

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1912.

BRITISH AND GERMAN RELATIONS.

The press of Germany is evidently in no mood at this juncture to put a fair-minded and friendly interpretation on speeches delivered by British statesmen. Lord Haldane, the Lord Chancellor, who was recently sent on a peace mission to the German Government, is the latest victim. In a speech delivered in London, after his return, at the sixty-seventh anniversary of the German Hospital, he unguardedly indulged in a eulogy of the Kaiser. Contrary, no doubt, to the noble lord's expectation his remarks have provoked an outburst of rage in Germany. The German newspapers describe it as fulsome, offensive and obviously prompted by ulterior motives.

That the speech was a trifle overburdened with eulogies of the Emperor there can be little doubt, but there was nothing said to set the Teutonic mind at work hunting for hidden pitfalls. The great bone of contention appears to be that the Lord Chancellor incautiously claimed that the Kaiser was half an Englishman. In proposing his health and that of the Emperor of Austria, Lord Haldane said:

"The German Emperor is something more than an Emperor; he is a man, and a great man. He is gifted from the gods with the highest gift that they can give. I shall use a German word to express it. He has got 'Geist' in the highest degree.

"He has been a true leader of his people, a leader in spirit as well as in deed. He has guided them through nearly a quarter of a century, and preserved unbroken peace. We know no record of which a monarch has better cause to be proud.

"In every direction the German Emperor's activities have been remarkable. He has given his country that splendid fleet which we, who know about fleets, admire. He has preserved the traditions of the greatest army the world has ever seen.

"But in the arts of peace he has been equally great. He has been a leader of his people in education, and in solving great social questions. History will look back upon his reign as one remarkable for the great development of the German people in every direction of intellectual and moral activity.

"That is a great record, and it makes one feel a sense of rejoicing that the man who is associated with these things should be half an Englishman."

The Berliner Neueste Nachrichten, which is owned by the Krupp interests, and naturally would not support a policy of peace or disarmament at any price, comes out with the following comment:

"Last year England tried the whip on us. Now she is proffering us sugar-coated stuff. The object is the same—to arrest our promising rise to the position of a great sea power.

"The newest thing in that line is Lord Haldane's attempt to ensnare us with honeyed words, an attempt which is all the more unsympathetic because it is aimed at the person of the Kaiser and under cover of the most brazen and exaggerated compliments discloses the incorrigible arrogance of the British.

"Lord Haldane himself must know that the description of the Kaiser as 'half an Englishman' can only offend the German nation. It is a direct affront to us to ascribe the effusively overpraised virtues of the Kaiser to his alleged English personality.

"The noble lord, who ranks as a master of back door intrigue, evidently hopes by indulging in a bombastic eulogy to detach the Imperial person from that portion of the nation which realizes that Germany's only salvation is a strong and energetic foreign policy. Our Kaiser is a German through and through, and will not be misled by such unscrupulous adulation."

Die Post, also a spokesman of the war party, says: "The speech justifies the fear that some real and practical object is behind the thick clouds of incense which the Chancellor poured forth. We have heard words enough of this sort from the English, now let us see deeds."

It is, perhaps, fortunate that the British press has a sense of humor and has taken this outburst of German wrath in the proper spirit. The Pall Mall Gazette suggests that "Save me from my friends!" must have been the Emperor's exclamation when he read the criticisms of the German newspapers. Another English paper humorously replies to these strictures by remarking that no good ever comes of half measures. Evidently if Lord Haldane wanted to please the Germans he should have said that the Kaiser was an Englishman through and through. "How can we please these people?" asks a third. "They storm at us equally whether we scold or praise. Evidently our best plan is just to laugh at them." There is, of course, no particular significance attached to the incident, save that it tends to show the nature of the relations existing between Germany and Great Britain at the present time.

THE BRITISH INSURANCE ACT.

Referring to an article in this column, a correspondent writes to enquire how many people will be compelled to insure under the British Insurance Act, and what arrangement has been made with regard to medical attendance. Both points are of some interest. In round figures 13,000,000 people will be compulsorily insured—which means, in other words, every wage-earner whose earnings are below \$300 a year.

No definite arrangement has yet been made with regard to medical attendance. Physicians have so far refused the terms offered them by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as unfair and unreasonable. Mr. Lloyd George, on the other hand, contends that if the demands of the medical men were granted it would entail an annual expenditure of \$20,000,000. It is evident that a compromise must be arranged, as without the co-operation of medical men throughout the United Kingdom the act is unworkable.

Under the act benefits are not payable before six months from July 15, except the benefit of sanatoria for consumptives. It is characteristic of the unpreparedness of the Government to put this measure in force that not one of the sanatoria is as yet in existence. The act is full of inconsistencies. The consensus of opinion among its opponents appears to be that the terms should be complied with as far as possible and that the bill should be amended by the next Government.

LIBERAL ORGANS AND THE TRANSCONTINENTAL.

One day last week that paragon of all the virtues, the Toronto Globe, circulated a report from Cochrane to the effect that Major Leonard, chairman of the Transcontinental Commission, had decided to economize on the remainder of the road by revising the grade and allowing an eight-tenths grade and even several of one per cent. Instead of a four-tenths grade going West and a six-tenths grade going East, as provided for in the agreement. "A railway is as weak as its highest grade," added the Globe, "and it will mean that the millions spent on making the Transcontinental the finest railway on the continent for its length will, to a large extent, have been wasted." The extreme gravity of the situation, as depicted by the Globe, was duly commented upon by the Liberal press throughout the country.

An official denial was promptly sent out from Ottawa stating that no such course had ever been taken or thought of, and adding that the story had doubtless been published for intended political effect. The Liberal press invariably courts disaster when it attempts to employ the Transcontinental for political effect. As a monument to the extravagance, incompetence and mismanagement of the late Government the road will stand for all time in Canadian history. The interest charge of \$13,000,000, estimated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier has increased to \$60,000,000; the cost of construction from Winnipeg to Moncton, estimated by Mr. Fielding at \$54,000,000, is now placed at the enormous total of \$236,000,000 including interest; equal to two-thirds of the net National Debt of the Dominion, or no less than \$130,000 a mile.

The situation which will have to be faced sooner or later, amounts to this, that no company will be able to afford to pay 3 per cent. on the cost of the line, which is required after the first seven years of operation. The Liberal idea in constructing the road was to reduce freight rates. What prospect will there be of reducing freight rates with a fixed interest charge of \$60,000,000 on the road between Winnipeg and Moncton? This is but one of the legacies left by the Liberal Government to their successors. The Quebec Bridge is another. Under these circumstances it will be generally conceded that the Transcontinental Railway is not a promising subject on which organs supporting the late Government can, to any profit, exercise their powers of imagination by circulating false and misleading reports.

A PRACTICAL MOVE.

Concurrently with the close of the British manufacturers tour through Canada, the timely announcement comes from the Old Country that the British Board of Trade has awakened to the importance of placing home manufacturers in a better position to hold their own against foreign competitors in the Overseas markets. It is proposed to place on exhibition goods of foreign manufacture which now compete in Colonial markets with British-made articles.

As a means for comparison, the advantage of this plan to the British manufacturer will be very considerable. It will enable him to determine by actual demonstration in what points, if any, his competitors excel. The manufacturer of hardware, for instance, will be shown just why competing articles of American or German make are preferred in Montreal or Melbourne. He will see not only the goods themselves but will be furnished with full information as to prices and selling methods. During their extended tour through Canada the British manufacturers must have acquired much useful knowledge which can be turned to additional profit by this object lesson.

The British exhibition, showing what the competitor of the Old Country manufacturer has to offer, promises so well that it is likely to be imitated by other countries whose manufacturers, anxious to build up a profitable foreign trade, are nevertheless handicapped by insufficient knowledge of the needs of certain markets and are, consequently, unable to adapt their methods to meet the requirements.

Current Comment

(Toronto News.)

In opposition Mr. Borden declared that once in office, he would consult the British Admiralty and do the right thing by the Empire. If the situation warranted an emergency appropriation he would make one. He would formulate a permanent policy and consult the people on it. From this attitude Mr. Borden has never veered. That is why he is in England today, and that is why we may rely upon him to hold Canada's honor high among the nations.

(Montreal Witness.)

We know now where Mr. Borden stands, and we know the country will stand by him. With the assurance that Canada is going to do her share we have his demand that she shall have a place in the Imperial councils. That is right; it has been already offered as far as the British Government could offer it. But it is also right that the determination of Canada to do her share should be put first and independently of any bargaining.

(Montreal Gazette.)

A telephone girl in Vancouver is reported to have committed suicide because one of the subscribers to the service cursed her over the wire. The public would give its approval if the company concerned should withdraw its instrument from the culprit. The man who swears in the course of his business has something weak in his mental make-up. The man who swears at a woman over a telephone wire is a coward and a ruffian.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Should the United States Government decide to break faith with regard to tolls on the Panama Canal, it will sin against the advice of many of the most important American newspapers, which seem to have a keener sense of treaty obligations than the public men of the country.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Ladies wearing hobble skirts complain that they can't step high enough to get into the new street cars. It's a serious problem that is presented. Most cars are lowered, or—? No, the alternative is not to be thought of. It may be possible to solve the problem by utilizing step-up transformers.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

Orilla has discarded its daylight-saving experiment after but two weeks' experience. The soporific charm of that last hour in bed in the mornings is difficult to overcome.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The president of the Dominion W. C. T. U. disapproves of branched peaches. The lady is quite right. No branched peach can hope to retain her complexion.

(Vancouver Province.)

The man who invents a non-quiet gas for dirigible balloons will rank as a public benefactor with the discoverer of the seedless watermelon.

(London Free Press.)

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Most Anything

Banter Babble Both, and Bits of By-play. A LAMENT FOR THE LITTLE BOATS. You who sail over the sea in ships, Tall ships, and strong ships, and ships of renown, When you go down It's the tale of the tow; But nobody knows When the little boat goes And the fishermen drown.

Aviator Killed While Hunting.

Paris, July 16.—Hubert Latham, a famous Anglo-French aviator, and one of the pioneers of heavier than air aviation, was killed by a wild buffalo on June 7 during a hunt in the French Congo. Latham's death occurred on the Chari river near the Bahr Es Salamat, practically in the centre of the French Sudan in the direction of Lake Chad.

Great Damage by Floods.

Denver, July 16.—It is estimated by the Mayor of Denver that damage to the extent of \$4,000,000 was done by Sunday's floods in this city. Three thousand people are homeless and a dozen reported missing are yet to be accounted for.

C. P. R. Denies Report.

Montreal, July 16.—"We have never dreamed of building any railway to Moncton, N. B.," said Vice-President McNicoll, of the C. P. R. this morning regarding a report that the railway had plans for the construction of a line via Minto and the Central.

Most "mad dogs" are just thirty

Olympiaka Speleus Billettforalings is Swedes for Olympic games. If one wants a room in Stockholm he can go to the housing offices at 17 Brunkebergsgator or 12 Kungsträdgårdsgatan.

The News in Short Meter

LOCAL.

Visiting Officials. The members of the Canton Wabasso of Fort Fairfield, Me., will pay a visit to the Maritime Provinces in the week of August 10 to 17. They will make the trip from Fredericton to St. John by boat arriving here on the afternoon of August 12th.

Company Organized.

M. H. Nashon of Barbados has succeeded in organizing a company here to be known as the St. John Barbados Trading Company. The stock of the company will all be held by Anglo-Africans and the shares are valued at 50 cents each. At an organization meeting held in St. Phillips church on Monday evening, Mr. Nashon was elected president of the company, Jos. Berkeley, chairman, John Jackson, treasurer, Rev. Dr. Pearson, secretary, and R. H. McIntyre president of the board of directors. The company will import West Indian fruits and other products and their goods will be handled by a local commission house, Mr. Nashon left for Barbados last evening where he will organize a similar company.

Police Court.

In court yesterday morning George Hamm and W. A. Connor, charged with not having the rear lamps on their automobiles lighted according to law gave reasonable excuses and were allowed to go. Officials of J. A. Puggaley and Co. were in court to answer the charge that automobiles were hired by them which had dealers' tags attached. They said they had no knowledge of cars in their garage which were so tagged, but Policeman Wittrien said he had seen one with a party of local people in it. The case was adjourned until this morning. An Indian charged with drunkenness was allowed to go on condition that he should return to his home. William Polley was committed for trial on a charge of stealing liquor from a C. P. R. car. He will be tried at the next sitting of the County Court.

Strawberries are Lower.

Large consignments of strawberries brought in yesterday on the river steamer, also on the Millerville ferry, from points on the Kennebecasis, caused the price to drop from twelve to nine cents per box. Few strawberries are offered for trial on a charge of stealing liquor from a C. P. R. car. He will be tried at the next sitting of the County Court.

Progress of River Logs.

Fredericton, July 16.—The last big drive of the season on the lower portion of the St. John River, is now on the way to the booms. It is expected that about 1,000,000 feet of river. About 125,000,000 feet are now in the booms, and it is not believed there will be more than 5,000,000 feet more before the river is clear.

Fined for Selling Liquor.

Moncton, July 16.—Mrs. Barbara Bourque was fined for selling and costs or three months in jail on each of two charges of selling liquor without a license.

A. R. Slipp, M. P. P. Buys Farm.

Waterborough, Q. C. July 16.—A. R. Slipp, M. P. P. has purchased the De la Riviere farm near Sypher's Cove, on the western side of Grand Lake. It is reported that Mr. Slipp is also negotiating for other farms in the neighborhood.

Twenty Years in Priesthood.

St. Mary's, July 16.—Today marks twenty years in the priesthood of Rev. John J. Ryan, of St. Mary's. Father Ryan was ordained by the late Bishop Sweeney on July 16, 1892. He was for some time stationed at Silver Falls, St. John county, and came to St. Mary's as rector in October, 1895.

Struck by Lightning.

Washademoak, July 16.—During a heavy storm last week the house of Joseph Hetherington was struck by lightning and the chimney shattered and other damage done. The family were asleep at the time and no one was injured, although they had a mercurial escape.

GENERAL.

Many Bathers Drowned. Cologne, Germany, July 16.—No fewer than twenty-two persons have been drowned during the last two days in the Rhine below the city while bathing. Their deaths are attributed to the extreme heat.

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DR. CHASE'S OINTMENT.

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Examinations for Entrance Scholarships, Saturday, Sept. 14th. Courses for University, Royal Military College, etc. Senior and Preparatory Schools in separate buildings. Every modern equipment. Successful in 1911: Honor Matriculation, St. Mary's; Royal Military College, all passed. Autumn Term Begins on Thursday, Sept. 12th, at 10 a.m. Boarders Return on the 11th. H. W. AUDEN, M.A., Principal.

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Good Words for the Provinces.

Worcester, Mass., July 16.—Christopher M. Gould, of St. John, returning to Worcester where he was a blacksmith twenty-two years, is

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