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THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1923

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THE BALDWIN SPEECH

The speech of the British Prime Minister to the Conservative party delegates holds up France before the world as the obstacle to a European settlement. It is a calmly worded deliverance, but the significance is not to be mistaken, and the final and official response from France, so far committed to its present policy, will be of the first importance. This morning's Paris despatches indicate that the French may compromise by agreeing to a new commission of experts. There is in the Baldwin address, read in the light of the Smuts speech, a day of two earlier, an intimation that if France is obstinate, action may be taken without her, or over her head.

The Prime Minister's speech has two chief features: of interest, one domestic, the other foreign. The predicted departure of Great Britain in the matter of fiscal policy is foreshadowed. Protection is to be the party policy later, and it will be gradually developed in the course of preparations for a general election, but for the present the Prime Minister sets aside, and the question of preferences will also wait. There is, however, a definite declaration that the Conservatives will go in for protection of home industries, and what may happen after a general election, or who will then have the power to frame the country's fiscal policy, is on the knees of the gods. During the life of the present parliament there will be no change.

Such thunder as there is in the speech lies in the warning to France of the grave consequences which may follow a continued refusal to accept to and and participate in an international conference for the settlement of reparations. France stands accused of shutting the door against the American offer to join in such a conference, the acceptance of which Great Britain believes to be necessary if Europe is to escape falling into conditions far worse than those now existing. Premier Smuts, it is now evident, did not speak without knowing the government's mind, and what he said about France with almost brutal frankness the Prime Minister says more politely in substance. Lloyd George's frequent repeated pleas for American participation in the European settlement will now be accepted as inspired by a complete knowledge of the government's attitude. The Prime Minister reiterates Britain's determination that Germany shall not escape payment to the extent of her ability, and he says, significantly, "Nor could we contemplate the breaking off of any part of Germany into separate states, for that would at once break the treaty of Versailles." He thinks it "inconceivable" that France will refuse to accept the opportunity for a final settlement which is afforded by the American offer. France at first declined that offer with brusquely. If she accepts now, as Paris intimates she may, Britain will score and the situation will be eased—perhaps the degree of American participation proves adequate. On that score France is skeptical and Britain divided.

SOLDIERS ON THE LAND

Judging by a statement regarding Canada's soldier settlers on the land—or whom there were nearly 30,000 at the end of August—made by Major E. J. Ashton, commissioner of the Soldier Settlement Board, the hard luck which has overtaken the veterans on farms in Manitoba would seem to be a special instance due to a bad crop year. It will be recalled that his Excellency the Governor General was in Winnipeg recently he attended a conference of G. W. V. A. officials at which relief for the Manitoba soldier-farmers was strongly urged. It was represented that a thousand would be compelled to leave their holdings during the coming winter unless help is given, and it is anticipated that a revaluation of their land will be supported by Lord Byng. Conditions are as bad there as the Winnipeg meeting indicated the other cause probably lies in the general farm shortage affecting practically the whole province of Manitoba, which hitherto has been less affected by such misfortune than any of the prairie territory. The Manitoba case seemingly calls for special treatment of some sort and there will be general approval of such steps as an analysis of conditions shows to be necessary.

As to the general results following the taking up of land by soldiers under the government scheme, Major Ashton makes an encouraging report. Of the 22,566 soldiers placed on farms up to September last there were 6,800 who needed no financial help. The remaining 23,200 have received in advances \$90,000,000 which they have used in payments for land, in the purchase of stock, and for buildings and other permanent improvements. At the end of 1922 these settlers had on their farms 77,391 horses, 158,038 cows, and other cattle, 45,000 hogs, 11,200 sheep, and

807,000 poultry. The value of their crops in 1922 was \$15,966,000.

They do not all succeed, a condition not confined to veterans on the land. The percentage of failures last year was 16.2 and in a great many cases the lack of success was caused by illness due to their war services. At the end of 1922 sixty per cent. of the amounts due on the loans had been prepaid.

Of Canadian agricultural conditions in general Major Ashton, speaking from an extensive knowledge of the country, repeats a familiar statement, which is that while Canada needs a great deal of immigration of the right kind, it is vitally important to retain on the land the farmers, and the sons of the farmers, who are already there. There will always be an exodus to the cities. It cannot be expected that the sons will stick to the farm. But a considerable proportion will fortunately, while farming on the average yields a profit and offers such living conditions as appeal to those fitted to make a success of it. Living conditions have improved a great deal in the country of late years, and while the farmers wait impatiently the return of a better demand for their products the increasing number of motor cars among them is not a sign of despair.

THE COLONIZERS

Kipling called Rhodes a divine dreamer, and surely the developments in Africa have shown that he dreamed and dared on a magnificent scale, and that his vision opened the door to vast new spaces which his race will people and hold. The definitely British influence grows in Africa. The granting of self-government under the British Crown to Southern Rhodesia is a reminder of the strength and extent of British holdings in the Dark Continent. It is only thirty years since Cecil Rhodes, through the British South Africa Company, brought this territory under the flag. The company promoted settlement, and has governed the territory until recently when the desire of the white settlers to rule themselves was met by Britain and the company stepped aside, its work in that quarter done, a work which has opened up a fine country, kept it for the Empire and provided a new field of expansion for the greatest of colonizing races.

The population of Southern Rhodesia is still less than 1,000,000, there being as yet but 40,000 whites to 900,000 natives, in an area about five times the size of New Brunswick. The country is high, nearly all of it 3,000 feet above the sea, and the soil is good for dairying and stock raising, grain, fruits and vegetables. The climate is well suited to the white races, and if the population needs room for expansion or fresh adventure there lies close at hand the 300,000 square miles of Northern Rhodesia, awaiting exploration and development. Small as the white population is Southern Rhodesia is, it is a land of peace and security. But for Rhodes' daring and foresight all the territory named after him would probably have been German, for it was the German plan, of which Rhodes prevented the completion, to stretch out its possessions from German East Africa to German Southwest Africa, and the conquest of both these German colonies during the world war by British and South African forces was an easier task because Rhodesia was British. It was thought at one time that the Southern Rhodesians would join South Africa, and perhaps they would have done so but that they disliked the Dutch Nationalists who have given Premier Smuts so much trouble. The realization of all that Rhodes dreamed and planned for the Empire in Africa goes steadily on.

The report that Canada furnished New England with Plymouth Rock has been stirring up the patriotic societies of Massachusetts, but their

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force will subside now that the story is explained. The Rochester professor who said the Rock came from Canada now adds that a glacier carried it over about 40,000 years ago, and that "the never intended to create the idea that it was moved by humans from its original resting place in Canada." So another grave international crisis is avoided.

Colonel Talbot, Quebec director of the C. N. R., suggests that the Maritime Provinces should improve the financial showing made by the railway in their territory. They are most anxious to do so, and they know it can be done by a greater use of our Atlantic ports and by more favorable rates to our industries. More traffic will bring about the results Colonel Talbot speaks of. And he should not forget that the C. N. R. must be a lever of development in all the territory it serves. Colonel Talbot should think of what the national railway system owes the Maritimes as well as of what they owe it.

Proclaiming a Rhineland republic is quite different from establishing and maintaining it, as the secessionists are discovering. In all the disturbances, the outcome of which is yet hidden, Germany finds new excuses for evading its obligations.

William Beazley of Dartmouth was badly injured yesterday while at work on the dredge Ferguson off Yarmouth harbor. He was struck in the right eye by a lever and had his skull fractured. Hopes are held out for his recovery.

LINES TO AN ATOM

(On gathering, from the proceedings of the British Association at St. John, not quite such an energetic creature as was once supposed.)

O Atom (I write as a lover
Of restful and peaceable folk).
I own I'm relieved to discover
You're rather an indolent bloke.
No longer in fierce effervescence,
I gather your energies slay
Maintained in a state of quiescence;
And I think they are better that way.

I view them, I own, with less terror
Than if they were harnessed, or
hurled
(By some tireless enthusiast's error)
To bust up the whole of our world.
Oh, vastly more noble I term it
To have strength like your own
within call—
And then just to sit down like a hermit
And calmly do nothing at all.

By all means continue to coddle
Your energies safely below,
And I think you may serve as a model
For one or two people I know:
Henceforth I shall say to the bushtender
The "live wire" and similar guys:
"Consider his ways and be wise."
—Lucio in the Manchester Guardian.

Premier Praises East St. John Road

Premier Veniot and B. M. Hill yesterday inspected the East St. John road, the Loch Lomond road and work at Musquash. In connection with the Musquash work, the Premier said he

Farsight—Cataract

Few people, thank goodness, will have cataract. But those of us who have far-sight—that is the opposite of being near-sighted—and who neglect Glasses—are gambling for cataract.

Correction of far-sight means all-round sight, clear perception near as well as far. And it is safety first, for far-sight or old-sight neglected may start the chain of changes inducing cataract. Safeguard and pleasure in one—Glasses.

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was well satisfied with the progress being made.

He said that the trip to the Loch Lomond road was for the purpose of finding out what work would be necessary there next year, and expressed the opinion that the East St. John road was the best in the Maritime Provinces.

He said the Dominion Colonization Department was making a farm survey of the province at the present time with a view to obtaining information for use of intending settlers.

TO PUT ON DEGREE WORK.

Loyalist Temple No. 18 Pythian Sisters has been honored by being asked to exemplify degree work of the Order at the meeting of the Grand Temple which will be held in St. John next August. Announcement of this was made at the meeting of the temple held last evening in the Temple Building, Main street, with Mrs. Emma Flewelling, M.E.C., presiding. The meeting was well attended and several applications for membership were passed upon. A request was received that members should take part in the Poppy Day tagging and this was agreed to. Mrs. A. G. Brown being appointed convener for the taggers from the Loy-

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