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LONDON THURSDAY, MAY 13.

IF BRITAIN LOST COMMAND OF THE SEAS.

It has been argued for generations that Great Britain must keep the command of the seas if at war with a maritime power, or suffer starvation by reason of the fact that she mainly relies for food and raw material upon other countries. This argument, however, is losing its force with the growth of more civilized rules and laws of warfare. It is Great Britain's own choice if today she runs the risk of privation in the event of war. At the recent Hague convention she threw her influence against the proposal to prohibit belligerents from preying upon each other's maritime commerce. This course she took on the ground that her naval power would not be enabled to inflict the maximum injury unless her ships of war were at liberty to destroy or capture the enemy's ships of commerce. As Mr. McKenna, first lord of the admiralty, recently said in the House of Commons, the exemption of the enemy's merchant marine would deprive the British navy of a weapon of offence, because the enemy's ships in war-time would call peacefully at British ports and conduct trade, as if there were not a state of war.

All this is true enough, but those who oppose the reform must abandon the argument that Britain's navy is necessary to protect her maritime commerce, or the people of the British Isles from starvation. There is a powerful sentiment in Great Britain in favor of exempting peaceful commerce from the ravages of war, and it will ultimately triumph. The reform would enormously strengthen Britain's defensive, if not her offensive, power. Nothing but the complete freedom of all contraband trade, whether carried in belligerent or in neutral bottoms, can relieve Britishers of an ever-present feeling of dread. As was pointed out in the minority report of the royal commission, the only sure means of protecting British supplies of food and raw materials is to abrogate the right to capture sea-borne merchandise. But for the opposition of Britain it might have been brought about at The Hague conference, but there is cause for congratulation in the fact that she recoiled from that position to some extent at the recent international conference in London. Under the London convention, foodstuffs and the raw materials of most industries are declared not to be contraband, and so long as they are imported in neutral ships, the enemy cannot intercept them. But imported in British ships they will be just as liable to capture by an enemy as rifles and ammunition. If Great Britain were at war, however, many British ship-owners would transfer their ships to foreign registry, and these would sail into British harbors under neutral flags. So that even under present conditions there is no likelihood that the British people would be exposed to starvation if Britain lost control of the seas, though prices of necessities might be oppressive.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is still the basic industry of Canada, and likely to remain so for all time, though other forms of natural wealth will make the Dominion one of the greatest manufacturing countries of the world. The area of occupied farm land in Canada last year was 78,426,000 acres, the value of which is estimated at \$2,800,000,000. In the same year the area of field crops was 27,500,000 acres, with a product value of \$432,534,000, while the value of live stock on farms and ranches was \$531,000,000. Every year sees great additions to the area under cultivation. Within the next decade the figures may be doubled.

This advancement is in no small part due to the wise and progressive administration of the department of agriculture, the work of which, as is shown in a recently-issued departmental bulletin, has enormously increased of late years. At Confederation the staff of the department consisted of twenty-three permanent employees; today, the number is 516, of whom 246 are stationed at Ottawa, and the remainder at various other parts of the country. Much of this increase is due to the additional work undertaken by the department since Mr. Fisher took hold.

One of Mr. Fisher's first acts was the setting apart of two hundred acres of the central experimental farm for the purposes of a general stock farm, under the management of an agriculturalist. Then came the creation in 1901 of the office of Canadian exhibition commissioner, and the appointment thereto of Mr. Wm. Hutchinson, who

arranges for the representation of Canadian products at international exhibitions. In 1902 the health of animals branch was established, with Dr. J. G. Rutherford as chief veterinary inspector, the value of whose work it is not necessary to here dwell upon. The resignation at the close of 1904 by Prof. J. W. Robertson, of the office of Dominion dairy commissioner, which he held for several years, was followed by the reorganization of the department, and separate branches, with subordinate divisions, were formed for (1) live stock, (2) dairying, and (3) seed. The appointment of a tobacco expert from France in the same year was the origin of the tobacco division. The passage of the census and statistics act in 1905 brought about a reorganization of the census and statistics office, and outlined work for the future. Each of these branches and divisions has its chief officer, but the minister himself, who is well equipped for the duties, exercises strict supervision over all.

Last session the department's appropriation amounted to \$1,218,000—an increase of over \$1,000,000 as compared with the sum voted in 1896. This is one item of increased expenditure which no one ventures to attack.

FRENZIED FINANCE.

The Montreal Gazette of Saturday says:

"London (England) newspapers are anxious about the possible effect on British investments of the Ontario electric power policy. The chances are that their fears are misplaced, and that there will be small loss of capital, or none, on account of well-placed investments in Canadian power enterprises. It seems to be assured that the publicly-provided power will not be cheap for the consumer, and may be dear for some of the municipalities to handle it. The sympathy of the public may be needed for the Canadian taxpayer, rather than for the British bondholder."

Mr. Beck is reported to have said that the commission would "capitalize the annual deficits" for a few years, in order to sell at a price at all within bounds, in the hope that in future years the scheme might pay. This would certainly be "horse-racing finance."

France needs a Lemoine act.

Mr. Beck took a sporting chance on the wells and succeeded. He has taken a sporting chance on Niagara power, but—

The heresy hunters of its party should get after the Conservative Kingston Standard. It has the temerity to argue that the consumers pay the duty.

Beautifying a city by tender is as sensible as a man giving the job of washing and cleaning himself to the lowest bidder.

Hon. Joe Martin tells an English gathering there is "no sense in having a Canadian navy." Martin is quickly getting out of touch with his native country.

Gipsy Smith is sending a wave of religious emotion over Toronto. His addresses show that he is doing it without concerning himself about the history of the first eleven chapters of Genesis.

The name of Sir William Van Horne is connected with the leadership of the federal opposition. There is apparently no ground for the rumor, except, perhaps, the belief that he might provide the opposition with an intelligible railway policy.

One of the Scotch agricultural commissioners who visited Canada recently has purchased 5,600 acres of land in Southern Alberta, paying \$70,000 for it. This speaks more eloquently in Canada's favor than all the reports published by the commissioners.

A computation has been made of the British national income, which allows it as follows:
1,250,000 persons \$3,000,000,000
3,750,000 persons 1,250,000,000
39,000,000 persons 4,500,000,000
\$8,750,000,000
More money has to be raised, and it is only fair that most of it should be taken from the lucky million, not from the penurious millions.

The Montreal Board of Trade has declared for free trade within the Empire, so far as consistent with revenues. Imperial free trade implies a tariff in Great Britain against foreign countries; but it is a much fairer proposal than the kind of imperial preferential trade many Canadians have in mind. They want a free market in the mother country, but no British goods in Canada that compete with Canadian articles.

COLONIAL PREFERENCE
[Col. Seeley, M.P., Under Secretary for the Colonies.]
Tariff "reform" further will not increase imperial security or increase imperial goodwill. Supposing you have tax on wheat. In a time of shortage our poor people, demanding that the tax should be removed, would curse the colonies in whose interest the more abundant crop was partially excluded by a tariff. But at the very moment when the colonies are being pressed to abandon a preferential tax in order to relieve the poorer citizens at home, from the very nature of the case your Canadian farmer who had taken up land in the Far Northwest on the basis of the preference would want that preference most. He would want a higher price for his corn to compensate him for the shortage. A tax on wheat would be an act of the highest imperial folly.

PLEA FOR A TAX ON LAND VALUES.
[Mr. Ure, K.C., Lord Advocate of Scotland, Speaking at Edinburgh.]
Mr. Ure gave several instances of the disparity of taxation under the present system. A famous mansion house standing in four acres of ground in one of the leading London thoroughfares was, he said, rated today on an annual value of \$4,108, or about one-fifth of the land alone. Across the street there was a plot of ground extending to 20,000 square feet, fully occupied, and the owner of that ground and the building on it was rated

upon the annual sum of \$16,887. That was to say, that with one-eighth of the amount of the ground which the peer had round his house, that man offered a contribution to the rates four times greater than a peer did. He also instanced a famous house in a famous square in London, which was the scene of a famous meeting of the Tory caucus that decided to reject without discussion a certain bill. That house was valued at \$2,500. It occupied 11,400 square feet, and it was rated at \$3,000 of realty value. Foot for foot the occupant of the latter house was rated at eight times the rate that the noble marquis on the other side was rated. (Cheers.) That was the system which extorted from many moderate, fair-minded men the embittered cry that in this country the law seemed made for the rich and not for the poor. (Cheers.)

THE WAY OF AN AUTOMOBILE.

[Mazie V. Caruthers.]
It's up in the hills, then down with a swoop.
And over the plains like a bird!
It's scorching and skidding around every curve,
Till instincts most reckless are stirred!

It's a race with the wind, to challenge its speed,
A rush through vast spaces of air,
Long draughts of rare ozone, a lifting of hearts,
A flutter of wayward loose hair!

It's a skimming of thank-yous quick as a flash,
Going higher and higher and higher,
Till just as we're reaching the top of the world,
It's a bzz-zt!—and a punctured tire!

A VIVID PEN-PICTURE.

[Arthur Stringer, in Canada West.]
The prairie land past which we sped was turning into a vast canvas of color under the Turnerque brush of the risen sun. Stretching away before the eye were vast reaches of wheat fields—the tint of Roman gold, and then the Roman gold, here and there was the apple green of half-ripened oats. Next to this, at times, would lie the meadows and brown of summer-dried soil, and then the newly-sprouted winter wheat—milky and tender greens which left each land undulation as soft as a woman's breast, as vocal with promise and burgeoning-to-be and subliminal fecundity and unconscious passion to bear and yield and lavish and give as a million singing girls. It overawed and humbled me. It made me feel the age of the grey past out of which I had travelled.

BRITISH OWNERS OF UNITED STATES LAND.

[Hamilton Times.]
We hear a good deal about absentee landlordism in Ireland, but there are few people who are aware of the extent to which it exists in the United States. There are a few of the absentee owners of United States lands:

Name	Number of Acres owned.
Earl of Bedford	21,085
Earl of Brownlow	25,749
Earl of Carnarvon	23,549
Earl of Cawdor	54,528
Earl of Cleveland	14,550
Earl of Derby	56,298
Duke of Devonshire	148,629
Lord Londesborough	52,465
Duke of Northumberland	121,469
Duke of Portland	100,000
Earl of Powis	46,035
Duke of Rutland	70,029
Lord Salisbury	100,000
Earl of Yarborough	54,570
Baron Tweeddale	120,000
Baron de Sutherland	42,000
Robert Tennant	530,000
Lord Dufferin	120,000
Benjamin Newnham	300,000
M. Ellerhausen	600,000
Lord Houghton	600,000
Lord Dufferin	600,000
A. Peel, M.P.	10,000
Alexander Grant	25,000

BUDGET PLEASURES PEOPLE.

[The Globe.]
Mr. Lloyd George has publicly expressed his satisfaction with the reception given to his revenue proposals by the general public. It would not be surprising to find them become quite popular with the masses before the next general election.

A NOBLE AIM.

[Windsor Record.]
Mr. Lloyd George is aiming to lift the exploited classes out of the slough in which privilege has kept them so long.

ODE.

[Ben Johnson.]
It is not growing like a tree,
In bulk, dota make men and be;
Or standing long an oak, three hundred year,
To fall at last a log, dry, bald and sere.

HE HAD REFORMED.

[Judge.]
"Uncle Mose," said the drummer, addressing an aged colored man who was holding down a drygoods box in front of the village store, "they tell me that you remember seeing General Washington. Is it true?"

"No, sah," replied the old man. "Ah, uester 'membah seen him, but Ah don't mon shen he come 'dout Jind church, sah."

TELL HER SO.

[Detroit Free Press.]
Amid the cares of married life, In spite of toil and business strife, If you value your sweet wife, Tell her so!

Prove to her you don't forget The bond to which the seal is set; She of life's sweets the sweetest yet— Tell her so!

When days are dark and deeply blue, She has her troubles same as you; Show her that your love is true— Tell her so!

There was a time you thought it bliss To get the fabled ones, and see, A dozen now won't come amiss— Tell her so!

Your love for her is no mistake— You feel it, dreaming or awake— Don't conceal it! For her sake— Tell her so!

Don't act, if she has passed her prime, As though to please her were a crime; If e'er you loved her, now's the time— Tell her so!

She'll return for each caress, An undiminished love and bliss; Hearts like hers were made to bless!— Tell her so!

You are hers and hers alone; Well you know she's all your own; Don't wait to "carve it on stone"— Tell her so!

Never let her heart grow cold— Richer beauties will unfold— She is worth her weight in gold— Tell her so!

THE BARRISTER SCORED.

[Dundee Advertiser.]
The rigid observance of old English rules in the South Carolina law courts, and a neglect of the same by James L. Petigru, gave rise to the following passage: "Mr. Petigru," said the judge, "you

The Egyptian's Secret

The Egyptians of Pharaoh's time were a wonderful people. The pyramids for instance, put our modern buildings to shame. Where such huge blocks of stone were carved—how they were moved and put in place—are mysteries to modern minds. The Egyptians were skilled physicians, too. We know that they used fruit juices in treating many diseases. Some years ago, a physician in Ottawa discovered a method of combining the juices of apples, oranges, figs and prunes, by which the most remarkable results have been obtained. Whichever fruit a-dvised, these combined fruit juices in tablet form are a re-discovery of the prescriptions of the ancient Egyptians, will probably never be known.

Certainly, the ancients never had a more effective remedy than "Fruit-a-tives" for all stomach, liver, kidney and bowel troubles. "Fruit-a-tives" are sold by dealers at 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, or trial box, 25c—sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives, Limited, Ottawa.

St. John's Minstrels.
St. John's Athletic Club minstrels gave their second performance last evening in their clubhouse on Oxford street, and a large and enthusiastic audience completely filled the building. As on the Tuesday evening, the programme was thoroughly enjoyed and every number of it made a hit and was received with outbursts of enthusiasm which showed the efforts of those taking part.

The choruses throughout were excellently sung and the programme of songs and ballads rendered by the individual members of the club were popular. As on the previous evening the hits at the members of the city council and persons around the city hall caught on at once and were the cause of great amusement. Charlie Martin, as Little Eva, in Uncle Tom's Cabin, was one of the characters in the programme and received repeated applause. His singing and dancing in other parts of the programme were clever and were deservedly applauded. Ed Walker, as the Prince of Dahomey, and his Zulu warriors, made a decided hit, their singing and dancing being cleverly brought off. Last night the hall was so crowded that many were unable to obtain seats and were turned away.

An extra performance will be given on Saturday evening, as owing to the large advance sales many have not been able to secure seats they wanted. The performance will be given tonight Friday night and on Saturday night.

Imperial Scots Concert Company Tomorrow.

The Imperial Scots Concert Company will return to the Grand Opera House tomorrow evening under the auspices of the Sons of Scotland Male Chorus. J. M. Hamilton, the world's greatest Scotch tenor, Miss Ruby Seath Grant, Scotland's prima donna; Fred Barclay, prince of Scottish

RUBY SEATH GRANT.

Famous Scottish Soprano, With J. M. Hamilton, at the Grand Opera House tomorrow evening under the auspices of the Sons of Scotland Male Chorus. J. M. Hamilton, the world's greatest Scotch tenor, Miss Ruby Seath Grant, Scotland's prima donna; Fred Barclay, prince of Scottish

Booking Fees.

New York, May 12.—Mayor McClellan today signed the bill recently passed by the New York Legislature limiting the fees which may be charged by theatrical booking agencies which Mayor Adam, of Buffalo, vetoed yesterday. Mayor McClellan said that the theatre managers hope to persuade Mr. Adam to reconsider his action before the fifteen-day limit expires. The mayor's memorandum, accompanying his approval, says: "The condition of affairs existing between the actors and the theatrical agencies appear to be almost beyond belief."

WALTHOUR NOT HURT.

Paris, May 13.—There is no truth in the report that Bobby Walthour, the American bicyclist, has been injured. Walthour is in Paris training for his forthcoming race with Darragon.

COREY GOES ABROAD.

New York, May 12.—William E. Corey, president of the United States Steel Corporation, sailed today on a vacation trip to Europe.

BROWNE MAY GO.

Chicago, May 12.—George Browne may play with the Washington American League club. The former Giant outfielder, who is slated for release by the Chicago National League team, has been in close conference with Manager Cantillon of Washington. Browne's home is in Washington. Furthermore, Cantillon could use another hard-hitting outfielder. Developments are expected in a day or two.

JAMESTOWN OPENING.

Norfolk, Va., May 12.—Forty-six horses are entered to start tomorrow in the opening day races of the meeting at the Jamestown Jockey Club track on Hampton Roads. The meeting is sanctioned by the Jockey Club of New York, and will continue until May 28. The track is in excellent condition.

QUOTER MEETING.

A meeting of the members of the Forest City Quilt Club will be held tonight at 8:15 at the Dominion House.

Chapman's

NEW ARRIVALS IN Boys' Wash Suits

Stocks now at their high-water mark for the summer season.

Suits in Pretty Striped Madras, Pique, Linens and Chambrays; also Plain Linens, Plain White Linens, Duck and Repp, made with sailor collar or in Russian blouse style. Prices 75c, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.50.

KAKHAI BLOUSE SUITS WITH CAP TO MATCH

These are great suits for the hard wear of the little codgers. They come with an extra pair of knickers, double-breasted blouse and cap to match. Sizes 5 to 10 years. Price \$2.00

Ladies' Suits, \$15.75

A GROUP OF BROKEN SIZES, but broken sizes does not mean that you cannot get your size. In fact, there are all sizes in the lot, and you will likely get one to fit you with no trouble.

These Suits sell regularly at \$20, \$22 and \$25. Perfectly tailored and faultlessly finished. The styles are all the latest. Long, semi-fitting coats, trimmed with silk braid and buttons. Made of fine broadcloth, in black, navy and brown. See them Friday morning and save a pretty penny.

EFFENDI HOME FIRST IN THE PREAKNESS

Fast Track, Fine Weather and Large Crowds at Pimlico Getaway.

Baltimore, Md., May 12.—Get-away day at Pimlico was everything that could be wished in the way of fine weather, fast track and large crowds. The Preakness, the feature, was won cleverly by Effendi. Statestman broke down at the finish. The Mount Washington steeplechase was won by Canvas. First race, 4 1/2 furlongs—Lothario, 3 to 1 first; Good Intent, 12 to 1 second; Dress Parade, 6 to 1 third. Time, 1:13 2-5. Second race, selling, 6 furlongs—Red River, 3 to 1 first; Consistent, 2 to 1 second; W. Horace E., 7 to 10 third. Time, 1:13 2-5. Third race, the Preakness, 1 mile—Effendi, 20 to 1 first; Fashion Plate, 3 to 1 second; H.H. Top, 3 to 1 third. Time, 1:39 4-5. Fourth race, the Mount Washington steeplechase, about two miles—Canvas, 9 to 2 first; Alabama, 4 to 1 second; Dr. Keith, out, third. Time, 4:39. Thistledeale and Dr. Keith fell at eleventh jump, but Dr. Keith was remounted and finished third. Fifth race, fillies, mile—Hurlock, 5 to 1 won; Indomitable, 7 to 10 second; Silk Horse, out, third. Time, 1:41 4-5. Sixth race, selling, 1 1/4 miles—Jeanette M., 9 to 2 won; Ross Fenton, 4 to 5 second; Lally, 8 to 5 third. Time, 1:59 4-5. Seventh race, 3 year-olds, and up, selling, 6 furlongs—St. Jeanne, 2 to 1 won; Momentum, 8 to 5 second; Indian Hunter, 2 to 1 third. Time, 1:13 4-5.

P. C. SELLEN AND COLEY AGAINST H. ST. YVES

A Twelve-Mile Relay Race in Hamilton Next Wednesday Night.

Toronto, May 13.—Percy Sellen, the grand life 12-miler, who turned "pro" for the Canadian Derby, and led the field 16 miles, is getting lots of engagements these days. On the heels of his 15-mile race with Ted Crooks, who ran third in the recent New York Marathon, scheduled for Seneca Falls, N. Y., on May 31, comes an engagement with Heli St. Yves. St. Yves has signed to run a 12-mile relay in Hamilton on May 19, and Sellen and Coley are the men selected to meet him. St. Yves absolutely refused to meet Sellen in a 12-mile scratch race, preferring to take a trimming, if he has to, from two men.

LONDON HORSES AT MONTREAL

Won Prizes in the Big Show in the Canadian Metropolis.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Montreal, May 12.—The Montreal Horse Show opened today, and, judging from the entry list and the enthusiasm shown, it will be the greatest show in the history of the association.

In addition to a large entry list from Canadian owners, there is a large number of American horses here, with some of the best horses in the United States. Mr. Reginald Vanderbilt has an exceptionally fine string here. His beautiful mare Phoebe Walton, won the individual harness horse class. Three of his other ponies won first place for the best collection of harness horses.

London horses did well in the jumping classes. Lieut. Wood Leonard, with his crack horse, won second in the jumping competition. Mr. Hume Blake's good horse Gamecock winning the blue ribbon. Lieut. Wood Leonard's horse won first place for the best collection of harness horses.

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PURSE FOR BRITT AND CORBETT.

New York, May 11.—Young Corbett has received a telegram from Promoter James Coffroth, of San Francisco, offering him a \$5,000 purse for a 25-round bout with Jimmie Britt some time in the near future at Colma, Cal. Britt is in Europe at present, but he is expected to sail for home as soon as he receives Coffroth's offer.

SILVER STREAK THIRD.

Paris, May 12.—W. K. Vanderbilt's Silver Streak was third in the Prix Leon at Tremblay today. Mr. Vanderbilt's Dictator ran in the Prix Clecher, but did not get a place.

THE LACROSSE TEAM.

The members of the lacrosse team had an excellent work-out at Queen's Park last evening, and the organization should be in fine fettle for the game at Strathroy Victoria Day. Another practice will be held Friday evening, followed by a meeting, when matters of interest to the club will be discussed.

A BREEDING STABLE.

Toronto, May 12.—William Walker, whose success in the last few years have made him a prominent figure on the turf, intends to purchase a farm near this city, and to go into the breeding game. The stallions Edwin Gum and Earl Rogers, who will be retired at the end of the present racing season, will be at the head of the stud and the mares with whom they will be mated will be purchased from time to time this summer.

A SOCCER GAME.

On Carling's Heights Saturday afternoon next the lovers of association football will be treated to possibly one of the best games of soccer ever seen in the city. The London North Enders are to play the St. Thomas Club. These two teams last met on "Good Friday," and London won by 1 to 0, which is a very close game, and the St. Thomas fellows are coming to London with the determination of beating the North Enders on their own grounds, and the North Enders can be relied on to put up their usual brand of play, and a very fast game may be expected. All soccer sports should turn out and encourage both teams. Kick-off at 3:30 p.m.

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