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The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., MAY 8, 1925.

A MARITIME CONFERENCE.

The Moncton Board of Trade is preparing for a conference to which will be invited representatives of every board in the Maritime Provinces, and while arrangements are not yet completed the desire is that the meeting shall be held during the present month. The purpose is to consider Maritime needs and requirements, and to prepare for a Dominion conference later on, at which the Maritimes should be prepared to speak as a unit in sharing the work of formulating an economic policy to promote prosperity and contentment throughout the Dominion. This movement, now rapidly taking concrete form, is a direct result of the campaign set on foot by The Telegraph-Journal and The Times-Star.

It is desirable that the Moncton meeting shall give consideration to policies affecting every important Maritime interest, agriculture as well as lumbering, manufacturing, fishing and mining. Transportation, as it affects these provinces, the enlarged use of our ports, the tariff policy, better access to existing markets and the development of new ones—all these will necessarily have a place in the discussion. Moreover, it will be essential to have in mind the national bearing of any policies which may be advocated, for when the Dominion conference comes a broad spirit of give and take will be vital in order that there may be united action which will have a direct effect upon the course of all the political parties. This movement is essentially non-political, but there is to be a federal election this year or next, and the conclusions of the economic conference should exert no little influence upon all parties.

We must give due consideration to the problems of the other provinces, and in setting forth the course of action which we believe essential to Maritime betterment we must be prepared to measure our demands by national standards and to recognise that national co-operation is indispensable.

Fortunately, as the mission of these newspapers has shown, the rest of the country is not only interested in the Maritime cause, but is ready to give careful consideration to any concrete proposals which may be advanced. The other provinces are asking that the Maritime case be definitely stated, and therefore the Moncton conference should proceed with care in formulating a platform upon which the Maritimes will stand unitedly and which, at the same time, will stand examination from the national viewpoint. A truly national tariff, a transportation policy giving justice to every province, and the federal handling of immigrattion so that benefits may be general rather than confined to a few provinces—these, obviously, are among the necessities of the case.

It may be taken for granted that Boards of Trade throughout the Maritimes will respond promptly to the Moncton invitation, and that in sending representatives to the conference they will have in mind every important line of activity in which our people are engaged, the necessity for Maritime unity in preparing for the Dominion conference later, and the wisdom of showing a broad spirit in discussing policies of national application.

A NEIGHBOR'S VIEW.

If there has been any recent excitement in Canada over the question of annexation we have not heard of it, or noticed any evidence of it in the Canadian news of the day. Based upon misguided information from a source not divulged, the Boston Transcript publishes an editorial entitled "Canada and Annexation," in which it says: "Some of our Canadian friends are getting excited again over persistent discussion of possible annexation of their domain to the United States. In the vigor of their reaction they are even retaliating with the suggestion that if annexation of any kind is on the cards, it will be that of New England to Canada rather than of any mile of Dominion territory to the United States. Both prophecies are as interesting as they are harmless."

They are groundless, and harmless enough. The Transcript refers to the industrial awakening of Canada within recent years and the transfer of many American industries to Canadian soil. It says:

"When in 1910-11 President Taft succeeded in negotiating a mild reciprocity treaty with the Dominion Government, the people of Canada not only rejected it but overthrew the government of the idolized Wilfrid Laurier, which was responsible for its negotiations. The relations between the two countries are friendly, even to cordiality, and will so continue, notwithstanding American indifference to reasonable Canadian proposals, but they do not make for the annexationist spirit in either country."

That, in the main, is correct. We sometimes hear about the dangers of annexation when we have a national election campaign—we heard a great deal about it in 1911—but in recent years it has come to be recognized that there is not the slightest feeling in favor of annexation in Canada, and that the United States cherishes no annexationist ambitions. Occasionally some Canadians, and some people in London, express the fear that the extent to which American capital is invested in this country, should it be greatly increased, would constitute a danger to our national integrity, but the average Canadian feels that the national spirit is altogether too strong to be influenced adversely by the fact that American money, in seeking good wages, finds Canada a good place in which to earn them.

The Transcript forgets some of the facts concerning Mr. Taft and the reciprocity negotiations in 1911. The initiative was taken in that matter by the Canadian Government of the day, and it is to be remembered that the rejection of the bargain was due largely to the suspicion aroused during the campaign, a suspicion increased by unfortunate utterances on the part of Mr. Taft and some other Americans, that the pact in some fashion menaced our political independence. The Transcript speaks of American indifference to "reasonable Canadian proposals." Canada has made no proposals concerning trade in late years, but the Republican party, to whose high tariff policy the Transcript gives steady support, has succeeded in shutting our natural products largely off from that market, a policy which in the end is bound to reduce the sale of American goods in Canada.

WATCHING GERMANY.

The British Prime Minister, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, has said that he sees no present likelihood that a disarmament conference will be held in the near feature. Almost at the same Washington despatches say that in official circles there the feeling is that international action on disarmament must wait a bit.

This feeling to some extent, but not wholly, is due to Germany's action in electing Hindenburg. France, before his election, was by no means enthusiastic about another disarmament conference, and those in other countries who appeared to be ready for one obviously thought the scope of the discssion would necessarily be limited, that it would not include land forces, and that there would be difficulties even in relation to submarines and aircraft. Since the German elections it is taken for granted that the French will take no part in any useful discussion of disarmament until much more definite progress has been made in the matter of giving France the security which it statesmen feel to be the first of its needs.

Two things stand out conspicuously as a result of the German elections in the view of the Chicago Journal of Commerce: "First, the prospects for the restoration of the Hohenzollern dynasty have been increased; and, second, the prospects for honest execution of the Dawes plan and for maintenance of peaceful relations with France have been lessened." The Journal clearly expects from Germany under present conditions if not open defiance at least an increase of passive resistance to the very conditions which German leaders have pledged themselves to accept during the last year. "Though Hindenburg promises to preserve the Republic," says the Journal of Commerce, "he nevertheless is on record as believing that Germany cannot again be great until she is ruled once more by the Hohenzollerns. And, as president of Germany, he will control the military and will have wide discretionary powers for proclaiming a state of emergency and for assuming a dictatorship. So that, though a majority of the German people wish otherwise, it is apparent that the movement for restoration of the monarchy has been accelerated. And, with a cockier spirit than ever, the German monarchists may be expected to hamper the execution of the Dawes plan. Whenever posible, they will resist any request that France may make; whenever possible, they will delay the payment of reparations. For their spirits cannot abide even a temporary acknoledgment of their military defeat. Some day, so they hope and pray, they will engage in a great victorious war of revenge. Meanwhile France—yes, and Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, too—are watching with wary, intent eyes the developments in restive Germany."

In making answer to a misleading article on the Canadian railroad situation which appeared lately in the Financial News of London, Sir Henry Thornton says neither the Government nor the C. N. R. has any intention of making war upon the Canadian Pacific. He says:

"There is necessarily a healthy competition between the two companies which so long as it is kept in reasonable restriction is advantageous, but apart from this, the people of Canada have never been oblivious to the part the Canadian Pacific Railway has played in the development of Canada, they regard the company as a national asset, and it is inconcelvable that any action would be taken by the government or the people of Canada which would damage its interests."

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

Only the Bootlegger

Only the Canadian bootlegger escapes the Canadian income tax. He gets from under, protected by law from the tax which the non-bootlegging citizen must pay. The Montreal Gazette says:

A curious situation has been created by the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of Cecil R. Smith, who claimed that money gained by him in "bootlegging" was not liable to income tax. He was assessed in the London district for some $28,000, the amount claimed on an income of about $100,000. The claim was resisted on the ground that the money came from a business not recognized as legal and therefore not properly levied upon by the government's tax collector. The plea was heard in the Exchequer Court, and rejected, on the ground that anyone seeking justice should come with clean hands. The Supreme Court takes the ground that parliament, in enacting the income tax law, provided that the information which the taxpayer was required or might be required to give was all in respect of businesses which may be legally carried on.

"It is difficult to conceive of the Minister requiring criminals to furnish information as to the profits derived from the commission of crime or demanding of them the keeping of books or records of their illicit and criminal operations." These were the words used by Mr. Justice Mignault in describing the situation the court was called on to consider. Furthermore, it was added, "if the gains derived from crime are within the contemplation of the statute, then the expense incurred in making the gains, that is in the employment of criminal agents, would be chargeable as reductions against them, and as to all information furnished by the wrongdoer, there would be a promise of secrecy for his protection."

The court, all the members concurring, could not believe anything like this was contemplated by parliament. Therefore the decision went against the income tax collector, and in favor of the respondent. Perhaps the satisfactory thing in the situation is the condemnation by the judges as illegal of the practices of the bootlegger. These are widely carried on, in some places in an open manner, and are profitable to those concerned. There may possibly follow efforts on behalf of the enforcement of the law that will at least curtail the illegal proceedings. If there is nothing done the bootlegger will occupy a unique place in the community. He will carry on a business the law does not recognize and the gains will go untaxed, while those whose affairs are straightforwardly managed will be heavily levied upon.

He Knew.

Here is one of Winston Churchill's latest stories. A lecturer was holding forth on the subject of fear.

"Only those who have been roused from their sleep on board ship by the terrible cry of 'Man overboard!' can fully realize its meaning," said the lecturer.

"That's not right!" interposed a little man in the audience. "I heard it once, when I was not aboard a ship, and I realized it more than anybody."

"You couldn't!" objected the lecturer.

"Oh, yes, I could!" insisted the little man. "I was the man who was overboard!"

Animals You Can't Tame.

All efforts of man have failed to tame several wild animals. The British wildcat cannot be tamed, even when kittens are brought up in captivity. The same is true of the North American lynx.

So fer, the African wild dog has never been tamed, and packs of them are extremely dangerous to hunters. Most wolfs can be tamed, but the one known as the Tasmanian devil absolutely refuses to forget its wild state.

The black jaguar is another animal which so far has defied all efforts to "civilize" it.

Letters to The Editor

War Memorial Site.

To the Editor of The Times-Star:

Sir,—It was surely amusing to read in last night's Times-Star that Commissioner Frink (after voting against the request of the memorial committee) should suggest that the monument be placed some twenty yards behind the fountain. Well, all things come to those who wait. At last the memorial committee will get the right site. Let them make application for that site and go right ahead with the erection of our War Memorial, seeing that according to the Commissioner very soon the fountain will have to be removed for street widening purposes.

Then let them remove the "sacred trust" to a more sacred location, namely the Loyalist burying ground.

Yours, etc.,
A WHITE RIBBON SOLDIER MOTHER.

Saint John, May 7, 1925.

What Are The Wild Waves Saying?

What are the wild waves saying, sister
the whole day long,
That ever amid our playing, I hear but
their low, lone song?
Not by the seaside only, there it sounds
wild and free;
But at night when its dark and lonely,
in dreams it is still with me.
Brother, I hear no singing, 'tis but the
rolling wave,
Ever its lone course winging over some
ocean cave,
'Tis but the noise of water dashing
against the shore,
And the wind from some bleaker quarter
mingling with its roar.
No! No, no, no! No, no, no! It is
something greater, that speaks to
the heart alone,
The voice of the great Creator, dwells
in that mighty tone.

Yes, but the waves seem ever singing
the same sweet thing,
That vain in my weak endeavor to
guess what the surges sing.
What is that voice repeating ever by
night and day?
Is it a friendly greeting, or a warning
that calls away?
Brother, the inland mountain, hath it
no voice and sound?
Speaks not the dripping fountain as it
bedews the ground?
E'en by the household ingle, curtained
and closed and warm,
Do not our voices mingle with those of
the distant storm?
Yes! yes, yes! yes, yes! but there is
something greater that speaks to
the heart alone,
The voice of the great Creator dwells
in that mighty tone.

Deputy Sheriff Recovers Money

FREDERICTON, May 7—The sum of $40, given by William Nicholson to a Woodstock race driver with whom he expected to obtain employment, has been recovered by Deputy Sheriff Mooers and is to be forwarded here. Nicholson is charged with robbing William McNutt, of Fredericton, and the money recovered is alleged to be part of McNutt's.

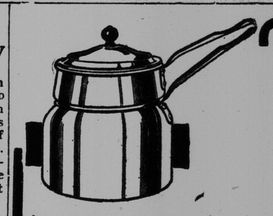
AMUNDSEN DEFERS TRIP.

OSLO, Norway, May 7—Advices received by the observatory say that Roald Amundsen has postponed his North Pole flight, which he had been planning for tomorrow.

Churchill's Great Day.

(Toronto Star.)

Winston Churchill has delivered the only sort of budget that he would naturally deliver. He sprang surprises. He leads Britain, by a forced march, back to the gold standard. He surprised everybody by restoring the McKenna duties. He surprised capital by increasing the death duties. Labor he astonished by introducing new social benefits for the workers. Yesterday was Churchill's great day.



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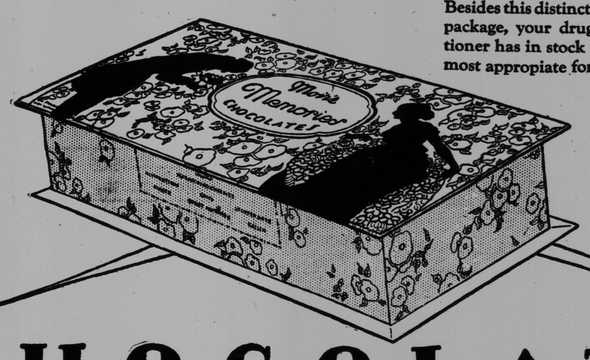

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