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President and Manager.

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**THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH**  
**THE EVENING TIMES**  
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so notoriously unkind and otherwise offensive as to turn the stomachs of the most decent element in the United States. The United States has no "designs on" Canada now, but we owe that condition to growth of benevolence or nobility of sentiment among our neighbors. Rather it is traceable to the unhappy issue of certain attempts upon Canada on occasions when this country was weak in men and money but stout in courage and vim in its determination to beat back the invader. The Herald's impertinence invites more detailed resort to the retort historical, but brevity serves. So great a newspaper as Mr. Bennett's might have confessed that it had burned the fingers of its pride and its reputation by dismantling its Ottawa bureau without "making faces" at the Dominion to cover the retreat of its correspondent. Is Mr. James Gordon Bennett at last adding the eccentricities of age to all his others? If that be the case it is to be lamented that his personal ownership of a great property enables him to compel the Herald to advertise his senility.

#### CUSTOMS AND CHANGES

Mr. H. G. Wells, in a recent novel says: "The line of human improvement and the expansion of human life lies in the direction of education and finer initiatives. If humanity cannot develop an education far beyond anything that is now provided, if it cannot collectively invent devices and solve problems on a much richer and broader scale than it does at present, it cannot hope to achieve any very much finer order or any more general happiness than it now enjoys."

No one questions that today we are shockingly prodigal of human life and of happiness. We are careful of wealth, of forests, water supplies and national glory, but we waste human beings and we waste human happiness.

Yet in a democracy human progress is only possible as the spontaneous product of crowds of raw minds swayed by elementary needs. It is difficult to change customs, and to do so suddenly and in an arbitrary manner may work havoc. Francis Bacon used to insist that time is the true innovator, and that he is a fairly risky reformer who breaks off the thread it spins with his everlasting challenge: "What's the good of it?" In changing customs nothing sudden or big is possible. New enterprises are feasible only if the customs are ready for them. The methods must conform to the customs. This is why the agitator, reformer, prophet, reorganizer of society, who has found out "the truth" and wants to "set a law passed" to realize it right away, is often a mischief-maker.

He has had considerable prestige in the last few decades, but when the reforms are examined it will be found that when he had success it was because he took up something for which the customs were ready.

It is only by agitation that customs can be changed. Whether the people will think a certain thing wrong, unjust, disgusting, or whether they will think the thing for it fair and reasonable, whether they will regard certain projects as feasible, ridiculous, or fantastic, depends largely upon the nature and extent of the previous agitation.

No one can predict with accuracy what the response will be to any stimulus that may be applied. The fact that the product of protected industries are sold abroad cheaper than at home, so that the protective tariff taxes us to make presents to foreigners, has been published scores of times. It might be expected to produce a storm of popular indignation. The error and folly of protection has been very fully exposed, but excessive indignation has not followed. The truth is that the agitation has not been carried on persistently enough. Henry Clay, the high priest of protection in the United States, thought that three years of protection would be sufficient to put all industries in that country on their feet; Sir John Macdonald thought that our industries would only need it during their infancy. There is an effort today to keep them infants in perpetuity so that the artificial stimulus may be continued. But publicists and statesmen, to whom it belongs to gauge the forces below the surface and to perceive their tendencies, can all see the forces that are at work, changing fundamental conditions, and know that only self-interest and tradition hold the system together. It can not long continue, and the people will soon be conscious of its unjust and unfair exactions. The critical turn has already been given to thought and interest, and the leaders and parties that stand by it will be buried under its ruins.

#### RURAL POPULATION

In considering the census returns, and upon analyzing them and showing the extent to which they reveal the decline of rural population, the Toronto Globe makes some suggestions as to the future.

The figures taken as a whole, it says, "indicate that the man on the farm must get more of the attention of national and provincial legislators than he has had in the past. The greater efficiency of farm machinery has no doubt had an important part in bringing about the decline of rural population in the eastern provinces at a time when modern inventions were making cities and towns more desirable as places of residence. Ten men on a farm with the appliances of today, and the operation of creameries, cheese factories, packing houses, cold storage warehouses, and similar adjuncts, will probably raise twice as much food for man and beast as they could have produced half a century ago. But the greater efficiency of the farmer by no means accounts for the decline of the rural population of Canada. The conditions of life on the farm have not improved as rapidly as in the city. There should be a systematic effort to make the farmer's life a more desirable one. Good roads; rural mail delivery; a public telephone system; really efficient rural schools, with a far larger proportion of male teachers than at present; reasonable freight rates; light electric railways connecting the chief centres of population with the farms; and, above all,

a tariff more favorable to the man on the soil, would do much to redress the balance and tempt the people of eastern Canada back to the land."

These are good suggestions, and yet, wide as is the ground they cover, they do not include a matter which may be in the minds of everybody, and which must be occupying the thoughts of the people of the Maritime Provinces particularly. Reciprocity, more than any public policy within the range of practical politics, would develop rural Canada. If the late government had been able to pass the reciprocity measure early last spring, and so have enabled the country to give it a trial for a year or two before bringing on the Federal elections, the outcry in the Conservative camp would have died away, and the trial would have proved, unquestionably, that the benefits following this measure of freer trade were too great to be questioned.

So far as the Maritime Provinces are concerned, there is no use, and there is no intention, to follow any line of blue ruin argument. The first thing to be admitted is that our population generally is in a fairly prosperous condition, and that the country is as well off as it was before it rejected, by such an overwhelming vote, the proposed tariff changes.

Yet the loss in prospective profits is greater, beyond any doubt. We have denied ourselves access to the market which would have absorbed, at good prices, all that we could grow in the way of natural products beyond our own needs. That would mean that the farmer and the consumer would have been relieved from restriction of a limited market, and would have received, of necessity, a greater measure of fair play from the middlemen and the larger corporations.

The farmer would have been encouraged to extend his operations, and to engage sufficient farm help, even at advanced prices, to enable him to secure from his land all that it would grow without cropping it out.

The theory that the Americans could injure us by taking our raw materials from us will not stand analysis in the calmer period which follows an election. That argument was all very well in the heat of the campaign, but it must be clear to every one that our own industries would have continued to enjoy a fair margin of protection—probably too great a margin—and that no industry which is naturally adapted to Canadian conditions would have suffered from the removal of the tariff on natural products.

The tariff remains the one outstanding issue in Canadian politics; and, in the light of the census figures, the people of the Maritime provinces, as they give thought to the question month after month, can scarcely avoid the conclusion that if we are to make gains in rural population and in rural prosperity—which so largely govern city growth and city prosperity—we shall have to have, within a reasonable time, free access to the American market for our leading products.

In some measure, of course, the tariff policy in this country may depend upon tariff developments in the United States during the coming presidential campaign, but Canada's true path in these matters is to legislate for our own people, regardless of any foreign nation; and the best interests of Canadians surely demand a scaling down of the present tariff, and an arrangement whereby the most profitable available markets shall be made free to the agricultural population which is the backbone of this country.

#### HABITS OF PRIMITIVE HUNSMEN

Hunting among the early races was not looked upon as a method of recreation, but as a means of subsistence. They were driven to it, not by the desire for pleasure, but by the cravings of hunger. Their skill and expedients would put to shame the users of the modern high power rifles and repeating shot-guns. It is reported of Australians that a man swims under water, breathing through a reed, approaches ducks, pulls one after another under water by the legs, wrings its neck, and so secures many of them. Among the natives of South Wales, a man will lie on a rock with a piece of fish in his hand, feigning sleep. A hawk or crow darts at the fish, but is caught by the man. If these stories can be accepted with confidence, they illustrate the extraordinary quickness and dexterity of those who have to work with out tools. In the days before the first farmer taught men to work in gardens and become tillers of the soil, the race were not so helpless as many might suppose. Their expedients and artifices for securing food were most effective and ingenious.

The early and primitive peoples were hunters without dogs or guns, fishers without hooks, and tillers of the soil without plow and spade. Their methods show an extraordinary amount of teachableness, immense ingenuity and adaptability. The Yuroks of California sprinkled berries on the shallow bottom of a river and stretched a net a few inches below the surface of the water. Ducks diving for the berries were caught by the neck in the meshes of the net and drowned. As they hung quiet they did not frighten away others. The Tarahumari caught birds by stringing corn kernels on a fibre which was buried under ground. The birds swallowed the corn and could not eject it. The Shingis Indians used the jaw of a fish with the teeth in for a knife; the arm and leg bones of apes as arrow points; the two front claws of an armadillo to dig the ground; the shell of a river mussel as a scraper to clean wooden tools. As the armadillo used its claws for the same purpose they went to that animal and learned husbandry. One tribe were in the habit of shearing sheep with the jaw of a fish, and in general the habits of the primitive tribes in securing food supply display much guile and admirable freedom from superstition and vanity. They went to the bee and learned building, to the worm and learned weaving, to the ant and learned digging, and their ingenuity and craft was much greater than that shown by the animals.

The selection and adaptation of things in nature to a special operation in the arts often show ingenuity as great as that manifested in any of our devices. For example, the Tahitians used a rasp made from the skin of the palate of a kind of ray—a short snouted species of skate-fish. The Jaws, holl, as the Tahitians are the products of persistent and open-minded experiment. They show acute observation. Intelligent experiment also is not lacking. It is reported of Eskimo that they invent imaginary hard cases, such as might occur to them, and, by way of sport discuss the proper way to deal with them. In the higher grades of the hunting stage, such as are presented by the North American Indians, buffalo hunting, for instance, called for the highest organization, skill and established unbending discipline.

Although in these methods there is an admirable freedom from superstition, yet it would be quite untrue to suggest that in the food quest of any primitive peoples the mystic element does not present itself. The problem of food is too serious to separate it from various rites and religious notions. The medicine man owes the authority of his position not to his knowledge of hunting and fishing, but to his knowledge of the formulae of incantation and exorcism to be used before the expedition departs. In many cases the men start in silence, sacrifices are offered to win the favor of the gods and no mention must be made of expected success. Many rites are performed to avert the evil which the instruments used must have a formulae of luck pronounced over them, and if the expedition fails the fault is laid to the men. Some one of them is thought to have done something amiss. In spite of all care and the favor of the gods the ancient did not always, any more than the moderns, have good hunting.

#### A MYSTERY OF THE WOODS

Murder is not a thriving trade in New Brunswick, and for that reason among others public attention for some time has been concentrated upon the tragedy in Kings county. The decision of the authorities to disinter the body of a man recently found dead in the woods appears to have been justified by the results of the autopsy made by the Crown's medical man on Saturday at White's Mountain.

Assuming for the moment that the man was murdered, as now seems certain, we come upon a mystery of a sort most unusual in this country. If the man was shot with his own rifle, it would seem to follow that some one trailed him into the woods, engaged him in conversation, and got the gun away from him on some pretext that did not arouse his suspicions. Apparently the man was shot three times, and of the three terrible wounds inflicted only one would have quickly proved fatal. A neighbor's statement that he heard three shots in the woods in that vicinity, taken together with other circumstances which came to light yesterday, leads to the supposition that while the man lay wounded on the ground the assassin watched his struggles for some time, and then, fearing that he might recover, or at least live long enough to tell the story of the crime and so name his murderer, fired two more shots into his body.

There followed some foolish attempts to give the affair the complexion of a suicide, such as placing the gun with the muzzle toward the dead man, together with a forked stick, which was to look as though it had been used by him to look up the trigger. Had the man been killed by one shot the tragedy might well have passed for a suicide, although, considering that this was the case of a robust man but forty-five years old, there has been revealed up to date nothing approaching an adequate motive for self-destruction.

But, are the authorities yet satisfied that the gun from which were fired the fatal bullets was the gun found beside the body? How many rifles of that calibre are there in the parish? If this was deliberate murder, and if an attempt was made to create the idea that it was a suicide, the authorities may have to proceed with uncommon care in examining the relations of several persons to the case.

As has been said, if the first shot had proved fatal, the snap decision that a suicide would very probably have passed unchallenged, but the autopsy shows that the wounds were of a character so serious that any one of them would have produced a state of collapse such as would have made it impossible for the victim to have reversed the heavy gun, reloaded it, and proceeded to shoot himself twice more. The two shots from the body, while there may be some simple explanation of it, is at present a puzzling feature.

At the moment there appears to be no well directed suspicion as to who is guilty, but in so small a circle as that within which the murdered man moved, it should be impossible for the guilty to evade the law. So far as is made public, all events, no one had a motive sufficient to explain assassination; but in criminal law there is an old saying: "There is no motive for murder," which means merely that there is no adequate motive. Some one had motive enough, and within the next few days in all probability the authorities will have evidence sufficient to warrant further action.

This is a case that must be cleared up. If it is necessary to spend money, and to employ the most effective detective aid, the money should be forthcoming. So far as is known up to the present time the local authorities will be quite equal to the occasion, but in any case they should have every encouragement, every assistance, and all necessary financial support. Murder must be discouraged in this country by the good old process of discovering and executing the murderer.

#### THE PANAMA CANAL

The work of the builders has reached the stage where the dread of failure in past. The great engineering problems have been solved, and very soon the canal will be a potent factor in determining the trend and direction of the world's commerce. The canal fifty years ago through the isthmus of Suez is the only other that can at all compare with this in importance, and that was resisted by Lord Palmerston with all the weight he could bring to bear against it. He did not foresee the advantages that would flow to British commerce from this great work; but it is said that the chief reason for his opposition was that he did not see very clearly how Britain would be drawn by the canal into a closer connection with the East and a more direct interference with Egypt. This he did not desire.

The Panama canal will affect still more directly the trend of the world's commerce. It is the realization of the dream of kings and countries for three hundred years. In 1501 the Spanish historian, Gomara, urged on Philip II. the importance of cutting the isthmus. In 1550 the Portuguese navigator Antonio Galvao published a book to demonstrate that a canal could be cut at Panama or Darien. A hundred years afterwards the scheme of Patterson, to establish a world empire for the commerce of all the nations at the isthmus, sucked up the money of Scotland. The dream of a New Caledonia between the two Americas came to nothing, and sickness and anarchy made tragic the fate of the dreamers.

When he crossed the Atlantic, the object of Columbus was to find a western passage from Europe to Cathay. It was only after a generation of unremitting toil that explorers became convinced that the American continent was continuous, and formed a barrier of enormous extent to the passage of vessels. History would have been very different had Columbus been able to realize his vision, and sailing through a passage between the continents, put Europe into immediate communication with the Far East. It would also have been very different had the canal been completed under Spanish or French influence and put Latin civilization in control of its immense possibilities.

The Pacific is surrounded by peoples who number one-third of the human race, and if we include India—to which the commerce of the Pacific has easy access—the numbers rise to one-half the race. Here, too, there is much room for growth. All the great undeveloped, habitable portions of the earth, except Africa, are ranged round the Pacific. Today the Eastern United States ports are as far from the Pacific ports by water as is western Europe. With the canal they will be 3,000 miles nearer. When the canal is completed, New York will be 7,000 miles nearer San Francisco by water than she is at present. There will be a similar gain in the routes to Yokohama and Sydney. Central United States will be sided still more. It will be possible to steam from Pittsburgh to Hong Kong and from Nebraska to Australia, perhaps from Chicago and Duluth to Shanghai and Manila.

In spite of this great natural advantage which the canal will give to the United States, the extra shipping which it will create will continue in the hands of British. There was a time when American ships and sailors seriously competed for the carrying trade of the world, but that was in the days before high protection had driven the American merchant marine from the sea. In those early days American merchant tonnage was large and important; today the United States has eleven ships engaged in international trade as against Britain's 2,000. At enormous expense the United States has built, or rather is building, a gateway into the new Mediterranean of the world, and so long as the Americans maintain their present fiscal policy it will be impossible for them to take full advantage of its opportunities.

#### THE WASTE OF LIVES

A report concerning the ravages of tuberculosis in the province of Quebec, just received by the King Edward Institute of Montreal, a society for the prevention of consumption, is sufficiently startling to lead to a sustained and effective campaign for the protection of the people against their own ignorance and neglect.

This report shows that the death rate in Quebec province from tuberculosis is one of the highest in the world, that women contribute twice as many victims as men, and that French-Canadians suffer more severely from the tuberculosis than do the English-speaking residents. In Quebec alone there were more than a thousand deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

## A WANDERER FROM THE WOODS

(Evening Times.)

A partridge was captured in the doorway of a building off Church street, in the very business heart of the city, this morning. The bird was tired; probably from a succession of long flights in and out of town, and so an unfeathered biped, true to the instincts of the human race, easily cornered the partridge and lugged it off, presumably to the family stew pot.

As a matter of fact, this is no way to treat one of our wild feathered friends under such circumstances. Seek the partridge in his native woods, stalk him there in his own country, give him the start that the law of sportsmanship calls for, and shoot him as he flies, and the transaction, while it may be objectionable from some standpoints, is relieved of the sordid features which mark it when a human being engages in a catch-as-catch-can struggle with one of these birds in the middle of man's brick and mortar agglomeration, and overcomes it by main strength and awkwardness. The man, in the school yard phrase, ought "to take on somebody of his own size."

How came a partridge at the corner of Church and Canterbury streets? (Let us hasten to say that it was not on the Times-Telegraph corner that the incident occurred.) The partridge is a bird of short distance, and he is essentially a bird of the ground. Even an old cock which has survived the perils of many seasons, which has evaded the foxes and the hounds, and kept out of the gun range, and which is notoriously a strong flier as partridges go, does not cover any great distance in one flight, except under extraordinary circumstances, as, for instance,

when escaping a forest fire, or when slightly wounded and greatly terrified. So this partridge which came into town probably flew during the night into some of the outskirts of the city, and then, confused, flew farther into the town, and again farther, instead of heading back toward the wooded country. When finally the bird found itself in Church street, about the time the banks were opening, while it was still unrounded, it was so weary and heavy of wing that even for its life it could not fly far.

Being surprised under such circumstances in a city of professed Christians, most of whom have never seen a live partridge, the proper thing to do was to form a guard of honor and escort the stranger back to the forest, to allow him to retreat unharmed, as if the human community understood all the circumstances and would preserve the amenities of an honorable retreat.

This ruffed grouse of ours is as fine a game bird as may be found in all the great north country. We have not studied it sufficiently, and we do not know why, in a country still so well wooded as ours is, the partridge does not increase more rapidly than it does. The New Brunswick partridge family has not increased as its enemies have decreased. We are coming to a time when we ought to study the partridge and take measures to increase the number of such birds in all our wooded countries.

Meantime, the arrival of this bird and the unfair treatment it received is proof enough of the fact that travel far from our streets and our constant struggle for money and preferment. There is much to be learned by going into the big woods, if he will but think about what is there, and, being there, of what he has left behind.

By an absurd error in the transmission of the census figures the population of Prince Edward Island was made less by ten thousand than the facts would warrant, but the truth remains that the province, according to the census, has lost 9,837 of its people since 1901, or nearly 10 per cent. of the whole. The present population of Prince Edward Island is 33,722. The yearly loss has been 882, which seems almost incredible. Equally strange is the reported loss of population in Charlottetown where almost every one had expected a gain. While the loss in the city is not large, a matter of 882 persons, it is very surprising that there was not a gain of at least 1,000.

The accuracy of the city enumeration is called in question, and reports are crop-ping up of persons and families who claim that they did not see or hear from an enumerator during the time the counting was in progress. Many new dwellings have gone up during the ten years past, the city has been extended east and north and west, and there are almost no vacant houses to be found. Under these conditions it is almost incredible that the population of the city has actually declined.

Under normal conditions, like those existing from 1871 to 1881, in which the Province received no influx of immigration but retained most of its natural increase of people, the population grew from 34,021 to 38,891, showing a gain of 14,870, or over 44.1 per cent. It is fair to assume that the increase by births over deaths during the past ten years has been at least 15 per cent., which on a population of 38,891, as it was in 1901, should now have shown a gain of 15,488. With

such gain the population of Prince Edward Island should now be 118,747.

By natural increase, with a gain of 3 per cent in ten years the population of the Maritime Provinces should have been 1,001,300 in 1901. Adding 15 per cent, this should have grown to 1,151,495 in 1901 and should now be 1,324,219. Instead we have the actual population of the three provinces according to the census of this year set down at 909,284. The actual loss of population in thirty years has thus been 414,833.

Reverting to Prince Edward Island, and applying the same process of reasoning, our population of 33,722 in 1901 should have grown by natural increase to 125,224 in 1901, and to 144,007 in 1901 and to 166,000 in 1911. Deducting from this our present population of 33,722, as reported above, the loss of population in this province in thirty years has been 71,778.

## OUR LOSS IN POPULATION

(Charlottetown Guardian.)

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