican Convention, withdrew from the party, held a separate Convention later, organized a new party, called themselves Progressives, nominated the ex-President, Theodore Roosevelt, as their candidate, and went to the polls. The result was disastrous to both sections of the Split Republican Party. That party formed a house divided against itself and the result was that the Democratic Party, which commanded little more than a third of the popular vote, secured a big majority in the Electoral College. It cannot be said that the election of President-elect Wilson was based on the will of the majority of the people. He is clearly a Minority President.

A BLOW AT ARBITRATION.

The defeat of President Taft should occasion no regret to Britishers. Taft had made himself the protagonist of arbitration treaties with Britain. When the first occasion arose for arbitration he went back on his love for arbitration, and tried to uphold a wrong by flirting with those who were afraid to arbitrate the Panama legislation. This dispute arose from the passage of the Panama Canal Bill last August. In that Bill was a provision for the passage of American coasting vessels through the Canal without paying toll, whilst all other vessels pay toll. This is differential treatment, and especially affected adversely British tonnage, which preponderates in the American wheat trade of the West. It was pointed out that Article III. of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty clearly barred such differential treatment, and a formal protest was entered by Great Britain. The Canal is extra-territorial. The Treaty was an agreement between two nations in which one party surrendered rights and agreed to the cutting of the Canal by the other on settled terms. One term was that there should be no differential treatment of ships which should use the Canal. There has, however, been a remarkable demonstration in favour of doing the right thing by the Press and the College Presidents of America, and right may eventually prevail.

THE TITANIC DISASTER.

The year was marked by the worst marine disaster on record. The Titanic, a new steamer, and the largest in the world, on her maiden voyage was ripped up by an iceberg two hours, carrying to their doom 1,490 passengers and crew. Among those lost were Capt. Smith, the commander; W. T. Stead, the journalist; Col. Astor, Jacques Futelle, the novelist, and F. O. Millet. An inquiry was held in the States, and was chiefly remarkable for the flamboyant remarks of Senator Smith. A more judicial inquiry was held in London under the presidency of Lord Mersey, who reported that the vessel was under excessive speed at the time of the accident; that the look-out was poor, and that the life-saving accommodation was insufficient.

HOME POLITICS.

The chief events of the year were the putting into force the great insurance scheme of Lloyd George and the revolt of the doctor against the payments proffered them under the Act, and the introduction of the third Home Rule Bill, under the favourable auspices of the curbed power of the House of Lords, which will ensure, should the Government last another two years, the granting of Home Rule to Ireland after more than a century's effort. The alliance of the Liberals, the Irish Nationalists and the Labour members to keep in power the Liberal Government shows little sign of weakening, though there has been some restlessness in the Labour Party. The Unionists, however, seem to be splitting on the Tariff question, which has proved a stone of stumbling with the electorate for the past six years.

OUR ISLAND HOME.

The year has proved a stirring one. There were some lively debates in the House of Assembly. The great fight was that put up by Sir Robert Bond against provisions made for the support and maintenance of the Sanatoria offered to the Government by the President and Vice-Presidents of the Reid Nfid. Co.—Mr. W. D. Reid and his two brothers. Objection was taken by Sir Robert to any gift being accepted from contractors who

were under large obligations to the country and the oversight of whose obligations was in the hands of the Government. Another feature of the session was the bill for an additional Railway Loan, which the Government found necessary, although two years before the Prime Minister and his colleagues had assured the country that the Railway Loan of 1910 would be sufficient to carry out the requirements of the Railway Extension Act of that year. A Teachers' Pension Scheme was also introduced and was so imperfect that it was found necessary to amend it on the lines advocated by the Evening Telegram during its passage through the Legislature.

MORISON MEMORIALS.

The most sensational event of the year was the presentation to the Governor of the Morison Memorials by the President of the Fishermen's Protective Union. The publication of the Memorials in the Evening Telegram and the Fishermen's Advocate caused quite a furore. The disclosure made therein staggered the Governor and appalled the public. The public were also stirred to their depths by the refusal of the Governor to ask for the resignation of the Hon. Donald Morison. Much severe criticism ensued in the columns of the Evening Telegram and the Fishermen's Advocate, and the conduct of the Governor was commented on strongly and adversely.

THE F. P. U.

Another remarkable feature of the year has been the growth in numbers, in lodges, and in influence of the F. P. U. As we predicted last year, the Union has come to stay, and the opposition of the Government organs has served to increase the loyalty of its members and to increase its powers. At present there are some 153 lodges throughout the north, and these lodges have an enrolled membership of some 15,000 fishermen. We repeat what we said on the eve of 1912, "We are living in an age of community of interest, and if the fishermen of the country can show the solidarity in the future which they have shown this fall, their economic interests will be more better safeguarded in the future than they have been in the past." The Union has lived through another year, and it is far stronger in every way than it was last year. The Union owes a debt of gratitude to its President, and the token of acknowledgment in the shape of a valuable gold watch and chain, which they presented to him at Bonavista, was well worthy of the Union and the President.

THE BONAVISTA DEMONSTRATIONS.

In the spring the Unionists gave an object lesson of their strength in the city when the sealers held their demonstration and their great mass meeting, after their President had obtained for them from the owners of the sealing steamers the concessions contained in the Sealing Agreement. That was however but a foretaste of the extraordinary demonstrations which took place at Bonavista and Catalina, when the Union held its Supreme Council Convention at the former place during the early part of this month. As a display of sympathy, as a gathering of men interested in promoting the interests of the toilers of the sea, for enthusiasm and determination to look after their own interest, nothing like it has ever been seen in the outports of Newfoundland. Belittle it as they did, the disparagement of the Chronicle and Herald but served as a foil to bring out the magnificent enthusiasm of the gatherings. The resolutions passed by the Convention against the Government show the trend of public feeling and make clear what is going to happen at the next General Elections.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We set out to set forth some of the bigger events of the year both at home and abroad, and we have touched on a number of them. Though the year has been a strenuous one, and has been marked by big disasters, the outlook is cheering for the uplift of humanity. The trend of events is in the right direction. The outlook for the toilers of Newfoundland is good, now that they are taking such a large part in working out their own salvation. They are decidedly in favour of a good and economic Government. They are opposed to grabbing from the Government chest and domain, and the people can look forward to a better Government and a higher grade of political morality. Influenced by these high hopes, we wish one and all of our readers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Removing Scaffolding.

Men are now employed removing the scaffolding from St. Patrick's Church and it will be all down in a few days. The tower and spire will greatly enhance the fine appearance of the edifice.

Shannahan, Tucker and Delaney on New Year Resolutions.

A Few Tips That Ought to Work Like a Charm.

New Year's Eve, says Tucker, and many a man that's alive and kicking to-day will be twice as lively and be in a fit condition to kick twice as high this time next year.

You're in fine spirits, says Delaney, and mind you it's good to meet an old chap who looks into the future and keeps his hopes a-bubbling.

What's the use of trying to meet hard knocks half way? asks Tucker. Why I know a man in this town and this time last year he was "on his softs"; he had a face on him that would give you the cramps to gaze upon, and he talked of the coming year with a voice resembling a northeaster penetrating a dilapidated door, but to-day he's got his fine snug job, stowed away under the pay of the Government, and if ye told him that this would happen when he had the blues, why he'd lash the brains out of ye.

You never know when the tide'll turn, says Tucker; that's right enough, and 'tis the darkest hour they tell me, that's the hour before dawn, but most people who use that expression were never around at that particular time.

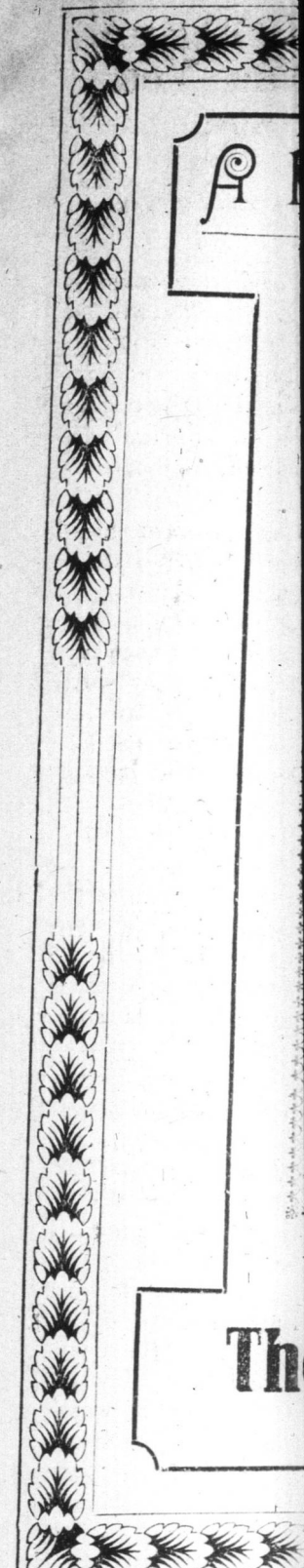
What a fine thing 'twould be, says Delaney, if we could all be as fond of each other about the sixteenth of October as we are on the first of January. Why, life would be worth living if that kind of a game would hang out. The first of January old Tightwad comes up to you and beams all over, pulls off his right glove and grasps your flipper and shakes it till the circulation of the "Red" flows up and down for pastime. He looks you square in the muns and says, "I wish you a Happy New Year." Tuesday week you meet old Tightwad, after all the Xmas decorations are put away for next year, and ask him for a lend of his handcar. Tightwad looks at you with a frown that causes wrinkles to start at right angles from the base of his nose, and growls out, "Why don't you buy a cart? What do you think we have handcars for?" And before the storm gets to the high pitch where 'tis likely to cause your going on dock, you quit, remembering faintly that this is the same galoot who went to so much trouble with you on New Year's Day.

This is the kind of milk and watery New Year business that gets down my back like a cold key, and I wish that these kind of sleevens would just pass me on New Year's Day as they glide by me on Good Friday, for if they mean anything by wishing me a Bright New Year, surely that anything shouldn't be a scowl because I ask for a lend of a handcart. Strange things, says Tucker, how hard it is to become acquainted with people in this town, especially if the aforesaid people can jingle more dough than you'd shovel in a week. You come in contact with them seventeen hundred and forty-four times during the year in a business way, but still there's a dividing line socially which has marked upon it, "Come so far but no further." They're all right enough to haul some profit off your dealings, but meet them, say at the opening of the House, and the man who traded with you on a tub of oleo or a grinding stone, will pass you bedecked in a swallow-tail coat and a plug hat and know you not. This is one of the codologies that these people should try and walk on during the coming year, for, as Tucker says, blue blood is down about seventeen points in this market to-day, and the man who thinks he got any large quantity in stock should unload immediately.

Tucker says, among the good resolutions for the year our citizens should swear off against having their faces in the daily papers. 'Twasn't so bad when we had to look at Premiers, Governors and Judges every year in the Xmas Numbers, but now when 'tis reached the stage that every man in town is appearing with a dilapidated mask in the dailies, 'tis high time to get down on your marrow-bones and swear off, for goodness knows what serious consequences may happen if this racket is allowed to grow.

Tucker says as this is election year, politicians when making their brittle resolutions on New Year's Day shouldn't forget to take a vow that they won't dig deeper than a great-grandmother when looking for a flaw in the family of an opposing candidate. And Tucker also suggests that now that we are having a new Governor arriving, all local performers, stone-laying enthusiasts, and those who have "sods to turn" will give the said Governor half a show for his life, and not as formerly, have our Governors who arrive here weighing 250, leave our shore "walking shadows."

TIM SHANNAHAN.



Vessels Reported Missing.

Three Gloucester herring we learn, are reported missing. Grave fears are entertained for safety. They are commanded, har it, by three Newfoundlanders, one of whom is the well known and successful Captain Joseph brother of Captain Thomas B. The Public Works Department, city, Captain Bona, we heard day afternoon, telegraphed Gloucester for information. The vessels, to have left Bay of Islands for center 27 days ago reporting to have not since been reported. One of the men of each vessel, we heard long to Newfoundland.

Goes To Trinidad

Mr. Michael Dunne, of this city, formerly spent years at Little B. also a long period as a miner in tana, U. S. A., will leave here for Trinidad, B. W. I., where he has been offered a position of respect and emolument in an iron which is something akin to B. land. He takes ten Newfoundlanders with him all of whom will go wags.

Here and There

Hot Bovril at Campbell's. —dec21,tf

WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE.—A night service will be held in Gov. Church to-night commencing at a quarter to eleven o'clock.

One 10 cent bottle of Ess of Ginger Wine (Stafford's) provide 60 persons with a drink on New Year's Day.—dec23

CHESLEY WOODS & Co. are thankful the public generally for generous custom during 1912, and extend hearty wishes to all for a happy and prosperous 1913.—dec23

Come and see the latest in Photography. Our prices reduced on New Year's TOOTON'S Studios.—dec30

WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE.—The watch-night service will be held in Cochrane Street Church commencing at 11 o'clock. Collection will be taken in aid of the phanage.

Honest prices for good Gent's Suit Pressed, 45c.; Ladies' or Gent's Top Coat Pressed, 35c.; Pants Cleaned and Pressed, 25c. M. HALL, Specialist in Fitting, Alterations, etc., 243 Centre Hill.—dec14,s,tu,th,fr