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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 1912.

THE SITUATION IN THE BALKANS.

Turkey's formal declaration of war against Servia and Bulgaria, which was announced yesterday, now brings her into direct conflict with all the members of the Balkan League, comprising Bulgaria, Servia, Greece and Montenegro. The Montenegrins have been engaged in active warfare for the past fortnight with some measure of success, and Greece has also attacked the Turkish forces along the frontier. Neither Bulgaria nor Servia had made any forward movement. The Ottoman Government is massing its forces along the frontiers of these States clearly bent on an invasion of their territory. There now appears to be but slight probability of a peaceful settlement of the questions at issue.

The position taken by the contending parties, the issues at stake, may be briefly stated. The Balkan League, consisting of the four States mentioned, have demanded from Turkey that the existing conditions in Macedonia, in the Vilayet of Adrianople and in Albania should be replaced by a reformed government. This movement meant autonomy or home rule under the supervision of the Powers. It was even suggested that Christian Governors should be appointed. Turkey, on the other hand, while willing to grant extensive administrative reforms, set her face against autonomy, claiming that the course demanded by the four States would be used eventually as a lever for the complete separation of Macedonia from the Turkish Empire.

The present situation arises out of the Albanian rebellion which Turkey put down with a high hand. The barbarities of Turkish soldiers in Albania and Macedonia first roused Montenegro. The other States in the Balkan League joined in the protest. War has followed. To meet the combined attack of the four States Turkey has an army estimated at 400,000 men well equipped and disciplined. Their training has been in the hands of German officers. Unless the Powers intervene, the fanatical hatred between the combatants may result in a prolonged and sanguinary conflict. Turkey may be expected to fight desperately for her existence and prestige in Europe. There will be little recognition of the amenities of civilized warfare unless the belligerents are compelled by the Powers to observe them.

WHEAT MOVEMENTS.

The market and movement of the wheat crop are matters of general interest. In a paper read at the meeting of the British Association it was stated that the total cost of wheat and flour consumed in the United Kingdom in 1911 was £44,187,000, which is somewhat more than $220,930,000. The chief sources from which this supply was derived were the following: The United Kingdom, 20.7 per cent.; Australia, 10.3 per cent.; Canada, 13.4 per cent.; India, 14.3 per cent.; Argentina, 10.5 per cent.; Russia, 12.8 per cent.; and the United States, 14.2 per cent.

It is noteworthy that of all the external sources of Britain's wheat and flour supply in the year 1911, India alone contributed more than the United States, and that only by a shade, India's part being 14.3 per cent., the United States part being 14.2 per cent. In the current crop year the United States is almost certain to head the list of external countries supplying wheat to the British market, for its last wheat crop marks a new high record. Canada is none the less assured of a market for all the wheat it has to spare to the United Kingdom.

Though Canada's production of wheat is increasing, its consumption of wheat is increasing. In the first five months of the current fiscal year 242,509 immigrants were received in this country. It is not too much to expect that upwards of 500,000 persons will be added to our population this year by influx from other countries.

On the average each of these will consume about five bushels of wheat, thus providing an additional home demand for 2,000,000 bushels. With a population of 90,000,000, the United States will this year be a large exporter of wheat and will continue to be a large exporter for many years to come. Canada likewise will keep on increasing in population at a rapid rate, but throughout a long stretch of its future it will continue to produce much more wheat than it consumes.

The October grain report of the United States Department of Agriculture gives an instructive forecast of the cereal yield this year which is of unprecedented proportions. The figures for wheat, oats, barley and rye show the highest average per acre on record. The total wheat yield is estimated at 720,000,000 bushels, against the estimate of 680,000,000 given out a month ago. The increase in wheat alone is more than 100,000,000 bushels over that of last season.

The actual increase per acre has been two bushels, and the Department of Agriculture reports that with the more scientific methods of farming now used in the wheat raising States the yield will in a few years reach an additional four bushels per acre. That would increase the total yield by 300,000,000 bushels.

These figures, authoritatively issued, dispose of the assumption indulged in by the Reciprocity advocates that the time is near when the United States will cease to be a wheat exporting country, and when it will be compelled to import wheat to supply its domestic consumption. The absurdity of proposing that the Canadian farmer has something to gain by securing access to a market which is so completely overstocked as that of the United States is apparent on the face of it.

THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF A TARIFF.

(The Standard, London, Eng.)

People are beginning to study and to understand the important political effects of tariff systems, and the fact that the Empire will never be safe from attack until the ideal of a united Empire has been realized. And that unity will never be accomplished except by means of the creation of common commercial interests, strong enough to outweigh political considerations, and to form, in the end, unbreakable bonds.

Let us learn a lesson from the history of our great rival. Half a century ago Germany was only a geographical term; the Kaiser's Empire of today was then divided into little States, antagonistic to each other, poor, and weak, incapable of defending themselves against attack from outside. The agency by which these petty States have been welded together to form one of the most homogeneous and powerful nations of modern times is the German Zollverein, or tariff system. The magic that brought hereditary foes together, that caused the Pomeranian and the Bavarian to fight shoulder to shoulder on the epoch-making field of Sedan, was the magic of common interests. It is by the strengthening and development of these common commercial interests that Germany will expand in the future; Holland and Belgium are already dominated by her, and in time they will be absorbed.

The only effective reply that we can make is to knit our own Empire together, to make ourselves so strong, in a commercial as well as a military sense, that we shall be secure against any attempt at aggression. The establishment of Imperial preferential tariffs is the first step in that work of consolidation; that fact is becoming apparent, and it will mean the triumph of the Unionist policy of Tariff Reform.

LORD KITCHENER IN EGYPT.

Newspapers in the Old Country have been reviewing Lord Kitchener's first nine months as British Agent in Cairo and have much that is favorable to report. Ever since his arrival the gates of the Agency have been open to any person in need of counsel or aid, with the result, so one enthusiastic correspondent writes, that "Lord Kitchener's smiles have done more to conquer Egypt than all the guns and troops together." To those who recall Kitchener as the grim Sphinx of the Boer War, this sounds like a fairy-tale. Yet there can be little doubt that this correspondent is right in saying that the British Agency "has been the Mecca of an Egyptian social, political, commercial, industrial and agricultural renaissance."

It is also reported that Lord Kitchener has put an end to the Nationalist movement. Under his direction drainage works are under way which will bring two million acres more of land under cultivation and add to the country's annual revenue no less than $15,000,000. Among other desirable reforms Lord Kitchener has introduced peasant savings banks, with some minor court improvements, and has rescued the fellah from some of the exactions of the usurers who abound in Egypt.

A TRIBUTE TO THE POTATO.

Dr. J. H. Kellogg, the famous originator of breakfast foods and health regimens, apotheosizes the potato as the true enemy of old age and points to Ireland. A prejudice against starchy foods has caused science to disparage the potato unjustly, according to Dr. Kellogg, who insists that the popular predilection for the vegetable is a trustworthy index of its merit. The starch of the potato has much greater dietary value than the starch of cereals or arrowroot, he says, being more easily digested. That the potato is not a perfect food owing to its fat unit deficiency is conceded; nevertheless its qualities as an old-age preventive are established by reasoning as follows:

It contains just below the skin a greater percentage of certain alkaline salts than any other vegetable used as food, thus preventing a lowered alkalinity of the blood caused by meat. Lowered alkalinity is the chief cause of gout, rheumatism, Bright's disease and especially that hardening of the arteries which is old age's distinctive sign. "The proportion of centenarians in Ireland is more than ten times as great as that of England," says the doctor. "There can be no doubt that the free use of potatoes by the Irish is in a large measure responsible for the remarkable longevity of this nation."

Current Comment

An Honor for Canada.
(Montreal Star.)

Both the Sirus and the Great Western crossed in 1837, but four years earlier a Canadian-built ship, the Royal William, had preceded them in the conquest of old ocean. The achievement of the Royal William is commemorated by a brass plate set in the wall of the Dominion Parliament buildings, just near the entrance to the library. The Royal William was built at Quebec and was launched in the presence of Lord Aylmer, Governor General, April 29, 1831. Her engines were made in England, and were installed by a Montreal firm. She sailed on her first voyage across the Atlantic on August 4, 1833. She called at Pictou, N. S., for a supplementary supply of coal, and then proceeded directly to Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, where she arrived on September 11. During the entire thirty-eight days of her voyage she was under steam.

The Wealth of the Far North.
(Victoria Colonist.)

To read of the arrival of a steamer in Seattle with four tons of gold aboard must have reminded many people of the old Klondyke times. Will the old days of great gold shipments ever be revived? There are many people, who know the North, who will answer this question in the affirmative. They will tell you that there are great unprospected areas up towards the Arctic coast that are just as likely to prove as rich in gold as Klondyke was. The North is by no means the formidable region that we used to think it was.

War Tactics of Taft.
(Montreal Witness.)

Mr. Taft will surely be elected now that his victorious troops are busy killing Spanish Americans. Since his campaign began we have heard serious rumors as to the probable need of invading Mexico, Cuba, Hayti, Dominica and Nicaragua. This last is the point where interference has found vent. It might perhaps be difficult to define what right the United States has to enter into Spanish countries for the settlement of their careless quarrels.

Canned Decorations.
(Calgary News-Telegram.)

At New Westminster the Governor General passed through a triumphal arch constructed with cases of canned salmon. It was surmounted by fishermen in oilskins who cheered as the cortege passed under. This was literally a "fishy" ovation.

Worthily Honored.
(Montreal Gazette.)

Hon. George E. Foster, in London, in the absence of Lord Morley, has been presiding over the meetings of the Imperial Trade Commission. Over in England they recognize a mentally big man when they see him and give him big work to do.

The Right Way.
(Lethbridge Herald.)

Saskatoon has a way of getting industries that is worth emulating. It doesn't write letters or send out circulars, but sends a representative on a quiet search for factories, and we find he gets them.

Much in a Name.
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Speculators looking for a "hunch" as regards the result of the bye-election in Manitoba might have found it in the name Macdonald.

Applause From the Gallery.
(Toronto Globe.)

Why is Austria-Hungary? Because she has not yet had her helping of Turkey.

New York's Only Commandment.
(Charleston News and Courier.)

About the only commandment enforced in New York is: Thou shalt not squeal.

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Correspondent Finds Parasite Has Killed Many—Crops in Queens County in Fair Condition

Waterborough, Q. C., Oct. 17.—The cold wave which has been sweeping the Atlantic has made its presence felt here, and last night was the coldest of the season.

The wild geese prompted by the cold snap have been flying south in large numbers.

The farmers are very busy at present harvesting their potatoes, and, on the average the crop is very good considering the wet season.

Grain was a very good crop, and the apple crop is away below the average and in some sections is a complete failure.

Mrs. E. Stone Wiggins, of Ottawa, is spending a few days here the guest of Mr. Warren Cody and family. She will leave early next week for Ottawa en route to Duluth, where she will spend the winter with her sister, Mrs. Geo. Bennison.

Rev. Hiram Cody, rector of St. James' church, St. John, spent a few days with his parents here, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cody. He was accompanied by his eldest son, Douglas Cody.

Mrs. Daniel Starkey is very ill, but a late report says she is somewhat improved.

Fred. Perry has been taken to St. John to the hospital to be operated on for appendicitis. It is hoped he may pull through successfully.

The report comes from the Grand Lake district that George and William Kelley had a crop of one thousand barrels of potatoes.

Upon examination by a Standard correspondent into the apple orchards in Queens County, it has been found that the cocoon of the tent caterpillar has been attacked by a parasite which has destroyed them so that there will be very few moths next year. But there are a few egg bands on the fruit trees and if looked after this winter by the farmers the pest will be greatly lessened next spring. A sharp lookout has been kept for the appearance of the potao canker but so far there have not been any infected potatoes discovered. After the leaves have fallen from the apple trees it would be well for the farmers and fruit growers to inspect their orchards in quest for the winter nest of the Brown Tail Moth. They can be known very readily by the silvery whiteness of the web which attaches the nest to the tree. Careful attention to the pest will greatly benefit the country in general.

U.B.W.M.U. SESSION HELD AT WINDSOR

Windsor, Oct. 16.—The convention of the U.B.W.M.U. of the Maritime Provinces met at Windsor, N. S., Oct. 15. On Tuesday evening the ladies of the Windsor church held a reception for the visiting delegates. The church was prettily decorated, and everything was done to make the visitors welcome. A large number of delegates registered and a pleasant evening was spent.

On Wednesday at 10 a. m. the regular business session was preceded by a prayer service. The convention was then formally opened by the president, Mrs. Hutchinson. Miss Lillie representing Western Ontario, and Mrs. Massie from Grande Ligne were introduced to the convention, also three lady missionaries elect, Misses Woodman, Mason and Corbett. After brief responses these ladies were all invited to seats in the convention.

The provincial reports were next presented by the several provincial secretaries of New Brunswick, of Prince Edward Island and of Nova Scotia. These showed quite a large increase in interest and contributions.

Prince Edward Island reported much the best year in its history, and the New Brunswick report told of a greater effort for the support of home missions than in previous years.

Mrs. W. G. Clark of Fredericton gave a very interesting and instructive paper on "The Past and Present in Canadian Baptist Missions." This was a most timely subject, in view of the recent union of the different Baptist Foreign Mission Boards of Canada into one General Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Mrs. Clark, in a clear and concise manner, reviewed the mission enterprise from its beginning nearly one hundred years ago.

After roll call Mrs. Massie of Grande Ligne offered prayer and the meeting adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

NEW PLAY TONIGHT

The Young-Adams Company will present Travers Vale's Southern comedy "The Girl from the Sunny South" at the Opera House tonight. The play abounds in sparkling dialogue which has made it a great favorite. The vaudeville will be entirely changed this evening, including five new acts.

CHATHAM CHRONICLES.

(Gazette.)

Yesterday T. M. Gaynor and M. Jardine returned from a hunting trip between Tabusintac and the Foran farm and brought with them a deer and a moose head, which latter measured 60 inches from tip to tip and had 24 points. This is the biggest head that has come out of the Tabusintac district for the past four years.

It is reported on apparently good authority that negotiations are proceeding between Flett Bros. of Nelson, and J. William Jones, for the repurchase by the former of the old Flett mill. They have already rented Mr. Jones' store which they will use in place of their own that was destroyed by fire a week or two ago.

While working at a spar on the Loggie wharf Monday afternoon, Robert Jenkins had one of his toes badly cut by his axe glancing from the spar. The wound was dressed by Dr. Marven.

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CONTRACTOR SMYE RETURNS

Apohaqui, Oct. 16.—Contractor A. E. Smye returned here this afternoon from the North Shore where he has been inspecting his work on the Jardine bridge.

He leaves tomorrow for Albert Co., to inspect his work on the Fillamore bridge, Turtle Creek and the Memorial bridge at Hopewell Hill, and will return here on Saturday, and will move his office from here to the Jardine bridge in a few days.

Mr. Smye is just recovering from his accident of three weeks ago.

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