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A Gloomy Review.

A Canadian writing in The Listening Post is nothing if he is not frank in his opinion of the work done, or rather left undone, by the recent Imperial Conference, and he is at no pains to conceal what he considers are the dangers of such Conferences. In referring to the results of the Conference he says:

"The latest Imperial Conference, which occupied the time and energy of the statesmen of the Empire for quite an appreciable period, has certainly not demonstrated that any good results can be expected of such meetings," and he goes on to refer to the rejection of the undertakings of Mr. Baldwin by the electorate as being sufficient to indicate that the whole work of the body was ineffective.

The danger which the writer fears is that there is a tendency on the part of such conferences to usurp the authority belonging by right to the Governments which the various delegates represent. He expresses his fears thus:

"The moment that we allow a body composed as is the Imperial Conference, responsible to no Parliament, with no electoral mandate, even to pass resolutions on Imperial policy—resolutions which cannot help affecting that policy and affecting it to a very serious degree—we are allowing an inroad upon our political freedom, we are allowing a breach of the privileges of Parliament, we are undermining every one of those British traditions of which we are so proud. When the Imperial Conference becomes an Imperial Soviet it is time to drop it."

The fact that the most prominent speakers from the Dominions at the Imperial Conference clearly laid down that they were in attendance simply to discuss measures of importance to the Empire as a whole, and to arrive at decisions which might at a later date be laid before their Parliaments, is sufficient to indicate that the body had no intention of assuming any such powers. The proposed preferential tariff of ex-Premier Baldwin was clearly understood to be subject to the ratification of the British Parliament. The question of Imperial defence and Imperial communication never went further than the discussion stage, and altogether it is difficult to ascertain by what action the writer's fears are raised. It is equally difficult to understand why he feels so despondent as to its results. Because nothing of a concrete nature was decided upon, it does not follow that the Conference was without beneficial results. A perusal of the speeches of the representatives fully indicates that the coming together of the statesmen certainly helped to remove many misunderstandings, to arouse in the Dominions and the Mother Country a stronger feeling of regard and respect for one another, and to bring the constituent parts of the Empire more closely together.

Dick Fraser is writing "Statistical articles for the Reviews" instead of "Autobiography of a Spider." You remember how well he did that? See him in "Belinda."—Feb. 6.

Sir Richard Squires Under Cross-Examination By Attorney General.

When the cross-examination of Sir Richard Squires was resumed yesterday afternoon, the Attorney General questioned him on his views when Miss Miller had informed him of the \$46,000 accommodation. Sir Richard said he regarded it as a Jim Miller accommodation for the Daily Star. Asked if he made any enquiry of Miss Miller as to when the accommodation was to be met, the witness said no, all he did was object to her giving his personal cheque as a voucher. Asked if he had ever accepted a voucher from the Star, the witness said he may have on one or more occasions taken a cheque and given cash, afterwards redeeming the cheque when the Star would be in funds. Explaining about the \$46,000 cheque, Sir Richard said that when it was given her Miss Miller was aware from her knowledge of the Star finances that there were no funds to meet it. The witness was then shown a cheque for \$89.73 on the Bank of Nova Scotia, which was given to Jas. Miller during March, 1921, and asked if he knew that the Star had an account at the Bank at that period. His reply was that he did not know but he could find out by phoning the bank. His impression was that the Star did not have an active account there and he did not think that they had credit at any bank so that presenting a cheque for \$46,000 would be futile. The Commissioner asked the witness what was the object in issuing the cheque knowing as he did that it was improperly signed. Sir Richard replied that it was simply intended as a voucher, Miller knew it had no value excepting to show that the money had been passed over to the Star.

The Attorney General asked why he gave Miller a bogus cheque instead of an ordinary receipt. Sir Richard replied that he had no idea of the thoughts operating in his mind at the moment. He had no idea that the cheque would ever be used except as a voucher to satisfy Miller's principals.

COMMISSIONER.—Am I right in believing the \$46,000 is a subscription from the Besco?

A.—No demand has ever been made on me either by Miller or Besco for the money.

Asked by the Commissioner when he first learned that the \$46,000 had been paid by the Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Sir Richard replied that he could not tell the exact date, the actual bank account showing the debits and credits did not come under his notice until some time after his resignation. The Commissioner pressed for a direct answer and Sir Richard replied that he could not say.

The Attorney General next put some questions as to what conversation took place on the Sunday afternoon that Miller went to his residence with the cheques. Sir Richard could not tell why he came there nor could he say if Miller handed them to him first or he had asked Miller for them.

He (Sir Richard) received them and for all he could say they might have been handed to him on a silver salver. The Attorney General, putting the question again to the witness in a rather lengthy manner was interrupted by Mr. Howley, inquiring if he was making a speech. The Commissioner questioned what Mr. Howley was doing, advising him that if he had anything to say to direct it to him rather than to Mr. Warren. He agreed that the Attorney General's question was long. Following this diversion the Attorney General asked the witness what he said to Miller when he gave him the cheques. Sir Richard said he told Miller that on the next day he would give him in lieu of the Star voucher. Asked if he used the word voucher or cheque, the witness said he did not remember but on the next morning he told Miss Miller to get the sums and make out a Star cheque for the amount. According to the witness a cheque for \$46,000 on the Bank of Nova Scotia and he had it signed by Dr. Mossell. Sir Richard said he paid no attention to the fact that the cheque was made out on a Bank of Nova Scotia form.

Asked if he thought it a dangerous practice to draw a cheque on a bank in which he had no funds, the witness replied that it was not an ordinary practice in commercial life. It did not occur to him that the cheque might be negotiated. He did not remember Miller making any demur about accepting it. The now famous cheque was then exhibited by the Attorney General. The stamps on it showed that it had been deposited by Miller at the bank in Wabana on March 28th. On April 2nd it was marked paid, at St. John's the paid stamp was cancelled. The Attorney General remarked that it took the bank six days to find out there were no funds and then asked Sir Richard if he knew anything about it. Sir Richard replied no.

In answer to the Attorney General, Sir Richard reviewed the proceedings in the House during 1921 when the Bell Island agreement was being discussed. This was followed by the production of a letter from Mr. Gills of July 2nd, and Sir Richard was asked to read the last paragraph.

This he said indicated that the company was seeking a modification of their contract. Asked when was the next time he heard of the company's desire for a modified contract, Sir Richard said he recollected that in the autumn of 1921 whilst in Montreal two matters were discussed with Mr. Wolvin and Mr. McDougall. These matters were labor and modification. When he talked labor to them they talked modification of the contract. They were keen about getting clear of the blast furnace clause. A document from Mr. Meany addressed to Sir Richard dated Dec. 19th 1921 was then put in evidence. It read as follows:—"Sir, I just received a message from my daughter at Montreal who is ill, and I desire to go there at as early as possible, and would be very glad if you will grant me permission to do so."

A copy of a reply granting the leave of absence was also put in evidence. Sir Richard said he saw Meany at Montreal, but did not remember seeing Miller. Mr. Meany introduced his sick daughter to him and said she was getting better. Reminded by the Commissioner that Meany said he (Sir Richard) had suggested the idea of the sick daughter for the purpose of getting leave, Sir Richard said that was not true. Asked if Mr. Curtis' evidence that he had requested that the Globe & Raiger account be put in funds was correct, Sir Richard said he remembered receiving a message from him whilst en route to Montreal. When first asked about the matter by Mr. Curtis, he had in mind that a substantial contribution in insurance premiums was due to come in, which would put the funds in credit. The cheque he expected would be on the Bank of Montreal, and when he received the S.O.B. from Mr. Curtis he wrote a letter to Miss Miller conferring on her Power of Attorney so that the cheque could be cashed. The Commissioner was satisfied with the answer and asked what was done to meet the pressing demand of his partner, Mr. Curtis. In reply Sir Richard said Miss Miller got the money, \$5,000, and if it did not come in as insurance money from Besco, it meant that they owed the firm according to their books \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER.—If the money came later than that date from them, it would show that you owed Miller a lot of money?

A.—Our insurance records would show that.

In answer to the Commissioner Sir Richard said he never acknowledged to Mr. Wolvin or Mr. McDougall having received the \$46,000, nor did they mention it to him. The Commissioner then questioned the witness as to the possible object of a corporation having so many shareholders contributing to political campaign funds. Sir Richard replied said he had received some small contributions from other corporations than the one under discussion. By small amount Sir Richard said he meant those not exceeding \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER.—Party funds are always mysterious things as they are in this transaction.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—You know of no reason for the Besco contribution except the generosity of the Company?

A.—They certainly got none from me, nor did the officers of the Company suggest the idea of any consideration.

The COMMISSIONER then referred to Miss Miller's evidence about Mr. Meany going to Montreal in connection with obtaining money from the Steel Co. Sir Richard said this was untrue.

Reminded that Meany in his evidence said that Sir Richard talked to him in the same autumn of the suggested change and modification of the contract for monetary consideration for the amendments, Sir Richard replied that Meany's evidence was partly true in that he was talking of labor troubles on Bell Island in which he was greatly interested and he told him he thought the companies would be prepared to subscribe to the campaign funds. I took no notice of his observations because I had in mind that they had already subscribed.

COMMISSIONER.—But further subscriptions?

A.—No, I might have accepted if the original was only \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER.—Some people may think that the original was \$5,000.

Sir Richard replied that he did not, that Mr. Meany was a K.C. of Canada and would not be a party to such a transaction.

The COMMISSIONER replying said he would be delighted to meet Mr. Meany and hear what he had to say on the subject in view of the evidence of Meany and Miller.

Adjournment was taken at 5 p.m. until this morning at 10.30, when the cross-examination of Sir Richard will be resumed.

Mr. Weston Stirling who so delighted his audience in "Facing the Music" is playing in "Belinda."—Feb. 6.

Latest News From Shoe Cove Wreck

Yesterday afternoon Captain T. Volsey returned from Shoe Cove, to which place he had conveyed Mr. Finney, the Agent of the Union Trading Company, who is making an investigation to ascertain if possible the identity of the vessel which apparently met her doom there. Leaving here on Saturday morning, the party arrived at Cappahayden on Sunday at 1 p.m. On their way they met the mailman of Ranewa, who was the first to locate signs of wreckage at Shoe Cove and to find the bag marked George Howse. Later the second bag bearing the name of Harold Sheppard was found. This seems to confirm the fears that the vessel was the "Conker," but no bodies were to be found. On Saturday another bag was found but there were no marks by which it could be identified. This was brought back to town by Mr. Volsey. All three bags were empty and the latter was locked. In the Cove appears to be a strand of wire which is thought to be part of the rigging of a vessel, and on the shore have been picked up the body of a small dog and the piece of an oar. As soon as the weather permits boats will proceed to the scene and a thorough search will be made. The inhabitants of Shoe Cove are of the opinion that the tragedy must have taken place about a fortnight ago, when a dense fog shrouded the coast and a gale of wind was blowing on the shore.

Silvia Anchored Under Cape Race

HEAVY SEA RUNNING.
A message from Capt. Mitchell of the Red Cross liner Silvia, was received by the Agents, Harvey & Co., yesterday afternoon, stating that the ship was in Cape Race Cove, awaiting the storm to abate. This morning a similar message was received, stating that the ship was compelled to remain in the same position while a raging sea was on outside. As soon as weather conditions become more favorable, she will proceed.

Rotary Club Weekly Meeting

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club was held at the West End Restaurant at 1 p.m. yesterday. Rotarian Peter O'Meara in the chair. The speaker of the day was Mr. D. J. Davies, B.Sc., who gave a masterly address on the life of Lloyd George from boyhood to the present time. Following the address, Mr. G. B. Lloyd contributed a song "March of the Men of Harlech" in the Welsh tongue, which was greatly appreciated by the gathering. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was extended to the lecturer and those who had assisted in the musical part of the programme. The luncheon concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

"Lighthouse Nan"

Reproduced at Canon Wood Hall.
A large audience was present at Canon Wood Hall last night to witness the reproduction of the three-act comedy "Lighthouse Nan," played by the St. Mary's Amateur Dramatic Troupe. The performers were quite at home in their different roles, and the audience showed their appreciation enthusiastically. Between the acts specialties were rendered by Messrs. Wallace and Lawrence, Misses Howlett, Redstone, O'Neill and Primm, while the rendition of pleasing numbers by the G.L.E. orchestra added greatly to the evening's entertainment. The final performance will take place this evening.

Girl Guides

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.
The first annual meeting of the Girl Guide Association of Newfoundland takes place in the Methodist College Hall at 8 o'clock this evening. His Excellency the Governor has kindly consented to be present. The reports of the different officers will be read and the Brownies and Guides have arranged a short and attractive programme of songs and dances. The work of the Association shows steady progress and there is a total increase in their numbers of over 700. It is hoped that all members of the Association, relations of the Guides and those interested in this movement will be present, and that the result of the year's work may attract further workers, sympathy and support.

Shipping.

S.S. Yankton is at Louisburg having her bunkers replenished before proceeding to this port.

S.S. Dixie sailed this morning with a cargo of liquor, en route to a foreign port.

S.S. Digby is due here from Boston and Halifax early to-morrow morning.

S.S. Sackville left Liverpool for this port on the 2nd, and is scheduled to leave St. John's for Halifax and Boston on the 12th.

Don't forget the Card Party, Supper and Dance, Star Hall, Wednesday, February 6th. A good time assured all. Tickets 70c.—Feb. 6.

Stronger and Stronger Every Day-- The Popular STAR Movie

Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie

No. 1—Opening Ensemble.

- (a) My Buddy.
- (b) Who's Sorry Now?
- (c) Way Down Yonder in New Orleans.

Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie.

No. 2—Last Night on the Back Porch. Mr. J. Pete Zabriskie

No. 3—Bass Solo—Any Old Port in a Storm. Mr. C. B. Foster.

No. 4—Mamma Goes Where Papa Goes. Mr. Chester A. Hawkes.

No. 5—Popular Dance Hits.

- (a) Rose of the Rio Grande.
- (b) When Hearts Were Young.
- (c) Seven or Eleven.

Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie.

No. 6—Roses of Picardy.

Mr. J. Pete Zabriskie.

Grand Finale—"Oh, Gee, Oh, Gosh."
Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie.

Musical Direction:
Chester A. Hawkes.

That Dynamic Star—DOROTHY DALTON, in

"The Woman Who Walked Alone"

A Sensational Love-Drama with Milton Sills, Charles Ogle and Wanda Hawley.

NOTE:—The Coloured Artistes will appear at 4 in the Afternoons, and Twice at Nights.

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

LABOUR PARTY MUST PREPARE PROGRAMME.

LONDON, Feb. 6.

The new government is energetically working to be in readiness to meet Parliament next week. Cabinet meetings are held almost daily and a number of committees are studying the different problems. An important conference will assemble to-morrow privately to discuss housing, unemployment, and agricultural questions. With regard to foreign affairs, it is reported that Premier MacDonald contemplates a visit to Paris in May after the French elections, which it is hoped may bring together a Chamber better disposed to meet the British views on reparations question. The Premier ridicules the gloomy prognostication of falling securities when Labor took power, and asserts that securities are rising and that the business world is working forward to the relief of stability.

VERA CRUZ EVACUATED.

TAMPIO, Feb. 6.

Vera Cruz was evacuated to-day by Rebel forces, according to an official message from Irapuato by President Obregon to the Federal commander here. The President informed the commander that he had received news from a cable in Vera Cruz that Huerto had gone to Progreso or Frontera on board a Rebel battleship.

Holiday Bill at Majestic

RAVIN AND KELLY IN GREAT FORM.

To-day is the last chance to see Charles Ray in "A Tailor-Made Man," one of the best nine reel pictures seen in St. John's for many years. With Charles Ray are a number of the film world. The picture is voted the most interesting realistic production of its kind ever presented. Every second of the nine reels is a spark of new interest that will grip you to the impulsive finish. The Bostonian vandville team, Ravin and Kelly, are also seen in a bang up act. The portrayal of the latest society waltz, Step, Buck and Wing dancing have delighted thousands and their classy songs and musical talks are also worthy of special mention. See them this afternoon or to-night. A big show with a big picture and a big vaudeville act that spits cleverness, wit and refinement throughout. This afternoon the artists will appear at 4 p.m. Keep posted on the complete change which will be advertised to-morrow.

GRAND SHOE STYLE EXHIBITION

The pride of Shoe Tradersmen in Newfoundland, in S. MILLEY'S window. Enter the competition and help them forecast the popular styles for spring. Entry forms at Milley's or at your Shoe Store. First prize \$100.00, and 5 others—pair shoes each.—Feb. 5.

BORN.

This morning, a son to Terence G. and Mrs. Cooper, Greatview, Freshwater Road.

DIED.

Passed peacefully away, last night, after a lingering illness, Herbert Pennington, son of the late Thomas and Sarah Pennington, leaving to mourn their sad loss a wife, three children, three step-sisters and one step-brother. Funeral on Friday at 2.30 p.m. from his late residence, 46 Pleasant Street. Boston and Sydney papers please copy. There passed peacefully away, on the 5th inst., after a short illness, James, beloved son of Michael and the late Catherine Malone, aged 18 years, leaving to mourn their sad loss 2 sisters, 1 brother, 2 step-brothers, 1 step-sister and a large circle of friends. Funeral on Thursday at 2.30 p.m. from his late residence, 53 Bond Street. R.I.P.

NINARD'S LINIMENT USED BY PHYSICIANS.

Forty-Five Years in the Service of the Public—The Evening Telegram.

Pictorial Review Patterns

Still the Favourites.

A few Winter FASHION BOOKS
in stock.

CHAS. HUTTON

THE HOME OF MUSIC.

Just received another shipment

**Staon
Stove
Polish**
**30 cts.
per bottle.**

Wm. J. Clouston, Ltd.
184 Water Street.

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the Public—The Evening Telegram.