

IN THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE



The ice breaker "Lady Grey" which has been trying to reach and release the Canadian Merchant Marine Steamer "Canadian Spinner" caught in the ice-pack in the lower St. Lawrence.

SIDELIGHTS ON EVENTS IN THE MOTHERLAND

(N. Y. Evening Post.) Commenting upon the proposed establishment of a chair for the study of American history, literature and institutions, the London Times says: "There may be difficulties in working out the idea in practice, but of its excellence there can be no doubt. The English and American peoples have so much in common that it is essential in common that effusive orators are sometimes disposed to forget, or to slur over, the fact that Englishmen are foreigners to the American people and that Americans are foreigners to the British masses. They are not quite like foreigners to either race, but they are foreigners, and from the course of their history and the independent development of the ideas, principles and habits which they have evolved from the original common sources, they must always remain foreigners. We are not the same—far from it, said Mr. Page in one of the great speeches by which he successfully labored to bind close the relations between us. There are conflicting differences, habits, points of view. . . . We are not one people. That is a fundamental truth which makes of the highest importance that we should devote ourselves to the study which the new chair is designed to promote. The necessity of such a discipline, if we are to do what we can do for each other and for the world, was plain to Mr. Page, as it must be plain to everybody who knows the two democracies."

and its real cost to the government is becoming wider and wider. Where and when is this subsidy, which the prime minister at Sheffield told the country was 'going' to be brought to an end? "It seems to me that in their treatment of the pensions of retired officers re-employed during the war the government does not sufficiently consider the devaluation of money," says a writer in the London weekly. "In the present state of our national finances I have not the courage to suggest an all-round increase of pre-war pensions. However urgent the need, the country simply could not stand the additional burden. But when a new claim upon the state is created I certainly think the fact that the original pension is only worth now half of what it was when it was granted might be taken into account very much more freely than it is. After all, this would only mean dealing with a few hundred cases, and the discrimination in their favor would be fully justified by the circumstances."



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is about to approve. If they only could foresee the verdict of posterity on their folly! I hope little or nothing from the House of Lords—it has been effectively muzzled, and will not dare to question the wisdom of that peace-at-any-price policy which is now favored by the British nation, for in these degenerate days it is sufficient for sedition to hold a pistol to our heads and up go our hands."

Admiral Cyprian A. Bridge, in a published letter, writes: "Even before that (Dewey in Manila Bay) all sorts of small unpleasantness had arisen when German men-of-war were fallen in with by other men-of-war. Where there were no naval authoritative rules accepted by the British nation, for in these degenerate days it is sufficient for sedition to hold a pistol to our heads and up go our hands."

F. S. Boas, in a letter to the London press, writes: "In answer to Sir W. Dawson, the chancellor of the exchequer has stated that he is willing to consider the suggestion of an increased export duty in order to discourage sales of art treasures now in this country to foreigners. May I urge that any action taken should also be extended to literary treasures, especially early printed books and manuscripts? At the time of the Mostyn sale in the spring of this year you were good enough to allow me to draw attention to the preparatory losses that the nation is incurring through the sale of unique works of English authorship to purchasers from overseas. In the Nineteenth Century and After, I deal more fully with the matter and suggested the appointment by the government of a representative committee to inquire if any practical steps could be taken to prevent the exodus. If the chancellor of the exchequer would include literary as well as art treasures in the measure that he foresees, it would be a step of great importance and one that would be welcomed by all who have the interests of literary research at heart."

Describing a recently completed aeroplane for freight and passenger service, an English reporter writes: "The machine includes a saloon which is entirely free from bracing wires, stays or struts and which is fitted with carpets, windows—one for each of the fifteen passengers—electric lamps, clocks, mirrors, wireless apparatus, telephones and lavatories. There are velvet-upholstered armchairs, with receptacles for maps, books and papers, and a spacious luggage department is provided between the saloon and the pilot's cockpit. The aeroplane, which is fitted with two Napier-Lion engines, each of 450 horsepower, yesterday made a record for the forthcoming aircraft exhibition in two hours and ten minutes."

"Experts in parliamentary procedure," says the London Truth, "hold that as the anti-dumping bill imposes taxation it ought to originate in committee of supply. The Speaker sustains this opinion; the bill is doomed and will have to be withdrawn. Influential ministers would welcome a decision in this sense, for it

would open a way of escape for the government from an extremely embarrassing situation. Even if the Speaker rules that it is in order, friends equally with opponents of the government realize that this grotesque measure can never be carried in its present form. It is an ominous fact that a motion for its rejection has been put down by Lord Robert Cecil, whose concern is less with free trade than with the maintenance of parliamentary control over taxation. Events are steadily pushing Lord Robert into an attitude of hostility to the government. The independent Conservatives in the house of commons are now meeting regularly under his chairmanship. They have no love for this government. A new parliamentary force, possibly the nucleus of a new political party, is slowly being welded together under the double pressure of events and some personal ambitions."

A statute will be brought before congress at Oxford University next term to provide that women may be matriculated and admitted to degrees in the university. The statute provides for the retention of the present women's delegates and for the recognition of societies of women students which comply with certain conditions. Women admitted as members of such societies will, if the statute is passed, be matriculated as members of the university. They will wear academic dress and will be subject to regulations as to conduct and discipline made or approved by the vice-chancellor and proctors. They will be admitted to all examinations and to all degrees except those in divinity, under the same conditions as men, and after graduation will be qualified to sit on boards and committees and to act as examiners.

A correspondent of the London Morning Post supplies a copy of a private letter on Egyptian matters, written by the Lord Cromer in 1908 in which the latter says: "I have no objection to local, by which I mean not only native but resident European, self-government. Those are the lines on which Egyptian development in the future should and must proceed. But I have the strongest possible objection to interference from England, whether parliamentary or official, especially the latter. The very unwise Englishmen here, who are sometimes calling out for it, do not know what they are doing. They would, if they had their way—which they certainly shall not have as long as I am here—bring in a bill to give the distant and ill-informed King Stork was much worse to deal with than the local King Log—whatever the faults of the latter may be. I look on this as a really serious danger in the future. I think I can ward it off in time."

C. J. Gahan, the eminent entomologist, says, in a letter to the London Times: "In reference to the question as to how a house-fly survives the winter in numbers sufficient to ensure the perpetuation of its race a short note published by Dr. D. Kellin in the last number of Parasitology is of the greatest interest. In this note Dr. Kellin, whose knowledge of fly larvae is unsurpassed, makes known some observations, communicated to him by a French colleague, M. E. Seguy, which more than suggest that one way, at least, for the house-fly to pass through the winter is as a larvae living and feeding in small shells. M. Seguy had proved that the larvae of the house-fly will readily penetrate the closed diaphragm of the shell and entirely devour the small snail, and, having destroyed one snail in its shell, will then pass on to consume another. To those who are familiar with the extraordinary habits of various fly larvae there is nothing astonishing in these results. They but prepare the way for an acceptance of his statement that larvae of the house-fly are obtained from nine of fifty snails, which were collected in the middle of January last from a wall close to a military hospital."

Lord Sydenham writes in a published letter: "When the air force bill was introduced at the end of 1917 a definite policy seemed at last to have been attained, and in both houses of parliament the government appeared anxious to emphasize the fact. The sudden announcement that the air force was to become an appanage of the war office came therefore as a shock to all who realize what the new service means to the empire. Fleets and armies need attached aircraft, which are now essential to their operations. If, reverting to the vicious plan to which I have referred, the admiralty and war office proceed to build up separate air services, the essential homogeneity of an air force will be destroyed. Its problems will not be dealt with as a whole, and its scientific progress will certainly be arrested. But this is not all. Air force now means something infinitely greater than an arm auxiliary to the other combatant organizations. It is a most powerful independent fighting service capable in some conditions of deciding a war by its own unaided action, of carrying out vastly important offensive operations without the aid of the other hand of providing the most effective defence against an enemy's air attacks. The air force which we possessed in the later stages of the war could have done more than was accomplished if its offensive power had been turned to the fullest account. It has a psychology of its own, and it will never reach the full measure of achievement unless it develops a distinct air policy and is trained in peace and directed in war by flying men."

"I learn on excellent authority," says a writer in a London journal, "that Mr. Asquith is still desirous of returning to the house of commons. As Christmas is so close, it is doubtful whether he will be back on the front opposition bench this year, but his friends are most anxious to secure his return early in the new year. At the same time they do not expect a statesman of the prestige of the ex-prime minister to throw himself into a fight where his chances of success are jeopardized by a movement and a labor man going to the poll as well. There is a feeling growing up on both sides that the time has arrived when some arrangement might be made between the whips of the rival sections to permit the ex-M. P. to get the 'suitable opportunity' for election he requires."

CHEAP FARES FOR BIG FAMILIES IN FRANCE. Paris, Jan. 8.—Parents having four or more children will enjoy special privileges under a railroad bill passed by the chamber of deputies. To those traveling third class reductions in rates will be given amounting to 50 per cent to families of four children, 40 per cent to those having five, and 50 per cent to those having six or more. Albert Clavelle, minister of public works, said the increases provided for were 85 per cent above the pre-war average of passengers, 144 per cent for necessities and 192 per cent for merchandise. He added they would increase the cost of living only 2 per cent.

C. J. Coll has been appointed manager of the Minto Coal Co., to succeed John Henderson, resigned.

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