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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEB. 22, 1909.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The people of the United States, who have already broken all old Roman records in the observance of special holidays, are today commemorating the anniversary of Washington's birth. The truthful one, to whom a political evasion was the limit, is honored now more from force of habit than through admiration of his personality and politics. In fact the sound advice laid down by the leader of the movement toward independence is today almost totally disregarded by those politicians and statesmen who believe that the conditions of modern national life demand a line of action altogether different from that advocated by Washington, or who for the furtherance of certain immediate objects set aside the important suggestions originally offered for the development of the Republic. Washington placed particular emphasis on two points—

the wedding of all sections into one solidly united federation, and the avoidance of entangling foreign alliances whether they be of a political or commercial nature. He believed that his country, because of its geographical position, could be developed to such a stage that in itself it would command the respect of foreign powers, and that in it alone exclusive of outside territory, the greatest progress could be secured. Of late years his conservative ideas have been set aside as antiquated. The United States, instead of being more than ever a true federation, is becoming an ill-assorted lot of individual states, each envious of another and all protesting against those constitutional provisions which have given to the federation even a partial control over the separate states. Instead of seeking prosperity at home, and improving the condition of its people by the development of natural wealth and the regulation of growing evils, the federal government is allowing itself to be led into outside entanglements, is exhibiting a desire for more territory, is mixing in matters of international politics in which it has, in reality, no interest. Instead of minding its own business as Washington advised, the tendency of today is to mind every other nation's business, and this naturally involves neglect of its own.

As a result of interviews gathered by the Star on civic affairs, several points can be distinctly noted. The gentlemen who have expressed their ideas were not systematically selected, they were not chosen because of any previous limitation of their opinions, but were simply chosen at random, and hence it may be believed that they represent the electorate as a whole. It has been found that practically all those spoken to, believe that in the present system of government far too much time is occupied with matters of detail. All agree that the reason men do not offer a more active personal interest in civic government, is that merchants and those engaged in the professions, simply cannot sacrifice their own interests for the purpose of meeting the excessive demands now made upon those who become members of the council. It is also pointed out that that was it for one alderman to perform his duty by attending meetings once a fortnight, or even once a week, the electors would be able to choose their representatives from a larger list of candidates. It is contended too, by many that the cumbersome methods of our present system of government are absolutely unnecessary and exist solely because those who have the authority are in a position to make a change as unwilling to do so. These facts appear to contain the principal reason why citizens generally do not take a more active personal interest in civic government. As regards the remedy to be applied, or the reforms to be introduced, opinions differ, but among those who have been seen by the Star, a majority are strongly of the belief that the present council could be reduced by one-half and the work be carried on quite as efficiently as is now done. It is felt that a board of eight or nine members could conduct civic affairs just as satisfactorily as does the present council, and that committees half as large as those which now meet so frequently would be found capable of transacting everything brought before them without making a more serious mess of things than do the larger committees which now exist. Along with the reduction in the number of the aldermen, those who have expressed their ideas to the Star are almost unanimously in favor of the creation of a small executive. Some

suggest a board of control, others favor a commission; a number believe the executive officers should be elected; more incline to the view that experts should be appointed; all agree that if the detail of civic business is left to a small executive, as suggested, those men should be well paid. The third suggestion is one which deals with the question of arousing wider interest in civic politics. It has been expressed in a number of ways, but the basic idea is the calling of public meetings and open nominations, by convention or otherwise, of candidates for the council. No one has yet been found who is in favor of the present system, by which citizens desiring aldermanic honors get half a dozen names on a sheet of paper and nominate themselves. It is felt that the electorate should have a voice in the nominations. One citizen indeed, suggested the introduction of party politics, which would lead to the holding of conventions. Perhaps the same end could be obtained by calling public meetings and having the records of candidates openly discussed, their conduct criticized and a decision of the people taken as to their worthiness or otherwise. Briefly the outcome of the interviews is, reduce the membership of the council, arouse interest by holding public meetings and create a small executive.

THE ARMY OF GOD-KNOWS-WHERE.

(Civil Engineers) No bands are playing gaily when they're going into action. No crowds are cheering madly at their deeds of derring-do. They are owing small allegiance to any flag or faction.

Their colors on the sky-line and their war cry, "Put it through!" Ahead of bath and Bible and of late repeating rifle, The flags can only follow to the starting of their trail; They herd the leagues behind them, every mile the merest trifle; They mark the paths of safety for the slower fall and rail.

They work the Quite Impossible; they scuff the earth and water, they find the problems of the air and found them easy, too. They quell the ocean's raging, the mountains' fearful haunter. As they march toward the sky-line with the war cry, "Put it through!"

Their standards like the breezes from the Arctic's cooling loon To where the South Pole's poking out its undiscovered loon; You can see their glims smacking through the lands of rum and spleen— And East and West you'll always find their unrepeating deed.

No time for love and laughter, with their rods upon their shoulders, No time to think with vain regret of home or passing friends. They are slipping down the chasms charging up the mighty bowlers, The compass stops from overwork; the pathway never ends.

They all the gullet of the earth; disgorge its kindred riches, (But life's too short for them to stop and snatch a rightful share); They're looking on the Congo putting in some water ditches; A dating to take tea with death; they make it by a hair!

You will find their pickets watching in the unexpected places; You will hear them talking freely of the Things-That-Can't-Be-Done; Oh, the Faith they speak so strongly and the Hope that's in their faces— It lights the gloom of 'What's-the-Use as brightly as the sun!

No bands are playing gaily and no crowds are madly cheering; No telegraph behind them tell their deeds of derring-do; But forward goes the legion, never doubting, never fearing— Their colors on the sky-line and their war cry, "Put it through!"

GEORGE A PRINCE WAS SENT UP FOR TRIAL.

The preliminary examination of George A. Prince, accused of uttering worthless cheques and forgery, was concluded Saturday afternoon. At the afternoon session Mr. McLean, of Macaulay Bros., Mr. Robinson, of Anderson & Co., and A. B. Gilmore, gave evidence that they had received checks from the defendant in return for goods sold, and after deducting the amount of their account had given the defendant the balance in cash.

SWEENEY MENTIONED.

MONCTON, Feb. 21.—Among the names prominently mentioned in connection with the collector of customs recently resigned, by I. W. Blaney, arch-dean, F. J. Sweeney and Geo. H. Cochran. Mr. Sweeney left last night for Ottawa.

STOPS FALLING HAIR.

Ayer's Hair Vigor is composed of sulphur, glycerin, quinine, sodium chlorid, capicum, sage, alcohol, water, and perfume. Not a single injurious ingredient in this list. Ask your druggist for it. A hair food, a hair tonic, a hair dressing. Freely checks falling hair. Completely destroys all dandruff. DOES NOT COLOR THE HAIR.

A CENTRAL FIGURE IN NEW CHINA.

Tang Shao Yi Envoy Extraordinary and Special Commissioner, who left Peking some weeks ago on a political mission to the United States and Europe, is the very opposite—the traditional Chinaman. He speaks English fluently, and he knows the manners and ways of the West thoroughly. Not many years ago Tang's bulldog-out famous strain—his dogcart, and his social parties were famed among all men living around the Yellow Sea. At a time when one's Chinese teacher would turn away in contempt if he met you in the streets of Peking, and ostentatiously spit as he went by, your presence might pollute him. Tang went out of his way to fraternize with white men. Even those—and they are many in the treaty ports—violently prejudiced against all Chinese had nothing to say of this quiet, soft-spoken young Cantonese. And with reason. It is no exaggeration to describe Tang Shao Yi as the greatest of the younger men of China today. He has for many years been the right hand of Yuan Shih Kai, leader of the reform movement, and when, in the course of time, age compels Yuan to step back into contact with him, he is the one who is to be exact—his superior. For the moment, it is true, the party of reform, represented by Yuan and Tang, has received a check, and the reactionaries are triumphant. But the reforms for which these statesmen are standing can no more be permanently retarded by backstairs intrigue than the frenzied supplications of a terrified bonza.

TANG AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

A little over twenty years ago Tang was a student in Columbia College, in New York. Today he is a student in the prime of his power. He is still very young for office in the Far East—forty-seven—and he is not a student who knows him best are most assured that he is only at the beginning of a great career. From first to last he has never changed his purpose, and he is working to that end with unbroken sincerity and with a distinct understanding of the world and its needs. He has foreign governments—German and Scotch—for his daughters. The man's outlook is a wide one, and he is essentially up-to-date, far-sighted, and keen.

GREAT VIOLINIST TO BE HEARD HERE TONIGHT.

Miss Marie Hall to Give Recital in Opera House—Pianists and Baritone to Assist.

In the Opera House tonight Miss Marie Hall, heralded as one of the world's famous violinists, will be heard in recital, assisted by a talented pianist, and a baritone. Miss Hall has received very flattering press notices in England, and she is a really great artist. The concert company will include Miss Helen Baesche, solo pianist, and Harold Bedley, baritone. There has been a good demand for seats and it is hoped to see the Opera House filled.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

Yuan returned to the metropolitan provinces of Pe-chi-li, and there began his real career as a reformer. After a time Tang followed him, working first as his right-hand man in dealing with foreigners, and then becoming Director of the Northern Railway. The Boxer rising came, with its great issues. Tang showed now the stoutness of his friendship for the foreigners. It is true that there was one unfortunate misunderstanding with naval authorities, but that it would be well not to remember. Another thing cannot be forgotten. While under imperial orders, many governors and viceroys were aiding in the cruel slaughter of white people. Yuan, who was now governor of Shan-tung, defended them. He refused even the directions of the Dowager Empress and the hate of the people. He called together the troops he could trust, placed Gatling guns at the corner of his yamen, and openly fought the Boxers. At that time Tang was by Yuan's side, working with him.

FATHER MORRISCOY'S REMEDIES.

We have a complete stock of the above well known remedies.

E. Clinton Brown, Druggist, Cor. Union and Waterloo Street.

There's a world of comfort in a perfect fitting pair of glasses. They should set easy upon the nose, not make a large red ring or groove upon it, nor feel like they're cutting your eyes. D. BOYANDER, the Optician, can give you comfort in the frame as well as the glass. Call at 28 Dock St.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION.

(Toronto Star) England will build six more Dreadnoughts. What Canada contributes to the Dreadnoughts is the moughts.

FERGUSON & PAGE. Jewelry, Etc. 41 King St.

BARGAINS IN Men's Gun Metal Calf Laced Boots. \$4.00. Store closes at 7 p. m. Francis & Vaughan 19 KING STREET.

NOTICE TO MARINERS. Notice is hereby given that the "Anctico" Lightship anchored on Luncheon shoal, off Yarmouth, N. S., has broken her moorings, and is now in Yarmouth. It will be replaced on Sunday, the 21st instant, weather permitting.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE. HEAD OFFICE - - - TORONTO. Capital \$10,000,000 Res. \$6,000,000.

TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES. Are a most convenient way in which to carry money when travelling abroad. They are issued in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$200.

Don't be deceived by other labels. BIRTHS. FRANCIS—Suddenly, at St. Eugene Hospital, Cranbrook, B. C., Thursday, February, 11th, David T. Francis, son of James H. Francis of Armstrong Corner, Queen's Co., N. B., in his 23rd year, leaving father, mother, seven brothers and seven sisters to mourn their sad loss.

A Good Boot for a Boy. Rubbers will not stand, so get a Boot that will. We have a Chrome Tanned Leather Upper on an Oak Tanned half solid Boot, made straight lace pattern, that will turn water and will not slip easily on hard rough ice.

Price \$2.25 per Pair. SIZES 1 TO 5. PERCY J. STEEL, FOOT FURNISHER, 519-521 Main St. SUCCESSOR TO W. M. YOUNG.

SPECIAL—Captain Dreyfus got a new trial so does Carter, asking you to come in and see the bargain for five days only, in the line of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Clothing, Boots and Shoes, that will satisfy you, style and price. Remember the place, opposite Estabrooks' Tea Factory, 48 Mill St. Everything is guaranteed or money refunded. J. CARTER'S, 48 Mill St. Phone 1604.

Glover Farm Dairy Dr. John G. Leonard, Dentist. 124 Queen Street. High grade Milk and Cream. Bottled for family trade. Tel. 1506. H. M. FLOYD. 15 Charlotte Street, ST. JOHN N. B.

THE STAR. If you would enjoy the Star-light of business success, a space in St. John's big evening paper, commensurate with the strength of your business, will give you that. It pays to advertise in the STAR. TRY STAR-LIGHT.

NAVAL CONFERENCE HAS ANOTHER DELAY. Vessel to Port.

Blindfolded Pilot Brought Down. People of the District Terror Stricken.

Score Killed in Rush of Panic Stricken. Worshippers—American Relief Fund Now Over a Million Dollars.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The signing of the official minutes of the proceedings of the international naval conference, which has been in session in this city since last December, has been unexpectedly delayed by the reservation of the American delegates on a minor point upon which the decision of Washington has not yet been received. It is understood that the reservation question is a neutral ship performing a service that is not neutral.

MONTREAL, Feb. 21.—The winter carnival which was held here from the 10th to the 20th of the month has proven a failure. The weather was so mild that the ice palace collapsed. Fortunately no one was injured. The springlike rains spoiled the torchlight procession and balloon ascension. Citizens here suggested that in future attention be paid to sports not dependent upon cold weather.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Fifty naval and shipping men were witnesses today of experiments off Sandy Hook to demonstrate how a submarine signal bell can assist vessels to make port safely in foggy weather or to avoid collisions under like conditions. Although blindfolded at the wheel of a seagoing tug, a pilot brought the boat close up to the Ambrose Channel lightship from three miles out at sea, guided by the tinkle of the lightship's bell. He had the receiver of this bell at his ear the whole three miles and he gave the order "stop her" to the tug's crew less than 100 yards from the lightship.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—John Arbuckle, who has been in charge of the attempts to raise the Maine sunk in Havana harbor, has announced here today that he is in negotiation with the government to raise the Maine. He is confident that the battleship can be floated with comparative ease and is willing to make the effort as soon as the necessary permission is given and the appropriation made.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 21.—The greatest revival campaign which was ever held in Boston closed tonight with a monster service in Mechanics Hall after a month's work in which meetings have been held every day attended by an estimated number of 800,000 persons.

NEW PORT, R. I., Feb. 1.—For 24 hours yesterday the crew of the Nantucket Shoals lightship No. 85 were housed below decks with hatches battened down and the ship rolling and pitching in the severest gale and roughest seas the craft has ever encountered. In spite of the gale it was necessary for the operators to man the wireless tower and by means of life lines this duty was performed. One man, however, was compelled to remain on watch eighteen hours, unable, on account of the pitching of the vessel, to leave the tower.

GREENFIELD, Mass., Feb. 21.—"Slide sailing" the regular local passenger train running on the Connecticut river division of the Boston and Maine R.R., between Greenfield and Springfield tonight, a switching error in the lower yard endangered the lives of nearly 100 passengers. But one person was hurt, however, and he, John Souther, of Easthampton, will probably recover. It is believed that a misplaced switch was responsible for the accident.