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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1922

FEELS THE LOSS OF THORNTON

He Introduced Fresh Policy on Great Eastern and Put Pep Into System—Away When About to Make Improvements.

(Special Correspondent to The Mail and Empire)

London, Oct. 18.—The keenest possible regret is felt in East Anglia at the capture of Sir Henry Thornton by the Canadian Government for the control of their railway system. Everybody here was startled a few years before the Great War, when Lord Claud Hamilton, the chairman of the Great Eastern Board, announced his determination to seek a general manager for that system from outside and appointed Sir Henry Thornton in the States. The services in the eastern counties being mainly for agricultural districts, but with important seaside resorts such as Cromer and Yarmouth, were distinguished for slowness except as regards the special expresses to these places. Norwich and Ipswich, it is true, were treated with some enterprise, and passengers certainly had a feeling of safety, but there was need of some go-ahead to introduce a fresh policy, and the new manager showed that he had it in him. Then he was called to organize communications in France, which he did extraordinarily well, and since the armistice he has been making improvements, though handicapped by the fact that for months overhauling and the gathering together of fresh rolling stock held him back. The increase in railway servants' pay all over Great Britain has made it practically impossible to keep the small branch lines going remuneratively under the old plan. One new idea introduced is to have only one station master for a couple of the village stations; and another is to serve stations which have a good many villages in their vicinity by motor buses. Thus the people are encouraged to travel. But our railway charges have been maintained at nearly double what they were, and it has been felt that until some substantial drop could be made increased traffic could not be hoped for. Indeed, both passenger and goods returns have declined during the past year and it is only with the prospect of some cutting of rates that better conditions are expected. Sir Henry Thornton would, it was thought, very soon have been able to take advantage of new conditions.

Fortune Building In England.

I heard this week the story of the Mayor of an English town who has been elected three years in succession because it is thought that he is the one man in the large borough who alone can successfully deal with the unemployed problem. He came into a working bricklayer. With £30 saved he went to the bank and opened an account, enabling him to build a cottage, with advances as the work proceeded. He erected, up to a certain stage, a series of cottages on a mortgage, but the cost of materials increasing, he came to a stop, as the bank was unwilling to accommodate him. On the steps he met a fellow-citizen, to whom he men-

tioned his position, but without appeal. This gentleman offered him a thousand pounds for six months. Thus the construction was finished, good rents obtained, and at the present time, this builder owns some three or four thousand houses, from which he derives substantial income. In fact, he is sure of several thousands a year. His custom is to ride about on a bicycle, and when

he was called to a civic office the suggestion was made that he should put that away. He demurred altogether. His habit is to deal personally with applications for relief or for doles. It would seem a large job, as there are five thousand workless in the borough, but he says it is comparatively simple for him, and so he gets along quickly. This is another illustration that people

In modest circumstances, can make good in the Old Country as well as in the new. ANGLO-CANADIAN.

CALLS EX-KAISER WILHELM LIAR AND BLOCKHEAD

Memoirs Confession of Guilt and Tissue of Falsehoods, Says Paris Temps—Role Too Big for Him.

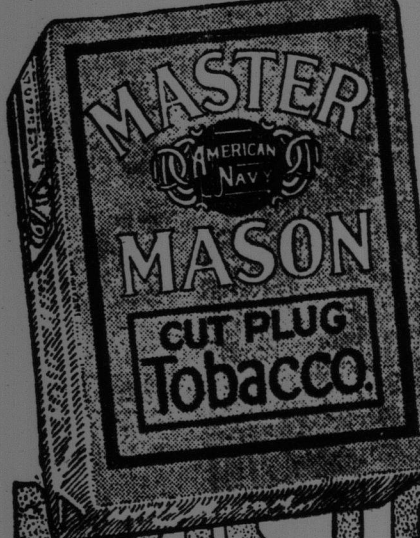
Under the title "Memoirs of a Blockhead," The Paris Temps prints the following appreciation of the author of the ex-Kaiser's memoirs. "They are finished. The greatest criminal of our age who in this twentieth century found a way of adding something new to the herbarium of modern times, the German Emperor who fled like a potroon in the hour of defeat after having waged 'this' war in the cruelest and most savage manner, the Lord of Doom, who owes it to the complacency of Holland that he has so far escaped the anger of his people before God and before mankind—for a whole month he has dined the word in a flood of ink just as for four years he drowned it in blood. To him perhaps it seems that the inkstains will wipe out the richer hue. An imperial play actor, he wished once more to appear upon the scene and, himself the hangman, he wished to play for once the role of victim. "If history judges him on his memoirs, it will be more severe in condemnation than even if judgment is based on what he did on his own responsibility during his reign. His confession is not only a tissue of carefully woven lies, an unconvincing collection of little tattle which does not for a moment bear analysis, but it reveals such mediocrity of spirit and such vulgarity of soul that if among the last of his followers there remained any who still believed in his personal prestige, these pages of desperate banality and childish argument must have ruined forever their conception of their former Emperor. "It was not a war-like prince with vast dreams of conquest who ruled Germany for eight and twenty years; it was a little fellow playing a role too big for him and in whose composition foolish pride far outweighed those qualities essential for the completion of those great schemes to which that pride aspired." After reviewing briefly some of the

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most glaring shortages in the memoirs, The Temps concludes:

"Now that he has had his say, let this refuge of Doorn rest definitely in silence, which is so much to his own interest. His defense has served simply to confirm his guilt. It has definitely fixed the world's opinion of the intellectual and moral value of the personality of the ex-emperor. Remote from the world in the throne room with the prestige of a crown and sceptre, he could create the illusion of being somebody, a force, a symbol. Seen near at hand in the light of these pages, which for all their lies show something of his nature, one finds that he was nothing but a blockhead."

"But even so, this blockhead must never be allowed to forget that he has been condemned by the whole civilized world as the great war criminal, and that if he has not been hanged in the Tower of London as was promised him, he none the less remains dishonored and accursed."

W. T. McLaughlin, official motion picture man at the International schooner races at Gloucester, passed through the city yesterday on his way back to his headquarters at Halifax. Mr. McLaughlin said that he had "shot" the main features of the race and that they soon will be ready for the screen.

LONG TRESSES SCARCE. Crave for Bobbed Hair Strikes Mexico City.

Mexico City, Oct. 12.—(By mail).—Bobbed hair is now so popular in Mexico City that among young girls long tresses are considered unusual. The craze for short hair was started several months ago when a number of young women who had been attending school in the United States returned home. The idea became popular, and, over-riding the old belief that only women of doubtful morals wore their hair bobbed, it was not long before the younger set of the capital adopted it unanimously.

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