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MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1909.

CRITICS IN ALARM.

The new minister of labor is receiving the tribute of the Opposition press as to the strength they believe he brings to the government. The volume of the persuasion they seem to think necessary to prove his usefulness to the cause of labor must be flattering to Mr. King. The duties of the position and his qualifications to fulfil them provide standing texts for most of the leading papers on the other side. In this respect he seems for the time to have eclipsed his colleagues and gathered to himself all the attention these journals have to spare.

In part the outbreak may be only the customary salute with which new ministers are now received. A party with no settled policy to advocate is pretty well limited in the matter of political debate to abusing the other fellow, and the Opposition have long been without a settled policy broad enough and strong enough to accommodate even themselves, let alone the public. It has become the practice, therefore, to receive each new man in the cabinet with concentrated fire, under the supposition that a new man being less familiar with the work of his department than the old hands would prove an easier mark for criticism.

Such can hardly be the main motive of the attack on Mr. King. He has been for years the deputy head of the department over which he has been called to preside. No living man is so familiar with its workings and the policy they embody as the new minister. There is little danger of even an impolite Opposition pressing him on his own ground in the case of anything but a victory through his ignorance or inexperience. Certainly no member of the party seems willing to risk his deposit on being able to do so, for Mr. King's election is conceded without opposition so far as the Conservative party is concerned.

The nature of the attack suggests that policy has much less to do with it than nervousness. It is not the ability or inability of Mr. King to discharge the duties of his position which worry the critics most, but the fear that through the discharge of those duties he will develop a political strength which they can not hope to encounter—strength, too, at the very point where they have been strong and have hoped to be come stronger.

The main strength of the Opposition is and has been in the industrial centres of the country. Their fiscal appeal has been to the wage-earner of the factory. To him they have addressed the argument that high tariff encourages enterprise and thereby makes work and wages. The doctrine has been loyally backed by the influence and sometimes the coercion of the employers who benefitted or stood to benefit by the high duties. The results of this politico-economic alliance have been consistently successful in a wide number of cases. When almost every other interest in the country went Liberal "industrial" works have been in a conspicuous large proportion deluded into voting for higher living expenses. Witness Toronto voting steadily to high tariff when the country went the other way election after election.

It is in this, their old stronghold that Mr. King's political power will tell against the Opposition. How seriously they regard the prospect, will measure the fury and character of the attack. That the department will not be well administered under the late deputy they do not claim. The argument and the whole argument is that no one should be made minister of labor but a man who labors only will his hands. The position taken is that a man who also employs his brains cannot adequately represent the working man in the cabinet and by inference anywhere else. The appeal is openly and boldly sectional and is made in the hope of retaining the favor of a class of voters whose good opinion it is feared the new minister has and will retain.

There is ample ground for these fears among the Opposition journals from the testimony of their own columns. Mr. King has for some time been deputy minister of the labor department. As such he has received very friendly, sometimes very flattering, mention from the journals

which now assail him. When credit to the department could not be denied it has invariably been given to the minister. The deputy had no political status and was not known to have any political ambitions. To praise his good work was not considered dangerous, and it offered a convenient way of avoiding giving credit yet to the Government responsible for the doings of the deputy and therefore entitled to a measure at least of the praise for the work done by him.

These same journals are now as anxious to discredit Mr. King as minister as they were formerly ready to praise him as deputy minister. His transference from the strictly official to the political field, they seem to hold, necessarily transforms also his character and aims, and invests him with less deference to the welfare of the worker than he had before he was dependent on the worker for his vote. The curiosity of the argument at least, the anxiety under which the critics are laboring.

The Mail and Empire, as usual, goes its associates one better. It announces the elevation of Mr. King as a "survival of the old period when it was held that nobody but an aristocrat had the right to participate in the direction of public affairs." This from the child of the Family Compact to the grandson of William Lyon Mackenzie, is certainly refreshing.

It will take something more than the anxiety of his political opponents to discount the new minister in the minds of the public. As deputy minister he was admittedly responsible for much of the "labor legislation" which has found its way onto the statute books in recent years. He was also directly responsible for the administration of that legislation once it was put on the books. His records stand in the laws enacted at his suggestion and the disputes settled through his intervention—and in the files of his erstwhile admirers but present critics.

ARMAMENT AND PEACE.

Lord Milner re-states the common doctrine that armed peace is the only peace possible, that standing armies and powerful fleets alone restrain nations from flying at each other's throats. Given that all other nations are armed it would be manifest folly for one to neglect the means of defence. The need of each nation depends under such circumstances depends on its ability, or believed ability, to assert its rights and defend its possessions by force of arms.

But this is a long way from saying that armies and navies are a necessity, that they could not be generally abolished with general security for all nations and with general advantage to all. The role of the policeman and the soldier are far different, though to often regarded as analogous. The policeman parades among the people he is expected to keep in order; the soldier seldom or never sees them except in the field. The policeman is said to quell the lawless spirits who usually term a comparatively small proportion of the community. The soldier is supposed to be ready, willing and able to fight all creation if given the word. The business of one is to preserve the peace, that of the other to wage war.

It will take a lot of argument to prove that an unarmed people, however numerous, among unarmored nations, would be more likely to fly into war than a nation whose people see daily the soldiers and ships that are their weapons of war. An unarmed man seldom commits murder. Few men maintain their passion long enough to avenge a wrong. The soldier, on the other hand, is the fellow who carries a revolver in his pocket and is prepared to shoot on the impulse who provides a victim or the scaffold or the penitentiary. The sight of their well-trained army or powerful fleet of warships is surely more likely to arouse than to allay the martial spirit of a people. If no nation were prepared for war there would be no danger of war. While some are prepared all must be prepared, but none the less the interests of all lie in having none prepared.

Lord Bessford admitted the other day that the wholesale advertisement of Britain's naval power and shipbuilding activity had aroused German distrust, and that this in turn has brought back upon Britain the necessity, or supposed necessity, of building still more ships. Several European nations have reached the state of mind of the small boy who parades about with a chip on his shoulder insisting some one to knock it off and in the consequence. Bravado may not be the impulse behind naval construction and the increase of military power, but the construction and increase are paraded with a boastfulness that is certainly intended to provoke error in the neighboring powers. And usually the terror results in the other powers laying down more keels or raising more regiments. Arriving in Europe may be maintained purely for defence and intended to secure the peace, but no unbiased observer would ever suspect it from the

attitudes of the powers toward each other. One objection to Canada contributing a battleship or the equivalent in cash to the British navy is that Canada should join this game of financial showing. We expect some day to be a powerful nation, but we are far from being a powerful nation yet in the military interpretation of the term. It is of some consequence to us what character we display toward the great nations of the world in these years of national youth. It is right and proper to prepare to defend ourselves according to our means and necessities. It is a matter of honor that all the world should understand where our sympathies, and if need be our men, money and ships would be in a war in which the supremacy of Britain was involved. But it is of equal importance that we do not assume hostile attitudes toward people other than ourselves. To do so might cost the Empire more than our contributions would amount to and bring upon ourselves a lesson we do not want to learn from experience. Any military or naval preparations we make should be understood to be strictly as a matter of defence. It being always understood that while we will not help to provoke quarrels, if quarrels come there is only one side on which we can stand. Our armament should be the guardian of our own peace, not the menace of the peace of any other people. Nor should we allow our military or naval preparations to be so construed.

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CURRENT COMMENT.

The Calgary Albertan appropriately remarks: "Let us forget, once upon a time there was what was described as a boom in Calgary real estate, and many people were very sorry for it afterwards. But that was some time ago, and there is no boom in Calgary. That is, there is no boom just yet." No; no; no one suspected it.

VARIOUS VIEWS.

HARRIMAN'S INTERVIEW.

New York Post—Mr. Harriman's interview on the financial and industrial outlook for the United States, and because pitched in some respects to a note of conservatism. That "the business of the country is now on a very unsteady basis, and that the absolute control of the island in the hands of the president of the United States, for it removes from the hands of the legislature and the people, and all who had escaped during the earlier tragedies were again attacked, and rapine, arson and looting continued for another 24 hours.

AN UNUSUAL SOLAR ECLIPSE.

Philadelphia Ledger—Prof. John B. Brashear, of Allegheny, last evening in a signed statement, said that the eclipse of the sun on June 17 will be unlike any other that has been known of man. In part, Prof. Brashear said: "There will be a very interesting character from the fact that a few seconds it will be annular, then change to a total eclipse, then annular, and finally to a partial eclipse for the remainder of the day. The writer cannot find record of such an eclipse in the history of annular eclipses for 400 years and of total eclipses for thousands of years. It is the only partial eclipse of the sun that has ever been seen in the United States, and its magnitude will sweep over the north, decreasing in size as it passes down through Canada and the States."

LIKELY AS NOT.

Montreal Star—It is not surprising that German opinion opines that the Imperial Press conference was called a consolate to the empire against Germany. But, as a matter of fact, it was called long before the German press. Britons have been talking so long of a consolate against Germany that they will begin to think in the Kaiser's dominions that we live and move and have our being solely in the ambitions of every spot of great people. They will be putting the Oxford-Cambridge races down to the fact that the British press will see the Northern hogs flee before you and hide the filthy coarseness of their lives in some obscure nook where the carcasses of the sun never penetrate."

QUICK TIME.

Victoria Post—This press has not taken much notice of the remarkable achievement effected last week in the transportation of Mail from Queenstown to Vancouver on the Pacific coast in nine days. This has been rendered possible by the fact that the Northern Pacific and Burlington railway in the west and the Pennsylvania railway in the east in cutting down the time from New York to the coast to a few hours less than four days. The new schedule is practically one day quicker than its predecessor, and although the end is not yet still another half day would be almost the possible limit of reduction if western lines could be operated on the same basis as eastern. The achievement is a notable one, and suggests a possibility which the Post believes will be attained within the next decade, namely, a seven day communication between Queenstown and the Pacific. There are two ways in which this could be accomplished, either by Hudson's bay and a Northern Canadian line, or by way of Labrador and a Northern Quebec connection with western lines. In any event, Puck's giraffe is encircling the world at a greater pace every year.

TAKT AS KING GEORGE.

Montreal Star—The man who has galled the shoulders of Uncle Sam, and has made him wish he could put "take his own life" by protecting an Armenian. The next day, however, the Turks got word that a fugitive was on the loose, and they came in crowds to demand his surrender. Hadji Ibrahim Effendi resolutely refused to comply with these demands, and did his utmost to calm the mob, but in vain. The crowd commenced firing on the house, and the fugitive, breaking the door, forced an entrance. M. Sevia,

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A CALL TO ARMS.

It must be rather disheartening for the supporters of the United States who learn that there has sprung up a strong party in Porto Rico which openly declares for independence. The party is called the "Proletariat," and is a member of the Lower House. It is high time that we should stand up for our outraged dignity. The tear of impotence betrays only anaemic women. Gather up in a supreme effort all the forces of the Republic, and hurl it in a spiteful contempt upon the faces of the tyrants that humiliate us! Let the soldiers of this Republic quiver under the tread of a thousand victorious heroes carrying ruin and desolation to the hearts of every spot of ground a corpse and a heath in mourning, and by the flaring light of the burning torch which devours the flesh of the tyrants, let the Northern hogs flee before you and hide the filthy coarseness of their lives in some obscure nook where the carcasses of the sun never penetrate."

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Montreal Witness—The attempt of Mr. Balfour to get Mr. Asquith to declare whether he counted the United States in or out when calculating his total population is a very interesting character from the fact that a few seconds it will be annular, then change to a total eclipse, then annular, and finally to a partial eclipse for the remainder of the day. The writer cannot find record of such an eclipse in the history of annular eclipses for 400 years and of total eclipses for thousands of years. It is the only partial eclipse of the sun that has ever been seen in the United States, and its magnitude will sweep over the north, decreasing in size as it passes down through Canada and the States."

A CALL TO ARMS.

It must be rather disheartening for the supporters of the United States who learn that there has sprung up a strong party in Porto Rico which openly declares for independence. The party is called the "Proletariat," and is a member of the Lower House. It is high time that we should stand up for our outraged dignity. The tear of impotence betrays only anaemic women. Gather up in a supreme effort all the forces of the Republic, and hurl it in a spiteful contempt upon the faces of the tyrants that humiliate us! Let the soldiers of this Republic quiver under the tread of a thousand victorious heroes carrying ruin and desolation to the hearts of every spot of ground a corpse and a heath in mourning, and by the flaring light of the burning torch which devours the flesh of the tyrants, let the Northern hogs flee before you and hide the filthy coarseness of their lives in some obscure nook where the carcasses of the sun never penetrate."

UNGRATEFUL PORTO RICO.

We can imagine how triumphantly the Porto Ricans will greet the news that between 1776 and 1909, and theoretically they present unanswerable arguments. But the truth is that according to the standards of civilization they are ten times better off under the "Northern hogs" than before. They have been civilized and fed, and washed and educated, and civilized and Christianized in a very thorough manner. The island has been made a better place than any other in the world, and it is quite safe to say that no ungrateful spectator will feel like jumping on the back of the favored daughter to save the favored daughter from her impending punishment.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

The London Standard's Adana correspondent writes to his paper: "Few incidents are more remarkable in the scenes of butchery which took place at Adana a month ago than the almost miraculous escape of M. Sevia, director of the Regie des Tabacs, from the outbreak of anarchy which poured like a red wave over the Armenian quarter. When the massacres broke out, M. Sevia took his wife and family to the house of a Turk, Hadji Ibrahim Effendi, a brave and honorable man, who offered him protection, and thus saved his own life by protecting an Armenian. The next day, however, the Turks got word that a fugitive was on the loose, and they came in crowds to demand his surrender. Hadji Ibrahim Effendi resolutely refused to comply with these demands, and did his utmost to calm the mob, but in vain. The crowd commenced firing on the house, and the fugitive, breaking the door, forced an entrance. M. Sevia,

TWO ENGINEERS AND ONE FIREMAN KILLED.

Head-on Smash on Great Northern Local Train, Bound for Vancouver, Causes Three Fatalities.

Vancouver, B.C., June 10.—Engineers, Bob Nichol and A. P. Pethers, were killed outright, and a fireman, name unknown, died instantaneously death this afternoon in a head-on collision which occurred on the Great Northern Railway, Burnaby, five miles out of Vancouver. The trains in collision, No. 274, which left Seattle at 10 o'clock this morning for Vancouver, and which was due at 3:30 p.m. on the local train, bound for Vancouver, which left Vancouver at 2:40 p.m. The local train was delayed in Vancouver by the draw being at the False Creek bridge, and minutes late she was just entering the head-on collision with the Great Northern train, bound for Vancouver. The locomotives were in the head-on collision, and the Great Northern train was killed outright. Only minutes before he had obtained permission to go on his holiday tomorrow.

Engineer McPheters, of Seattle, took the place of Engineer Nichol on the fatal run today. The cause of the collision was the failure of the dead fireman to learn that the local train was on the track. The local train was probably fatally injured, and the Great Northern train was killed outright. The Great Northern train was killed outright, and the local train was probably fatally injured. The Great Northern train was killed outright, and the local train was probably fatally injured. The Great Northern train was killed outright, and the local train was probably fatally injured.

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