

The Evening Times and Star

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FLEMMING THE MAGICIAN

There is much interested speculation as to whether the goose-pimples which have been travelling up the spine of the provincial government since Hon. P. G. Mahoney was decried have been smoothed out by the magic of Mr. J. K. Flemming.

Mr. Flemming has merits. It will be remembered that a railroad contractor was once worried over a pile of \$2,000 which was sticking out of his pocket, and was liable to be seized by profane fingers as he went up and down among the haunts of men. As he worried he thought of Mr. Flemming; and Mr. Flemming, by some strange process of telepathy, thought of him. They met, and the worries of the railroad contractor or about that \$2,000 ceased at once and forever.

Then there was Mr. E. R. Teed, who was losing sleep because of a strong box containing treasure valued, some say, at \$70,000, and some at \$100,000. One sleepless night he thought of Mr. Flemming; and Mr. Flemming, by the same strange process of telepathy, thought of him. And Mr. Teed slept.

There was also, once, a great religious convention moved to deep concern and sore travail of the spirit by the manifestation of a growing disregard for high and noble ideals in public life. Happily Mr. Flemming was there, and all fears were allayed by what he said.

But why multiply instances? The record is there, and it stands. It is true that the aforesaid goose-pimples might disappear more rapidly if Mr. Flemming were the candidate in Carleton county, for then he might be able to wave his magic wand again from the desk of the premier; but perhaps that is only postponed.

What a pity he resigned from the premiership and the legislature when there was so much to be done that he could do so well.

AN INDEPENDENT WITNESS

Some of the keenest critics of the Borden government are among the trade journals of the country. These do not speak from a partisan, but a purely business standpoint. They view the situation as it affects the general welfare of the country, and the country's position in relation to the war. On many occasions the Times has referred to the lack of competent leadership in Canada since the war began. No doubt there were some ardent supporters of the government who said that this was merely a partisan assertion, and without foundation in fact. It is worth while, therefore, to quote in full an editorial from the Montreal Financial Times, dealing with this very question of the failure of the government to give the country leadership in what has been of supreme importance ever since the war began. It says:

"It is now many months since the Financial Times began to argue for some more systematic handling of the human resources of this Dominion for the combined purposes of military enlistment and of maximum economic efficiency during the war. Even admitting the impossibility, for the present, of actual conscription, we have consistently argued for a form of registration which would make the work of recruiting officers easier and tend to direct the latent forces of the country into the most productive channels, and particularly into the manufacture of munitions and the work of agriculture.

"The results of the complete disregard of this advice—'which was rendered not only by The Financial Times but by several other newspapers and by many of the leaders of economic thought and business enterprise—are already beginning to become painfully apparent. Enlistment, as we have all been long aware, has lagged distressingly behind the rate of progress which it should have attained if the prime minister's pledge of five hundred thousand men was to be implemented in time to be of real service. That, however, was a voluntary undertaking, and was limited to no set time. Now we find, however, that the execution of munition contracts for which the manufacturers and people of this country clamored (and rightly so, since it is in the Empire's interests that such contracts should be placed so far as possible within the Empire) is being delayed by the shortage of munition labor, that deliveries are not being made to the extent and within the time for which the Canadian plants contracted—and this while the country is full of able-bodied young and middle-aged men, and women also, who are doing nothing in particular or working at vocations which confer no special benefit upon a community at war. The situation is naturally at its worst when complicated, as it is this month, with the keen demand for harvest workers for the gathering and moving of a gigantic crop of cereals, but intelligent preparation for this crisis, with a system of registration which would have made all the manpower of the dominion available for some thoroughly useful form of labor, would have done much to mitigate the present difficulties.

"The appeal of the Imperial Munitions Board to the Organization of Resources Committee of the Ontario legislature is a pathetic document in its admission of helplessness. At a time when the

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LIGHTER VEIN

During a gale an elderly gentleman was striving to reach his home with the assistance of his son.

Just as they passed along a row of small houses there was a loud crash, and a heavy tin chimney-pot struck the pavement at their very feet.

"Good heavens!" gasped the feeble old man. "That was a narrow escape. It might have killed us both."

They paused for a moment to examine the fallen chimney, and at once a window was banged up and a shrill female voice shrieked:

"Here, you two, you needn't think you're a-going to steal that thing 'cause it belongs to my 'ouse!"

"Look at me!" exclaimed a lawyer warmly. "I never took a drop of medicine in my life, and I'm as strong as any two of your patients put together."

His friend—"Well, I should say so."

Chortles—"Then come round to our house next Tuesday and give us a hand. We're moving that day."

Mrs. Devere Jones—"Why Mrs. Tootson, your daughter plays more brilliantly than ever."

Mrs. Tootson—"My daughter's out of town. That's the piano tuner you hear!"

This is bad weather for kings in the Balkan region.

Commissioner Fisher's view that the city should remove all garbage is the right one. That plan should long ago have been adopted.

The Germans continue to counter-attack savagely at intervals on the Balkan front, but while their losses must be heavy they gain no advantage.

Greece may be expected to be in the line on the side of the Allies before the other week has passed, unless an internal revolution gives her other work at home for a time.

The corner stone of the new parliament building at Ottawa has been laid. Later we may learn exactly how much money was wasted by removing the walls of the old one.

A general railroad strike in the United States would be more than a calamity. It would be a crime. Happily, it is likely to be averted, through the action of Congress, at the urgent demand of President Wilson.

If Monday is a fine day there should be a record attendance at the Barracks Square, both afternoon and evening, and a substantial addition made to the patriotic funds. Labor and capital are uniting to make the day memorable. Let everybody hear.

Read over again what Hon. H. F. McLeod said about Mr. J. K. Flemming, as quoted in the Times today. Then ask yourself whether Mr. Flemming's return to public life is desirable, in the face of these statements and the findings of the royal commission.

A LINDEN SHOWER

Friends of Miss Dora Goulety tendered a linen shower in her honor on Wednesday evening at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. John Goulety, St. Marys. Miss Goulety is to be married next month to Alfred Wood of Fredericton.

WILSON-AWARD

The marriage of Miss Maude C. youngest daughter of Mariner J. and the late Mrs. Rhuby Alward of Butternut Ridge, to Charles Wilson, son of Ainslie Wilson of Harewood, N.B., took place on August 26, at the Baptist parsonage, Fredericton.



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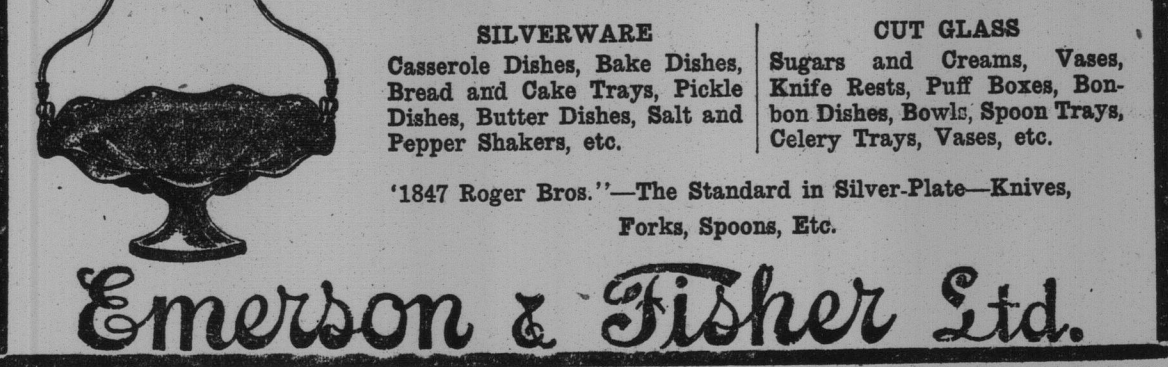
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GERARD IS ATTACKED AS BRITAIN'S FRIEND

Berlin Newspapers Start Report That He is Going to England

Call Him Germany's Friend—American, Reaching London, Attributes New Fight on Ambassador to the Censorship Row

London, Sept. 1.—An American, who is in London, after several months' stay in Berlin, told The New York Times correspondent that the German newspapers had been printing attacks on Ambassador Gerard within the last ten days on account of a prospective trip they say he is about to make to England.

According to The Times informant, the German newspapers began printing sly allusions to the Ambassador, saying he was going on a mysterious journey to England and that after a short visit he was going to return to Berlin. After a day or two of this the papers came out, said this informant, with editorial attacks upon the ambassador, reading something like this:

"Ambassador Gerard is going to take a trip to the country he favors so much—England," and "Gerard is going to the country where he has so many friends—England." Some editorials, the informant said, were particularly bitter in insinuating that Mr. Gerard was not of much use in Germany and that he might be the enemy of Germany.

Traced to Censorship.

"The attacks on Mr. Gerard began soon after his stand in refusing to urge upon the government at Washington that the British censor be rebuked for not allowing the uncensored reports of Berlin correspondents to be sent to America."

"The newspapers accused Mr. Gerard of being a traitor to his country. Since then the attacks became more bitter until they culminated in the reports of his supposed trip to England. I understand the German censor has declined to allow these newspaper attacks on Mr. Gerard's intended trip to be printed."

At the American Embassy here The New York Times correspondent was informed that no word had been received as to Mr. Gerard's intention of coming to England, nor had it been heard that he was contemplating a trip to America at this time. One official explained that if Mr. Gerard proposed a trip here he certainly would inform the Embassy.

As to the German newspaper attacks on Mr. Gerard, the Embassy had no word. The Times informant, speaking of the food situation in Berlin, said:

"All any one can get to eat as a steady diet is bread, soup, and vegetables, which become not only monotonous, but unsatisfactory as a perpetual diet. Only a quarter of a pound of meat a week is allowed to any one individual whether at a hotel or elsewhere, and to the ordinary man with a lively appetite that makes about one big bite a week. Everything is way up in price, but worst of it is that whether he has money enough to buy or not, he can only obtain a limited quantity, the limit fixed by the government. While prices may be much higher in England than before the war, still there is plenty of everything, and the average man has more money than before the war. So England is really not affected by similar hardships to those for the average citizen, while Germany is badly off for every one in the matter of food, whether poor or rich."

Beefsteak a Luxury.

"Since I have been in London, I have been eating beefsteak three times a day, and have not got enough yet. It means that there is a tremendous difference between ready foodstuffs, even though they have dried and water-proofs compounds in them. It's the quality of that compound, plus the skill used in preparing the food, that counts. It is the skill used in the preparation, plus the chemical composition of the compound, that makes the difference between a good and a bad beefsteak."

Speed Worship a Disease.

Habit Grows on Victim Like Alcoholism.

It is certainly not enough to fine men guilty of furious driving. In most cases they are in a position to pay the assessment and give the matter no further thought, says The San Francisco Chronicle. "Speed worship is as much a disease as alcoholism, with which it is very often linked, and just as the confirmed drunkard cannot be cured by fines so the confirmed speeder is little affected by similar punishment. The only thing to be done with the habitual racer is to make it a criminal offence for him to drive a car."

If the speeders only killed themselves the law should endeavor to prevent their suicide, but when, as so often happens, they kill the innocent, it is the duty of society to see that they are suitably restrained.

Instead of being a pleasure to drive out on Sundays it has become a hazardous adventure from which the cautious are inclined to withdraw.

One would imagine that the ever-increasing list of tragedies would serve as a warning to the reckless, but when the speed fiend is at the wheel away go experience, common sense and every other restraint. Like excessive drinking, the speed craving grows by what it feeds on, and from the mania for passing other motor cars it extends to mania for challenging locomotives, even on their own rails.

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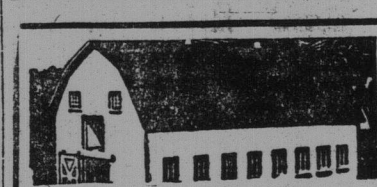
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