

THE STAR, ST JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1907

FOUR

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 9, 1907.

IT MIGHT BE WORSE.

Fate is a queer thing after all. Humanity is shocked almost every day by the published records of tragedies, mistakenly called accidents, and by other incidents involving great loss of life or property. Scarcely an hour passes without bringing sadness and death to some. But when we come to think of it, there is much to be thankful for in all those things which do not happen, or in the fact that some slight variations which do not take place would have brought about much more serious results. The Quebec bridge disaster could just as well have happened when the full force of men were at work, and the loss of life would have been much heavier. But it occurred at the close of the day when a good many employees had started for their homes. A wreck took place on the Field Railway in Newfoundland last week by which the fireman was fatally injured. This was the only casualty. The train was derailed in a swamp. Had it left the track a few yards further on, it would have plunged over a steep embankment, and no doubt brought death to many of those on board. Why should this train have met with the mishap in such a favorable spot; why not have gone along until the embankment was reached? Why did not the Quebec bridge find its weakness an hour earlier? Incidents like this are so even in everyday life that we scarcely ever notice them. We shudder at the fatalities which occur, but feel no gratitude for what we escape.

AN EMPIRE BUILDER.

Sir Robert Hart, who, perhaps, has done more for the Chinese empire than any man living or dead, is about to retire from the position of director general of the customs. What Lord Cromer has been to Egypt, Sir Robert Hart has been to China, with this difference that the one was supported by the power of Great Britain while the other depended on the whims of the volatile Chinese character. Yet Sir Robert Hart by his far-seeing statesmanship has brought China from a condition of chaos, and started her on the road which if followed will lead to commercial prosperity. He has spent practically all his life in the eastern empire. As secretary of the commission of allies which met in Canton in 1858 he received his first experience in that country, and in the following years accepted the office of deputy commissioner in the customs service. When advanced in 1883 to the post of inspector general he reorganized the whole service on modern lines, and continued so to introduce reforms that in 1901 he was made director general of the customs both maritime and inland. He has practically created the whole department, has been the great link between China and the western nations, and has been the promoter of every commercial treaty which has been carried into effect. In addition to giving China a tariff Sir Robert Hart has found time for other matters outside his direct sphere of influence. He is known as the man who put an end to piracy in the Chinese seas by equipping a fleet of steamers and carrying on a relentless fight against the marauders. He established along the entire coast a light-house system equal to any in that hemisphere and in addition has outlined plans of development for harbors. As a side issue he also introduced the postal system previously unknown. Sir Robert Hart was in 1885 offered the position of British minister to Peking but declined this honor. He is now retiring because of poor health, and will spend the remainder of his life in his old home in Ireland.

The fact that those who participated in the riot at Prince of Wales on Sunday were ignorant Italians and were under the influence of liquor, must not interfere with the swift meting out of justice. Those foreigners are to be taught that law must be observed.

That Rev. W. C. Gaylor, for so long an honored and esteemed clergyman and leader along the lines of literary and historical research in St. John, will be able to clearly disprove all that has been said of him, will be the earnest hope of his many friends.

It will be refreshing to some day pick up a newspaper which does not contain a paragraph to the effect that the Newfoundland fisheries question is still in dispute. The settlement will be a great relief to readers.

As yet there is nothing to indicate that the Palma Trophy was not fairly won by the United States team. The last time the cup was carried across the border it was accompanied by a protest that the rifles used by the winners were not in accordance with the cup conditions. This protest was sustained and the cup returned to the owners. British sportsmen can lose like sportsmen to a worthy competitor, but do not enjoy the knowledge that unfairness entered the contest.

The fact that New Brunswick men failed to win in any of the finals of the M. P. A. A. championships, is strong proof of the fact that Nova Scotia and P. E. Island possess many highly qualified athletes.

BACK TO TOWN.

When the Summer days are drawing to a close, And the Golden Blow—the Autumn's early rose— Vivifies no more the landscape with its flashing saffron crown, Oh! 'tis jolly, then, to hurry back to town! When the shadows gather earlier on the hills, And the night falls laden with mysterious chills, And the trees send solemn whispers through the leaves now bronzed and brown, Oh! 'tis jolly, then, to hurry back to town! When the very gayest flower of hem is spent, And its intense purple, like a sacrament, Wreathes no longer o'er the Intel, flaming color all adown! Oh! 'tis jolly, then, to hurry back to town! When the very eyeset flower of them all— Brilliant, poppy, echo of the wild wood's call— Flaunts no more great depths of crimson blushing through its dashing gown, Oh! 'tis jolly then to hurry back to town! When you've danced and rowed and flirted and you've sung Till the idle Summer days with music rung, And the heart has grown so hungry for the one man—he's in town!— Oh! 'tis jolly then to hurry back to town!

JOACHIM.

How oft his vibrant bow now laid supine— Mighty interpreter of the lords of sound— Hath caught the dust-drift of our daily round And dived it into many forms divine, Making the dull seem dear, the common fine, And our dead thoughts within to leap and bound With intricate phantasies lost as soon as found, And stainless left the floorway of God's shrine! Selfless and sacrosanct he held his aim Unwavering, true as needle to the star. For his initiate ear long deaf to fame, And ever rapt from earth's discordant din, The temple of music hung her doors ajar, O, who can grieve that he hath entered in?

HELPED UPSTAIRS.

A good Samaritan passing an apartment in the small hours of the morning (says Everybody's Magazine) noticed a man leaning limply against the doorway. "What's the matter?" he asked. "Drunk!" "Do you live in that house?" "Yes." "Do you want me to help you upstairs?" "Yes." With much difficulty he half dragged half carried the drooping figure up the stairs to the second floor. "What floor do you live on?" he asked. "Is this it?" "Yes."

Rather than face an irate wife who might perhaps take him on a companion, more at fault than he came to, and pushed the limp figure in. The good Samaritan groped his way downstairs again. As he was passing through the vestibule he was able to make out the dim outlines of another man apparently in worse condition than the first one. "What's the matter?" he asked. "Are you drunk, too?" "Yes," was the feeble reply. "Do you live in this house too?" "Yes." "Shall I help you upstairs?" "Yes."

The good Samaritan pushed, pulled, and carried him to the second floor, where this man said he also lived. He opened the same door and pushed him in. As he again reached the front door he discerned the shadow of a third man evidently worse off than either of the other two. He was about to approach him, when the object of his solicitude lurched out into the street and thrust himself into the arms of a passing policeman.

"For Heaven's sake, officer," he gasped, "protect me from that man. He's done nothing all night long but carry me upstairs 'n throw me down 'n elevator shaft."

NOT SENTIENT VERDURE.

She (tushingly)—Don't you love all the fresh, green young things? He (judiciously)—Yes, if they ain't human.

SPAIN IS PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO HER NAVY

Finances of the Country Have Greatly Improved Since the War—Changes Made in the System of Taxation—Public Works Favored.

LONDON, Sept. 7.—The desire and assumed intention of Spain to restore the navy which was lost in her tragic encounter with America, is of considerable interest as contracts for Spanish warships are to be placed in this country. In the circumstances, and more especially when the critical condition of affairs in Morocco is borne in mind, it is of interest to see how the finances of the country now stand. The present Minister of Finance, Senor Osma, seems bent upon following the prudent policy of his predecessors, the objects which have been retrenchment and reorganization. Since the war, taxation has been reorganized in order to meet the additional burden of debt thrown upon the country. Senor Villaverde cut down naval and military expenditure while he increased the expenditures for public works, education and other "utilities" which had previously been neglected. This policy showed at the end of the fiscal year of 1906 a total excess revenue over eight years of about \$100,000,000, which was applied to the liquidation of debt. Senor Osma, in his recent budget (not yet voted on in the House of Deputies), estimates for a revenue of \$206,935,995 and an expenditure of \$202,277,810, which last marks an increase of \$1,458,325 on last year. The expenditure on administration and the army has been cut down but there is an increase of \$2,600,000 in the naval estimates which is not surprising in view of the revival of the naval policy of Spain, although it is not in accordance with the financial policy inaugurated by the late Senor Villaverde. On the other hand, reductions are estimated under public works and administration and also in the service of the Debt. The budget estimates are not necessarily the actual expenditure of the fiscal year, because the Cortes pass supplementary votes without much difficulty, but such as they are we must take the estimates as indicating the situation. The revenue is to be obtained in these proportions: \$59,246,000 from direct taxation, \$71,740,000 from indirect taxation, \$36,064,200 from monopolies and services by the State, \$201,400 from the sale of concessions and \$619,165 from Treasury resources. Last year the revenue from all these sources was \$218,865,220, but a falling off has to be reckoned with this year in all the sections except the Treasury resources. It is estimated, for instance, that there will be a decrease of \$9,000,000 in the imports of breadstuffs and one of \$3,000,000 in excise in consequence of the suppression of taxes on wines of 15 degrees in the large towns, in the land tax, the death duties, and the State lottery. The government are proposing to the Cortes a new set of taxes which will fall mainly on the richer classes as they include imposts on carriages, clubs, gas, electricity, high grade vines and liquors and on Cedula. Against these new taxes it is now proposed to abolish everywhere and not in the large towns only, the excise duty on all wines below 15 degrees alcoholic strength. It is supposed that the government intends gradually to suppress entirely the octroi duties in Spain, but the time for this step is not yet. Senor Osma, however, proposes a modification of the duties on alcoholic liquors in order to benefit the vine-growers and trade. But, unfortunately, he also proposes to make up the gaps and improve the revenue by duties on ores and sugar, and also by increasing the income tax charged on joint stock companies. But whatever items in the budget may invite adverse criticism, there is no room for doubt that the financial policy of Spain has vastly improved since the war.

INJUSTICE SHOWN BY THE COURTS IN INDIA

Hindus Distrust Magistrates, and With Good Reason, According to Findings of the Supreme Court.

CALCUTTA, Sept. 7.—The High Court here recently delivered a sensational judgment upon the appeal of a Hindu sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge for the murder of a Mohammedan during the riot in March last. The High Court criticized severely the decision of the judge in the lower court, and commented upon the trustworthiness of the evidence adduced by the police authorities. The bench asserted that the district judge had apparently divided the evidence into two classes, accepting that given by Muslims and rejecting that tendered by Hindus. It was further declared that the failure of the commissioner of the division and the district magistrate to put in an appearance was an extraordinary feature of the case, and that the police superintendent, whose evidence was very material, had been purposely transferred to another district to prevent his being called in evidence. This is the third case in which the High Court has either quashed a sentence of imprisonment or commuted a death penalty. Indian resentment has been roused again by the judgments of the district judges who have jurisdiction over such cases. The result of the Council appeal, moreover, increases the bitter suspicions entertained by the Hindus that the government of the new province is unfairly favorable to Mohammedans.

MORE BODIES FOUND.

QUEBEC, Sept. 8.—This is the tenth day since the Quebec bridge calamity and the St. Lawrence began to deliver up some of the victims. Three bodies were found yesterday about twelve miles below the bridge, and up to a late hour this afternoon, five others were added to the list, making a total of 24 bodies found out of the 75 who went down to their death.

The engagement of Miss Corbett, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Corbett, Annapolis, to John Shaw, formerly of Clementsport, now of Cobalt, has been announced.

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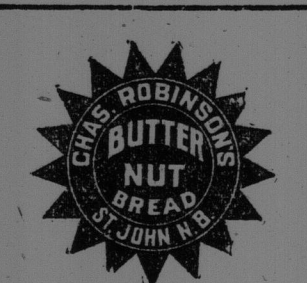
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CHINESE LAUNDRYMAN MURDERED IN BED

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 6.—Moy Fokin, a Chinese laundryman, was found unconscious in bed at his place at 261 Cranston street, today, with his head terribly gashed and with a blood stained hatchet and large knife on the floor beside him. He was removed to the hospital where it is said that he has no chance of recovery.

The assault is known to have been committed some time after midnight, a customer having seen Fokin alive at that hour. The practically lifeless body was found by the police early today. Investigation showed that the rooms of the laundry and been thoroughly ransacked, though it was not apparent that anything had been stolen. The money drawer was left untouched. Fokin was a recent arrival here, coming from Woonsocket, where he had worked for two years. Previous to that time he is said to have been in Manchester, N. H.

Rev. Ralph Jones, wife and child, who have been visiting his brother, W. E. O. Jones, Mount Pleasant, returned home last week.

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MOORS ASK ARMISTICE; MAY TREAT FOR PEACE

France Proposes to Send an Army of 50,000 Men to Maintain Order—Fifty Killed While Trying to Examine a Shell.

CASABLANCA, Sept. 6.—Military operations have been suspended for 24 hours at the request of Caid Mazil, chief of the Chamalaj tribe who has announced his intention of coming in to arrange peace terms. He had not appeared up to the time of the filing of this despatch. In the meantime the armistice is giving the enemy time to re-inforce. It is reported here that the tribesmen are divided with serious dissensions. The Moors admit that they lost heavily in the engagement of last Tuesday. At Mazil a number of Arabs indulging their curiosity tried to pry open an exploded shell. It exploded and fifty of the men standing about were killed, while many were wounded. Two similar accidents have occurred elsewhere.

PARIS, Sept. 7.—A ray of hope for a possible solution of the vexing Moroccan trouble came from the Moorish empire tonight in the shape of an announcement that the tribesmen were ready to negotiate for peace. Vice Admiral Philibert confirmed this news in an official cablegram stating that a delegation from the warring Arabs had asked General Druide for an armistice pending a settlement of peace terms.

PARIS, Sept. 8.—The Echo de Paris in military circles that France has proposed to Spain to send a Franco-Spanish army of 50,000 men to occupy the Moroccan ports and to go as far as Fez if necessary. The correspondent says it is stated that Premier Maun and Gen. Martignol, chief of the headquarters staff, are opposed to this plan, but that the minister of war, General Primo-Rivera supports it.

Alcohol not needed. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is not a strong drink. As now made, there is not a drop of alcohol in it. It is a non-alcoholic tonic and alterative. Ask your own doctor about your taking this medicine for thin, impure blood. Follow his advice every time. He knows. Trust him. We have no secrets! We publish the formulas of all our preparations. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.