

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 6, 1925.

BRITISH VISITORS.

The Maritime Provinces ought to make the acquaintance of the various authorities, officials, or committees who make arrangements for the tours of British parties and persons visiting the Dominion of Canada. In connection with the coming visit of twelve or more members of the Empire Parliamentary Association, who are to sail from Liverpool for Quebec on Friday on the Megantic, it is announced that there is a change in the original arrangements, and in consequence the delegation will not visit the Maritime until nearly the close of the tour. The delay in visiting these provinces is not in itself objectionable, so long as it does not mean that the British M. P.'s will not come here at all. There always is a danger that the limited time at the disposal of important visitors, or the prolongation of their stay in other parts of the country, may mean such a rush at the last as to involve cut-throat competition. The Maritimes, in the case of the delegation of British teachers, were overlooked altogether, and Earl Haig, in view of the short time at his disposal, found it impossible to come to the Maritime Provinces. In the case of the teachers there appears to be no excuse whatever for omitting this part of the Dominion. The idea that visitors can form a proper impression of Canada without coming to these provinces is most erroneous. Such an idea ought not to be permitted to flourish either in London or in Ottawa.

The members of Parliament who are coming on this occasion are less numerous than it was hoped they would be. Six are Conservatives, five are members of the Labor party, and there is only one Liberal. It is to be regretted that the Liberal party is not more strongly represented. Some months ago a similar party visited South Africa. Premier Baldwin and Colonel Ameer on several occasions have emphasized the good which can be accomplished by visits of this character, enabling British parliamentarians to obtain first-hand knowledge of the empire, and extending the mutual knowledge and acquaintance which promotes understanding and unity.

'SHOOTING IT OUT'

The killing of robbers in the middle West is becoming a flourishing industry. Iowa is being held up as an example for Illinois to follow, and it is suggested that a good slogan is "No work for the jury," which means that the proper machine is to kill the bandits and to let the coroner do the work instead of the courts. Iowa had fifty-six bank robberies, with losses of \$220,000, in 1924. Then the banks started the Vigilante movement, and earned \$375 special guards, distributed in more than 700 towns. Last year, largely as a result of this special protection, there were only half a dozen robberies, and the money losses were trifling. But the big gain, according to public opinion out here, was that eighty bank robbers were either killed or sent to prison. Illinois now has armed patrols in more than 1,000 towns and cities and the system is spreading in Missouri as well. Some of the patrols are armed with machine guns. The newspapers, in checking up after each bank robbery, express frank delight when any bandits are killed, or when the casualties are greater on the side of the criminals than that of the defenders. The reader gets the impression not only that there is open war between the bandits and the law, but that only recently has the death list among the bandits reached the point where the public feels encouraged. It is a strange situation. Logically there must be more and more killings for no one yet suggests that the criminals feel that they have had enough. The "open season" for shooting bandits, and getting away with them, is expected to continue indefinitely. It is a sort of war of exhaustion.

THE ANTHRACITE WAR.

The breaking up of the conference between the anthracite coal miners and the mine owners at Atlantic City may mean a strike on September 1, but that is by no means certain. While the deadlock appears complete, the public is not by any means convinced that both sides have been bluffing to a large extent. It is believed that federal intervention of some sort will follow if the strike actually comes, although advice from the summer home of the President have been vague on that point. In the event of a strike the pressure of public opinion in favor of action by Mr. Coolidge will be almost irresistible. The number of men ready to abandon work is given as 152,000. The situation differs considerably from that in Great Britain, for in the American case only the anthracite field is involved. In Britain, had the strike begun, it would have meant 1,000,000 more men idle, and the industrial dislocation would have been much greater than that which would follow an anthracite strike in the United States, for soft coal in the latter country would still be available. There are the usual conflicting statements as to the amount of anthracite already on hand, some re-

ports saying that the supply above ground is scant and others asserting that the mine owners have accumulated a considerable reserve. There have been repeated unofficial statements that if the strike comes it will not be of long duration, and while there is no assurance to that effect the fact that such an impression prevails may be an indication that a settlement before September 1 is still within the probabilities.

So far as Canada's dependence upon the American anthracite supply is concerned, the situation is improved in no slight degree by the fact that mining is to continue in Great Britain and that hard coal from that source will be available here; but an American strike always affects Canadian anthracite consumers. The very threat of scarcity means increased prices. Those who can buy and store hard coal seldom make any mistake in doing so as early as possible in the year. The American anthracite situation bids fair to be a steady source of trouble and annoyance to Canadians, and the outlook, in connection with past seasons of the same kind, must impress upon the people of this country the need for making greater use of the products of their own mines. Canada pays annually from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 for American anthracite, and if even half of that amount were spent on fuel of Canadian production it would mean a great deal, not only in the matter of certainty of supply but in money kept in this country and paid out for labor and transportation.

HE SOUGHT PEACE.

It is announced that eleven members of the United States Congress and twenty-five of their relatives, who have been "studying conditions" in Japan spent just three days in that country. They did a little better in the case of the Philippines, spending six whole days there in learning all about political and industrial conditions. It is remarked by some American reviewers that this practice of lightning observation in distant countries is rather an American habit. One of the most distinguished of United States Senators, who has been noted for his strong opposition to the League of Nations, once visited Geneva to "study" the working of the League, and after half a day there he felt that his information was complete and returned to inform his countrymen that the League would not do at all.

But any assumption that American knowledge of Japan and good relations between the two countries depend upon such rapid observations would be unjust. President Coolidge just now is looking about for a good successor to Ambassador Bancroft, the American Ambassador to Japan, who died in harness a short time ago, and who evidently made a fine impression in Tokyo because of his sincerity and friendliness. The post is regarded as one of very great importance, and the New York Times suggests that the President will not readily find a man so well fitted to interpret the United States to Japan as was Mr. Bancroft. There is, it says, no better epitaph to write over this last great service of his than the line which he quoted from Aristophanes in closing a speech made shortly before his death in Tokyo: From the murmur and the vex of one another Give us rest; Make a new beginning And mingle again the kindred of the nations in the alchemy of love; And with some finer essence of forbearance Temper our minds.

The Nova Scotia miners, by a considerable majority, have voted to accept Premier Rhodes' plan to have work resumed for six months pending a complete investigation of the cause of the trouble. The British Empire Steel Corporation is expected to make known its decision to-day. If the company's reply is favorable, work will soon be resumed, and a searching and impartial inquiry, permitting both sides to submit evidence on every important point in dispute, may produce lasting peace. On the face of the case neither side has anything to lose by having work resumed and an investigation begun as soon as possible. The public interest, which is greater than that of either of the disputants, demands that work go forward.

It is proposed by the Mayor of Hamilton that the Dominion Government should pay the railway fares of the unemployed in Ontario cities to carry them to the harvest fields of the West. Such of them as are capable of farm hands would be welcome on the Prairie, but it is well to note that Winnipeg is strongly objecting to the arrival there of men who are fitted only for urban occupation. Complaint was made only the other day that some of a party of foreigners, instead of going to the wheat fields, had remained in Winnipeg to look for employment, and there was none to be had. This Western situation might be kept in mind by Maritime Province men who may be looking westward. Competent farm help is wanted there while the harvest is on, but those seeking other forms of employment are warned not to go.

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

Mr. Meighen at Stonewall

Mr. Meighen began to speak at ten minutes to four and finished just after five. He had become a little hoarse; the result of speaking in the open air. He wore a light grey suit, a grey and crimson striped tie, and a gold watch; and he had tucked himself a couple of times on his right cheek with his razor. It threatened to rain when he started, but the evening sun was blazing in a bright blue sky when he rolled his peroration on the traitor breeze. The people seemed to like it, and he got a nice round of hearty approval.

Under a dirty canvas awning, flanked by the stalwarts of the Manitoba Conservatives, and with a dinky little wooden table hiding his legs, Mr. Meighen is rather lost; he is out of his proper setting. His proper setting is the wonderful Commons' Chamber in right House of Parliament, a symphony of the blended tones of austere grey stonework and carved oak desks and screens, and the dusky greys of velvet hangings, and the gorgeous throne in which the gorgeous speaker sits, and the painted ceiling high above the throne, and the golden lattice. There is the proper setting for Mr. Meighen; seated beside Sir Henry Drayton, Sir Henry with his high, and lofty, and haughty look; Mr. Meighen, hawk-faced, thin, low in his seat; and the Prime Minister, suave and polished; and the flying page boys; and Mr. Meighen listening, with his hawk face while the Prime Minister, in his perfect clothes, stands and reads an answer in his pleasant, mellow voice—and sits down. Mr. Meighen rises; uncovers himself; Sir Henry lifts his eyebrows; Mr. Meighen asks, so softly, so gently, "When will the Prime Minister answer the question that stands in my name on the order paper?" "A moment, Minister," with a surprised look—he knows some questions—says: "If my right hon. friend will wait a moment, I will see that I answer that question very shortly, but no longer." Soft, like that voice, which is edged like a razor; "Yes, I see here a number of questions, but no longer. Some long, thin; like a razor blade; and the Prime Minister gasps and sits down, and Sir Henry trembles with merriment. And the Speaker calls out the next Order of the Day. That is Mr. Meighen in Parliament, a term of words but no answer."

But here he is under the dirty awning, flanked by all nations in a tawdry string at his back, dirty curly dirt twisted round the uprights of the platform, a handful of wire nails on the boards at his feet. His right boot has cut in it as he moves about in the excitement of speech he treads on the brim of a straw hat—a nice new white straw hat—will he stamp on it? No; he withdraws his foot; he stoops, and his agate-colored eyes glint; he drums in the air with his hand; he thrusts the poor little table; and he stamps in his vehemence; but not on the new straw hat; he touches the brim, but always just in time, he retreats, bends, and beats the air and swings his head as high as his point goes home; but does not tramp on the straw hat; just on the government; on it, and on Mr. King he trod and tramped for thirty minutes; for thirty minutes; but the hat escaped.

A Pessimistic Outlook.

The Earl of Oxford and Asquith, speaking in the House of Commons on the finance bill, took a very gloomy view of the British situation. He was no pessimist, but he viewed the general financial situation, both actual and prospective, with feelings that verged, at any rate, on apprehension.

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Dandurand Is Mentioned As League's Head

GENEVA, Aug. 5.—Hon. Raol Dandurand, chief Canadian delegate, is being prominently mentioned for the presidency of the Assembly of the League of Nations, which will begin its session here September 7.

Campaign Work in Saint John Wards

Some 250 supporters of the Government gathered in the Carleton Curling Rink last evening to listen to addresses by E. J. Hemmery, city candidate for the Government; Dr. John R. Nugent, Miss Amelia Haley and Mrs. Richard Hooper. There will be no meeting in the Carleton rink tonight but a gathering of government supporters will be held at the Empress theatre, West Saint John, Friday evening.

The various Opposition ward headquarters about the central part of the city presented a bustling appearance last evening to the visitor. In all the committee rooms, workers are busy checking over the lists of voters in the respective wards and all expect to have their lists completed in good time. The Opposition party candidates are visiting the ward headquarters frequently to keep in touch with their working supporters and an optimistic atmosphere prevails in all the Opposition committee rooms.

FRASER AND CAHAN NAMED.

HALIFAX, N. S., Aug. 5.—The provincial government today announced the appointment of Hon. J. Fred Fraser, Halifax, as chairman of the Nova Scotia Power Commission, with Hon. J. W. Cahan, Yarmouth, as a member of the commission. Hon. E. H. Armstrong, ex-premier, was the former chairman and R. H. McKay, New Glasgow, was a member of the commission.

Sea Birds. The land bird swings in the sheltered nest. He tilts his head as he trills his song. But watch the bird that flies at sea. When the wind blows swift and strong. The sea luffs green to a hazy sky. The white waves curl in a singing line. And the sea bird tips his wings to fly. Amid the sting of the spraying brine. The shore grass ripples beneath the wind. And the hot sands glow in the pulsing heat. But the sea bird leaves them that he may find his catch of fish to eat. Ah, you are the gull and your ship's white wings. You bear you far and bear you fast. And you've no's a thought for landward things. When you feel the gale blow past. But I who am left in the sheltered nest. To watch your ship ride out to sea. I have no song—no silent jest. I miss the gull's shrill call to me. —Adelle Middleton Russell.

WHITE STAR DOMINION LINE

British Consols Cigarettes

For the convenience of British Consols users in St. John the card pictures can be exchanged at The Ogilvie Building, 71 Dock Street.

I'm Preparing a Cook's Timetable (By M. I. C. a Hydro Housewife)

Everybody appears to be all excited about my Hydro Range and its magic oven—from all sides I for one am getting dozens of questions about how long it takes to cook this—how well does it do that—etc.

To every single question I have a happy answer—these Electric Ranges are the most wonderful things that ever came into a home, excepting babies.

And now the Hydro people, who gave me over this space to write my experiences, ask me to get up a record of cooking timing. They have lots of such records of their own but they want an outsider in this city to prove what they say.

Meanwhile—it's costing you wasted money, wasted time, wasted effort and wasted food every day you delay getting a Hydro. \$10 down obtains one, at

Your Hydro CANTERBURY STREET Open Tomorrow Night.

THIRD ARTICLE FROM ANGUS McLEAN

In My Last Article I Stated That I Would Today Deal With Power Development, Costs, Etc.

The Province of New Brunswick is covered with growth of spruce timber suitable for producing high class paper of all kinds. This timber grows rapidly and can furnish a continuous supply. We already have several pulp mills making sulphite pulp and one mill at Bathurst producing sulphate or kraft pulp. These pulps are produced by a cooking process under steam pressure. The wood is put into large steel digesters in the form of chips, the proper chemical dilutions supplied and the application of steam cooks the mass until it is possible to separate the fibre from the soluble matter in the wood. The two processes of sulphite and sulphate cooking produce a different class of fibre, the sulphite being used to make fine papers such as tissue, bonds, book and writing papers. Also this fibre is used in producing artificial silk. The sulphate or kraft pulp is used for making wrapping papers of all kinds, including container board, pallets, tubs, bottles and other containers such as are used for transporting milk and other liquids.

The production of these pulps is very large in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, probably ninety per cent. of the output being exported, principally to the United States, as our country in Canada cannot absorb over ten per cent. of what is produced. We are shut out of the markets of the United States and other consuming countries of the world so that we cannot manufacture these pulps into the finished article in our own mills in Canada.

Until our Dominion Government succeeds in securing the markets of the world for the finished articles we are obliged to continue shipping the raw pulps for conversion in the foreign countries which we placed in a position to make newsprint in New Brunswick at a cost that will enable us to compete with Quebec and Ontario. Also the whole of Canada must produce cheaply enough to compete with the Scandinavian countries where they not only have suitable wood but also extensive, cheaply developed water powers.

The prime requisite for producing newsprint paper is cheap water power. We cannot compete in the production of this article unless we can obtain power approximating the cost to our competitors in other parts of Canada, Quebec, and Ontario. Most of the large newsprint producers in Quebec own their own power plants and have the benefit of very cheap power for their operations. The following is a quotation from a letter received by me from one of the large financial houses in Canada, who have supplied funds to establish some of the largest newsprint mills in the world:

"It is the opinion of most bankers interested in the financing of pulp and paper properties, that power, to be of any value to newsprint mills, and particularly to be used for grinding pulp, should be expected to cost the producer more than \$20 per horsepower per year, and should, in the face of competitive conditions now developing, cost them not to exceed \$18 to \$19, to be profitable for really economical operation."

This statement is true, and, further, it is the extreme limit being put by any successful newsprint producer today, in fact the great majority are getting their power for very much less. The Premier, in his address on the 29th July at Fredericton, gives the following figures, attempting to show that \$30 per horsepower at Bathurst would be a reasonable price:

London, Ont. \$20.85
Listowel, Ont. 28.95
Sarnia, Ont. 33.95
Simcoe, Ont. 35.91
Smith's Falls, Ont. 21.54
Toronto, Ont. 22.82
Godfrey, Ont. 29.85
Chatham, Ont. 28.42
Chippewa, Ont. 20.71

Now the inference is that this is a list of prices paid by the newsprint mills, when the fact is there is no newsprint or pulp produced at any of these points. The quotations therefore have no bearing at all on the matter under review. To my mind they are a heinous attempt at misquoting to mislead the people.

It is not an easy matter to obtain from the newsprint paper producers a statement as to just what their power is costing them. There is always a hesitancy on the part of business firms to make public the intimate details of their business. Anyone at all familiar with the newsprint business, however, knows that very few of the manufacturers are using power which costs them more than \$15 per horsepower. So far as our company is concerned and which the Premier has stated must be costing us in the neighborhood of \$30 per horsepower, I might say that this statement is incorrect, and in making it the Premier once again evidently knows very little about what he is talking.

There are a few available well-known quotations for power that anyone interested can check up and verify, and it would be an education for the would-be public power producers in New Brunswick to study these figures. I am informed Price Bros. contracted with the Duke, Price Power Co. for a period of twenty years for 200,000 primary horsepower of which 40,000 is designated as Class A and 160,000 as Class B. This power to be delivered to Price Bros. at the hub of the power station at a price of \$12 per horsepower for Class A, which is to be utilized for grinding groundwood pulp and motive power, and the balance of 160,000 horsepower of Class B power is to be utilized for steam generation in place of coal.

Am also informed a quotation is now being given by the Duke, Price Power Co. for approximately 20,000 horsepower continuous power to the Port Alfred Pulp Corporation, the power to be delivered by the Duke, Price Co. for the Port Alfred Company's mill at Port Alfred on Ha Ha Bay, Saguenay River, Que., at a price of \$12.50 per horsepower per year at the

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bus bars at the power station of the Duke, Price Company. Evidently the Duke, Price Co. is prepared to furnish power freely at the above prices. Am also informed that in 1924 the Ottawa & Hull Power Co. closed contract with the E. B. Eddy Co. to supply power from their power plant on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River at Bryson, the power to be supplied to the Eddy Co. at their works in Hull, Quebec, five thousand horsepower at a price between \$16.75 and \$17 per horsepower per year. This power to be used in the operation of newsprint machines and groundwood mills. I am advised further that a contract was made in June, 1924, between the Ottawa River Power Co. and the Ottawa & Hull Power Co. for 100,000 horsepower for a period of ten years, price \$18 per horsepower per year. Under this contract the purchaser has an option to take up 10,000 additional horsepower at same rate.

It has been stated that any purchaser of power can secure same at Ottawa at from \$15 to \$18 per horsepower, depending on quantity purchased.

At Orillia, Ont. there is a signboard advertising that power can be obtained from the Orillia Power Co. at \$11.00 per horsepower per annum, the power being developed at their power house on the Severn River near by. I could give, if necessary, numerous similar instances. It will be noted that all these quotations except the one for the Ottawa Electric Co. are for newsprint production.

All this power has been developed by private enterprise and is being sold by the producer to the consumer at a profit. It would be interesting to know from the Premier if the quotations given by him are for public or private developed power, in view of the fact that all quotations he made are considerably higher than the prices I submit.

I have been unable to discover one instance where power developed by public ownership can be sold to users at prices to compete with prices under private ownership. It is a well known fact that publicly developed power is generally supposed to be sold at cost while private enterprise developing power are disposing of same at a profit.

There can only be one answer—namely that private development is carried out economically and in a business way, whilst public works invariably are subject to political influence making them expensive. The Premier, if he has not been again misquoted, has stated that no new contracts are being made at low prices. All the contracts named by me have been made within the last two years, and any buyer can get power today at prices just named.

The Premier further states that we requested him to build his transmission line between Campbellton and Bathurst now, in order to allow us to bring in power from Little Metis, Que., pending delivery of the power from Grand Falls. He said ask him if he would do this providing it was feasible. On investigation we learned that the power companies were to sell us four to five thousand horse power they would be obliged to install another power plant and power and they could only undertake to do this by our contracting to take the power for a term of years. We did also ascertain that we could reasonably expect to get this power for less money than the proposed cost of Grand Falls power.

We further learned that it is quite reasonable to expect that the Duke, Price Company's big power house on the Saguenay River, where they are installing twelve units of 45,000 horsepower each, or a total of 540,000 horsepower, and as already stated they are selling this power at \$6.50 to \$12.50 per horsepower according to the purpose for which it is being used.

They are now starting to construct another power plant on the same river at a place called Carleton Place where they expect to develop one million horsepower and it will all be for sale and is being developed under private ownership. They expect this power will be developed at even a lower price than their cost at Grand Falls. With these very cheap developments it will be possible to transmit the power long distances and it is quite probable that the cost would be less even than the estimated cost of Grand Falls power delivered to Bathurst, and other points along the North Shore of New Brunswick. This is another reason why every phase of this power question should be carefully considered and weighed before final proceeding.

Now what are the conditions so far as known about Grand Falls power? The engineers estimate power from there would cost \$20.00 to \$25.00 per horsepower delivered at Bathurst—no doubt the cost to other consuming points would be in proportion. The Premier says power at Bathurst would figure about \$27.00 per horsepower. Who is right—the Premier or his Engineers? In any case experience has taught us that public enterprise always costs much more than the estimates, and the fact is no one knows what the cost might mount to.

Even if we grant that the power can be supplied here at \$27.00 per horsepower, as Premier Veniot supposes, which is not at all likely, it would be too expensive to use in producing newsprint, and this is primarily what the power is needed for at Bathurst.

If the taxpayers of New Brunswick wish to avoid the risk of adding further heavy taxation to their already inordinate burdens they should follow the example set by the Province of Quebec. This province encourages the development of their water powers by private capital and have strictly avoided entering this field. They have, however, carried out a system of damming the streams to control the run of water. The different users of the water pay the Government for the water so stored and already it is reported the Quebec Government are receiving a handsome revenue from this source and are above the interest and maintenance cost. Further they have not added one dollar to the taxation of the people under their plan.

In my next article I will deal more fully with the manner in which this matter is handled by the well regulated Province of Quebec.

ANGUS McLEAN.