

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 2, 1925.

A FAILURE.

The visit of the French Minister of Finance and his colleagues to Washington for the purpose of arriving at a method of paying off the war debt has ended in something like complete failure. The French mission is on its way back to Paris, and the atmosphere surrounding the matter is one of grave disappointment. As a last resort a tentative agreement covering the next five years was drawn, the terms calling for an annual payment of \$40,000,000 by France, but it was not signed by M. Caillaux, although he has reluctantly agreed to submit it to his government. The French leader, in declining to affix his signature to the temporary terms, took the ground that his authority was only for a final settlement and that his right to concur finally in any provisional arrangement must be regarded as doubtful. The settlement which it was hoped to reach at Washington would have had some bearing upon the debt bargain between Britain and France, for when the French made arrangements to fund their debt to Great Britain, Mr. Churchill made it a condition that if the French subsequently agreed to give the United States any better terms than Britain had received, there must be a revision which would give Britain equal treatment. The settlement of the war debts had been proceedings favorably until the French mission went to Washington, and such progress was having a good effect upon financial conditions throughout Europe. The setback at Washington will create a highly unfavorable impression in London and in Paris. It is by no means certain that the French government will approve of the provisional arrangement, and doubt as to its action is greater because it seems probable that Caillaux may not only refrain from urging confirmation but may throw his influence against that course. Paris comment to-day is gravely pessimistic in tone.

DEFENCE BY AIRCRAFT.

In justice to that American stormy petrel, Colonel William Mitchell, who talks about the possibility of British airplanes being used against the United States, it should be said that when he testified at Washington the other day before the Coolidge investigation board he prefaced his remarks concerning Great Britain by saying that there was no reason to expect hostile action from that quarter. He contended, however, that considering the whole question of defence, by land, sea and air, the United States was bound to consider the possibilities of attack from either the Atlantic or the Pacific side, or from both, and it was in this connection he said that under present circumstances Great Britain's force of 1,000 airplanes could be landed in Nova Scotia in from eight to ten days, and could then reach many important American cities within three hours. And Britain, he asserted, must be considered "as dominating the Atlantic and as strong in the Caribbean."

Colonel Mitchell is a leader of the school of thought which contends that aircraft will play the leading part in future warfare. He and those of his way of thinking believe that naval vessels in future years will be confined, for offensive purposes, to ships capable of diving below the surface to conceal themselves from view and attack, and he says it will be impossible to transport great numbers of men or masses of material in surface vessels across any sea areas in war until complete mastery of the air has been obtained. "It is hopeless to expect that under any present conditions," he says, "we could defend ourselves on the sea by surface vessels against Great Britain. The only thing that can stop an expedition of this kind against us is air power acting from the State of Maine and attacking the surface vessels that come from England, north of Newfoundland into the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and attacking the aircraft that are being debarked from their transports and set up."

Turning to the Pacific, he says that in the event of war with Japan that country would attack, not by way of Honolulu, the capture of which would expose a hostile fleet to an open attack from the submarine and the airplane, but by way of Alaska. The Japanese, says the Colonel, if they were to attack the United States alone, or in combination with other Asiatic powers, would extend their line of operations north along the Kurile Islands, to Kamchatka, and across the Bering Sea to Alaska by way of the Aleutians and Bering Straits. So what the gentleman is driving at is that Uncle Sam must establish control of the air in order to prevent attack from any quarter. He has some picturesque phrases. "As the Grecian phalanx fell before the Roman legions," says he, "modern armies will crumble before an air attack unless also prepared to fight in the air."

All of which is interesting, and is being subjected to criticism as mischievous nonsense because its assertions the possibility or probability of future

Wars. But in such an investigation it was to be expected that a character so vehement and so imaginative as Colonel Mitchell would be given considerable rope. Those who are disposed to be disturbed by discussions of the nature indicated by a review of the Mitchell testimony may perhaps find some comfort in asking themselves what likelihood there is that any nation or the United States, we cannot tell what the future holds for civilization, but the outlook for lasting peace in our day grows steadily brighter.

Both Liberal and Conservative leaders have encountered snow in the Western Provinces—snow, and, presumably, frost.

Under the heading "A Good Idea for Other Cities" the Municipal Review of Canada says:

"In a recent visit to Saint John, N. B., a new idea was noticed. The lovely War Memorial, unveiled by Hon. Major-General A. H. Macdonell in June, stands in a commanding position in the beautiful square, and at night powerful electric spotlights shine on it, when the white column stands out vividly against the foliage, the bronze figures in front of, and on top of the shaft, accentuating the whiteness of the stone. This idea of illumination at night is a fine one, and should be copied in other places."

With the opening of the shooting season in New Brunswick for moose and woodcock a great number of sportsmen have gone to the woods. This is the season when the utmost care is necessary to prevent accidents. Already there comes from Quebec the news of the death of a farmer who accidentally shot by his companions. They had been pursuing a moose, and two of them fired together at something a considerable distance away, convinced that it was the moose. It was the man, and he was killed instantly. One of the men who fired was his brother. The victim of the accident leaves a wife and twelve children. A mere recital of the fact spells out a dramatic warning. Those who go to the woods and who fire at some object without being absolutely sure as to what it is are unfit to handle firearms.

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

A Certain Reserve, So To Speak

St. John Ervine, writing in the New Statesman on things that are "characteristically English," tells the following story: "In one of my newspapers this morning there was an account of the proceedings of an inquest held on the body of an artillery colonel who had suddenly died in his club. His brother, a major-general, gave evidence. This is a summary of what he said: 'They were both members of the Club, and were there on Tuesday afternoon. At a quarter past four he saw his brother apparently doing after reading a newspaper, and a little later Admiral A— said to him, 'I think you know that gentleman,' indicating his brother. He replied, 'Yes, he is my brother, and the admiral then said, 'I am afraid he is dead.' Mr. Ervine then continues: 'There is a widely known legend that members of the Athenaeum Club are taciturn. It is not the custom, according to this legend, for a new member of the Athenaeum to speak to the older members until he has enjoyed the privileges of the club for at least five years. He may then, in a deferential manner, say 'Good morning!' to them. One must not speak at all unless signs are given that conversation is not considered distasteful. These are all part of the legend of the legend of the Athenaeum Club. I did not find members so morose as this on the occasions on which I dined in that venerable institution, but I do not doubt that the legend has warrant. At all events, the belief in the taciturnity and aloofness of its members is so widely spread that a very old story is often told of a member who called on waiter to him one day and said, indicating another member, 'You might remove this gentleman. He's been dead for two days.' That is a ridiculous story. And yet how nearly it approaches to actuality when we compare it with the true story of the artillery colonel who suddenly died in another London club."

Why Dickens Lives. (Onlooker in Toronto Globe.) Dickens came into fresh notice by the recent opening of the house he occupied in Doughty street, London, to visitors. No author of the past century has quite retained the hold on the reading public enjoyed by this genial social reformer, with the weapon of ridicule so engagingly clothed in the garb of fiction. As Sir Hall Caine said recently, although Dickens has been dead 53 years, he was never more alive than today. His characters and their sayings are as fresh as the morning. His comments on "weal pie," and Oliver Twist "asking for more," are common-places in table talk. Dickens had his disagreeable characters, but no English author has left us more lovable ones or created finer embodiments of everyday virtues. Mr.

Pickwick," observes a London correspondent of The New York Times, "does his bit for the sunny side of life by leaving his 'Posthumous Papers' among the pleasant bedside books. Dozens of other Dickens creation have more directly helped lame dogs over stiles. No one quite so kindly as the Cheeryble Brothers ever lived; no one quite so simply happy as Wemmick ever supported an aged parent; few elderly ladies as tender as Betsy Trotwood ever smoothed the last days of a Dora. But to how many thousands have these exaggerations brought a softening of thought. He caught the kindness as well as the bitterness of life, and assuredly to his portrayal of the generous impulses that men can show, even in the midst of their struggles with a prickly world, some of the mellowness of our civilization today is due."

"Dickens drew qualities personified, rather than actual human beings, if you will; but whatever they were, they won the abiding interest of his readers. Shams and hypocrisy, meanness and injustice, he has shown up with an unflinching pen; but the greatest of all his achievements is the honor he has paid to loyalty, courage and manliness."

Royal Kiss in 1925.

(London Observer.)

His Majesty's Drawing Room—The long-deferred drawing room was held on Thursday with the customary splendor, but it was by no means so numerous as attended as on former occasions. His Majesty was in excellent health and spirits, and did not fail to kiss the fair blossoms of beauty as they were presented.

It was amusing to watch the degree of fervor with which His Majesty performed this agreeable duty. There was the kiss direct, the kiss oblique, and the kiss en passant. The antiquated damsel were forced to be content with the whisker kiss, their cheeks being brushed by that luxuriant appendage to His Majesty's countenance.

POET AND SKIPPER.

(Seabury Lawrence in New York Times)

Ah! this is a night just made for lovers— Amongst the stars a curlew hovers; Down the moonbeams fairies slide; To have a dip in the silver tide.

The torpedos are ghostly in the moon— The reef-points tapping a gentle tune; So calm—so soft a night is this— A night for a sailor to steal a kiss.

It's calm, enough, if that's your lay, But what about hungry owners to pay? Sailors to feed and a ship to keep? This sort of weather'd make you weep.

Flat as the Mozambique, by gas! Or the blisterin' Gulf of Panamar; It's calm, you bet, and we're makin' leeway When I'd like to see a thunderin' sea-way.

That moon of yours may be a wonder, But I like a ship with her lee-rail under.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Sittler the Better
"I'm writing a song."
"Indeed? What's the subject matter?"
"It doesn't."

Pleasure and Profit
"Those fishermen have a hard life," remarked the first man.
"Oh, I don't know," replied his three-looking friend. "Think of being able to go fishing without quitting work."

And Washington the Mouth
Jack Hughes remarks that "Florida is the chin-whisker of the United States." This makes Massachusetts the brow, which, of course, is just what it is, the seat of the country's intellect.

Oratory and Spouting.

(Vancouver Province.)

An Irish poet who declares that the age of oratory has passed might have reserved the announcement until after the Dominion election. Many of the nation's leading spell-binders have just begun to spout.

Pluck.

(Boston Transcript.)

W. H. sends us this encouraging bit of verse from his scrapbook: Pluck wins, it always wins, though days be slow And nights be dark 'twixt days that come and go, Still Pluck will win—it's average is sure. He wins the most who can the most endure; Who faces evils, and who never shrinks, Who waits and watches, and who always works.

CHANGES CANADIAN PACIFIC TRAIN SERVICE.

Effective September 27th, Fall Schedule will become effective on Canadian Pacific Railway.

Service will be with few exceptions the same as during the Fall Change of Time Table 1924.

Local Express for McAdam will leave Saint John 7:15 a. m. Atlantic Time instead of 6:30 a. m. as at present.

Montreal Train 15 will leave Saint John 4:00 p. m. Atlantic Time, same as last year, with the exception that this train will not operate between Saint John and Montreal on Saturdays.

Montreal Passengers will be accommodated on train 39 which leaves Saint John 7:15 p. m. Atlantic, and in order to provide connections at McAdam for passengers who previously used train 15 on Saturdays, Local Train will be operated leaving Saint John 4:00 p. m. and making connections at McAdam with Branch Line Train between McAdam and St. Stephen and Woodstock.

Local Fredericton Train 105 will leave at 5:15 p. m. as at present, making all stops between Saint John and Fredericton, and Boston train 103 will leave as at present, 6:45 p. m. Atlantic Time.

Train 39, late Montreal Train, will leave at present, 7:15 p. m. Daily Except Sunday.

Arrivals: Early Morning train from Montreal will arrive 6:15 a. m. Atlantic, Daily Except Sunday.

Morning Train from Fredericton at 6:45 a. m. Atlantic.

Boston Train 104 will arrive 12:30 a. m. which is earlier than last year, and Noon Train from Montreal will arrive Saint John 12:15 p. m. Atlantic, daily except Monday, as this train will not operate from Montreal Sunday night.

Passengers from Montreal Sunday, can take train 40 leaving Montreal 12:10 p. m. Sunday, arriving Saint John 6:15 a. m. Monday morning.

Local Sleeper will be carried on this train ex Montreal Sunday, to McAdam, and passengers for branch line connections at that point may remain in sleeper until 9:00 a. m. Atlantic.

FRENCH CHAMPAGNE VINTAGE FAILURE

"Invisible Black Hand Disease" Has Ruined Grapes in Rheims District.

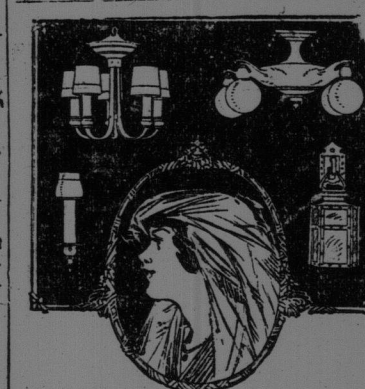
LONDON, Oct. 2.—Champagne lovers were startled to learn that the so-called "invisible black hand disease" of the French vineyards has caused the vintage of 1925 to be a complete failure. Instead of this year's crop adding at least two million bottles to the cellars of Rheims, it is doubtful if the stocks will be increased by 50,000. The director of one of the largest champagne firms, who has just returned to London after a tour of the French champagne country, brings this news. "The grapes are gathered for the wine presses early in October, and this year, when I made my usual tour through Epernay and Avize, I found proprietors of the vineyards in tears," he explained. "This year's fruit is an absolute failure. It is not worth gathering, and, in fact, it will be burned. We have often heard of the invisible black hand, which creates desolation. Well, the black hand has touched the centre of each bunch of grapes—red and golden yellow when ripe and turned them black. The disease is baffling to scientists at the laboratory of Rheims. We are all afflicted alike. The vintage of 1925 is a complete failure. Prices will advance, but not prohibitively."

WHEAT BUMPER.

"As a curious offset, there is a bumper wheat crop, and that has always happened when the black hands have been laid on the grape. Farther south, where claret, burgundy and port vineyards exist, the disease has not materially affected the crops. There is still plenty of champagne, however, and no need for fear that the stock will not meet the demand."

A BABY IS INJURED

Abraham Babb, who was assisting Isadore Admur to push the latter's car down King street to give it a start last evening, had his right hand badly crushed when it was caught between the bumper and an ornamental light pole. His injuries were treated at the General Public Hospital. Mr. Babb is teacher in the local Hebrew school.



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Court Orders Six Months Trial Divorce

United Press. DETROIT, Oct. 2.—Mr. and Mrs. John Markovics, of Detroit, are having a six months, trial divorce, after marrying and separating within 20 days. They first met ten days before the wedding.

"If you still want a divorce six months from now come back," Judge P. C. Gilbert told them when they appeared before him in a belligerent mood.

"You should not rush through marriage and divorce that way," he added as they left the court-room by separate doors.

THREE SMALL FIRES

The residence of D. E. Lynch, 38 Mount Pleasant avenue, was slightly damaged by a fire which started in an ash barrel in the rear of his home about midnight. An alarm was rung in from box 223, but the occupants of the house had the fire out before the department arrived.

The chemical engine from the North End station responded to a still alarm about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when an automobile was found to be on fire near the corner of Sheriff and Main streets.

Fire in rubbish in the alleyway back of S. Hayward & Co.'s Canterbury street, was quickly extinguished by the chemical about 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Lidlow street Trail Rangers have elected: Chief ranger, Leslie Hammy; sub-chief, Kenneth Black; tally, George Daly; cache, Gordon Sprague. R. H. Parsons is the mentor.

TRAIL RANGERS ELECT

For good rich BAKED BRANS use plenty of clear pork fat and ALWAYS BAKE in the OLD FASHIONED BEAN POT Made by

The FOLEY POTTERY

OTTAWA, Oct. 1.—Judge D. B. Harkness, of Winnipeg, who is at the Child Welfare Conference here today indignantly repudiated Judge Emily Murphy's statement that juvenile delinquency was increasing in Canada. That was not a fact, Judge Harkness stated. Statistics were not right guide in this problem.

"The figures of today are heavier because we are taking a larger interest in the behaviour problems of our children, and the real meaning of the figures represents in the majority of cases merely behaviour problems. I am thoroughly satisfied that actual serious delinquency is on the decrease. The superintendents of our detention homes say that they do not get the class of boy they used to get in the days when repression and discipline were looked upon as the right corrective measures. Nowadays parents bring their children to the court for aid in making good citizens of them. I could not call many of these cases delinquencies."

Judge Harkness commented that Judge Murphy's work was among girls, and remarked that the judges for boys would not agree with her deductions.

JAPAN'S AREA.

Japan itself is about three times the size of New York State and with all her colonies and dependencies is about one-fourth larger than France.

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On Fall Merchandise

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Women's Fall Weight Knitted Silk Stripe Bloomers 85c

Colors, mauve, pink, cream, peach, all sizes.

New Chamois Suede Novelty cuffs.

Gloves \$1.00 pair

Printed Crepe de Chine Hankies 25c

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