

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1904

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
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The following agent is authorized to canvass and collect for The Semi-Weekly Telegraph, viz:
Wm. Semerville
Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 22, 1904.

UN-CANADIAN.
Certain un-Canadian newspapers, notably the Ottawa Citizen, have raised the race cry as a result of the Dondonald incident. In a fit of simulated passion these writers assail the French, insinuate that the Premier is a traitor to the flag, and generally attempt to lead fire to the desecrated altar of racial hatred. These are contemptible tactics, and if they do not prove injurious to the political interests of the persons responsible for them we misjudge the common sense and fairness of the audience which the Citizen addresses. The trick of the Citizen is at once simple and un-Canadian. It smacks of years that are dead and methods which have been abandoned by the more enlightened, not to say decent, party newspapers.
The Citizen, the Montreal Star, the Hamilton Spectator—to mention some of the brilliant strategists in the vile campaign now under way—appear to entertain the bright idea that the Scotch may be led to rise against the French, because Lord Dondonald is a Scot and the Premier of Canada referred to him as a stranger to the Eastern Townships. The Scotch got through, beating the French as a regular business, about the time Wolfe fell at Quebec, and being a hard headed and a humorless folk they will be the first to laugh at the idea that any newspaper can fire them, with feeling against other citizens of Canada in these days of tolerance and peace and mutual respect among all classes.
That an attempt so indecent and foolish should be made, and that the Dondonald-Fisher incident should be followed by such un-Canadian Quebec and Ontario papers, is surprising in the year 1904. Efforts to distort the facts, and to maintain the misrepresentations for which Lord Dondonald was originally responsible, are common enough, but only a few of the more rabid newspapers have affected to find in the Premier's arraignment of the commanding officer cause for frothing at the mouth. These writers hold their readers' intelligence cheap. Their readers will return the compliment in kind.
In the day of her prosperity, when her fortunes were at their height, she has been one of the fairest prizes, when her sons and her enterprises prosper, Canada should have no place for the meanness which strikes at the peace and honor of the nation in a childish attempt to gain some short-lived partisan advantage.

MR. BOURASSA WRITES.
The Telegraph has received the following letter from Mr. Henri Bourassa, M. P. for Labelle, and gladly gives it publicity:
To the Editor of The Telegraph:
Sir: My attention has just been called to your article of yesterday, in which I am held responsible for an ill-advised paragraph published by Le Nationaliste, in relation with the execution of Belanger.
I have already stated, under my own signature, that I have no control over the management and the editorial of that paper. That statement appeared in Le Nationaliste itself. As it appears that you read that paper you should have been aware of the fact.
Moreover, far from endorsing the views expressed in that paragraph, I hold on the question the same opinion as that which you express, and I have said so to the editor of the Nationaliste.
Yours, etc.,
HENRI BOURASSA.
Ottawa, June 15.

The Nationalist contained an article in which the execution of Belanger was described as a murder. The hangman was held up to public scorn as an assassin. The article was one likely to promote among ignorant persons madish sympathy for those who commit the highest crime known to the law. The Telegraph is glad to learn and to announce that Mr. Bourassa is neither responsible for nor bitten by any such pernicious tendencies as cropped out in the journal with which his name has been associated. His disclaimer of responsibility for the Nationalist had escaped us, and news that he walks on the same side of the street of public opinion relating to law and order is welcome.
Of the Belanger case The Telegraph expressed the view that, while executions are lamentable enough, a French saying might well be recalled by those whose tears flow too readily with the assassin—"Messieurs les murderers began it." As Mr. Bourassa holds the Telegraph's opinion in this matter, and has informed the editor of the Nationalist of the fact, it strikes us there is nothing more to be said, unless one may express the hope that Mr. Bourassa's influence upon the Nationalist editor is potent.

A GREAT FEUD.
"In my memory there rises the British colonel who said to me in Calcutta: 'I have been ordered here to India three times. Twenty-five years ago as lieutenant the Russians then were fifteen hundred miles from the frontier. Then ten years ago as captain and then the Russians were only five hundred miles away. Last year as lieutenant-colonel the Russians stood just before the passes that lead to India.'"
When Peter the Great ruled Russia, one of his designs was to plant his flag in India and win an all-Russian way to the East. That was in 1713. British and Russian interests have clashed steadily ever since. Four years ago there was open rejoicing in St. Petersburg over every British reverse in South Africa. The idea that Britain's feud with Russia must break out some time and be finally settled by the breaking of the power of one of the combatants has long been a common one. In his book on the German who has been predicting the destruction of the British Empire, naturally refers to the Russian advance, saying in it hope that the collision he foresees—Russia, France and Germany—may one day be effected. Yet as far as Russia is concerned, hatred of the English is deep-seated and if it works no great harm in time, that will be because the Bear's teeth have been drawn.

Recently a prominent St. Petersburg newspaper was permitted to publish the following:
"All the impudent and vile acts which England has perpetrated during the past months against Russia are too manifest to every one of Russia's many millions of people to need recording in any blue book, and Russians of all ages, even children, and of all conditions, are permeated with hatred against the English and with the desire of revenge. Voices have long since made themselves heard in Moscow, crying: 'We are giving millions for the war

against the Japanese, but we will give whole milliards for a war against England, if only the Czar will say the word.' "And these words are repeated by the entire Russian Empire, by every city, by every hamlet, every soldier, every Russian man. Animated with this sentiment, let the whole Russian press speak out, and then, perhaps, our diplomats will be inspired to talk with the English ministers in the language of English cynicism, of English impudence, and at every sound of such language all Russia will stand up breast to breast as one man for our adored monarch, and will not recoil from any sacrifice in the struggle longed for by all Russia has begun against her one secular enemy."

The foregoing represents the feeling of official Russia. The Russian bureaucrats see Britain behind Japan. The British rejoice in the exposure of Russian weakness due to Japan's aggressive campaign, and believe, with reason, that when this war is over, no matter who wins, Russia is ruled by many years. And if Japan wins there may be revolution, and there must be reform, in Russia, so extensive as to occupy her thoroughly at home and perhaps roast her entire national system. The population of British Asia is above 300,000,000; of Russian Asia, less than 25,000,000. The British intend to check Russian ambition in China, in Manchuria, and permit no further advance toward India. Failure to do either would be a menace to the prestige and integrity of the British Empire. It is not wonder the British are betting on Japan.

THE WAR DRAMA.
While the Japanese plan is not yet wholly clear it is known that the fighting at and near Vafangow last week was much more severe than was at first reported, and it becomes increasingly plain that the driving northward of the Russians from behind Port Arthur will develop into a concerted Japanese attack upon the extreme right of General Kuropatkin's forces. In this movement General Kuropatkin will take part. General Kurapatkin must close up his long line, therefore, and fight a general engagement, or risk having his several divisions beaten in detail.
The Japanese are full of surprises. At a time when St. Petersburg insisted upon a diversion in favor of the Port Arthur force, General Oku to raise the siege, the number of troops Japan had landed to invade the city was not known. The Russians evidently believed the besieging force so small that it might be harassed with impunity by 15,000 men menacing its rear. After some days of fighting concerning which we had at first somewhat confused accounts, it is seen that General Oku's force is so great that he could hurl 30,000 men against the Russians in his rear. Not content with holding them in check thirty or forty miles above Kinchow, he detached practically an entire army corps and 100 guns, to sweep them from their entrenchments at Vafangow, drive them northward routed and demoralized, and follow them in force enough to cooperate in any movement General Kuroki may elect to make against the extreme right of the Russian position whose center is at Liao Yang. And all the time General Oku retains at Port Arthur itself an army of investment which he regards as sufficient for the capture of the fortress.
This revelation of force by the invaders indicates that the fate of the growing army of General Kuropatkin now hangs in the balance. With the northward movement of General Nogu at the heels of the Russian brigade smashed at Vafangow, it becomes likely that the reduction of Port Arthur, General Oku will take Port Arthur, no doubt. He has a free hand now that his rear is no longer menaced, and his siege guns should soon be at work.
While the attack upon and defence of the great fortress will hold public attention the fate of the great Russian force about Liao Yang is a matter of much greater importance. The Russians now admit that they lost fifty-seven officers and 1,500 men in one day's fighting last week. They say the Japanese loss was twice as heavy. General Oku says his casualties were only 900. The Japanese have shown that they do not regard the taking of any position as necessary. There is no doubt that is what counts.
The sinking of Japanese transports by the cruisers of the Vladivostok squadron leads to St. Petersburg dreams about a junction of the Vladivostok and Port Arthur divisions and a naval battle in the eastern sea. It is not likely that Admiral Togo will permit even a torpedo boat to leave Port Arthur. His force is big enough to whip both squadrons together, but it is simpler to whip them singly, and no junction is now possible. The ships in the harbor are doomed as is the city. The only open question about them is whether they will be sunk by the Russians themselves or sent out to inflict what damage they can upon the Japanese fleet when they become plain that Port Arthur is about to be taken. It is not likely that Skrydloff, when he ventured out of Vladivostok, had any definite idea of effecting a junction with the Port Arthur squadron. The best he hoped for, in all probability, was to create a diversion for moral effect, and in that he was highly successful. Tokio serves notice upon Admiral Kamimura that it must not occur again.

THE WHEAT CROP AND GOOD TIMES.
The wheat area in Manitoba and the Territories this year is greater than that of last year by about ten per cent—3,420,000 acres in all. Last year's crop in Manitoba was 40,116,000 bushels. The increase in the area planted should mean a total crop in Manitoba alone of more than 50,000,000 bushels. But the Manitoba average last year was only 16.42 bushels an acre, while in 1901 it was 25.1 and in 1902 twenty-six bushels. Those who are now attempting to estimate this year's crop say with reason that it may safely be predicted that the average yield will be much greater than last year. If we reckon this year's yield at twenty-six bushels to the acre the crop in Manitoba and the Northwest would be nearly 90,000,000.
If the average were no better than last

year, the crop would be 86,000,000 bushels. If the yield per acre were midway between that of last year and that of 1902 the crop would reach 73,000,000 bushels, which is itself would be tremendous. There is much reason to hope it will reach those figures. If it does even the spectre of "hard times" will disappear for some time to come. One or two bumper crops would give the country an immense and immediate impetus, stimulate wheat growing, increase the already great immigration, and push the country a long way toward the day when it could supply all Britain's demands for breadstuffs.
With but a small fraction of her wheat country under cultivation, and unbounded room for development in that direction, Canada may confidently count upon unparalleled development in the West. At this time, then, a glance at our nearest neighbors and greatest competitors in regard to wheat may be of interest. The Boston Herald, in an editorial on the American wheat outlook, indicates that the United States must expect a decreasing wheat crop hereafter. The Herald's statement that the wheat export of the Americans must be much less hereafter is particularly interesting to Canadians. The Herald says in part:—
"It may be too soon to draw positive deductions from this experience of a few years; but it is not improbable that the zenith of the United States as a wheat and oats raising country has been reached, and it is clearly probable that this zenith has been passed for the United States as a wheat and oats exporting country. As our people are growing in number at the rate of at least a million a year, the domestic demand for wheat and oats must grow in corresponding ratio. We cannot afford to export, as it is said Russia has, the grain which our own people need for their every-day wants, and thus no one need be surprised if in ten years from this time it is found that the land in the United States devoted to wheat growing is considerably smaller than at the present time, and that our exports of wheat have fallen to a fraction of the volume of those shipments during the last few years. Twenty years from this time we may not only have ceased to be a wheat exporting country, but may in some degree be dependent upon foreign countries for our supply of this form of breadstuffs.
"Of course a good deal depends upon the market price of grain as to whether or not it is found profitable to raise it. It is assumed that we have enormous tracts of unutilized land in the United States which could be devoted to the work of producing wheat and oats; but seemingly the trend of emigration by farmers from the United States to the Canadian Northwest would imply that the undeveloped land in this country is not of a character which lends itself to successful wheat growing. There are abandoned farms in New England which, if the West ceased to be a great shipper of wheat, might again be used for wheat growing, as they were two or three generations ago. But these small farms, even if they were the crop land of this country, are not of a character which lends itself to successful wheat growing. There are abandoned farms in New England which, if the West ceased to be a great shipper of wheat, might again be used for wheat growing, as they were two or three generations ago. 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