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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 16, 1912.

A SCOTTISH OBSERVER

Sir George McCrae, Vice-President of the Local Government Board, has returned to Edinburgh after spending two months in Canada and the United States. He told the Edinburgh Scotsman that he was "simply astounded" by the evidences of progress he saw in the Dominion, and he prophesied that there will be witnessed in Canada a development "the magnitude of which no one dare venture to forecast."

Some of Sir George's observations concerning the United States are attracting attention in that country as well as in the United Kingdom. While speaking highly of the American nation in many respects, Sir George says that the most vivid impression he carried away from the republic was an impression of lack of moral tone.

He was careful to say that he did not intend to malign a whole nation. He never in his life met people more upright and pleasant than those with whom he was thrown most in contact while he was in the United States, yet, great as was the kindness and hospitality he encountered he though he detected signs of low public ideals. He expresses it in this way:

"Let me illustrate what I mean. While in America I read in one of the monthlies an article on the rise and progress of the leading railway undertakings, with interesting sketches of the man who had achieved such magnificent results. The astuteness with which he circumvented competing undertakings was described. It was stated that he was doing things in defiance of the law. The State interfered, and he gave the most solemn undertakings that if his company were allowed to continue to do so and so, certain obligations would be accepted. Not only was there no attempt to fulfil these obligations; they were deliberately and persistently violated. Yet this was all set forth, not in terms of reprobation, but in such a matter-of-fact way as to imply rather a tribute to the courage and astuteness of the man who thus had built up a great railway system. That, I fear, is too typical of what is euphemistically termed American push. I found the same vicious trail continually cropping up, appearing under many different conditions. In the west especially nine men out of every ten had a "proposition" which they wished to exploit. I had a good deal of railway traveling, and the freedom with which these "propositions" were discussed would have been refreshing had it not been all too sad. The end was the objective, the means immaterial. On the other hand, of course, you met the business man whose standard of right and wrong was absolute. Commerce could not survive were it otherwise. There were many of those business men who stated with regard to the Panama Canal controversy that America should avoid even the appearance of departing from her treaty obligations. My American friends may possibly think I am making but poor return for their kind hospitality in speaking thus frankly. I feel sure they won't because I have reason to believe they share my views as to the clamant necessity for a higher moral code, especially in politics. Here let me say the American of culture and position is entirely lacking in courage. He will not face the music. He will not step out into the open and help to purify the political atmosphere—yet. But it is coming, the time when in America, as in our country, a man will be honored for serving his country in the nation's parliament."

With the general tenor of this many American observers will be inclined to agree, though most of them will dissent from the idea that the American of culture and position has no moral courage and dodges all participation in public affairs. There are too many noteworthy exceptions to Sir George's rule to permit this part of his criticism to pass unchallenged, though it may be argued that in proportion to the whole number the minority of men of culture and position who do show a realizing sense of their duty to the nation is so small as to warrant the traveler's indictment.

Sir George says that during the ten years preceding 1907 the national income coming under the review of the income tax commissioners had increased by the enormous sum of £240,000,000 sterling, or an average increase of twenty-four millions a year. He points out that the increase must be much greater now, and he does not hesitate to say that there is no safer or better outlet for this surplus capital than in the development of Canada, which, he says, needs two things urgently—more money and more labor—and that the demand for more labor is even greater than that for more capital. Of the growth of the Canadian West he says:

"The rapid growth of Saskatoon and Edmonton is only symptomatic of a development which will astonish the world. This may appear like the language of exaggeration. I am neither an immigration agent nor an enthusiastic dreamer. I venture to lay claim to being a practical man, but I do not hesitate to say that in the immediate future we shall witness a development in Canada the magnitude of which no one dare venture to forecast. I only wish every member of parliament and every business man could see with his own eyes what there lies waiting the magic touch of the hands of man. The late Mr. W. T. Stead once said to me, speaking of municipal matters, 'No man ought to be made a Magistrate until he has first served six months in jail.' The moral is obvious, and it certainly ought to be a part of the training of a representative in the Imperial Parliament that he should have the opportunity of studying colonial questions at first hand."

Sir George represented the British government at the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography at Washington, and also had official business at Ottawa and Winnipeg. His analysis of Canadian conditions should be of no little service to this country in the way of impressing capitalists still more favorably regarding the safety and profit of investment in this part of the Empire.

THE UNIONIST PROGRAMME

What would the Unionist party do if it obtained power tomorrow in Great Britain? Mr. L. S. Amery, M. P. for South Birmingham, who is one of the editors of the Times, answers that question in an article he recently wrote for another London journal, the Standard, which has been publishing a series of papers on the policy of the Unionist party. Mr. Amery says that "tariff reform," by which is meant protection, must be the first constructive policy of a new Unionist government. As showing how simple the problem is—as he sees it—Mr. Amery says that a tariff would quickly solve the social questions, like unemployment and poverty, so far as these can reasonably be solved.

"Let us," says Mr. Amery, "take the social problem first. It is in its essence, as Mr. Bonar Law has well pointed out, simply a question of wages. But there can be no increase either in employment or in the rate of wages in this country unless there is an increased demand for the services of our working men. There can be no increased demand for their services unless there is an increased demand for British goods—in other words, unless the market for British trade is expanded and made secure. By securing our own home market for our industries, and securing an ever-increasing and expanding market for those industries within the Empire, and also, wherever negotiation is possible, in other countries, we are bound to bring about an ever-increasing demand for British labor, and, consequently, an ever-increasing standard of prosperity.

"Once that takes place, the great bulk of our social problem disappears. The mass of our working men will be in a position to afford decent homes, sufficient clothing, sufficient food for themselves and their families, and to make provision for sickness and for old age. All those problems of relief, of housing, of insurance, which now present such difficulties owing to their immensity, will at once become more manageable because they will deal with the residue."

Obviously if Mr. Amery is to increase British production so simply and so rapidly he will have other problems on his hands. The home market will not absorb the increased products, and the moment the British manufacturer attempts to send an increasing supply of his products to Canada, for example, he will be met by a demand from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to abolish the British preference. The organ of the Manufacturers' Association very recently announced that those for whom it speaks in this country desire to see less and less manufactured goods from other countries coming to Canada, even though they come from Great Britain.

By introducing protection Mr. Amery's party would greatly increase the cost of living to the working men of Great Britain, and whether the increase in wages would offset the greater cost of articles of necessity is a question not to be settled quickly even by so ready a reasoner as the member for South Birmingham. The United States has attempted for many years to carry out some such fiscal policy as Mr. Amery has in mind, although, being but a young protectionist, he does not yet contemplate heavy duties on foreign imports. That comes later. After an experience of many years, during which protection has been carried to extremes and has led to the growth of enormous evils, the United States has just turned its face toward tariff revision downward; and the farther the tariff is reduced the better the average American will be pleased.

UNHAPPY GERMANY

In a group of London papers of recent date are to be found such headlines as these:

"Mean at famine prices in Prussia," "Meat riots in Berlin—Enraged women seize the markets," "Hamburg's food problem—How unsound meat is made fit for the poor."

Canadian Conservative newspapers frequently tell their readers what a happy country Germany is because it has high protection and a mighy army. The headlines quoted indicate that the Germans are facing very grave problems in spite of their army and their fiscal policy. The Berlin correspondent of the London Chronicle says of Germany today:

"If one were looking out for a perfect object-lesson on the beauties of Protection, no more admirable case could be brought forward than that of Germany at the present time. Here is a nation highly qualified in all that makes for civilization and progress, a nation second to none in the technical arts, highly educated, industrious, its workmen and masters earning incomes beyond the dreams of a generation ago, and yet from one end of the empire to the other there arise the clamant voices of millions of people who are unable to purchase the very first necessities of life. In the Vorwarts of September 26 we read the following story: In Marsdorf, in Silesia, a carrier on his way to the railway station met with an accident. His horse fell and died on the spot, and was removed off the road to an adjoining meadow. The carrier went to the neighboring village for assistance. As soon as help arrived it was seen that two or three dozen laborers from the neighborhood had fallen on the carcass, and that everything that could be called flesh had been removed from the horse and taken away by the laborers as food for themselves and their children. In the Vorwarts of September 20 we read that in Berlin, the wealthy capital of the empire, no fewer than 14,000 children, of whom nearly 10,000 attend school, are without any breakfast, that 179,000 Berlin school children have only a cold "snack" in winter for their dinner, and that 15,000 in winter and 22,000 in summer go to bed supperless."

The same journal tells of an institution in Hamburg the object of which is to protect the public from paying high prices for inferior meat, and to provide meat at low prices for those who could not otherwise obtain meat at all. This institution is called the "Freibank." The correspondent says of it:

"The slaughterhouse commissioners divide the meat into three grades:

1. High qualtiy, or meat possessing full nutritive and gastronomic qualities.

2. Inferior, or meat from well nourished animals which, owing to some slight illness, is of poor color, but not so harmful that it cannot be eaten raw, and—

3. Conditionally fit, or meat from abnormally old or tubercular animals, maggoty, or tainted.

"It is to protect the public from the last class that the "Freibank" has been primarily established. The meat is first dealt with by a veterinary surgeon, freed from the sick parts, treated in a tremendous sterilizing apparatus, and after once more being subjected to expert opinion, is sold in small quantities to consumers. Previously this meat used to be sent into the open market."

It is to be noted that while the inferior meat is not permitted to be sold in the eating houses as meat of high quality, it is still sold to private consumers.

The price of meat in Germany has risen from forty-five to fifty per cent. in the last ten years. The government recently permitted the importation of Russian beef, but many butchers refused to handle it on the ground that the sale was not sufficiently profitable, and this led to extensive riots in Berlin toward the end of October. Taxing food never made it cheap—even in Germany.

THE ST. JOHN RIVER

Considerable space is devoted today to the comprehensive report issued by the St. John River Commission, representing two year's work by representatives appointed by Canada and the United States to investigate and make recommendations concerning the navigation of the St. John river and the problems connected therewith. The commissioners had the advice of competent engineers, and they traversed much of the territory comprising the mighty watershed of the St. John. Their report should lead to joint action by the governments concerned, not only for log-driving but in the matter of maintaining the normal flow of the stream, which would have an important effect upon the agricultural lands along its course and that of its principal tributaries.

To carry out the whole scheme of conservation outlined by the commission would cost perhaps $2,000,000, or more if flowage damages are taken into account; but the commissioners seem convinced that the more pressing part of the problem may be met by a reasonable expenditure yearly, and that the principal difficulties at present encountered may be overcome without making the total expenditure estimated in their report as a whole.

In connection with this report the provincial government would do well to revive the Public Domain Act, passed some years ago, under which was contemplated the conservation of certain large forest areas in the St. John watershed and the extensive storage of spring water, for the purpose of equalizing stream flow and preventing on the one hand the great lack of water during the dry months, and on the other the destructive freshets of early spring.

The legislation in question, although placed on the statute books, was never carried into effect, ostensibly because of the cost of a proper survey and classification of the public timber lands of the province. But this survey and classification ought to be carried out, and is today much more necessary than it was at the time the legislation was introduced. This legislation, as a matter of fact, contains the basis for the readjustment of the Crown Land policy of the province along modern lines, such as would protect the principal asset of the province and guarantee not only a large revenue from Crown timber but the continuance of an ample supply of lumber indefinitely. Under present conditions the province has been drawing largely upon its principal, instead of being content with the interest.

It will be found that many of the recommendations in the report of the St. John River Commission have to do with the work touched by the Public Domain Act, and a fine opportunity is presented to the provincial government to act in conjunction with the Federal authorities. The question involved must affect the future prosperity of the whole province, and while the log-driving matter is a most important branch of the question, it by no means constitutes the whole problem.

BRITAIN AND THE POWERS

Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, delivered an important address at the Mansion House banquet last Saturday night in replying to the toast "The Naval Forces." Mr. Churchill's principal statements should be read in connection with the declaration of the Prime Minister on the same occasion that Great Britain's relations with all of the great powers, without a single exception, are excellent.

Mr. Churchill said that the British fleet had been reorganized this year upon a complete and symmetrical plan. Not only had a new squadron of very powerful ships been placed in commission, but the navy had succeeded in recruiting nearly three times as many men during the year as during the year previous. A prospective increase of pay for both officers and men, Mr. Churchill anticipates, will further stimulate this improved recruiting. The bringing into existence of the sixth battle squadron has served largely to increase Britain's margin of security.

Mr. Churchill made another straightforward reference to Germany. He said no harm had been done by the plain speaking on naval questions which had taken place this year. Indeed, he believed the effect had been good, for the Germans are a people with robust minds and a high sense of honor and fair play, looking at affairs in a practical military spirit, and Mr. Churchill says they like to have facts placed squarely before them. Relations between Britain and Germany, the First Lord said, have steadily improved during the year, and this improvement has been accompanied by every evidence on the part of Great Britain of a determination to maintain its naval supremacy.

It may be noted in connection with the significant utterances of the Prime Minister and Mr. Churchill that of late there have been expressions of opinion in the German press and by German public men deprecating the vicious assumption that war between these two great nations must be regarded as inevitable. If the Balkan situation, which certainly has its dangerous elements, should disappoint the pessimists by reaching a solution without involving the great powers, and now, happily, there is strong hope that it will, it may well be thought that the peril of a general European war, or of a clash between Britain and Germany, will have become a most improbable event.

The whole situation is bound to interest Canadians, just as it also interests the people of Australia and New Zealand. Our fellow Britons in the Antipodes have already taken up their share of the burden of Imperial defence, and at the London banquet to which we have referred great cheering greeted the announcement that "the Royal Australian navy will pass under the general control of the Imperial Admiralty in times of war." Under the Laurier naval legislation that was to be the arrangement regarding the Canadian navy, but, while London applauds the plan, it was not good enough for some of our Conservative friends who were afraid to trust the loyalty of Canadians generally or of the parliaments they elect.

Mr. Asquith and his ministers are bound to maintain a sufficient margin of security in the matter of sea power. The sort of contribution needed from Canada obviously is a contribution in men and ships—the creation of a Canadian naval force, the building of ships in this country so soon as that can be done, and the manning of them by Canadians, which force, as in the case of Australia would supplement the fighting strength of the British navy. In London they have already heard from Australia and New Zealand, and they are waiting to hear from Canada. Mr. Borden has the floor.

THE DEATH PENALTY

Those who demand an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and who insist that the abolition of the death penalty would encourage more frequent murders, have probably never been on a jury which condemned a man to be hanged or killed by electricity. On the other hand it is equally probable that many of those who desire the abolition of capital punishment have never been confronted personally by any shocking crime, in the sense that they saw it or were related to the victim. It is not difficult to cite evidence in support of either side of the controversy. As a matter of fact, some states which have abandoned the death penalty have returned to it again; yet perhaps the demand for life imprisonment rather than death is perhaps more general today than at any time during the last generation.

In the District of Columbia they are discussing a change in the law, by which jurors would be permitted to recommend whether a man found guilty of murder in the first degree should be killed or imprisoned for life. The cause of this discussion in Washington, as elsewhere in the United States, is not so much an increased inclination to be merciful as it is the failure to bring many murderers to justice under the present system. While the number of murders committed in the United States is much greater in proportion to population than in any other civilized country, the number of prisoners who are executed is very small. In some measure this is due to poor enforcement of the law relating to arrest and conviction, but in a greater degree it is due to the reluctance of jurors to find a man guilty of murder in the first degree when they know that no penalty but death can be imposed by the judge.

As so many atrocious murders are committed in the United States, it is hardly probable that there is any widespread movement there to abolish the death penalty. But undoubtedly there is grave and still growing dissatisfaction because of the scandalous and constant failures of the criminal law. Under the American practice, particularly if the accused has financial resources or influence, and if the community is not much interested, cunning lawyers are able to bring about indefinite delays, and often by the time the case reaches a jury essential witnesses are missing or so much time has elapsed that the crime seems like a far off event which might have happened in another country.

For many years the unsatisfactory application of the criminal code in respect of homicide has been the subject of discussion by jurists and other thoughtful citizens of the republic. President Taft, himself a lawyer of high repute, has given it his attention, as did some of his predecessors. But reform does not come. On the other hand, serious crimes increase in number. Violence of one sort or another is so frequent throughout the United States as to astonish observers from Europe. It would seem under the circumstances that the remedy needed is not a change in the matter of the penalty fixed for murder, but rather far reaching social and political reforms creating greater respect for life and liberty and inculcating a much more general regard for law and order. The United States has grown so rapidly in wealth and population that it has neglected many of the essentials of civilization.

COMING TO ST. JOHN

News from Ottawa that the Canadian Northern Railway is seeking access to St. John should remind us of the increasing importance of this port as a railway terminus. As the Canadian Northern links up the western sections of its rails—and it has something like 4,000 miles of track now completed, counting branches—it must have some way of reaching Atlantic tidewater during the winter months; and by every transportation rule St. John is its natural objective.

Some time ago, when the Dominion government gave the Canadian Northern further financial accommodation, it was understood that a traffic arrangement had been concluded whereby Mackenzie & Mann's road would turn over to the Intercolonial its freight for St. John and Halifax, and doubtless this plan will be followed until such time as the Canadian Northern secures running rights over a part of the Intercolonial or has built a line of its own through to New Brunswick. An arrangement might be made whereby the Canadian Northern could reach St. John over the Valley Railroad upon its completion.

The business of the Intercolonial constantly increases. This is true in a still greater degree of the C. P. R., which has made heavy expenditures here recently and which is constantly preparing to handle a greatly enlarged traffic. Big as the business is which the C. P. R. does today through this port, transportation men realize that we have only seen the beginning of it. The new Transcontinental, which is to be leased to the Grand Trunk Pacific, has been completed in New Brunswick, and trains will be running over it in a few days. The terminals of the Grand Trunk Pacific at Courtenay Bay are in the making, and it is thought room will be made on that side of the harbor for the accommodation of the Canadian Northern, in which case St. John will have become the principal winter port of three transcontinental railways as well as the Intercolonial and the Valley road.

The progress of the Grand Trunk Pacific is not wholly satisfactory from the standpoint of St. John. By this time we should have heard something about preparation on the company's own account for the handling of its business in this city. It will need many things in addition to the steamship piers and yard room concerning which the initial steps have already been taken. Meantime, there is considerable public feeling in New England over the reported alliance between the Grand Trunk and the New Haven Railroad. The Boston Transcript interprets the stoppage of work by the Grand Trunk on the Southern New England Railroad as evidence that the Grand Trunk and the New Haven have arrived at an understanding to get along without competition in that territory, and the Boston Transcript intimates that this is a menace to public interests and that an enquiry into the matter will be begun in Boston next Monday before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

However New England may regard the situation, Canadians may be disposed to think that after it has abandoned the proposed building operations in New England the Grand Trunk will have more time and money to devote to the perfection of its lines on Canadian soil. Certainly the Canadian ports, winter and summer, can handle all the traffic the Grand Trunk Pacific will have, and the road was built on the understanding that Canadian ports would be first served.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE ISSUE

A recent demonstration in the House of Commons throws much light upon the attitude of the English Tories toward Lloyd George. Their feeling toward him is described by T. P. O'Connor, M. P., as a curious mixture of hatred and terror. They know that he has decided to deprive them of many privileges, and that he will carry his purpose to the bitter end, with a courage that nothing can affright and a tenacity that nothing can loosen. They fear the future. They fear that Limehouse will pale its ineffectual fires when he sounds the slogan for the next campaign. He is going to fight on the land cry, and they are not concerned about Ireland or about Ulster, but about their own dominion over English life—their tyranny over the English village and the English countryside. It is their own lands they care for, and they will fight to the death to conserve the privileges which they instinctively feel he is raised up to destroy.

The recent outbreak was commonplace in its origin, but instructive in its teaching. Late in the evening, after the last division on the Home Rule Bill had been taken, and when the house generally empties very quickly, Mr. Rawlinson asked that the landlords be given an opportunity of knowing all the evidence collected by the land committee. The members seemed to feel that there was something toward for the house remained filled. Apparently everything was going on sweetly and smoothly, but Lloyd George was not on his feet for more than a few seconds when the pent up wrath of the Tories burst into eruption. There arose from every section of the opposition raucous shouts, passionate interruptions, and noises like the crackling of dry thorns under a bubbling pot. The squirearchy of the commons threw off all the veneer of culture and reveled in primitive passions. The gentlemanly party was transformed into rowdies seeking to drown out the chancellor's voice with deafening shouts. The friends of Lloyd George tried to drown the outcry across the way by counter shouts, and in this sea the chancellor labored on making no headway, until it seemed he would forced to resume his seat without giving any effective answer to the storm of abuse and insult which had broken upon his head.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, with extraordinary ineptitude, gave him his opportunity. Mr. O'Conner describes this incident: "Do I," said Mr. Chamberlain, "understand the right hon. gentleman to promise that the names and evidence of witnesses will be published?" Lloyd George's moment had come at last. Mr. Chamberlain had given him the opportunity of resorting to his deadly and always devastating starategy. Before Mr. Chamberlain was well back in his seat, out burst the deadly blow. "Now," said Lloyd George, "we know what they want." "And then," says Mr. O'Connor, "the whole Liberal, Labor and Irish party burst into one of those crashing storms of cheers which reveal the fundamental passion of the parties. From this point forward there was no doubt about who was going to be the victor in the encounter. Lloyd George had collected himself for the final blow," and he went on to say: "They want to get the names of the witnesses." Another wild outburst of cheers from the Liberal benches, and defiant counter cheers from Tories, and after the necessary pause Lloyd George, by now radiant and defiant, went on, "the names of those who supply information about the condition of labor, about management"—then he made a long pause, to add more deadly effectiveness to his next word—"about game." "It is impossible to describe adequately the cyclone of cheers and counter cheers that followed."

The fear of the Tories is not groundless, for indications multiply that the Liberals are going to fight the next election on the land cry. The Phime Minister has recently entered a disclaimer against the Single Tax, but the "single taxters" deny that they ever advocated in an old country like Great Britain, the transferance of all taxation to site value. Mr. Asquith has on more than one occasion declared that it was the duty of the Liberal party to submit to parliament a well-considered scheme of taxation which would free the municipalities from the trammels under which they at present are, and which will open an avenue to a new source of social and industrial development. In the past, he said, the owner of the ground had contributed little or nothing to the rates, but he had benefited and will continue to benefit by the improvements. Mr. Asquith has always been true to the movement for changing the incidence of taxation, and the reformers are ready to be satisfied with what he offers. A memorial to put this to the forefront of the Liberal policy has recently been signed by 173 members of parliament, and has received the approval of the National Liberal Federation, the League of Young Liberals in London, and more than that, this policy has been responsible for several of the recent triumphs of the party in by-elections.

The burden of sport upon agriculture will be removed. The condition that forces the young men to emigrate, who do not want to leave the country, but who want to marry and settle down, but who find it impossible to get a cottage or an opportunity, will be changed. The issue is joined. The privileged interests will fight to the last to maintain their power, but while the battle may be protracted the issue will not be for a moment in doubt.

NOTE AND COMMENT

They are talking about burning wood in parts of Ontario because coal is $8.50 a ton. Not having experienced St. John's prices there they do not know when they are well off.

* * *

"All that we have to say about it is that there is no emergency" says the Montreal Witness. "That is, there is no German emergency. There has been an emergency in the cabinet."

* * *

The Nova Scotia Legislature at its next session will consider and will perhaps adopt a bill giving municipalities the right to exempt improvements wholly or in part. Home rule in taxation is a safe and progressive policy.

* * *

Mayor Frink intimates that the city is not wholly powerless in dealing with the delay in extending the street railway to Kane's Corner. Let us hope not. But the snowfall is near and we still get nothing better than an extension of time.

* * *

Of the coming departure of Ambassador Bryce from Washington the New York Journal of Commerce says: "He leaves office not only with a brilliant and echolarly record, but with a period of unusual efficiency and good feeling to his credit." The Journal regrets that Mr. Bryce should be going at a time when the United States will be taking up tariff revision and possibly some readjustment of its tariff relations with other countries.

* * *

Alderman Blumenthal of Montreal has discovered "evidences of a butter trust, an egg trust, a milk trust, a fish trust, and a sugar combine, while Mr. Alphonse Verville, M. P., who was the principal speaker at a meeting held in the Labor Temple a week ago to discuss the local food question, emphatically gave it as his opinion that there was a canned goods trust in local operation." So says the Montreal Herald. These matters are to be investigated as a result of growing complaints about the high cost of living.

* * *

In 1911 the fire loss in the United States was $2.31 per capita, as compared with eighty-one cents in France, fifty-three cents in England, and twenty-one cents in Germany. The fire loss in New York in 1911 was $2.45 as against sixty cents in Paris, fifty-four cents in London, and eighteen cents in Hamburg. Boston, a city of about the same size as Hamburg, had a fire loss of $3.26 per capita, or more than eighteen times as great. The American record as regards railroad accidents is almost equally bad. And the road back to sanity and safety is long and hard.

* * *

Vienna hears reports of strained relations between Austria and Russia over the Balkan situation, and in some quarters there is fear of a general war in Europe. These reports are probably exaggerated. Mr. Asquith's Guildhall speech on Saturday indicated that the great powers were working harmoniously together in regard to the Balkan situation, and it was on the whole a most quieting utterance. Mr. Asquith said that so far as Great Britain is concerned its relations with other powers, without a single exception, were never more friendly and cordial. Mr. Asquith does not seem to belong to the "emergency" school in politics.

* * *

A pleasing custom was that of Ortiz McMannigal, the informer in the American dynamite case, who testified the other day that as he traveled over the United States, blowing up buildings here and there, he always sent home to his family a souvenir spoon from each town where he destroyed property. This man was responsible for many deaths, and the property losses caused by his acts ran into many millions. He seems to have been one of the most cold-blooded and desperate characters recently disclosed to the world. There will be universal regret that justice has found it necessary to give him a certain degree of immunity in payment for his testimony.

* * *

The Lemieux act for settling labor disputes has been in force for five years. During that time 124 industrial disputes have been dealt with under it. In only fourteen of these cases did the operation of the act fail to avert a strike. The Ottawa Journal, in praising this legislation, says: "What do you think of a law which in five years has aided to avert one hundred and ten strikes in Canada, in services greatly affecting the public comfort and welfare? Could there be anything more simple, more sensible, more desirable? Could anything be much more effective, as the story of five years tells? Could any law much better deserve the support of the people?"

* * *

The questions of loans for farmers is attracting increasing attention in the United States. The Democratic platform contained this plank:

"Of equal importance with the question of currency reform is the question of rural credits or agricultural finance. Therefore, we recommend that an investigation of agricultural credit societies in foreign countries be made, so that it may be ascertained whether a system of rural credits may be devised suitable to conditions in the United States; and we also favor legislation permitting national banks to loan a reasonable proportion of their funds on real estate security."

A conference is to be held in Minneapolis at which the whole question of rural credit legislation is to be dealt with, the idea being to recommend a feasible plan for rural loans on farm security.

MONCTON TEMPERANCE MEN WANT CHIEF OF POLICE RETAINED

Moncton, N. B., Nov. 12—At a meeting of Moncton Division, Sons of Temperance, a resolution moved by E. McCarthy, seconded by E. B. Hicks, was unanimously adopted expressing full confidence in Chief of Police Rideout and opposing the petition of the provincial constables who request his removal from office.

J. B. T. Caron, of the I. C. R. board of management left last evening to be at the bedside of his aged father who is critically ill at his home near Quebec.

Arrangements are being made by local promoters to have Sam Anderson and Kilonis wrestle for the world's middleweight championship here on next Monday night.

ABE MARTIN

A kicker allus wants somethin' t' boot. It's worth all it costs t' keep peace in the family.