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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1932.

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

After labouring hard for a couple of months, discussing various projects having for their object the maintenance of world peace, the delegates of the various nations assembled at Washington yesterday formally concluded their labours by signing the various agreements arrived at. These agreements have now to be ratified by the legislative bodies of each of the nations concerned, and when this has been done the documents will become binding treaties.

It is hardly likely that there will be any hesitation in the various legislatures in speedily agreeing to ratification. The destruction of the work of the Conference would be calamitous in the sense that the world would have been far better off had the Conference not been convened. This is true regardless of the permanent value of the treaties themselves. It is doubtless easy by sharply critical analysis to show that their importance is overstated. One may readily agree that the limitation on capital ships will merely save the taxpayers' money from the bottomless pit of competition on vessels almost obsolete. It is a fantastic exaggeration, of course, to claim that a naval holiday is placed on the construction of auxiliary craft, or submarines, or aircraft, insures the peace of the world. No one is obliged to believe that the reaffirmation of old prohibitions against the use of submarines in commerce, destroying or of poison gases on land or sea would stand a week if subjected to a strain similar to that of the World War. Still, it is better to accept these treaties as the best attainable under the circumstances than to face the revival of international suspicion, fear, hate and rivalry in armaments that would necessarily follow the casting of them to the legislative dump heap.

A BACKWARD STEP.

Ottawa dispatches indicate that the Government has decided to discontinue the services of Dr. W. J. Black, Deputy Minister of Immigration.

If this is correct, then it means that the new Cabinet has yielded to the influence of the army of patronage hunters who have invaded Ottawa in the past month. Dr. Black is the first man marked; others will follow.

It is alleged by a contemporary that during the ten years that the Borden and Meighen Governments were in power not a solitary Deputy Minister was dismissed, although most of them had been appointed solely for their services to the Liberal party. If this assertion is correct then today, as a result, Dr. Black is about the only Conservative Deputy Minister at Ottawa. Yet his head is to go. Dr. Black is one of the best posted men in Canada on agricultural and immigration problems. He was at one time principal of Manitoba Agricultural College. He was Canadian Commissioner of Agriculture and the Chairman of the Soldiers' Settlement Board. He is an ideal man for the post, one of the most important today in the Government service.

The most serious feature of the proposed dismissal of Dr. Black is not that a Conservative official will be dismissed and patronage will be restored, but that it means a reversion of the immigration policy for which he has stood. The chief demand for Dr. Black's head has come from Liberal members who represent ridings with a large foreign population. Dr. Black has determinedly and courageously opposed lowering the immigration bars. By this stand he has incurred the antagonism of these members, and they have sought to secure their ends through his dismissal.

The question is infinitely bigger than the mere fate of Dr. Black. The problem involved is whether Canada is to be made the dumping ground for millions of economic refugees from Russia, Roumania, Poland, the Balkans and Central and Eastern Europe. Banned out of the United States, they are working, not by thousands, but by millions, to pour into Canada. Every possible pressure is being brought to have the bars lowered. It is a serious menace to the future of the Dominion, and every patriotic organization in Canada should use its influence to prevent any change of policy at Ottawa.

The C. P. R. has postponed its large construction programme and like outlook for traffic improvement becomes better. The instant demand on all sides for reduction of railway rates, especially on heavy or bulky commodities, is bound to have an important bearing on railway economy.

THE MYSTERY OF EPIDEMICS.

A. Shadwell, who more than ten years ago wrote the essay on influenza for the Encyclopaedia Britannica and tried to put into it a summary of what was then known about it, has lately called attention in the London Times to the fact that for all practical purposes we stand just where we did then. Much investigation has been done, many theories have been evolved and rejected, and in a negative way, at least, a great deal has been learned. But the new knowledge, he says, "has not helped us either for prevention or for treatment."

Nor is it yet possible to account for the extraordinary variety of forms which epidemics take. Why should the elderly and the middle-aged be most affected now as the young men were in 1918? So different are the effects at different times and in different countries that perplexed scientists have sometimes wondered whether they were dealing with a single disease or with a whole family of diseases for which the initial infection merely unlocks the door.

Mr. Shadwell makes the point, which cannot be too strongly emphasized, that while science is thus baffled in its study of the mischievous parasites concerned, it should do all that is possible to collect and collate facts in regard to epidemics. The final answer may have to be found in the laboratory, but the researches of the biologists may perhaps be guided and assisted by large-scale observation. This applies also to other diseases, such as cholera and plague, but influenza is the pest which most concerns the world as a whole, and it needs to be studied as a world-wide phenomenon.

Palladium in regard to it still survive, even among medical men, which greater attention to pan-epidemiology would dispel. By this time it would be apparent that local conditions, geographical, meteorological, or social, have not much more to do with these recurrent waves than they have to do with the rise and fall of the tide. Yet only the other day Boston health authorities are quoted as declaring that whatever might happen in New York, there was no reason to apprehend an epidemic in their city. It may be hoped that they are right, but the present state of scientific knowledge does not warrant such confidence. All that can honestly be said at present when the disease flares up is that from past experience it is likely to be so serious as during the first great wave. For the rest, watchful waiting is the word, with cheerful prudence on the part of the public and vigilant foresight on the part of the health authorities.

The choice of the Roman Cardinals has fallen after the seventh ballot, upon one of the newest of their number, Achille Ratti, Cardinal Archbishop of Milan. Although only elevated to the Sacred College as recently as June last, the new Pontiff is not a young man, being now in his 64th year. He has had a varied experience in many administrative capacities, which will no doubt stand him in good stead when he is called upon to deal with the many problems which must necessarily fall to his lot to deal with.

Figures published in an Ottawa despatch which appears in another column show that in all 8,121,644 votes were polled in the late election, to return 235 members of Parliament, or an average of 13,284 1/3 to each member. For the Liberals 1,294,728 were cast, for the Conservatives 871,502 and for the Progressives 768,387. On the basis of 13,284 1/3 to each member, according to the number of votes polled the Liberals should have 100, the Conservatives 75 and the Progressives 60. Although over 200,000 more votes were cast for the Conservative candidates than for the Progressives, the latter have fifteen more members.

Hon. S. J. Letta, of Saskatchewan, says that the loss of revenue from potting foodstuffs on the free list would be made up by the heavier importations of farm implements, boots and shoes, etc. More money would go to Customs, and less to Canadian industrial plants. But where a few dollars would go to Customs by that method, large sums would go to United States manufacturers, dealers and workmen at a time when our own industries need the business badly.

One reason, says the Montreal Gazette, why our forefathers were able men was because they had to depend on their own abilities instead of press agents and other folk, as is so much the vogue in these latter days.



Speaking of women's footwear, it is of course pure waste of time for a mere male to attempt to fathom the workings of the feminine mind; but if some young lady would kindly explain just the why and wherefore of wearing overshoes unbuckled to flap all over the place when the wearer walks along, it would at least be instructive.

First they rolled their cigarettes. Then they rolled their noses. Now they roll their overshoes. What next? Lord only knows.

It is an old saying that coming events cast their shadows before them. The prospect of the introduction at the next session of Premier Foster's bill, "An Act for the relief of Thirsty Souls," has already, I hear, set one steamship company wondering whether it will not have to run a Boston boat every day in the week.

Sing a song of tourists. Out in search of "rye." Four and twenty Yankess. Most almighty dry. When the "rye" was opened. The Yanks began to sing. "The devil take the Stars and Stripes. God Save the King."

I see that an English girl, Miss Eleanor, is going to walk over Niagara on a tight rope in June. Well, I should probably want to put it off even longer than that myself.

A "lone" Canadian mounted policeman has set out for the wild barren lands of Lake Athabasca to investigate reports that cannibals exist in that region. It is a hard assignment, and I only wonder how the policeman will be served up.

In the Social Notes of an American contemporary, I see the following: "Harry Parks has returned to Denver after a visit to his fiancée, Miss Helen Morse. He is receiving treatment for one of his eyes." Wonder where he got it?

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Fat Year. (Cleveland Plain Dealer.) California fruit growers report that one-half of the orange crop and one-third of the lemon crop have been ruined by recent frosts. Last year these fruit growers let more than half the lemon crop rot in the orchards. They couldn't afford to pay the freight rates. Perhaps this is a judgment on them.

Times Have Changed.

(London Observer.) French statesmen would do well to remember that there is a popular party in Great Britain as well as in France, and that over certain of these issues (that of submarines most of all) it has been shaken very profoundly and patriotically indeed. Modern treaty can dispense with popular endorsement; and whereas the abortive 1919 treaty was endorsed almost automatically, its successor of 1922 will certainly not be. There are still some difficult rocks to be steered round—notably, the Angora treaty and the wider aspects of France's anti-British policy in the Near East—before British popular feeling will back any French alliance.

The Return Visit.

(Brooklyn Daily Eagle.) We invited the nations to come to Washington and we have there urged upon them substantial modifications in their policies to which they have assented. In coming to Washington no foreign nation surrendered its liberty of action in advance. In going to Genoa we would not, or need not, surrender our liberty of action. They are still so stupid and wrong of holding ourselves apart from a congress designed to effect a general stabilization of commerce and industry ought to be apparent to the Government of a country which has more to gain from such stabilization than any other in the whole world.

Not in Real Life.

(London Daily Mail.) Not all examples of Sherlock Holmes and his deductions on a man's occupation by the callouses on his thumb or the dust inside the lining of his hat. But many people judge their fellow men and women by standard models set up on the stage. Let a man wear a very shiny top hat, cravat with a diamond pin and white vest slip, well-dressed trousers, and patent leather boots, with light spats, and he "looks like a postmodern stockbroker." Add a pointed black moustache, and he "looks like a confidence trickster." With a soft hat, long hair, and no creases in his trousers, he "looks like an artist." Cut his hair, give him a rather square-shaped bowler and a light fawn overcoat, and at once he "looks like a detective."

The Slump in Vaudeville.

(London Daily News.) The little trades are not the only ones which are suffering today from the results of too many "forward contracts" made in the boom years. With long term engagements at top prices the "classic stars of variety" are living in clover with all incentive to originality or hard work gone, and their "turns" in consequence are declared to be flat, stale and unprofitable—to manager and audience. And to balance the star salaries the remaining turns must be the cheapest that can be got. Result—dull programmes from start to finish, and no chance for rising talent. All this is very sad, but it will right itself in time. We do not subscribe to the doctrine that "variety" is dead. It will always supply a "real want"—at some people's command.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins was standing down at the corner and Mary Watkins was standing on her front steps looking around and not waving to us, and I said, Look at her, she knows we're down here all right, she's just pretending she don't look at her. Sure, lets wawk rite past her without speaking to her just to show her we're as good as she is and maybe better, G, who's she, anyways? sed Puds.

Sure, who's she, was the heck, I sed, come on, lets wawk rite past her as if we dident know she was living, come on.

Well wait a minnit, wait a minnit, I tell you lets wat, you wawk past her first without even looking at her, and then I'll wawk past her rite in back of you, that will make it even stronger than if we wawked past her both together, sed Puds.

Sounding like the best idee yet, and I started to wawk up the street and Mary Watkins kepp on standing on her front steps in her red coat and hat looking even more heavy looking than usual, and I wawked rite past her looking up in the air as if I didnt care who she was, thinking, G, she wont think she's so great after me and Puds wawk past her like this.

And I wawked all the ways to the corner without looking around and then I looked around to see if Puds had wawked past her as if he never had and was he doing that standing there twalking to her yet? It is because she had any idee of wawkung past her. Wich he probably never had, me thinking, G wize, holey amooks was you know about that, good nite, heck.

Proving all may be fair in love and war but that dont make it any more cheerfil.

Until the Church Outlaws War.

(The Churchman.)

It is because everybody agrees that war is the lesser of two evils, the way out, a possible last resort of honor, that fomenting hate against another people is permitted. It is because French bankers and captains of high finance know that another war in Europe is not impossible, that war can again be presented to the French people as the lesser of two evils, the way out of honor, that they dare to make the exploitation of the Near East a part of their national policy, things for patriots to believe in and, perhaps, some day die for. It is because American millionaires believe that under certain circumstances America would go to war with Mexico as an issue in patriotism, that they continue to conspire for war. So with all the wars past and that are to come. The possibility of their coming hastens the quest. For this reason we believe that not until the Church outlaws war, refuses to bless it, calls it by its right name, a device of the devil, and a sin shall we ever emerge from the vicious circle of diplomacy, from the slough of the trenches, the shame of international lying and bullying—the most unchivalrous and bestial business that men set their hands to prepare for and to do.

THE LAUGH LINE

A Bird of a Head-Dress.

From a story—"Her hair formed an orbit around her head."

Matter of Taste.

Edith—Jack said I looked nice enough to eat.

Miss Rival—Plain food seems to appeal to some people.

A Good Drawer.

"I don't know what's the matter with my furnace, it doesn't heat the house at all."

"Does it draw all right?"

"I should say it does. It draws about a third of my salary every week."

Funny Advertisements.

The weekly newspapers do not contain all of the funny advertisements. Most of us know that Torontoians were a hungry lot, but a Toronto newspaper tells it to the world in the following advertisement: "A lady, living privately, will take a gentleman for breakfast and dinner." Those Toronto boarding house ladies have voracious appetites.

Two town-bred urchins went into the country and one came across a lot of old corn cobs.

"Here, Jack," said the discoverer, "come here quick! I've found a cow's nest!"

HEALING CREAM

QUICKEST RELIEF

FOR HEAD COLDS

Colds and catarrh yield like magic to soothing, healing, antiseptic cream that penetrates through every air passage and relieves swollen, inflamed membranes of nose and throat. Your clogged nostrils open right up and you can breathe freely. Having and snuffing stop. Don't stay stuffed up and miserable.

Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist. Apply a little in the nostrils and get instant relief. Millions endorse this remedy known for more than fifty years.

Painless Extraction

Only 25c

Boston Dental Parlors

Head Office Branch Office

527 Main St. 25 Charlotte

'Phone 683 'Phone 38

DR. J. D. MAHER, Proprietor.

Open 9 a. m. Until 9 p. m.

Oysters, Clams,

Halibut, Mackerel,

Salmon, Haddock,

Cod, Salt Shad

Smith's Fish Market

COAL

Hard and Soft, Best Quality.

Also Dry Wood.

The Colwell Fuel Co., Ltd.

'Phone West 17 or 90.

Wholesale and Retail

Made in St. John!

Brass Tablets for Soldiers

and Family Memorials. All

work done here.

Home Office and Door

Phone. Prompt service

Art Dept.

Flower-Writing Press,

3 Market Square.

Hector's Restaurant

35 Prince William Street

Business Lunch, 50c.

10 Tickets, \$4.50

Special Dishes to Order.

'Phone M. 981

The Union Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd.

Engineers and Machinists.

Iron and Brass Castings.

West St. John.

'Phone West 598.

G. H. WARING, Manager.

SAVE YOUR EYES

Nervousness, headache,

aches, sleeplessness

and dizziness often

puzzle the best physi-

cians, because in nine

cases out of ten eye

strain is the direct

cause.

A permanent cure will

be effected only when

the cause is removed.

That is what our sci-

entifically fitted glasses

do.

L. L. SHARPE & SON,

Jewelers and Optometrists

21 King St., St. John, N. B.

'Phone Main 1889.

The Christie Wood-

Working Co., Ltd.

186 Erin Street

COAL

American Anthracite,

All sizes.

Springhill, Reserve,

George's Creek Blacksmith,

Kentucky Cannel,

A wonderful grate coal.

R. P. & W. F. Starr, Ltd.

48 Smythe St. 189 Union St.

S. KERR,

Principal

As it is generally conceded that the very best material to use as regards Efficiency, Long Service as a Power Conveyor, Greatest Production and Final Economy for a Main Drive Belt for Power Transmission is Genuine English OAK TANNED LEATHER BELTING

Send your orders in. They will be Shipped Promptly

D. K. McLAREN, LIMITED

Main 1121—90 Germain St., St. John, N. B.—Box 702.

Hexagon Shingles

Red and Green Slate Surface.

A Wonderful Roof at an exceedingly low price.

HALEY BROS., LTD., St. John, N. B.

Let this be Your Last Move into a Rented House

You have been paying for the privilege, all these years, of having someone else's roof over your head. Now, stop it, and turn those same payments toward the purchase of a house that will, some day, be yours.

Plan now to Build

Rents are going higher, but LUMBER IS LOW. Come to us for advice, help with your plans, and EVERYTHING IN WOOD AND GLASS FOR YOUR NEW HOME

'Phone Main 3000

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GUARANTEED ELECTRIC IRONS, \$4.75

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