

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 8, 1924

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The League of Nations will be four years old on Thursday. Despite the fact that the United States has held aloof, the League has accomplished a great deal in the settlement of differences and promoting a better frame of mind in nations that were antagonistic to each other. There is now a well defined movement in the United States in favor of participation in some way by that country in League affairs. It is related by the de-harsh, but has the elements of time and common sense in its favor. The League may be made much more effective for good in the world, and the United States has a great opportunity to aid in bringing about that result. A policy of isolation would be unwise, for the simple reason that whatever adversely affects the rest of the world will have a similar effect in America. The press despatches today make reference to the Bok peace plan, which would have the United States enter the world court and co-operate with a modified form of the League. Thus the tendency is toward and not against American co-operation. So long as Europe is in an unsettled state, industry and trade on this continent will be adversely affected, and every American business man is fully aware of the fact. It is really the politicians who are standing in the way, and their motives are plain. Their political fortunes are of more concern to them than that world welfare. The trend of public opinion, however, is toward a fuller recognition of national duty, and in the end it will prevail.

HEALTH WORK AND SALARIES

In discussing matters relating to public health there should be a clear understanding of the nature of the work. It calls for a proportionately large expense for salaries. These form the most important item. It is necessary to have officials to make an organization that is effective. There is also need of experts, who must be well paid, but who do the work. There will be few to question the importance of having the best in matters relating to the health of the individual, and the same attitude toward the health of the community should prevail. The prevention of disease, the elevation of the general standard of health in a community, the correction of physical defects in children, proper public nursing service, the reduction of the death rate—all of these call for the work of many skilled persons; and the work they do lessens in due time the expenditure on institutions designed to care for the helpless. In public health work we must look to the future as well as the present for beneficial results. When it appears, therefore, that salaries figure largely in the expense account, the chief question which should be considered is that of the need of the officials. It may be possible that the health authorities are sometimes more eager for progress than the representatives of the taxpayers feel the latter are entitled to pay for, but their zeal is manifested in a good cause, and their motives above reproach. Money wisely expended to promote public health yields returns in community welfare the value of which is not easily estimated.

A RATHER NICE QUESTION

Mr. Manning W. Doherty announces that he will not accept the leadership of the Farmers' Party in Ontario. Hon. W. F. Reaney had been chosen leader, but declined the honor. Premier Ferguson has declared that the Farmers' Party will not be recognized as the official opposition, but that the Liberals will have that honor. In this connection the Toronto Star raises a rather interesting question. It points out to Mr. Ferguson that there are twenty Farmers and only thirteen Liberals in the House, and wants to know on what authority the Premier overlooks the larger group. In fact it says "few political leaders ever blundered more egregiously than Mr. Ferguson has done in declaring that he will not recognize the Farmer-Labor or Progressive group as the official opposition party."

Even granting Mr. Ferguson's assumption that the people of Ontario voted for a return to the two-party system, the Star wants to know who gave him authority to designate the two in this particular case. Continuing, the Star says:—"If the electors really made the decision that Mr. Ferguson says they did—although few of them were aware of it—then it is unreasonable to assume that they gave the Progressive group 20 members in the expectation that it would be the group eliminated, and gave the Liberal group 13 members in the belief that it would be the one honored with the dignity attaching to the official opposition. Mr. Ferguson's indirect intimation that he can count on as to make 18 more than 20 and

thereby obtain an interpretation of the will of the people favorable to the Liberal group being made the official opposition is a poor tribute to the intelligence of the listening public or to the personal qualities of the premier."

Regarding the law it is pointed out that "the statute dealing with opposition leaders provides that the leader of any group of 15 members recognised by the Speaker as an opposition party shall be granted a salary of \$1,400 per year in addition to the indemnity of \$1,400." If now the Speaker names the Liberals as the official opposition the Star says he will be charged with taking orders from the Government party, and if he does not he will be charged with accepting the speakership knowing that he would not, and so betray those who appointed him.

It is also recalled that in 1919, when the Conservative Government was defeated its leader passed over the Liberals who had 29 members and advised the Lieut. Governor to call on the Farmers Party to form a new Government. Altogether the Star thinks Premier Ferguson has made a pretty mess of it, and that his reputation for adroitness has seriously suffered.

ANGLO AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

The editor of The Times-Star has received from Mr. John A. Stewart, New York, chairman of the Board of Governors of Sulgrave Institute, who has twice addressed the Canadian Club of St. John, this card of new year greetings:—

"The fostering of friendship among English-speaking peoples has no more ardent advocate nor consistent exemplar than I, Warren G. Harding, twenty-ninth President of the United States; nor than is Calvin Coolidge, his successor, who said when accepting the Honorary Chancellorship of the American Sulgrave Institute that there was no better nor more important work to be done than this, and that while Governments could do something, the citizenry of the two countries could accomplish much more. Who preaches Good-will should practice Good-will; who practices Good-will in the cause of friendship among English-speaking peoples and as between them and all other peoples of Good-will best serves the ends of human well-being. My holiday greetings and friendly good wishes in the Good Cause."

Of the power situation in Ontario the Toronto Star says:—"If public opinion is not sufficiently strong to induce the Dominion Government to proceed with an international navigation and power scheme on the St. Lawrence river Ontario must demand that progress be made on a power development scheme divorced from navigation. Within three years this province promises to be seriously handicapped by a shortage of power for commercial purposes. It is not desirable that millions of dollars should be sent yearly to the United States for a supply of coal that might be cut off when most needed. With unlimited water power going to waste down the rapids of the St. Lawrence our people would be lacking intelligence and character if they were content to pay \$30 more per horsepower for steam than the cost of the same amount of energy in electricity."

The suggestion that Hon. T. A. Cresser may enter the Cabinet at Ottawa is of very great interest. Mr. Cresser is one of the ablest men in the west, and such action on his part would have a strong influence upon the Progressive Party. His entry into the Government would bring added strength, and weaken the hopes of the Conservatives. It is not yet clear, however, that the matter is settled.

Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior, announces that he favors federal assistance for forest protection from fire in the provinces. Such aid would be very welcome, and a good national investment.

The British Parliament has re-assembled. Within a week there should be some indication as to the fate of the Government and the future relations of Labor and the Liberals.

The Mexican rebellion drags along with as few fatalities as possible. A bull-fight would be more exciting.

Ottawa had a civic revolution yesterday. Mayor Plant was defeated by a huge majority in the elections.

COMMERCIAL MAN DIES SUDDENLY

Montreal, Jan. 7.—James R. Douglas, 62 years of age, a traveling salesman employed by the E. J. Woodson Co., Limited, dealers in foundry supplies, died suddenly here today as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage. Douglas, who resided in Dartmouth, N.S., came to this city a week ago and was taken ill last Friday. He leaves a wife and daughter in Dartmouth.

Press Comment

ONE EVERY MINUTE

(Indianapolis News.) Guiltibility is not limited to any one class of people. Rich and poor, educated and uneducated as far as mere book learning is concerned, fall prey to the unscrupulous. That is particularly true in financial matters. The lure of easy money challenges every one, warns the judgment of even hardened financiers, and sometimes wipes out fortunes overnight.

LAW AND THE CRIMINAL

(Kansas City Star.) Legal technicalities, zealously observed when the welfare of the accused is involved; shrewd lawyers; legal talent turned to the protection of the criminal rather than society; professional bondsmen; continuances of cases till witnesses are tired out; indifferent or incompetent juries; what an array of chances there are that the criminal will escape and be let to prey upon society. What wonder that crime should be on the increase!

THE AGE OF HUMANITY

(Vancouver Sun.) If this era marks the passing of the age of kings into the age of nations, tomorrow must surely mark the opening of the age of humanity. The dawn of human consciousness, man thought in terms of himself. Then his thoughts were widened to embrace his family and later his family or tribal gods.

With the expansion of tribes into more complex political organisms, his devotion was given to his kind. When kings began to lose their halo of divine right, nationally began to be personified. The last two hundred years has seen the decline of the age of kings and the rise of the age of nations. Political cataclysms of the great war hastened the decline of the king ages until today only the few are left who have managed to adapt themselves to the democratic theory.

But we still live today in the age of nations. Our hates, fears, loves and hopes extend little further than the confines of our own national boundaries. We fight, trade, prosper and think in the name of that mythical and personified human unit we call our country.

The age of humanity must come next. If man's viewpoint has broadened enough in the past 40,000 years to raise him from a restricted devotion to self to a broader social devotion to units of several million people, the evolutionary process must go on until the whole world is thinking in terms of humanity or in terms of humanity rather than of nations.

Beyond that age, imagination does not carry us easily. But so closely are they linked up, as old Abo Ben Adhem once said, that the dawn of humanity does come, the human race cannot be far from the age of God.

NOVA SCOTIA FINANCES

(Halifax Chronicle.) The statement of the Provincial finances for the last fiscal year, issued yesterday by Hon. D. A. Cameron, Provincial Treasurer, makes a good showing. There was the substantial surplus of more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars of revenue over the expenditures of the year. The revenue shows an increase of more than Half a Million Dollars as compared with that of the preceding year. There was an increase of \$440,000 in expenditure, but countable chiefly by the additional sums for highway improvements and education. Highway came first in their demand upon the public treasury, but the public institutions, which are essentially and primarily for the well being of the people, are a close second. Both of these services demanded large sums. One Million Dollars each, while education received the large sum of \$716,000, almost equal to the total amount which the Government subsidy in royalties from coal, and exceeding the amount of the Dominion subsidy which not to many minds is a chief item of Provincial revenue. It is gratifying, in view of the large and important operations in improving and maintaining the public services of the Province, that the Government has been able to issue so satisfactory a statement of its finances, which indicates the sound position and high credit of the Province.

THE OLDER BOYS' PARLIAMENT

(Toronto Star.) The distinguishing feature of the Older Boys' Parliament of Ontario that met in Toronto recently was that the members' sole concern was the welfare of boy life throughout the province and not the ordinary questions that divide the political parties.

The boys' parliament meets to promote Canadian standard efficiency training, commonly known as C. S. B. T., which is designed to prevent a stunted development of a boy's capabilities. By providing for a four-fold development, and having regard for the physical, intellectual, social and emotional sides of a boy's nature, precaution is taken against harmful obstructions.

Whatever may be the merits of the C. S. B. T. programme, which is inter-denominational in character, there can be no question that it is a fine thing for older boys to gather from near and far to consider what they can do for the other fellows. Boys have a more natural understanding of boy nature than is possible in men, and when they link it up with a genuine desire to serve the community much good must result.

Far from being a mere parliament where youth merely re-echoes the political views of the elders, the older boys' parliament is a real factor in molding the programme and methods employed in "Axis and Trail Rangers" groups. Its chief function is to perfect the work being done for boys and to extend it to districts where boy life is suffering from neglect and lack of sympathy.

The boys members won golden opinions from the governmental and university officials who came in contact with them. Their gentlemanliness, thoughtfulness, ability as public speakers and evident desire to help the community were most impressive. With youth of this caliber coming up, this generation need not worry about the loss to society its passing will occasion.

The present Sultan of Turkey studies painting and music.

LIGHTER VEIN.

His Chief Qualification
Cashier—I don't believe, dear, that your father will consent to our marriage.

Barber's daughter—Oh, yes, he will, after he has examined your books. He'll want to keep the money in the family.

Got The Dickens From Ma
Elderly Gentle—"Why are you crying, my boy?"

Kid—"I was out by the lake fishing."

Elderly Gentle—"And you didn't get anything?"

Kid—"Yes, when I got home."

The Retort Courteous
A junior master at a Toronto educational institution said to his class before separating for the holidays: "A merry Christmas and a happy New Year, boys, and may you come back next year with more brains."

"Same to you, sir," piped up a small boy, who really wished to be polite.

The Elephant, Some Ant.
The American truth-teller was in form. Talking of ants," he said.

"I've seen 'em fight with long horns, which they use as lances, charging each other like the savages of the tropics."

"They don't compare with the ants I saw in the Far East," said an inoffensive individual new by. "The natives have trained them as beasts of burden."

One of 'em could trail a ton load for miles with ease. They worked willingly, but occasionally they turned on their attendants and killed them."

"This was drawing the long bow a little too far."

"I say, old chap," said a shocked voice from the corner, "what sort of ants were they?"

"Elephant-ants," replied the inoffensive individual.—London Tit-Bits.

ENGLISH BIRDS

Their Songs, Haunts and Habits.

(By Frederick Pangborn.)

NO. II.

Now we come to the greenfinch, a poor songster indeed, in fact he "can't sing for nuts," as the saying goes. He builds the largest nest of the finch tribe and almost as large as that of the thrush. His nest averages three and a half ounces. The hen bird lays an egg as large as that of a house sparrow, but different in color. I have never known a person in England to keep one caged up. It is useless to keep them in confinement. The bird has beautiful plumage, a beautiful rich green, and that is why he is everywhere throughout the British Isles. All I can say in his favor is that he is very pretty to gaze upon.

The chaffinch is a very handsome little creature. He carries more white in his wings and is a better singer far and away. His nest is handsome and almost one inch in thickness, most neatly woven. The eggs are beautiful in color, a kind of green with dark spots. They delight to build high above the reach of the naughty boy who goes to search for them. The writer was one of those naughty boys once, but with age I have learned better. The nest is exactly the same inside as that of the bullfinch. It is lined with moss. They get the wool from the edgewoods. The sheep rub along the side of a pebbly bush and so the wool comes tangled in the briars, and there these little fellows get it. The chaffinch is more easy to raise than the sparrow, and he is like the yellow-hammer, he builds in the banks or on a bush overhanging a bank. His nest is about the size of the linnet. The eggs are of a beautiful pale blue, free from any blemish. There is only one other bird that lays eggs of the same color, and that is the starling, which is, if anything, a shade paler.

The bullfinch is a grand one of the most magnificent birds in England. He is a powerful songster and a bird that is greatly admired by all lovers of wild birds. His bill, or beak, as some would call it, is short and thick and most powerful, and can take a piece out of the toughest man's hand. I know, for, as a boy, I have had some of his bites. His nest is like the nest of the chaffinch, most beautifully woven, and I must say it is wonderful how they build such cosy homes with their little mouths only. The nest of the bullfinch is the most beautiful nest of all birds. They delight to build high and their nests may be found in nearly all parts of England, but not as plentiful as those of the chaffinch.

The greatest songster in England is the nightingale. As I write this article it seems I can hear him singing away on the very top of a beech tree. They are heard but not very often seen. They are extremely wild. Some of your readers can recall the time when they have heard these lovely creatures singing away on a beautiful, still moonlight night. I wish to say that people who intend to visit England should go to my home, namely, Tynning, in the county of Hertford, the home of the singing birds. Ask anyone in the town to be directed to the heavenly woods and then go and sit down amongst the blue bells. If that color does not suit the visitor, walk a few more yards and sit down with the daffodils, or, perhaps, the visitor would prefer the crocus or the primrose, and then sit down and listen to the singing of hundreds of voices of these grand feathered songsters with voices as clear as crystal. The very heavens seem to ring with their mighty song, and you will say truly this is as near heaven as I ever was. I am running away from my subject, but when I got as far as the nightingale, I was carried away by my British home.

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A LITANY FOR THE NATION.
(Canon Scott.)

God, give us eyes to see the human need;
God, give us hands to do the noble deed;
God, give us hearts that bleed when others bleed;

Save us, Good Lord.
God, make us great, not with mere power and gold,
But with compassion strong and meekness bold;
For others, not ourselves, the good Lord to hold;

Save us, Good Lord.
God, make us true, clear as the heavens in cloud;
Clean in our way of life, not knowing fear,
Building Love's mighty Kingdom far and near;

Save us, Good Lord.
God, give the world the visioned peace which came
Before men's eyes through smoke and battle flame;
Make us a nation worthy of Thy name;
Quebec.

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FOR FEDERAL AID TO PROTECT WOODS

Ottawa, Jan. 7.—Addressing provincial delegates to a forestry conservation conference which opened here today, Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior, said that he was prepared to recommend federal assistance for the provinces in their efforts to reduce forest fire ravages if such a step was considered necessary by provincial authorities.

The following Maritime representatives are attending the conference: Hon. C. W. Robinson, Minister of Lands and Mines, N. B.; G. B. Price and L. S. Webb, New Brunswick Forestry Service; Hon. W. J. O'Hearn, Attorney-General, Nova Scotia; J. Knight, Commissioner of Forests and Game, Nova Scotia.

Dr. Edward H. Hume is to be the first president of Yale in China.

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