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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1914.

REDISTRIBUTION.

The Redistribution Bill in which the people of the Maritime Provinces are keenly interested, is now occupying the attention of the House of Commons. In spite of the vigorous protests that have been made it is practically certain that the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will lose some of their numerical influence in the capital by the provision that gives the West the increased representation to which its growing population entitles it. The case of Prince Edward Island is a peculiar one, and strong claims were made that, in the case of that province, there should be special consideration, but it is doubtful if the Parliament of Canada can interefere with the provision of the British North America Act upon which the Redistribution Bill is worked out. What might be done is an appeal to the Imperial Parliament asking permission to amend the act. If this were granted it then would be comparatively easy to make the changes necessary to permit the smaller eastern provinces to retain their representation in the Canadian Parliament.

The point may be well taken that as the West has increased in population since the last census, so will it increase before the next census. Next year there may be 500,000 additional people going into the country west of the Great Lakes and in the years following it is natural to expect that number will be vastly increased. The period of financial stringency and industrial depression is nearing its close and with the return of better times the interest in the West will continue to develop and be followed by even greater increases in population with the ultimate result that the Maritime Provinces may be utterly swamped in the larger proportionate representation of the Western Provinces. It is a tradition in Ottawa, and one that the natives of the Maritime Provinces like to cling to, that the representation from the East is gauged not by numbers but by ability, and for collective brain power has hitherto easily been able to hold its own with the best in the house. This is as true today as it ever was, but there must come a time when weight of numbers will tell and then the East will feel the effect of the added representation given to the West. It is a serious problem for which no government can be blamed. The people of the West are entitled to the representation their population gives them, and under the new bill they get this and nothing more. The situation, however, illustrates that we in the East must bend every effort toward the development of our own province. New Brunswick has entered upon an era of prosperity which establishes a high-water mark. This must continue and it is the duty of every citizen to assist in it. Then when the next Redistribution Bill comes before Parliament we may find ourselves in the happy position which today is enjoyed by the people of the West, of adding to, instead of taking from the number of men who represent us in the hall of the nation's lawmakers.

THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

In spite of the fact that quite a large number of men in Canada are at present out of employment it is particularly gratifying to find that the Maritime Provinces are feeling the effect of the depression to a lesser extent than any other part of Canada. Reports coming to the Labor Department at Ottawa are to the effect that the situation will right itself with the coming of Spring and the resumption of industrial activity. One particularly pleasing feature of the situation is that a very few men are idle because of industrial disputes. Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, is authority for the statement that in all Canada at the present time less than 1,000 men are out of work through strikes. The greater number of these can be found on Vancouver Island, where the collieries affected by the recent disturbance have not yet resumed full operation. There is doubt whether the collieries will resume at the limit of their capacity for some time to come, as some of the best customers have taken to the use of oil, instead of coal for fuel. This, of course, reduces the market for the output.

Much has been said and written regarding the Vancouver trouble and its origin. The men, themselves, struck because two non-union miners were employed at one of the collieries but the opinion is gaining ground that the strike, to some extent, was engineered by the United Mine Workers of America. In the United Mine Workers' Journal of March 27th, 1913, Frank Farrington, representing the International Union of the U. M. W., had an article regarding the situation in Vancouver Island from which the following significant paragraph is taken:

"It is not beyond reasonable conjecture to expect that within a comparatively short time we will find "this coal," (Vancouver Island coal), "bidding for markets on the Atlantic "seaboard as well as on the Pacific "coast. This feature in itself would "not be so bad if there could be an "interchange of competition but that "cannot be, for the reason that the "superior quality of this coal will always bar outside competition from "its own zone.

"The duty devolving upon the United Mine Workers of America, because of this condition, is to organize "Vancouver Island and adjacent territory, raise the standard of employment, and act as a balancing medium "in the establishment of equitable competitive mining rates. This will be "a herculean task, but it must be done, "or we must suffer from inequitable "competition, and the job can be "easier done now than after the task "gets bigger."

The importance of Mr. Farrington's opinion arises from the fact that with the British Columbian coal fields unorganized under the standard of the Mine Workers, a strike in the United States fields would at once be followed by an export of coal to the United States from British Columbia. Thus would the American operatives be subjected to keen competition from the Pacific. It was to avoid this, and protect the United States workers that Mr. Farrington is so desirous to bring the Vancouver miners into the fold.

Consequently the organization was affected and within a few months the trouble in the Vancouver field assumed large proportions.

In the handling of the difficulty the Labor Department exercised tact and much consideration for all parties. To-day the officials of that department are being praised for their work. There is no department of the Canadian Government more wisely administered than that presided over by Hon. Thomas W. Crothers, which has for its purpose the protection of the interests of the Canadian workmen, the backbone of Canada's great industrial system.

"THE HINDU AND THE EMPIRE"

On Friday last a mild sensation was precipitated in Congress, when General Caminetti addressing the house immigration committee urged action to check Asiatic immigration. Dr. Sudhindra Bose, a professor in the University of Iowa, replying to his statements said that if the British government should approve the Hindu exclusion policy of its colonies it would precipitate the fiercest revolution the world has ever seen.

However, there are usually several ways out of a difficult situation. One of these has received very favorable consideration in Vancouver, where the problem is not merely a social but an Imperial one as well.

It is also worthy of notice inasmuch as it is put forward by a man who has lived amongst the Hindus for forty years and undoubtedly speaks with first hand knowledge of the subject. Also his Canadian birth and Maritime Province training should be sufficient guarantee for his Imperial connections.

He suggests that a limitless area awaits occupancy in British Guiana which offers suitable climatic conditions for the Hindus. Trinidad and Jamaica, just alongside, have tens of thousands of East Indians now and could accommodate many more. To encourage those that would emigrate but are without means, the government might provide a temporary shelter and open up land for settlement. The initial expenditure could be fairly levied on the land, paid in installments of five or ten years until the government had been fully reimbursed. As a matter of fact this would simply be a loan to be returned with interest through the sale of crown lands now unremunerative.

Probably this policy would have but little effect on the Hindu already settled in British Columbia. His prospects for accumulating are already too bright for him to assume the risks involved in a removal, but apparently it would be a solution of the difficulty for the future.

In this connection we should not forget that a certain responsibility rests upon our race in this matter aside from any mere Imperial sentiment. When the Britisher entered India there was no disposition on the part of the native to emigrate. His caste regulations forbade his embarking on the high seas. We have taught him the folly of those limitations and now that we have led him into the difficulty it is only good statesmanship on our part to help him find a way out.

Diary of Events

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

MME. SEMBRICH, FIFTY-SIX TODAY, SAYS EVEN GREAT WOMEN NEED HUSBANDS

Mme. Marcella Sembrich, famous throughout the musical world as grand opera prima donna and concert singer, did not eschew matrimony in order to devote her entire time to her art, and she has never had cause to regret her double allegiance. Mme. Sembrich—in private life Mme. Muillaume Stengel—was born fifty-six years ago today in Wisniewozyk, Galicia, Austria. Her maiden name was Praxede Marcelline Kochanski, and her father was a violinist of note and passionately devoted to music. The future prima donna was a pianist at four and able to play the violin at six, and at twelve she accompanied her father on concert tours through her native province. It was then that she adopted Sembrich as her professional name, this having been the maiden name of her mother. It was at the Lemburg conservatoire, where she studied vocal art, that she met Guillaume Stengel, the pianist whom she married while still in her teens. Later the girl studied singing at Vienna, under prominent teachers, and in 1877, at the age of nineteen, she made her debut in grand opera as Elvira in "I Puritani" at Athens, Greece. The following year she sang in the opera at Dresden, and in 1880 she sang in London, with such success that she was engaged for five seasons. It was in 1883 that she made her American bow at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Her subsequent successful career is known to all music lovers.

That even great artists need homes and husbands is the profound belief of the great singer. "Utter nonsense" is Mme. Sembrich's characterization of the idea that a woman must give up matrimony in order to be successful in a career. It is just as easy to have a career, a husband and a home, she asserts, as it is to do without any one of them.

"Sometimes I am so happy it hurts me," declared Mme. Sembrich some time ago in the course of an interview which touched on both her artistic and domestic life. "I have been married, and to the same man, so many years that I have almost lost count," she added, "and I have a son who is so beautiful and fine that he is the envy of all my neighbors and friends. The time has come, I believe, when men and women recognize fully that it is not from the hindering of one another, but through the helping, that great artists of great works are created. There are more successful and happily married women who are following some particular line of work through which they can express themselves, than there are unhappy ones."

FIRST THINGS

VERMONT.

The first state added to the original thirteen composing the United States was Vermont, which was admitted 123 years ago today. The Green Mountain State had a varied history up to the time of its entrance into the Union.

As early as 1609 Samuel de Champlain explored the shores of the lake bearing his name. Two centuries ago a large tract in southern Vermont was granted to the colony of Connecticut. A little later the colony of Massachusetts built Fort Dummer at Brattleboro, and about the same time a number of French-Canadians settled at Chimney Point. New Hampshire made a grant at Bennington in 1749. In 1763 New York claimed the territory of Vermont, under grants from Charles II. to the Duke of York, and ordered the sheriff to return the names of those who had settled in Vermont under titles from New Hampshire. Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire, declaring the claims of New York obsolete, proclaimed jurisdiction over Vermont. The King sustained New York's claims but forbade New York until authorized, to grant and lands in the disputed territory. The "Green Mountain Boys," under Ethan Allen, were organized to oppose "the Yorkers," and later played a prominent part in the revolution. After the establishment of the republic New York's claims were overthrown and Vermont became an independent state.

Coining New Ones.

Hostess—"So your baby brother can talk now."

Bobbie—"Oh, yes; he can say some words real well."

Hostess—"What words are they?"

Bobbie—"I don't know. They're words I never heard before."

IF CHILD IS CROSS, FEVERISH AND SICK

Look, Mother! If tongue is coated give "California Syrup of Figs."

Children love this "fruit laxative," and nothing else cleanses the tender stomach, liver and bowels so nicely.

A child simply will not stop playing to empty the bowels, and the result is, they become tightly clogged with waste, liver gets sluggish, stomach sours, then your little one becomes cross, half-sick, feverish, don't eat, sleep or act naturally, breath is bad, system full of cold, has sore throat, stomach-ache or diarrhoea. Listen, Mother! See if tongue is coated, then give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the constipated waste, sour bile and undigested food passes out of the system, and you have a well, playful child again.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID

The Safer Way.

"Dat ol' man o' yohs is a purty good provider."

"He shows his sense," replied Aunt Chloe. "He wants to keep me busy occupying dis here skillett as a utensil instid of a weapon."

Details.

Judge—"Describe what passed between you in the quarrel with your wife."

Man on Stand—"The plates were regular dinner size, your honor, and the teapot had a broken spout."

Blame Located.

A crabbed old misoynist said to Ethel Barrymore at a dinner in Bar Harbor:

"Woman! Feminism! Suffrage! Bah! Why, there isn't a woman alive who wouldn't rather be beautiful than intelligent."

"That's because," said Miss Barrymore calmly, "so many men are stupid while so few are blind."

Who He Was.

Dr. J. B. Aswell, one of the Louisiana Congressmen, has a habit of dashing out to some town every once in awhile and delivering a scholarly lecture. A few weeks ago he did this, and the official starter introduced him as follows:

"I am not a speechmaker and I shall not bore you with a long speech, but shall introduce at once the man who will."

A Sarcastic Foreman.

A gang of laborers was employed digging a ditch across the street. It was a sewer or a place to put a gas pipe or something. One man in particular was working as if he were a chorus man in a play, just going through the motions and pretending to dig a ditch. The foreman came along and spoke to him. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Lean on th' shovel now an 'thin. If it breaks I'll pay for it!"

The Bald Fact.

The Vicar—"Why don't you comb your hair before coming to school?"

The Boy—"Haven't got no comb, sir."

The Vicar—"Why don't you use your father's comb?"

The Boy—"Father hasn't got no comb, sir."

The Vicar—"Well, how does your father comb his hair, then?"

The Boy—"Father hasn't got no hair."

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