

The Evening Times-Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 30, 1924

GRAIN BRINGS THE SHIPS.

St. John should be interested in this statement concerning the influence of grain shipments upon seaports:

"The chief factor in bringing shipping to Montreal is the great flood of grain from the farms of the Canadian prairies and the Midwest of the United States, which provides cargo alike for liners and tramp during the fall rush and upon the opening of navigation. The increase in the grain storage and elevator capacity of the port, recently authorized, will do much to assure ample freight for the liners that make Montreal their western terminus throughout the season."

That is to say, throughout the open season. The words are those of the Toronto Globe commenting upon the transfer of the big Cunarder Carmania to the St. Lawrence route. The Cunard directorate, the Globe suggests, are evidently confident that Montreal, already the second most important port in North America, is certain still further to improve its position and perhaps challenge even New York so far as the North Atlantic trade is concerned.

The point for St. John is that grain is the chief factor in bringing shipping to Montreal. It should be a great factor in bringing shipping to St. John—a much greater factor than it is. How ever much grain goes to Vancouver and through the Panama Canal, Montreal's steady growth is conceded. And the Canadian grain crop under normal conditions will increase immensely. St. John is the natural winter port of Canada. It for winter freight what Montreal is for summer freight. If a truly national transportation policy is to be followed, The C. P. R. makes increasing use of it. There is needed similar action by the National Railway system of Canada. This city must not cease to press for a greater volume of freight, import and export, and it must never rest content with the state ment that the routing of traffic is beyond the control of the railways.

St. John believes that the right use of the Transcontinental and perhaps some readjustment of port charges, together with the right sort of co-operation between our harbor authorities and Canadian National traffic headquarters, would produce results. Here is a question demanding examination from every angle, and the development of a vigorous and enterprising policy designed to expand the port's business to a volume worthy of its geographical position and its real national value.

BRITAIN AND THE DOMINIONS.

The preferences to the Dominions introduced in 1919 are not to be abolished at once by the Labor Government, according to the budget speech, but the administration reserves the right to cancel them at any time in the future—if it survives the budget debate and other perils—and they will probably disappear in August. These preferences were few and they have been the subject of intense controversy. As an example of their effect it is pointed out by those favoring their continuance that in 1919 the British importation of Canadian cameras was nil while in the three following years they grew to \$800,000. Again, in 1919 Britain imported Canadian automobiles to the value of \$1,800,000. But the McKenna duties were introduced as a wartime measure rather than as a foster Imperial trade, and their abolition has been discounted.

The Chancellor promises that the question of the preferences will be submitted to Parliament for full discussion. There will result from this, and from the cuts in taxes on some forms of food, a noteworthy battle between the free trade and protectionist forces in which the Government will fare ill unless the Liberals come to the rescue as they evidently will.

As it stands Britain receives preferences from the Dominions but gives practically none in return. General Smuts has declared that such a one-sided arrangement cannot last. There have been similar utterances from Australia and New Zealand.

But the outstanding fact is that Britain cannot give each of the Dominions the preferential treatment it needs—their needs being different—unless it sets up a considerable tariff against foreign countries, and so excludes enough foreign products to let the Dominions in through the advantage thus afforded them.

SAVE THE FORESTS.

In a moving appeal to the people of New Brunswick, broadcast from St. John last evening, His Honor Lieutenant Governor Todd brings home the frightful loss resulting from forest fires, and earnestly impresses upon all the grave need for care and caution. Carelessness and indifference, as he shows, have resulted in a shocking destruction of our resources. The Lieutenant Governor reminds us of our duty to ourselves and to those who come after us. "Preservation of the forests of New Brunswick," he says, "means the assurance of employment and comfort for generations yet unborn. It should be the duty of every person in the province to exercise the utmost care in regard to the use of fire and also to see that like care is exercised by others."

In a similar appeal to Canadians Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King tells the people how forest fires affect the taxpayer today, in addition to eating up tomorrow's resources. He says: "Our forest industries next to agriculture, constitute the most important source of our national income. We in Canada today do not appreciate the extent to which our prosperity is dependent on a stable supply of raw materials for these industries. Nor do we appreciate the fact that forest fires, through destruction of raw material today, threaten the very existence of these industries."

"The Government is aiming at reduction of taxation. There is no way in which the people of Canada can more effectively assist in achieving this result than by united effort to stop the present tremendous losses through forest fires. Our own interest, as well as our duty to those who come after us, demands that we avoid carelessness and neglect of reasonable precaution, which has been the cause of over ninety per cent. of our forest fires in the past."

Every New Brunswicker has in this matter a duty too great to ignore. For the neglect and carelessness causing ninety per cent. of our forest losses there is no excuse. Let each resolve to do his own share to stop the destruction which is a reproach to us as a civilized and enlightened people.

St. John men who remember baseball here in the late eighties and the early nineties must have read with interest the other day of the death of a well known Halifax sporting man who once upon a time was a referee. He presided in that capacity over a game between two famous teams, one representing St. John and the other Halifax in those old days. It was played in Halifax. Some of the St. John players have survived the referee, who died at sixty-six. There was so much excitement over the contest—and some of the decisions—it seemed probable he would not live through the game. There was lively betting, and at that time feeling between the sporting elements of the two cities ran high. To-day, fortunately, there is a friendly understanding. Soon after that a St. John team left the diamond in Bangor under a shower of sods and stones. And even at home not a few games were exceedingly warm. Speaking of that Halifax game, thirty odd years after it was played it begins to seem likely that the referee's decisions were neither so atrocious as one side said nor so admirable as the other side asserted. But at the time the moon certainly had a sanguinary hue.

Germany still has plenty of money for propaganda. It encourages rather than rebukes its militarists. A new "Hymn of Hate" has just been published in Hamburg. French automobile makers recently cancelled a German order for 2,500 cars upon learning that they were intended for the German army. The choicest French wine crops have been purchased by Germans, and half the purchase money paid in advance, say Paris despatches, and it is added that Germany can afford to buy for cash, and does so buy, great quantities of luxuries. She pays gold for American copper and hogs of which she makes heavy purchases. These are among the reasons why Germany cannot rightly be regarded as either poor or peaceful. She has tried the patience of the Allies to the limit many times, and will again unless they exert united pressure.

It seems that Canada really does exercise some censorship over certain books and other publications which it deems offensive or worse. Mr. Justice Ford of the New York Supreme Court has been denouncing some of the books

and pictures of his own country, and in the course of an address on the subject in Boston he said:

"Canada shrinks from contact with the foul prints of this country. In the Canadian Bookstore and Stationer of recent date is printed a blacklist. Of the twenty-eight books blacklisted, all are in free circulation in New York except one. Ninety-three other publications find places in the blacklist, of which twenty-six are published in New York, six in Chicago, and six in Boston."

The champion fly-caster of the United States is on his way to Cain's River with the veteran sportsman and guide, W. Harry Allen. If a thousand New Brunswickers were as successful as Mr. Allen in advertising the fish and game resources of the province there would be scarcely room enough for our visitors. There is a good chance to extend such useful and fruitful activities by giving support to the Tourist and Resources Association.

The first British Labor budget has been greeted with much popular favor owing to the reduction of taxation it brings. Also, the taxation programme is much less Socialistic than the Conservative element feared.

Press Comment

BACK IT COMES.

(Toronto Star.)

The meat packers of Chicago ship bones to China which are later shipped back to this country in the form of Mah Jong sets. Modern transportation facilities have brought curious anomalies to pass. The ship bone of a calf goes to China to get made into an East Wind, and then comes prancing back.

GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE

(Dearborn Independent.)

After a survey of the premises of a farmer in Virginia it was found that the housewife, to obtain water for her work was walking 140 miles a year and expending enough energy to do the work of two horses in plowing eleven acres of land. A small hydraulic ram, overhead storage tank, kitchen sink and waste pipe were installed at a cost of about fifty dollars, which put running water into the kitchen.

THE PROGRESSIVES TOUR.

(Calgary Herald.)

Progressive party members of the Dominion parliament have been touring the Maritime Provinces during the Easter holidays. The idea was good. It is as valuable for westerners to get a first-hand knowledge of eastern conditions as it is for easterners to see for themselves what the west is and what it has to offer. The eastern holiday of the Progressives on this occasion is of interest as it has disclosed the attitude of members of the party in their capacity as representatives of the people of the west.

As was to be expected, speeches were demanded of the westerners. We have record of at least two of them. One made by P. J. Garland, Bow River, and another by Alfred Speakman, of Red Deer. The Bow River man talked to a Montreal audience. He referred to his Bow River constituents as "farm slaves," and greeted working men in his audience as "wage slaves." The position of the west he announced as desperate, with prospect of general bankruptcy as a possibility of the future. Middlemen, according to him, are parasites, without distinction, and the railways are robbers. And thus on the end of his address he pictured the west as a place to keep away from.

Mr. Speakman talked for publication in St. John, N. B. He did not deny the west, neither did he denounce the east. Rather he took a statesmanlike attitude with regard to the economic situation throughout the Dominion and urged unity of effort by east and west to overcome the disabilities from which both are suffering in greater or less degree. A working partnership was better in his judgment than an attitude of antagonism.

The west has never been in the position that Mr. Garland pictures it. It has had its hard times and its good times and will doubtless continue to have them in more or less regular sequence. It is today recovering from a hard times period, just as is the east.

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rest of the civilized world. But the spirit of the west is such that no true westerner broadcasts his troubles; he keeps them to himself and turns a smiling, optimistic front to the great outside. And let it be said that the west has never yet disappointed the same optimism of its sons and daughters. Mr. Garland's Montreal speech was a gross exaggeration. In no sense did it truthfully depict the general situation in the three prairie provinces. It was the pronouncement of a pessimist of a type the west knows little of, which is a mighty good thing for the west.

CHEVARIÉ (John Hanlon in N. Y. Times.) My dreams go home to Chevarie, My dreams go home and drift on more

To Chevarie, where violet sea Is lapping on a scarlet shore.

The dawning brings a dancing breeze; The dawning brings o'er Fundy Bay A dancing breeze; the orchard trees Awake to wave it on its way.

A robin croons with her nest, A robin croons a drowsy song Within her nest, and quaint bees quest 'Through garden lanes the whole day long.

Across the Bay the dark fogs lurk (Across the Bay the dark fogs lurk) The dark fogs lurk with mist and muck, The bright sun is a watchful dog.

He frightens off gray wolves that creep He frightens off from Chevarie, Gray wolves that creep toward fields asleep

As winds weave through tall timothy, The tide goes out, the Fundy tide, The tide goes out, the Fundy tide, The Fundy tide, as Vikings ride.

The twilight falls like vespers bell, The twilight falls upon the sea Like vespers bell, dusk makes the smell Of rose and thyme drug Chevarie.

My dreams go home to Chevarie, My dreams go home a traveled way To Chevarie, O Chevarie, Are you the same as yesterday?

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LIGHTER VEIN Running Schedule Old Lady (to boy engrossed in cheap novel)—"How often does this elevator go up, boy?" Elevator Boy—"It goes up at the end of every chapter, lady."

Only Way He Can Get In Mrs. X—"Does your husband ever break into song?" Mrs. Y—"Yes; he never seems to be able to find the key."—Boston Transcript.

All Over Cannibal Prince (rushing in)—"Am I late for dinner?" Cannibal King—"Yes, every body's eaten."

S. O. S. "I have here a letter signed 'A Man in the Street.'"

"Answer it in a hurry. His situation is dangerous these days."

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Callie—"Oh! You have played before, then!"

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BEGIN CONFIRMATION CLASSES A large class of candidates for the sacrament of confirmation in the Cathedral parish began instructions yesterday, the children, both boys and girls, in the afternoon, and adults in the evening. The adults' classes are being held Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

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