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Lord Roberts

Honored.

At the recent annual dinner of the Pilgrims' Club in London General Lord Roberts was the guest of the evening. Many prominent Englishmen and well known Americans were present to do honor to the "Great Little General" who is president of the British branch of the Pilgrims' Club. Mr. Choate, the United States Ambassador, presided, and in proposing the King's health said that King Edward was the steadfast friend of the United States under all circumstances. In giving the toast of the evening, Mr. Choate dilated upon Lord Roberts' accomplishments in the cause of peace, and described him as one of those who had seen and grown tired of the honors of war, and who now was one of the great apostles of meditation and arbitration, rather than an advocate of resort to horrid war. Mr. Choate spoke of Lord Roberts' career as one which "long years of fortune and genius have united to make an unbroken progress and success." From second lieutenant to Earl and Knight of the Garter, from the most subordinate position to that of Commander-in-Chief, from the capture of Delhi and the relief of Lucknow to the relief of Kimberly, his career has been one unbroken tide of victory and success. In my official and personal capacity," said Mr. Choate, "I warmly invite Earl Roberts to cross the Atlantic and pay us a visit. He will receive such a reception as no Englishman ever received. I would like to be present at that first interview in the White House, when Lord Roberts and that younger soldier, Roosevelt, meet. That day, I am sure public business will be suspended and Lord Roberts and President Roosevelt will sit cheek by jowl from the rising to the setting of the sun, exchanging views of war; but let Lord Roberts go as an apostle of peace and Anglo-American harmony and of the great doctrine of arbitration." Earl Roberts modestly replied. He said he hoped to be able to visit the United States at no distant date, and echoed the ambassador's tribute to the work accomplished by the Pilgrims' Club in promoting good feeling between Great Britain and the United States, saying that both countries owed a deep debt of gratitude for the inauguration of the club.

Trouble in Crete.

There is reported to be serious trouble in Crete. It will be remembered that after the insurrection of a few years ago, Prince George of Greece, by the united action of Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia, was appointed High Commissioner of Crete. Owing mainly to the inimical relations of Moslems and Christians in Crete, the condition on the island are such that only a governor of the highest character and large administrative ability could hope to succeed, and Prince George is evidently not a man of that description. His government is reported to be degenerating into a system of terrorism under which prominent Cretans are in continual danger of arrest. Bands of armed men are being organized in the mountains under flags demanding "union with Greece." There is indignation especially in reference to the imprisonment of Professor Jannaris, well known for his patriotism in the struggle for Cretan independence against the Turks. He has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment on the charge of hostility to the present Government, because he wrote a series of letters to Prince Nicholas of Greece, setting forth the grievances of the people under the present rule. Prof. Jannaris is naturally popular, but it is said not to be his popularity so much as the reality of the grievances that causes the danger of disturbance.

The British

in Thibet

A despatch from the correspondent of the London Times with the British force in Thibet near Gyantse says:

"The chief alterations in the situation are that a large body of the enemy has taken up a position between Khaogma and Ralung, and according to a report from a source probably trustworthy, 7,000 Thibetans are holding the southern route to Ralung. This, with 7,000 concentrated at Gyantse, and the smaller contingents defending posts on the Lhasa road, proves that the Thibetan hierarchy is making strenuous efforts. Probably the last reserve has been called out, as at one time or another, 20,000 men have been engaged. The Thibetans, having thus decided for war, the operations in the future are likely to be more serious than our previous experiences seem to warrant. Not only are better arms and ammunition continually increasing the enemy's power of resistance, but it is indisput-

able that the Thibetans are daily learning most important lessons in the art of war. Their recent dispositions argue that they have seriously taken to heart the experience gained in our earlier advance. Their shooting, both with guns and rifles, has improved immensely, and the present conditions of the daily fighting here afford sufficient proof that the Thibetans are not wanting in pluck, if capably led and given a chance. To-day's experience during a smart brush of their powers of serving guns under a withering maxim fire augurs well for any soldiers we may hereafter be able to induce to enlist in the Indian army. Our task will be difficult, but there is not the least apprehension that General MacDonald will be unable without delay or undue loss to force a way to Lhasa."

The Slocum

Disaster.

The Coroner's inquiry into the causes of the burning of the steamer, General Slocum, a disaster which has resulted as now appears, in the loss of more than a thousand lives, seems beyond question to have revealed the fact of a criminal disregard of the provisions required by law for the safety of passengers. The worthlessness of the steamer's hose when an attempt was made to use it in putting out the fire is explained by the fact that it was purchased for 16 cents per foot, whereas the price of good hose is \$1.00 per foot, so that it must have been known when the hose was purchased that it was practically worthless. It appears also that the crew had practically no experience in handling the fire apparatus. A pilot who had been on the steamer for six seasons testified that there had never been any fire drills to his knowledge. There was evidence also to show that many of the life preservers on the Slocum were as worthless as the hose. Henry Lundberg, of the United States Steam Boat Inspection Bureau, who gave a certificate of fitness to the General Slocum last month refused to answer questions put to him on the ground that his answer might incriminate himself. The evidence adduced goes far to justify the conclusion that this appalling disaster is to be charged to a collusion between the Steam Boat Company and the Inspector in a criminal endeavor to evade the provisions which the law enacts for the protection of passengers.

Effects of the War

in Russia.

According to the Warsaw correspondent of the London Times, the crippling effect of the war upon the trade of Russia is already being quite distinctly felt, and the unskilled laboring element is the first to feel its consequences. On the railways of European Russia and Poland alone it is computed that 60,000 men have been discharged in the last four months. The number of laborers and artisans throughout the Empire thrown into idleness during the same period is estimated at 300,000 or 400,000, the bulk of whom entertain little hope of finding remunerative employment until the close of the war. The army of the unemployed is said to be steadily increasing at the rate of at least 3,000 a day. Without employment and without the prospect of obtaining it in several months, these laborers are stranded. There are no poor law guardians in Russia; one out of work must, as a rule, starve or beg. He is not allowed to beg, according to the law, consequently he not infrequently is driven to join the barefoot brigade and master the art of living by his wits and the deftness of his fingers. The police forces at the larger centres are being strengthened to deal with the matter, but it is perfectly clear that the situation cannot materially improve, so long as the number of unemployed increases at the present rate.

Another correspondent of *The Times* in Russia says: The millionaires of Moscow have been very niggardly in their subscriptions to the war funds. The Governor of the city having asked the most wealthy of them, M. Morozoff, why they gave so little, the latter is stated to have replied that in his opinion and that of the other merchants and manufacturers the war was a frivolous and useless enterprise, which could only end in failure and industrial ruin, and had already caused immense losses in trade and industry to Russia. They considered it more patriotic to spend 10,000 roubles a day, as he was doing, in paying the workmen, though there was no work for them to do, and thereby preventing them from joining the Socialist agitators, than to assist in continuing a war which could only inflict endless miseries on the Russian people.

Temperance

Convention.

Advantage was taken of favoring conditions during the tercentenary week, to hold in St. John a temperance convention with a view to considering the best means of promoting the temperance cause in New Brunswick under present conditions. A considerable number of temperance workers were present from different parts of the Province. The Convention met in the Leinster St. Baptist church, Rev. C. W. Hamilton presiding. The following resolution was moved by Rev. Mr. Thomas of Campbellton, and seconded by Rev. Dr. McLeod of Fredericton.

Whereas, the temperance sentiment is so strong in New Brunswick that the sale of intoxicating liquors is practically prohibited in the greater part of the province; and

Whereas, at the prohibition plebiscite held a few years ago it was clearly shown that the united temperance vote of the province is very largely in excess of that of those favorable to the liquor business.

Therefore this convention urges all the temperance people of New Brunswick to stand together in demanding strong temperance legislation for every part of the province, as such united action on our part cannot fail to bring about the desired result.

After the discussion and the unanimous adoption of the above resolution, the following was moved by Mr. L. P. D. Tilley of St. John, seconded by Dr. W. F. Roberts of St. John:

Whereas, a committee of temperance members of the city of St. John led by Rev. C. W. Hamilton, grand worthy patriarch of the Sons of Temperance of New Brunswick, waited on the provincial government and urged upon them the advisability of passing a prohibitory law for the province, or failing such enactment, to amend the present license law in such a manner as would make it more satisfactory to the temperance people.

And whereas, at the last session of the legislature of the province legislation along the suggested lines was not passed, and the government have not yet announced what course they propose to take in the matter.

Therefore resolved, that this convention express its entire approval of the action taken by the said committee and endorses their request to the government to adopt one or other of the courses suggested by said committee.

This also was carried unanimously, and the following, presented by Mr. J. R. Woodburn, of St. John and supported by Mr. Keirstead of Collina also received the endorsement of the convention.

Whereas suggestions have been made to the government with regard to temperance legislation and whereas it is not yet known what action the government propose to take with reference to these suggestions;

Therefore resolved, that in case the government do not before Oct. 1 next make known that they intend to use the utmost of their power to have passed through the legislature at its next session such measures as will be satisfactory to the temperance people, steps be then at once taken to put the Canada Temperance Act in force in the city and county of St. John, as under the circumstances the abolition of the legal existence of the liquor traffic in St. John would be the strongest blow that we could deal in the trade in intoxicating drinks and would aid in the suppression of the sale of alcoholic beverages throughout the province.

At the evening session an eloquent and stirring address was delivered by Rev. Mr. Chown of Toronto, who urged his hearers to union and courage in the support of the temperance cause—a cause which meant the advancement of the Kingdom of Heaven and which therefore must ultimately triumph.

Severe Electrical

Storm.

An electrical storm which has seldom been equalled in intensity passed over northeastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire last Saturday night. Many houses were struck by lightning doing considerable damage and two fatalities were reported. Charles C. Whitney, of Ipswich, was instantly killed by a bolt of lightning which struck his home. At Factoryville, across the line in Vermont, the four year old daughter of W. K. Barrows was also struck and instantly killed. The house of Patrick Mansfield in Concord, Mass., was struck and Mrs. Mansfield was stunned. The storm which had been gathering for two hours broke at the close of a day during which the temperature had risen to 90, one of the hottest 25ths of June on record. The flashes of lightning in some instances were so bright as to be almost blinding. The brunt of the storm was felt northwest of Boston—Lynn, Gloucester, and Haverhill being the main sufferers. The power line of the New Hampshire traction between Portsmouth and Salem was struck by lightning and the entire car service crippled. Nearly 100 cars through Southern New Hampshire and 500 people at the company's pleasure resort at Canobie Lake were left with no means of reaching their homes in Lowell. A number of the cars of the Boston and Northern in this city were also crippled. The telegraph lines were completely prostrated and telephone service was interfered with for several hours.