

FOUR

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 12, 1908.

LABOR IN NOVA SCOTIA.

A very interesting and rather important struggle is taking place at the present time in coal mining circles in Nova Scotia. The fight is between those who believe that the union of mine workers should be conducted as at present, and those who are more radical in their ideas and wish greater activity. The latter are endeavoring to have the mines controlled in such a way as to be for the benefit of the men. The men are concerned by the United Mine Workers of America. For some time past all the unions, which include practically all those men who are employed in the province in this industry, have been associated as the P. W. A. This organization has been conducted in a manner satisfactory to the majority of the men and to the mine owners. No very unusual demands have been made and although minor disagreements have occurred from time to time, the employers as a rule have met the reasonable wishes of the men. They are willing to continue this policy. The P. W. A. executive is composed chiefly of the older men. The younger element now have an impression that the success which has attended the efforts of the P. W. A. in the past has been won by reason of weakness on the part of the mine owners and they believe that a more energetic policy under which greater concessions would be demanded would meet with equal success, and secure to them better terms than they now enjoy. With this belief they have succeeded in interesting the United Mine Workers of America, which latter organization is assisting the malcontents in their endeavor to transform the P. W. A. into a branch of the U. M. W. The intention of course is that the whole P. W. A. be taken over as a unit. This, however, is bitterly opposed. It would appear, by a majority of the Nova Scotia miners who are not powerful enough to prevent certain of the lodges from deserting the old association. One or two in Cape Breton and several in the mainland have already signified their intention of affiliating with the U. M. W. and the executive of the P. W. A. having been apprised of this action has revealed the characters of these lodges. The present indications are that for some time at least there will be two distinct mining labor organizations in Nova Scotia. What the outcome may be is in doubt. The P. W. A. is popular. It at present receives the support of a majority of the men and of the employers as well. The mine workers constitute a United States organization and this very fact has created some opposition to the movement now in progress. As yet the mine owners are not affected nor is there an immediate probability that they will experience difficulty with the men. They may possibly gain by a division between the unions and they may also lose by the more extravagant demands made by the new U. M. W. lodges.

TEMPERANCE IN CANADA.

The Montreal Star is endeavoring to persuade itself that a great temperance wave is spreading over Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, such as that which has already had such a remarkable effect in some portions of the United States. Proof of the existence of such a general sentiment is lacking, but from various sections of the Dominion reports indicate more than the ordinary activity in temperance circles. In New Brunswick St. John is and always has been a centre of agitation, but throughout the province a gradual growth of feeling against the sale and use of liquor is apparent. In Nova Scotia there is seeming indifference. The laws in operation there are, perhaps, no better enforced than in New Brunswick, and despite frequent denunciations from press and pulpit the liquor traffic goes along practically undisturbed. The cause of temperance has been given considerable attention in Nova Scotia during the past year, in a public manner, but the people have not been aroused to any united movement. Rather is there only the quiet and gradual development of anti-liquor sentiment which has been observed in this province. Quebec has been the scene of more marked activity by the efforts of the Catholic church. Leading clerics have strongly advised their parishioners on the temperance question, some have inaugurated well-planned campaigns against the sale of liquor, and in other instances whole congregations have been induced to throw their influence solidly on the side of temperance. In the Protestant churches the same energy is not apparent, but undoubtedly the Protestant clergymen are mindful of their duty in this regard. In the west, the subject is more difficult of solution. Here in the older provinces we know all the arguments on both sides, but in a country where thousands of new people are annually making their homes conditions must necessarily be rather unsettled and it may be that the western people will have to experience for themselves what to the easterners has

become history, before they satisfactorily solve this all-important problem. Generally speaking, it is not apparent that Canada is as yet feeling the effects of a strongly developed temperance wave, but the country as a whole seems to be gradually, though surely, advancing in the proper direction.

"LET US ALONE!"

Nag! nag! nag!
Will we never be let alone?
And nag! nag! nag!
Till we can't call our souls our own!
It's Oh! for a needed rest.
In quiet to be at ease!
It's Oh! to be rid of my Politics' pest.
And to do again as we please.

Nag! nag! nag!
While business is on the bum!
And nag! nag! nag!
With messages still to come!
Scold and censure and blame!
Blame and censure and scold!
Till every one is sick of the game,
And longs for the peace of old.

O men who love your peace!
O men who from quarrels shrink!
Do not you wish that his tongue would cease
And give you a chance to think?
Nag! nag! nag!
And each must add to his brood
From year to year, with never a fear
As to whether they may have food!

Nag! nag! nag!
Till investors in fear must pause!
And nag! nag! nag!
Until no one is sure of the laws!
It is nag! nag! nag!
Till the people are worried to death
With that querulous voice in its
Upbraiding the poor and denouncing the rich!

Oh! when will he run out of breath?
TIED.

STEADY JOB.
"Halloo, Bilkins! Who are you working for?"
"Same people—a wife and five children."

CONFESSED HIS FAULT.
"I was surprised," said the Rev. Mr. Goodman, sternly, "to see you playing golf last Sabbath. I should think you'd do better."

ONLY ARTICULATING.
Mamma—"Good gracious, Georgie! What is the matter with Freddie Jones? Is the child having a fit?"
Georgie—"No, mamma. You know Freddie stutters and we bet he couldn't say 'altruistically' before Bobbie ran twice around the block."

AN UNCERTAIN PROPOSITION.
Cyrus Townsend Brady, the author and clergyman, told at a dinner in Toledo a story about charity.

A MILLIONAIRE said Dr. Brady, "lay dying. He had lived a life of which, as he now looked back on it, he felt none too proud. To the last he was on his side, he muttered weakly:

"If I leave a hundred thousand dollars or so to the church will my salvation be assured?"

"The minister answered cautiously: 'I wouldn't like to be positive, but it's well worth trying.'"

TWIN'S SUICIDE.
Officers Choose Death Before Dishonour.

Because they could not both wed the same woman, and also because they had come to the end of their twinned tether, two brothers holding the rank of major in the Austrian army committed suicide on Monday by mutual agreement.

Nicholas and Paul Gelovskys were the twin sons of a dead general, and of their remarkable devotion to each other tales were told. They were educated together, and when off duty were inseparable. When Nicholas was promoted to Paul promptly followed his example. They even fell in love with the same woman.

The brothers lived in a most luxurious manner, were members of the Hungarian Casino, and well known frequenters of the turf. Lately a remarkable change was noticed in their mode of life. They gradually withdrew from society, and spent most of their time in their own home.

They had come to the end of their resources. They had given their word of honor to Count Esterhazy, who had backed some bills for them, that they would repay their debts in full by April 15. They found themselves unable to redeem their pledges, and were faced with dismissal from the army and boycotting at the clubs. So they decided to die together.

Their end was most dramatic. They committed suicide at the same moment. Seated before a mirror, in adjoining rooms, each shot himself at a given signal with a Service revolver. A friend, who called a few moments later, found both the officers dead. Their skulls were fractured, and a shot from each of the revolvers had penetrated the wall dividing the two rooms.

They left letters to their superior officers, the burden of which was a simple sentence, "We cannot do our duty, therefore we die together."

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
The presentation of "The Sign of the Cross" by the Kirk Brown Company at the Opera House last evening was a distinct triumph. The performance was away ahead of anything the company has yet attempted in St. John, both as regards acting, attention to detail, stage settings and costumes. Mr. Brown was at his best and carried the part of Marcus in a manner beyond criticism. Miss Fields as Marcia was all that could be desired, and other members of the company took their various parts in an altogether satisfactory manner. The costumes worn were magnificent, especially those of Mr. Brown in the first and third acts. The stage settings were very fine, and altogether the play was the best of what has been a most successful engagement.

Such Weather - - Such Shoes.

If you are saying "such shoes" in tones of disgust, come to us. We will fit you with a pair of Shoes that will force you to say "such shoes" with all the admiration of which you are capable.

Yesterday we sold a quantity of Tan Shoes, both Ladies' and Gentlemen's and the first Spring day was a call to lay off the old ones and don something nice.

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MEN'S TAN OXFORDS, \$4.00 and \$5.00.
MEN'S TAN SPLITTER PAIRS, \$4.50.
MEN'S PATENT OXFORDS, \$4.50.
LADIES' PATENT LEATHER BOOT LOW HEEL, \$3.50.

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PROPHECY OF FAMOUS MAHDIST

On January 19, 1909, Osman Digna, the De Wet of the Mahdi's forces, was captured at Jebel Waridda. He has been a terror to the tribes of the Eastern Sudan was a wanderer and a fugitive.

Today Osman is in an Egyptian prison, a harmless lunatic, prophesying the greatness of the British as a Mohammedan Power.

Mr. H. N. Brailford in the current number of the Nation portrays graphically this old slave trader in the cell. Describing his visit to the prison of Demetria, where the Khalifa's followers were interned, Mr. Brailford says: "There was yet a seventh prisoner, the most famous of them all—Osman Digna. We paused at his door and the dealer peering cautiously through the peep-hole, bade us wait, for the old man was at prayer. He rose at length—a tall, gaunt figure, stately in his white robe, and simple turban. Courteous, yet taciturn, he answered my questions curtly and with indifferent negatives. He was well and vigorous. He complained of nothing. He asked for nothing, not even liberty."

"I began to despair of gaining his confidence. Neither his wife nor child shared his captivity. A single book carefully folded in a threadbare Jean cover gave the only clue to his occupations. 'He eats,' whispered the goal-keepers once a day, and does not mix with the other prisoners.' He was talking now more rapidly to my interpreter, and his hoarse, guttural voice betrayed a note of excitement. A series of unintelligible questions reached me, one after the other: 'What Government was it which held him in prison?' 'What is the place you call a prison?' 'He has something to say,' whispered the interpreter, 'let him talk!'

THE BOOK FORGOTTEN.
"In the years before the Mahdi arose, the hoarse, eager voice was saying the world waited in ignorance and in darkness. It had forgotten God, and nowhere was the law obeyed. The Book was forgotten and even the Sultan ruled by man-made laws. Are not the Laws by which men should walk set forth in the Koran? The Mahdi had made laws of his own invention for the government of the earth. Then God spoke to the Mahdi and he arose, the Prophet whose coming is foretold in the book. The Mahdi summoned the Sultan to obedience saying 'Arise and obey, and rule by the law of the Book.' If the Sultan had obeyed the Mahdi would have retired, and spent the rest of his life in prayer, but the Sultan would not hear, neither would the Egyptians transmit the message."

"Now when God saw the disobedience of the Sultan and that he ruled by man-made laws, and would not listen to the voice of the Mahdi His Prophet, he sent a scourge to punish the Turks and the Egyptians. That scourge was the English. They have taken Egypt. It is the Lord's judgment on Sultan Abdul Hamid."

"A PROPHET."
"Here the old man paused. Rising to his full height, he spoke again, his voice clear and authoritative at last. 'Know too,' he went on, 'that I am a Prophet, the interpreter of God, even as you are the interpreter of this Englishman.' He clutched his throat. The voice is mine, but the words I speak are the words which God has given me. Do me, O Sultan, and give me a message, I am a Prophet. My commission from God came to me from the hands of the Mahdi. I went him at Kordofan, where he was with the Khalifa, when I heard that the English were coming from India, and the Mahdi made me his trustee. He gave me a letter and sealed it with his seal, and in the letter was written, 'Let him who obeys us, obey you, and let him who honors us, honor you.' Thus he did that the Prophet might be fulfilled, as Moses might have held the tablets when he came down from Sinai—a man of the same race, living in the same communion with the God of the Khedive? To the King of the English? Nay, but God has taken care of His Book. Am I not the prisoner of the English? Is not the Book in their care and charge?"

"Hear, then, my message, God has said."

THE MAHDI'S GIFT.
"Then it was that the Mahdi gave me this Book' (he snatched the old linen-covered Koran from his bed), and bade me keep it, and rule by it, and restore its law to the earth."

"I am a prisoner. But I hold the Book. To whom shall I transmit the Book which is the very Law of God? (He held it in his sinuous brown fingers, as Moses might have held the tablets when he came down from Sinai—a man of the same race, living in the same communion with the God of the Khedive? To the King of the English? Nay, but God has taken care of His Book. Am I not the prisoner of the English? Is not the Book in their care and charge?"

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their work. The little men have grown servile. The great man is mad."

OSMAN'S CAREER.
Osman Digna was a slave dealer of Sukkin in the Red Sea littoral. He joined the Mahdi in 1883. Raising the local tribes, he invested Sunkat and Tokar. After destroying Egyptian reinforcements intended for Sunkat, he engaged General Baker's force of about 3,715 men, on the 22nd of February, 1884, at El Tel with great slaughter, 2,375 being killed, including eleven European officers.

In February 1885 it was decided to send a force to Sunkat and Tokar. Osman, and in March General McNeill started for Tamai. They were engaged at Tokar. The tribesmen swooped down on the British while he later was preparing a sabbat. Then Kharoum fell, and the British withdrew, and Mahdism triumphed. Osman was particularly active. In 1885 he was defeated by the Abyssinian Ras Alula. He was engaged by Lord (then Colonel) Kitchener in 1888, who rallied the disaffected tribes and captured his stronghold. Osman, eluded Lord Kitchener's efforts to capture him, and continued his raids. His cruelty and tyranny, however, alienated many of the tribes, and in January, 1891, he was defeated by Colonel Hotted Smith, and driven to the interior.

After the defeat of the Khalifa, Osman was a wanderer without an army. He was surrounded and captured at Jebel Waridda on January 19, 1900.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.
Colorado women are rejoicing over the huge vote for woman suffrage in Parliament. The Denver Times has a cartoon entitled, "Catching up with Colorado." It shows Colorado as a young lady leaning over the fence with a smile to greet Mrs. Britannia, a buxom dame who is coming down the steps of the opposite house, waving exultantly a paper bearing the words: "House of Commons Club. Dear Britannia: I have decided to grant you suffrage by a vote of 271 to 82. John Bull."

"Another woman," labelled "France," is looking wistfully over the fence in the background, and still another, marked "Germany," is hanging her clothes on the line, and paying attention. The Denver News publishes a column of interviews with prominent Denver women, expressing pleasure over the victory. Mrs. Helen L. Grenfell says, "I believe nearly all women of this State will sympathize with their English sisters." All the other interviews are in the same tone.

Miss Florence Nightingale has been given the freedom of the City of London. At her own request, it was presented to her in a basket costing only \$25 instead of the usual \$500, and the money thus saved was given to the Nightingale Hospital for the training of nurses. Miss Nightingale is the second woman to be given the freedom of the City of London. Baroness Burdett Coutts was the first. As Miss Nightingale has been all her life a petitioner for the ballot, and is now nearly 90 years of age, it would be the most appropriate tribute that England could pay her to make her an enfranchised citizen before she dies. Years ago she wrote: "You ask my reasons for believing in women's suffrage. It seems to me almost self-evident, an axiom, that every household and taxpayer ought to have a voice in the expenditure of the money we pay, including, as this does, interests the most vital to a human being."

After Forty Years.
Mr. John Stuart Mill commenced in the House of Commons in the year 1867 the movement in favor of the enfranchisement of women which secured its first victory, as Mr. Philip Snowden pointed out in his speech, after more than twenty unsuccessful attempts.

For Fashion's Followers

OUR SHOES ARE ALWAYS ATTRACTIVE

The Goddess of Spring will turn her back on you, Young Man, if you still cling to those Winter Shoes. The young man who wishes to keep in line with the styles can not pay too much attention to his Shoes, and he generally knows fine looking Shoes when he sees them.

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