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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1913.

PUGSLEY'S DISGRACEFUL TACTICS.

Neither the Province of New Brunswick nor the City of St. John has any reason to be proud of the conduct of the Hon. William Pugsley on Saturday night in the House of Commons. He precipitated the most disgraceful scene that has ever occurred within the memory of living men in the Federal House. His conduct is all the more reprehensible inasmuch as he attempted, by a resort to physical violence, to compel a fellow member from his own province, Mr. F. J. Robidoux, who was chairman of the committee, to allow a Liberal member to address the House.

He who takes refuge in physical outbursts to drive home arguments in a British House of Commons is guilty of legislative nihilism and by no other terms can the conduct of the Minister of Public Works be characterized. It was no attempt to fight for a principle. It was with no desire to uphold a great moral claim that Mr. Pugsley, King's Privy Councillor, advanced from his seat and shook his clenched fist under the nose of a young member who was Chairman of the Committee. It was purely and simply the angry antics of a disappointed man who turned a decent legislating Assembly into a Bedlam.

Judged by the facts of the incident the conduct of Mr. Pugsley was glaringly brazen. He deliberately raised his left arm and called upon the Liberal followers to defy the chair. The first to aid him were the Mr. H. R. Emmerson, Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, and Mr. F. B. Carvell. It was a noticeable fact that the real leader of the Opposition in the absence of Sir Wilfrid did not respond to the appeal of the member from St. John.

The former Minister of Railways and Canals, the Hon. George P. Graham, is possessed of too keen a sense of the ridiculous to attempt the role of a Prince Rupert. But the member for St. John City will stoop to any tactics to gain a temporary advantage, and the memory of Mr. Pugsley assuming the part of the leader of a forlorn hope in the cause of free speech and fair play will linger as a piece of delicious humor. It was Pugsley playing the role of a Hamlet.

It is a significant feature that four Liberal members from the Province of New Brunswick have been dubbed the "Blockers' Brigade." Messrs. Pugsley, Emmerson, Carvell and Logie never miss an opportunity to let flow cascades of oratory upon the House. During the twenty-four hours from midnight Friday until midnight Saturday the bright particular star of the ill-famed brigade was Mr. Pugsley. Each time he rose to address the House he was greeted by derisive laughter by the Conservatives and with a wan smile by his own side. The verbal nonpayment for an indefinite period, of a great local improvement, it appears that as the Dean and Chapter had an understanding with the City Corporation which made them practically masters of the situation. Finally, the London County Council decided not to proceed further at present with the scheme for the construction of tramways over the new St. Paul's Bridge, to terminate in a subway under St. Paul's churchyard.

The new tramways were much needed, but it was generally acknowledged that they would not be of much use if stopped at the riverside. A terminus was needed in the neighborhood of Cheapside, but the cost of a surface structure of sufficient capacity in that region was almost prohibitive. This is why the underground scheme was adopted in the first instance. The abandonment of it leaves a new and difficult tramway problem to be solved, but the safety of the great Cathedral, whose foundations were in danger of being undermined, is permanently assured.

TO INSURE PEACE.

The latest evidence of warlike interest in Europe comes in the news of the simultaneous proposals of France and Germany to increase land armaments. A Berlin cablegram to the New York Sun, referring to the Reichstag proposals goes on to say: "With the Germans, abounding in men, the projected law takes the form of an emergency tax, such as will enable the entire male population of military age to be put under arms. In France, where the pitch is not for funds, the sacrifice demanded is the extension of military service from the present two years to three. In effect the two measures, if enacted, as

they are likely to be, will coincide. There will result the same military balance in the Voges as today, with the equivalent of four or five corps added weight on each side. If the present military increases are carried out, war is not thereby a bit the more likely than it has been at any moment during the past forty years. The likelihood of war will come at the moment when one nation or the other begins to flinch under the lash of military exigency."

In other words the very preparedness of France and Germany for war and the resolute determination of the peoples of the two nations to spare no expense in making ready for an appeal to arms insure a continuance of peace. Against the readiness of France is balanced the readiness of Germany. That will restrain the beligerency of these ancient rivals. Were either France or Germany to falter in its purpose there would be an invitation to aggression which would likely plunge Europe into war. Nations continue to strengthen their defensive resources in the conviction that the surest safeguard of a nation's peace and territorial integrity lies in making that nation's power feared and respected.

THE RELIGIOUS CENSUS.

The classification of the people of Canada by religious belief as ascertained by the census of 1911 is given in a bulletin of the fifth census recently issued. No less than eighty denominations are mentioned. As the larger part of the increase of population has been obtained by immigration, the returns cannot be taken as indicating any remarkable fluctuations on the part of the native population. The Roman Catholic is still the largest denomination, though the percentage of increase is not so large as that of the whole population. The proportionate gain is large among some of the denominations that are strong in Continental Europe, as Lutherans, who have more than doubled, and the Greek Church, which has gained six-fold. The effect of immigration from Great Britain is shown in the gain of more than fifty per cent. in the Anglican Church. In 1901 the Methodist Church was the largest Protestant denomination, leading the Presbyterians by 255,000. In 1911 the Presbyterian body led the Methodists by 22,000, while the Anglicans were only 27,000 fewer than the Methodists. The Baptists increased twenty per cent. Oriental immigration accounts for an increase of Confucians from 5,115 to 14,562, and to the considerable representation of Mohammedans, Shintoes, Sikhs and Hindus.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

The safety of St. Paul's Cathedral in London has been secured at the cost of the postponement for an indefinite period, of a great local improvement. It appears that as the Dean and Chapter had an understanding with the City Corporation which made them practically masters of the situation. Finally, the London County Council decided not to proceed further at present with the scheme for the construction of tramways over the new St. Paul's Bridge, to terminate in a subway under St. Paul's churchyard.

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CURRENT COMMENT

Closure Should Come.
(Hamilton Herald, Ind.)
The only sensible course to be taken by Mr. Borden if the opposition resumes its obstructive tactics is to force a new weapon in the form of a set of closure rules to deal with obstruction. It is intolerable that the public business of this great country should be held up indefinitely at vast public sacrifice merely in order that the minority party in parliament may have full liberty to play a desperate game for the stakes of power and emolument.

The Issue.
(Victoria Colonist.)
Speaking on the Naval Bill, Mr. Borden said in Parliament: "Our opponents say, 'No voice and possible neutrality in time of war.' We say, 'A just voice of all the Dominions in foreign policy and in the concerns of the Empire, and a United Empire to face every peril.'"

A Great Team.
(Toronto News)
Mr. Emmerson and Mr. Bourns are twin imperialists.

DIARY OF EVENTS

THE PASSING DAY.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.
And This is a Great Day for the Irish, Entirely.

There's not a Hibernian who can't or won't on this day and date find growing on his family tree at least one little green shamrock.
But shamrocks don't grow on trees at all, and, certainly not on family trees. True for ye, ye spalpeen! But 'tis a son of the old sod the writer is, glory be! And he has a right to his bulls.

Although today is Monday of Holy Week, that fact will have little effect on the observance of St. Patrick's Day. In the oldest and best life of the good Saint, the book of Armagh, which dates from the eighth century, there is specific authority for the adequate celebration of Patrick's Day, even though it falls in Holy Week or on a Friday. This work declares that when the day of the patron saint of Ireland will be observed today. While the golden harp on green background belongs to Leinster, and is of comparatively recent origin, it is now accepted and loved as the national emblem of the whole of Ireland. At the battle of the Boyne King William's army fought under a green flag, while the soldiers of King James battled under the white flag of the Stuarts. The color was changed to green by the Presbyterian leaders of the rebellion of 1795. By then the blend of orange and blue which produces green was accepted as symbolic of the union of north and south, as green became the color of united Ireland. The decision of the United Irishmen, immortalized in the verse, "The Wearin' of the Green," has since remained supreme.

Students of Irish history have advocated a return to blue, but without effect. Parnell intensely disliked green, considering it a most unlucky color.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

LEADER OF ZIONIST MOVEMENT.
Stephen Samuel Wise, the eminent rabbi, who was the founder and first secretary of the Federation of American Zionists, was born on St. Patrick's Day forty-one years ago. In Budapest, the Hungarian capital, Rabbi Wise was the son of a rabbi, and was educated at the College of the City of New York and at Columbia University.

Twenty years ago he became pastor of the Madison Avenue Synagogue in New York, and in 1900 went to Portland, Ore., where he was pastor of the Beth Israel and founded the Oregon State Conference of Churches and Corrections. He was also for a time the state commissioner of child labor in Oregon.

He returned to New York in 1907 and became the rabbi of the Free Synagogue. He is one of the leaders of the liberal Jews on this side of the Atlantic.

ROBERT BLATCHFORD.

Asked to name the ablest English-speaking socialist journalist, probably nine out of ten would answer, "Robert Blatchford." The forceful "Nunquam" founder and for twenty-two years editor of the London Clarion, he is sixty-two years old today. Both his parents were stage folk, but Robert was apprenticed to a brushmaker. He did not like the trade and joined the army, enlisting in the Dublin Fusiliers. He was a sergeant when he abandoned a military career to become a journalist. Although without formal education, he early developed a capacity for clear and brilliant writing and was for several years a member of the staff of the Clarion. His socialist book "Merrie England," has sold into the millions of copies, and some of his other works have been scarcely less popular. It was Blatchford who converted the Countess of Warwick into a socialist, by means of an editorial he wrote bitterly attacking the famous fancy dress ball she gave at Warwick Castle.

JOHN MCCORMACK.

A distinguished son of the old sod who will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in America is John McCormack, the Irish tenor. Mr. McCormack, who recently became a citizen of the United States and Canada, is a native of Athlone, and is in his twenty-eighth year. He was educated at Millan, under Signor Salvini, and made his debut in "Cavalleria Rusticana" at Covent Garden, London. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

ST. CLAIR MCKELWAY.
Birthday congratulations are due today to St. Clair McKelway, the famous editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, who was born in Columbia, Mo., sixty-eight years ago. He has edited the Eagle for twenty-eight years, and before that was on the staffs of the New York Tribune and World and the Albany Argus.

FIRST THINGS

DR. MONGURE D. CONWAY.
The first distinguished American clergyman to leave the church and become an avowed agnostic and enemy of Christianity was Dr. Mongure D. Conway, who was born in Virginia eighty-one years ago today, and died in 1907. He was a descendant of the Washington family and of Thomas Stone, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Graduating from Harvard Divinity School in 1856, he became minister of a Washington congregation, but was compelled to leave because of his attacks on slavery. Half a century ago he was engaged as minister of South Place Chapel in London, retaining that post until 1897, with the exception of a period spent in New York during the Civil War. Dr. Conway preached agnosticism to large audiences, and was the author of many books on the subject, including "A Subversive Life of Thomas Paine."

Other famous clergymen who have left the church to make war on their former faith include the late Samuel P. Putnam, long president of the American Free Thought Federation; Dr. Mangamus of Chicago; Dr. Roberts of the Church of This World; Kansas City, and Joseph McCabe, former Catholic priest and brother of a distinguished character, who is now a leader of the English rationalist movement.

THE POET'S CORNER

YE MARINERS OF ENGLAND.

Ye mariners of England
That guard our native seas,
Whose flag has braved a thousand years,
The battle and the breeze!

Your glorious standard launch again
To match another foe;
And sweep through the deep,
While the stormy winds do blow;
While the battle rages loud and long
And the stormy winds do blow.

The spirits of your fathers
Shall start from every wave—
For the deck it was their field of fame,
And ocean was their grave:
Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell
Your manly hearts shall glow,
As ye sweep through the deep,
While the stormy winds do blow;
While the battle rages loud and long
And the stormy winds do blow.

Britannia needs no bulwarks,
No towers along the steep;
Her march is o'er the mountain waves,
Her home is on the deep.
With thunders from her native oak
She quells the floods below—
As they roar on the shore,
When the stormy winds do blow.
When the battle rages loud and long
And the stormy winds do blow.

The meteor flag of England
Shall yet terrific burn:
Till danger's troubled night depart
And the star of peace return.
Then, then, ye ocean-warriors!
Our song and feast shall flow
To the fame of your name,
When the storm has ceased to blow;
When the fiery light is heard no more,
And the storm has ceased to blow.
—Thomas Campbell.

BEHOLD A WOMAN!

(Walt Whitman.)
The old face of the mother of many children,
What! I am fully content.

Lull'd and late is the smoke of the
First-day morning.
It hangs low over the sassafras and
wild cherry and catbrier under
them.

I saw the rich ladies in full dress
at the soiree,
I heard what the singers were singing
so long.

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Heard who sprang in crimson youth
from the white froth and the
water-blue.

Behold a woman!
She looks out from her Quaker cap,
her face is clearer and more
beautiful than the sky.

She sits in an arm chair under the
shaded porch of the farmhouse.
The sun just shines on her old white
head.

Her ample gown is of cream-hued
linen,
Her grandsons raised the flax, and
her granddaughters spun it
with the distaff and the wheel.

The melodious character of the earth,
The finish beyond which philosophy
cannot go and does not wish to
go.

The justified mother of men.

Filipino Leader to Canada.

Manila, March 15.—Emilio Aguinaldo, the former leader of the Filipino insurgents is considering the project of visiting Canada to study the relations between that country and Great Britain.

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