

REVIEW OF YEAR NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

MOST TRAGIC PARADOX.

Another year is bringing its tale of weal and woe to a close. Fortunately no Messina horror has wrung the heart-strings of humanity. Happily, too, no great war has impoverished exchequers, desolated homes and decimated families. But the mad amassing of armaments has been continued, although their burdens are staggering humanity.

"The most tragic paradox of our time is that in almost every country one of the most prominent topics of Parliamentary debate is the enormous expenditure upon armaments," said Premier Asquith, speaking at the Guild Hall, London, on November 9th. "We all admit the evil. Each country by itself is helpless to arrest the progress of armaments."

Great Britain and Germany are the great rivals, Germany having taken upon herself to rival Britain on the Seas. Recently a French Admiral declared a clash was inevitable, and expressed fear that France would be drawn into the whirlpool and eventually have to pay the piper in colonial territory and money, unless she too took up the race for the possession of huge floating armaments. So long as Germany pursues this policy—which is not needed to protect colonial possessions or oversea traffic, and can only be interpreted as a menace to the many colonial states and imperial dependencies of Great Britain and to the floating possessions at sea—Great Britain must ensure her own. Never has this course been made more imperative than during the current year.

A CENTURY OF PEACE.

A ray of hope has begun to gleam during the year in the possibility of establishing an *entente* between the rival nations on the lines of the Convention of 1904, which has done so much during the past six years to improve the relations between France and England. The eyes of publicists have also been turned to the understanding which has kept the peace between the two great sections of the English-speaking people for almost one hundred years. During the present year a commencement was made in the preparation to celebrate the Centenary of a hundred years of peace between England and America. And it augurs much for the force of this desire for international peace which strangely enough is contemporaneous and concurrent with stupendous expenditure for war—that the Reference of the Fishery Dispute to the Hague Tribunal has been wonderfully successful, and the Award was received with a universal satisfaction by those concerned, a marked contrast to the reception of either the Alaskan or any other Award.

The potentialities of this reference and award as an object lesson in the possibilities of maintaining the world's peace cannot be over-rated, and in this regard 1910 is a red-letter year in the Twentieth Century.

AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD.

The words of President Lammasch in opening the arbitration should help to blaze a path through the worst international tangle. He said in part:—

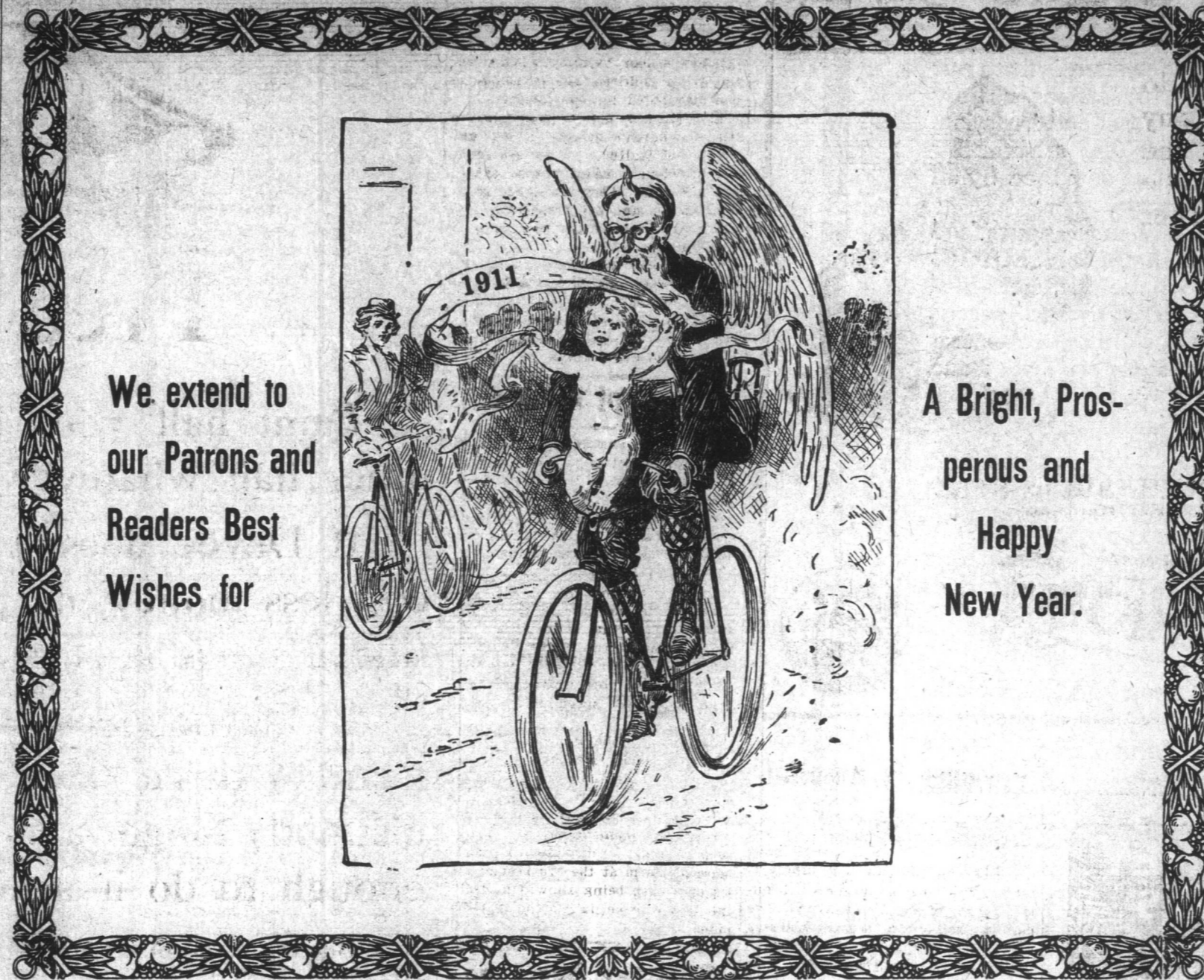
"Matters of great importance have been adjusted in these modest, provisional rooms, some of them involving the most delicate questions of sovereignty and national pride. All implicating intricate problems of international law.

"But perhaps never till now has there been entrusted to an arbitral tribunal a question of such gravity and of so complex a nature as in the present case of almost secular standing. Many of the documents in this case are prior to the independence of the United States of America, some of them go as far back as the seventeenth century. Upwards from 1818, during more than ninety years, the questions implicated in the present arbitration have been the subject of almost uninterrupted diplomatic correspondence and transaction, and more than once they have brought the two great seafaring nations of Europe and America to the verge of the extremities of war.

"And now these two nations, to which the world is indebted for so much of its progress in every sphere of human thought and action, have agreed to submit their long-standing conflict to the arbitration of this Tribunal.

"In doing so, they have expressed their full confidence in this peaceful mode of resolving international differences, which the first Conference of 1899 has recognized as the most efficacious and at the same time the most equitable method of deciding controversies which have not been settled by diplomatic means.

"In doing so, these governments have set an example for the whole community of nations,



We extend to
our Patrons and
Readers Best
Wishes for

A Bright, Pros-
perous and
Happy
New Year.

and have acquired a new merit in the sublime cause of international justice and peace, to the progress of which they have contributed perhaps more than any other nation, especially under the peaceful reign of a great King, whose premature and sudden loss his vast Empire lamented in the last few weeks, and under the presidency of that illustrious statesman who has the historical merit of having initiated the first meeting of this Court in the 'Pious Fund' case."

We have given this much space to these questions of peace and war from the great place these questions have occupied in the year 1910, and from the fact that the arbitration proceedings have much bearing in the future peace of the world, and particularly that Newfoundland was the part of the British Empire most concerned in these disputes.

THE PEACEMAKER'S PASSING.

Another event which profoundly impressed the world, and which was a sad affliction to the Empire at large, was the demise of King Edward VII. From the good understanding he had brought about in Europe he had years before earned the honorific title of Peacemaker, but it was not until after he had passed away that it was in any full measure realized how favourably he had impressed the world. Strangely enough, he was taken away just at a time when his magnetic personality with its grand qualities of suavity, tact and sense seemed most needed as a Moderator between the contending Houses of the Imperial Parliament. His Majesty caught a chill in the spring of the year and in May he had an attack of bronchitis. On Thursday, May 5th, it was announced that the King was seriously ill. On Friday there was no change for the better, and at 11.45 p.m. the King passed away in the presence of Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal and Princess Louise, and all the world felt they had lost a distinguished and chivalrous King whose sympathy for humanity made him eager to promote the peace of the world.

The body lay in state in Westminster Hall for over two days. An hour after the door opened it was estimated that 100,000 were in the queue, which was then two miles long, waiting their turn to enter. Next day the queue was at one time five miles long.

On the 20th the body of the King was borne in a great funeral pageant from Westminster Hall through the crowded streets to St. George's Chapel at Windsor, where the funeral service was conducted by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. After the committal, King George stepped on the dais and laid the King's Company colour upon the coffin. The Coffin was then conveyed to the Royal Tomb House, and the Garter King of

Arms proclaimed the styles of the late King and afterwards those of the new King.

Memorial services were held in all parts of the world, and in no part of the world were they joined in more sympathetically than in Newfoundland. The official service was held in the C. of E. Cathedral, and the Bishop of Newfoundland preached a most impressive sermon for the occasion.

KING GEORGE V.

Immediately after the death of King Edward, King George V. was proclaimed in all parts of his dominions. In Newfoundland His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ralph Williams, read the proclamation before the Colonial Building in presence of a vast concourse of the lieges. His Majesty has fixed the date of the Coronation for a day in July next. He has also created his eldest son, Prince of Wales, and acceded to the wish of the Welsh people that there shall be a renewal of the ancient investiture, which has been fixed to take place at Carnarvon Castle in July next.

Happily the vexed question of the Royal Declaration has been disposed of, and formulated by Parliament in the following terms:—

"I do solemnly and sincerely in the presence of God profess, testify, and declare that I am a faithful Protestant, and I will, according to the true intent of the enactments which secure the Protestant succession to the Throne of my Realm, uphold and maintain the said enactments to the best of my powers according to law."

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS.

King George came to his Throne when political parties were in the throes of a great constitutional crisis. Death quietened the noise of the discord, and Public Opinion insisted on a breathing time for the new King. Twelve months ago the Budget issue was referred to the Electorate. The House of Lords accepted the decision as adverse to them. The Asquith Government determined to push forward a measure to restrict generally the power of the Upper House to reject time after time legislation passed by the House of Commons. In the midst of this struggle King Edward passed away, and in the Fall an effort at conciliation was made by a Conference of the leaders of the two great parties. This failed, and as the House of Lords did not accept the Veto Bill, another appeal was made to the Electorate which has again resulted unfavourably to the House of Lords. There the matter now stands.

HOME RULE ALL ROUND.

A marked feature of the year has been the prominence given to the Home Rule question, not only in the recent election, but more especially in the Unionist Press, which called

for a larger conference to take up the matter of devolution.

Mr. Garvin in the Observer, and Mr. Oliver as "Pacifus" in the Times were the strongest advocates of this course.

In reference to it, the Manchester Guardian said:—

"Not once, but over and over again Mr. Asquith has insisted that the condition of Home Rule must be the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament, and Mr. Redmond has accepted the condition. How far is such a measure of Home Rule from one that Mr. Balfour and the Conservative Party could accept? Not very far, we imagine. And in view of the wild talk that is going on in Ulster it has become Mr. Balfour's duty to say so."

Another feature of Imperial interest was the opening by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught of the new Parliament of the United States of South Africa.

Our neighbours across the Gulf have been making great strides in the West, and the tide of immigration from both Europe and America continues to move strongly to the great prairie lands of the North-West.

In the older Canada, the great event of the year was the holding of the Eucharistic Conference at Montreal last September.

In the neighbouring Republic, one of the features of the year was the dethronement of Cannon, the autocrat of the American Parliament, the fierce campaign of Roosevelt, his sudden extinguishment and the marked success of the Democratic party.

In Latin Europe, the Portuguese bolt from the blue was the great sensation, King Manuel was dethroned, monarchy abolished and a republic set up in its place.

TRAGEDIES AT XMAS.

The Toronto Telegram says: "Is the week before Christmas, 1910, to be remembered in history as seven days of disaster?"

"Monday was saddened by the gas explosion in New York, Wednesday by the colliery disaster that cost over 300 lives in England, and the fire that claimed the sacrifice of fifteen firemen in Philadelphia, Thursday by the conflagration in which twenty firemen perished at Chicago."

NEWFOUNDLAND.

So far as Newfoundland is concerned, one of the important incidents of the year was the arbitration at the Hague and the satisfactory nature of the Award. Newfoundland has established on certain and sure foundations the right to regulate her fishery on the Treaty Coast, and to forbid, if she so determines, the

employment of Newfoundlanders on American fishing vessels in the Treaty waters. This Award places her in a most favourable position to deal with the discrimination exercised against Newfoundland caught fish exported to America by Newfoundlanders.

The outstanding features of the codfishery of the year are the remarkable success of the banking fleet and the great shortage in the Labrador catch.

The net result has been to enhance the price of the staple, and at present high prices prevail. The sealfishery proved a great success, and the Dreadnoughts of the fleet justified the investment made in them as seal hunters.

At Grand Falls some records have been established in the way of the output of paper from the machines. There have also been considerable development and arrangements made to double the cut of billets to feed the pulp plant.

Among the distinguished visitors of the year to Grand Falls was Earl Grey, the Governor-General of Canada, who with his suite paid a short visit to Lord and Lady Northcliffe and inspected the works and settlement. Lord Brassey and Sir Thomas Grattan Esmonde also inspected the works. At Bishop's Falls the pulp mills of the Albert Reed Company are also approaching completion, and the grinding of pulp will soon be started there.

The lure of the Labrador has taken the form of a rush for timber areas there. What the outcome may be, the future must disclose. The licensees have much faith in their holdings.

Sir Clifton Robinson paid a visit here on behalf of English capitalists with the object of reporting to them on Newfoundland as a field for remunerative investment. Unfortunately on his way home he died suddenly in a New York tram car. The agents here report that those interested will still continue their investigations.

In the Fall an exhibition was held on a much larger scale than had ever been attempted here before. It proved a decided success. The Prince's Rink was pushed to its full capacity to provide for the demands made by local manufacturers on its space, each of them vying with the other in the effort to make his exhibit attractive, and a stimulus to the sightseers to patronize local industries more in the future than they had done in the past. The Agricultural exhibits in the Curling Rink were also a revelation, particularly the exhibits of poultry. In connection with Agricultural development the advice of Dr. Robertson as a result of his visit here should prove helpful.

In legislative matters the passing of the Branch Railway Contract, the provision for raising money to build the branches, the taxation by agreement of the Bell Island Ore Companies, were the most noteworthy. As a result the loan was raised and the Bonavista Branch is near completion.

We cannot close this brief review of the more prominent events of the year without advertent to the two marine disasters which cast a gloom on all some few weeks ago. The loss of lives by the wreck of the s.s. Regulus and the Golden Arrow was unusually large. Those left desolate were still more numerous, and their distress appealed to many a heart and loosened many a purse-string. The response was immediate and hearty and cast a mantle of charity around a sad tale of the sea.

The year is closing with its tale of weal and woe, but it has left the richer in experience of joy and sorrow and buoyed up with the bright hues of the future.

"The future epic of the world rests not with those near dead, but with those that are alive, and those that are coming into life."

So Carlyle thought, and Longfellow sent forth the clarion cry:—

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for every fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.

NEW YEAR GREETING.

Let bygones be bygones,
Who's huffed at another,
Dinna clog the auld days
And the new ayes together;
Wi' the fauts and the failings
O' past years be done,
Wi' a grip o' fresh fresh ship
A New Year begin.

W. M. WOOD.