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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1904.

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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## Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 24, 1904.

## RUSSIA'S ANGER AND IMPOTENCE

St. Petersburg despatches say Russia will strenuously protest against the treaty signed between Britain and Tibet, asserting that it violates an understanding between Russia and Britain concerning the object of the Tibet expedition.

The inspired newspapers at the Russian capital, which recently discussed an Anglo-Russian alliance and spoke of the Tibet mission as in no way obnoxious to Russia, have now taken a hint from government sources, and are off on another tack.

"Paradoxical" is their text. These "journalists" profess an "extraordinary" innocence. They speak now as if they had believed all along that Great Britain was pushing an expedition to the "roof of the world" for the sole purpose of opening a market to India.

The "ringing words" of Lord Curzon announcing a determination to prevent any of the Powers—meaning Russia—from obtaining a dominant influence within striking distance of the Indian Empire were not spoken in a whisper, and must have sounded ominous in St. Petersburg.

The position taken by Lord Curzon was not disavowed by the British government, and all the world knew that after Young-husband reached Lhasa that country would become in a sense a British protectorate.

The surprise and indignation now voiced by the St. Petersburg newspapers therefore is surprising and is evidently the result of inspiration from a high quarter.

That the British will recede from their position is not to be expected. Nor is it probable that Russia will do more than protest. Had she been determined to create complications and use them as an excuse for embroiling other nations in the Eastern war she would not have complied with the demands of the British in regard to the action of her volunteer cruisers.

The future of Tibet will generally be regarded as settled. Moreover Russia's status as a naval power has become insignificant.

The Boston Herald in an editorial on the possibility of intervention in Russia's position and prestige as a result of less than eight months' fighting.

"These representing the government at St. Petersburg can hardly fail to recognize that the position before the world which Russia now occupies as a great power, whose will all the people of the world must respect, is quite different now from what it was six or eight months ago. Would the same disasters have overtaken Germany, France or England if they, instead of Russia, had been called upon to encounter the attacks of the Japanese? It is hard to answer an inquiry of this kind, but the general assumption seems to be that, if conditions on the score of nationality, these other European powers would have shown themselves to be much stronger than the Russians have been in the war that they carried on. Russia may not have descended in popular estimation to the rank of a second-class power by her recent experience, but she is certainly no longer looked upon as the greatest and strongest nation upon earth."

That is really a mild estimate. The writer adds that "it is necessary for these officials, representing the government of the Czar to speak with rather less arrogance than was their custom in the past."

Russia's credit has suffered, and the Herald says she "is in no position to carry on a war through a term of years, and the same statement, by the way, of Japan. The latter empire is, fortunately, not embarrassed by an already existing debt, and this may make it easier to float new securities, the issuance of which is made necessary by expenses incurred in carrying on the war. But Russia labors under the disadvantage of having pretty nearly exhausted its credit in western Europe, while, for the purposes of war, the Russian government has no credit in the United States. It was generally admitted that the last Russian loan, which was raised in Paris, was taken largely on the ground that it was necessary for those who held large commitments in Russia to subscribe for these new bonds in order to prevent a serious loss through the decline in the prices of their previously acquired holdings; but this is a good deal on the theory of throwing a good dollar after a poor one, and cannot be made the basis of a long-continued strain of national credit."

## CANADA AND THE NAVY

The report that the Russian cruiser seen off the coast of Vancouver Island may intend to overhaul one of the Canadian Pacific Railway's "Empress" steamers gives a new and powerful argument to those who maintain that Canada should contribute directly to the maintenance of the British navy.

There are, no doubt, Canadian vessels in the Pacific carrying goods which Russia might regard as contraband, whatever British and Canadian thought of them. The seizure of such a ship would raise Canada's interest in the question of contraband to fever heat. The naval authorities at Esquimaux have been instructed to watch the Russian cruiser, and a British warship is likely to be at hand if a seizure is made or attempted.

Our commerce in the Pacific, in short, might now be paralyzed by the British navy. "Here," says the Montreal Witness, "we have a striking object lesson of our dependence, and of the necessity forced upon us for bearing our share in the defence of the Empire, which, as this instance proves, is self-defence. If there were no British squadron at Esquimaux, the Russian cruiser could do as it liked, Canadian commerce might be swept off the Pacific, and we would be utterly powerless to assert our rights."

If there were no British cruisers at Esquimaux, evidently Canada would have to have a cruiser there, and one would not be enough. Canada would require a fleet, and a small fleet might not answer the purpose. It is true, of course, that the British navy is not protecting Canadian commerce alone in this instance. It is British commerce, and the whole Empire benefits from its defence. That Canada should contribute in some form to the defence fund is generally admitted. The form of contribution has not yet been agreed upon, but agreement should prevent no insuperable difficulties once the principle is recognized. Canada is not a burden to Britain and the rest of the Empire, as extremists in the case of naval contribution commonly imply. The Dominion is a source of Imperial strength. There has been and will be objection to a form of contribution by which Canada shall have no voice in the councils of the Empire and no direct influence touching the use of the money or forces which she would be willing to contribute. But that she will assume her fair share of the defence bill is probable enough.

## DIVERGENT VIEWS

It is the fashion just now among campaign orators in Massachusetts to discuss reciprocity with Canada. The orators are very numerous and very industrious. It is the heyday of the epellinder. A report of recent speeches shows how few of the speakers hold the same views on the reciprocity question. One is quoted as saying: "The next question is reciprocity. I haven't anything to give in order to get reciprocity, so I must stand out on that question." (Laughter). If Canada wants reciprocity she must pay three times what we give her. So I am for once with Henry Cabot Lodge. (Laughter). And if I go to Congress, as I expect to do, I shall consult Henry Cabot Lodge on reciprocity."

This is a common view, though most of our neighbors are not so frank as this orator. The remarks of another indicate his belief that there is to be nothing in the deal for Canada beyond an enlarged market for her natural products, and that reciprocity is a distinct step toward annexation. He says:

"The best interpretation of the tariff law is the making of reciprocity treaties for such periods as will insure prosperity to the industries concerned and prove the value or utility of such conditions. At present a treaty of reciprocity between the United States and Canada seems to be desired; the industries of this country want the raw materials of Canada; Canada needs the manufactured articles from the factories of New England, and an open market for certain articles of trade will develop a greater commerce between the countries, stimulate business and bind Canada to this country by such ties of commercial friendship that the road to annexation will in time become so easy that the progress thereon will be without any convulsion in the world of nations."

There spoke a man who did not know that he was using the most powerful agent at his command to destroy the prospect for reciprocal trade and even to make it more difficult to secure a hearing at Ottawa. Another candidate says:

"Personally I agree with our co-candidate, that reciprocity with Canada will be of great benefit and should be brought about at the earliest possible day that such result can be accomplished with proper consideration to safe-guarding the interests and national dignity of our country. I feel that the voters of this district, and of the state, have the fullest confidence in the representatives of the Republican party in Congress, and it really matters little whomsoever is chosen in the coming caucuses so far as it concerns the more quickly bringing about a realization of reciprocal relations with Canada. Neither of the candidates could take a trip to Canada immediately following his nomination and bring 'reciprocity' with him upon his return. The success of reciprocity is better assured by, with and through a strong faith in the candidates of the Republican party."

## NEITHER FOR SALE NOR TO LET

Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, an economist and philosopher whose fame is in some measure due to the fact that he suffers from a perpetual hemorrhage of statistics, writes to the St. John Globe offering, roughly speaking, to buy these provinces for \$46,000,000—his estimate of our share of the Dominion debt. The offer is not a personal one. He puts forward the offer tentatively, and pauses for a reply from the Globe. It may be that Mr. Atkinson used to read the evening journal in its salad days. Perhaps he intended to use its reply as evidence in a campaign in the United States for the purpose of bringing about the purchase. The Globe replies that the question is not a practical one, and that there is no evidence that it is likely to become a practical one. The Globe's salad days, it will be perceived, are over. Although any rearrangement arrived at by the Boston philosopher and the Globe would not be binding on the United States on the one hand and these provinces on the other, it is pleasing to note that the St. John newspaper feels compelled to assure its distinguished correspondent that we are not now in the market.

Mr. Atkinson's letter is an unconsciously humorous production. Were it not so its publication here would be offensive, and, by one newspaper, particularly offensive. In their discussion of the future of this part of Canada and its relations with the United States both Mr. Atkinson and the Globe rise superior to mere sentiment. They discuss the alienation of the Maritime Provinces much as a lumberman or a grocer might consider expedients to increase next year's business. This is as surprising in Mr. Atkinson's case, for he has no viewpoint save that of the economist. It is a possibly important truth that the people of the provinces thus bought and sold in theory are proud members of a great Confederation within a mighty Empire and that they feel the pulsing national life to their finger tips. This is and will be a matter wholly beyond the economist's comprehension. An economist, venturing into a field like that now invaded by Mr. Atkinson must soon become conscious of his limitations.

The Globe makes no answer to some of its correspondent's remarkable inquiries. For instance he writes:

"And now come some questions which at first may create irritation, and, second, leading to thoughtful consideration. Is it or is it not true, as I have been told, that the fourth of July is about as much a holiday in the Maritime Provinces as in New England, with less rockets and fire crackers? Why not? The Declaration of Independence was not confined to the people of the colonies; it was the declaration of popular rights against aristocratic privileges."

These delightful sentences in themselves show how intimately Mr. Atkinson is acquainted with conditions here, and with what rare judgment he has gauged the sentiment of the people within the confines of the projected purchase.

But Mr. Atkinson has an alternative. Unrestricted free trade is to be established, the United States leading the way, and Canada being forced to follow. It appears that the United States is about to experience an astonishing change.

"A great wave of reciprocity has swept over the United States, and all of its abominations will be swamped. Its evils are being developed and the masses of the people have become independent of the 'stand pat' ring. When that barrier begins to go it will go rapidly. The people of New England, especially Massachusetts, have already found out that it is useless and useless to wait for Canada to take the taxes off from people which are now put upon imports from New England; they do not propose to wait for Canada to come to a common sense conclusion about taxing her own people before beginning to remove the taxes paid in New England on Canadian products which are now imposed under the tariff in the United States."

Mr. Atkinson's "great wave" has not yet been detected by anyone else. It is not surprising that he does not know Canada. It is surprising that in this presidential year he should solemnly profess to see at hand the rout of the high tariff forces in the United States. No matter who wins it is not believed that the dominant party, Democratic or Republican, will materially reduce the tariff.

The Globe in commenting on the Atkinson letter says: "There ever runs through the American mind the assumption that there cannot be reciprocity with the United States unless by political union."

Very true. And that fact coupled with what reciprocity advocates in the United States mean by reciprocity has removed reciprocal trade from the realm of practical politics. It is a dead issue here to day and will be until the people of the United States have learned a great deal about this country which they do not know today. By the time they have learned reciprocity between Canada and the United States may no longer be either possible or

## THE CROWDS GROW

The horse show is an agreeable and attractive addition to the Exhibition, and yesterday's events in the ring confirmed the impression that the management had been wise in featuring it. The attendance grows. Yesterday the number in attendance was about equal to that on the best day two years ago; and now that the Moosepath races are over and there is nothing to divert patronage from the Exhibition, the turnstiles should register new figures.

The Exhibition Association may—and will if it regards public opinion—make an important step forward before another fair is held, by undertaking the construction of a trotting track within the Exhibition grounds. This will necessitate an extension of the field by the removal of several buildings and the purchase or renting of some land. The expense may be considerable, but it will not be regarded as prohibitive in view of the advantages to be gained by the extension. Good Exhibition races—at the Exhibition, not at Moosepath—would undoubtedly swell the attendance and increase the interest very materially. This project has been under consideration for a long time. It is about time the Association took it up in earnest.

## A FLAG INCIDENT

The appearance of the British flag caused a riot in New Jersey a few days ago. British capitalists have established at Bergen Point, a wire and cable plant, and while the investors were inspecting the newly finished building the president of the company, who is a citizen of the United States, thought it would be a graceful thing to run up the Union Jack in honor of the visitors. An employee was told to hoist the flag of both nations, and to have that of the United States above the British ensign. This man, for some reason or other, raised the Union Jack alone. A crowd gathered and gazed ominously at the foreign colors. Someone carried news of the "outrage" to the Seventh New Jersey regiment of state militia which was enjoying a reunion at a neighboring hotel. These gentlemen abandoned the walnuts, the wine and the speech-making to "go and see about it."

A policeman telephoned for the police reserves to quiet the "soldiers," and the flag was lowered before blood was shed or bricksbats were thrown. The British capitalists escaped with their lives. They saw for instance he writes:

"And now come some questions which at first may create irritation, and, second, leading to thoughtful consideration. Is it or is it not true, as I have been told, that the fourth of July is about as much a holiday in the Maritime Provinces as in New England, with less rockets and fire crackers? Why not? The Declaration of Independence was not confined to the people of the colonies; it was the declaration of popular rights against aristocratic privileges."

## CHINA AND THE TIBETAN TREATY

Russia is said to have inspired China to refuse the sanction of the British treaty with Tibet. Russian influence at Peking is not a plant of particularly hardy growth just now, and it may be even more feeble hereafter. Whatever course China takes it seems improbable that Russia can stir up serious trouble for the British in this quarter. The Chinese listen more attentively to counsel from London than to that from St. Petersburg.

In most quarters the treaty is regarded as settled and beyond disturbance by any Power hostile to British influence. The New York Globe says of it:

"For many years British India has been periodically alarmed by reports that Tibet was about to fall under Russian influence. It has not been exactly clear, even if this should happen, how the British in India would be menaced, but as to this doubtless Lord Curzon is the best judge. To head off this real or imaginary danger the recent expedition was organized, with the result that Tibet, while remaining as before nominally a dependency of China, becomes in fact a British vassal state. In another year doubtless Russia would insist upon 'compensation,' and as an offset would seek to take a slice from the Turkistan and of the Chinese Empire. But as things are we may expect Russia to make no serious counter move. Great Britain, although her present status is that of a mere viceroy, has increased, by many thousand square miles, the area of the world's surface to be marked with red."

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

The large patronage commanded by the Exhibition amusements suggests that a larger amusement hall—and much better amusements—would pay at the next fair.

An article from the Montreal Star, dealing with the Grand Hotel matter and Mr. David Russell, appears on another page of this issue. The outcome proves that Mr. Russell declined to be held up for an excessive bill and that the persons concerned promptly came to his terms.

General Oku says the stubborn resistance made by the Russians at Liao Yang

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and failed. When you pitted your inexperience against his years of training, when you tried to get something for nothing from a man whose business it is to get all he can, anyway he can, you showed yourself a fool as well as a fakir. The fact that you are an amateur will not excuse you. There is one infallible means by which you can avoid being taken in by a fakir, that is, leave him alone. That will save you and drive him out of business. Anyway you have no more right to take his money for nothing than he has to take yours."

The Chatham aldermen are arraigned by the Commercial. The council has expressed dissatisfaction because the liquor law is not enforced and the Commercial asks why the aldermen retain in office three inspectors who have refused to do their duty. The council's remedy is plain enough. The trouble is that some of its members want the Scott Act fines to pay city salaries. One result is that the authorities and the dealers are suspected of having arrived at an understanding that the law is to be forgotten. The inaction of the inspectors certainly tends to keep that suspicion alive. Inspectors who do not inspect are worse than useless and neither the temperance men nor the advocates of a license law believe they should be permitted to draw salary for work which they make no attempt to perform.

The Evening Post declares that Mr. Roosevelt's letter says in effect to the army: "Elect me... and your opportunities to get your warlike passions will be increased," and to the navy: "Elect me, and your guns shall be heard on every sea." "Shucks! The army has not nearly as much warlike passion per capita as the navy wants is war. Fighting modern war-ships is as disagreeable a job as exists. If Colonel Roosevelt offered the navy gunplay in every sea, the navy would come ashore and vote for Parker. The Post should apologize to the service and mix in more bromide with whatever it is talking. Men who know what war is don't like it. American professional fighting men are always for peace until war actually comes. The folks who want war are amateur fighting-men, reformers, cranks, contractors, and some editors and publishers of newspapers—Harper's Weekly.

But the professional fighting men have little to do with declaring war. That is done in some countries by the others whom the Weekly mentions.

Sir Alfred Harmsworth, the great London publisher, who was at one time considering the purchase of a pulp area in New Brunswick has not concluded a purchase in Newfoundland as was reported some time ago. He is now in New York, and he said to the New York Herald on Tuesday that the great problem which confronts the makers of newspapers, both in this country and England, is that of procuring the raw paper. It was a more serious question, he said, than was generally understood. "Ten years ago," he continued, "we began to realize it, and three years ago I came here to see several people with a view of procuring extensive paper plants on this continent. I am now again considering three propositions, one of which includes a concession of 2,000 square miles of timber land in Newfoundland. There are two other propositions elsewhere so tempting that it is quite likely that we shall accept one or both of them rather than Newfoundland. All the concessions are in British dominions."

The members of the fish commission, with the exception of A. B. Copp, M. P., returned from Nova Scotia by the Prince Rupert Tuesday, after having held meetings at Digby, Sandy Cove, Little River, Tiverton, Westport, Preport, Meteghan, and Church Point. The subjects specially inquired into, said Commissioner R. E. Armstrong to The Telegraph, were the lobster, herring, cod and haddock fishery, and the dogfish pest. The consensus of opinion at the points visited was strongly in favor of a nine-inch limit for lobsters. St. Mary's Bay fishermen were almost to a man in favor of this size limit.

Though the charge has often been made in public that the Charlotte county fishermen frequently refuse to supply Nova Scotians with bait, not one man could be found who would say that he had been denied bait, if the men had it to sell. At St. Anne points complaints were made that the weirs at Seal Cove, Grand Manan, took spawn herring in large numbers, while netters were refused permission to also bait off the spawning ground, there were also complaints in some quarters that the herring industry was being injured by the selling of lobster bait. One point was made very plain, viz., that St. Mary's Bay is a great nursery ground for herring, cod, haddock and lobsters, and that the spawning ground in that large bay had been utterly unprotected, the Nova Scotia fishermen catching spawn fish, with the exception of lobsters, without let or hindrance. Immense quantities of herring had been destroyed in this way. It was also shown that at Mud Island, Trinity, and also at Scott's Bay, Nova Scotia, has valuable spawning grounds.

The dogfish pest was not a live issue in St. Mary's Bay, but the outside fishermen complained of it greatly. The dogfish had not been so troublesome this year as in past years.

The members of the commission, said Mr. Armstrong, were greatly struck by the prosperous appearance of the fishing hamlets through which they passed. So far as outward indications went, the fishermen were evidently enjoying a marked degree of prosperity.

The commissioners expect to take up work in Charlotte county immediately. They will probably visit Seal Cove, Grand Manan, on Thursday. Afterwards meetings will be arranged for at Westport, Wilson's Beach, Deer Island, Letice, Back Bay, Leting, Beaton Harbor and St. Andrews.

## MEMBERS OF FISH COMMISSION HERE

Return After Inquiry into Industry at Nova Scotia.

Points

NINE-INCH LOBSTERS

They Found This Limit Favored at Places They Visited—The Question of Bait—Commissioners Find Fishing Hamlets Prosperous Appearing.

The members of the fish commission, with the exception of A. B. Copp, M. P., returned from Nova Scotia by the Prince Rupert Tuesday, after having held meetings at Digby, Sandy Cove, Little River, Tiverton, Westport, Preport, Meteghan, and Church Point. The subjects specially inquired into, said Commissioner R. E. Armstrong to The Telegraph, were the lobster, herring, cod and haddock fishery, and the dogfish pest. The consensus of opinion at the points visited was strongly in favor of a nine-inch limit for lobsters. St. Mary's Bay fishermen were almost to a man in favor of this size limit.

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