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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 7, 1906.

NEW LIGHT ON PAARDEBERG

Under this caption the Ottawa Citizen advances the theory that if Kitchener had had his way, Cronje would have been whipped in jig time. The article will be the subject of keen debate by Canadian South African veterans who read it, and by many who were anxious about the same veterans during the darker days of the war. The Citizen article follows here.

At the time of the battle of Paardeberg considerable criticism of Lord Kitchener was indulged in both by the army and the press. The impression prevailed that in the first day of the fight he needlessly wasted the lives of the soldiers of Cronje's army in a series of sorties upon Cronje's line. It will be remembered that Lord Roberts had been confined to his headquarters through illness at Jacobsdal about a day's march in rear of the army and that on the first day of the fight at Paardeberg his chief-of-staff was nominally in command. On that day Kitchener endeavored to bring off a general assault upon the Boer laager which would have finished the whole affair up. Instead of this there was a succession of ill-concerted assaults which resulted in a moderate casualty list without any notable compensating advantage. After the surrender of Cronje Kitchener was sent down into Cape Colony to suppress an incipient rebellion there and it was currently suggested that he had been steeled by Roberts for his action.

The more recent historians take an entirely different view of Kitchener's action on the first day at Paardeberg. In the first place it is pointed out that the British casualties on the eighteenth were in reality comparatively slight, being only eight per cent, as compared with thirty-one per cent, for Inkeram, twenty-nine per cent, for Waterloo and forty-eight per cent, for Albuera. In the second place it is shown that the spasmodic character of the sorties arose from a doubt as to Kitchener's authority on the part of the senior officers of the army. The position of the command on February 18th was anomalous. Lord Roberts was six hours ride from the battlefield in which he was represented by Kitchener as chief-of-staff. Kitchener had been conducting the pursuit of Cronje with his customary whirlwind energy and when at last French arrived from Kimberley and headed the Boers off Kitchener rushed up every available regiment to complete the environment of Cronje's force and then decided to storm the laager and kill or capture everybody in it.

But at this juncture a conflict of authority seems to have arisen. Kelly-Kenny and Colville were senior to Kitchener, who, of course, derived his authority from Roberts of whose orders he was supposed to be the mouthpiece. When Kitchener ordered the storming of the laager these senior officers doubted whether if Roberts were present he would endorse Kitchener's decision, and while they did not openly refuse to attack they adopted an attitude of passive resistance which Kitchener found it almost impossible to overthrow. In his impetuous way he stormed along the lines exhorting individual corps and brigades to close in upon the laager and finish up the job with the bayonet, but in the absence of active support from the senior officers he could not secure that unity of action on which the success of a general assault depends. The result was a series of spasmodic charges which caused heavy loss to individual corps. Curiously enough it is as one of these isolated sorties for which Kitchener was most severely condemned in the army at the time which is now advanced to prove that if he could have secured the co-operation of all the troops in the first day of Paardeberg, Cronje would have been wiped out, before sundown. This incident was the attack of Col. Hannay's mounted infantry which occurred at 3 o'clock on the day of the assault. It appears that Kitchener had been taunting Hannay for several days previously for what the former considered his lack of energy and initiative in the pursuit and on this afternoon his order to Hannay to press the attack on the laager being questioned by the latter, Kitchener told him abruptly to "gallop up and fire into the laager," as an explanation of what his order meant. In desperation Hannay literally carried out his order. He sent his staff away, got together about fifty men and made a light brigade rush into the heart of the enemy's position. He fell riddled with bullets, but not until he and some of his followers had actually penetrated into the laager. Hannay's death was cited in the army as an instance of Kitchener's ruthlessness at the time, but it is pointed out that, if a handful of mounted infantry could charge into the laager in the afternoon of the first day of the fight, with a simultaneous assault made by the

15,000 troops present, the battle would have been decided in an hour. Had a sortie occurred there would have been a bloody slaughter of the Boers after Kitchener's manner of dealing with the Boer force and there is a strong presumption that it would have struck such a chill into the Boer heart that the war would have concluded with the capture of Pretoria.

LUNGS AND DUST

Some rather startling but very sensible remarks on a subject in which all are interested are made by the New York Globe. Out in St. Louis, it says, they used to let the city water settle before drinking it; they had to for fear of swallowing live minnows concealed in the turbid effluent. Any man not taking a mud cure who on the plea of cleanliness deliberately stirred up the sediment in such a glass of water preparatory to drinking it would be truthfully described as a fool. Yet just such an imbecile method as this is almost universally practised in the process of house cleaning.

"In a recent address to the Practitioners' Society Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden, professor of pathology at Columbia University, called attention to the fact that although human lungs were obviously never intended as feather dusters, this is a purpose to which nearly every city pair is constantly put.

"While some of us, he said, are mighty particular about the cleanliness of our clothing, of our food and drink, and the utensils in which these are served, and the exterior of our persons, we make no protest as we bear away upon the delicate membranes of our respiratory organs from places of public concourse the pulverized excretions of the filthy and diseased.

"In a considerable proportion of cases in theatres and court rooms, in offices and public conveyances, in factories and stores, the floating dust of today is pregnant with the evil of yesterday."

"Indeed, it seems that the only systematic and effective measure of dust removal in most places of public meeting is the passage of the air through the human breathing apparatus. No matter how dusty and germ laden the inspired air may be, it comes out of the lungs almost entirely freed from these impurities. The efficacy of this method of dusting a theatre may be readily estimated by remembering that an average man takes into his respiratory organs somewhere near thirty cubic inches of air at each breath, and hence about twenty times this amount every minute.

"Dry dusting of any variety, whether with feather duster, cloth, or broom, or whether in dining room, theatre, or streets, is an abomination, says Dr. Prudden. If this hygienic absurdity of stirring the dust into the air instead of washing it away through the sewers could be abolished and some effective check be placed on the also universally popular spitting, we should be able to record a decrease instead of an increase in infectious diseases of the respiratory tract. Dr. Prudden believes that it is just as much a part of the health department's duty to see that the people have clean air to breathe as that they have pure water to drink and wholesome food to eat."

THE TAHITI DISASTER

The terrific loss of life by wind and flood reported in the P-lynesian archipelago appears to have been confined principally to the islands over which France exercises dominion. Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States are the chief owners of these groups. Great Britain holds islands with a total area of 1,060 square miles and an estimated population of 71,166. These include Tonga, Cook, Gilbert, Fanning, Pitcairn, Christmas and others. France has Tahiti, with 10,300 people, Tuamotu with 6,000, the Marquesas with 6,500 and others less important, the total population being reckoned at 31,700. The sea is rapidly finishing the destruction of the Polynesian which was begun with their first contact with Europeans. The groins of islands figuring in the disaster this morning are mentioned briefly in the accounts of Captain Cook's voyages and those of the mutineers of the Bounty. Cook's estimate of the population of the Society Islands in 1770 was 240,000; but Forster, his associate, reduced the figures to 150,000 which are generally held to have been much nearer the mark. This number has been reduced to 10,300 (in 1900) chiefly by the evil influence which "civilization" has exercised upon the islands. "A general decline in population seems to be beyond any doubt," says one authority, "though it may be questioned whether it is to be attributed to a decayed vitality, as some hold, or to external causes, as the more general opinion. The prevalence of leprosy and the occurrence of leprosy, for instance, in Hawaii, would seem to point at least in some places to a racial taint. On the other hand, the rapid disappearance of whole communities, as in the Marianas, and the reduction of others to one half or even one fourth of their former numbers, as in Tahiti and Tonga, can be accounted for only by an accumulation of outward causes, such as wars, massacres, and raiding for the Australian and South American labor markets before the traffic was suppressed or regulated. Other destructive agencies were epidemic, such especially as measles and small-pox, which swept away 30,000 Fijians in 1875; the introduction of strong drinks, including, besides vile spirits, a most pernicious concoction brewed in Tahiti from oranges; the too sudden adoption of European clothing, rendering the body supersensitive to changes of temperature; lastly the action of over-zealous missionaries."

Most of these abuses have been checked or removed, and the results may perhaps be detected in a less accelerated rate of decline, which no longer proceeds in geometric proportion, and seems almost arrested in some places, as in Samoa and New Zealand. If such be indeed the case, perhaps the noblest of all primitive races

may yet be saved from what at one time seemed inevitable extinction; and the Maori, the Samoan, and Tahitian may, like the Hawaiians, take their place beside the Europeans as free citizens of the various states of which they are now subjects."

The island of Tahiti was transferred to France in 1880. The islands of this group are administered by a governor who resides in Papeete, in Tahiti, and is assisted by a director of the interior, a judicial head and a privy council. The tribunals are all French, the native courts having been suppressed in 1887. Tahiti has an area of 600 square miles, with magnificent vegetation and striking scenery. The principal crops now are coconuts, oranges, sugar and vanilla. Papeete, in 1900, had 42,000 people, of whom 2,490 were French or the descendants of French. The shipping of the port exceeds 80,000 tons.

ACTION COMING AT ALGERIAS

There are indications of coming action in the conference at Algiers. Germany, after repeated and vain attempts to settle the police question in private negotiation with the French delegates, desired to have its consideration in open session, notably that of banking had been disposed of. On Saturday Sir Arthur Nicolson, head of the British delegation, moved for the immediate discussion of the police of Morocco, the question which has given most trouble, decision concerning which will mean a triumph or a distinct failure for the Germans. The vote taken showed that of all the nations represented only Austria and Morocco stood with Germany against the wishes of the other delegates. Sir Arthur Nicolson's proposal. It does not follow that Germany will receive only the support of Austria and Morocco when the conference comes to decide whether or not France shall police the territory in question, but the indications are that Germany will be outvoted then, and perhaps as strongly as on this preliminary motion. At all events the question which is regarded everywhere as the crucial one must now, on the initiative of Great Britain, come up for open discussion and decision.

The visit of King Edward to France and the great reception accorded him there at this time, will perhaps be interpreted as indicating the growing intimacy of British and French interests and the determination of these two nations to bring the Morocco dispute to a conclusion which they can regard as honorable and satisfactory. The King's health has been the subject of many disquieting rumors, but these may fortunately be regarded as alarmist. The King, it is clear enough, is well, and to continue his efforts to promote friendship which make for the peace and dignity of his country.

HUSTLE IS NOT CIVILIZATION

A Hindu monk who arrived in New York nine years ago, penniless, and who now conducts a school of philosophy there, has just delivered a somewhat striking criticism of American life and civilization as he has observed them in the metropolis. Much of his thoughtful lecture on the shortcomings of the people about him are applicable beyond New York. This Hindu, it should be said, is a man of the world. He is fifty years old, but does not look to be more than thirty. He was born in Calcutta, and educated at the University there. Steadily, with much self denial and persistence he has pursued truth and knowledge in many countries and under many conditions. In New York he sees more than the money, the rush and the skyscrapers. "Here," he says, "to whatever side I turn in this commercial capital of the United States, I find people from the lowest to the highest class of society groaning under the burden of overwork, hurry, unrest, worry and anxiety." It is a true picture. The Hindu expected, perhaps, to find in America "the land of the free," a sane and happy people. He finds on the contrary, a wild rush in which some seek pleasure and great riches, and more the necessities of life. The greater part of their mental energy, he tells them, is "wasted by the constant rush of their daily lives, which is merely the result of lack of self-control." If they knew the secret of work, he assures them, they would accomplish more and live longer.

If these hurrying, fighting millions could see themselves with the eyes of the Hindu they would deem themselves made. "The poor classes are trying to keep pace with the middle classes, for the middle class the rich man is the ideal, the multi-millionaire is the ideal of the millionaire, and so on it goes. Even when a man possesses millions and millions, he is apparently not satisfied and longs to acquire the riches of the world. The feverish desire to accumulate wealth is the result of a disease of the brain which prevents a man from seeing things in their true perspective. The great trouble with the people here is that they lack perspective in their views of life. I cannot but wonder, when I see this whole great city struggling day after day and night after night to earn more and to spend more to keep up the style and fashion of the day (to be in the swim, as you say) by fulfilling the unreasonable demands of society or by getting worthless things which but gratify the whim of the moment."

THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS

The Telegraph prints this morning, as it often is called upon to do, several letters dealing with municipal ownership and operation of public utilities, the expenditure of public money in St. John, the growth of the tax rate, and kindred subjects. Possibly these letters are evidence of a growing public interest in questions directly affecting every taxpayer and the welfare of the city itself. But while a comparatively small number of citizens talk and write on such subjects, a very much greater number give evidence of complete indifference, not only some of the time but even during the short annual civic campaign.

Repeated efforts to raise the level of the present Common Council in point of independence, disinterestedness and business ability have failed. The governing influence in the present board are the same, whether two or three years ago, or more, and the changes to be expected in April, judging by the candidates thus far in evidence, will simply mean that the next Council will be considerably weaker, from the standpoint of the taxpayer, than the present one.

Attacks are made upon the ownership and operation of public services by the city, and there is ground for these attacks. But the evidence presented is an indictment of the aldermen rather than an argument against the principle of municipal ownership and operation. The ferry, the North End lighting station, the public buildings, have been to a great extent, sources of growing evil because of ward politics and lax management. They have not been considered with an eye to the public interest alone. The "ferry vote" and the "market vote," and the votes of this or that organization, have been allowed to interfere with plain business. The fact that the civic business in the present has been unsatisfactory does not prove that St. John would benefit by depending henceforth wholly upon private enterprise.

Business aldermen who are independent and shrewd in their work for the citizens will not be greatly moved by the paid advocates of corporate interests or by the theorists who are for public ownership at any price. They will assemble the facts for themselves and judge from such facts what bargain will most benefit the citizens. And until the citizens demand independence and business ability at City Hall they must expect to find frequent cause for complaint.

AMBITIOUS PORTLAND

A report for which there appears to be no manner of foundation receives much prominence in the Portland (Me.) Advertiser. That journal announces under a "leaky" head that the C. P. R. is about to make Portland its "eastern terminus," that surveys are in progress, and that unparalleled activity and progress for the Maine seaport may be anticipated. The facts in support of the Advertiser's conclusions are meagre, and the article is vague except in the matter of inference. Apparently a surveyor, said to be in the employ of the Canadian Pacific, was discovered on the

outskirts of Portland, and upon matters which this individual would not deny rather than upon what he actually affirmed, the whole tall fabric of the Advertiser report is reared.

St. John is accustomed to hear that the C. P. R. is going to St. Andrews or to L'Etang, but Portland is a new one. The Advertiser, one may assume, will not advise its readers to buy heavily of real estate until it has more substantial grounds for its announcement than those it now presents. The Maine port, on several occasions, has made ready to receive the steamers which its newspapers said were abandoning St. John. Portland folk whose imaginations have been fired by the Advertiser to learn that St. John is now awaiting with confidence the development of a national policy of transportation, one feature of which will be the equipment by the government of the ports of St. John and Halifax. Under such circumstances the C. P. R. frigate through St. John will expand rapidly. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, though he criticized our terminal facilities but recently, has always recognized St. John as the natural winter port of Canada.

A still more serious blow to Portland hopes would be the government's decision to confine the British preference to goods entering this country through its own ports. The Advertiser would do well to give some study to recent developments along this line in Canada. Then it would regard less seriously the discoveries of reporters who unearth seemingly important Canadian transportation news. Portland once regarded itself, with some reason, as the winter port of Canada. Happily that day has long gone by.

NOTE AND COMMENT

It is getting near the time when the Senate vacancies must be filled.

Senator King spoke hopefully, and perhaps with knowledge, of the nationalization of the port.

The local opposition critics should compare notes. They do not agree as to the state of the provincial finances. But they all tell a sad story to a rather cheerful public.

Germany delays at Algiers, apparently seeking to exhaust the patience of the French and lead them into some indiscretion. The conference approaches its critical hour.

The McCurdys are going to Europe but they are leaving a heavy legacy of trouble behind. The fight for control of the Mutual is now taken up by some of the financial giants.

Lumbermen will applaud the local government's plan to construct a reservoir by which to maintain a sufficient flow of water in the St. John river to get the logs down.

The budget debate at Fredericton will now receive the finishing touches from Mr. Hazen. But his supporters have already told us the worst, and the country remains calm.

The Attorney-General sought to cheer up the opposition during the closing portion of his address, but there is reason to fear that their gloom is not wholly dispelled. As a party their reasons for being cheerful are not numerous.

The Canadian insurance investigators are first to examine the government's machinery for safeguarding the policy holders. They can at least discover nothing like the rotten state insurance department of New York.

"Church Work," a fortnightly publication in the interest of the Church of England, which is published in Sydney, appears this week in enlarged form. Rev. C. W. Vernon succeeds Rev. F. F. Dixon as managing editor. "We hope," says "Church Work," to continue to make the news of the churches of Nova Scotia a feature of each issue, and shortly to be able to devote similar pages to the dioceses of Fredericton and Newfoundland. We should like to see a wide use made of our correspondence columns. They are open to all Churchmen for the full, free and fair discussion of all matters pertaining to our beloved Church. We shall endeavor to present "Church Work" from being in any sense the organ of any party or clique in the church. It is to be essentially a Church newspaper."

We hear much of Germany's industrial progress, but the London Chronicle tells another side of the case, asserting that a most deplorable state of wage slavery exists in Thuringia, the provinces where the great toy industry is carried on. The Berlin correspondent of the Chronicle says: "There, in the midst of the most enchanting scenery, are thousands of men, women and children at work on an industry whose products are to give pleasure to others, and they themselves are plunged in a miserable want. In the toy-making industry a common rate of wages is 21 p. per hour. The highest rate paid seems to be 35 p. The working day seems to average fourteen hours. The average wage, 15 p., is a trifle over three cents per hour. And in most of the industries in question a high degree of intelligence is required, added to perseverance almost painful in its character. There are skilled workmen in Thuringia engaged in this toy industry whose weekly earnings, all told, do not exceed \$1.50. There are women working from early morning to late at night for \$1.00 a week. There are children 'slaving' for 37 cents a week. Sixty-seven per cent of the families in the toy industry have incomes not exceeding \$150 a year."

Luck and Laziness

Luck tapped upon a cottage door.
A gentle, quiet tap.
And Laziness, who lounged within,
The cat upon his lap,
Stretched out his slippers to the fire
And gave a sleepy yawn:
"Oh, so! let him knock again!"
"Come in!" the worker cried.
And Luck was taken by the hand
And fairly pulled inside.

It is still there—a wondrous guest,
From out whose magic hand
Fortune flows forth as Laziness
Can never understand.
How industry found such a friend,
"Come in!" the worker cried.
He sighed, and quite forgot the knock
Upon his door.
—St. Louis Republic.

Cholly—"I did hope to raise a nice Vandylke beard, but it's growing so straggly I think I shall shave it off, don't you know." Miss Peppercorn—"Oh, let it grow; perhaps that was you'll get it all out of your system." —Catholic Standard and Times.

SIR CHARLES DILKE

FORECASTS 1906 IN

BRITISH POLITICS

Declares Principal Measure Before

Parliament Will Be Educa-

tion Bill

LABOR MOVEMENT YET

WEAK IN CITIES

Little Possibility of a Struggle

Between the Two Old Parties

Except on South Africa—Division

Will Continue.

(By the Right Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke, Bart., M. P.)

Visitors to the houses of parliament, as they pass through St. Stephen's Hall, are some, as a rule, by members that it revives the architecture of the chapel in which, after the degradation of the original beauty of the building, the commonest antiquaries often add that it is probable that the wide aisle which separated the benches, originally the stalls, on the right and left of the altar, or of the speaker, caused that division into two parties which was long peculiar to this country. The practice in continental assemblies of speaking from a single "tribune" undoubtedly helps the group system of the continent, as the practice of speaking from the bench and of separating "two sides" of a house by a wide division so that they face one another, helps with us, a sharp parting into two distinct and hostile political organizations.

The old form of party division is, in the great majority of constituencies, not yet much affected by recent events. In the house of commons it is almost dead for the present year. The fact deserves some notice, which it had not received when these words were penned.

The papers of the next morning reported a short speech by Mr. Harcourt, spoken on the night when this article was written. The sessional chairman of the labor party assumed that the British two party system was killed forever. It may be well that an outside observer should examine to what extent outside opinion may reasonably agree with or differ from the leader of the new party in the commons.

The labor party is not yet firmly established in the metropolis or in the agricultural constituencies. As regards the industrial borough constituencies and county divisions, it has been observed that, while in Glasgow and some other places there is a strong feeling in favor of the labor party, in many constituencies which elected labor candidates these received the votes of thousands of electors who are still either radicals or democratic Tories than members of the labor party. It is so, however, in Germany and other countries. I repeat, the fact of the moment is that, in the house of commons and for this session, the old division is virtually extinct. So much is matter of demonstration; the rest is matter of controversy.

On South Africa, possibly, but not certainly upon Irish, there may be "party" divisions in 1906, but it is difficult to see in respect of what other matters such party division is to arise in the commons, and it is clear that in respect of most of the government bills it will be almost non-existent. The principal measure of the session is to be the education bill. The Irish Nationalists will represent Roman Catholic interests, and will be united. The labor party will probably be united in support of the education policy of the Trade Congress, now formally adopted by their own conference.

The Liberal party will be divided upon the dangerous details on which most of the controversy will turn; and the Unionist party, so far as it represents the Church of England, will also, apparently, be divided. The highest authorities in the church will follow the Cecil doctrine and attach themselves in argument to the Irish Roman Catholics, who will not greatly care for their support. A section of the Unionist church members will probably prefer the proposals of the government bill. As regards the two old parties in the commons, the division between them upon the education bill is not likely to follow exact party lines.

The importance of the labor element of various kinds in the late elections, and the fact that it is recognized by the unionists and by the House of Lords, makes it certain that the government carry out its policy, so far as it represents the labor party, so far as it represents the Church of England, will also, apparently, be divided. The highest authorities in the church will follow the Cecil doctrine and attach themselves in argument to the Irish Roman Catholics, who will not greatly care for their support. A section of the Unionist church members will probably prefer the proposals of the government bill. As regards the two old parties in the commons, the division between them upon the education bill is not likely to follow exact party lines.

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