

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH 21, 1925.

RAILWAY CO-OPERATION.

Discussion of the complicated matter of ocean steamship rates in Parliament has recently been brought to include some consideration of competition between Canadian railways, and in several quarters the idea is put forward that the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific might well, in the public interest and in their own, eliminate many wasteful features of competition.

There is no probability at present of the adoption of the proposal made by Mr. W. P. Maclean, M. P., that the two systems should be consolidated through considerable weight it attached to his argument that it is unwise that the two railways should continue to build competitive lines into new territory where either of them could meet all the requirements of transportation. In illustrating another case of competition which he believes unjustified, he pointed out that between Ottawa and Montreal and also between Montreal and Toronto there is unnecessary duplication of service which might be avoided by co-operation between the two railways, to their financial advantage, and without injury to the public interest.

Mr. E. M. P. for North Waterloo, agreed with Mr. Maclean concerning the existence of duplication, wasteful competition and unnecessary overhead charges, the expense of which falls upon the people of Canada. The Toronto Globe, in a review of the parliamentary discussion, comes out as an advocate of co-operation, saying:

"Now it may be that the proposal to buy out the C. P. R. and add it to the National System would be too daring to be accepted. But the speakers referred to suggest, though they do not mention, another possible course. If amalgamation is regarded as impossible at present, why should there not be co-operation? Why should not the two systems pool their resources, and spend money on construction only where it is needed for development? The interests of the C. N. R. and the C. P. R. need not conflict. The bond of union between them is national service. They can prosper only as the country prospers and grows. A new era of prosperity for Canada, might dawn if the two transcontinental systems were working heartily together for the common cause."

There is at least this to be said on behalf of the public as well as the railways, that while some measure of competition is necessary and unavoidable, merely destructive competition is bad for both lines and for the country. The public purse which supports the C. N. R. should not be used as an instrument to destroy or even to weaken the Canadian Pacific; nor should any legitimate interest of the Canadian National be sacrificed in the interest of the privately owned system. Inasmuch as the object of neither road should be the destruction of the other, the business of costly duplication of services might well be abandoned in favor of co-operation as would serve both systems and the public as well.

"BAD" MEN "UNDER TWO" FLAGS.

Went Hays Hammond, the famous mining engineer, contributes an article to Scribner's in which he tells of law enforcement and respect for law as he observed it personally during many years of experience in South Africa, in Great Britain, in every mining district of the United States, and in the Klondike. Another American writer recently said:

"It is reported that the United States has twenty per cent. more laws than England, but he would be a rash man who said the United States was twenty per cent. better off in consequence."

He would be rash, indeed, according to Mr. Hammond, who describes the American nation as a "law-defying" people. He goes back to the old Dawson City days for one incident which he introduces as well illustrating the difference in temperament and the general attitude toward the laws of the land found under the British flag and under the Stars and Stripes. A famous American gambler and gunman, one Wyatt Earp, who had established a wide reputation in American mining camps as a terrible character, invaded a Klondike saloon and invited, or rather commanded, everybody present to drink with him. His manner was offensive, and when some of the company did not respond he drew a pistol and threatened to kill all and sundry unless his invitation was accepted. Mr. Hammond, who recalls the incident, describes how a quiet man, much smaller than Earp, advanced calmly, disregarding the pistol, placed a finger upon the wild man's shoulder, told him that the flourishing of weapons was not permitted and that he must leave his gun with the authorities, adding that he would be returned to him when he left town. The quiet man then returned to his seat. The invader was astounded by this kind of treatment.

RAILWAY CO-OPERATION.

He contrived to ask who his monitor was, and was told that he was the local head of the Mounted Police. Then friends surrounded him and told him in plain English that things were "different" in Dawson, that he must obey orders, that if he resisted he would be arrested nevertheless, or that if he escaped he would be captured without regard to time or expense, and punished with absolute certainty. It finally dawned upon the bad man that he was being told the simple truth, and he surrendered his weapons as ordered and ceased to be offensive.

This is somewhat familiar stuff, but Mr. Hammond impresses upon the readers of Scribner's his conviction that it is useful and truly illustrates the attitude towards law and order in the two countries as well as the difference between the mining camps under British law and those in the rougher sections of his own land. In South Africa he found law and order firmly established, and the murder and robbery record was exceedingly low as compared with that in American mining districts.

He finds lacking under the American system that feeling which the lawless element has under British rule, the feeling that the whole force of the national authority is arrayed against the criminal and that the risk of speedy arrest and punishment is immense and ever present. It is true that crimes of violence are committed, but the statistics which are printed from time to time, some of which Mr. Hammond repeats, fully justify his conclusions.

THE MEMBER FOR SOUTHEAST GREY.

In the House of Commons last week some hours of discussion were devoted to a resolution introduced by Miss Macphail, the only woman in the House, who wished to provide means whereby prisoners in the penitentiaries might have useful employment and also receive some payment for the work they did. The proposal was that prisoners be kept at work and paid, the money being sent to their dependents if they had any, while the earnings of those without dependents would be allowed to accumulate and be given to them at the end of their terms. The Minister of Justice was somewhat disposed to favor the principle behind Miss Macphail's resolution, but pointed out that the state should be reimbursed for the cost of the upkeep of the system and that if the earnings of the prisoners were assessed for maintenance costs there would be little or nothing left over. It seemed at one time during the debates if the motion might carry, but it was finally talked out.

The parliamentary correspondent of the Ottawa Citizen draws a pen picture of Miss Macphail, whom he views through by no means unsympathetic glasses. He writes:

"The member for South Grey is an interesting figure, quite apart from her isolation as the lone woman in Parliament. She has an intellectual endowment of a high order and, employing it to advantage, she says something when she speaks. This is not very frequently. Reform burns in her system like a mild fever in the blood and now and then she breaks out with it. In the social order as well as in the economic fabric of the country, she finds a great deal to challenge. She comes from Tory antecedents, but there is much in the policy of the party that she regards with repugnance, and yet it is imagined that, if reduced to the extremity of a choice between it and the Griggs, she would go back to the homestead of the ancestral faith. Certainly for the government side she has never indicated any excessive wealth of affection."

"Miss Macphail is an Independent, and both in that way and also as a reformer she is several blocks ahead of the ordinary Progressive, but she is not an extremist. She doesn't belong, for example, to that particular school sometimes called uplifters who are often accused of invading the precincts of individual liberty. She prepares her speeches and often reads them, which is more in the interest of precision than a factor in enlisting undivided attention."

"In no sense is she an aggressive Amazon translated to the forum of Parliament, but just a plain, mild mannered young woman from the country, who had all the rugged experience of farm life and then taught school and had ambition and success in climbing the ladder even to the House of Commons."

The member for South Grey has both courage and independence, and while the House is sometimes disposed to regard her views as impractical, it is seriously impressed with her constant and evidently sincere determination to live up to her ideals and promote the public good.

The movement started by the sheriffs of New Brunswick to have executions take place in the Maritime penitentiary at Dorchester instead of in the counties where the crimes are committed will evidently be successful. The Nova Scotia Government yesterday decided to ask Ottawa for the necessary legislation, and Hon. Mr. O'Leary made it known that the Attorney-General of New Brunswick

has given assurance that a similar measure will be passed by our Legislature. No doubt Prince Edward Island will make it unanimous. For many reasons the change is desirable, and it is expected that Parliament will not hesitate to act upon the request of the Maritimes in this matter.

Saint John and the province at large will lose a good representative if Mr. R. T. Hayes retires after the present session of the Legislature, as he intimated that he would do in his speech yesterday. While generally endorsing the record of the Government, Mr. Hayes expresses the view that the efforts made to enforce the prohibitory law have not been sufficient. He praises the Musquash project and favors the Government's policy of power development for the province.

Odds and Ends

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

—More Limericks

(New York Literary Review.)
Arthur Guiterman sends along a few limericks which he discovered in an old scrapbook and which he thinks may have escaped the aphorist—meaning Langford Reed. They are quite new to us, so here goes:

There was a young lady of Lynn
Who was so exceedingly thin
That when she essayed
To drink lemonade
She slipped through the straw and fell in.

There was a young person named Maude,
And she was a terrible fraud!
To eat at the table
She never was able,
But when in the pantry—oh, Lawd!

There was a young girl in the choir
Whose voice rose up high and hoarse
Till it reached such a height
It was clear out of sight,
And they found it next day in the spire.

The Lamas In London.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
England at the present time is entertaining and being entertained by seven Tibetan Lamas from the remote monastery of Gyantse, a spot rarely visited by white men. But one resourceful white man, named Macphail, visited the Lamas there and his accounts of the wonders of modern civilization, finally prevailed upon them to emerge and see if these travel tales were true. At first they flatly disbelieved what they had been told. Then traditions centuries old had to be broken and even a specific law had to be disregarded before they could set forth. When they arrived in London they were stunned at what they saw, but they were also stunned when they saw the steamer that was to carry them to England and the trains that carried them to the steamer. The marvels of civilization were broken to them gradually, and their reason survived. Now they have grown accustomed to the tubes, the great buildings, the taxicabs. The one thing that surprised them was the London fog. Fog they have seen occasionally in Tibet, but in Tibet there were means of protecting themselves against them, the most reliable being to shut oneself in a room and pray while the fog lasts. This is what the Lamas did while the fog was loose over London, and they found it difficult to understand why the Londoners, so wonderful in other ways, did not see the advantages of abstaining from all business and devoting the period to meditation. But the English people, apparently, had never even heard that the presence of a fog means the presence of a demon.

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On this point they were as benighted as though they had never traveled anywhere.

Though they pointed out to the English, with whom they discussed the matter, that people got lost in fogs, that taxicabs come into collision with each other, and that there were many other accidents, the English did not perceive the connection between these phenomena and the activities of a demon. The Lamas sighed and gave it up. Many of the wonders of the great city are thrown away upon them. Rather than inspect the Albert Memorial or Westminster Abbey they prefer to remain in their rooms and consult the sacred texts which they brought with them. St. Paul's failed to give them the thrill that they will receive when once more they behold the roof of their monastery perched fourteen thousand feet above the sea level. Indeed, they have become critical of some of the wonders they have been asked to admire. The other day very wonderful machines in England, but I think that if you are not careful you will some day not be running the machines, but the machines will be running you." Wisdom, it appears, can be found without going to the great cities. We are told that many centuries ago China had developed a civilization that in many respects would be considered modern today, but that China deliberately cast it away, believing that it threatened the growth of the qualities of the spirit. The Lamas, apparently, have hardly less to teach than they have to learn.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN.

A Surprise For The Doctor.
"It's a good mining matter," said the doctor: "you are very bad. Is there anybody you would specially like to see?"
"Yes," replied the patient faintly. "Who is it?" asked the doctor.
"Another doctor, please," whispered the invalid.

The Way to Newfoundland.
Master—"Now, John, tell me how you would go to Newfoundland."
Pupil—"I should first go to Liverpool."
"Yes, and then?"
"Then I should go on board the ship, and then—then I should ask the captain who, of course, knows the way better than I do."—Yorkshire Post.

Time Enough.
The impatient diner sent for the manager of the restaurant. "See here!" he exclaimed. "I ordered cold roast beef thirty minutes ago and I haven't got it yet."
"How long ago?"
"Thirty minutes."

What Followed.
Magistrate (to witness)—"You say you saw defendant standing at the street corner?"
Witness—"Yes, Your Worship. And while I stood there watching he put his fingers to his mouth and whistled."

P. P. C.
He (at window)—"Isn't that Blank and his wife at the Sweetons' door? I thought they were to be divorced."
She—"No they are. They are now making their pre-separation calls."

STUDYING FOODS

STUDYING how and why foods affect the body as they do, Mr. Mann of Anytown found his second lesson to be concerned with the composition of foods.

Time has shown that certain materials are most useful as food. The subdivisions include proteins of different varieties, fats and carbohydrates or starches and sugars. To these we add water and the mineral salts and have the basis of all foods. But lately science has added vitamins to the list.

Vitamins are bodies of unknown nature existing in certain foods and essential to nutrition. Their chemical nature is unknown so they have become designated as vitamin A, B, C etc.

The first two are the "water and fat soluble" so essential to body nutrition, while vitamin C is found in orange and lemon juices and when they are lacking in diet, scurvy has been found to result.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

It is said that almost one reel and a half of "His Supreme Moment," George Fitzmaurice's current picture, has been made by the Technicolor process. It is to be inserted between black and white photography for contrast, to heighten the dramatic effect and to sustain the interest for the climax.

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If you desire to be an active merchant, phone for an advertising representative.

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