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H. H. STUART, - - - EDITOR

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NEWCASTLE, N. B. DECEMBER 27, 1911

THE PAST YEAR

The year 1911 has made history fast. In Canada on September 21st the Liberal Government which had held power for fifteen years was hurled from power by a popular plurality of about 30,000. Prince Edward Island has since been captured by the Liberal Conservatives, who have also gained in Alberta and have held Ontario by a slightly reduced but very great majority. Reciprocity with the United States was decisively defeated by the Canadian electorate, who decided to look to the increase of home manufactures for increase of trade and revenue rather than to free trade with our wealthy and powerful neighbor.

The Canadian census of 1911 shows an increase of 1,221,000 in ten years, or almost 34 per cent. While this is satisfactory on the whole, the Maritime provinces have not appreciably gained. Prince Edward Island has decreased by 10,000. Nova Scotia has increased by 31,000 but of that 27,000 goes to the mining county of Cape Breton, and nearly all the rest to Halifax city, while many of the counties have decreased. In New Brunswick, Kings, Albert, Carleton, Charlotte and York have lost population. Kent and Sunbury Queens barely held their own. St. John County's increase has been all in the city. Westmoreland outside of Moncton has decreased, while the net gain of 20,000 for the province is practically all in the five northern counties. Northumberland has increased from 28,430 in 1911 to 31,194, or about 10 per cent; Gloucester by 5000, or nearly 20 per cent; Restigouche by 5000, or 50 per cent, and Victoria-Madawaska by 7,000 or 33 per cent. South of these counties the whole province has just the same population as in 1901. Many rural counties of Ontario have also decreased in population. To remedy this condition we must have at once good roads and more scientific teaching, of, and attention to, agriculture. Federal assistance to the provinces for both these purposes has been promised.

Britain has during the year undergone a marvellous political revolution. The House of Lords have consented to the Parliament Bill, which deprives them of the power of vetoing any bill of the Commons more than twice. The third time a bill is passed by the same Commons it becomes law upon receiving the King's signature, whether the Lords wish it or not. The National Insurance bill, bringing 13,000,000 workers under its provisions, was accepted by the Lords on the 15th instant; and the Government's program for 1912 includes manhood suffrage (which will increase the number of voters from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000, and to which the majority of the Commons may, if they please, add 11,000,000 more by enfranchising women), disestablishment of the English church in Wales, and provincial home rule for Ireland. If all goes well, Britain by the end of 1912 will have progressed beyond the utmost demands of the people's charter of 1838.

South Africa's Union took effect, on May 31st, Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River and Transvaal being united into the Dominion of South Africa, with practical independence as enjoyed by Canada and Australia.

The movement in China towards constitutional government has continued to grow, until in August in Sze Chuen and in October in other provinces, a large part of the people rose in revolt and demanded a republic to which the solid southeast of the country now adheres. To conciliate the south the monarchists conceded responsible government, abolished all special privileges of the Manchus and even forced the prince regent

to resign office. But the republicans stood firm, and, an armistice having been arranged, a conference between Imperialist and Republican is now proceeding at Shanghai. The very fact that half or more of the people of China want a republic shows that Asia has cast off her old ideas and has come into the forefront of political progress. The outside powers, who have unmercifully bullied and robbed the Imperial China, had better beware how they deal with the awakened Chinese people.

India, where King George and Queen Mary were proclaimed Emperor and Empress in Delhi on the 12th instant, continues in a political ferment, which will not be lessened by Canada's demanding a head tax of \$200 on the wives and children of the Sikh settlers in British Columbia, and the discrimination against Indians in South Africa and other parts of the Empire. It would seem reasonable that at least South Africa and North America, regions too hot for white workers, should be opened to Indian immigration on honorable terms. If the white man continues to monopolize the land he may one day run up against a union of all the other races and be compelled to yield them breathing room at considerable loss and humiliation to himself.

President Diaz, the feudal lord of Mexico, was dethroned by a middle class revolution led by the wealthy Francisco Madero, Jr. But Madero, having failed to enfranchise the common people, finds himself with revolution still on his hands.

The map of the world has changed much in 1911. As a result of the Franco-German settlement, all of Morocco, except the small part of the north held by Spain, passes under French protection, while Germany gets 80,000 square miles of French Congo. Germany's failure to secure part of Morocco may lead to an attempt on her part to get more territory by dividing up Belgian Congo with Britain and France, and Portuguese Africa with Britain. Russia, taking advantage of Britain's need of an ally against Germany, is taking possession of northern Persia—the better part—which will necessitate Britain's taking over the southern coast. Italy is progressing slowly towards the conquest of Tripoli, Barca and Fezzan in Africa, while Britain, by refusing to allow Turkish soldiers and armies to cross Egypt, has practically annexed the latter country. She has also, in the name of Egypt, seized the best port of eastern Barca, which the Italians seemed to have neglected.

In south America there have been the usual wars in 1911 but no change of boundaries, and no change of boundaries in Europe.

The confession of the McNamara brothers, two labor leaders, members of the Democratic party politically, that they were guilty of causing explosions in buildings owned by opponents of union labor, and the consequent investigation into the causes of the many similar explosions throughout the United States, goes to show that in some of the Labor organizations which do not believe in fighting openly under the banner of a distinctive political party of their own, there is something decidedly unprogressive and seriously wrong. It is to be hoped that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth will be brought out in the investigation now going on.

In many countries, notably Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, the United States and Britain, the Socialist political party has made great progress in 1911, greatly increasing its voting strength, and the number of its representatives in national parli-

ments, state legislatures and city and county councils.

There has been much religious activity in many quarters. The Roman Catholic church reports steady and satisfactory progress in Germany and all English speaking countries. The Baptists have made great inroads upon the Greek orthodox population of Russia and Roumania. The Mormons continue to make converts in Great Britain, Holland and the Scandinavian countries and have invaded nearly every town of the Maritime provinces. The Laymen's missionary movement has displayed considerable vigor among different churches leading many rich men to open their purses for home and foreign mission purposes. The refusal of Russia to allow foreign Roman Catholic priests, Baptist missionaries and other missionaries territory has led to the denunciation by the United States of her treaty of friendship and commerce with Russia, the treaty to become inoperative on the first day of 1913. This may cause a tariff war between those great nations and may yet have important bearings upon international relations. The Bahai revival of Shiah Mohammedanism has spread during the year till it has gained, it is said, one-third of all the people of Persia. The spread of orthodox Mohammedanism in Africa and India proceeds apace, but upon the Japanese and the comparatively pure blooded Mongolian nations such as the Chinese, Tibetans, Siamese, Burmese and Annamese, the Mohammedan missions have had very little influence. While Christianity is having a marked effect upon all the yellow peoples, the Koreans especially are rapidly becoming a Christian nation.

MENINGITIS

As there seems to be much misunderstanding and uncertainty about the disease called meningitis it might be well to quote from standard medical authorities as to what the disease is.

Loomis, in discussing cerebro spinal meningitis, says: All classes and ages are subject to it. Young troops on the march are especially liable to it. Predisposing causes are overcrowding, bad ventilation, insufficient or improper food, dampness, and all other bad hygienic surroundings; mental excitement, excessive trainwork or bodily fatigue; exposure to excessive cold or heat. Cerebro spinal meningitis is in no sense contagious, more closely allied etiologically to labor pneumonia, than to any other disease, although some have regarded it as a variety of typhus fever, others of malaria.

Osler says: "Cerebro spinal meningitis, a specific infectious disease occurring sporadically in epidemics, characterized by inflammation of the cerebro spinal meninges and a clinical course of great irregularity. Predisposing causes over exertion, depressing mental or bodily surroundings, misery and squalor in large tenement houses in cities. The disease is not directly contagious. It is probably not transmitted by clothing or excretions. There are cases on record in which death has occurred within twenty-four hours. Stille tells of a child of five in which death occurred after illness of ten hours, and refers to a case reported by Gordon in which entire duration of illness was only five hours."

Very few people know or practice the laws of health in regard to ventilation even where, as is impossible in many tenement houses and other buildings, it is easy to have perfect ventilation without undue exposure to drafts. Millions of people have died through ignorance of how to properly ventilate their dwelling houses, especially their sleeping apartments, and millions of people have died early from diseases contracted in ill ventilated school houses, churches, theatres and other public buildings.

The construction of every building intended for human habitation by day or night should be superintended by qualified officers of the Board of Health with power to enforce their demands, and school houses, barracks, moving picture and other theatres, lumber camps, etc., should be regularly visited by competent health officers who should be responsible for the health of the inmates. The slum districts should be abolished by the government making it possible for the poorest family to have a bright, cheerful and sanitary home. Disease is not a curse sent by the Almighty; it is merely the result of man's ignorance, neglect or greed. As soon as the majority know the nature and cause of disease and are determined to remove it, sickness will fade away and people die only of old age.

Hewson's
Pure Wool
Unshrinkable
Underwear

THE DEATH OF GEORGE MUNROE

It is lucky for the person or persons who sold the liquor that caused the death of George Munroe that no inquest was demanded, and that nobody took the trouble of doing the detective work necessary to find out where the liquor came from. If a severe penalty awaits the one guilty of illegally selling pure liquor, what should be the fate of those who, to make money still faster, adulterate the pure article—alcohol—at its base—with cheap poisons that multiply its deadly power many times?

How long will the people of Canada allow liquor to be manufactured and sold by private individuals and corporations for private profit? How long will they allow adulterations of liquors, or of food, or of any other article merely that some men may get rich quickly thereby?

How long before we become civilized in reality as well as in name? The incident of Saturday, when a man known to be an irresponsible drunkard, could get liquor within a few hours or minutes of reaching town—such liquor as could paralyze him so quickly—is a disgrace to the community. If two Scott Act inspectors are not enough let us have a third, but let us take some steps to protect the poor unfortunate men of weak minds in our midst from a fate infinitely more terrible than any such form of death as that incurred in war, pestilence or accident by sea or by land.

Notice.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe. Subscription price from now to Dec 31st, 1912, is \$1.00. To all new and all paid-up old subscribers the UNION ADVOCATE and Family Herald and Weekly Star with the beautiful picture "Home Again" from now till Dec. 1st, 1912 for \$1.50

Free Course For Farmers

Every progressive farmer in New Brunswick should remember that the free Short course of instruction at the Truro Agricultural College, opens on Tuesday, January 2nd, inst., continuing for two weeks, when experts conversant with farm conditions will give the latest and best information on the selection, breeding, feeding and care of different classes of farm live stock, on fruit growing, on soil cultivation and seed selection.

A two weeks' course for ladies, in Domestic Science, including Dairy Work and Poultry Raising, is conducted at the same time.

The tuition is absolutely free, and the only expense to New Brunswick people taking this course, will be their board en route and while at Truro. This need not exceed \$10.00 for the whole term.

Buy a single first class ticket for Truro and ask the agent for "Standard Certificate" which, when properly filled out at the College, will be accepted by the ticket agent at Truro.

When certificate of attendance at the course and a receipt for the money paid for railway fare is sent to the Department of Agriculture, at Fredericton, with an application for refund, a cheque for the amount stated in the receipt will be issued.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE IN REDBANK

A public temperance meeting was held in the Presbyterian church at Redbank on the evening of Dec. 18th. The meeting was addressed by Grand Worthy Patriarch Rev. R. H. Stavert. At the close a division was organized and the following officers installed:

W. P. — John Parks.
W. A. — Mrs. E. Mullins.
R. S. — Miss Annie Sutherland.
A. R. S. — Miss Myrtle McLean.
F. S. — Miss Martha Sutherland.
Cond. — Miss Frances Sutherland.
Treas. — Miss Irene Parks.
Chap. — Robt. Parks.
I. S. — Mrs. John Parks.
O. S. — James Parks.
S. Y. P. W. — Mrs. James Parks.

The night of meeting is to be Tuesday night.

STEPHEN LEACOCK

Prof. Stephen Leacock B. A. Ph. D. is man of complex accomplishments. His gifts are very varied and in each he excels. His realm of thought embraces topics ranging from the deepest to the most flippant and entertaining. Prof. Leacock can write with equal facility and success an article on the most obscure point in Political Science or a humorous essay on some trivial subject of the day. Nor does he only interest himself in academic and literary pursuits. He uses his talents towards the development of his country, by means of direct personal appeals to the people. Dr. Leacock is a real orator. His personality is magnetic and this coupled with his fine, clear, voice, his flow of English, his logic combine to make his speeches convincing even to the skeptic and to rouse his own adherents to enthusiasm.

It is as a Professor that he is best



Dr. STEPHEN LEACOCK

known. His students are all enthusiastic. He is able by means of his humour to infuse life into and to make interesting even the dry elements of Economics as they were explained by John Stuart Mill. It is in Political Science, however, that the professor really excels. Here he is on his own ground and it indeed needs an erudite opponent to question or argue a point with him on this, his hobby subject. He is the author of an invaluable little book on the subject entitled, "Elements of Political Science." So lucidly is it written, that even the layman, through its perusal, may get a comprehensive grasp of the more salient points of the subject.

In 1907 Dr. Leacock was chosen by the Cecil Rhodes Trust to tour the British Empire, delivering lectures on Imperial Problems. He was everywhere received with much enthusiasm and accomplished his mission with signal success.

It was significant that a Canadian should have been chosen for this all-important work. Therefore, not only Professor Leacock, but Canada as a whole should have felt herself raised to a very dignified and prominent position in the eyes of the Empire.

Dr. Leacock's successor in his position as Professor of Economics at the University of Toronto, is Mr. J. H. Macpherson. This may or may not be absolutely deserved. Still Dr. Leacock's humorous works make delightful reading. They take the veriest pessimist out of himself and make him a human functioning man. They are overflowing and bubbling over with clean inoffensive satirical wit. Literary lapses had a phenomenal run. His latest effort, Nonsense Novels published by Publishers' Press Ltd. Montreal and by the John Lane Co. London and New York, according to all indications will have a still larger circulation.

It is unnecessary to dwell on what Dr. Leacock has done for McGill since his appointment to the Chair of its Department of Economics and Political Science. It is sufficient to say that from insignificance, Prof. Leacock's department has become the strongest of any in the Faculty of Arts.

Dr. Stephen Butler Leacock was born at Swanmore, Ont., Eng., in 1869. He came to Canada in 1876. He received his primary education at Upper Canada College and from there entered Toronto University. After receiving his degree Dr. Leacock taught at his old school, Upper Canada College. He then took his Ph. D. at the graduate school of Chicago University receiving it in 1902.



An Eminent Banker.

The present system of Banking in Canada, which has been commended and often followed in other countries, has great extent owes its existence to Sir Edward Clouston. Perhaps no one person has had such a clear insight into banking affairs, or done so much to promote the excellent system now in operation in Canada as has Sir Edward Clouston. His principle work was in connection with the Bank of Montreal, which is now one of the soundest financial institutions of the world. He was born in the small village of Moose Factory in 1849. On leaving the Montreal High School at the age of 16 years, he entered the Bank of Montreal, and after many years hard work he raised himself to his present position.

THE FIRE PEOPLE

"If you keep on talkin' in dat way," said Uncle Dickey, to the fire, "you'll sho' 'n' me off ter sleep, an' I'll be too stupid ter play de fiddle when de young folks comes ter dance, for you talk lak' you is in a dream—ter off, somethin'—tryin' ter tell it all, an' yit keepin' somethin' back. You wants ter say it, an' you dunno how. Even sence fast dark you been at it — des sayin' an' sayin' things, over an' over. I reckon I'll have ter go off in a sleep, an' see ef a dream won't tell me—"

Out of the fire came fantastic shapes—regiments of strange beings; little children, clothed in rainbow colors; witches of old, that ride the winds, soldiers, with their captains—a flame-wreathed host of them; and last of all, the Old Man of the Fire, who is the Fire's Voice, when it talks and sings through the white Winter nights.

"Here," he said, to the strange fiery company, "in this poor cabin home, dwells an old man who has nothing but his fiddle and the joy of making others happy with its music; and he has heard me singing and talking from my home in the fire for many, many winters, and has talked back to me, and kept company with me in the summer nights; and I've said things to him which I've never said to any of you; I promised him a gold fiddle, with strings of gold, and a gold fiddle-stem; and here he is, in his rickety old chair, asleep and dreamin' of it."

Now, and his poor plain fiddle is at his side there! This is the night for me to redeem my promise, and make the old man happy; but first, let me take his fiddle and play the sparkling music of the Fire, for all of you to lance by. Form yourselves in a ring around him — all of you — while I strike up the merriest tune I know. Then when we all go back into the Fire, and the old man wakes, he'll find the golden fiddle I promised him, and all of you shall help to fill it with gold!

Now, then, — take your place all! But when the people of the Fire were ready for the dance, and the Old Man of the Fire had seized the fiddle, and tried a string or two, to strike the right tune, — "saap!" went the strings, and the fiddle itself became a flame, and fell in ashes to the floor, and one of the fire-witches flew up the chimney with the captain of the fire-soldiers, and the little children of the fire were changed into red sparks that went flying upward, and the Old Man of the Fire hid himself in it once more, and—

"Hey! Uncle Dickey! Wake up, and get your fiddle!" a half dozen merry voices shouted, as the joyous crowd trooped in the door. "What's the matter, old man? Here we are for a dance! Get your fiddle!"

"I ain't got no fiddle," he said, as he looked about him. "I ain't got no fiddle 'tall. It wuz burnt up des a while ago — it sho' wuz, honest!"

"He's half-asleep yet," they said. "Here's your fiddle, old man. What's the matter?"

"I see it all now," he said: "It wuz all de fault o' de Fire, what talked me ter sleep, an' den sent a dream ter me, an' made believe my ol' fiddle had ketcht fire an' burnt up!"

"Ladies an' Gentlemen, welcome all, an' Christmas Giff!"

RIGHT IN LINE

No matter what the price to pay. There'll be no retrogression; We'll meet the New Year on the way— Join the procession!

This world's the pleasant place to stay— It's fine, beyond expression! Shake hands, and walk the shiny way; Join the procession!

SAME BACKSLIDER

You swear off in the brand New Year— The good intentions hit you; You'll sure be good, it's understood, For fear Old Nick'll git you.

But here the word I say ter you— Because it's worth the hearin'; Ten days from then you'll say to me: "Not me! I do no swearin'!"