

THE TELEGRAPH'S BOSTON CORRESPONDENT  
SOURCE OF OUR WEAK POINTS AND SUGGESTS REFORMS

Remarks on Some Features of Provincial Life from the Standpoint of One Who Hopes to See His Native Land Prosper—Need for School Reforms—The Undeveloped Field for Maritime Province Manufactures—A Brighter Day Coming.

(By Charles H. McIntyre.)

Boston, Sept. 11.—The native of New Brunswick who makes occasional visits home must often be led to ask himself, what improvements have been made and what is the prospect for the future? As he travels about among the people and observes the conditions under which they live, he will naturally make comparisons with other countries which he has seen. As he muses and reflects upon these conditions, as he talks with the people concerning their trials and aspirations, feelings of pleasure and sorrow will alternate. The progress and development of the experience of the writer as he journeyed through various parts of New Brunswick this summer.

The work of an absentee reformer is not very apt to be fruitful in results. No better illustration of this fact can be found than in the case of Ireland. The friends and admirers of dark Rosellen are scattered all over the world. In the United States, in Canada, in Australia, in South Africa and elsewhere, the natives of Ireland have been full of schemes for their redemption. Many times they have denounced England for her supposed neglect of the little pariah, but so far as I am aware their achievements have proved extremely disappointing. Their efforts have not lifted poor old Ireland forward one step. What progress and development she has made, have been due almost entirely to the constructive efforts of her own leaders and people who have labored diligently upon her own soil. If I may carefully read Sir Horace Plunkett's book on "Ireland in the New Century," he will find most convincing proof of this proposition. Criticism for the sake of criticism, aimless agitation and constant fault-finding will never lead any people or community up the pathway of progress. But suggestions and ideas inspired by a sincere desire for improvement may sometimes appeal to an intelligent race.

Some of Our Weaknesses.

One of the first things that will impress a visitor in many portions of the province is the absence of any real sense of the construction of buildings. Houses are put in a slipshod way and little or no attention is given to their appearance. The gospel of the plain brush is sadly needed in many rural districts. No one will expect to see palaces or buildings out of proportion to the means of the people, but he would expect to see greater regard for the beauty and attractiveness of the real home. All young countries I suppose are more or less deficient in this respect, but I am inclined to think that the people are much too careless in the construction of their buildings and the household conveniences attached thereto. It is a matter which can easily be remedied and would add very much to the attractiveness of our farms and villages.

In some of the more remote regions I observe an improvement. They are not so low and squat on the ground as the older structures and they have been built with some view to comfort and taste. The necessity of good cellars in a cold climate is gradually becoming apparent. The farmer's wife can now claim a few modern conveniences, but her domestic feelings are greatly lessened. The selfish work of our mothers should not be imposed upon a younger generation of women, who are unable to bear it.

Need for Books.

As one enters the houses of our people, both in town and country, he is greatly impressed with the dearth of suitable reading matter. The man or woman who in addition to his newspaper, outside of St. John, I do not know of a city or town that possesses a free public library. In some towns there are schools or colleges which have libraries, but they are little used by the body of the people. The children of our rural districts have no access to country libraries and problems. The beautiful and instructive magazines and books now published on this topic are to them an unknown world.

All this is a great loss. It means a low and sluggish state of intellectual life. It tends to raise up an ignorant, gossiping crowd of country louts, whose minds have no taste for the refinements of life, no real interest in the problems of their community and no aspiration for better days. Age after age they live as their fathers have lived. Lack of intercourse with the world makes them conservative and suspicious. You could not get a half dozen such farmers to co-operate on any beneficial plan to save your life. Many causes have conspired to produce this result. In almost every parish they have been at work. Long distances between the people, a poor school system, dullness of life, laziness and want of stimulating leaders. Some of these causes can be eradicated and some cannot. But intelligent study of the people and their conditions has in other countries achieved great results. Why cannot something be done in New Brunswick?

A Way Out of It.

The cities and towns should provide for free public libraries. In every civilized community such things have become a necessity. In the rural sections, why cannot the county councils take up this question and establish at least one free reading room in each county? This room should be centrally located and have a circulating library system attached so that any qualified resident of the county could take out books by mail or otherwise under suitable restrictions. The books and magazines in these libraries should deal mainly with topics of country life—such as rearing of flocks and herds, poultry, farm buildings, rotation of crops, soils, gardening, fruit, flowers, dairying, forestry, etc. Lots of people imagine that there are no accurate and instructive books about those things. It is just here that they are mistaken. The number of beautiful and attractive publications on these topics is amazing. They are adapted to the young as well as the old. I am confident that their frequent perusal would gradually direct the thoughts of our young people to the wider opportunities of their heritage. We might then hope to see a more intelligent body of citizens who understood the conditions of their country, and who by their achievements had some confidence in its future. Such libraries and reading

matter need not be started on an elaborate scale. If county councils were unable to raise sufficient funds, small grants should be made by the province.

Government and Agriculture.

Supplementary to this, it seems to me, that our local government should study more carefully the agricultural conditions. I am quite aware of the assistance already rendered. But it is intermittent and inadequate. The government has never gone to the root of the farm-labor problem, it keeps no systematic track of immigration coming into the country. No list of available farms is kept, and no thorough examination of the capabilities of different parts of the province has been made. It lacks initiative and fails to provide intelligent leaders who can persistently preach the latest ideas of agricultural progress.

A Tribute to Sir Wm. Macdonald.

The most promising movement in the direction of reform is that of the consolidated school. Too long our educational system has neglected the study of agriculture. The rural pursuits which constitute the basis of our prosperity. If half our people derive their living from the soil why should not their children have some intelligent idea of its conditions? The day has already arrived when a different kind of education must be given to the rising generations of our rural communities. It was my privilege this summer to visit the new Macdonald school at Kingston. All natives of New Brunswick must be forever grateful to Sir William Macdonald for this noble enterprise. His construction and equipment will most surely be a turning point in the educational system of our province.

Under the guidance of D. W. Hamilton, the genial and efficient principal, it was a rare pleasure to visit the several class rooms and observe the character of the work which is being done. The school is a staff of five bright and progressive teachers who in addition to the ordinary subjects of the common school, teach nature study, manual training and household science. The grounds and building have been kept in excellent shape and the garden plots adjoining illustrate the happy union of intelligence and industry. The conditions are far removed from the primitive conditions of the different school districts now united, when he looks out upon the unimproved country, he is reminded of the country about him, he will agree that if such a school can be made a success in Kingston, it can be made a success in any locality of the province. It is indeed an oasis in the desert of country thought and life. In August the principal reported an enrollment of about one hundred and eighty pupils and to witness this number of young boys and girls gathered in the beautiful assembly hall, singing patriotic songs, rejoicing in the wholesome influence of sunlight and hope, was a sight long to be remembered.

With a contented and happy schoolhouse filled with a few disconsolate pupils and a teacher without adequate inspiration. While I do not believe that the consolidated school is by any means a cure for the problem of rural life it is the beginning of better days. This school will be a stimulus and example to other districts for united cooperation. In fact the day is not far distant when the legislature should compel many districts to unite.

School Reform.

Considering the sad fact that more than 400 school districts in the province had no school last year, it is not time for the legislature to act? I agree entirely with the recommendations of the chief superintendent in his last report that all the property in each parish should be "assessed at a uniform rate for the support of all the schools in said parish." At the present time the educational burdens are unequal, the property owners of many districts are too indifferent to keep up a school. This is a state of affairs which can and should be remedied at an early date. No doubt there would be some opposition to this, but the benefit of the entire community must be supreme over that of any individual.

The superintendent also recommends the establishment of "Parish School Boards" which shall have supervision of all the schools in the parish, which shall determine what, where, and how the schools shall be located, and how most efficiently and economically to provide for isolated districts which cannot be united to other districts. This is an excellent suggestion. It would unquestionably promote better schools and tend to kill out that petty district jealousy which is always an obstacle to progress.

Finally the superintendent recommends a compulsory attendance law. The time is fully ripe for the adoption of such a law. How often have I heard a certain class of New Brunswickers complain that they failed to receive an education in their youth. Why? Because the parents neglected to send their children to school, and there was no law to compel them. Cases of genuine hardship there undoubtedly are—where children have no ready access to school—but I am inclined to think that the absence of a compulsory law and the indifference of parents are the chief causes for such results. In Massachusetts we have a compulsory school law and it works well. No boy or girl up to a certain age is allowed to be employed during school hours. On the walls of the Boston public library are these words: "The Commonwealth requires the education of its people as the safeguard of order and liberty." I wish I could burn that motto into the minds and consciences of every parent in the province. The right kind of an education is the most important thing in the life of every New Brunswick youth.

Where Are Our Factories?

But while improved methods, better reading matter, better schools, and more systematic governmental effort are imperatively necessary, I do not overlook the fact that the resources of our province are limited. Notwithstanding the official report, there are portions of the country which cannot be utilized for agricultural purposes. These will be left for woodland. To what extent the land of the province is poor and rocky I do not know. This is a matter which should be determined so that intending settlers would no longer be misled. In certain products we cannot hope to compete with western lands, but we have still an enormous area of available soil, on which might be planted many thousand happy homes. The necessary counterpart to an organized country life, is a variety of manufactures in our cities and towns. These would provide a market for the farm products. They would also afford more extensive employment for our young people.

I have never been able to see why manufacturing could not be carried on as extensively in the Maritime Provinces as in New England. What natural advantages has Brockton or Lowell or Haverhill over St. John, Fredericton or Moncton? None at all. From small beginnings their great industrial life has grown. If it be a satisfactory one. The name of energy and intelligence, with reasonable capital, can accomplish in New Brunswick what has been done here. It is mainly the attitude of mind which counts. From an agricultural standpoint our Maritime Provinces are far superior to New England. Supplemented by a whole range of various manufactures, there is no reason on earth why these provinces should not retain the natural increase of their people and digest a moderate supply of immigration. The people of the west grow so rapidly as the west, but they will always contribute necessary life to the Dominion.

Their situation by the sea must provide her winter ports and bring her into most intimate connection with Europe. Here also will be found an agreeable life for people of moderate means, a life which is free from the extremes of heat and cold, and the vicissitudes of an older civilization. You cannot measure it by acres of wheat or millions in gold. The tired and weary brains find recreation in increasing numbers to find recreation and rest. Great changes are impending. From over the hills-top of my native province I can see a better day approaching. I can see an awakened rural life, new industrial aspirations, a more intelligent and resourceful people who believe in the future and have the patriotism to declare it.

FIND CLEWS THOMPSON MURDER CASE

Police Work on Theory That Some One Familiar With Hotel Killed Editor.

(N. Y. Herald, Sept. 12.)

Substantiation of the theory that Jacob H. Thompson, exchange editor of the New York Times, was murdered in his room, in the St. James Hotel, last Thursday night by some one familiar with the conditions inside the house, and whose motive was robbery, was obtained last night when it was learned that within the last six weeks two robberies had occurred in the hotel.

The first victim of the thieves was Miss Molis Sidebotham, well known in society in a large western city, who came to New York eight weeks ago with her mother and brother. The family engaged rooms at the St. James Hotel, and Miss Sidebotham has been a patron of the house until within the last two weeks, when she went to Mount Sinai Hospital to undergo a minor surgical operation.

At that institution yesterday Miss Sidebotham said about five weeks ago she intended to send to her mother, who had returned to their western home, \$50. She went to the hotel office carrying a fifty dollar bill in her hand. She wrote a note to her mother, and enclosed the bank note in it. As she was about to drop the letter in the hotel post box the day clerk, who had seen her place the money in the envelope, warned her that it was dangerous to send money in an unregistered letter, and suggested that she allow him to send the money to the nearest post office sub-station for her.

Miss Sidebotham said she learned that the letter was given to a bell boy who took it to the nearest sub-station. It was returned later to the hotel by the postal clerk who received it with the statement that the sub-station would not handle it because it was evident that the letter had been tampered with.

The letter was mailed, however, subsequently at another sub-station and was received in good time by Miss Sidebotham's mother without the fifty dollar bill.

The second robbery occurred about three weeks ago, when a day clerk, who had been taken from the room of Leslie Coggins, a patron of the hotel. The police were notified of both robberies. Mr. Weyford, chief of the hotel, has said that he had never been found by anyone who had been in the hotel since the day of the robbery.

The police, under Acting Chief of Detectives McCauley, worked yesterday on the theory that Mr. Thompson was murdered by some one familiar with the conditions inside the St. James Hotel.

Captain McCauley evolved this theory after putting together several facts. The first was that the day clerk who had been taken from the room of Leslie Coggins, a patron of the hotel. He was told that it was a rule of the house that the halls should be patrolled every hour throughout the night. This was the only time that the day clerk and the boy in charge of the elevator.

It was said that during Mr. Thompson's residence in the hotel, the day clerk had been taken from the room of Leslie Coggins, a patron of the hotel. He was told that it was a rule of the house that the halls should be patrolled every hour throughout the night. This was the only time that the day clerk and the boy in charge of the elevator.

It was said that during Mr. Thompson's residence in the hotel, the day clerk had been taken from the room of Leslie Coggins, a patron of the hotel. He was told that it was a rule of the house that the halls should be patrolled every hour throughout the night. This was the only time that the day clerk and the boy in charge of the elevator.

DIED SAME WAY AS HIS VICTIM

Charles Herzog Used Piece of Same Veil He Strangled Young Girl With

HANGED HIMSELF

Body Found in Lonely Ravine—Confession of Murder for Which Innocent Man Paid the Penalty, Led to Search Party—Remorse Haunted Him for 30 Years.

Minot, N. D., Sept. 12.—The dead body of Charles Herzog, who left a written confession that he was guilty of a murder committed thirty years ago, has been found by a posse of searchers. The body was hanging to a tree in a secluded ravine in the county of Willard. Pinned to his breast was a piece of wrapping paper on which was written the following:

"My name is Charles Herzog. Over thirty years ago I murdered a young girl named Lizzie G. Grombacher, near Youngstown (Ohio). Charles Sterling, an innocent man, was tried, convicted and hanged for the murder of this girl. If my body is ever found, notify my mother, Catherine Herzog, at Girard (Ohio)."

If Herzog had not left a written confession and had not made at the ranch a threat of suicide, his body might not have been found for years, as he hanged himself in a spot seldom visited.

Around his neck was a shred of green stuff such as is used as a face veil. It is here that Lizzie Grombacher wore such a veil when murdered and that part of it was used to strangle her. The piece found about Herzog's neck is supposed to be the same piece of the veil as he showed to the nearest post office sub-station for her.

He told the story of his crime, declaring that he had kept it all these years to himself, and that he was now ready to confess it. He said that he had been a day clerk in the hotel where he was taken from the room of Leslie Coggins, a patron of the hotel. The police were notified of both robberies. Mr. Weyford, chief of the hotel, has said that he had never been found by anyone who had been in the hotel since the day of the robbery.

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SMUGGLING CASES MAY FIZZLE OUT SPRINGHILL MINER INSTANTLY KILLED

Border Episode Up in Court at Bath—Men May Be Tried at December Term.

(Bangor News.)

The four days' session of the United States district court in Bath last week was one of the longest held there in many years. The smuggling cases were expected to attract the most interest, but they went over to the December term, the defendants being released Friday morning on their personal recognizance in the sum of \$1,000 each.

These defendants were Raymond Albert, storekeeper and town clerk of Madawaska; Thomas Daigle, ferryman between Madawaska and Edmundston (N. B.); Alexis Albert, stage driver between Madawaska, Fort Kent and Van Buren, and Elsie B. Amant, of Van Buren. All were defendants in the case of the north of Acadia county, and that he has handled their case well but expressing the compliment mildly. All pleaded not guilty through their counsel and their cases were continued, and says Mr. Keegan, "I believe that this means the end of the case. For I don't believe the government can prove that my clients knowingly evaded the U. S. revenue laws. They are all law-abiding citizens, who have never been connected with any criminal offenses and are considered to belong to the best families in the community in which they reside."

It was alleged by government officials that these gentlemen were implicated in the efforts of a Montreal company to smuggle Canadian whisky into this country. At the time of their arrest, it was said that the government officials had broken up a scheme which had been going on for years and they felt very much elated over their achievement. Mr. Keegan does not deny that these gentlemen may have been implicated in the scheme, but if they were ignorant of it, never stopping to look into the packages, bundles or boxes which they handled in their general line of business.

Most of the prisoners were sent to Portland jail and Friday United States Deputy Marshal Haskell took over 11, all being handcuffed in pairs with the exception of a cripple, who was obliged to go by his lonesome on a crutch.

Taking a Handicap.

On the eve of a battle of the Boer war a soldier heard of the prowess of the enemy, got what is termed "cold feet," so addressed his commanding officer, saying, "Boys, fight as you never fought before, but if it comes to the worst run for me, being a little lame, I'll start now."

From "Etiquette" by "Lady Clara" in the "Lark." "When dining or luncheon with friends, you would not fold them up, but address them on the table when you rise to leave."—Punch.

BRITAIN'S TREATY WITH CUBA HALTS

Havana Merchants Take the View That it is Inimical to American Interests

Havana, Sept. 12.—Two of the principal commercial and economic associations responding to a confidential request made by the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States to advise as to whether the pending treaty between Great Britain and Cuba ought to be ratified, have expressed their opposition to its ratification.

The principal reason given is that Cuba's commercial interests are too inextricably bound to her great customer, the United States, to permit of granting for years such privileges to British ships and citizens as these nations desire. Another reason given is that the adoption of the treaty would allow British ships to trade with Cuba as well as merchantmen, not warranted by the relations between Cuba and the United States. The latter reason is considered the more potent, on account of the suspicion that the treaty, while ostensibly one of commerce, navigation and amity, would, in reality, be a concession of the right of Cuban ports to those given to the United States by the treaty signed in May last, after the definite favored nation clause had been eliminated in consequence of representations made by Mr. Sullivan, the American minister in Havana, to the Cuban government. A report regarding the alleged objection to the treaty was received by the United States government from the Cuban minister in Washington, since which time, according to a statement made by the secretary of state, Senator O'Rourke, the United States government has ceased its representations regarding the treaty, and has instead taken upon the treaty is regarded as inimical to the interests of the United States.

The Chamber emphatically advised that Cuba do not concede that the right of Cuban ports to those given to the United States by the treaty signed in May last, after the definite favored nation clause had been eliminated in consequence of representations made by Mr. Sullivan, the American minister in Havana, to the Cuban government. A report regarding the alleged objection to the treaty was received by the United States government from the Cuban minister in Washington, since which time, according to a statement made by the secretary of state, Senator O'Rourke, the United States government has ceased its representations regarding the treaty, and has instead taken upon the treaty is regarded as inimical to the interests of the United States.

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Laurel to Attend Quebec Banquet.

Ottawa, Sept. 12.—(Special)—Sir Wilfrid Laurier will leave for Quebec on Monday next and will attend the banquet of the Manufacturers' Association in that city on the 20th inst.

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