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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1913.

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM.

The truth of the old adage that drowning men catch at straws is to be found in many of the "arguments" to which the Liberal obstructionists are now reduced in the naval debate. A typical example occurs in the Telegraph's Ottawa despatch announcing that a most "serious" discovery has been made by Mr. Murphy, the former Secretary of State. To quote the Telegraph's headlines: "Found emergency before Admiralty did; British note (the Memorandum) dated after Borden to explain how Cabinet decided on \$35,000,000 contribution before they had the Memorandum from Downing Street."

Mr. Murphy, who, we are told in the despatch, made this "somewhat startling disclosure" to Parliament, desires it to be understood that "these facts are so serious that the House should not be asked to take the word of the Prime Minister on this or any other subject until a satisfactory explanation had been given." All this childish talk turns on the statement that the Memorandum was dated "Downing Street, October 25, 1912," not received in Ottawa until November 2 or 3 and that Mr. Monk's letter of resignation, in which he expressed regret that he could not concur in the "decision reached by the Cabinet yesterday," was dated October 18th. Mr. Murphy professes to believe that Mr. Borden and the Cabinet came to a decision before they knew the contents of the Memorandum. He invites an explanation. In the meantime there are certain facts to which he does not refer, for obvious reasons, and which are very much to the point.

A comparison of the statement made by Mr. Borden, when introducing the Naval Aid Bill, with the statement in the Memorandum, showing the purpose for which the document was prepared, effectually refutes Mr. Murphy's line of argument. Before reading the Memorandum to the House Mr. Borden fully explained the purpose for which it was written. "Shortly after the session closed," he said, "I went to England accompanied by some of my colleagues, and for several weeks we had the opportunity from time to time of conferring with the British Government and of consulting with the technical and expert advisers of the Admiralty respecting the whole question of naval defence and especially the conditions which confront the Empire at present and in the early future."

"I desire to express my warm appreciation of the manner in which we were received by His Majesty's Government who took us most fully into their confidence on the great questions of foreign policy and of defence and who have accorded to us all relevant information at their disposal. A portion of this is necessarily of a very confidential character which cannot be made public, but an important part will be communicated to the House in a document which I shall lay on the table this afternoon."

It is clear from this statement that Mr. Borden and his colleagues were not only fully informed on the subjects reviewed in the Memorandum before they left England, but were taken "most fully" into the confidence of the British Government and given "all relevant information at their disposal," a portion of which was confidential and could not be made public. The Memorandum was not prepared for the information of Mr. Borden and his colleagues. As Mr. Harcourt, the Secretary of the Colonies, stated in the covering letter to His Royal Highness the Governor-General, it was prepared:

"In compliance with the request of Mr. Borden, with a view to presentation to the Dominion Parliament, if, and when the Dominion Ministers deem it necessary."

If further evidence were required it is to be found in the opening paragraphs of the Memorandum itself. It is there set forth:

1. The Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada has invited His Majesty's Government through the Board of Admiralty to prepare a statement of the present and immediately prospective requirements of the naval defence of the Empire for presentation to the Canadian Parliament if the Dominion Cabinet deem it necessary.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are prepared to comply and to supplement, in a form which can be made public, the confidential communications and conversations which have passed between the Admiralty and Ministers of the Dominion Parliament during the recent visit to the United Kingdom.

The Memorandum was not prepared for the guidance of Mr. Borden and his colleagues but for the guidance of the Canadian Parliament. The Cabinet was in possession of even more information than the Memorandum disclosed; before that document arrived. Mr. Monk, as a member of

the Cabinet, would receive that information in confidence. For conscientious reasons he differed from his colleagues as to the course to be pursued, but that does not alter the facts of the case. Mr. Murphy's mare's nest has served one good purpose. It has again brought prominently into notice the fact that the Memorandum was prepared for the guidance of the Canadian Parliament. All the foolish arguments the Opposition can present will not stultify the Admiralty's recommendation which is embodied in the terms of the Naval Aid Bill.

BENEFICIAL SMOKING.

It is consoling to learn from the Lancet, that tobacco smoke is inimical to the activity of micro-organisms, since it contains, among many other things, pyridin, which has been shown to be a powerful germicide.

Definite experiments, this great medical journal states, have recently been made which show that tobacco smoke rapidly destroys in particular the comma bacillus of cholera. A good many years ago it was reported by the senior medical officer of Greenwich Light-house, near London, that the tobacco smoking inmates enjoyed comparative immunity from epidemics, and tobacco smoking was believed to have had a disinfectant action in cases of cholera and other infectious diseases. Again, during a cholera epidemic at Hamburg, it was reported that not a single workman engaged in the cigar factory in that city was attacked by the disease. Later it was stated that among a body of five thousand cigar-makers only eight cases and four deaths from cholera occurred.

Subsequent experiments proved that tobacco smoke destroyed the bacilli of Asiatic cholera as well as pneumonia, and there was some evidence also that tobacco smoke was preventive of some forms of nasal catarrh. It is interesting to note that pyridin is official in the French pharmacopoeia, and in France it has been employed in the form of inhalation in asthma, emphysema and angina pectoris, and mixed with peppermint in diphtheria.

Excessive tobacco smoking, of course, may easily give rise to constitutional effects which diminish the resisting power of the body to disease, in which case it is probable the habit would afford not only no protection but an opening for invasion.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN MAINE.

Mr. Cook, of Vassalboro, in the House of Representatives, State of Maine: "This is a Government by one-half the people not by all the people, and for all the people such as Lincoln desired. There are rich women in Maine who cannot vote but their coachees can, and the new-comers to our shores take part in conducting a Government who are unfit and know about as much concerning a Government as they do about embalming oysters. The argument that it would take too much of woman's time for voting is absurd as it takes but a few minutes to vote. Women have been too long in the kitchen. Let us give them time to get out of the kitchen and vote."

Similar powerful addresses were delivered by other members in favor of the suffrage in the Maine House of Representatives on Wednesday of this week. By a vote of 88 to 40 the House accepted the majority report "ought to pass" from the committee on Judiciary on the resolve providing for a constitutional amendment giving the women the right to vote.

Our friends in the House of Representatives across the border appear to hold somewhat more advanced views on this question than the majority of the members in the Local Legislature. It looks as if the women of Maine will get the franchise. The final test to secure the necessary two-thirds vote required for a constitutional amendment will be made when the measure comes up on its passage to be enacted.

A HARD NUT FOR FREE TRADERS.

A report on the "Finances of the German Empire" by Earl Granville, Counselor of His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin, has recently been issued by the British Government. It states that the revenue of Germany from indirect taxes, that is, Customs and Excise, amounted last year to £38,590,836. This, on Germany's population of 65 millions, represents a burden of 18s. 4d. per head.

In the United Kingdom the amount raised from Customs and Excise in the financial year 1911-12 was £49,645,000, which with a population of 45 millions, represents a burden of about 22s. per head. It is instructive to note that under "Free Trade" the people in the Mother Country pay about 11s. 3d. per head per annum more in Customs and Excise duties than their German neighbors across the North Sea have to pay under Protection!

DIARY OF EVENTS

FIRST THINGS

THE FIRST NAVAL BATTLE.

The first naval battle recorded in the world's history was fought between the Corinthians and the Coryrans, fought February 28, 664, 2,567 years ago today. Coryra, an island off the coast of Epirus, now called Corfu and belonging to Greece, had been settled by Corinthians, and for centuries owed allegiance to the mother city. In 664 B. C. the Coryrans declared their independence, and the Corinthians immediately prepared a fleet to reclaim their colony.

Coryra did not wait for the invaders to land on her shores, but herself gathered a fleet and sent it out to meet the Corinthians. Then ensued the first battle on the seas, a furious contest between the crews of what were little better than big rude row-boats, from which the Coryrans emerged the victors. The battle was waged off Cape Actium, a promontory in the north of Achaia.

From that time on sea battles were frequent, and all of the petty States of Greece built navies. The emities engendered by that first sea struggle resulted over two centuries later in the Peloponnesian war.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

SIR JOHN ALLESBROOK SIMON.

Sir John Allebrook Simon, British solicitor-general, who is slated to succeed Sir Rufus Isaacs as attorney-general, is still a young man, and will pass his fortieth milestone today. His record in the law is truly remarkable. Ten years ago Sir John was one of counsel for the British Government in the Alaska boundary arbitration. He is the son of a Congregational minister.

REAR ADMIRAL CHADWICK, U. S. N.

Rear Admiral French E. Chadwick, U. S. N., retired, will have no birthday this year, as he was born on February 28, 1844. Mr. Chadwick, W. Va. Admiral and Mrs. Chadwick have lately been travelling in Europe and were recently received by the German Emperor. Mrs. Chadwick had just invented a new type of stretcher for use in carrying the wounded from a battlefield, and the device has been highly praised by army men.

VICTOR L. BERGER.

North America's only Socialist parliamentarian, Victor L. Berger (the "L. S. N." stands for Lame Duck), will spend his fifty-third birthday today writing words and singing the "Swan Song." Next week Mr. Berger, famed as the only protector of the proletariat in the United States Congress, will return to private life and his editorial duties in the City Barman and Skillet. He wants it distinctly understood, however, that he is saying an adieu, and not good-bye, and that he expects to go back to Washington as the "Socialist minority" Mr. Berger has made many friends among his colleagues, who will view his passing with regret.

Socialism's "Lame Duck" was born in Austria-Hungary, of a wealthy family on February 28, 1860.

SCRAP BOOK FOR TODAY

BIRTHDAY OF DR. GRENFELL.

His Work in the Far North—Gave Reindeer to Labrador Eskimos—Canadian Government May Obtain Supply of Northern Section of Dominion.

Everybody has read of the mission of Dr. Wilfred Thomason Grenfell among the Eskimos of Labrador and the deep sea fishermen of the bleak Newfoundland coast, but little has been written about one of his greatest benefactions. When the people he has served so patriotically and so faithfully celebrate today the forty-eighth anniversary of the birth of their benefactor, their thanks in no small degree will be for the reindeer he caused to be introduced among them.

Dr. Grenfell was born near Chester, England, February 28, 1865, and after leaving Oxford and the London Hospital enlisted as a medical missionary. He fitted out the first hospital ship for the North Sea fisheries. His work in Labrador commenced twenty-one years ago, and by his hospitals, schools, co-operative stores and small industrial enterprises, soon accomplished wonders in that barren land. A physician, Dr. Grenfell soon found that most of the diseases of the Labrador Eskimos were subject, including the dread scurvy from which they were never free, were due to lack of sufficient fresh meat and vegetables. To provide a better supply of fresh meat, he started pigeon lofts and hare farms, and experimented with cattle, but eventually decided that the domesticated reindeer offered the only solution of the difficulty.

Then he began preaching reindeer to the Eskimos, but the hard-hearted Newfoundland government turned a deaf ear. Eventually he succeeded in interesting wealthy individuals, and a fund was raised with which some 300 Norwegian reindeer were purchased. In the five years that have passed since the animals were unloaded at Cromwell, the herd has more than doubled in numbers, and there are now about 800 domestic reindeer in the various settlements of Labrador and Newfoundland, while hundreds of the animals have been butchered for food.

The reindeer have been very profitable, and have thrived well in their new home. Their milk is declared by many to be superior to that of cows, and is used in the making of butter and cheese. As a draft animal the reindeer is invaluable in those cold climes.

The Canadian Government are now considering a project for supplying reindeer to the Eskimos in the northern sections of the Dominion. The caribou and walrus on which the Eskimos have long depended for their food supply are rapidly becoming extinct, and investigators declare that the northern races will soon vanish from off the face of the earth unless speedy relief is afforded. The reindeer, which supplies fresh food, milk and butter, and is at the same time an animal of transport, is the salvation of the Eskimo.

STATE SAVINGS BANK

HANDSOMELY FINISHED

MELBOURNE, VIC. AUS., FEB. 27.

The internal fittings of the new Victorian State Savings Bank consist wholly of the Australian timbers, Tasmanian blackwood, Australian oak and Tasmanian myrtle, 30,000 feet of timber being thus used. The beautiful grainings of the blackback blackwood is strikingly shown in the paneling of the banking chamber.

The construction of the building is placed under several individual contracts instead of on the usual single contract system. The commission for provision and erection of the fittings was entrusted to an Adelaide firm who have carried it out in up-to-date fashion, all the timber required having been "finished" in Adelaide and conveyed to Melbourne ready for assembly.

The original estimate for a four-story building was £45,000, but an additional story was added, which, with other alterations, has greatly increased the construction outlay. The building was opened by the Governor (Sir John Fuller) in presence of a large and representative assembly, political, social and commercial.

SOME ANCIENT WIT

Many of the things that were recorded in the days of ancient Greece as humorous would hardly be so considered now, and it may be of interest to give a few quotations that have come down to us from a time now more than twenty centuries ago. Aristippus was once reproached for indulging in rich food, and he said to his critics: "If you could buy rich things for a trice, would you not be rich?" On receiving an affirmative answer, he replied: "Then it is you who are stingy, not I who am a gourmet."

He once excused himself of borrowing money from all his friends by saying that he only took it to use it. He once asked Dionysius for some money, and when the tyrant said: "I thought philosophers had no need of money," he replied: "Give me some and I will answer you." Dionysius then gave him some gold, and Aristippus said: "Now I have no need of money." We would hardly think these things very clever now, days. Diogenes more nearly approached our modern ideas of humor.

Asked when men should marry, he replied: "Young men, not yet; old men never!" which is not very different from Punch's advice to those about matrimony, which consisted of the simple words: "Don't." Asked the best way at which to dine, he said: "Rich men when they wish; poor men when they can." When asked what he liked best, he said: "City Barman's." A reply that has been imitated on countless occasions. Antisthenes once proposed that the Athenians should vote that asses were horses, and on being asked why he could be so absurd, he replied: "That is the way you choose your generals."

Many other witty expressions have come down to us, and some of them are in common use. Thus: "I appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober" was actually said by a prisoner to Philip of Macedon at least twenty-two centuries ago, on an occasion when the king was pronouncing a sentence while drowsy from drink. Philip, having gained a great victory, wrote boastfully to the king of Sparta, who replied: "Measure your shadow and you will find it no longer than it was." He once told a woman that he had no time to listen to her cause. "Then quit being kind," she answered. This was characteristic of the Greeks. Hence the expression, "Attic salt."

Perhaps you recall the answer of the Greeks to the Persians, whose emissary said that their archers were so many that their arrows would darken the sun. Then, said the Greek commander, "we will fight in the shade." For the most part satire and not poetry seems to have been the inspiration of Greek humor, and of this the plays of Aristophanes furnish excellent examples. Very many of the writers of ancient Greece were given to the elaboration and repetition of the same thought over and over again. Their humor suggests a paucity of things of interest and an abundance of leisure. Athenians was a man of letters, who lived some 2100 years ago. His work is "The Feast of the Learned."

It appears to have been considered as of very great merit, but to a reader in these times it is heavy reading. A striking example of things in respect to heaviness is the "Battle of the Frogs and Mice," written at least twenty-five centuries ago, and even by a burlesque of the Iliad, and is an exceedingly clever composition. As an illustration of the style of this long poem, an exact translation of the revision of Parnell's translation may be given. The author is speaking of a mouse, which plunged into the water to meet King Frog.

But when aloft the curling water rides, And wets with azure wave his downy sides, His thoughts grow conscious of approaching woe. His idle tears with vain repentance flow. His locks he rends, his trembling feet he rears. Thick beats his heart with unaccounted fears. He sighs, and chills with danger, longs for shore; His tail, extended, forms a fruitless oar.

This heroic style is maintained through many pages. Possibly there is not an apter better example of sustained humor.

Greek humor found expression not infrequently in gentle verse. We recall the second stanza of "Drink to me Only with Thine Eyes":

I sent thee late a rosy wreath, Not so much honoring thee. As giving it a hope that there It would not wither here; But thou thereon didst only breathe And sent it back to me. Since when it grows, and smells, I swear Not of itself but thee.

Ben Jonson got this thought from an old Greek poet, whose verse is shorter, but more delicate. He wrote:

I send thee myrrh, not that thou mayest be

By it perfumed, but it perfumed by thee.

Physical infirmities were often the subject of Greek humor. As an example, take the case of the man, who was described as having so long a nose that he could not hear himself sneeze, and of another whose nose was said to be so long that his face made an excellent sun-dial. One man was so bad a singer that whereas men die "when the night raven cries," the night raven died when he sang. Lucilius wrote of a maiden, who had wonderful black hair, that it was a libel to say that she dyed it, because he knew where she bought it. Humanity has been pounding out that jest for more than twenty centuries, and there is hardly a month in which it does not appear in a modern comic paper as an original joke. Lucilius also tells of a thief, who, he said, died of envy because another thief was hanged on a higher gibbet than he. Many persons will remember these lines:

A viper bit a Cappadocian's hide; But 'twas the viper, not the man, who died.

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STATISTICS

Five Years Ago

Fifty-Aviation Flight Across

London, Feb. 27.

getting a little disheartened to aeroplane flying, many fatalities the place of news always blue to encourage a pointer to the great, indeed, the case, of the record of the across the Alps in 1908, as he picturesquely death of M. Chaves tryman, who took a um, flew the Alps at place, but was killed. The Alps have obstacle in the way, the greatest difficulty and Napoleon, each of his age, con a young aviator h minutes; and it possibilities of the most difficult field

Twisted

The constant repetition of accidents and incidents apt to throw the out of focus. Although it is really not one of practice, every day, I fear, likely to be herent dangers of in the event of the wrong, yet it is a touchstone of statistics figures from France

estimating in this connection. In 1908 there is number of flights of five certificated aered a thousand men was killed. In 1905 fifty who covered a ber, were killed, giving one death to every 1910, twenty-nine every seventeen aviators, and the number of deaths, occurrences of flight. In a proportion of on aviators, and the place during some flights, and last year, which occurred ver 100,000 miles of portion of one to ed pilots and just flights.

Marked

Larger as the number of their context, proportion to the and machines. The marked progress, skilled almanachs. These are daily ber, and in the Royal Aero Club 400 certificated pil alone, a striking possible army as I referred last more paltry and ever in the face of

As it is, it is a to come through brilliant and daring tors in the Balk number was at these only suggest ties of the great or even the small if called into acc

Aviator's Acc

Giving his own across the Alps. "Before I could cent seventy men some 18,000 cub set off at noon, a had reached a h feet, and above time, but the m compelled me to

the mixture of carburetor, and the Simpson. I

STOMACH G

SOUR, C

"Pape's Diap

gestion, Gas

Dyspepsia

"Time!! In Av

Missus will go. burn, sourness or eruptions of distress, bloa headache. Pape's Diap

speed in regulati is the surest, q tain remedy in besides it is ha Millions of me their favorite fo know how it is bad stomach.