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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRI DAY, JULY 22, 1921.

THE HARBOR BONDS

We are unable to endorse the proposal for the sale of the harbor property under the terms of the Act of 1919, but at the same time we don't agree with the construction that Mr. McLellan puts upon some sections of it. The Act is perhaps somewhat loosely drawn in some respects, but as it is not a penal statute that must be construed in strict accordance with its phraseology, such construction may be put upon it as the language employed may reasonably bear, having regard to the context and other terms.

Mr. McLellan maintains that the present bonded debt on the harbor, $1,342,717.55, which is to be taken over by the Commissioners, will, when taken over, still remain a charge against the city, and as authority for this statement, he says he has one of the best legal opinions in Canada. Upon what principle of law or equity such an opinion is founded, it would be hard to say. The Act expressly says that the Commissioners or Corporation shall be constituted as a board of management with full jurisdiction and control of the harbor and property transferred to His Majesty, and it provides that they shall assume and take over this bonded indebtedness "and pay the interest on the said bonds, and the value of the same as they mature."

The Harbor Commission Act will not come into force until the deed transferring the harbor property has been registered in the Registry office in this city, but immediately it does come into force the assumption by the Corporation of liability for the bonds becomes automatically effective also, and relieves the City from all liability in respect of them. No other construction is posible, if one is to keep within the bounds of Equity—and common sense. The bonds may be, as Mr. McLellan says, city bonds; but that makes no difference. The Act vests liability for the payment of them and interest in the Corporation which represents His Majesty, and it will be up to them to provide for these payments out of harbor property or of some other source. I t is nonsense to say that the City must sell its harbor and still remain liable for the debt on it.

"THE THUNDERER" AND ITS POLICIES

The London Times, under the control of Lord Northcliffe, is still a great newspaper, but it is no longer the editorial power it once was. In olden days the Times usually understood British public opinion and expressed it. The view of the Times on an important public question, especially in relation to foreign affairs, was usually the view of the nation. The personality of its conductors was seldom thrust to the front. It had no selfish aims—no axes to grind, no enmities to gratify. Its aim was to ascertain what was best for the British people and to set that forth in its articles. This policy gave the Times great weight, both at home and abroad. The prestige which the Times thus attained in the days of Delane and the elder Walters it no longer possesses. It is, as we have said, still a great newspaper, with an army of correspondents scattered over the world who keep its readers well informed on all current topics. But few if any readers turn to the editorial columns for guidance. Lord Northcliffe, who now controls the Times and several other English journals, has fads and fancies of his own, friends whom he wishes to elevate, opponents whom he wishes to pull down. A knowledge of these weaknesses leads the reader to look on the utterances of the Times with suspicion.

Lord Northcliffe has had his moments when it suited him to praise Mr. Lloyd George highly, and other moments when he has only bitter words for the Premier. At present the Times seems to have a settled purpose to discredit Mr. Lloyd George, and along with him the British Foreign Minister, Lord Curzon of Kedleston. The call of President Harding for a disarmament conference is the great event of the day. Britain, of course, has promptly responded, and in happy terms Mr. Lloyd George has expressed the pleasure of the British people in co-operating with the American Government in the noble movement. The conference will meet shortly at Washington. Just who will be chosen to represent Great Britain is not yet known, but naturally the very first names to be thought of are those of Premier, Mr. Lloyd George, and the Foreign Minister, Lord Curzon. Instantly the Times begins an attack on these statesmen and declares that they are unfit to represent the British Empire on such an occasion.

The Times attack will find little favor among the British people. Even those who are not friendly toward Mr. Lloyd George will feel that the attack on him arose from personal reasons rather than from a sense of public good. It is very desirable that the British Premier head the delegation to Washington, if the situation of other affairs will allow him to come. Lord Curzon also, from his position and experience will naturally be chosen if he is willing to come. It is more than probable that Mr. Lloyd George will feel that on such an important occasion party lines should be ignored, and other statesmen be invited to be members of the British delegation also.

THE MARITIME PROVINCES

The address by Mr. Arthur Hunt Chute on the subject of "The New World Spirit," at the Chatauqua on Wednesday, was not only very interesting, but it shows him to be an optimist of the first class. Some people might be inclined to call him a dreamer, for it must be admitted that much that he anticipates as likely to come to pass, can only be in the dim and distant future. We are glad to note that he agrees with many more of us, that since Confederation we in the Maritime Provinces "have been too much in the shade," and he proceeds to tell us that it is our own fault. He, however, is pleased to approve of the recent Maritime delegation to Ottawa, but where did that trip get us? Where has any trip that Maritime delegations ever took to Ottawa got us? We have sent some of the best men that these provinces possess to Ottawa to present our case for us, but it availed nothing. Why is it that the claims of Western Canada always receive more consideration than do those of the Maritime Provinces? Simply because their voting power is greater, and we have it on the authority of The Globe that the ballot box is the only recognized lever that can be depended upon to move matters at Ottawa. Every decennial period the Maritime Provinces' representation gets less, and the Prairie Provinces' more. Every effort is being put forward by the Dominion Government to bring to the notice of Europeans the tremendous possibilities and advantages that Western Canada offers to those seeking homes across the seas, so as to create more voting power. Do we see the Government making any endeavors to "boost" the Maritime Provinces?

At the general election of 1908, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick sent thirty-one representatives to Ottawa of whom twenty-nine were supporters of the Laurier Government. In 1906 a very strong resolution passed the New Brunswick Legislature protesting against any further reduction in the number of Dominion representatives, and it might not unreasonably have been assumed that with twenty-nine members supporting the Government, they would have been able to carry some weight with it. Western Canada, however, strongly objected to our provinces getting any special treatment, consequently nothing was done and the Maritime representation was still further reduced after the next census. The same thing is going to happen after the present census.

Mr. Chute's charge that "there has been too much of the 'after you, my dear Alphonse' attitude towards Up-per Canada and the West," is totally undeserved, because it is not true. The Maritime Provinces have not voluntarily stood aside for Western Canada, they have been deliberately pushed aside, and the stronger Western Canada grows, the rougher will be the treatment it metes out to the other provinces. Is there any practical remedy for this condition of affairs?

Mr. H. Chute believes "that the "industrial, financial and perhaps also "the political focus of the Empire will "ultimately pass from the Thames to "the Ottawa." Don't you believe it, friend. Canada unquestionably has an immense future before it, but London will always be the heart of the British Empire. If it should ever come to pass that Canada wants to take the lead in that way, it will be time for her to quit the Empire altogether and run alone as a wholly independent nation—as independent as her neighbor to the South.

Mr. A. H. Chute: "A few years ago "many of our American cousins were "prone to regard Canada as a piece "of snow and ice, but today they are "proud to share with us this North "American continent, because of the "great name which Canada has made "in France and Flanders." Now isn't that "real nice" of them? Next.

"Many a man both young and old,
Has gone to his sarcophagus,
By pouring water icy-cold
Down his hot oesophagus!"

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Liked by Americans.

Lord Northcliffe thinks that Lloyd George is disqualified by his temperament to discuss disarmament questions at Washington. This may be so, but we doubt if there is any other British politician who has so favorably impressed the American public. —Toronto Mail and Empire.

Evidence of Decline.

Rev. John Roach Straton, a New York reformer, after attending the Dempsey-Carpentier fight, said that the United States was in much the same position as Rome just before the fall. Rome was pretty tough, we know, but at that Rome's clergy did not go to prize fights in the days of that Empire's decline.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Building Stagnation.

Investors will put up with inconvenience and resort to makeshifts, and there will be stagnation and unemployment until building costs fall to a more reasonable level. If the building schemes and plans suspended throughout Canada until prices recede were to be carried out the stimulus would be felt everywhere and in every branch of business.—Toronto Globe.

Mellon's Great Speech.

One of the greatest speeches ever made in this country on disarmament was delivered the other day by Secretary Mellon of the Treasury. It wasn't what you will call a great oratorical effort, lacking as it was in rounded periods and florid smiles and being rather bald and curt in tone. But it was some disarmament speech.

He announced that the gross public debt of the United States was $23,-$58,597,542.43.—St. Louis Star.

Compulsory Travel for Statesmen.

Every reader of "Overseas" will cordially endorse this statement of Commissionar D. C. Lamb of the Salvation Army, made at the conclusion of General Booth's recent 16,000 mile tour throughout Canada and the United States: "If I were running this Empire I would get people travelling. I would not let a man be a Cabinet Minister until he had been round the world, and no man ought to take his seat in a Colonial Cabinet until he has been to London."—Overseas, London.

A BIT OF VERSE

PEACE HATH HER VICTORIES.

I.

To people wastes, to supplement the sun.
To plant the olive where the wind-brier grew,
To bid rash rivers in safe channels run,
The youth of aged cities to renew;—
To shut the temple of the two-faced god—
Grand triumphs these, worthy a conqueror's car
They need no herald's horn, no lictor's rod—
Peace hath her victories, no less than War.

II.

To raise the drooping artist's head, to breathe
The word despairing genius thirsts to hear,
To crown all service with its earned wreath,
To be of lawless force the foe, austere;
This is to stretch a sceptre over time,
This is to give our darkling earth a stare,
And belt it with the emerald scroll sublime—
Peace hath her victories, no less than War.

III.

To stand amidst the passions of the hour
Storm-lash'd, resounding fierce from shore to shore;
To watch the human whirlwind waste its power,
Till drowned Reason lifts her head once more;
To build on hatred nothing; to be just,
Judging of men and nations as they are—
Toe strong to share the councils of mistrust—
Peace hath her victories, no less than War.

IV.

To draw the nations in a silken bond—
On to their highest exercise of good;
To show the better land, above, beyond
The sea of Egypt, all whose waves are blood;
These, leader of the age! these arts be thine,
All vulgar victories surpassing far;
On these all Heaven's benignant planets shine—
Peace hath her victories, no less than War.

D'Arcy McGee.

Paris, 1867.

THE LAUGH LINE

A bookseller advertises "Books to be read in bed." Does he refer to the kind that put one to sleep?

Doubtful.

George Bernard Shaw wants to live a thousand years. Wonder if the world could put up with him for that long?

Ready to Help.

"Oh, doctor, I am suffering so much I want to die!"

"You did perfectly right to call me."—American Legion Weekly.

Not Worth Mentioning.

Pupil (to teacher)—"I am indebted to you for all that I know."

Teacher—"Don't mention it; it's a mere trifle."—Warwick Life.

Free Absolution Wanted.

Hostess (to distinguished prelate)—"And what does your reverence think of the Germans?"

Prelate — "They resemble, alas, many of my beautiful parishioners They always ask for absolution, but they never want to do any penance."—Paris L'Illustration.

Nothing Special.

First Film Star — Got anything special on today, Cyrus?"

Second Ditto—"Nope—only a race against death an' a leap for life."—Bystander.

First-Class Postage.

Wife—I ordered a bathing suit by mail today.

Hub—I suppose you enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope.—Boston Transcript.

Never Too Hot.

"It's much too hot to do work."
"What are you going to do?"
"Play a round of golf."
"But it is too hot for golf, isn't it?"
"No. Just too hot to work."

Not in the Business.

"I'm not quite sure about your washing-machine. Will you demonstrate it again?"

"No, madam. We only do one week's washing."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Political Hint.

He—"I suppose when all women vote the party managers will have to put handsome men on their tickets for candidates."

She—"What makes you think women will demand handsome men to vote for when you look at the kind most of them marry?"—Baltimore American.

It Was Potent.

"How about the bootleg goods in this town?" asked the stranger.

"In what particular?" asked the old inhabitant.

"Is it potent?"

"Potent is the word. A gentleman of my acquaintance stepped out of a theatre one night during an intermission and purchased a few drinks in a nearby alley. Then he returned to the theatre."

"Well, what is so remarkable about that?"

"He didn't know, until the doorkeeper kindly told him, that it was the next night."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE DANGER SINE.

A Play.

Scene, outside of a 33 story bilding.

Ferst sitizen. G, look at all the people wawking out in the street insted of on the pavement. Wats they doing that for?

2nd sitizen. Dont you see that sine says Danger?

Ferst sitizen. I see the sine but I don't see the danger.

2nd sitizen. You must be one of these peeple wunt to see everything.

Ferst sitizen. Sure, seeing is beleeving, thats me. Whoever owns this 33 story bilding must of had a old Danger sine and jest stuck it up so as not to waste it.

2nd sitizen. Holey smoaks but you got a sispicious nature.

Ferst sitizen. Well do you dare me to wawk rite past jest to prove that aint eny danger?

2nd sitizen. I dont dare you but Id like to see you.

Ferst sitizen. Well then all you got to do is watch.

2nd sitizen. G wizz he's a quarter ways over alreddy and nothing hasent happened yet. Now he's half ways over and the danger is still all on the sine. Now he's 2 therds ways over, wats you know about that? Now he's 7 eights ways over, well Ill be darned. Hay, hay, look out, heer comes a load of bricks off the roof.

Ferst sitizen. Its too late to tell me now. Im underneeth of them.

2nd sitizen. Is your life insured?

Ferst sitizen. It certeny is.

2nd sitizen. Thats good.

The End.

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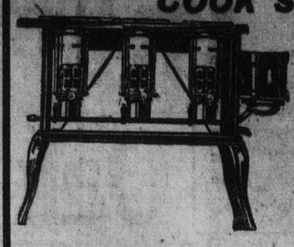

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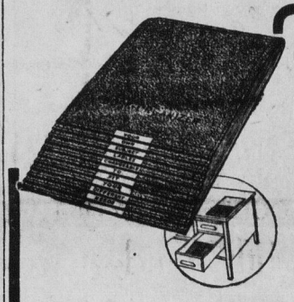

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FOUR BURNED TO DEATH.

Cleveland, July 21.—Two women and two children were burned and suffocated to death in a boarding house fire before noon today.

The women were Mrs. Eliza Moseman, 70, and her daughter, Tillie, 37, proprietors of the boarding house.

The children were Helen Stankovich, 3, and Felix Stankovich, 2, said to have been left at the boarding house recently by their father.

All four were found dead in bed, the children in the arms of the women.

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