

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1913.

BEGGING THE QUESTION.

The Telegraph appears to have awakened to the fact that to meet the emergency in the naval situation and strengthen the British Fleet will require time. It says: "There is beginning to appear in some of the Conservative newspapers a new view of what constitutes 'an emergency.' These observers tell us that the emergency is not a thing of the moment, but will extend over several years." This is not a new view, as the Telegraph supposes. The Admiralty's policy to meet the emergency, which arose on the disclosure of the provisions in Germany's latest Navy Law, involves, as Mr. Churchill stated, "steady and systematic development of our naval forces untrammelled by a number of years." That was the kernel of Mr. Churchill's statement.

The direct cause of the supplementary estimate, Mr. Churchill said, was to be found in the new German Navy Law. He doubted if the scope and character of this law had been appreciated. Its main feature was not the increase in the new construction of capital ships, but the increase in the striking force of ships of all classes which would be immediately available at all seasons of the year. He added that nearly four-fifths of the entire German Navy would be maintained in full permanent commission and instantly ready for war. Such a proportion was remarkable and, as far as he was aware, found no example in the previous practice of modern naval powers.

The emergency has not developed from a situation which can be met and disposed of at once. Germany's programme under the new law will not be completed this year or next year, but will be extended over several years. To meet this emergency Mr. Churchill pointed out that "the strain we shall have to bear will be long and slow." As far as the Admiralty are concerned the British programme to meet the emergency will extend over the next seven years.

In accepting the fact that the emergency will extend over several years the Telegraph proceeds to discuss the advantages of a permanent policy for Canada with the obvious intention of discrediting an emergency contribution. It says:

"There is much to be said for that view, and, if it is correct, it demands a definite and permanent naval policy under which Canada shall take up its fair share of the burden of Imperial Defence. As to the necessity for such a policy Canadians are agreed for the most part. Certainly a very great majority of them favor such a policy."

The Telegraph is enunciating a truism. Whether or not an emergency exists a definite and permanent naval policy for the Dominion is essential and will be decided by the people when Mr. Borden at a later date lays his proposals before the country. The emergency extending over several years demands immediate action if the Dominion is to give practical assistance to the Mother Country in bearing a share of the burden of Naval Defence. Navies are not built in a year or in two years. The Dominion's permanent naval policy is a question of the future. If Mr. Borden should recommend an emergency contribution to strengthen the Empire's Fleet nearly two years must elapse before the ships would be in commission. The situation calls for an immediate decision without raising any question as to the Dominion's permanent policy.

EXPANSION OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.

There has been a notable extension of the rural mail delivery service in this Province during the past year, since the Borden Government came into power, and similar rapid extension is reported throughout the Dominion. The needs of the rural population are being met and the service is giving general satisfaction. Further improvements by the Department, which will be appreciated, are coming into force next month.

By an act introduced by the Government last session a superintendent was appointed over the rural mail delivery service. His work was to specialize on that branch of the Department's work. This has been successful and beginning with November 1st the rural mail carriers will be equipped with a supply of postal orders and stamps and authorized to take registered letters so that frequent visits on the part of inhabitants to the post offices in outlying districts will be unnecessary, with a consequent saving of time and labor. The result will be that a former rural mail carrier is transformed into a travelling postmaster.

Mr. Bolduc, the new superintendent, reports that at the end of the present year there will be about twelve hundred rural mail delivery routes in operation throughout the country. At present there are almost nine hundred. Of this number about six hundred had been in operation when Mr. Pelletier, the Postmaster-General, took up the reins of his Department. At that time the scheme had been in operation for four years. The result of Mr. Pelletier's work in appointing a special superintendent will be seen at the end of the year when as many routes will have been established in fifteen months as during the four years of Liberal administration. This is all the more creditable as the circular route has been put in operation. The route under the old system was only between places already established but the circular route takes in more outlying parts as well as the existing route and brings greater benefit.

The development of the country and the rapid extension of the areas of settlement have been calling for corresponding increases in and extensions of other branches of the postal service. An idea of the rapid strides made, is provided by the fact that almost 600 new post offices have been opened in different parts of the Dominion since January 1, 1912. The number is increasing monthly for the monthly average from July 1 to October 2 has been at the rate of sixty. The grouping together of new inhabitants necessitates the establishment of post offices. The majority of those being opened are in the West, but the older parts of the country are not being neglected. Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces receive their share according to the increase of population, an increase specially noticeable in the cities.

An accurate indication of the development of the West is presented in the number of new post offices established in the Prairie Provinces and the Far West in one month. Out of seventy-six new offices opened on July 1, fifty were at points in this area. The same ratio has been kept on August 1, September 1 and October 1 of this year.

THE BALKAN SITUATION.

The movement towards confederation which, according to a recent despatch from Vienna, is the object of the League of the Balkan States now at war with Turkey, is not being viewed with equanimity by the Powers. The German Foreign Office in Berlin, it is reported, expects intervention after the first decisive battle. The territorial aims of the States are said to be embodied in a formal written alliance which defines the zones of influence of the respective countries in Albania and Macedonia, and provides for a common tariff and postal union between the Balkan nations.

According to the London Outlook, which claims to have special information as to the Balkan alliance, the immediate object in view is a permanent federation intended to exclude all external authority from the Balkan Peninsula. The King of Greece will become President of the alliance on the nomination of King Nicholas of Montenegro. The religious rivalries of the Balkan Christians will be ended by uniting the Orthodox Churches of Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, as in ancient times, under the Patriarch of Constantinople, who is the head of the Greek Church. The churches will retain their national rituals and languages.

The extension of Serbia through Bosnia to the Adriatic Sea will form a part of the scheme which Austria is expected to strongly resist, says the Outlook. The Powers are negotiating actively in the European capitals concerning what policy to pursue when the time for the settlement of the war or for intervention arrives. The Outlook thinks they are much more concerned to ensure peace among themselves than to arrange the issues at stake in the Near East, which look small when compared with a general European war.

It is to be noted in this connection that France is reported to be utilizing every diplomatic resource to secure peaceful intervention by the Powers, in the Balkans, before outside international complications develop. A despatch from Paris states that the French Foreign Office is counting upon Great Britain for support, and that Italy, which has gained considerably in prestige through the success of the campaign against Turkey, is also depended upon in the effort toward peace. The attitude of the other Powers is regarded as doubtful.

The formation of a new Confederation of States in Southern Europe would probably lead to international complications which are already foreseen. It is significant that Austria and Russia are reported to have informed Turkey that "in view of recent developments" they "reserve liberty of action." The message is taken to mean that the Vienna and St. Petersburg Governments consider the Turks beaten, and propose to protect their own interests, regardless of consideration for the Sultan, or the wishes of the other Powers.

AGRICULTURE AND PROTECTION.

The Fortnightly Review for October contains an instructive article by "Politicus," entitled "The Unionist Land Policy." The writer shows, by comparison with Germany, how little productive is British agriculture under Free Trade and how enormously its productivity might be increased by the policy of creating numerous owners combined with a tariff. "Politicus" supplies the following interesting figures:

| Proportion of Land Cultivated by Owners. | Per Cent. |
|--|-----------|
| In Denmark | 88 |
| In Germany | 87 |
| In France | 47.5 |
| In Belgium | 35 |
| In Great Britain | 12 |

Commenting on the foregoing table he writes: "The foregoing figures should cause the advocates of tenancy for the pursuit of agriculture to reconsider their views. In Denmark and Germany, the two most flourishing and most progressive agricultural countries in Europe, practically nine-tenths of the soil are cultivated by occupying free holders. In the United Kingdom, on the other hand, only a little more than one-tenth of the soil is so cultivated. In agriculture freehold and prosperity and freehold and progress seem to go together."

Current Comment

An Accurate Forecast.

(Vancover News-Advertiser.)

It has been mentioned that Hochelaga might be a good riding for the Minister who is to succeed Mr. Monk. This riding was captured from the Liberals in the last election by Mr. Louis Coderre, a well known Montreal lawyer. Mr. Rivet, whom he defeated, had represented the riding two terms and was marked out as a coming man. As Mr. Coderre beat him by a majority of 1,372, with two governments working for Mr. Rivet, and as Mr. Coderre is himself an able man, it has now been suggested that he might succeed Mr. Monk in the Cabinet.

The Rule of the Road.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

France is likely to abandon its time-honored rule of the road, and follow the example of England, where vehicles keep to the left when passing each other. At one time the English rule was to keep to the right, but it is said that since the present regulation was adopted there has been a falling off in the number of accidents. If drivers would sit on the left side of the seat, they could secure the same advantages, and it is observed that in this country motor cars are being made with the driver's seat on the left side.

Taking Over the G. T. P.

(Calgary Herald.)

Papers of all parties agree that the Borden Government would be doing a good thing to take over the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and run it as a Government enterprise. The Herald believes it would be a strong move for Mr. Borden to make. Operated as a Government railway the G. T. P. might properly assist in giving the West cheaper freight rates today, even though it involved somewhat of a burden on posterity.

Sizing Them Up.

(Lethbridge News.)

One thing about the West country that is remarkable and that possibly explains why it is that it is a country of rapid progress, is the fact that it quickly discovers the quitters, the four-fushers and those other persons whom a country or a community can very well get along without.

Lord Roberts' Message.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Lord Roberts' message to the British people is not less a message to the people of the other States of the British Empire. "Arm and prepare to acquit yourselves like men," says the veteran field marshal, "for the time of your ordeal is at hand."

Worthy of Solomon.

(Vancover Province.)

A Massachusetts Judge has given a decision worthy of the late King Solomon. In sentencing a prisoner convicted of bigamy he allowed him to return to his regular employment, stipulating that his earnings be equally divided between the women he had so basely deceived.

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QUARRYMEN DO NOT WANT RECIPROCITY

Lack of Protection Worked Great Injury to Canadian Stone Business—Interview With Prominent Contractor.

Moncton, Oct. 28.—T. C. Dobson, manager of the well known stone quarries at Wallace, N. B., spent the Thanksgiving holidays at his home in Moncton. Mr. Dobson says his company has secured the contract to supply the stone for the new customs house at Montreal. This is a building to cost a million dollars or more, and will require five thousand tons of stone. The company is very busy just now getting ready for next season's operations and work will be continued as long as the weather permits. They have now at the quarry a locomotive and steam shovel and are putting up a mill for the sawing of the stone which will be one of the most modern in Eastern Canada. This mill will have an electric crane with a 200 foot run by 60, and will cost \$30,000. Mr. Dobson expects splendid results from the new equipment, which will effect a great economy in the cutting of the stone as compared with the old hand methods. The saving of the stone will also result in a lessening of the waste in cutting. Mr. Dobson looks to a considerable increase in the quarrying business in the maritime provinces next year, due to the introduction of more modern methods, and to the fact that our stone is becoming better known in the upper provinces, which is the principal market at present. He thinks that if the Canadian industry was better protected there would be a tremendous boom in quarrying in the maritime provinces and that thousands of men would find employment where now there are hundreds. Building stone was imported from Canada last year to the value of over a million dollars—to be exact \$1,140,846. This compares with \$845,123 in 1910, and was nearly double the importation of 1909, when it was \$683,801. In the same time the export of Canadian stone is now almost a minus quantity, and is steadily decreasing, being of the value of only \$28,357 last year as compared with \$59,370 two years before, and this was practically all undressed stone for the remodelling or repair of buildings in the erection of which our stone had been used in the past.

Mr. Dobson does not think reciprocity with the United States would be any benefit to the Canadian stone quarrying industry now as the whole course of trade has changed and the only hope for the greater development of the Canadian industry is in more protection and the adoption of labor-saving machinery along the lines introduced in the United States. Following the adoption of the McKinley tariff the quarrymen of the United States commenced to use the best of machinery, with the result that stone is sold cheaper in that country now than under the old reciprocity treaty. Our quarrymen are even obliged to go to the United States to secure this machinery and to get men to install it.

In this connection it may be noted that a petition asking for more protection for the stone quarrying industry was presented to the late government at Ottawa and was under consideration when it went out of power. A similar petition is now in circulation and is to be presented to the Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. White, at as early a date as possible, in order that action may, if deemed advisable, be taken at the approaching session of Parliament.

This petition sets forth that stone quarrying, which is a basic native industry, is now languishing because of unjust competition. That there was a time when Canadian quarried stone was sold and even successfully invaded the United States markets, when the finest buildings across the border were built with Canadian stone. That the shrewd and ambitious people of the United States were unwilling to be dependent upon a foreign country for their building material, so the McKinley tariff put a duty of 50 per cent. on stone, with a view to shutting out the Canadian product. That this duty did its work, and that up in the United States which not only supplied the immense demand in that country but dominated the Canadian market as well. That the stone quarries of the United States were unwilling to be dependent upon a foreign country for their building material, so the McKinley tariff put a duty of 50 per cent. on stone, with a view to shutting out the Canadian product. That this duty did its work, and that up in the United States which not only supplied the immense demand in that country but dominated the Canadian market as well.

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ALBERT NEWS. Albert, Oct. 28.—O. A. Atkinson of Mount Allison University is spending Thanksgiving with his aunt, Mrs. H. J. Bennett at Hopewell Cape.

Miss Laura Anderson left on Saturday to spend the holidays in Moncton.

Miss Patterson of Riverside is spending Thanksgiving at her home in Fredericton.

Miss Mildred Murray who is attending Mount Allison Ladies' College, and two friends, Miss Gordon and Miss Boyd, are spending a few days with Dr. and Mrs. S. C. Murray.

Herbert McAnulty and bride returned from their wedding trip on Saturday evening's train. They will reside at Germanstown.

Mrs. G. H. Blair of Sussex came on Friday to spend a few days at her former home at Hopewell Hill. She will return on Wednesday accompanied



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E. W. Lynds of Hopewell Cape who has had the contract for the salving of the cargo of old car wheels that was thrown overboard from the schooner that was stranded near the Joggins some few months since returned on Saturday having successfully accomplished the work of salv-

ing some 150 tons. A concert will be given this evening at the Consolidated School by the Misses King and Allison of Backville and B. Myers. Miss Murray will give several readings.

Miss Nellie Rogers, a student at Mount Allison, is spending the holidays with her mother at Hopewell Hill.

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