

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 17, 1924

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street every evening (Sunday excepted) by N.W. Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.

TWO SENTENCES.

The letter which sent the United States Senate into secret session and caused the Secretary of State to consult the President three times in forty-five minutes, was addressed to Secretary Hughes by the Japanese Ambassador.

"Relying upon the confidence you have been good enough to show me at all times, I have stated or rather repeated all this to you very candidly and in a most friendly spirit. For I realize, as I believe you do, the grave consequences which the enactment of the measure relating to particular provision would inevitably bring upon the otherwise happy and mutually advantageous relations between our two countries."

This reference to "grave consequences" set the pot boiling. When the Senate emerged from secret session not a few of its members proceeded to beat the war post. The exclusion bill to which Ambassador Hanabara referred would bar out his race completely. One of its clauses would abrogate the "gentlemen's agreement" between the United States and Japan by which, as a matter of fact, Japanese emigration has been kept down to about 150 annually.

Now, what is meant in diplomatic communications by "grave consequences"? Senator Lodge referred to the words as "a veiled threat" and said the Ambassador's letter was "a letter improper to be addressed by the representative of one great country to another friendly country." He objected to veiled threats, and wished it understood by the whole world that the United States alone is to say who shall come into the country and who shall stay out.

A little more edge was given the discussion by Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, who asked pointedly why Mr. Lodge kept repeating the words "veiled threats." Mr. Lodge, he said, knew perfectly well that in diplomatic exchanges the two words "grave consequences" are not veiled, but are well known in their implication. Mr. Lodge agreed that such is indeed the case. "The words 'grave consequences,'" he said, "are just as well known as the phrase 'the United States could not regard with indifference' the violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Everybody knows what 'cannot regard with indifference' means. Both phrases are the well recognized language of diplomacy."

The Japanese Ambassador's letter led to a vote of seventy-six to two in favor of exclusion in spite of Secretary Hughes' appeal against any action that would be offensive to Japan, and notwithstanding the general impression that the President and the Secretary of State were in accord. The House of Representatives had already taken similar action. It was pointed out in the Senate that Australia excludes "Japanese" for reasons which seem good and all sufficient, as Senator Shortridge put it. "I do not say this to wound the feelings of the Japanese nation," he said, "but I do say it, however, because it is true."

But for the reference to "grave consequences" the vote would have been much less emphatic and the discussion more peaceful. Japan is exceedingly sensitive with respect to the standing of its nationals in other countries, but Japan itself excludes some races. British press comment, however justified, regarding the American Senate action as ill-considered, will not mend matters. We in Canada are gradually stiffening the arrangement under which Japanese are admitted and the subject of exclusion is one of growing trouble, owing largely to British Columbia's attitude.

The coming exchanges between Washington and Tokyo may, as some London comment suggests, prove a menace to peace in the Pacific, but the friction, while it may lead to belligerence, can scarcely lead to war, though, in spite of the occasional exchange of diplomatic bouquets, there is a strong undercurrent of national antipathy running between the United States and Japan and recent incidents will strengthen it.

NONE "TOO GOOD" TO VOTE.

In urging American women to vote and in telling them that no woman has any right to avoid that duty because she feels "above it," President Coolidge said much that applies to men voters likewise. Those who are apathetic or "above" voting by refraining from one of the first duties of citizenship do much to invite and to perpetuate unworthy government, civic, provincial, or national.

Every voter ought not merely to vote, Mr. Coolidge asserts, but to vote under the inspiration of a high purpose to serve the community and the country. In most elections only about half the American people vote, but "what is worse," says the President, "is a considerable part of those who neglect to vote do it because of a curious assumption of superiority to this elementary duty of the citizen. They presume to be rather too good, too exclusive, to soil their hands with the work of politics."

Such an attitude cannot too vigorously be condemned.

Popular government is facing one of the difficult phases of the perpetual trial, to which it always has been and always will be subjected. It needs the support of every element of patriotism, intelligence and capacity that can be summoned. I suppose that even among the Daughters of the American Revolution there are some women who sincerely feel that it is becoming of their sex to take an active part in politics. It is a little difficult to comprehend how such an attitude could be maintained by any woman eligible to such a society as this, and sufficiently interested in the society to participate in its work.

All of which applies, with equal or greater force to men. Take St. John today, with nearly half its electorate disqualified, and some thirty per cent. of the eligible electors failing to go to the polls. It is not a good exhibition of citizenship. We must devise ways to reduce the number of those who forfeit their franchise, and it can be done only by close analysis of the causes and courageous action when the facts have been brought out. As for those who are eligible yet fail to vote, they need a constant education as to the duties of citizenship, and it should come from public men from the pulpit, the press, and every agency interested in good government and enlightened progress.

TAG DAYS.

The frequently repeated sentiment that there ought to be a tag day for the average citizen seems to have been reflected at a Fredericton City Council meeting this week. In spite of his reluctance to put a straw in the way of any good cause—a general feeling—Mayor Phillips asked for the Council's opinion on the subject of multiplying tag days. Within a few days he had given permission for two such appeals, and he had a third request. One alderman said he was opposed to tag days. Within a few days he had given permission for two such appeals, and he had a third request. One alderman said he was opposed to tag days in a city the size of Fredericton. Another said tag days were so frequent as to become a bugbear. Another said they had become so numerous as to constitute a considerable nuisance. The Common Council drew attention to the fact that Fredericton has no by-law at present under which they could be prevented. In practice, however, they are held only when the Mayor grants his approval. A motion to forbid any further appeals of the kind was withdrawn on the understanding that His Worship would not give his approval "except in special cases of a deserving nature."

That leaves the Mayor in an uncomfortable position. Every organization regards its cause as a deserving one, and in most cases it is right. There are too many tag days, it is true, and the number should be reduced, but when it comes to deciding between cases which in the view of many are equally deserving the civic authorities are up a tall tree. The Council however has to limit and select the number of cases or institutions which receive civic grants, and unless it is to abolish the tag day practice altogether it will have to continue to give permission for tags in some cases and refuse it in others, gradually narrowing a circle that has become too wide. Even a cold analysis of the question seems to do injustice to the army of earnest workers who give much of their time to keeping alive works of charity and betterment which, without their devotion, would languish to the reproach of all. Women who give much time to unselfish community service deserve more support than they get for many of the causes they champion—yet the Fredericton Council is right—there are too many tag days.

The Times is publishing today an extended report of a highly important speech on Immigration delivered at Windsor by President Beatty of the C. P. R. He makes public a carefully formulated policy to promote immigration on broad lines. He says that while we received 137,000 newcomers in 1923 it is estimated that we lost 235,000 Canadians during the same period. He says Canada can safely absorb yearly a minimum of 300,000 and a maximum of 500,000 new people, and he gives in concrete form a plan to speed up the pace of immigration to that level, a level which we reached once before the war. This is the most interesting and constructive of President Beatty's many contributions on a subject of immense national importance and it will command public attention throughout the Dominion. It contains many clear-cut and compelling arguments for national expansion.

The case of the Province of Ontario against the Hon. Peter Smith must be left to the criminal tribunals to which it has been referred as a result of the disclosures before the Public Accounts Committee at yesterday's session. Mr. Smith is entitled to the protection the law throws about an accused person, who must be held innocent until the

charge against him has been duly tried.—Toronto Globe.

He will receive all that protection and consideration. Meantime Ontario expects a few more arrests. It thinks the public treasury and public morality are entitled to all the protection the law can furnish.

THE MIND SPEAKERS.

(Newcastle Courier.) The less of it they have, the more people seem obsessed with the inclination to speak their mind.

STREET CAR MANNERS.

(Portland Oregonian.) The cross-section of a loaded street car would reveal a mélange of typical American inhabitants. Let us assume that the hour is late afternoon, that the car is crowded, and that the male passengers are for the most part men who have worked that day and who are weary. There enters the car, as it turns toward the suburbs, a charming maiden. Perhaps some gallant rises, doffs his hat, and professes his seat. And perhaps not. For these men are tired from the exertions of the day.

A grandmother enters the crowded car, or some worried matron with an infant. The one is age personified. The other is womanhood in need. Observe the wonderful difference in attitude of the male passengers. A dozen seats are offered. This is chivalry without qualification, without hope of reward, other than a suitable sense of having done the decent thing.

BOLSHEVIST JARGON.

(Toronto Globe.) The Moscow press has published the program issued by the Third Communist International for the "British proletariat." The British friends of communism are asked to realize that the Labor Government must not really represent the interests of the British Labor party, as it is unable and unwilling to wage class warfare against the bourgeoisie.

The majority of the British workers harbor democratic illusions. It is the duty of Communists to mobilize the workers to exert pressure in Government, to awaken the latent powers of the proletariat and to force it into a serious battle with the capitalist class. The Communists of Great Britain must help the workers to realize the impotence and treacherous character of their leaders. They must produce simple, clear watchwords and work out a simple plan of action. They must demand complete freedom from the British yoke for the workmen and peasants of India, and an alliance with the Soviet Union.

Any mischief that might be caused by this trend of opinion is neutralized by the author's dense ignorance of the British character. They are obsessed by a theory, and the jargon without the most elementary knowledge of the world they live in. If any considerable body of British Labor men were foolish enough to follow the advice, the result would be not progress in any Labor policy, but a powerful reaction against progress of any kind. Liberals, Conservatives and moderate Labor men would forget their differences and unite in fighting the Moscow movement. The Moscow message suggests a likeness to the Czarina's counsel to the Czar. "Be Peter the Great, be Ivan the Terrible, be the Emperor Paul, smash them all. Dismiss the Duma. Be the master, and all will bow down before you." Contempt for democracy shown by the new as by the old despots. The Czarina was insane with superstitious veneration for the "holy man" Rasputin. The Bolshevists make a religion of an economic theory. It is fortunate for the British nation that it qualifies theory with common sense, and cheerfully bears the reproach of defective logic when logic leads to a precipice.

LOST HIS LIQUOR, \$175 TOO.

Very unfortunate for himself a certain Moncton Hebrew had seven gallons of rum too many when Chief Inspector J. B. Hawthorne and a staff of inspectors swooped down on his place of business in Moncton on Tuesday afternoon. They not only relieved him of the liquor but hurried him before a magistrate and relieved him of \$175 in cash as well. Inspector Hawthorne passed through the city yesterday en route from Moncton to Fredericton after a trip to the North Shore and to Sackville. Everything was quiet, he reported, the Moncton incident being the only excitement of his trip.

Ben Turpin is making "Yukon Jake" a burlesque on pictures dealing with the wide open spaces of Alaska. Charlie Chaplin is at work on a similar production.

HOTPOINT

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THE RIDER. (Christian Science Monitor.) On his charger bold Like the knights of old In bright array, With flashing eye He waved goodby And rode away. There were none to know, Who watched him go. His secret quest, 'Twas only I That dared guess why. Who loved him best.

For what cared I, Small son of mine, That of wood your steed? Or the sword so grand In your chabby hand Was a simple need? The dream in your eyes From the sun-gold skies, Shall light the way. Let them think it play, We know some day You would make it true.

The years are gone, Small son of mine, And you follow the gleam In the golden beam Of that distant day? Ah, the child you were I still hold close Here at my side. On your charger bold Like the knights of old I watch you ride.

For the old world needs Those gold dream deeds, And vision fine. So hold them tight Those gleams of light. Oh, son of mine, And the lance you bear Is your mother's prayer. That the light divine Shall light the way To a better day, Oh, son of mine?

IN LIGHTER VEIN. Many of That Brand. "I see you've a new car. What sort of a bus is it?" "An Incubus."—Dublin Opinion.

No Wonder. Housekeeper—"You say you always feel fatigued? I can't understand that. Hobo—"It's hereditary, mum. Me father was the original Tired Business Man."—Boston Transcript.

He Started Something. Hub—"Are you aware, my dear, that it takes three-fourths of my salary to meet your bills?" Wife—"Good gracious! What do you do with the rest of your money?"

Answered. Boarder—"I don't like the way you conduct your establishment. Ain't you never had a gentleman stayin' here before?" Landlady—"Are you a gentleman?" "I were am." "Then I never have."—American Legion Weekly.

Kept Bruin Supplied. Has a Chinaman any humor? Unquestionably. The story was told us recently of one who was visiting Yellowstone Park in winter. He happened to glance back over his shoulder and saw a huge bear sniffing at his tracks.

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Blue-jay Started, he broke into a run, casting back the remark as he did so: "You like my tracks? I make you some more." See His Mistake Many a self-made man would turn out a different kind of a job if given another chance. Renewed Every Day "I thought you said last night that Jen's complexion was ruined." "So I did." "But there she is over there looking as beautiful as ever." "I referred to her last night's complexion."

His Careless Ways. "When you found you hadn't your fare did the conductor make you get off and walk?" asked the inquisitive man. "Only get off," was the sad reply. "He didn't seem to care whether I walked or sat down."—The Christian Evangelist.

Real Sincerity. "The sincerity of this campaign orator impresses me." "It would impress you still more if you knew what I know and you know." "Well, what do you know?" "He's paying his own expenses."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRECLAY FOR LINING YOUR OWN STOVE Sold by Hardware Dealers. Use the Want Ad. Way

DARTMOUTH POWER CO. IS FINED \$1,000

Halifax, April 16.—The Dartmouth Gas, Electric Light, Heating and Power Company, Ltd., was fined one thousand dollars this afternoon by Mr. Justice Ritchie after the jury had pronounced it guilty of negligence and causing grievous bodily harm, the charges arising from the death of Mrs. Louise Colter, who met her death in Dartmouth from electrocution while carrying a portable light in the cellar of her home in Dartmouth last January.

FIND NO OBSTRUCTION. J. C. Chesley, agent of Marine and Fisheries department, reported yesterday afternoon that the Government steamers Dollard and Laurentian had searched the area where the captain

of the steamer Brecon had reported a part of a mast showing, supposed to be attached to submerged wreckage, and Gannet Rock, but could find no obstruction. It is believed that the obstruction has broken up or floated out to sea.

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