

POOR DOCUMENT MAY 23 1921

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1921

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SADLY MISUNDERSTOOD.

Some hardened politicians and a rabid section of the press, prone to impute motives and to tarnish the reputation of good men, have misread the point of view of Mr. Wignome's letter to the French Purchasing Commission. Mr. Wignome desired to be helpful. He was informed in a casual way that the French government proposed to load some steamers with grain at St. John. France is our ally. It is the aim of statesmanship to cement the bonds of friendship between the two countries. Premier Meligne is learning the French language, and Sir Robert Borden and Sir George Foster have already learned it. Mr. Wignome as a statesman could not but feel the pulsing of an ambition to do something for La Belle France. The grain steamers afforded the opportunity. They might come to St. John and fall into the hands of harbor pirates who would give the crews the choice of remaining here or swimming home. What more natural than to advise the French Purchasing Commission their interests would be completely safeguarded by placing them in the hands of the fine old shipping house of Nagle & Wignome—of which I am a member.

But Mr. Wignome was more than a member. "As you are no doubt aware, I am minister of customs and inland revenue." But he was even more than that. He was a colleague of Sir George Foster, of League of Nations fame. With these assurances, and the knowledge that Nagle & Wignome had their own tow-boats and were agents for other steamship lines, there could be no doubt in the mind of the intelligent French Purchasing Commission. They could safely order their ships to sea, bound for St. John, and shout "Vive Canada!" with all their might. And yet there are wretched creatures who would suggest that Mr. Wignome was inspired by mercenary motives because he did not mention some other firm of shipbrokers. Mr. Lemieux should be heavily ashamed. He should remember the entente cordiale and the debt we owe to France. Mr. Wignome was thinking of scattering seeds of kindness when he saw in imagination the golden grain pouring into the holds of those steamers. His assurance: "We are in a position to handle your business to your satisfaction" was a message of peace and good will. "A cheque saint a chandelle."

THE EUROPEAN OUTLOOK.

After playing the game of bluff to the limit, Germany has accepted the terms of the Allies. The French press quite naturally anticipates, however, that she will continue to put every obstacle in the way of an honest fulfillment of her obligations. It is impossible to trust Germany. She is herself a believer in the doctrine of force as applied to other nations, and apparently cannot understand any other language. Her acceptance of the terms, however, goes a long way toward clearing up the situation, and enabling the Allies to turn more of their attention to other matters which may call for vigorous action. No doubt the attitude of the United States helped to convince Germany that she must come to terms.

Curiously enough, that stormy petrel of American politics, Senator La Follette, is protesting in the senate against the action of the Harding administration in appointing representatives to the Allied councils in Europe. He represents the irreconcilables in the Republican party, who insist that their country should have nothing to do with European affairs. There may be a lively discussion, but Senator La Follette's resolution will not pass. There are too many Democrats as well as Republicans who realize that the United States cannot maintain a policy of isolation.

Wood comes from London today that accredited representatives of Sinn Fein are there in conference with the government, and that the Irish situation is somewhat more hopeful. It is greatly to be hoped that an agreement may be reached and the reign of terror in Ireland brought to an end. The industrial situation in England is still very serious, with apparent possibilities of serious trouble over the miners' strike. The government, however, is firm and prepared to face a struggle if that should become necessary. The protracted period of unemployment must be producing hardship among great masses of the population. There is still the possibility of serious trouble with the Poles in Silesia. Today's cables tell of a clash between the Poles and the French. There is here a very delicate situation, which must be handled with great tact as well as firmness by the Allies. At this distance it would appear that the Poles are asserting too much and are unwilling to rely upon the good faith of the Allied governments. If this be so they must be convinced of the futility of a militant attitude.

FREIGHT BY AIR ROUTE.

The air as a medium of transportation of goods begins to assume considerable importance. Commerce Monthly, published by the National Bank of Commerce in New York, says that foreign trade by air between the United Kingdom and the continent during the calendar year 1920 amounted to £1,022,815. Of this, £271,047 represented imports, and £246,968 were exports. The value of this commerce for the last three months of 1920 was four times larger than for the corresponding period in 1919. "The bulk of the imports during 1920," the bank says, "consisted of women's outer clothing, and fur goods from France, the value of which was £285,500. Hats, hosiery, feathers, jewelry and precious stones, moving picture films and perfumery were among the other articles carried. One of the largest items of export was men's women clothing, valued at £27,706." Travel by the air route between London and Paris is quite commonplace, and now the commercial freighter finds that route convenient for the transportation of light articles. The inventive faculty of man, following scientific discoveries, continues to produce marvelous results in many directions, and in none more so than in the realm of aeronautics.

IN HALIFAX, ALSO.

Halifax is confronted by the same problem in relation to the distribution of hydro-electric power that is just now worrying St. John. At a meeting to discuss the matter this week, we are told: "W. L. Weston, manager of the Nova Scotia Tramway and Power Company, Limited, said that the tram company was quite willing to accept power, from either the city or the committee; on the other hand, they would be perfectly satisfied for the city to take over the tram company at valuation. Alderman Regan seemed much impressed by Mr. Weston's remarks. He was followed by Alderman Whitman. Alderman Murphy said that in his opinion, and in the best interests of the city, an expert engineer should be consulted before the question was finally decided upon." In Halifax, as in St. John, the city must do business with the street railway company in one way or another, and the best plan of doing so, at the same time ensuring cheap power for consumers, is not yet apparent. The power will be available in Halifax at an early date, as the work of development was begun much earlier than at Musquash.

New York Times: "Something like a substitution of dirigibles and airplanes for railway trains as a means of conveying passengers seems to be beginning in parts of Europe, and extensions of the aerial service are planned in several countries. This sort of travel soon will become general is now being tried in Europe, but as a possibility of the future it is credible enough. As for the dangers, they are obvious and to some extent irremediable, but some men who have been flying frequently, if not constantly, for ten years or so are still alive, and it is not for a generation that we have had the automobile the commonest of means for transportation to recall in fright from the not much more perilous machine."

In a recent address from the bench, dealing with youthful delinquency, Mr. Justice Ives of Edmonton made the following striking observations: "Let the parents who hear me now know that they owe more to their children than to their business. There is no excuse for parents not knowing where their children are at the age of sixteen and knowing who they are doing. The pool halls are not the place for them. The street is no place for them after nine o'clock, and joy riding never makes a man. It is time to revert to the good old principle of punishment in the home, and then there will be less punishment to be done in the courts."

ISOLATION IMPOSSIBLE.

There is an increasing realization in the United States that economic isolation is impossible and that that country, no matter how powerful and rich it may be, cannot make a complete recovery without taking into consideration the conditions in Europe. There is even an admission that the emergency tariff put on farm products that had been promised, and that it is, in fact, bound to be a disappointment. On the European relationship, Walter B. Brown, editor of the New York Commercial, writes: "Undoubtedly the key to the whole problem lies in the Europe situation. If that were adjusted our exports could be resumed, the frozen credits of our agricultural community could be released, buying would reassert itself and industry would again start up. In the meantime we are trying to readjust our business affairs to a domestic basis, which means the contraction of our production in some degree, and losses sustained everywhere. Our transportation, our labor and our agricultural problems all represent distortions of our economic life, resulting from the distortion of Europe. Whatever may be our views as to political relationships, we are bound to recognize that there are no political boundary lines in the economic world and that a distortion in one place affects the entire structure."

FEAST OF FLOWERS.

(Rev. George Scott.)
When comes the gladtime Pentecost
The south wind hastens through the bowers,
To summon the impatient host
To revel at the feast of flowers.

The minstrels lead the merry dance,
Tuning their pipes with sprightly skill,
Across the meadows green expanse
And all around the wind-swept hill.

I may not name the brilliant throng
That joined in this high carnival,
I fear 'twould be a grievous wrong
Unless I could enroll them all.

But some were dressed in livery
Of royal purple edged with white,
And some had garments cunningly
With golden brocades bedight.

And some had creamy gabelines,
With collars of a sober buff,
With bodices where pinky shone
Were glittering through the precious stuff.

And some had cloaks of azure blue,
Some pippets of a modest white,
Bedimmed with streaks of softer hue,
To rest the sore bewildered sight.

And some there were whose pouting lips
Were painted with fastidious art,
Whose long and dainty finger tips
Proclaimed them as a race apart.

And some were bold and some were shy,
And some threw passioned kisses
And practised wilful coquetry
To lovelorn swains around their fires.

And so they revelled through the hours,
Unheeding till the darkness fell,
Such was the gracious feast of flowers,
Or so the courtly minstrels tell.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Hereditarily.
"No you believe in hereditarily, Nupur?"
"I certainly do. Why, for instance, is my six-month-old always trying to get his toes in his mouth if it isn't because of his dad's constant struggle to make both ends meet?"

Clari Fool Mother.

Mother—Gladly, you stood on the porch quite a while with that young man last night.
Gladly—Mother, I only stood there for a second.
Mother—But I'm sure I heard the third or fourth—Podsnap.

The Vicious Circle.

Prisoner—Your honor, I admit that I was exceeding the speed limit, but I was afraid of being late at court.
Judge—And what was your business at court?
Prisoner—I had to answer the charge of exceeding the speed limit.—Boston Transcript.

Singin' As You're Swingin'.

Singin' as you're swingin', it's the way to get along.
For there's nothin' beats the measure of a bit of stumpy song.
And it makes the morning brighter and the whole day twice as sweet.
When you're singin' as you're swingin' down the old world's street.

Lots of folk so crazy that they never lift a wing.
Lots of folk so crazy that they never lift a wing.
Singin' as you're swingin' and you'll some day come to find
It's the secret of contentment and of long life to the mind.

The birds are always singin' and the bees and crickets hum;
Has brought new traditions, threatening in some localized instances to overwhelm the old, and time has helped to satisfy the national consciousness. The Tribune adds:

Today there is an American people. Its roots are in the north and east, and its growth is in the west. Although it is chiefly of Anglo-Saxon origin, it contains a large element of the British, and the British in turn contains a large element of the American. It is the New World, just as do the peoples of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It is the way of these peoples, and its interests and ideals are closely akin to theirs. On the basis of likeness the United States, Australia and Canada should find it easy to understand one another.

It is probable that Lord Northcliffe used the term "British" in the generic sense to embrace all the people of British blood living under the British flag. If he did, he asserted what is perfectly true. Only an American citizen of non-British descent or anti-British prejudice would venture to contradict him. The Tribune is warranted also in saying that Australians and Canadians bear the stamp of a new environment. Physical and social influences have differentiated them from the people of the parent country in the same way, though not to the same degree as in the case of the American citizen of non-British descent. The moral is that the great British Empire, with its unique and essential role as links between the Mother Country and the United States, binding the English-speaking world together in ties not the less enduring because they are intangible.

LARGEST AND SMALLEST BOOKS.

In the great library of the British Museum is to be seen the largest book in the world. This is an atlas of beautifully engraved ancient Dutch maps, bound in leather and fastened with clasps of solid silver. It is nearly seven feet high, weighs 800 pounds, and was presented to King Charles II. before leaving Holland in the year 1160.

Side by side with it is the smallest book in the world—a microscopic gem of bookmaking, scarcely larger than a man's thumb nail. This contains the New Testament, inscribed by a German artist of Nuremberg in the early part of the seventeenth century. There are 208 pages, and the lettering is so perfect that it can be read without difficulty. The book measures three-quarters of an inch by two-fifths—London Opinion.

MILLIONS OF WORLDS.

The director of the Allegheny Observatory, Pittsburgh, Dr. H. D. Curtis, in a recent address before the Royal Canadian Institute of Toronto, said: "It is certainly a wonderful, brain-staggering conception that we can look out into space for such distances and can discern perhaps a million other universes than our own, each probably tens of thousands of light-years across, and each probably containing at least a billion suns. More wonderful yet, because it takes light so long to reach us from such objects, we see them at ages varying by tens or hundreds of millions of years, which probably is as one day in the light of such universes. Is there life like our there? Who knows?"

ENGLAND STRONG FOR EDUCATION.

For the first time since 1917 the president of the Board of Education, Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, presented his estimates to the British parliament with an accompanying speech. In the course of the debate Major Gray, M. P., spoke strongly in favor of passing the estimates, and referred to the remarkable fact that while it had been feared on account of the economy cry, that the education estimates would be fiercely attacked in the house, there was practically no attack at all. Sir Edward Carson also strongly supported the education estimates. These are encouraging facts. Major Gray: "To those of us who are deeply interested in the development of national education, the debate this afternoon must be a source of very great encouragement. I had almost feared that when this first opportunity was given to us of discussing the education estimates we might find substantial evidence here of views largely expressed outside in favor of a reduction of our expenditure upon national education. I have been delighted to find that there has been no depreciation of educational expenditure. The fact, therefore, remains that, with every opportunity given to those who desire to curtail expenditure on national education, there has been no evidence of that feeling in the house this afternoon. That is a great source of encouragement to us, and I hope it will be to the minister of education, who has done so much for popular education and who has so well earned the gratitude of all interested in the subject of education that I venture to offer the smallest adverse comment upon the very interesting statement which he made this afternoon."

CHINAMEN VERSUS SOME OTHERS.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)
A TOWN CHINAMAN has written a letter to one of the Toronto papers which makes interesting reading, if only because of his fastidiousness to express himself in English. But he has ideas, too. He points out that the Chinaman is compelled to pay \$20 head tax in order to get into the country. His opportunity is limited, yet he finds useful work to do and he is honest. Apart from a little gambling now and then and an occasional indulgence in opium he gives no trouble. He doesn't organize strikes, he doesn't denounce the constitution, he doesn't seek to overturn the established order of things. Ordinarily he is peaceful, civil and quiet. Yet he has no standing in the country. Compare with him the Red, who pays no head tax, who does not want to work, who is constantly giving trouble by his inflammatory language and his revolutionary methods.

The comparison is not without significance, especially at the present time, when members of the Red element use the freedom of this country to denounce our institutions and to preach revolution after the Russian fashion. If Russia is such an ideal country, why don't these people go there and stay?

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING FAMILY.

(Toronto Globe.)
Lord Northcliffe's assertion that, "despite three thousand miles and thirty million continental immigrants, the British people today are more like the British than any other people," has aroused a good deal of comment in the United States, mostly assenting. The New York Tribune thinks he would be more accurate if he had said "Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians" instead of British. It admits that language and literature have worked steadily for similarity, but contends that to all the institutions, traditions and customs inherited from Great Britain the American people have given a spirit peculiarly their own. New blood has brought new traditions, threatening in some localized instances to overwhelm the old, and time has helped to satisfy the national consciousness. The Tribune adds:

Today there is an American people. Its roots are in the north and east, and its growth is in the west. Although it is chiefly of Anglo-Saxon origin, it contains a large element of the British, and the British in turn contains a large element of the American. It is the New World, just as do the peoples of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It is the way of these peoples, and its interests and ideals are closely akin to theirs. On the basis of likeness the United States, Australia and Canada should find it easy to understand one another.

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SEE WINDOW DISPLAY

MUNICIPAL MUSIC.
(Canadian Municipal Journal.)
The Municipal Council of Melbourne, Australia, is encouraging the young local musical talent of that city by causing a series of concerts to be given in the town hall at which young musicians and singers from the local conservatories perform. Throughout Australia music, as an educational medium for the masses, is encouraged by the municipal councils to the fullest extent. Most of the town hall have fine organs at which frequent recitals are given, often by the municipal organist, who also arranges popular concerts at popular prices. We note that municipal concerts are also popular in South Africa and New Zealand, but in Canada, such means of entertainment and educating the people are not known. A little music—particularly when it is good—does not detract one little bit from the official administration of the community, and the cost, considering the results, is infinitely small.

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