

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 16, 1909.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
 This paper is published every
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 Ordinary commercial advertisements
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 Owing to the considerable number of com-
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 Without exception names of no new sub-
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 Write plainly and use special pains with
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 Write on one side of your paper only.
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 Write nothing for which you are not pre-
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This paper has the largest
 circulation in the Maritime
 Provinces.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph.
 ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 16, 1909.

PEACE AND WAR.

Max Nordau, whose work on "Degen-
 eration" aroused so much interest some
 time ago, is inclined to think that the
 horror of war, so far as mortality is con-
 cerned, is exaggerated. In 1870-71 the
 German army lost about 400,000 men killed
 in battle and by disease. At that time the
 rate of mortality in Germany was 27 in
 1,000, or a little more than a million a
 year. The fatalities of the war increased
 this number less than four per cent. and
 raised the mortality less than one in 1,000.
 The French losses were 800,000 men. But
 the epidemic of influenza in 1890 increased
 the rate of mortality in France more
 than the war, which was one of the most
 sanguinary of the century. There is a
 good deal of force in Nordau's argument
 that he omits one consideration, namely,
 that war usually carries off the strongest
 and bravest of the race, thus reducing the
 average of those qualities in the commu-
 nity. In other words, so far as it goes, it
 is a reversal of the process of the survival
 of the fittest. Another point is that the
 horror with which many humane people
 look upon war is not caused merely by
 the destruction of life and limb, but by
 the feeling that this destruction is wanton
 and unnecessary and out of harmony with
 the tendencies of civilization. That a man
 should take the life of another with
 whom he has no quarrel, is in their opin-
 ion, a greater calamity than that he
 should risk his own. Mr. Nordau goes on
 to point out that the sufferings of
 war are more real and less painful than
 those caused by strikes, lockouts, loss of
 labor and commercial stagnation. "The
 coal miner is exposed to greater dangers
 than the soldier in the field. The stoker
 on the steamer or a tropical line suffers
 more intolerable bodily discomfort than
 the soldier on the most dreadful day of
 battle, and receives less moral and ma-
 terial compensation."

He then comes to the argument which
 seems to be the kernel of the whole case,
 namely, that human selfishness lies at the
 bottom of the calamities of industrial war
 as well as of the ordinary sense. "The
 emotion which sustains the warlike ten-
 dencies of cultured men is stronger than
 religion, which preaches love to one's
 neighbors; stronger than philosophy,
 which teaches the irrationality of brute
 force; stronger than morals and right,
 which civilized man pretends to recognize
 as the leading powers of his life. This
 feeling is ruthless egotism, which lusts
 merely for self-gratification, and remains
 untouched by the concept that the neigh-
 bor also has rights which deserve re-
 spect." The same arguments are used in
 defence of both kinds of war. In com-
 merce and industry the individual says
 that he is surrounded by ruthless com-
 petitors, if not by enemies, and that if he
 is not equally ruthless he will be trampled
 down and left to die by the road side.
 The nations take the same stand. France
 must have a great army because Germany
 has one, Germany because France has one.
 Men like Tolstoy dream of a time when this
 mutual suspicion shall give place to the
 mutual confidence, and in the intercourse
 of nations as well as of men the reign of
 force and fear shall come to an end. It
 is not so wild a dream as some of us may
 suppose. The person who is now reading
 this article is probably saying that he him-
 self is desirous of being just and fair in
 all his dealings with his neighbors, and
 wants nothing but justice in return. In
 the vast majority of cases he will be right.
 It is fear and suspicion of the motives of
 others that tend to make men hard, and

ruthless. In the same way we find the
 rulers of nations declaring that their
 mighty armaments are sustained not for
 purposes of aggression but for peace and
 defence; and there is probably more sin-
 cerity in these avowals than is often sup-
 posed. There was a great deal of jeering
 at the expense of the Czar of Russia when
 he issued the invitation for a conference
 looking toward the maintenance of peace
 and of a possible reduction of the ex-
 cessive armaments of the European powers.
 But the opinions of the keenest observers
 of European politics is that the Czar is a
 sincere friend of peace. There is no rea-
 son why he should be otherwise. The
 natural object of Russian ambition would
 be the settlement of the vast territories
 of Russia in Asia which are very sparsely
 populated, Siberia containing only about
 6,000,000 people. On the other hand the
 ultimate arms of Great Britain must be
 peaceful, her main interests being trade
 and the opening up of new regions for
 settlement. There seems to be no reason to
 abandon the hope that the strain which
 now rests upon the nations of the world
 will be lifted, and they will recognize
 that they have more common than con-
 flicting interests.

THE SUN'S BOER TACTICS.

The Sun is imitating closely the tactics
 of the Boers in some of the recent battles,
 for after following the white flag it has re-
 sumed its rifle fire, and although this fire
 is ineffective we must protest against such
 a breach of the laws of war. Here is
 its latest in reference to the cost of the
 Victoria Bridge:—
 The valued Telegraph still insists that
 the cost of the new Victoria Bridge is
 \$8,000,000, that being the price of the
 structure built 40 years ago, with the cost
 of the new one added, together with the
 cost of tearing down the old bridge. If
 there had never been an old bridge in
 the way the new one just as it might have
 cost one-third the sum the Telegraph
 mentions. The old iron superstructure
 was over 8,000 tons weight, and probably
 cost three times as much per pound as
 the new one, which only weighs 2,000 tons.
 The old one has gone to the scrap heap.
 But the Telegraph counts it in, all the
 same, at the original value, as a part
 of the cost and value of the present struc-
 ture. It even adds the cost of tearing it
 down.

The above looks as if the Sun desired its
 readers to believe that a new bridge could
 have been built across the St. Lawrence
 at Montreal for one-third of \$8,000,000 if
 the old bridge had not been there. The
 statement is absurd, but if it were true
 that would make the cost of the bridge
 \$2,666,666 and the annual charge to the
 Grand Trunk \$106,400, so that the govern-
 ment would still be paying less than half
 the annual charge for an equal use of the
 bridge. The Sun's statement that the
 weight of iron in the old Victoria Bridge
 superstructure was over 8,000 tons is al-
 most accurate but that only goes to
 show, what we have been contending, that
 the great cost of the old bridge was not
 in the superstructure but in the
 substructure. Eight thousand tons of
 iron at a cost of \$50 a ton would only
 cost \$400,000, and its value now as
 scrap would be \$180,000, a sum that was
 no doubt taken into account in making
 up the cost of the new bridge. But the
 old bridge contained 3,000,000 cubic feet
 of masonry, and the new bridge contains
 no less for not one stone of the old bridge
 was removed. There is no mode of calcu-
 lation to which the Sun can resort and
 tell the truth that will bring out any other
 result but the one we have stated that
 the government is paying less than a fifth
 as much as the Grand Trunk for the use
 of the Victoria Bridge.

AN INSINCERE ORGAN.

The other day the Sun attacked the
 government because Mr. Beausoleil had
 been appointed postmaster for Montreal,
 stating that he was the thirteenth mem-
 ber of parliament who had been appointed
 to an office or a senatorship since the
 general election of 1896. One of these ap-
 pointments was credited to New Brun-
 swick, that of Mr. G. G. King, M. P., for
 Sunbury and Queens. Perhaps the Sun
 would accuse its readers to believe that no
 members of parliament were appointed
 to office in the good old days when the
 Conservatives were in power. If that was
 not the Sun's object in making the remark
 it indulged in with reference to these Lib-
 eral members we would like to be in-
 formed as to the meaning of its abuse of the
 thirteen Liberal members whom it named.
 If it was wrong to appoint Mr. King to
 the senate because he was, or recently
 had been, a member of parliament, what
 is to say of the appointments to the
 same body by a Conservative government,
 of Mr. Michael Adams, Mr. Josiah
 Wood and Mr. Thomas Temple, all of
 whom were members of parliament for
 this province when they were called to
 the senate? If it is wrong for a Liberal
 member of parliament to take office what
 is to say of the appointment of Sir
 Leonard Tilley to the governorship of this
 province, or of Mr. Ezekiel McLeod to a
 judgeship, both of these gentlemen being
 members of parliament when their ap-
 pointments were made. Here we have
 six appointments of members of parlia-
 ment in New Brunswick alone to positions
 of emolument such as the Sun complains
 of Liberal members of parliament for ac-
 cepting. Moreover, it was well known
 that the Conservatives made many ap-
 pointments to office of men who had been
 members of parliament or who were de-
 feated candidates for the house of com-
 mons. In this category we may include

Chief Justice Tuck, Judge King, Judge
 Barker, whose claims to the high offices
 they obtained were based on their politi-
 cal services to the government. We are
 not saying anything against any of these
 appointments, but merely desire to point
 out the inconsistency and inconsistency of
 the Sun which finds fault with the Lib-
 erals for making appointments of a kind
 which it heartily approved when the Con-
 servatives were in power.

BANKING SYSTEMS CONTRASTED.

American business men are demanding
 improvements in their banking and cur-
 rency system, claiming that it is cum-
 bered and antiquated and does not per-
 mit of expansion and contraction accord-
 ing to the demands of commerce. Amer-
 ican financiers now recognize the super-
 iority of the Canadian system of banking
 and currency and it seems very probable
 that during the present session of con-
 gress some of the principles of our bank-
 ing act will be incorporated into the
 American law. Secretary Gage, in his
 yearly treasury report, presented to con-
 gress last week referring to the currency
 system, remarked: "Important as is the
 establishing of our money standard upon
 a safe and enduring basis, important as
 is the guarding of the national demand
 obligations by adequate reserves, these
 alone will still leave our financial system
 exposed to evils which ought to be cured.
 These evils arise out of our situation as
 it relates to the currency."

The superiority of the Canadian sys-
 tem consists in the elasticity which it
 gives to the currency, and this is due to
 the enactments in our banking act which
 make the issue of bank notes a first
 charge on the assets of the bank issuing
 them instead of requiring the bank to de-
 posit bonds with the government as se-
 curity for such issue, in which case the
 amount of currency issued will always de-
 pend upon the profit accruing to the is-
 suers. But as no such deposit of bonds
 is required from Canadian banks issuing
 currency the amount of the issue depends
 upon and varies with the demand for cur-
 rency. In New York and Boston the
 great financial centres of the eastern
 states, there is at present great stringency
 in the money market, notwithstanding the
 fact that industrial conditions are ex-
 cellent and trade is remarkably active.
 This is due simply to the antiquated cur-
 rency system of the United States which,
 as we have shown, does not admit of con-
 traction and expansion according to the
 demands of trade.

Reference is also made to the demand for
 improvements in the American law the
 New York Journal of Commerce has the
 following to say on the Canadian sys-
 tem:—
 There are two object lessons of especial
 pertinence in regard to elastic bank cur-
 rency. One is the Canadian banking sys-
 tem, whose currency expands easily and
 promptly at the season when currency is
 most needed, and automatically contracts
 when the need of currency decreases. The
 system which a lot of wild theorists in
 the United States profess to regard as
 impracticable is actually working smooth-
 ly and successfully. It has been so work-
 ing for years, in the dominion. One fact
 of this sort is worth columns of mere
 theorizing.

It would seem from the report of the
 secretary of the treasury, lately presented
 to congress, that the federal government
 has decided to accede to the demands for
 improvement and in legislating on this
 matter no doubt many of the principles
 of our system will be adopted by con-
 gress.

POLITICS IN MANITOBA.

The immediate cause of the defeat
 of the Greenway government in Mani-
 toba was that the other fellows had more
 votes. Apart from this several other
 causes have been assigned. Among them
 is the popularity of Mr. Hugh John Mac-
 donald, who keeps up the Macdonald
 tradition by certain little likenesses in
 features and manner. He is by all ac-
 counts an amiable gentleman, but his
 speeches show no steadiness and little
 power of grasping public questions. How-
 ever, he must be judged by what he has
 said and done, and not by the way he has
 been raised by the opposition with fair suc-
 cess. After there had been complaints for
 many years that we could not obtain set-
 tlers to fill up the immense fertile regions
 of the northwest, the tide of immigration
 began to turn toward Canada. It seems
 rather a curious policy now to load the
 newcomers with insults and to refer to
 them as the Manitoba Conservative paper
 did just before the elections as "hordes
 of Doukhobors and Galicians." Of course
 discrimination ought to be used in bring-
 ing Europeans to this country; but it is
 ridiculous to say that no one but a resi-
 dent of the British islands shall be in-
 vited to Canada. If, as seems likely, a
 large number of Finns will be expatri-
 ated by the unwise policy of Russia, Can-
 ada could hardly obtain a more desirable
 class of immigrants than these highly edu-
 cated and civilized people coming from a
 country in which the climatic conditions
 are much like those of Manitoba and the
 west.

The railway question was a good deal
 in evidence, but it is difficult to say what
 shape the discussion assumed or what the
 new government intends to do. The To-
 ronto World claims a victory for its

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policy of government ownership or strict
 government control of railways. If so it
 must be said that Mr. Macdonald has
 been in queer company. The Hon. George
 E. Foster is not known in this part of
 the country as a champion of government
 control or ownership of railways and his
 most severe critics would readily acquit
 him of being actuated by hostility to the
 great railway corporations. Sir Charles
 Tupper has spoken very strongly,
 not only against the world's
 policy of government ownership, but
 against the most moderate and reasonable
 proposals for making the railways amen-
 able to the ordinary laws which individ-
 uals are bound to obey in their dealings
 with one another.

The Conservative policy of desiring the building
 of more government railways, shows the
 most inveterate hostility to the govern-
 ment railways which now exist. Many
 important railway measures have been
 passed by the present parliament. The
 one which was selected by the opposition
 for the most bitter hostility, the most de-
 termined obstruction, was the extension
 of the Intercolonial railway to Montreal.
 The idea of the gentleman who adopted
 these tactics going to Manitoba, to fight
 for government railways will be treated
 in the maritime provinces as a farce of
 the dullest kind. However, Mr. Mac-
 donald's conception of his debt to Sir
 Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster is prob-
 ably somewhat different from their own,
 and when they have taken their depart-
 ure he may feel himself free to make some
 experiments in legislation dealing with
 railways, so far as the provincial authority
 extends. These experiments will be
 watched with interest. The Conservative
 politician is thankful for small mercies in
 these days, and the winning of a provin-
 cial election has inspired him with wild
 hopes of being able to recapture the power
 at Ottawa. Some years ago this person,
 or his predecessor, described the Ontario
 legislature as a "big county council," for
 which he felt that little contempt, which
 the fox entertained for the grapes which
 he could not reach. Now he is so elated
 by success in a now he is so elated
 he thinks he is going to sweep
 the country. The "county coun-
 cil" has suddenly assumed a
 national importance. One estimate was
 as wrong as the other. The provincial
 legislatures have very important duties
 to discharge, and afford an excellent field
 for useful public service. This is as true
 of the opposition as of the member sup-
 porting the government. In this country
 we are too much in the habit of regard-
 ing a member of an opposition as a per-
 son plunged in gloom, and waiting with
 painful anxiety for a chance to bank in
 the warmth of the treasury benches. An
 opposition has other duties to perform
 than mere faction and obstruction and
 deriving satisfaction from opposing some
 national cry against a government. If the
 new opposition in Manitoba will discuss
 public questions on their merits, and dis-
 play ordinary common sense and fairness
 in its methods, it will have little difficulty
 in achieving, by contrast with certain
 other oppositions, a brilliant reputation.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The despatches announcing the repulse
 of General Methuen near Modder River
 seem to have excited a degree of alarm
 in London, as well as in St. John, alto-
 gether out of proportion to their import-
 ance. This was partly due to the hyster-
 cal character of General Methuen's de-
 spatch declaring that his losses were
 great, but people should have remembered
 his despatch announcing the first Mod-
 der River battle which prepared people to
 hear of an enormous loss of life, the
 fact being that the list of killed and
 wounded was by no means a heavy one.
 We shall know what General Methuen
 means by the term "great" when we hear
 from him again; in the meantime we
 venture the prediction that it means less
 than five hundred men killed, wounded
 and missing.

The first impression of Methuen's bat-
 tle that spread among the people of this
 city was that he had been attacked by
 the enemy, routed and driven into the en-
 trenchments. Possibly there are still
 some people who still interpret the action
 in that way, so that the benefit we may
 state that General Methuen was the at-
 tacking party, that the battle was fought
 several miles from his camp, that al-
 though the British failed to carry the
 position they were not driven back but
 occupied and held a line within three
 hundred yards of the enemy and were
 in possession of it until Tuesday morn-
 ing, when they retired unmolested to their
 camp at Modder River station.

Our Canadian regiment was not in the
 battle north of Orange River on Monday.
 On that day it was at Belmont, the scene
 of Methuen's first battle, twenty-five
 miles to the south of Modder River. They
 are engaged in the important work of
 guarding the line of communication, and
 their turn for active service in the field
 may come at any time, for the Gordon
 Highlanders, with whom they were en-
 gaged a few days ago, were in the last
 Modder River engagement. Even in the
 line of communication there may be op-
 portunities for hard fighting for the Boers
 seem disposed to attempt to cut the
 British communications whenever they
 have a chance. In the meantime the Can-
 adians will be improving their discipline

A PREACHER'S VOICE

Raised in praise of Dr. Sproule

When one is nearing the three score
 and ten milestone in life's journey it is
 natural to expect that the body will be-
 gin to break down. This is specially true
 in the case of any who like myself have
 borne the burden and heat of the day
 as well as the severest rigors of our north-
 ern winters in my labors as a Methodist
 minister.

Reading that only the highest skill
 could successfully combat the ravages of
 Catarrh of the nose, throat and liver, in
 such a case as mine, I feel it my duty to
 tell everybody of Dr. Sproule's great
 ability.

Not only that but I can conscientiously
 advise everybody to rely absolutely on
 the Doctor's statement. I have found
 him to be a friend in need in the truest
 practical sense, a man of honor and prin-
 ciple, a man whose Christianity mani-
 fests itself in works as well as words, a
 true follower of the Master who went
 about doing good.

Dr. Sproule has proved himself a great
 physician, but better still, a truly good
 man.

I will be glad to tell anybody about the
 Doctor's great skill and kindness and will
 answer letters if stamped envelope be
 enclosed.

May God bless Dr. Sproule, is the daily
 prayer of his grateful friend.

REV. WM. HUGGINS,
 Uttoxeter, Ont.

CONCERNING LOYALTY.

When Mr. Foster was campaigning in
 Ontario the other day he spoke of Sir
 Wilfrid Laurier as "the gentleman who
 declared in 1894 that if he had been on
 the banks of the Saskatchewan he would
 have dined his sunset at the breast of
 the Canadian volunteer who imperilled his
 life to save his country from disintegra-
 tion; the gentleman who, in 1891, pre-
 ferred the Yankee dollar to the English
 shilling and fought to raise the separa-
 tion wall of discrimination against the
 empire in favor of the alien; this same
 gentleman read his ultimatum to Canada
 that no contingent should go to join in
 the defence of the flag in South Africa."

Leaving aside for the moment the fact
 that Sir Wilfrid Laurier never uttered
 one syllable of the words attributed to
 him by Mr. Foster in 1894, in 1891 nor in
 1899, we wish to ask what is the plain
 meaning and purport of such language as
 has just been quoted? What, too, is the
 meaning of the attacks being made from
 day to day in the columns of the Sun on
 Mr. Tarte? If plain English words
 have any meaning at all, then Mr. Foster's
 words are intended to question the
 loyalty of the premier, just as the Sun de-
 sires to cast doubt upon the loyalty of
 the minister of public works.

This is a game as dangerous as it is
 reprehensible. There is not a man in
 Canada today who seriously questions the
 loyalty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and, there-
 fore, no particular harm can be done at
 home; but such statements are well cal-
 culated to do mischief abroad. They mis-
 represent the condition of affairs in the
 dominion. Then Canada there is not a
 dependency of the crown in which a
 deeper or more general spirit of active
 loyalty exists, and no one knows this bet-
 ter than Mr. Foster; but for the mis-
 erable purpose of arousing momentary pas-
 sions in a partisan audience he is willing
 to slander the executive head of the Can-
 adian government by proclaiming him to
 the world as an enemy of the empire.
 Such conduct is in the last degree scan-
 dalous and is even criminal to the extent
 that it injures the dominion in the es-
 teem of outsiders.

The underlying motive of these attacks
 springs from more than one source. Your
 genuine Tory has always felt himself to
 be a monopolist in the possession of loy-
 alty, and it chagrins him beyond measure
 to see his opponents holding office under
 the crown. He regards himself as the
 rightful ruler, all others being usurpers.
 On top of this is the conviction that the
 opportune raising of the loyalty cry in
 1891 saved the Tories from impending de-
 feat, and they hope to make the same ap-
 peal effective in reversing the downfall
 of 1899, seemingly regardless of the im-
 portant fact that in 1891 the game was
 played in the heat of an election cam-
 paign and under circumstances pecu-
 liarly favorable to such tactics. The cry of
 "loyalty" may work once or twice, particu-
 larly if people are apprehensive, but not
 oftener among sane men.

This whole campaign of slander against
 our public men, of misrepresentation, of
 insinuation where accusations dare not be
 uttered, of vilification and of mass-throving
 must be offensive to the calm minded
 and sober thinking people of the country.
 It must surely be taken as the evidence
 of a weak and unworthy cause, and in
 that view probably carries with it its own
 antidote. But it is none the less humili-
 ating to realize that the leaders of a
 great political party are willing for pas-
 sionate purposes to impugn the loyalty and
 honor of their opponents—that which
 men in high offices should esteem noth-
 ing dearer. Loyalty and honor are
 things too sacred, too essential in the
 conduct of a government, to be made the
 plaything of the hustings. In resorting to
 such tactics Mr. Foster and his friends
 are either in earnest or they are not.
 If the former, then they are wholly mis-
 taken; if the latter, then they deserve to
 be despised.



Not only that but I can conscientiously
 advise everybody to rely absolutely on
 the Doctor's statement. I have found
 him to be a friend in need in the truest
 practical sense, a man of honor and prin-
 ciple, a man whose Christianity mani-
 fests itself in works as well as words, a
 true follower of the Master who went
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The underlying motive of these attacks
 springs from more than one source. Your
 genuine Tory has always felt himself to
 be a monopolist in the possession of loy-
 alty, and it chagrins him beyond measure
 to see his opponents holding office under
 the crown. He regards himself as the
 rightful ruler, all others being usurpers.
 On top of this is the conviction that the
 opportune raising of the loyalty cry in
 1891 saved the Tories from impending de-
 feat, and they hope to make the same ap-
 peal effective in reversing the downfall
 of 1899, seemingly regardless of the im-
 portant fact that in 1891 the game was
 played in the heat of an election cam-
 paign and under circumstances pecu-
 liarly favorable to such tactics. The cry of
 "loyalty" may work once or twice, particu-
 larly if people are apprehensive, but not
 oftener among sane men.

This whole campaign of slander against
 our public men, of misrepresentation, of
 insinuation where accusations dare not be
 uttered, of vilification and of mass-throving
 must be offensive to the calm minded
 and sober thinking people of the country.
 It must surely be taken as the evidence
 of a weak and unworthy cause, and in
 that view probably carries with it its own
 antidote. But it is none the less humili-
 ating to realize that the leaders of a
 great political party are willing for pas-
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