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BAIRD & CO. WHOLESALE AGENTS ST. JOHN'S

Through Canadian Eyes.

A MISCELLANY OF REMARKS AND COMMENTS FROM THE LAND OF THE MAPLE LEAF.

(By J. R. Smallwood, Halifax Herald.)

I should explain that I do not claim to be writing as a Canadian as might be supposed from reading the headline I am interpreting the sentiment of Canadians and expressing it in my own words. Where any remarks are my own observation and not expression of Canadian thought the reader will have no difficulty in perceiving the fact.

"Bat the Rat!"

A campaign to start a campaign is now being carried on by a newspaper in Halifax. The campaign which this newspaper wishes to see started is one for the extermination of rats. Halifax, in common with thousands of other cities, swarms with the rodent, and incredible damage is done by them. Every seaport town has always been more or less infested with rats; since the war the number has in all cases increased and now, the contention is, the North American continent is threatened with Bubonic Plague. Already, in Mexico, and in some cities of the Southern States, Bubonic plague has appeared and claimed victims. In such cities rats, when found, were disease-bearing. Bubonic, with typhus, plague, are caused by a flea, and the rats carry the flea and transfer them to human beings. Poland, Roumania, Serbia and other European cities have been plague-swept since the ending of the war, and now, disease-carrying rats have come across in ships, the New World is to have its turn unless steps to prevent are taken. In Winnipeg, Manitoba, the city council pays 19 cents each for rats' tails and there boys have organized themselves into rat-killing clubs and exterminated them. In Seattle, Wash., U.S.A., the grant is 20 cents. In other cities, in Southern States, determined steps are being taken. Ships entering har-

bors are searched and fumigated. It would be interesting to know how many rats there are in St. John's. A rat-exterminating campaign there might not be altogether unnecessary.

Canadian Politics.

All the indications are that, in the next general election, the Federal government of Ottawa will be defeated. Wherever a provincial or a Federal bye-election is being held the Ottawa government is being rejected in favor of either the Liberals or the Labor-Farmer group. Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia have only to be mentioned to show the trend. In Ontario they have a Labor-Farmer government and in Nova Scotia a Liberal, with good Labor-Farmer representation. The Conservative government at Ottawa has grown in unpopularity for the past two years and to-day it is in a shaky position.

A Canadian Challenger.

It looks now as if the next challenger for the America's Cup will be a Canadian. A. C. Ross, a Sydney man, and member of the Cape Breton Yacht Club, wired a challenge from Toronto and was answered by J. Pierpont Morgan, commodore of the New York Yacht Club, holder of the America's Cup, to the effect that the challenge would have to come from a regularly registered club and not from an individual member. Ross thereupon wired the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and the squadron wired back that it could not agree to anything until it had assurances that the money with which to build the yacht would be forthcoming. Ross says that the money (it would take from a million to a million and a half dollars) will be raised by popular subscription. I gathered from conversation with Commodore R. G. DeWolf, of the Yacht Squadron, that his club members are just a little nettled at Ross for challenging without first consulting the club. Whether this will make any difference with the challenge is hard to say.

The Wheat Crop.

The wheat crops in Canada this year promise to be well above the average. Combined with the fact that American crops will be far above

the average this looks as if flour will be much cheaper. With cheaper grains everything will be cheap. Pork and beef and poultry will be cheaper when the grains with which they are fed are cheaper. A big wheat crop, therefore, means cheaper everything. **Goose!—\$10,000,000.**

Genuine regret at the turn of events in the British-Polish-Russian situation is felt in Canada. Right on top of the announcement that the Soviet government had \$10,000,000 in gold to place in banks for Canadian goods comes the announcement that Lloyd George has decided, practically, to declare war again on Russia and reimpose the blockade. Not only Canadian business will regret it, in Great Britain Leonid Krassin has made final arrangements for trading with English business men and now—now that gold is gone! Really, however, it is hard to believe that Lloyd George means what he says. He is the one who brought Krassin and his couple of dozen conferees to London to talk business, and he did so knowing that there was in Russia a vast amount of exportable wheat and other goods. To now destroy forever British chances of trading with Russia surely were too much to expect of him? Both Britain and France warned Poland against waging warfare on Russia, too, and it is pretty certain that they are not too sympathetic for that, now that, like the small boy who investigates the wasp's nest, she has been stung!

Cheaper Potatoes.

St. John's may reasonably look forward to cheaper potatoes this fall and winter. In Prince Edward Island, from which Newfoundland gets such a large quantity of "spuds," this season's crop is the best in its history. There was never as big an acreage under cultivation as this year, moreover, and the yield is expected to be beyond anything ever known. I must repeat here a story told me by a man from Charlottetown. A man from United States settled down on the island and started to grow potatoes. Last year he grew 300 bushels on each acre. This year he has 400 acres set out. It's a pity that we can't grow potatoes like that in Newfoundland. The American imports his fertilizer from United States and to this he attributes his phenomenal yield. **Saltfax, Saturday, Aug. 7.**

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Mainly About People.

"Hi, Prince! Will you tell me what your weight is?" This was the query shouted at the Prince of Wales as he was about to leave the station at Luchland, New Zealand. An attempt was made to have the man silenced, but the Prince smilingly replied: "Oh, certainly! It is 140 pounds. I suppose you have made a bet on it." The man replied: "Right you are." "Well," said the Prince, "I hope you have won." "No, I lost," the man shouted, "but you are a good sport and I thank you."

The birthplace of Arthur Meighen, the new premier, was a farm, and his first job was peddling milk for his father in the nearby town of St. Mary's, Ont. When he graduated from the University of Toronto with the degree of Bachelor of Arts tacked to his name he taught school for a year or two. Then he went to Winnipeg, and after a brief spell at high school work became a manufacturer's agent. But even then he had not found his niche, for he took up the study of law, after graduating in which he hung out his shingle in Portage la Prairie, a new town a few miles west of Winnipeg, and which for 12 years he has continuously represented in the federal parliament.

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"Wanted—For Murder"

FUGITIVES WITH FATE AGAINST THEM.

In eluding his searchers for six weeks, Toplis, the motor-car murderer, shot down like a mad dog in a Cumberland road recently, created almost a record in elusiveness.

"Wanted" men have rarely, in recent years, baffled police pursuit so long, while the number of those wanted for murder who have defied capture is strikingly small.

Crippen escaped for a month the hands that sought so eagerly to clutch him, but the snap of the handcuffs on the wicked wrists was only delayed so long because he was on board ship. He was "located" some ten days before, and the days passed while the vessel he was on came carrying its prey closer and closer to the waiting hunters.

For close on a fortnight James Canham Read, the murderer of Florence Dennis—whom he shot in a cornfield near Southsea—contrived to throw his seekers off his track. Under a false name, and having effected considerable changes in his clothes and appearance, he had sought refuge in a pretty little cottage in a Surrey village. There he seemed to imagine he was perfectly safe. But one evening the Scotland Yard detectives pounced upon him.

For ten days Lefroy, the murderer of Mr. Gold on the Brighton railway, remained hidden while every eye was searching for him. He had taken a bed-sitting-room in a quiet street in Stepney, and remained indoors all day, informing his landlady that he was an engraver suffering from overwork, whose eyes would not bear the light. At last his landlady, growing uneasy, went to the police station, and an hour later Lefroy was arrested.

Disarmed Suspicion.

Jackson, the murderer of a warder in Strangeways Prison, Manchester, who he had been confined, baffled his pursuers for over three weeks. Having made a few changes in his clothes, he mixed boldly with people, frequented public-houses, and made a large number of acquaintances, whom he entertained by singing to them. At night he used to burgle houses to secure the means to enjoy himself during the daytime. He carried in his pocket an execrable likeness of himself which he had cut out of a newspaper, and this helped considerably to disarm suspicion. He showed it to his companions, and, as there was no likeness between the picture of "Jackson, the Man Wanted for Murder," and himself, suspicious persons were put off the scent. Jackson's horror of sleeping by himself ultimately led to his arrest.

A bad likeness in a newspaper has often served a criminal. Eyraud, the man concerned with Gabrielle Bonaparte in the sensational murder of M. Couffe, escaped to Havana, after flying over the United States, Canada, and other parts of the world. Like Jackson, he carried an alleged picture

of himself, which he produced when he found a questioning eye upon him. "A man the other day declared I must be Eyraud," he would say, laughingly. "Eyraud, the fellow wanted for murder! Now, here's a picture of the villain. Do I look like that?"

One of the most sensational man-hunts was that for Franz Muller, who murdered a Mr. Briggs on the North London Railway. Suspicion only centred on Muller through the identification of a hat nine days after the murder, and it was discovered then that Muller had sailed in a ship for New York two days previously. His vessel, however, was a sailing one, and the detectives took a steamer. When Muller's ship arrived at New York he found them awaiting him. He had escaped arrest for six weeks.

Two men wanted for murder in recent years whom the police have failed to run to earth are a man named Blatch, wanted on suspicion of having murdered his employer, a tailor named Welch, at Colchester, in 1883, and a sailor suspected of the murder of a woman in Battersea some ten years ago. In 1901 a man supposed to be Blatch was arrested in New Zealand, but proved to be an entirely different person.—Tit-Bits.

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By Gene Byrnes



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