

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1914.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

During last week an interesting debate held the attention of the honorable gentlemen of the Senate of Canada. It was in connection with the bill introduced by Senator Choquette, of Quebec, to amend the criminal code to forbid newspapers to reproduce portraits of persons charged with crime. When the bill was first introduced in the Senate two or three weeks ago, Senator Dennis of Halifax, proprietor of the Halifax Herald and Evening Mail, and, therefore, directly interested in the measure before the Red Chamber, made a strong address in opposition. During last week the debate was continued and on Thursday afternoon the Senate, by a majority of four votes, adopted the second reading of the bill, the vote standing 22 to 18.

Should this bill become law it will place a serious restriction upon an honest and important industry, but it will have a more pernicious effect in that it appears to mark the first step in the direction of an attempt to dictate to the press of this country what they shall or shall not print.

To the layman, unacquainted with the technique of newspapers, it must appear that the case is one which should be left to the individual pronouncement of newspaper editors or proprietors. There is much to be said in opposition to the practice, happily not so prevalent in Canada as in the country to the south of us, under which not only pictures but news items of the most intimate character are spread broadcast over the country. A bill to prevent yellow journalism would have the support of all publishers of decent newspapers in Canada. But this bill does not go that far, it attempts to chop down the tree by cutting off a small twig, and, doubtless, if it should pass, the gentleman from Quebec who sponsored it in the Senate will plume himself upon having aimed a blow at what he may think an impure press.

While the intentions of Senator Choquette, doubtless, are of the best, it is difficult to see just what good object he hopes to attain by his bill as it is at present limited. He makes no mention of the columns of matter unfit for the perusal of Canadian men and women that are daily brought into this country in some of the yellowest of yellow American newspapers and which find large circulation practically in every city in Canada. He takes no step to prohibit the circulation of incendiary, unpatriotic, and seditious sentiments by a certain portion of the newspaper press. Possibly it did not occur to him that this could be done. At any rate he neglected it.

But what is the effect of his bill? It means that in the case of a man accused of any crime, with no distinction as to the nature of that crime, or the record of the criminal, newspapers are prevented from publishing a picture of the accused. It can easily be imagined where the bill may operate to defeat the ends of justice. Suppose from custody instances have occurred within the experience of almost every newspaper man where the publication of the picture of the fugitive often, times, leads to his being re-arrested, when, if the paper had not printed the picture, the police might never have captured him and a dangerous character would have been turned loose on the country to work further depredations. A most recent case of this sort is that of Harry Thaw, Thaw was fleeing into Canada when he was arrested on the train by an officer of the crown who had recognized his picture in a newspaper. Had Senator Choquette's bill then been effective the perpetrator from Matteawan might have enjoyed a longer period of liberty. And other cases can be cited.

Sensor Choquette is unwise in his desire. Possibly with the machine majority in the Senate at his back, his bill may pass, but it is equally sure that the House of Commons will kill it. In the Senate vote of Thursday, which was on a straight party line, the Liberals had a majority of four. It is sincerely to be hoped that this majority will steadily be eliminated, and the Upper Chamber brought into harmony with the really representative branch of the Canadian Parliament. Then and not until then can this country be assured that the efforts of the Government to give us honest and aggressive administration will not be thwarted by the whims and fancies of men who have already in their rejection of the navy bill made Canada a bye word and reproach.

THE OCEAN LIMITED

The restoration to the I. C. R. timetable of the Ocean Limited, has caused the Montreal Daily Mail to express some plain truths to Mr. Guellet and the management of the Intercolonial Railway. In its issue of Thursday last, the Mail says:

The "Ocean Limited" has been put in service again on the Inter-

colonial Railway; never again it is to be hoped to be taken off. A certain amount of money was saved by dispensing with the train in lean months and the action could be justified as strict business economy, but communication between Montreal and the Maritime Provinces should not be left to a way train.

Now that the "Ocean Limited" is going on again it is to be hoped that General Manager Guellet will see to it that it is a better train and a better service than ever. Being the government railway's best train, it should be equal to the best that any corporation-owned railway offers.

One thing that should be added during the summer season is an observation car. The scenery along the line of the Intercolonial can be duplicated in few parts of the continent. Again, the country traversed is noted for its production of game and fish, and there seems to be no reason why the dining car service of the Maritime Provinces should be specialized, along the lines followed by many railways in the United States. Each train leaving Montreal should have a dining car, or a buffet service, so that people would not have to go to bed hungry, as they have to do frequently in trains leaving Montreal for the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Guellet has before him a great opportunity to popularize the Intercolonial railway service, by the bringing back of the "Ocean Limited." Even if the expense is higher than appears to be warranted by the volume of traffic at the outset, traffic will soon grow under the stimulus of an attractive service to make it profitable.

Travelling men of the lower provinces who have occasion to use the trains much will agree with this opinion. With so good a train as the Ocean Limited, on the time card of the government railway it certainly would seem that much more advantage could be gained if it were operated throughout the whole year and also in summer an increased effort were made to capitalize the value of the unequalled scenery and natural attractions of the route of this railway. Everyone is interested in the successful operation of the Intercolonial and in any move which will tend to make that railway more generally popular Mr. Guellet is assured of very hearty support.

MEREPLY POINT OF VIEW.

Mr. Andrew Broder's resolution to prohibit the cigarette evil has been turned over to a committee of the House of Commons for an investigation and report. An interesting feature in connection with it is related by the parliamentary representative of the Toronto News in his correspondence to that newspaper. On the day Mr. Broder introduced his bill a deputation from the Women's Christian Temperance Union sat in the gallery of the House and watched the proceedings with interest. On the same day Mr. Broder introduced his resolution Mr. Hobbhouse moved in the British House of Commons the second reading of a bill to prohibit the importation of the plumage of wild birds. Possibly among the good ladies who, from a point of vantage in the gallery, watched Mr. Broder at work, there were some who had aigrettes in their hats. They believed that cigarette smoking either by men or boys was an evil, while the mayor of the bill in the British House probably held the same idea in reference to the use of the plumage of birds for purposes of ornamentation in connection with millinery.

There is a moral, and it is that outside of the ground covered by the Ten Commandments vice or evil may almost be called a matter of opinion. The ordinary man may deem cruel to kill beautiful birds to gratify the demands of fashion, and in this opinion he is supported by many women. On the other hand many people probably will agree with Mr. Andrew Broder that the cigarette habit is an evil of which this country might well be rid. There is no question that cigarettes are harmful to the man, but there is not much evidence to support this view, always provided that the use of the weed is not carried to excess.

The present age is distinctly one of toleration and compromise and, bearing this in mind, an Upper Canadian paper suggests as a solution of both problems that men might be forced to roll their own cigarettes, while women must themselves capture and kill all birds whose plumage is used for decorating their hats. Possibly, if men were obliged to roll their own "smokes" they would smoke less, while the suggested restriction to the wearing of aigrettes and other feather ornaments would also cause that fashion to wane in popular favor. If it did not, why surely a lady wearing an aigrette of feathers captured by herself in some of the wild places of the earth might well be entitled to all the attention she would attract.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Sir William Ralph Meredith, one of the most eminent Canadian jurists, was born on a rude pioneer farm near London, Ont., 74 years ago today, Mar. 31, 1840. He was one of a family of a dozen children and the eldest of eight sons of John Meredith. The father was the son of a prominent lawyer in Dublin. He had been destined for the same profession, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and studied law for two years at Gray's Inn, London, before coming to Canada. Soon after his arrival in this country John Meredith settled on a backwoods farm near the village of London and married the daughter of a neighboring farmer. The future Sir William Ralph Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, was born on the farm, but he was still an infant when the family removed to London, where the father became a court clerk, a position he held until his death in 1881, when he was one of the victims of the terrible Thames disaster. Meredith then a prominent lawyer and legislator of London. Soon after confederation he entered politics, and became city solicitor of London. In 1872 he was elected to the Ontario legislature as a Conservative and six years later he was Opposition leader. In 1888 he removed to Toronto and became corporation counsel. He was elevated to the bench in 1894, as Chief Justice of Common Pleas of Ontario, and succeeded Sir Charles Morris as Chief Justice of the province. Sir William was knighted in 1896.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

KING GEORGE'S SON IS FAG AT ETON

The spectacle of the son of a king and emperor, acting as errand boy and servant to commoners may now be witnessed at Eton, England's famous old school, where Prince Henry, William Frederick Albert, third son of King George and Queen Mary, is now a student. The Prince, who will celebrate his fourteenth birthday today, has neither asked nor received any special favors at Eton, but has lived up to all the democratic customs and traditions of the public schools. He is called plain "Henry" by his schoolmates. He has to arise at 6.45 and attend early school at 7.30. As a "fag" to the upper class boys, many of whom are commoners and many of whom are poor, he has had to play the role of errand boy and servant. He has to keep his "fagmaster's" room in order, undertake all sorts of missions for uppers, light fires, cook eggs, prepare teas, and go to market to buy "socks" for the pastrys, fruits and other delicacies for his "master." Before going to Eton Prince Henry was a student at a private school at Brighthelmston, where he was very popular among the boys, and as ready for a task as the next one. Like his two older brothers, Prince Henry is a good boxer, and very fond of the "manly art."

PASQUALE AMATO

Pasquale Amato, greatest of Italian baritone, will pass his thirty-sixth birthday today. This season, as for several years, Amato has been one of the star singers of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, and has received a salary exceeding by that of very few other singers in the history of music. Amato is a native of Naples, where he was reared and received his early musical education. His operatic debut was made at the age of twenty in his native city, in "La Traviata." The Neapolitan event immediately acclaimed the youth as one of the greatest singers of all great opera houses of Rome, Florence and Milan. Amato is the master of more than three-score operatic roles.

JOHN HAMMOND

John Hays Hammond, millionaire mining engineer and former adventurer, who has lately been the honored guest of the royalty and nobility of Europe, will begin his sixtieth year today. He was born in San Francisco when that city was a wild and woolly mining community, and was the son of an army officer. After an adventurous career as a mining engineer in California and Mexico, he went to South Africa as consulting engineer for Barnato Brothers, and later for Cecil Rhodes. He was a staunch supporter of Rhodes, and the leader in the reform movement in the Transvaal. He was not in sympathy with the Jameson raid, but after the failure of the raid he was arrested and imprisoned for fifteen years, and later let him off with a fine of \$125,000. After that he became associated with the Guggenheim family, and in 1904 he was elected half a million or so a year. Mr. Hammond was the American ambassador at the coronation of King George V, and is on friendly terms with the Czar, the King of Italy, the Kaiser, and most of the other sovereigns of Europe.

WILLIAM ASTOR

William Waldorf Astor, the American expatriate who has lived in England about a quarter of a century, was born in New York sixty-six years ago today. His grandfather, John Waldorf Astor, is a member of parliament and the owner of the Pall Mall Gazette.

FIRST THINGS

METHODIST BISHOPS.

The first Methodist Bishop consecrated in America was the Rev. Francis Asbury, who died in Richmond, Va., 98 years ago today. The New Jersey city of Asbury Park was named in his honor. Asbury was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1745, and became a minister at the age of sixteen. When he was twenty-five he was sent as a Wesleyan missionary to America and John Wesley soon rewarded his zeal by making him general superintendent of the American connection.

Little Benny's Note Book

By Lee Pope.

Ware in the naim of grand and petty larseny is my latch key, sed pop atir suppr last nite.

How shoold I no, sed ma, you properly left it in the frunt door agen. Agen, sed pop, hark to that, agen, how cood I levee it in the frunt door agen wen I've never left it in the frunt door in my life, any man that leaves his latch key in the frunt door deserves to be robbed and then get a slam ovr the feat from the bergier for good measure, the last time I saw that key it was awn my bewre was I put it, and now its bin moved, dealiberly moved, and when I dare to lakwire about it im informed that I properly left it in the frunt door, and noty any left it there, but left it thare agen.

O, awl rite, sed ma, then you didnt levee it thare. I shoold say I didnt, sed pop, any man with no moar sents than to levee his key in the frunt door awt to be given a duple of apprhension by the Amalgamated Order of Sneek Theeves, any man branless enuff to levee his key in the frunt door wood hang his bank roll out of the parlor windo awn a string, with a sine, awn I saying, Please dont tootch.

Or awl rite, for goodness sake, I blevee you, sed ma. And jest then the frunt bell rang and I went down and who was it but a pleeceman, saying, Is yure fatir in. I want to give him a key I fownd in the frunt door about 3 o'clock this moorning.

Hay, pop, I lalled up stairs, heers a pleeceman with a key he fownd in the frunt door.

Wats that, wats that, sed pop, kumng to the top of the stairs, wats that sot to do with me.

I fownd it in the frunt door about 3 o'clock this moorning, sed the pleeceman, kumng to the bottom of the stairs and holding it out.

I herd you, sed pop, well wat of it, its not my key.

Well I fownd it in yure door, sed the pleeceman.

I dont care if you fownd it erroud my neck, its not my key, sed pop, I never left a key in the frunt door in my life and never intend to.

Well its fyny wat it was doing in yure door then, said the pleeceman.

Awl rite, then laff, sed pop, perhilly, I fale to see anyting fyny in sum interexkayted stranger leaving a strange and properly dirty key in my door.

Take it away and down it, sed pop. And he went back in the setting room and the pleeceman went out agen, saying, Its a darn fyny thing, its a darn fyny thing.

What They Needed.

"Now, my friends," said the candidate, making another effort to arouse enthusiasm in his hearers, "what do we need in order to carry this history?"

"The response was immediate and enthusiastic."

Ribs Went Wrong.

A very pretty go-ahead girl, dressed in masculine attire, often rides her horse in one of the public parks. Recently she got a severe fall, and a sailor rushed to her aid. As he lifted her gently, he felt her corset, and yelled out in alarm to the people who had gathered around:

"Some of you fellows get a doctor at once. This youngster's got his ribs poked north and south, instead of east and west."

Thought Differently.

An ill-bred English squire, wishing to annoy the Rev. Sydney Smith, said to him:

"If I had a son who was an idiot, I'd make a parson of him."

"Indeed!" retorted the wit. "Your father seems to have been a neofidistal father seems to have been of a different mind."

Case of Emergency.

A corporal in an Irish regiment when on a march in India went to the quartermaster to borrow a camel to carry a spare tent. The quartermaster refused.

"I have only the cart, and this spare camel I am keeping for a case of emergency."

"Well," said the corporal, "can't you put the case of emergency on the cart and let me have the camel?"

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At the adjourned sitt

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Keown commented upon

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