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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 23, 1907

COMPLETE THE CHAMPLAIN FUND

The Telegraph hopes within a reasonably short time to be able to announce to its readers that the sum of \$10,000 needed to erect the Champlain monument in this city has been raised.

And why should it not? The people of this city, we feel certain, will say with one accord that Champlain in bronze, heroic, commanding, his outstretched arm pointing to the mouth of the St. John, should be given a place of honor in the heart of the city.

"There are those who would rejoice to see the great masterpiece thus widen the margin of its prodigious eddy and produce universal destruction."

AN EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT

The lively and lamentable dispute between Gov. Swettenham of Jamaica and Rear Admiral Davis, commander of the United States squadron which was hurried to Kingston to assist in the relief work, stamps one of these gentlemen as utterly unfit to fill the position he occupies; but which one is to be so condemned is not at the moment very clear.

THE WARD SYSTEM

Much may be said against the ward system of electing aldermen, but in view of our experience under the present system much may be said in favor of the old one.

from falling lower than it now is. The harbor, the gas question, the assessment, the Loch Lomond "extras," the streets, the schools—all these and other matters will demand good judgment and independent, public-spirited action.

There are candidates whose motives or whose judgment and public spirit are distrusted, these men must be kept out of the next Council if St. John is to have progressive economic civic government during a period which will exert a great influence upon the future of the city.

No doubt the next civic campaign will be one of much plain speaking, there is so much at stake. Of some men now in the Council it will be necessary to ask: Why are they there? Of some candidates it will be necessary to ask: Why are they seeking election? It should be easier to dispose of the undesirables under the proposed system than it has been under the present one.

THE NEXT DOUMA Some exceedingly gloomy predictions are made by several of the observers who have been following the march of events in Russia since the first Douma was dissolved by the Czar.

Some of these observers, Mr. Alex. Francis, whose articles indicate an intelligent analysis of affairs in the Russia of today, says that undoubtedly there has been a reaction by which the government will benefit in the coming elections.

But he adds that the most violent reactionists, who held off from the first Douma, are now making an active campaign for the second. The prestige of these extremists has been enhanced by the failure of the first parliament, which they predicted, and they bid fair to control a majority in the next popular assembly.

"The Constitutional Democratic party, although numerically weakened by the new elections, will doubtless exert influences of proportion to its numbers, owing to the superior intelligence of its personnel. But it is doubtful whether its moderating influence will suffice to restrain the extremist majority, which it is to be feared will quicken into still greater activity the social and political unrest by the extravagance of its demands and by pandering to the spirit of destruction, and by offering immediate and direct remedies for social and political ills."

For these and other reasons which need not be specified here, St. John should be glad to read of the meeting held Monday in the Board of Trade rooms, at which citizens representing many conspicuous interests in this community, took the steps which soon will result in giving to this city a Canadian Club of its own.

SWETTENHAM AND DAVIS

The Telegraph's New York correspondent, who once had an opportunity of examining Governor Swettenham of Jamaica and Rear Admiral Davis, U. S. N., at close range, gives us a most interesting picture of these worthies in his despatch this morning.

"The second cruiser squadron comes first in order of merit, with the Drake, flagship of Prince Louis of Battenberg, first of the whole fleet."

The Winnipeg wholesale clothing manufacturing concern, says the Montreal Witness, has adopted a drastic plan for dealing with a strike of its employees.

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there is sharp conflict of opinion as to whether or not there was need of the American marines in preserving order. The peppy governor, whose letter can scarcely seem other than studiously offensive, indicates that the American, invited and without valid excuse, assumed the duty of policing a British city whose condition did not excuse any such procedure, and he stoutly resents the inference thus implied, that the local authorities were unable to meet satisfactorily the demands of even so great an emergency.

We have yet to learn whether this stiff British attitude can be justified, and no doubt much evidence pro and con will be presently available. It is difficult to believe that the Governor's letter was wholly without excuse.

The people of the United States, there are no doubt, were eager to give aid quickly and generously to the stricken island. The United States government commanded general approbation by the speed with which it acted in forwarding relief. It will be a matter for keen regard that the officiousness of an American naval officer or the over-sensitiveness of a British governor has resulted in a situation which is both ridiculous and offensive. No doubt both governments concerned will speedily exact a full and frank report from their representatives, and in the light of the evidence thus acquired the sound sense of both countries will place the blame where it belongs.

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Mr. Root submitted patiently to a great deal of shrewd questioning by The Telegraph's Ottawa correspondent, but he did not yield much information.

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was responsible for everything, and others, it must be supposed, were in duty bound to remember it. Military men, while deploring any such unseemly clash in the hour of disaster, will be quick to say that if Admiral Davis by any act sought to disregard or supersede the governor, he courted rebuke and committed an offence which even American army and naval men would speedily recognize as inexcusable. A capable governor, or a man fit to fly the flag of a rear admiral would not have lost his head with respect to such a trying time as that in question. Each government can but secure the necessary evidence and try its representative by it. It may be that each will find it necessary "for the good of the service" to retire a bungler from the active list.

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KEPT FROM OFFICE BY HIS OWN ORDER New York, Jan. 17.—Friends and business associates are smiling over an experience of Robert B. Armstrong, president of the Casualty Company of America, last Sunday.

Because papers and memoranda of importance had been missed from the office, Mr. Armstrong issued an order that no person should be allowed in the office after business hours but the cleaner, except on a written permit signed by the president of the company.

Remembering that there was an important matter requiring settlement before the beginning of business Monday, Mr. Armstrong went to his office, at 52 William street, last Sunday afternoon.

"Where are you going, young man?" demanded the watchman. "I am going into my office," was the dignified answer. "Please open the door."

"Have you an order from the president of the company?" "Certainly not. I am the president; I am Mr. Armstrong."

"H'm, yes, are? All right, but you'll have to show a permit." "I tell you that I am Mr. Armstrong," said the man, "I don't know you are th' president or not, but I do know you'll show me th' order or th' dure stays shut."

Mr. Armstrong turned some paper from his pocket, scribbled an order for the watchman to admit Mr. Armstrong to the office, signing it with his name. The watchman studied it carefully.

"So that's your order!"—"H'm, it don't go. Where's th' say?" "Finding it useless, Mr. Armstrong hurriedly left the building and went up town, intent on finding a letter head of high order for the city and a long hunt, but he got it at last and returned to the office.

"Since you are th' president," said the watchman, "you'll have to unlock the door, 'th' didn't you?"—"H'm, it don't go. Where's th' say?" "Finding it useless, Mr. Armstrong hurriedly left the building and went up town, intent on finding a letter head of high order for the city and a long hunt, but he got it at last and returned to the office.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR [The opinions of correspondents are not necessarily those of The Telegraph. We do not undertake to publish all of the letters received. Unassigned communications will not be noted. Communications should be plainly written; otherwise they will be rejected. Stamps should be enclosed if return of manuscript and address of the writer should be sent with every letter. Evidence of good faith is desired.]

ESPERANTO Oklahoma City, U. S. A., Jan. 15, 1907. To the Editor of The Telegraph.

Sir,—Doubtless you have long ago formed your opinion as to the merits of Esperanto, the international language, the people of the world. But as there is much irresponsible criticism of Esperanto, I want to offer an opportunity for every thinker to judge for himself.

Parliament has been both prompt and generous in granting money to aid the stricken people of Jamaica. The sum of \$50,000 has already been voted, and \$50,000 more is to be made available if it seems necessary. This money, as is quite proper under the circumstances, is the gift of all the people of the Dominion.

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New York 100 Years Hence (The New York World offered three prizes for the best prophetic about New York 100 years hence. This one by Mark Lemon, won the first prize—\$50.)

How will New York city look a century from today? Look on this picture and report!

Population, twenty-two millions. Found impractical to print so many names in a city directory, so drop the tenth of a cent—New York aluminum currency—into a telephone slot, at the same time making known your wants, and within three minutes a printed slip bearing the address you wish is in your hand. The slip has been typed by wireless from central.

In the business and shopping districts the streets and sidewalks are from three to seven subway deep, with special subways for ladies and children. All streets and sidewalks are of pressed glass, and are kept as clean as the decks of warships.

There are numerous skyscrapers one hundred stories high, with twenty-story basements, covering several city blocks and being lesser cities in themselves. Dwellings of every nature are of pressed glass, and there is no smoke anywhere.