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THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 25, 1906. GOLD LACE V. OVERALLS.

As the modern battleship is simply a big armored machine shop it seems a natural conclusion that those who operate it, especially those in chief command, should be expert mechanical engineers.

To the average naval officer engineering is a civilian occupation and beneath his dignity. The smell of hot air is repugnant to his highly bred nostrils, and the sight of a pair of greasy overalls makes him faint. His conception of his duty is to be ready to die bravely in battle, clad in his best uniform, with all his gold lace, to be well-informed on naval tactics so as to govern the evolutions of a ship or a squadron or a fleet, to be able to maintain good discipline—in short, to be a capable executive officer, trusting to the men of a lesser breed to master the technical details of the trade and to handle the guns and all the myriad steam and electrical machines that form the equipment and make the usefulness of a modern warship.

Practical men see in this supercilious spirit a great danger to the efficiency of both navies. The engineer in chief of the United States navy in a recent report says: "Were the country suddenly plunged in war, the navy would find itself in no condition to win battles. As necessary as good marksmanship is ability to carry our guns to the firing line, and to keep them there amidst the havoc created by modern ordnance, and this will never be done by amateurs in charge of the machinery. Engineering logically belongs to the line, and the line should be made to perform that duty earnestly."

Commenting on similar conditions in the British navy "Engineering" says: "The naval officer must be an engineer to be efficient, and to be an engineer he must go through the mill, pressing—go through the mill, striking no work, however dirty and however derogatory it may seem to the glory of gold lace. It is not enough to be prepared to sacrifice his life on the day of battle—a duty that has never been shirked; he must also prepare himself in time of peace to sacrifice his life to the greatest advantage towards victory. That is the more trying ordeal."

But, in England especially, the caste feeling and influence is so strong that apparently some great disaster is necessary to bring about a reform.

THE GREATEST AMERICAN.

The two hundredth anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth was celebrated in Paris last Friday by the unveiling of a statue erected there in his honor, and more than one of the speakers at the ceremony referred to the splendid old philosopher, scientist and statesman as "the greatest American."

Though this may not be the verdict of the populace, in whose mind the more spectacular victories of Washington and the later glory of Lincoln tend to eclipse the milder radiance of Franklin's genius, it probably voices the opinion of history. For certainly the name of no other American, who has yet appeared, will go down to posterity inseparably coupled with so many achievements of so great importance to humanity in general.

Washington wears the title, "Father of His Country," but without Franklin's ministrations and counsel the United States would have been stillborn. But for the alliance with France which his statescraft brought about, the revolution would have ended as suppressed revolt and Washington instead of being the first president of the American union would have been hanged as a rebel. In addition to his inestimable services in arranging the treaty of alliance he was one of the framers of the declaration of independence, the American constitution and the treaty of peace that gave the States their independence. He is the only diplomat whose name has been appended to all these famous documents.

Ahead even of his fame as a statesman stands his reputation as a man of science and letters, and as a philosopher. The results of his researches into the wonders of electricity won him the greatest European fame of any contemporary and alone entitled him to permanent remembrance. It was not only in the domain of electricity that Franklin made important contributions to knowledge. He established the science of meteorology, demonstrated the geological theory of the earth in advance of Keely, held views upon light and heat that are perfectly consistent with those held by Cavendish and Clerk Maxwell, wrote upon contagious colds and other diseases so successfully that he was elected to membership in the royal societies of medicine in London and Paris, and touched informally upon every subject familiar and unfamiliar in the eighteenth century. It is not strange that the world came to regard him as an encyclopaedia of universal knowledge. Men of learning, the foremost in their professions, approached him in the attitude of pupils soliciting his explanation of old problems, and his judgment upon new theories.

To all this fame he won unalloyed. Working as a printer he educated himself and fought his way upward against tremendous obstacles. His autobiography is one of the most inspiring and instructive works in the English language. And with all his honors upon him, after being the ideal of Europe, the respected friend and adviser of kings and princes and great ones of the earth, he was as simple and kindly and wholesome as when he worked at his printer's case. As a complete example of what a man can make of himself and of what a man should be, this scholar and patriot and practical man of affairs has no superior and his patriots do well to hold him in honor and to remember him with pride.

DON'T DROP YOUR INSURANCE. As a result of the exposures made during the New York state legislature's investigation of the insurance companies the amount of new insurance written by the American companies during 1905 fell off \$194,000,000 as compared with the previous year. Placing the average policy at \$3,000, this means that about 65,000 men who would otherwise have taken out insurance and protected their families, neglected this duty. Probably thousands more, stampeded by the revelations of mismanagement and dishonesty into the fear that they were paying their money into bankrupt concerns, allowed their insurance to lapse.

A similar investigation is now under way in Canada and it is possible that wrongdoing and waste, almost as startling as was discovered by the American inquiry, may be unearthed. In this connection the Winnipeg Tribune gives some sterling advice to Canadian policy holders. It says: "The Canadian people should remain calm. They should not permit themselves to be stampeded by any sensational evidence that may be given before the insurance commission. Under no circumstances should they permit themselves to drop their policies. Under no circumstances should they lose faith in insurance."

"The chief thing to remember is, that though the companies may be badly managed, though graft may flourish in some of their head offices, no one seriously suspects that the companies are not thoroughly solvent, not quite able to carry out their contracts to the letter. Even the most corrupt of the New York companies is solvent beyond any possible doubt."

"It is right that men occupying positions of trust, who betray that trust, should be severely punished—but the dropping of policies, or neglecting to insure, is not the way to punish them. By such a plan the general public, who can not afford to lose premiums, or to leave their families without the protection of policies, are the sufferers."

Just as was the devastation wrought by the San Francisco earthquake it is insignificant beside the record of some similar disasters. The great earthquake of 1755, which engulfed Lisbon and destroyed Fez and many other cities over an area of 5,000 miles, killed over 70,000 people in Lisbon and Fez alone. In 1793 there was an earthquake in Calabria that caused the death of 100,000 persons, and was felt in nearly every part of Europe. Another terrific earthquake was that of St. B. C., which devastated Judea and destroyed 10,000 people. In A. D. 468 the City of Antioch was visited by an earthquake, and no fewer than 250,000 people killed. In 887, 30,000 were destroyed.

Those scientists who assert that they foresee the San Francisco disaster and said nothing should be doubly silent now.—N. Y. Herald.

Wolfville News.

WOLFVILLE, April 22.—J. W. Spurdon of the People's Bank, Fredericton, who spent Easter with his sister, Mrs. Estey, has returned to his home.

Mrs. E. Price, of Sussex, whose son is attending Horton Academy, has been the guest for two weeks of her friends, Prof. and Mrs. L. E. Workman.

Dr. and Mrs. Smith of New York are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Johnson, at their home in Wolfville.

Mrs. Irene Elder Morton, the well known Canadian poet, of Annapolis, who was in Kentville to attend the funeral of her sister, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Charles Pritch.

Miss Helen Bernice, who has been spending her Easter vacation at her home here, has returned to Netherwood school at Rosetown, N. B.

The Rev. Douglas H. Simpson, pastor of the Baptist church at Gibson, was here this week as secretary of the home mission fund, to meet with the trustees of the Paysant fund of \$40,000 and unite in the appointment of supplies for needy fields. Over twenty theological students were stationed for the summer holidays.

Miss Emily Richardson has gone to St. John to spend a few days at the home of her brother.

Mrs. J. C. Anderson, who has been spending her Easter vacation at her home here, has returned to Netherwood school at Rosetown, N. B.

An important musical event in Wolfville will be the May festival on May 10th, under the management of Prof. Maxim.

The many friends of Charles Loomer were saddened at the news of his disappearance and supposed death. Last autumn he joined a party to go up the Fraser river exploring for furs. A letter has recently been received by his father in Brooklyn street, which states that he left the party and had started down the river alone, for Arrowhead, and that nothing had since been heard from him and grave fears were entertained as to his safety.

Miss Maud Holloway, of St. John is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. Woodford Mealey, at Berwick.

Mrs. Charles Silver was stricken with paralysis at Lunenburg on Saturday and is considered very dangerous. Mr. Silver returned from Halifax by special train.

The steamer Brunswick, which has been undergoing extensive repairs at Kingsport, began her weekly trips to St. John on Friday. She brought a heavy cargo for Wolfville merchants.

Alison, teller at the Bank of Nova Scotia, at Lunenburg, has been transferred to Glace Bay. William Morrow will take the position.

S. W. Pickup, M. P. P., Ottawa, spent Easter with friends here.

Active operations are being resumed on the Middleton and York railway. Supt. McLeod has been inspecting the lower end of the line.

PURE WOOL HEWSON AMHERST TWEEDS. Made in the Maritime Provinces—sold all over Canada.

Avonport church on Sunday. A pretty wedding took place at Kentville, when Miss Nellie Downey, daughter of James Downey of Highbury, was married to George S. Forsyth of White Rock by the Rev. Dr. O. Morse of Gasperaux.

The veteran Baptist minister, the Rev. Isaiah Wallace, who has just completed his 89th year, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination last week. The seven ministers who took part have all passed on. He and Mrs. Wallace are residing with their son, the Rev. Lewis Wallace, at Aylesford.

Clearing Rev. H. T. Adams presented them with a purse, contributed by their many friends as a small token of their appreciation and of their love and esteem. The health of Dr. Wallace is very much improved and he is not able to do any active work.

Dr. D. K. Grant of Parrsboro occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church on Sunday.

Prof. Cecil C. Jones and Mrs. Jones are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter.

OLDEST BRITISH SUBJECT IS DEAD. LONDON, April 23.—The death was announced today of George Tyronne, Ireland, today of George Fletcher, the oldest British subject so far as known. He was 118 years old. King Edward recently presented Fletcher with a gold snuff box.

SHIPPING NEWS. PORT OF ST. JOHN. Arrived. April 23—Sch Falmouth, 98, Newell, from Newport, 209 tons coal, J. Willard Smith.

Coastwise—Sch Mildred K. from Westport; Lone Star, from White Head; Alvorne, from fishing cruises; Glorie, from Windsor; Citizen, from Meteghan; Beulah Benton, from Sandy Cove.

Domestic Ports. HALIFAX, N. S., April 23—Arr. sch Pinto, from Gloucester, Mass., for Banks.

LIVERTON, N. S., April 23—Arr. sch St. John City, for Sydney; Catalina, from Louisbourg; Senlac, for Saint John, N. B., via ports.

BRITISH PORTS. SCILLY, April 23—Passed, str Mount Temple, from St. John, N. B., and Halifax for London and Antwerp.

BELFAST, April 23—Sid. ship Malone, for Miramichi.

GLASGOW, April 21—Sid. str Salacia, for Montreal.

LIVERPOOL, April 23—Arr. str Canada, from Portland.

PLYMOUTH, April 23—Arr. str Kew York, from Grosse, from Grosse, from Grosse, from Grosse.

Foreign Ports. PORTLAND, April 22—Arr. schs Jas B Drake, Sawyer, from Perth Amboy; Rebecca G Whidden, Barbour, from Narrigan River; British schs S A Fowkes, Walter Miller, Maggie Miller, Leo, and Temperance Bell, from St John, N. B.; Boston; Rowena, Merriam, from New London for St John, N. B.

Sailed, str Hird, for Parrsboro, N. S. SALEM, Mass., April 22—Arr. schs Mansfield, from Bear River, N. S., for New York; Addie Fuller, from Shules, N. B.; for Washington; Prudence, from St. John, N. B. for New York.

Returned, sch T W Cooper, and Cora May. BOOTHBY HARBOR, Me., April 23—Sid. sch Temperance Bell, for Boston; Ida Mitchell, for do; Glenullen, for Scarborough, Me.

YACHTS ISLAND, April 23—Bound south, sch Ella G Ellis, from St. John, N. B. for Philadelphia.

SAUNDERS TOWN, N. B., April 23—Returned, schs H M Stanley, from St John for Parrsboro; Franconia, from Sullivan for Providence.

GOOLE, April 20—Sid. bark Vesco De Gama, for Dalhousie.

NEW YORK, April 22—Arr. bark Helen A Wyman, from Cape Lopez.

Old bark Herbert Fuller, for Tampa; Emily P Northam, for Westworth, N. S.; Alma, for Bridgeport, N. S.; Gypsum Gun, for Yarmouth; Que Powerful, for Hantsport, N. S.

CHATHAM, Mass., April 23—North-east gale with rain at sunset.

CALAIS, Me., April 22—Arr. sch Wm Duren, from St. Andrews.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., April 23—Sid. schs schs Monma, from Bridgeport, from the entrance escaped unharmed from the entrance escaped unharmed through another opening.

There were forty miners in the mine at the time of the explosion. Seventeen miners who were working 3,700 feet from the entrance escaped unharmed through another opening.

The explosion occurred in rooms 3 and 4 near the main entrance and was the result of a windy shot which ignited the dust.

TRINIDAD, Colo., April 22—As the result of a dust explosion in the mine of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., forty miners were killed today, 21 miners are known to be dead and one is missing.

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MARRIAGES. BROWN-SABIN—At Collins, N. B., at the home of John Brown, April 18th, by Rev. W. Camp, William H. Brown, Fannie Sabin of North Scotia, Digby County, N. S.

A PLANT BARGAIN. 243 FRUIT PLANTS FOR \$2.75. AGED FIVE 12 GIG Mother Gives As If It Were She Says the Boy Smoker—Urchin Childish

Will produce more fruit and green than you and your friends can eat, and some of the choicest and newest, most hardy plants at one-third price. GRAPES—One each, Campbell's Early, the new Black Concord Black Worden, Champion Black Moore's Ruby, Fancy Early Black Niagara, Black Concord, Black Worden, Choice 12 CURRANTS—3 each, Red Cross, new; London Market, new; Cherry Red, Champion, the standard black.

SMITH BROS., Box 96, BEACHVILLE, ONTARIO. Members Canadian Seed-Growers' Association.

OVER A SCORE OF MINERS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Accident Caused by Dust in Mine of Colorado Fuel and Iron Co.—Rescue Work is Going On—Forty Men Were in Mine at Time

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Hopewell Hill. HOPEWELL HILL, April 22—Mortimer Ricker of Turtle Creek was before the Superior Court of Hillsboro last week on a charge of aggravated assault on Joseph Irving of Beadwater, Mr. Irving, who is said to have been severely beaten, is Ricker's father-in-law and is over 90 years of age.

BLAINE—On Wednesday, April 18th, Samuel Blaine, not quite a year old, that weighs 235 pounds.

CORAM—In this city, April 19th, after a short illness, Lena Maud, daughter of Albert D. and the late Nellie Coram, and niece of Mrs. Thomas Coram, aged 12 years 5 mos.

RUSSELL—The death of Maggie Russell, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Russell, occurred this morning at 6:30, after a lingering illness. She deceased was 12 years and 6 months.

ROGERS—On Sunday, April 15th, at his home Nauviggauk, Jas. Henry Rogers, aged 81 years.

HAMILTON—In this city, April 14, at his home, No. 568 Main street, after a lingering illness, Robert Hamilton, in the 62nd year of his age, leaving a wife and six children, four sons and two daughters to mourn their sad loss.

LAUCKNER—In this city, on April 17th, Sarah A. beloved wife of Stephen J. Lauckner, in the 73rd year of her age.

DEBURY—At Hospital St. Jean de Dieu, Montreal, on April 17th, after a lingering illness, Lucy Gertrude Visart Countess Debury.

WILLS—At St. John West, April 18, Joseph Wills, aged 56 years.

WARREN—In this city, on April 21st, Albert, son of the late David Warren of Kings County, aged 63 years, leaving three daughters, two brothers and one sister.

AGED FIVE 12 GIG Mother Gives As If It Were She Says the Boy Smoker—Urchin Childish

NORTHERMBERLAND. From the very first Raleigh made use of so up to the present ette and anti-tobacco never has been a you ed to the credit of the Johnson Dexter, he "Pete," the boy and young urchin lives in is accurately at home and at bedtime. He pany of the boys on shire side of the Con the two towns are ed bridge, one of the 13 states.

This boy wonder an tim of the tobacco old. He has been s about a year, and it mon thing for him to cigars in a day. Wilcox Dexter, declares boy of the habit, he d by intent to do so, f As Mrs. Dexter held a her hand and asked h him, to light up, to her side and grabb

BITES OFF END OF ER. MOTHER GIVES LIGHT. Man fashion and wit ent signs of being a "Pete" bit off the the "long filler" in his "long light" a match as to pull.

With the air of an wealthy sport, young small clouds of smoke ward. The boy apparer on, but his ashed smoker, but he the street with compla sion, as though he wer being gassed upon by st members of a sister pparatively short time ed the cigar down qu ed, instead of being d from the effects of a str from ready for another mother for it. Were it that he had given lowance during the day would be against him. He had his regular day. Mrs. Dexter would will him another. At her scowled and said he cou in Northumberland at on

NO SIGN OF EITHER PHYSICAL WEAKNESS. Quite out of the ording victim of the tobacco sized, healthy and brig has not the least appare tal and physical weakne thortitudes. From th necessarily follow "weed," especially by tender age. Of the sma "vicinity of his home, yo the only one who has su tered smoking. From nning he was successf twice and three times h so greatly impressed by after his first atten have no doubt that enough, the young boys berland and Guildhall de Young "Pete's" first more successful, and it about a year ago, that at Northumberland gave lesson. When this man would not say; but h himself was smoking. Th such progress that day lumberman gave him a next day, and after he h for "Little Pete" he sent in a few minutes to app home of his parents, th the house puffing away For a moment Mr. and could not believe their father snatched the cig gave up, declaring that child's lips and threw it such pandemonium for that the parents decid off at once, and they th better scheme than to hav a strong Havana and ke until he was deathly sic Just what the child wa asked for another when that one. This angered but each time after th weeks they watched him administered a whipping, apparent effect, and finally gave up, declaring that a natural born smoker. E time he has not been reg any extent by his parents there are a few anti-toy ers in the vicinity of the none of them have ever vert him. "That this is chance for some enemy of habit to demonstrate his o is the opinion of many; has attempted to do so y

GOOD BALL PLAYERS C OTHERS ON LAND AN

It is not because of h smoke that "Little Pete" knows that the boy wonder and Northumberland, For