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ST. JOHN STAR.

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THE EMPIRE AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

The recent sessions of the Imperial press conference afford abundant evidence of the anxiety of the leading British statesmen over the future of the Empire. Mr. Haldane feels that the next twenty years will determine the destiny of the empire, while Lord Roberts with characteristic anxiety, limits the period of probation to the next twenty months.

Englishmen are, very evidently, nervously aware of the military efficiency and naval aggressiveness of Germany. There is no indication that these responsible Englishmen are afraid of the future, but there is no denying the fact that they are sobered by the possibilities of the future.

The assertion of British supremacy has for many years been an annoying and unpleasant challenge to other ambitious people. To make good that boast may demand a demonstration of a very primitive sort. But whether or not the nations insist upon such a trial of strength, British influence will certainly decline in the same of international politics, the empire cannot match ship with ship and man with man.

The acknowledgment of that necessity will naturally have considerable influence in securing the consolidation of the empire. Already, the self-governing colonies have assumed some responsibilities for military and naval preparedness. As the sense of danger increases, there will be felt a popular demand for greater expenditures in preparations for defence. Impatient imperialists may very well pray for the strongest of Britain's foes. For such a response would reveal in a moment the full strength of the empire.

But while the present agitation may be furthering the cause of the Imperialists by calling into existence an army and a navy for the defence of the whole Empire and from every part of the Empire, yet there is no indication that such preparations for Imperial defence are in any way altering the political relations of the various units of the Empire. The fact that Canada is willing at the present time to begin constructing a navy indicates a certain popular sense of political responsibility. The fact that such building is proposed when Great Britain is seemingly worried over the problem of defence, is an indication that in Canada there is a dependable loyalty to Imperial interests. But the fact that Canada purposes to retain the control of any naval force that may be created, should very clearly indicate the necessity for the gradual readjustment of the political relations within the Empire.

If Canada becomes that which both Englishmen and Canadians expect to become, its power of defence will not bear an insignificant relation to the fighting force of the whole Empire. When that day arrives it is inconceivable that Canadians would be willing to abide by the present political relationship with Great Britain.

But in the matter of the Imperialist is the foe of progress. A crudely organized Imperial Council in which the colonies should be accorded insignificant representation would scarcely tend to establish the Empire. The Imperialist whose dream is to have vast fighting forces may very well pay for an early war. In such a war fighting forces of the Empire will be developed to their utmost efficiency. And after the war the Empire would doubtless retain some comprehensive scheme of Imperial control in military and naval affairs.

But if the British Empire is to become a unique political organization of free and independent peoples, then we may very well look forward to an extended plan. The British Empire under stress circumstances may become a tremendously effective fighting organization. But few Britishers are ambitious for that result. The prominence of the Empire must not be made to depend upon the hostility of the rest of mankind. If the Empire is to endure the distracting influences of peace there must be a gradual readjustment of political relations in response to the sentiment and the internal prosperity of the various parts of the Empire.

THE DISSENTERS.

The statement was made at the Presbyterian General Assembly yesterday that if the proposed plan of church union is carried into effect a large portion of the church would secede and form a new organization. Such a step would be quite in accordance with the history and spirit of the Presbyterian church. One of its chief characteristics has always been the sturdy independence of its members and their unwillingness to take any

step dictated by expediency or other motives of which their conscience cannot approve. This same spirit has led to many divisions in the past. Of recent years, however, the tide has turned in the other direction and a gradual union of the various sections has taken place. It would be a great pity if such a division should now take place in the ranks of Canadian Presbyterians. It is to be hoped that if the church does proceed with the steps towards union that the minority will find it possible to fall in line and use their energy in making the new movement a success rather than in the creation of still another faction.

With the flames invading towns and villages the menace of the forest fires is becoming more serious every day. While the fires are being checked in some districts they are increasing in violence in others and unless the province gets a heavy downpour of rain within the next few days, the fires bid fair to assume proportions with which the residents of the districts in danger will be utterly unable to cope.

Speaking of permanent pavements, Ald. McGoldrick says that "there is no reason in the world why the city should not embark upon the performance of an adequate programme and holds that it is only up to the rate-payers to proceed with the preliminary steps." The preliminary steps have not bothered the citizens so much in the past as have the final steps of paying for pavements supposed to be permanent which have proved their worthlessness before the bills came due.

IN THE RING.

When you're in life's sawdust ring, Doing stunts 'like everything' (And that's all it is, whatever way you view it) The merry clown called Chance Turns the hoop of Circumstance Just before your face, don't hesitate—go through it.

For it's of the thinnest stuff, Only just a paper bluff, And to lose your nerve there's not As easy as can be, From the back of Destiny And the trick will always win the loud applause.

W. EDSON SMITH.

George Ade, at a dinner at the Ritz in London, said of luck: "Nobody is so dependent on luck as the playwright. When he prospers he considers luck a kindly goddess, but when his work fails, then luck seems to him a spirit perversely cruel and mean."

"He regards luck as Tom Jackson's wife, of Lafayette, then." "Tom Jackson said one morning at breakfast: 'Hang it all! While I was reading I dropped my Imperial Order of the Roosters pin on the lawn, and I've been looking for it now ever and ever. It's gone for good, I suppose.' 'That night when Jackson sat down to dinner there was the pin beside his plate. 'Bully for you!' said he. 'Where did you find it, Martha?' 'I let Tom go barefooted this afternoon,' said Mrs. Jackson quietly."

"Dear me," said the kind-hearted pedestrian, pausing and putting on his pin, "have you fallen through the coal hole?" "Not at all," replied the man, who was still endeavoring to extricate a leg from the hole, smiling winningly. "As you seem interested in the matter I will tell you what happened. I chanced to be in here and they built the pavement around me."

Mrs. Blocker (upstairs)—Bridget, have you turned the gas on in the parlor, as I told you? The New Domestic—Jewel—Yes, mum; can't you smell it?

THE SPINNERS.

The shimmering leafage of a vanished day Enwraps the silkworm in its cocoon gray. So 'round life's twilight memory hath spun A tissue rainbowed by the morning sun.

ADA FOSTER MURRAY.

First Sportsman—Did that 'oree win yer pot yer money on? Second Sportsman—No; 'e was pinched for lottin'.

She was proudly showing him a very cheap, very light car that her husband had just bought. "Awfully light, isn't it?" said he. "Yes," said she. "Isn't it splendid? Whenever it breaks down we can always push it home."

The way of the transgressor may be hard, but it isn't lonesome. She (at the piano)—I presume you are a true lover of music, are you not? He—Yes, I am; but pray don't stop playing on my account.

"My wife can cook," said the benedict proudly. "Don't worry! Maybe she won't," answered the bachelor.

Cardinal Logue, during his visit to Poconito Hills, was asked how many sermons a preacher could prepare in a week. Smiling, Cardinal Logue answered: "If the preacher is a man of extraordinary ability he can prepare one sermon; if a man of average ability, two; if a blockhead, ten or twelve."

MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Sir Frank Lockwood is the author of a good story told at the expense of Sir C. M. Warrington, K. C., who died recently. The Chancery leader had a somewhat peculiar walk—he used to move from side to side after the manner of a seafaring man. When he was going down a corridor of the Law Courts one day the then Mr. Lockwood observed, "Warrington is bound to be a judge. He is cut out for Master of the Rolls."—Tit-Bits.

GOMEZ MADE GOOD IN VENEZUELA

Many Reforms Since He Took Office.

Deficit Changed to Surplus; Oppressive Taxes Removed; International Status Improved.

CARACAS, May 31.—In striking refutation of General Castro's recent statement that Venezuela would be bankrupt in six months is a paragraph from President Gomez's message to Congress, which shows that, notwithstanding the suppression by the new government of numberless oppressive taxes, the deficit in the bank of Venezuela left by Castro has been transformed into a respectable credit.

President Gomez's recent decree, removing completely all the oppressive export taxes on coffee, cocoa and hides which fell so heavily on the long-suffering agriculturists and which produced to the government a yearly income of almost a million dollars, has removed any doubt as to the progressiveness of the new government and consequently great crowds surged in to the capital building to express approval of the reforms.

The statistics appearing in the message relating to the foreign and domestic debts of Venezuela show a most satisfactory condition of affairs, the total obligations of the nation being only \$26,729,841 bolivars (about forty million dollars), the interest payable on which, and amortization, has been proceeding regularly for several years past, without any interruption.

In urging on congress the necessity of passing laws which will effectively suppress the sale of opium and the use of the present custom of recruiting by force the president said: "I appeal to your humanity and to your sentiments of republican duty when I ask you to pass a law which will correct this odious form of slavery in violation of the constitution and which will return to the people their rights and their faith in the value of the principles proclaimed in our codes."

The following mention was made of the ending of the troubles with the American government: "The United States, after having repeatedly insisted upon the payment of the debt declared by this government of seeking a devious solution of pending international questions decided to send an emissary of peace and harmony whose good intentions made it possible to draw up the protocols of February 13, which put an end to the differences between the two nations. It is a pleasure to advise you that the United States as well as Venezuela, have re-established their respective legations in Caracas and in Venezuela, and have renewed the old friendship which unites them by many and traditional 'brotherly bonds'."

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PICTURE SHOW GAVE BLACK HAND IDEA

Threatening Letter Sent to Woman After Youth Saw Plot in Play.

ST. LOUIS, June 10.—Moved by the pitiful story of hard work and poverty made in a signed statement by Jesse J. Felicie, shoe worker, 19 years old, in which he confessed that he wrote a letter to Mrs. Virginia B. Wright, demanding \$2,000, Assistant Federal District Attorney Charles H. Davis said this afternoon that if the boy's statements are true, he will move to reduce the \$2,000 bond, under which he was bound over for the grand jury, to \$500.

Felicie was arrested at the post-office Sunday morning when he called for a letter to his mother, to "Mr. Clarence Tubben," under which name he confessed he had written to Mrs. Wright, asking \$2,000, refusal of which would cost the life of one dearer to her.

Felicie said his father drank heavily and abused his mother; that his three brothers did not work regularly, and that he had supported the family most of the time. He saw a successful Black Hand plot in a moving picture show and decided to try an account of the approaching wedding of Mrs. Wright's son, Thursday night, to Miss Virginia Brown, a Pittsburg heiress, which took place tonight, at which millions of dollars were represented.

He became desperate over his hopeless poverty, wrote the threatening letter and mailed it.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE.

"I like to see a man take an interest in his work." "So do I. I once knew a policeman who was so enthusiastic that it positively pained him to see anybody out of jail."

Rheumatism

More than nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism are simply rheumatism of the muscles, due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism. In such cases no internal treatment is required. The free application of Chamberlain's Liniment is all that is needed and it is certain to give quick relief. Give it a trial and see for yourself how quickly it relieves the pain and soreness. Price 25c; large size, 50c.

Chamberlain's Liniment

Is all that is needed and it is certain to give quick relief. Give it a trial and see for yourself how quickly it relieves the pain and soreness. Price 25c; large size, 50c.

A CHARMING TRIO.



The first figure in the illustration shows a very effective combination of heavy white linen and coarse linen lace. Its most striking features are the large black velvet buttons used to trim the coat, and the unusual width of the sweeping skirt.

Tan colored linen dressed in brown composes the smart gown on the second figure. This will give the girl who is handy with her needle a splendid idea, for braiding is the most popular trimming just at present for summer dresses.

The dainty little dress shown wears a tan colored Tuscan straw hat trimmed with a wreath of small pink roses and brown ribbon. A straight brown linen dress fastened at the side-front with three large pearl buttons, and worn with a guilpe of thin embroidered muslin.

Slippers and stockings of brown complete this pretty picture.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES NOW THREATENED BY THE FIRES

Unless rain falls before evening there are fears that the forest fires will destroy a number of small villages in Carleton county. For several miles the forest are a mass of flames and great damage is resulting. Late reports state that the fires have entered the larger towns and there is no telling how great the damage will be. Hundreds of men with fire equipment are vigorously fighting the flames, but rain is needed badly, before the blaze can be subdued.

SIX MEN BURNED TO A CRISP IN FLOOD OF MOLTEN METAL

WHEELING, W. Va., June 9.—In a horrible accident here tonight at least six men were burned to a crisp, four were fatally injured and ten were seriously hurt. Thirty others had narrow escapes.

Twenty or more were caught in the on-rush. Six men are known to have been caught by the hot iron and incinerated. Fourteen others were badly mutilated.

OVER \$92,000 RAISED. MORE THAN 100-Over \$30,000 was raised yesterday for the Y. M. C. A. building fund. The grand total raised since the campaign began yesterday morning now amounts to \$92,500, nearly one third of the amount required.

ANTI-CIGARETTE LAW IN FORCE IN WASHINGTON

SEATTLE, Wn., June 10.—The new anti-cigarette law went into effect last midnight. It is the opinion of the attorney general's office that any person who has them in his possession is subject to fine and imprisonment. The Alaska-Yukon-Exposition police will enforce the law strictly. No one will be permitted to smoke a cigarette on the grounds.

HARD NAMES.

"Calling names doesn't make any real difference," said the conservative campaigner. "No," answered the scientist. "If it did and those Latin names we have bestowed on germs would have discouraged them long ago."

THE BEST CARS GOING GO BEST ON



DUNLOP AUTOMOBILE TIRES

SMALL WONDER THIS MAN DIED

ANNAPOLIS, N. S., June 9.—That as a result of having drunk dozens of bottles of every conceivable kind of liquor, from bay rum and whiskey to gin and Florida water, Kenneth Murray, late yesterday, came to an excruciatingly painful death, was the substance of a verdict rendered by a coroner's jury here this evening.

Murray, who was forty-four years of age and married and leaves besides his widow several small children, started on a drunken spree about ten days ago, which lasted until the time of his death, during which time he consumed nearly fifty bottles of different kinds of liquors, amongst the number being over a dozen bottles of bay rum, to the effects of which death was chiefly due.

This afternoon Dr. Withers held a coroner's investigation and after viewing the body, adjourned to the town hall, where the evidence was given before a large number of citizens. J. M. Owen appeared for the crown, and one of the features of the inquiry was a clash between Doctor Withers and Mr. Owen regarding the right of the crown to be represented at the investigation. After a sharp discussion the coroner called and she deposed that her husband had drunk enormous quantities of liquor and had suffered great agony before death. On the table were several bottles which had contained liquor and were amongst those used by the deceased. Other witnesses showed the crafty manner in which the unfortunate man had obtained the liquor. Unable to purchase even half a bottle at a time, they had employed several small boys to obtain it for him, a bottle at a time, they having bought under several pretences.

OLIVER ASSELIN GREETED BY BAND

MONTREAL, June 9.—Twenty-five people and a brass band met Oliver Asselin when he arrived in Quebec this evening from Quebec, where he had been in the custody of fifteen days in the jail for having assaulted the Hon. Mr. Taschereau on the floor of the legislature. Vigorously attacked the administration of justice in the province of Quebec to the apparent delight of his Nationalist friends.

JOHN L. CAMERON.

John L. Cameron, aged 35, an employee of the Dick and McGrath lumber Co. at Tusket, died suddenly at Tusket, N. S., yesterday morning. He had retired in good health the previous evening. D. Cameron, inspector of the Royal Bank of Canada, and Ailster, of Sackville, N. B., are brothers of the deceased.

Bu-Ju

For all diseases of the Kidneys For Rheumatism too. A box of fifty pills, 50c. E. CLINTON BROWN Druggist Cor. Union and Waterloo Sts.

EYEGLASSES

The first pair of eyeglasses should be carefully fitted. If you desire that your eyes receive proper attention consult D. BOYANER, Graduate Optician, 38 Dock St.

MISSSES' Patent Leather Boots

Blucher Cut Full Easy Last Slip Sole A Shoe With Lots of Style and Snap Prices, \$1.85, sizes 11 to 2 " \$1.50, " 2 to 10 1-2

PERCY J. STEEL, FOOT FURNISHER, 519-521 Main St. SUCCESSOR TO W. A. YOUNG

FERGUSON & PAGE.

Jewelry, Etc. 41 King St.

CANADIAN ORDER FORESTERS

Assessment System, Fraternal Insurance. NIGHT OF MEETINGS CITY COURTS COURT ST. JOHN, No. 470—Oran Hall, Germania street, 1st Friday month. COURT UNION JACK, No. 84 Orange Hall, Germania Street, 4 Wednesday. COURT NORTH END, No. 637—Unl Hall, Main street, last Tuesday, 4 month. COURT YUKON, No. 723—Oran Hall, Simonds street, Third Wednesday. COURT HAWAIIAN, No. 733—Te parana Hall, Market Building, Wednesday. Offices of the order PALMER'S CHAMBERS, 64 Princess Street. R. W. WIGMORE, District Deputy. D. R. KENNEDY, District Organizer.

Select Silver If one thing more than another proves the quality of silverware, it is the mark "1847 ROGERS BROS." On knives, forks, spoons, etc., it is an unmistakable stamp of quality. Best tea sets, dishes, etc., in the world. MERIDEN BRISTOL CO. Same as above. "Silver Plate that Wears"

CAUTION! Refuse any bread sold as BUTTERNUT BREAD



BIRTHS. Born June 9th, to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Dettlaff, West St. John, a son.

NOTE IN GIRL'S ROOM TELLS OF ELOPEMENT

Says She Intends to Marry Dentist Opposed by Father

CHESTER, Pa., June 9.—Miss Florence May Beaumont, a pretty fifteen-year-old girl of this city, according to the contents of a note addressed to her mother, Mrs. Wm. Beaumont has eloped with Dr. Z. C. Beswick, of 1541 Market street, Philadelphia, a dentist who is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Florence first met Dr. Beswick at Seventh and Fulton streets, several days ago. Her disappearance was kept quiet in hope that she would return, but in looking about the girl's room today Mrs. Beaumont found the note which said that Florence was going away to get married and would not return until June 14.

In speaking of her daughter's absence Mrs. Beaumont said: "Florence first met Dr. Beswick on an excursion at Boyer's Beach two years ago. Dr. Beswick called at the house frequently to see her and he asked Mr. Beaumont for her hand in marriage. Mr. Beaumont declined to accede to a marriage at this time on account of Florence's youth, and the doctor was not given any encouragement."

"He called frequently after that, however, and it was plain to be seen that the two were greatly attached to each other. "The disparity in their ages, Dr. Beswick being 35 years old, prompted Mr. Beaumont to look with disfavor on the match. I have not heard from Florence since she left home, and cannot say whether she is married or not. Dr. Beswick has given Florence various handsome gifts, including a ring and several necklaces."

Florence, who is a talented pianist, was a pupil at the high school and took part in most of the entertainments given by the pupils.

ABOUT THE MINK.

A careful study of the mink shows that they travel regular paths along streams, and are very curious. This the experienced trapper knows, and it is through this knowledge that so many are captured every year for the fur trade. The mink is an expert at climbing trees, and many of the young of our finest wild birds fall prey to his thirst to kill. He is also an expert at catching fish, and wherever the brook trout is plentiful there also the mink will be found. Mink are always more numerous in settled parts of the country, evidently because there is more food, such as mice, muskrats, owl, etc. They are very destructive to the young of the wild ducks and the ruffed grouse. During the winter months many grouse have been found killed and partly eaten by mink.