

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1923

The Evening Times-Star

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NATIONAL, NOT SECTIONAL.

The fact that the problems of the Maritime Provinces are national rather than sectional problems is being more and more widely recognized as public discussion of the recent delegation to Ottawa proceeds. The Toronto Star says that while there is discontent in both the Maritime Provinces and the West the "speakers for the delegation that visited Ottawa did not talk sectionally. They talked about what they thought could be done for them within the Dominion." The Star observes that in Parliament to-day the utterances of any public man is condemned in advance because of the party colors he wears. "If he is a Progressive from the West he is called a professional Jeremiah. If he is a Conservative from Toronto or Montreal he is supposed to be thinking chiefly of the interests of the high protectionists." If he is a Liberal he is accused of thinking only of keeping in good working order the relations between the ministry and the Progressives of the West. The Star frankly recognizes that Ontario has arrived at a broader attitude toward Maritime and Western problems. And it adds:

"Somebody must say useful things to be listened to, and a great deal of sensible discussion back and forth will be needed before Canada from ocean to the other can be got into shape for pulling together. The Maritime provinces and the Maritime provinces have views on the tariff and freight that are not the views of Ontario and Montreal—and they never will be. The fact is, these people are placed, not situated, as we are. They have problems which we can't solve, but they can't. It is perfectly useless for Ontario to expect them to move them because they mean nothing to us. They mean everything to them."

Ontario can hardly believe that the problems of the Maritimes and of the West mean nothing to its people. They mean a great deal. The remedies called for are national, not sectional. Ontario, in the centre of Canada, would have little to hope for if the West and the Maritimes were to be condemned to discontent and lack of reasonable prosperity because the policies of Canada were dictated by those who thought and legislated only for the centre and who regarded the eastern and western divisions as merely tributary territories. The Star recognizes this by saying that no province in Canada has more reason to desire a united and harmonious Dominion than Ontario, but it intimates that Ontario is not yet awake to its own interests, and has yet to realize how much those interests are affected by the well-being of the West and the Maritimes. The Star thinks a conference of representatives men from all corners of Canada, meeting in a non-partisan way, might accomplish much by "getting together and finding out what we all are driving at."

HOME BANK RELIEF.

Newspaper opinions as to parliamentary relief for the Home Bank depositors differ widely, but the history of the case since relief became a live issue shows that opinion in the House of Commons, while not unanimous, has been clearly in favor of some measure of aid among a large majority of the members. It has been intimated that the relief to be given will amount to about one-third of the deposits, and it is estimated that another third may be obtained from the assets of the defunct bank, including payment by stockholders of their double liability, and if this turns out to be correct, the depositors would be recovering about two-thirds of their money. If they do as well as that, the general verdict will be that they are in luck, considering all the circumstances, and inevitably their good fortune will be compared with that of depositors in other institutions in previous years who had to take heavy losses.

Those who assert that there is no more justification for relief in the Home Bank case than there was in previous instances differ at least from the finding of the committee of the House of Commons last session, which reported that the Government had a moral responsibility in connection with the Home Bank losses. The committee in reaching this conclusion was guided in part by the report of Commissioner McKenna, who investigated the Home

to them by the provincial development at Musquash. If that possibility is kept in mind the way of the future—a future that is inevitable—might be greatly simplified. It is a safe prediction that the prospects of such a conference ever reaching a friendly agreement is not advanced by court proceedings, no matter who wins or loses.

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

In 1931

(New York Times.)
Extract from Brig-Gen. William Mitchell's "History of the United States" (New York, 1931).
"Shortly before dawn on Feb. 26, 1931, the people of Boston were roused from their sleep by a sudden outburst of thunder and a flame-lit sky. It was the long impending Central Asian invasion. Five hundred 2,000-ton bombers were assaulting the city, manned by Kurds, Wahabis, Yemencis, Leleges, Turkomans, Assyro-Chaldeans, Sarts, Semoyeds, Chukchis and other races hitherto supposed to exist only in the cross-word puzzles. And America was not prepared! A dozen bombs shattered the hitherto unbroken stillness of Harvard Library. America had to purchase a humiliating peace at the cost of five billion dollars in gold and the cessation of the entire waterfront from St. Augustine to Miami."

"Still the lesson was not learned. On July 4, 1936, New York was bombarded by the Fujian air fleet of 300 squadrons comprising 5,000 fighting planes. This meant two planes for every inhabitant of Fiji, but somehow they had managed it while America nodded asleep. A single salvo from the Fujian fleet laid low 12,000 taxicabs between Pennsylvania Terminal and Seventy-second street. America averted her eyes and paid ten billion dollars in gold, ceded Hollywood and the railroad to the Tia Juana, and agreed to destroy all the South Sea literature in the public libraries."

"In 1941 came the Bantu Invasion and the end. The sky over the national capital was dark with the Zulu host in more than one sense. The invaders' peace demands were beyond our capacity. In despair the President, supported by the House of Representatives, agreed to the annexation of the United States by the Eskimo Confederation in

CANADA AND EUROPE.

"Canadian sentiment about European problems is increasingly isolationist," says the Manitoba Free Press. "We doubt whether any possible development in Europe would move this country to spend a dollar or risk a man."

"Any possible development" is a pretty large order. The Free Press is discussing the Geneva protocol, to which Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions will evidently refuse to commit themselves in its present form. The Free Press goes on to say: "Here in Canada the European aspects of the problem do not greatly affect us—we are pretty well protected by the geographical limitation of responsibility. The performance of the European nations since the war has sickened this country of the whole European problem; and if war breaks out—as is predicted by advocates of the Protocol, in the event of its abandonment—they can fight it out among themselves so far as we in Canada are concerned. This may be deplorable, but it is a hard fact. Canada's questioning attitude toward the Protocol rests on other grounds. First, the Japanese amendment, which will have to be explained away or withdrawn before Canada can give her consent. Secondly, the possibility of the British nations being involved, through the operations of the Protocol, in war with the United States. Needless to say, this possibility, which is quite existent as the Protocol stands, must be made an impossibility. There can be no European developments that will drive a wedge between the English-speaking nations."

The objections urged by the Free Press are largely those which caused the British Government to make haste very slowly in this matter. The Free Press, however, overlooks some things when it speaks of the isolation in which Canada is protected against entanglement. For this country is a part of the Empire. While its people may fight or decline to fight at all, in theory, they are open to attack the moment Great Britain is at war. However, it will not be necessary for Canada to subscribe to the protocol as is now stands. The British government has in preparation a substitute agreement, which is designed to meet the objections of both the United Kingdom and the overseas Dominions, and although it will be admittedly difficult to give the League the power to deal with any bellicose nation without committing its members to the enforcement of its decrees, it is anticipated that further negotiations and discussion will limit the responsibility of members in proportion to their direct interest in any dispute and to their distance from the scene of disturbance.

Dealing with the local power situation the Globe makes these suggestions editorially:
Some day, perhaps at an early day, there will come from some compelling source a movement for a get together conference over the electric light and power situation in Saint John. When that day comes it is inevitable that somebody will present as one of the major issues for consideration the litigation costs and other obligations put upon the citizens of Saint John in opposition to their effort to get established and in successful operation a civic distribution system made available

return for protection against the South African air hordes. The Senate took no part in the transaction because one of the Senators refused unanimous consent."

No Compulsion.

(Boston Transcript.)
An English comedian commented recently on the peculiar way we Americans have of acknowledging an introduction. For example, a New Orleans man, in shaking hands with him, said, "I'm pleased to know you." A New Yorker said, "I'm glad to have you know me," while a third Yankee said, "I'm obliged to know you." "To which," added the comedian, "I could not help retorting, 'Not necessarily.'"

Proper Punishment.

(Salem News.)
Governor Fuller came out the other night with a plea for barring from the roads of the State for a longer time those convicted of reckless driving and other serious offences against traffic laws. A declaration like this from the governor is bound to have a good effect. A few "long-term" declarations from the courts would do a lot to make life safer on the streets of this State.

Four Walls For Solace.
(Ced Olcott in "The Buccaneer.")
The croon of black water over stone. The cool flow of stars like ripened cross-word puzzles. And America, though hearts crumble and rot and bleach as bone, These will remain.

The long pulse of the wind, the indolent of spens gossiping idly on a hill— They will go their trivial way long

Your sobers are still.
Tall this black sorrow to your pillow, Whisper your despair to the shadowy glass, But never go for sympathy to willow, Or cloud, or grass.

Cry your lips dumb; you will not stir one leaf, Not a wind will hearken you, or care, But in a small room you may live with grief. Too great to bear.

Wanted to Know.
Seeing his mother nod pleasantly to the minister who went by, Archie inquired, "Who's that, mama?" "That's the man who married me, dear," she replied with a smile. "Then if that's the man who married you," said Archie, "what's he doing at our house?"

Clock Values

Between \$20 and \$25 just now there are some notable values in Mahogany Clocks that run eight days strike the hour and half hour on mellow gongs and look like the picture.

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Tongues in Trees.
Ohio paper—"There are no less than twenty-eight speeches of pine trees in the United States," the speaker said. "Whispering pines," suggested R. C. M.

Golfing beginner (to his caddy):—"Now what's your opinion of my form; do you think I shall become a good golfer?"
Caddy (mediately):—"Well, I wudna say that; but gin ye pratseese

A Mistle Name.
Tiny Muriel climbed up on her father's knee and put her arms around his neck. "Well, Toodles, here's your birth-



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for a matter of two or three years you'll maybe ken guld gounf when ye see't."

Absence of Stomach Ache.
An English school boy rendered "Pax in bello."
"Freedom from indigestion."

That Settles It.
"Doctor, you are quite sure that my eyes are all right; that one leg is not shorter than the other and that my heart, lungs and stomach are O. K.?"
"Absolutely."

"Then, that blamed professional has sold me a dud golf club."—London Passing Show.

A Mistle Name.
Tiny Muriel climbed up on her father's knee and put her arms around his neck. "Well, Toodles, here's your birth-

day kiss," he said fondly. She looked at him. "I'm free years old now, daddy," she said soberly, "so you must call me Freddie."

Seats Were Poor.
"How were your seats?"
"Rotten, couldn't see a thing."
"Ours were worse than that; nobody could see us."—Yorkshire Evening Post.

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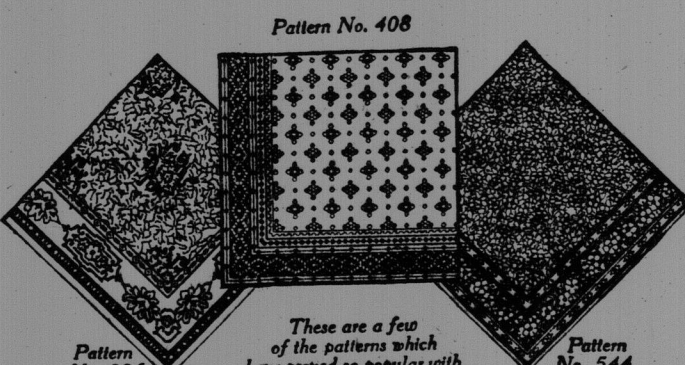
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