

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1903.

PUBLISHERS' LETTER TO SUBSCRIBERS

Dear Sirs.—We take this opportunity of thanking all our subscribers for the very general response they have given to the notices recently sent out from this office, asking for remittance of amount due for subscription, before the date of closing our books for the year.

We heartily appreciate the kindness of our many friends in responding so promptly, and feel that this is proof of the very great interest taken by our subscribers in the welfare of the paper.

The Telegraph is the people's paper, and there is no more effective way of contributing to its success than by keeping the subscriptions paid up in advance. The management is thus enabled to take advantage of every opportunity to improve the paper, and so in turn benefit the readers.

We hope to make The Telegraph still brighter in the coming year, and so maintain the high standard it has always held as the best Semi-Weekly published in the Maritime Provinces; and to this end we ask that all our friends should interest their neighbors in the paper, as the larger our circulation patronage, the better paper we are enabled to produce.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, we remain,

Yours, Truly,

THE TELEGRAPH PUB. CO

S. J. MCGOWAN, Business Manager.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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W. W. McGRADY, Editor.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion \$1.00 per line. Advertisements of Wines, For Sale, etc., 50 cents for insertion of six lines or less. Notice of Births, Marriages and Deaths 25 cents for each insertion.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All remittances should be sent by post of the order or registered letter and addressed to The Telegraph Publishing Company. Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor of The Telegraph, St. John. All subscriptions should, without exception, be paid in advance.

AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

The following agents are authorized to take and collect for The Semi-Weekly Telegraph, 1903: Wm. Somerville, W. A. Ferrie.

Subscribers are asked to pay their subscriptions to the agents when they call.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 28, 1903.

A VOICE FROM MAINE.

Senator Hale, of Maine, a wild protectionist and annexationist whose antics Canadians have long regarded with surprise because he lives near enough to our borders to know more than he does about the middle of the Atlantic, was in the Senate on Monday. The subject under discussion was not what Mr. Hale of Maine talked about. He exercised the inalienable privilege of his position to wander about from topic to topic as a sort of warming-up exercise and finally fell savagely upon Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. He said among other things:

"I have little doubt that men now listening to me will see the time when Canada will become an integral part of the United States. If this plan is carried out, the United States will be a more powerful nation, and the English politician will seek to get Canada up on a pedestal to sit on as a sort of war-warming exercise and finally fell savagely upon Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. He said among other things:

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TOO GREAT A HANDICAP.

President Woz y. Gil has quit. He is a refugee on board a German cruiser, and Jimmie, the insurgent, rules in Santo Domingo. It will now be generally admitted that Mr. Woz y. Gil's name was a handicap. No man should carry such a handicap into a battle which is not fought on the comic opera stage. This view of it appeared to a writer who discussed the revolution a few days ago and whose un-

means that as yet they fail to realize the magnitude and the import of our recent progress and the daring range of our ambition.

KEEP THE OUTPOSTS.

Newfoundland is British in sentiment, and Canadians will be slow to believe that there is any ground for the old story, now somewhat noisily repeated, that the annexation of the oldest colony by the United States is a live question. Nor is it probable that Great Britain, in face of the protest which Canada certainly would make, would be likely to permit, without strong objection, the acquisition of St. Pierre and Miquelon by the United States. But, since the Alaskan award proved how readily the British permit would politics to overshadow Canadian interests, and since the Americans just now appear to be so well equipped and controlled by a desire to acquire, by any method, any and all territory which may be useful to them, new interest attaches to the future of Newfoundland, the Labrador coast and the French islands.

At the moment, then, the address delivered by Mr. J. M. Clark, K. C., before the Malak Club in Toronto on last Monday evening is both timely and interesting. The speaker emphasized the importance to Canada of bringing Newfoundland into this confederation and thereby laying for all time the ghost of American acquisition in that direction. He dwelt with much force upon the fact that all the Labrador coast belongs to Newfoundland, and that Canada might well think about her Atlantic coast line rather than waste time in discussing the loss of islands in the Portland channel, a loss, the importance of which is not easily estimated with exactness and which is, at all events, impossible of repair. The Labrador coast looks very long compared with that of Nova Scotia which, outside the Gulf, is about all Canada holds off the Atlantic.

Mr. Clark, regarding his audience that the British North America Act contains a provision looking to the incorporation of Newfoundland into the Canadian confederation, and expressed the hope that negotiations for the union, now fore-shadowed, will prove successful. To Newfoundland belongs a strip of the Labrador coast extending from Hudson Straits to the Straits of Belle Isle. "A glance at the map," he said, "will indicate how disastrous it would be to allow the control of this strip of coast, which includes such harbors as Hamilton Inlet or of Newfoundland, to be permanently lost to Canada or the Empire. Canada must control the navigation of the St. Lawrence, that magnificent entrance to this continent, which it would not do if Newfoundland were in alien hands."

"Negotiations between Canada and Newfoundland which failed on one occasion should succeed when resumed, and doubtless will succeed if this country, with a due regard for the future, is as vigorous as the importance of the matter warrants it in being."

The Canadian and British governments have sufficient warning in this case. Also they have been warned by Senator Lodge—one of the Alaska boundary commissioners—that he at least believes St. Pierre and Miquelon should be acquired by the United States. Great Britain is now believed to be on excellent terms with France, and there would seem to be an opportunity to settle the French shore dispute and either acquire St. Pierre by purchase or exchange, or secure a guarantee that it will not be sold to the United States. Canada would, and Great Britain should, regard with extreme dissatisfaction American acquisition of an outpost which in French hands is not dangerous, but which might be of immense importance to either the United States or Great Britain. There has been more than enough proof of late of American eagerness to acquire by hook or by crook such advantages as her statesmen believe may be gained from the future disposition to watch every move of our neighbors with suspicion.

As president of the Toronto branch of the British Empire League, Mr. Clark has rendered the country a real service by his clear recital of the facts referred to and the forceful and convincing though moderate tone of the address in which he directed the attention of the Canadian and British governments to the importance of guarding the Empire's outposts.

THE CITY'S GUARDIANS.

The Board of Trade and the Common Council had ample notice that Hon. Mr. Fielding was coming to St. John. The Board of Trade was aware that the aldermen would send a delegation to see the Minister. A joint delegation should have been placed before Mr. Fielding the views and desires of the city in regard to harbor improvements. It was not wise to send two delegations, each with a proposal of its own, even if both proposals were sound. It is not wise to afford even slight evidence for the conclusion that opinion here is not unanimous as to the needs of the port. It must be clear today to the members of both bodies that a consultation between them was in order and that the possibility of confusion would thus have been avoided.

There is, of course, a barrier to such united and harmonious action as is desirable. Certain members of the Board of Trade have allowed it to be known that they regard the aldermen as more interesting than useful. Also certain members of the Council have announced that the Board of Trade is by no means an invaluable institution. Sometimes the people

FOR THE FUTURE.

It may be assumed that the aldermen have placed in writing the request they made to Hon. Mr. Fielding in regard to the dredging for the wharves which must be re-looked before next season's Winter Port business begins, and which the Board of Trade appears to have forgotten at a critical moment. At all events any confusion as to St. John's aims and wishes which may have been created by the appearance of two delegations, each with a

mission of its own, should be removed at once. If the matter is made clear to the government there can be no doubt that the dredging will be done and the wharves provided in time to prevent congestion next year. Should the government assistance be delayed unduly it is to be feared a terrible exchange of recriminations between the Board of Trade and the aldermen will follow, and while the fixing of the blame might be interesting it would not compensate St. John for the delay in securing the berths which have been discussed so frequently and so vainly and so long.

Meantime the Transportation Commission is supposed to be headed our way. Much will depend upon the impression St. John is able to make upon the members of that body. Before they come a business-like proposal should be prepared for their consideration. They will visit other ports. They will listen to many speeches. But the eloquence they will forget and the facts and figures they will carry away and digest. It will be well to have ready for them a compact statement as to the business of the port and the exact nature of the improvements which that business renders imperative. And it may be well for the various bodies who feel themselves charged with the welfare of the port to confer upon the question lest there arise another case of too many cooks and the last state of St. John be worse than the first.

After asserting that Great Britain is not in need of a doctor, Lord Rosebery proceeds to prescribe for her. Compared with the strong medicine Mr. Chamberlain advises, that of the Liberal leader appears too mild by half, especially since it is apparent that the ex-Colonial Secretary has gravely shamed the country in regard to its condition.

Lord Rosebery's latest London speech will add little to his reputation, judging from the cable summary. It lacked the fighting note so necessary in British politics today, when so many wags are on the green. Graceful it was, and entertaining, but it appears to approach without sufficient seriousness the conditions which Mr. Chamberlain has described, and to oppose with too little vigor and keenness the remedy he proposes, to be effective.

TOO MILD BY HALF.

Lord Rosebery asserts that the evils of which Mr. Chamberlain complains exist only in that statesman's imagination. Here is a statement too sweeping to be believed by the majority whose votes will determine Great Britain's future. If it were believed, Great Britain might relax into that complacency from which the alarm sounded by Mr. Chamberlain has aroused the nation. The man of Birmingham has forced the country to think, and the magnificent hearing which he has won up to this time is eloquent of the rattling of dry bones which will ensue before his campaign of education is completed. Whatever be the fate of his policy, few will doubt that the nation will owe him much for the extent to which he has caused it to consider sharply its present position and dwell thoughtfully upon its future and that of the Empire.

Lord Rosebery suggests that "any existing adverse conditions" can be cured "by stimulating practical technical and commercial education, reducing the national expenditure and the drink bill of the people, teaching commercial travelers how to study the tastes of the people they visit, and through other simple and practical steps." This homely advice might be accepted with profit by almost any country and notably by Great Britain, but unless Lord Rosebery is right when he says the evils Mr. Chamberlain portrays are not radical enough by half. And there is much and multiplying evidence that the British people do not share the Liberal leader's confidence that Mr. Chamberlain is warring against the phantoms of his imagination.

Lord Rosebery heaped much ridicule upon Mr. Chamberlain and his policy, but neither can be laughed out of court. The fight in Great Britain is going yet, and Mr. Chamberlain has many powerful advocates and influences arrayed against him, but he is prepared for long fight and the progress he has made up to this date could have been made by no other man of English speech. It is not clear that the heavy artillery turned against him has had much effect, and there are many prophetic notes who are convinced that the nation is on the eve of adopting a scheme of fiscal reform in which the Chamberlain idea will be the dominant one.

Lord Rosebery speaks fearfully of the feeling which the adoption of a preference might create in the United States. He shudders at the thought that "our American cousins would be offended and that a tariff war would be inaugurated by them with fearful results. The British workman may be moved by the 'dear food' cry but it is doubtful if he will be controlled by consideration for the opinions of his 'cousins' in the United States. It is true that the Americans would roar if Mr. Chamberlain had his way. They are already denouncing his policy. That in itself is evidence in its favor."

The merchants who suffered from last night's fire will receive no little sympathy. Such a blaze, only a month before Christmas, with the cream of the holiday trade to come, is doubly unkindly.

Frequent mention is made of Messrs. W. H. Thorne and George V. McInerney as possible Conservative candidates, but there is a story that one of them is unwilling

to run. Readers are entitled to two guesses.

The Canadian government no doubt will discourage as far as possible any proposal to sell St. Pierre to the United States. If France wishes to sell, Great Britain is the natural customer, from the Canadian standpoint.

His Honor Judge Hannington sees no cloud in the Canadian sky, hopes the day is not distant when St. John will be the Liverpool of America, and compliments the community on its good behaviour. A Daniel came to judgment!

It is suggested that a referendum on the fiscal question, which Mr. Chamberlain pleads for, would dispose of those voters who may desire to ensure the British government for its education policy or the conduct of the Boer war.

Hon. Mr. Fielding was formerly a newspaper man and it may be that he feared to overwork the reporters if he took them fully into his confidence last evening. At all events he told them precious little, and as a newspaper man he will pardon them, if he did not fully appreciate his forbearance.

"We can well afford to let Halifax have a share of the winter business," Judge Hannington is quoted as saying. The point is rather that business which has come to St. John should not be diverted to another—any other—port under false pretences. And, as St. John has had one lesson, it is not likely to happen again.

The elections in Australia occur next month. The Commonwealth is suffering from severe industrial depression. Immigration has ceased and within two years Victoria alone has lost nearly 20,000 people by emigration. Premier Deakin is seeking to make "preferential trade for a white Australia" the chief issue, but the condition of the country detracts considerably from the interest in Imperial questions.

On Nov. 20th (in the fifth year of the war in the Philippines) the United States troops killed seventy-five Moros (or, says the report, "probably more as the ground is covered with brush and the bodies are hard to find") and had three privates wounded, one fatally. The American loss in killed and wounded was three to the Moros' 225. When General Weyer was fighting the Cuban insurgents any engagement like that reported above would have caused a terrible outcry in the American press.

La Presse, of Montreal, announced last evening that January 28 next will be election day, an announcement which would be important news if La Presse had good authority for it. It is probably as good a guess as any. Sir Frederick Borden and Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick are about to go to England, and Hon. Mr. Sutherland also may go. Some will question whether three cabinet ministers would make even brief trips across the Atlantic if the elections are to be called on before the end of January.

"Mr. Chamberlain," says the New York Tribune's London correspondent, "remains the chief organizer for a campaign fund of £100,000 with which to complete the education of the English people in the economics of Imperialism, and will probably get it for many capitalists, shipowners, manufacturers and bankers are among the heartiest supporters of retaliation and preference tariffs. This will be the first instalment. Cobden collected £400,000 for the Anti-Corn League, and Mr. Chamberlain will require an equal sum for undoing the work of the free trade champion."

Speaking of the coming of a British fleet of cruisers to join the British North American squadron, a cable despatch to the New York Evening Post says that although the movement was decided upon a month ago "recent occurrences at Panama and the approaching decision on the Venezuela arbitration, with a possible

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