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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1908.

JAPAN-BAITING.

Mr. Lemieux is returning from Japan. What may have been the results of his visit there neither Mr. Lemieux nor the Japanese authorities have hinted, though this has not prevented a section of the Opposition press announcing that the visit had no results at all. This, however, was to be expected for it comes from journals to whom information is generally superfluous and to whom truth is objectionable when it destroys a preconceived criticism of the Government. To those, however, who consider information a necessary condition of intelligent discussion, the mission of Mr. Lemieux and the problem he attempted to solve may be left until we know the results of the mission and how far he got in the solution of the problem.

Meantime it may not be unprofitable to note the attitude of our Opposition friends toward that problem. Generally that attitude has become one of offensive imputation toward a nation with whom we are on the most amicable terms, to whom we are joined in military alliance and with whom we are linked by commercial treaty. It appears to be assumed by our friends opposite that the influx of Japanese into British Columbia has been with the full knowledge and consent of the Japanese Government, if not even at the initiative and by the connivance of the Japanese authorities. Upon this assumed violation of her national undertakings they have built all manner of fanciful projects calculated to inflame the public mind of Canada against Japan as a nation and equally certain to arouse resentment in Japan against Canada and the Canadians. Generally, these alarmist propaganda invest Japan with a deep dark design to populate the Pacific coast from California to Alaska with her people, with the ultimate hope of extending her political sway over the whole western littoral of North America.

There is little enough foundation for asseverating Japan as a violator of obligations. Young as that nation is in the world of moderns, the credit of none stands higher in the money markets of Europe, and the financial credit of a nation is a pretty good gauge as to whether or not that nation is in the habit of keeping its word. Japan undertook to limit the number of her people who should emigrate to Canada each year; her standing among the nations should guarantee our unqualified acceptance of that assurance until we are compelled to abandon it by evidence which can neither be refuted nor doubted. That the assurance was verbal and diplomatic does not materially affect the case, for a nation which does not respect even the verbal undertakings of her accredited representatives, cannot expect to long maintain the stability of her credit. Japan can hardly be supposed to be foolish enough to sacrifice her national credit for the purpose of getting rid of her population, for she needs both her credit and her people. Least of all is she likely to do this in a manner which could only chill the friendship of the Empire with whom she stands allied and without whose alliance she could maintain neither her prestige nor her possessions.

A national undertaking may be avoided by unscrupulous men, even against the wishes and despite the vigilance of the nation and its Government. It is altogether probable that the recent influx of Japanese has been due to the machinations of interested individuals, and not to any development of Japanese national policy. It is an open secret that the Chinamen who come to America do not pay their admission fees from their own pockets immediately. These are paid by wealthy Chinamen already in the country, and the new arrivals return the money, with interest, from their earnings in the country. When the full history of the present Japanese movement becomes known we shall probably find that the men behind the scenes are not the statesmen of Japan but certain private gentlemen of financial inclinations who have engineered the invasion for their own enrichment, against the wishes and despite the watchfulness of the Japanese Government. And it is quite as likely that these gentlemen will be found to be directors of Canadian and American trans-

portation companies as gentlemen of Japanese origin. That the invasion is favored by private gentlemen of financial inclination is the more likely because the Japanese are understood to come to Vancouver, not from Japan but from Honolulu. Against Japanese going from Japan to the Hawaiian Islands there appears to be no restriction; and the Japanese Government cannot exercise authority to prevent Americanized Japanese going from the Hawaiian Islands to whatever country they choose. Nor could they exert any authority over such to compel them to go to Canada or elsewhere. The indications are, therefore, that if the incoming of the Japanese is anything more than a voluntary movement of the immigrants themselves, that its headquarters are in the insular possessions of the United States, and not in the Empire of Japan. If so, we shall have to treat with Washington rather than with Tokyo.

The present and apparent interests of Japan would be better served by an influx of her people to the western rather than the eastern coast of the Pacific. On the Asiatic coast the Empire of the Mikado has come into virtual possession of a country of enormous resources, with an indolent and unprogressive population, a country won by the sword from a Power which would be only too glad of the chance to win it back. The security alike of the Japanese Empire itself and of its newly acquired possessions depends on the Japan-ising of Korea; and the more Japanese who are settled in Manchuria, the more formidable will that province become as a buffer state between Japan and Russia. If, therefore, Japan is encouraging and inducing the migration of her people to the eastern coast of the Pacific, she is doing so at the expense of weakening her grip on the situation nearer home. There is nothing in her policy to warrant the supposition that her statesmen are so shortsighted in this matter of vital consequence.

Whatever satisfaction our Opposition friends may find in this Japan-baiting, it is satisfaction won by endangering their country; and whatever political advantage they may hope to gain by it is advantage for which Canada may be made to pay dearly. Canada has every reason to desire the friendship of Japan, and every reason to avoid cultivating her enmity. Both are countries of the future, and their relations should be governed with an eye to the future. Whatever may be our future development, Japan has at present an immense lead over us in population, wealth and power. With Japan in friendly alliance with the Empire, Canada's Pacific coast is safe from all kinds of attack; without Japan's alliance it would tax the resources of the Empire to preserve that coast in a war which called for a wide dispersal of the British fleet; with Japan against us a combination of any two powerful European nations which held the British fleet in the Atlantic would subject not only the Pacific coast but the whole western half of Canada to a Japanese invasion of no such peaceable character as the present. Manifestly our interests are in dealing with Japan on a basis of truth and fairness and not in screaming foundationless accusations that she has proved recalcitrant to her undertakings. Until it is proven that she has done so we are bound to believe only a layman's tale to her imputations of faithlessness for which we have no proof to insult her national dignity and invite her national unfriendliness. To do so in the hope of political gain is to exalt partyism above patriotism and to invite disaster to the country in the hope of bringing trouble to upon political opponents.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The question has arisen whether citizens who vote in virtue of income tax should be debarré from voting on other than "money" by-laws. The city charter entitles only property-owners to vote on by-laws which involve the expenditure of city funds and addition to the city's indebtedness. The gas by-law voted on last Monday proposed no expenditure of money on the part of the city and no increase of our civic liabilities; yet only property-owners were permitted to vote on the by-law. It is not clear that the charter explicitly declares who may or may not vote on measures of this kind; the matter would appear therefore to be one for interpretation by a legal authority. Perhaps the most satisfactory decision would be a ruling from a judge.

It is announced that the Grand Trunk Pacific has only a few miles to complete on their line from Portage La Prairie to Saskatoon. Another dispatch announces that the general manager went over the new

line from Portage to Rivers a few days ago at the rate of a mile a minute. Both items are welcome news; they indicate that the new road is making splendid headway, but that the character of the roadway is not being sacrificed to rapidity of construction. The new line is only 80 miles behind the short line which the C.P.R. is building to compete with it; and when it reaches the Edmonton terminals this city will be joined to Winnipeg, not by a make-shift tramway on which the traveller would take life in his hands, but by a well constructed road over which fast trains may be driven with safety.

A correspondent alleges that the city scales are badly in need of inspection. He avers that a load of coal which scaled 4,200 lbs. on a private scales weighed 4,600 lbs. on the city scales on December 30th, and 4,400 lbs. on the same scales on the following day. Another load indicated as weighing 4,100 lbs. on the private scales went 4,200 on the city scales on December 30th and 4,450 lbs. on the city scales the following day. As this is the season when every citizen is buying coal, and as every load of coal sold in the city must be weighed on the city scales, it is of immediate and material consequence to the citizens generally that the scales be in proper working condition. Frequent inspection would appear to be advisable.

THE DEMAND TO LESSEN EMPLOYMENT.

The estimates for the current year amount to \$120,000,000. The Opposition of the amount sent the Opposition journals into hysterics, and they have shrieked without ceasing for a reduction of the expenditure. Strangely enough, they demand the reduction because the times are not so prosperous as they formerly were. Their regular chain of reasoning runs something like this: Many private investments have been postponed because of the monetary conditions; in consequence many men have been thrown out of work; therefore the Government should also abandon its enterprises—and throw more men out of work.

However convincing this line of argument may be to those who are prepared to follow any line which can be ended with an accusation against the Government, it will carry little weight with the man who analyses it. If men have been thrown out of employment by the suspension of private enterprise, this means that there is an ample supply of labor in the country for the prosecution of Government work, and that this labor can be readily secured for a fair wage. This is at least a poor reason why Government work should be suspended until a time when labor is less plentiful and correspondingly more expensive.

The business man with available capital builds when labor is plentiful and when there is little danger of labor disputes tying up the work; so does a business government. If private enterprises have been postponed this means that materials of all kinds which else would have gone into those enterprises, are now on the market at lower prices than they would have been a year ago and at lower prices than they are likely to demand a year hence. As the enterprises postponed were mostly structural work, the materials so thrown upon the market are the materials needed in the construction of Government buildings and other public works. Again this is a very poor reason why we should delay erecting public buildings and postpone public works until the prices of brick and stone and lumber have soared again to their former heights. A business man with money at his disposal would seize the opportunity to build while materials are cheap; why should not a Government do the same?

If men have been thrown out of employment this means that they must be supported by some one, and in some way. Is it not better both for themselves and for the community that they should be given work and paid wages for it than that they should be given food and clothing for nothing? If men need either work or charity, and if the country needs work done, is it not better to pay the men to do the work than to neglect the work and support the men by public charity?

Canada is a young country with a future which no man can measure and with public needs commensurate to her future. The public works already clearly needed are stupendous. A full industrial conditions has placed a number of men in need of employment and a vast quantity of materials on the market at less than usual prices. The course of prudence is surely to utilize the men and materials now readily available to complete some of the work which we must soon have completed. Not so with our opposing friends. They would neglect the opportunity of the hour—at least

they counsel the Government to do so. They would feed the unemployed at the public expense, would neglect the opportunity to secure materials when they are cheap, and a year hence when there are two jobs for every workman and when materials have risen to the higher levels they would undertake at double its cost, the work that should be done when it can be done cheaply.

Government work if properly managed may be made to exert a steady influence in industrial conditions, assisting employment, when employment is needed and withdrawing workmen from the ordinary walks when the demand for workmen is great. To undertake Government enterprises when the demand for labor exceeds the supply is to increase the difficulty and to make both Government enterprises and private undertakings unduly expensive. But to launch such undertakings when the supply of labor exceeds the demand opens a field of opportunity to the worker when he most needs it, and enables the public works to be completed at reasonable cost. Generally speaking, large Government works should be undertaken when private enterprise offers little employment for labor; and save when urgently needed, should be postponed when private enterprise requires every workman available. To accomplish this, years of industrial slackness must be the years of greatest Government expenditure. Government retrenching should be done when private enterprise is spending liberally. The large estimate for the current year make provision for the vigorous prosecution of Government work at a time when the workman needs the work; a demand that the estimates be reduced is simply a demand that Government work be suspended, and the workman left without work.

THE CORPORATION SQUEAL?

The Edmonton Journal takes a fling at the Beef Commission: The Beef Commission feel aggrieved that the Government did not provide them with passes at the expense of the people to go on a junketing trip to Europe to smell the cattle landings there and eat plum duff with the cattleman on the way over. This is a mighty short of a calamity. The commission found no combine in the Pât Burns business. It was to be expected. They found the C.P.R. guilty of "outrageous conduct" in the transportation of cattle, but the evidence was three or four years old. This, however, did not matter. They relented from their strong language and fixed the responsibility upon subordinates. May be the Government did a mistake in not sending the commission to Europe, and it might not be money wasted to keep them there.

The category of Alberta who have to dig deep and often cannot afford much of such luxuries as the Beef Commission. The Journal has two grievances against the commissioners, first that they did not find P. Burns & Co. guilty of illegal practices, and second, that they ventured to censure the C.P.R. And, either because the Commission found no just reason to accuse Burns of violating the law, or because they found just reason to censure the conduct of the C.P.R., the action of the Government in appointing the Commission is sneered at. The reader must judge whether the Journal's lamentations arise from the disappointment of its pre-conceived notion that Burns was a malefactor or from its tender solicitude for the C.P.R.

SPENDING WHEN WE COULD VS. SPENDING WHEN WE SHOULD. It must be admitted that our Opposition friends are consistent in demanding that Government work be suspended because we have seen better times. In this they are not preaching what they themselves practiced. Under their fiscal system there was nothing to do but give up when things went against us. In the most prosperous seasons we had to borrow money for our public works; in the less prosperous seasons there was nothing for it but to stop work or pay ruinous rates of interest; and as our interest bills were already burdensome we generally had to stop work.

Under that system Government enterprise was active when private enterprise was paralyzed. Government enterprise was suspended. The Government was the competitor of the commercial and industrial capitalist in the money market when the money market was favorable, and in the labor market when the labor market was unfavorable. When the money market was favorable the Government invaded it, captured the money needed by the business interests of the country, and by its borrowings forced up the interest demanded on loans. This money it employed in hiring men away from industry and commerce at a time when industry

and commerce needed them. But when the money market was unfavorable, the Government had no money to spend; and when industrial and commercial conditions threw men out of employment, the Government had no employment to offer them.

The weakness of that system was that it made the Government subject to the same power as largely governs the conditions of industry and trade—the willingness of the man who has money to lend it. When the trader and the factory owner could borrow money in plenty, the Government had ample funds; when the merchant and the manufacturer could not secure funds the Government was as hard pinched as they were. Thus the commercial conditions of the country were reflected in the activity or inactivity of Government enterprise. When the country was prosperous, the Government hired men away from productive occupations to do work that could be as well done, and more cheaply done, at other times; and when the country was not prosperous the Government could do nothing for its relief. When men had work, the Government had work to offer them; when they had no work the Government could not provide work for them. When wages were good, the Government squandered money diverting industry from business; when thousands could not secure wages good or had the Government had no money with which to pay wages.

The results of this system are easily understood and should have been foreseen. Our public works were constructed when wages were high and materials expensive, and when private enterprise needed both the materials and the workers; they therefore cost us far more than they should have cost and retarded the country's development by diverting labor to unproductive employment when productive employment needed all the labor available. Worse still, by spending public money when it produced the least results, and was the least needed, we had none to spend when it would have produced better results, and when it was sorely needed.

The so-called national policy, disregarding absolutely the idea of using Government works as a counter-balance to industrial conditions. Properly managed such works may be made to provide employment when other employment is scarce, and to detract as few men as possible from productive employment when this is demanded. To accomplish this, Government enterprises must be prosecuted when private enterprises are not sufficient to give employment to all the workers, and must be suspended when private enterprises need all the workers available. By such management the Government would be kept from interfering with the country's development, when conditions permit of development, and may be made the means of tidying over industrial depressions with mutual benefit to the country, the employers and the workmen.

This of course could never be done under a system of borrowing the money we spent on public works; under such a system we were forced to do the work when we could get the money, and we could get the money only when the country was not particularly in need of the additional employment. Under the present system we pay as we go, avoid interest charges and preserve our credit; therefore we are able to time our expenditure to the need of expenditure; to spend money when the country needs that money should be spent but when private enterprise is not in condition to spend it; and to provide employment when men need employment.

RECALLING RESERVES OR WITHDRAWING EMIGRANTS?

Japan is recalling her military reservists from Canada and the United States. The call is not unheeded. Already hundreds are preparing to embark at Vancouver and they are understood to be only the fore-runners of thousands scattered along the Pacific coast to whom the call will mean an immediate return to the flowery islands.

Probably this is only Japan's polite way of withdrawing her people from the Coast cities without impairing her national prestige. If so, it must be admitted another illustration of the marvellous cleverness with which difficult tangles are straightened out by that nation. To have issued orders that the Japanese should return simply because they were not wanted in America would probably have been futile and would certainly have been humiliating. Confronted with such order the emigrant would probably have argued that if he were content to put up with his treatment, the Government in Tokyo had no reason to worry about it, and would stay in the country where he was making good wages in issuing such orders.

The Tokyo Government would admit the Tokyo Government would admit the unwillingness or inability to demand more considerate treatment for their

people abroad. The present course avoids both these difficulties. It is bound to be effective and it exalts rather than lowers the national dignity. It appeals to the patriotism of the emigrant, an appeal which the Japanese never disregard; and it honors rather than humiliates the nation by displaying a control over the loyalty and service of her children which might well be envied by the other Powers.

But some of our excitable friends across the border are certain to take such pacific views of things. They are bound to associate the recall of the Japanese reserves with the cruise of the United States fleet; to regard these as preliminary movements for inevitable war; to dream dreams of conquest and see visions of invading hosts; to canvass the possible contingencies to forecast the history of the struggle. By one journal of this nervous type we will be assured that the Government at Tokyo is scared out of its wits by the approach of the armament and is recalling the reserves to defend the Empire from invasion. By another we will be told the men are to be landed in Hawaii before Rear-Admiral Evans reaches those waters. A third will inform us that they are destined for an immediate invasion of the Philippines. A still more highly strung prophet will doubtless have them occupy both groups of islands forthwith and effect a landing as well somewhere along the defenceless shores of California or Oregon. In the grand finale of course all will agree, in the hopeless defeat of the Empire and the splendid triumph of the Republic, in the annihilation of the Japanese fleet, the defeat of her armies, the capture of her strongholds and the hoisting of the stars and stripes to replace the banner of the rising sun on the imperial palace at Tokyo. Altogether the American people should have plenty of war literature during the next few weeks, despite the utter improbability that there will be any war about which to create literature, and perhaps largely because there will be no war. Such are the advantages of a lively imagery and of a type of newspapers which pay dividends by detailing its products.

Meantime people less highly strung will hope that the recall of the reserves is an ingenious and graceful way of securing the return of the Japanese emigrants without impairing the national dignity of Japan.

CURRENT COMMENT.

It seems that the Vancouver Armenians who were assailed by the Japanese had been unduly indulging in fire-water.

Vancouver World: "We are opposed to indiscriminate immigration, but we have no objections to the benefit influence of the Japanese 'cattar'—in a mince pie, no doubt."

A press-correspondent in Japan throws light on the causes of the emigration of laborers from that country. In recent years the use of machinery has superseded the simpler methods of manufacture, depriving thousands of artisans of their former occupation and forcing them to either discover new means of livelihood or to leave the country. Eventually, of course, society will readjust itself to the changed conditions, but meantime many of the unemployed prefer to take their chances abroad rather than at home. Beside this, wages are wretched and the cost of living has been rapidly increasing of late. Conditions of labor are not determined by law and are anything but satisfactory. Artisans work eleven hours a day and railway men are frequently on duty twenty-four hours without rest. The lives of employees are very lightly considered by employers, and little is done to facilitate their comfort or to protect their health.

Turcotte, Liberal, was elected in Nicolet last week by a majority of 448, an increase of 67 over the majority of Hon. Chas. R. Devlin in 1904.

The C.P.R. has sold 35,000 acres of irrigated land to a Japanese company who propose to grow sugar-beets. Now, who can be encouraging Japanese immigration?

The Thias trial is on again. Those people are well named. The few chapters of their history that have been revealed are warm enough to melt anything but the hardened rationality of New York "Society."

The Tokio correspondent of the London Times declares that Mr. Lemieux's mission to Japan was not a failure. Canadian Opposition papers will now cut the Thunderer from the exchange list.

Calgary Eye Opener: "The Christ" was today committed for trial for the murder of Wm. Curry, his employer. "It is the most complicated and beautiful production of its kind we ever

"remember having seen. The subject-matter reads more like the intimate 'causerie' of a group of old-timers than the incoherent narration of historical 'incidents' connected with the city of 'Edmonton.' Everything is brought 'up to date, however, and makes most 'fascinating reading.' The general 'set-up' of this special number, which is 'profusely illustrated, is beyond all 'praise. It beats anything of the 'kind that has appeared in Canada 'this year in the newspaper publishing line."

The Manitoba Legislature met on Friday. In the speech from the throne the Lieutenant-Governor said: "I am pleased to inform you that, in the speech from the throne, His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, in opening the present session of Parliament at Ottawa, announced that a measure will be submitted to Parliament dealing with the extension of the boundaries of this province. Our earnest hope is that 'full justice will be done to our 'claims, giving us the area to which 'we are justly entitled, and at the 'same time providing this province 'such revenue as will place her on an 'equality with her sister provinces of 'Saskatchewan and Alberta." This is Premier Roblin's opinion of the financial terms secured by Alberta and Saskatchewan.

ENDORSED PORK PACKING PLANT.

Continued from page three.

The Official Organ.

A matter that provoked much discussion was the question as to whether or not subscription to the official organ be made compulsory upon every member of the association, and the annual subscription rate be collected with the membership fee. It was a proposition thrown down on many sides, its opponents declaring it a departure from the spirit of the age of individual liberty, and also that in families where three or more were members of the association, there would be a superfluous supply of one organ.

A communication was read from A. Palmer Watt, of the Saturday News Publishing Company, referring to that publication's work during the past year as organ of the association, and making a new proposition for the coming year. This gave in detail the aims of the new weekly—the Alberta Homestead, whose has been expressly chosen to include the interests of both farmers and ranchers. In this publication W. F. Stevens, of Clover Bar, was elected secretary of the association, while he was associate-editor.

The proposition to adopt this paper as the official organ was carried, it being clearly explained that subscription to it must not be made compulsory. A matter that arose upon this connection was the failure during the past year of most local branches to send in news of their progress, or of individual farmers contributing articles or presenting their problems to the public by means of their organ.

An amendment to the constitution was carried to the effect that the names of the minister and deputy minister of agriculture for the provinces be omitted from the board of directors of the central association.

As the constitution existed up to this these officials were members of the executive, with full powers, but the chairman explained while the executive was glad to have the corporation and advice of these officials they felt that as a Farmers' association they had body should be independent of departmental or political connections.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Ball providing that a special tax of \$1 be imposed on every member of the association for the year 1908 to secure funds to put an organizer in the field. But after much discussion and almost general opposition, the resolution was practically dropped by the convention. Several delegates declared they would prefer to pay \$5 personally than to ask the members of their branches to pay out another dollar. All agreed however that the work of the association was handicapped by shortage of funds. To relieve the situation, Mr. Richards suggested that entertainments be given by local branches to raise funds and Mr. Sheppard proposed a subscription list be sent to members, who could contribute or not as they wished.

Practical Work Best. The discussion was brought to a close by the secretary stating that the best organizer in the field was the reports of their work, showing the association had taken up questions important to farmers and brought them to a successful issue.

The convention reaffirmed the resolution of last year that the principles of the Local Improvements District Act be adhered to.

"Resolved, that it is the opinion of the convention of Alberta farmers that 'grain made by the government to seed grain fairs and poultry shows be paid by the department as soon as the returns are made."

The secretary was asked to confer with a view to securing another meeting of the grain standards board, which shall secure to farmers more equitable grading of the present oat crop.

Shot His Employer.

Brampton, Jan. 8—John D. Terrae was today committed for trial for the murder of Wm. Curry, his employer. Terrae was residing with Curry's son and when the senior Curry came in he shot the father.

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