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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 18, 1907

1857-1907

Kitchener of the Iron Hand has 80,000 British troops and 170,000 well drilled native soldiers under his command in India. In the days of the Mutiny the native soldiers were the mainstay of the rebellion. Today they are thought to be steadily loyal. If they are true to their salt there are a quarter of a million men ready to uphold the flag, and they hold the forts and the arsenals, whereas in 1857 the rebels controlled most of the artillery at the inception of the trouble and soon were able to seize many important depots of supplies and arms. Fifty years ago the disaffection was due to religious fanaticism, and for some time it was confined principally to the Sepoys. Today the cause of the agitation is mainly political and the agitators are civilians. The disturbance extends over a great portion of Northern India, but as yet it is impossible to say what proportion of the whole population—200,000,000—can correctly be described as affected. The military forces are widely scattered, but transportation facilities have undergone great improvement since the Mutiny, and today Kitchener can strike hard in any centre of disturbance at short notice.

So far as any armed uprising is concerned the British authorities appear confident of their ability to suppress it. But the spread of discontent, and the demand for a change which will give the natives a greater voice in the government are not to be dealt with in a month's campaigning. Powder and shot will not answer when it comes to meeting the awakening of the people generally, and a question of interest now is to what extent the educated agitators have succeeded or can succeed in arousing the uneducated mass of the population to a point where open insurrection will be the next probable step. Of the nearly 300,000,000 people in India about 14,000,000, or less than five per cent., can read and write. The country has five universities, and those graduate some 8,000 students every year. This average has been maintained for five years past, and it is this large and growing class of learned Hindus that is stirring up sedition. The native lawyers and journalists, as is shown by recent cases in the courts, do not scruple to resort to the grossest forms of deception in order to excite hatred against the British. In some instances the ruling class has been accused of torturing and murdering natives, though there was absolutely no basis for the stories. An attempt has been made in some districts to introduce the element of religious fanaticism which was so powerful in 1857. For instance, the mixture of motives to illustrate the Indian agitator can appeal is illustrated by a statement from a Calcutta newspaper that "one of the stock arguments brought forward by the Swadeshi people (Bengal boycotters) against the use of sugar manufactured under European methods was that it was debilitated by the use of blood and bones of kine, and was therefore unfit for the use of Hindus." This is reminiscent of Mutiny days, when the greased British cartridges, which the Sepoys had to bite in loading their guns, were said to represent an effort to attempt to degrade the natives to whom hog's fat was abominable.

The disturbing element makes much of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, pointing out that the Japanese, to whom the Hindus regard themselves as superior in every way, have conquered Russia in war and are by the treaty placed on an equal footing with the British. The agitators preach the doctrine that India must be allowed to govern herself—that the British must give the Indians autonomy or be swept away by the uprising of a country much more powerful than Japan. The spread of disaffection is, on the other hand, retarded by the mutual jealousy of the native princes and the desire to stand well with the government; the caste system and the division of the population into many races who have little in common; and the presence in India of 60,000,000 followers of Mahomet who detest the Hindus and all their works.

It would appear from the facts in hand that there will be no Mutiny of 1907, but rather that education and progress are bringing about in India a state of affairs which will not long hence render it necessary to modify the existing system of government extensively. The British record for fifty years past in matters of this sort is such as would indicate wisdom enough to provide a safety-valve when the pressure reaches the danger point. Meantime should there be bloodshed and temper threatening British ascendancy, Kitchener is there with tools of his own sharpening.

BRITAIN LEADS

The British are building at Birkenhead a torpedo-boat destroyer of 1,830 tons and 30,000 horse-power, which is to run thirty-three knots, or about forty land miles, an hour. Tracing British development of the "mosquito" class of war vessel from 1802 up to the present when the Swift is

planned to far exceed in speed and utility any similar craft afloat, an American naval writer remarks that "a clearer example of the way the British Admiralty leads the whole world in naval construction and development it would be hard to find. Every other country is an imitator, and at that from three to five years behind."

In 1833 the best boat of this type was the Havoc, of 240 tons, 3,500 horse-power, and twenty-six and a half knots. Five of the boats authorized in 1905-06 are now being launched, the Gurkha and Afridi having recently been completed. These boats are of 720 tons, 14,500 horse-power, and have a speed of thirty-three knots, three more than any of the destroyers owned by Germany, France, or the United States, and are 200 tons larger than the largest foreign boat.

Another nation would have been contented with this lead, but the Swift is to have double the tremendous horse-power of the others. She is, in the words of an American naval authority, "an ocean-cruising boat with a great radius of action; and having the pace to overhaul any torpedo-boat or destroyer, cruiser or battleship, will truly become 'the eyes and ears of the fleet.' Both the Gurkha and the Afridi have high freeboards, and are comfortable and livable vessels, instead of racing machines which utterly exhaust their crews in a few days. It is now apparent that in the eyes of the Admiralty the torpedo-cruiser and torpedo-gunboat are failures, the former because its scouting powers were sacrificed to its armament, and the latter because it was neither a scout nor a destroyer. Only three 12-pounders will be carried by the Gurkha and four 25-pounders by the Swift."

Not only are other countries from three to five years behind in these matters but it is the British policy to prevent them from ever catching up. It is true of battleships as well as destroyers.

SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

Canon Barnett, in the London Daily Telegraph, puts forward the valuable proposal that the London schools be kept open as playgrounds during the summer holidays. At present, he points out, the so-called holidays mean that 800,000 children for a number of weeks are excluded from their most healthy resorts and driven back into the streets, slum alleys, and tenement staircases, where they rapidly lose any elevation of character which state teaching may have implanted. Mrs. Humphrey Ward has inaugurated experiments along the line Canon Barnett suggests, and her work has been most successful.

St. John's playground plan, launched last summer, is bound to lead to much better conditions for practically all of the children here who have hitherto been without a breathing space for healthful exercise and sport suited to their age and natural tendencies. In a city where land is as cheap as it is in most sections of St. John every school should have a fair sized playground for all sorts of games, and provision should be made in different places for every tot who is now compelled to play in the street or forego the invaluable boon of recreation in the open air. We are preparing to compel every child of school age to attend the schools. More important than an early start in education is the care of the child's health and the development of a well-balanced physical organization during the early years of his life. In our circumstances we start with many advantages over London, having few of the handicaps due to congestion of population and extreme poverty; but there is no excuse for neglecting the striking opportunity to do what so readily can be done to make the little ones healthy and happy.

PLAIN TALK FROM THE CHIEF

Chief Justice Tuck did not hesitate to discuss the meanness of municipalities while on circuit in Sunbury Tuesday, and his words are applicable both in and beyond that county. He recalled a report to the effect that a Sunbury jury some years ago acquitted a man of murder in order to avoid the expense of erecting a scaffold on which to hang him. Two men recently arrested near this city by the St. John police, and taken back to Sunbury to stand trial for horse stealing, found it easy to escape, and the grand jury could do more than indict them in their absence for jail breaking as well as theft. It had come to His Honor's ears that a Sunbury official had expressed relief upon hearing of the escape and had remarked that the county would save the expense of a trial. This official does not favor horse stealing any more than the old time Sunbury jurymen desired to encourage homicide, but like them he is inclined to be "near," and to look once at the interests of justice and at least twice at the tax bills. Having heard the Chief Justice the grand jury recommended the building of a new court house and jail, which are much needed.

In several other counties within a few years much talk has been heard about "putting the county to the expense of a trial" although in some cases the charge was murder or some other degree of homicide, which is intense immediately after a crime, becomes languid long before the trial and is disposed to regard a retrial even of a very important case as a sort of outrage upon the taxpayers. Yet any approach to carelessness or lack of vigor in the first stages of enforcement of the law is strongly resented in these same communities.

Our own municipal councillors should be interested in the Chief Justice's remarks. At Tuesday's meeting they abolished the present mortgage but failed to make any provision for a new one. No one doubts the wisdom of abolishing the old mortgage, which has long been a nuisance; but no one will deem it sensible to fail to provide a substitute. Having criticized the corners without good reason

the councillors evidently concluded that they had thus banished the problem presented by the discovery of dead bodies. Even a decree of the august Council will not prevent the fruits of battle, murder, and sudden death, from presenting themselves from time to time, and a decent arrangement for replacing the old morgue should have been made before the councillors adjourned for three months.

A SAD PARADE

A resolution which commanded little support in the Municipal Council Tuesday was intended to prevent the daily parade through the streets of the jail prisoners on their way to and from work. It may be that most of the councillors voted down this resolution because they believed it proposed a degree of "coddling" and sympathy to which the prisoners are in no way entitled. But apparently the mover was thinking less of the prisoners than of the women and children who daily view the parade of wretchedness, and it is quite probable that the majority missed the point of the motion.

Certainly much might be urged in its favor. The class of prisoners who make up the working squad are the better for work, particularly if it be done in the open air and they are physically fit to perform it. It by no means follows that the women and children, hundreds of whom encounter the miserable procession twice a day, are well served by the spectacle. There is complaint, and with reason, when the police are compelled to drag drunken men and women through the streets because they have no patrol wagon. Such sights do not benefit those who look on. Some are horrified. Perhaps there is a tendency to harden or degrade others. The men of the labor squad may be kept from drink or vagrancy by the terror of hard work, but it is doubtful if the parade itself has enough influence upon the prisoners to warrant its continuance, in view of the manner in which it thrusts these men before the younger and more impressionable members of the community.

And the public interest would be better served if it were understood once for all that the prisoners are not to be allowed to escape, or that, if they do escape that they are to be captured and punished for the attempt. This would involve more guards; but if the thing is worth doing it is worth doing right. Parents who know how many children are keenly interested in the jail parade and in the ordinary arrests made by the police would be better satisfied if the city owned a patrol wagon and if the jail prisoners were kept out of sight as much as possible. The theory that the parade is a terror to evil doers, or to those who might some day become evil doers, is not a convincing one.

THE FAST SERVICE

So powerful are the interests involved in the plan submitted to the Conference by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for a Imperial fast service that it is not to be allowed to escape, or that, if they do escape that they are to be captured and punished for the attempt. This would involve more guards; but if the thing is worth doing it is worth doing right. Parents who know how many children are keenly interested in the jail parade and in the ordinary arrests made by the police would be better satisfied if the city owned a patrol wagon and if the jail prisoners were kept out of sight as much as possible. The theory that the parade is a terror to evil doers, or to those who might some day become evil doers, is not a convincing one.

"It seems probable that the despatch which implied that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had promised a subsidy to the Blackstock Bay line, thereby selecting that route for the Canadian fast mail service, was misleading. From every published statement made with regard to it we have gathered that neither Lord Strathcona, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, nor any other responsible person had committed himself to the scheme. In this case Sir Wilfrid's promise of a subsidy is prefaced by a declaration that the choice of a terminal port will rest with the company which operates the new service. In other words, the Canadian Government is determined to have a fast mail service to Britain, and is not going to trammel the conditions of that service by any local or political considerations."

The latest despatches confirm the foregoing. The Conference approves of the principle of the plan, which would offer to steamship companies the stimulus of an Imperial subsidy great enough to make the enterprise look inviting to those with sufficient capital to carry it through. There is no disposition to settle in advance details about routes, ports or companies, the chief proviso being that the service must come up to a remarkable standard in order to meet the requirements laid down by the governments contributing the subsidies.

THE CHURCH AND COREY-GILMAN

The Brooklyn preacher who married Corey the steel millionaire to the latest woman of his choice, described the affair as "a God-made union." The Rev. D. D. Boynton, one of the leaders of the Congregational Church in America, says the marriage was "a miserable, unholy, and disgusting bestial proceeding," and he justly denounces the "humiliation and indignation which any loyal Congregationalist feels in having his denominational principles maligned and disgraced" by connecting them in any way with such an affair. "If we are to be half way decent," he says, "if the home means anything, we can't have our clergy standing up in the middle of the night to sanction such promiscuity as the Corey-Gilman affair." And the earnest gentleman adds that as the marrying pair he denounces "came over from the Presbyterians only three months ago it makes matters worse." For whom we are not told.

The Coreys and the Gilmans are common enough, and only a fool's gold could give them even passing notoriety; but the serious point is the case with which such people command the services of a clergyman in good standing, and so contrive to give the transaction in which they are engaged the color of solemn Christian approval. The Coreys and the Gilmans do not matter, but the church's relation to such an affair through one of its recognized agents is a scandal of some magnitude, deserving indeed of drastic action. Some of the Federation's members do regard this mission very hopefully; but

Boynton. Many clergymen through ignorance of the facts are led to celebrate marriages which no church should sanction; but the minister at fault in this instance cannot plead such ignorance in extenuation. Indeed he appears rather to have constituted himself a judge of the facts and an interpreter of the heavenly will and yet to have rendered a decision whose effect upon society cannot but be vicious in the extreme.

Divorce is not the question here. Rather is the question that of the compromise made by the clergyman in this particularly offensive episode, and the growing tendency of a widening element in the American churches to bow to the wishes of the rich and the influential even when those wishes tend to the degradation of the church and the destruction of the essential props of society. Such clerical practice resembles a sale of indulgences, except that here there is not even the faint excuse that anyone connected with the proceedings is deceived. And such social practice is quite on a par with the Oriental custom governing the relations of men and women, except that it bears the additional stigma of hypocrisy which the more honest but no more misguided Turk escapes.

The fundamental truths and values are in no way affected by the failure of any religious organization to live up to its ideals. They stand for all time. But the agencies which give religion its driving force in the world are subject to weakness. Big influences which demand constant attention from leaders who know evil and the appearance of evil and who wage uncompromising war for the truth. It is not remarkable that another foolish servant of the church has proclaimed his existence. The church has and has had many such. But it should never hesitate to repudiate them as false and unworthy.

THE INVASION OF ENGLAND

So many people in England talk about the possibility of invasion by a continental army the subject naturally attracts attention in other countries. And in other countries, if Germany be omitted, the English uneasiness on this subject is little understood. The collapse of the Channel tunnel project was due to a feeling inherited from the days of Napoleon, and seemingly much of the hostility to Germany arises from a similar cause, the ill-defined belief that some day an army might be thrown upon the English coast. The Telegraph has received from a Washington correspondent an editorial printed by the Post of that city, the writer of which believes no foreign army could be landed in any part of the United Kingdom. Admitting that it could, he says, the remark of Von Moltke is still applicable. That great soldier said he had devised plans to get a German army into England but none to get it out again. The Post's conclusions are of interest as indicating how a well-informed American reviewer regards Britain and Germany today, and they are readable also on the theory that an outsider sometimes sees points in the game which are missed by the players. A part of the article follows: That French gentleman who predicts that Emperor William will invade England and conquer that country as soon as he builds a few more ships does not tell us what the British navy will be doing when the war host of the continent sets out on that enterprise. We know what happened when Napoleon Bonaparte contemplated a similar expedition.

On water Great Britain is as superior to Germany as Germany is superior to Great Britain on land. The British navy is the equivalent of the German army. Both have money, but England's purse is the longest, and that is a matter of immense consequence in the wars of the present age. There is rivalry and shooting and drawing as simply ways of expiation, made profuse apologies, and was released "amid hisses and groans." Mr. Pegg would seem to be "cursed by somewhat feeble judgment accompanied by a rush of speech to the mouth."

As the educated Hindus are responsible for the present disturbance in India the following statement by one of them, who is now in the United States, should be of interest. Mr. Saint N. Sing, a journalist of Rawaipindi, in the Punjab, who has spent the greater part of the year in Canada, and the United States studying their political systems, has given the Toronto Globe his impressions as to the present condition of affairs in India. Mr. Sing is a man of culture, whose lectures last winter before various Canadian clubs gave evidence of great breadth of view. His statement he makes may be regarded as the motive of the present agitation, for Mr. Sing knows most of the native leaders in Punjab. In effect, he says: We do not want to leave the British Empire, but we are determined to break the china and the window glass if necessary to direct attention to the fact that we want self-government and the adoption of a policy of India for the Indians. The people of Canada, Australia and other countries and dependencies got self-government without serious fighting. Why should not we?

SMALLPOX CASE IN DARTMOUTH INSANE ASYLUM

Halifax, N. S., May 15.—Smallpox was discovered at the hospital for the insane at Dartmouth. Richards, an attendant, has been sick for two days but it was only today that it became known that his illness was caused by smallpox. A temporary hospital is being constructed outside, where the case can be attended to, and in the meantime the entire hospital has been quarantined.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Leases of crown land in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan are to provide hereafter that settlers shall receive call of one dollar a ton at the pit's mouth. Other important provisions guarding the rights of the general public are included. Canada would have been well served by more legislation of this kind earlier in its history.

The Temperance Federation will appoint one member of the commission which the local government is to send to Prince Edward Island to examine the operation of the prohibitory law there in force. Some of the Federation's members do regard this mission very hopefully; but

MAY 18, '07.

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MARITIME KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN ANNUAL SESSION

W. J. Mahoney, of St. John, Elected State Deputy—Sail on Halifax Harbor and Dinner to Visitors.

Halifax, N. S., May 14.—The state convention of the Knights of Columbus of the maritime provinces was held today in the knights' magnificent home on Hollis street. Amongst others present were Archbishop McCarthy and Messrs. Mahoney, Mahoney and McCullough of St. John; Murdoch and Lawlor of Chatham; Gallagher and Hughes of Charlottetown; Girrow and MacKinnon, Antigonish; Corrigan, MacIntyre and McNeil, Sydney and Beazley, Craig and Hayden of Halifax. After the transaction of routine business the officers were elected as follows: State chaplain, Archbishop McCarthy; state deputy, W. J. Mahoney, St. John; state secretary, F. H. Hayden, Halifax; state treasurer, T. F. Corrigan, Sydney; state warden, E. L. Girrow, Antigonish. The place for the next meeting will be Charlottetown.

In the afternoon the visitors were entertained to a sail on the harbor and dinner at the Bellevue Hotel, Bedford. The party, which, with the city knights, numbered about fifty, returned to the city by the evening train. The visiting delegates return to their homes tomorrow evening.

YARMOUTH CONVICT WORKS JIU-JITSU ON HIS JAILER

Yarmouth, May 15.—This morning Percy Tasco, who was sentenced to eight years in Dorchester for burglary, made a daring escape from jail and is still at large. When Jailer Burrill took him breakfast he seized the jailer by the left arm, gave it a quick twist dislocating it at the shoulder, rendering Burrill powerless. Tasco took the keys and made his escape.

To Shoot for Palma Trophy September 6.

London, May 15.—The National Rifle Association has accepted the invitation of the Canadian Rifle Association to contest for the Palma Trophy with American and Canadian rifle teams at Ottawa, September 6. Arrangements have been completed by which the British team will stop over in Canada while on its way to Australia, where the riflemen will participate in the match for the Empire Trophy.

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