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The End of Rule of The Poppy in China

(Toronto Mail and Empire) Readers of The Mail and Empire are hereby notified that on and after March 31 they will not be permitted to smoke opium in China, for upon that memorable date the great Celestial empire "goes dry," so far as the poppy and all her works are concerned. Incidentally the "heavenly Chinese" has achieved perhaps the greatest moral reform in history, but beside which the Russian government's prohibition of vodka and the French government's abolition of absinthe and the Ontario government's efforts in the fall of 1916 to prohibit the sale of beer are mere child's play.

Perhaps the nearest approach to the accomplishment of the Chinese government was the abolition of the slave trade by the British government in 1807. How the Chinese are taking the wonder is that it has not been accompanied by such scenes as attended the abolition of slavery in the United States. How the Chinese are taking the wonder is that it has not been accompanied by such scenes as attended the reform we have imperfect means of knowing. The fact is that the abolition of a habit, as national to the Chinese as baseball and moving pictures are to the people of this continent, is not accompanied by a revolution.

A Gradual Reform It may be that the absence of violent and organized opposition is due to the fact that the Chinese government proceeds very slowly and cautiously toward its goal. It has taken ten years to bring about what it had decided on. It was in 1907 that some form of reform was decided upon and in 1916 the reform we have imperfect means of knowing. The fact is that the abolition of a habit, as national to the Chinese as baseball and moving pictures are to the people of this continent, is not accompanied by a revolution.

Beginning Reform The decree of 1907 made it compulsory for all smokers to take out a license and report themselves to the government. Officials of the government who were not 60 years old were compelled to rid themselves of the habit within six months. The decree also provided that all dens were to be closed within six months; after six months no pipes or lamps were to be made, the importation and cultivation of the poppy was limited, and at the end of ten years there was to be no smoking whatever.

The end of the ten years' action now arrived in accordance with this decree not fewer than 7,000 opium dens were closed in one city, and throughout China between a million and a half of laws have been put out of business. In various places there have been great bonfires of pipes and other smoking paraphernalia. Millions of the drug addicts have freed themselves from the vice in the last decade, for there has been an educational campaign throughout China that has been rich in results. So it is that the last day in which the drug can be used dawned without revolution.

This is not the first time that China has attempted to rid the country of the

vice that made her an overgrown child among the nations of the world. In 1799 the evils of the habit were recognized by the emperor and a prohibition edict went into effect. Vast quantities of the herb and millions of pipes were burned. But the habit persisted, and in 1838 there was another crusade. At this time China could prohibit the manufacture of opium from the poppy, but she was not permitted to prohibit its importation, for in 1842 the British government's abolition of opium and the exportation of it. In 1840 the British empire went to war with China when she attempted to keep out the Indian poppy, and that war is not one in which the present inheritors of the empire take pride. Nevertheless, it was a successful one, and China had to admit Indian poppy. It has been estimated that between 1878 and 1906 Indian-grown opium sold to China made a profit of two billion dollars to the growers and dealers.

Attending for an Ancient Wrong But if Britain has to bear the shame of forcing opium on China in 1840, at a time when almost a majority of adult Chinese desired it, she must be given the credit for the reform which she is about to take effect. In 1907 the British house of Commons, without a dissenting vote, determined that India would no more export opium to China, and concurred in the proposals of the Chinese government to limit and gradually abolish the traffic. The British government was a party to the restrictions that then came into effect, and Great Britain will rejoice with China that the vice is about to be ended forever. It remains to be seen whether the Chinese will be able to find a substitute for opium in alcoholic liquors, but if they do their government can be expected to deal with the lesser evil no less courageously than with the curse of opium. Although De Quincy and Coleridge wrote immortally of the pleasures of the drug there is no record of Chinese genius being stimulated by it. Opium has been a curse to China, and its abolition is the best thing that has happened to China in modern times.

RECENT WEDDINGS Biggs-Rutter. Fredericton, April 7.—A quiet home wedding took place here Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, when Miss Kathleen Rutter, daughter of Fire Chief H. C. Rutter and Mrs. Rutter, became the bride of John Francis Biggs, of Boston. Edward Biggs, cousin of the groom, was groomsmen, and Miss Ina Thibodeau, of Boiestown, was bridesmaid. Rev. J. Sutherland, pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian church, performed the ceremony in the presence of friends and relatives of the contracting parties.

Price-Bleakney. At the Methodist parsonage, Moncton, on Wednesday, Rev. H. A. Goodwin, united in marriage Miss Hazel Bleakney, daughter of Andrew Bleakney, of Sunny Brae, with William W. Price, son of W. H. Price of Moncton.

Milton-Gamble. The marriage of Miss Myrtle Gamble of Moncton and Fred Milton of Hillsborough, Albert county, took place on last Wednesday evening at the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. A. Taylor, Moncton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C. O. Howlett of Lewisville.

SOCIALISTS DECLARE A BREACH OF FAITH IN HUNS RIGA DRIVE Hun Socialist Party Now Sees Hope Shattered of Compromising with Socialist Brethren in Russia—Bitter Against Military Authorities. Copenhagen, via London, April 8.—The German offensive on the Skokhod river appears to have considerably upset the leaders of the majority Socialists in Germany, who were counting on a relaxation of German efforts on the Russian front to permit them to get in touch with Russian Socialists and to further the peace movement among the latter. The Associated Press hears from Berlin of a recent conference of the leaders of the Scheidemann wing on the Russian situation, at which, according to one of the participants, it was stated that the German government had given definite assurances that no offensive movement on the eastern front would be undertaken for the present, so that the Socialists could continue to endeavor to convince their Russian colleagues that Germany was not endeavoring to take advantage of the revolutionary movement or to re-establish the Romanoff autocracy. This participant now speaks bitterly of the "breach of faith," which will make it difficult to convince the Russian Socialists of the good intentions of the German Socialists.

Relief Ship Sunk London, April 8.—The Norwegian steamer Camilla, with a cargo of corn for the Belgian relief commission, according to a Reuter despatch from Copenhagen, has been sunk without warning with the loss of two lives. The vessel was sunk off the coast of Jaederen, south of Stavanger, Norway, and nine survivors and two dead have arrived at Skudenes, Norway. The

LOCAL NEWS

ALMANAC FOR ST. JOHN, APRIL 9 A.M. Low Tide... 0.85 P.M. Sun Rises... 0.54 Sun Sets... 7.05 Time used is Atlantic standard.

Easter Sunday was observed quietly throughout the city. A deep spirit of reverence was in evidence. In all the churches special Easter services were largely attended. Special musical services were given by the church choirs.

The members of the Holy Name Society of the Cathedral received Communion in a body yesterday morning at the 7 o'clock mass, yesterday being the regular quarterly Communion Sunday for the society. In the evening, after vespers, the regular monthly meeting of the society was held in the Cathedral. Several new members were received into the society last evening.

F. G. O'Grady of Montreal, the new general manager of the Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Ltd., was in the city on Saturday and made his first visit to his new field of activities. He was met by many of the officials of the local plant. The local refinery is now well advanced with its order of 5,000 tons of sugar, which will be used for war purposes. Mr. O'Grady returned to Montreal on Saturday evening.

Wilfred Penny, chauffeur for W. Pedersen, Ltd., was found, head down, partly out of his machine in Douglas avenue yesterday morning about 1.30 o'clock by four men returning from work. The car was jammed against a telegraph pole and considerably damaged. He was removed to the hospital in the ambulance. His wounds are not serious but he was unconscious and bleeding when found. It is supposed the car skidded in the mud and Penny lost control.

A fire started in the rear of the People's Market, which is conducted by Louis Corey at 29 Brussels street, about 12.30 a.m. on Sunday. The building, in which the store is situated, is occupied by several families and is completely taken out with difficulty. Policeman Harvey who ran into the house to awaken the sleepers, carried two children out through the smoke to safety.

A very successful sale of fancy work and home cooking was held Saturday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. E. Sutton Roxborough, 292 Duke street, West St. John, by members of Mrs. Roxborough's Sunday school class, assisted by a few other girls. The substantial sum of \$55 was realized. This will be sent to Nursing Sister Margaret P. Dunham, for special contributions for the sick and wounded under her care in hospitals somewhere in France.

Plans for the paving of the southern end of Water street, between the customs house wharf, and where the tracks of the Canadian Government Railways are laid will be discussed some time this week at a meeting to be held between Brown, chief engineer for the I. C. R., and William Murdoch, city engineer. It has been pointed out that the erection of the grade elevator at that point necessitates better travelling conditions than are now provided.

LOCAL NEWS Tech hard coal landing, all sizes.—Sibson & Co., Ltd. NOW IS THE TIME TO DIAMOND Not just paint, but Crown Diamond ready mixed paint. What a difference! We also carry a full stock of American and Canadian wall paper, white enamel, varnish, wood stain, etc.—Turner, etc. For the convenience of our customers our store is open every evening.—The Barry Supply Co., 88 Dock street.

READY FOR INSPECTION Our big display of spring overcoats in all styles and colors, from \$12 to \$24. Call while the stock is complete.—Turner, out of the high rent district, 440 Main street.

A MODERN VERSION OF JONAH. An English provincial church at which the congregation has been growing less and less every Sunday for some time was on Sunday crowded long before the time for commencement of the service. The minister was evidently adopting the government's idea that sermons should be more practical and topical in these days for the subject announced, which had attracted such wonderful numbers was "Three Days in a Submarine." The expectant congregation (says the London Daily Chronicle) were treated to a wonderful discourse, but came away sad and wiser men after hearing a sermon on Jonah!

SCHOOL TEACHER Anemic, Run-down, Nervous—How She Recovered There are so many cases like this right here in St. John that we are publishing this interesting letter with the hope that some of our customers will try Vinol and get the same happy result that Miss Baez did. Key West, Fla.—"I am a teacher and became anemic, nervous, run-down, no energy or desire to do anything. I could not sleep and had that languid, nervous feeling that made me a burden to myself. I had taken various tonics without benefit. I heard of Vinol and tried it. Soon I had a good appetite, could sleep all night and it built me up so I have the ambition to do any kind of work."—Mary L. Baez, Key West, Fla. The reason Vinol was so successful in this case is because it is a constitutional remedy that goes to the seat of trouble. The phosphate of iron, manganese and glycerophosphate contained in Vinol enriches and revitalizes the blood, while the strengthening, tissue-building properties of beet and cod liver peptone aid in building up the tired, overworked, run-down system.

The Ross Drug Co., Limited, Wassons' Drug Store, St. John, N.B. T. H. Wilson, Fairville, N.B. Also the best druggists in all New Brunswick towns.

Saxol Salve CURES SKIN AFFECTIONS. Ointment proven it. Sold and guaranteed by above Vinol druggist.



Men's and Boys' Clothing Less 10 Per Cent.

for this week, giving you a chance to take advantage of the Special Offering we had for Easter week. It's worth saving. It means One Dollar saved on every ten you spend. As our prices are all marked in plain figures, so look for the regular prices and you can easily see what you have saved.

Men's Suits From \$9.00 to \$30.00 Less 10 per cent. for this Week Only

Men's Spring Top Coats From \$10.00 to \$22.00 Less 10 per cent. for this Week Only

Boys' Suits From \$4.25 to \$13.00 Less 10 per cent. for This Week Only

Boys' Pants From 75c. to \$1.50 Just Arrived

Boys' Sweaters Just Arrived—Good Assortment Prices from \$1.25 to \$2.25

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WHY our business is increasing so rapidly. For three reasons: 1. We have the best goods. 2. We have the best facilities for eye-testing. 3. We have the right price. This is what the public wants. Having over twenty years of experience in optics exclusively affords us the opportunity to give the public entire satisfaction.

We also request all our patrons to exercise the privilege to call as often as needed to adjust the glasses free of charge. S. GOLDFEATHER Out of the High Rent District. Phone Main 3413-11, 625 MAIN ST.

SPECIALS at Robertson's

Pure Flour \$11.30 55lb. Royal Household Flour \$11.20 55lb. 98 lb. bag Golden City Flour \$ 5.25 24 lb. bag Golden City Flour \$ 1.45 24 lb. bag Star Flour \$ 1.40 12 lb. Fine Granulated Sugar \$ 1.00 \$3.10 per 100 lb. bag 10 lb. bag Lantic Sugar \$.85 Choice White Potatoes \$.50 peck Choice Dairy Butter \$.44 lb. Yellow-Eye Beans \$.25 qt. 5 cakes Surprise or Gold Soap \$.25c Gold Soap \$.480 box Esprit and Flake White Shortening \$.20 lb. pails, \$4.00 Swifts Best Shortening \$ 1 lb. packets, 24c 3 tins 2 in 1 Shoe Polish \$.25c 3 tins Black Knight Shoe Polish \$.25c 3 tins Lux or Old Dutch \$.25c

E. Roy Robertson 599 Main St. Phone 2577.

KAISER SAID TO BE FAVORING REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL LAW. Report That He Has Ordered Chancellor to Submit Proposals to Him, to be Discussed and Introduced After War.

Amsterdam, April 7, via London. April 8.—Emperor William has ordered German Imperial Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg to submit to him certain proposals for the reform of the Prussian electoral law, to be discussed and put into effect after the conclusion of peace. An official telegram from Berlin announcing this order adds that it fore-shadows also the reform of the upper chamber of the Prussian Diet.

Kirkpatrick & Cowan CASH SPECIALS 22 King Square (Next Imperial Theatre) PHONE M. 3158

Pickles, plain and mustard, 15c and 25c bottle Cranberries, 13c per qt. or 2 for 25c. Oranges \$.25 doz. 28c. doz. Yellow Buckwheat Flour... 6c. lb. Western Grey Buckwheat... 7c. lb. Home-made Apple Jelly... 15c. a jar Black Currant Jelly... 18c. a jar Onions... 10c. lb.

Corn Syrup... 14c. can Crisco... 1 1/2 lb. can, 38c. Cow Brand Soda... 5c. pkge. Can Blueberries, 13c. per can, 2 for 25c.

West Side Delivery Tuesday and Friday.

POTATOES

Choice Delaware Potatoes, Only 60c. peck \$5.25 Barrel FRESH FRUIT Sweet Seedless Oranges, 25c., 28c., 30c., 35c., 40c. doz. Fancy Lemons... 25c. doz. Largest Grapefruit, 9c., 3 for 25c. Cranberries... 12c. qt.

EGGS! EGGS! Strictly Fresh Eggs... 38c. doz.

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Linoleums and Oilcloths AT OLD PRICES

While the price of Linoleums and Oilcloths has advanced last week, we are still selling our beautiful stock at old prices. Come in and select your patterns now and save money. LINOLEUMS in three and four yard widths. OILCLOTHS in one and two yard widths. INLaid LINOLEUMS in newest designs. We do not handle cheap, trashy floorcloths.

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First Services in Knox Church

The first services of Knox Presbyterian church were held yesterday morning and evening in Knox church, formerly known as St. Stephen's, with Rev. W. F. Fraser as the speaker in the morning, and Rev. J. H. A. Anderson, formerly pastor of St. John Presbyterian church, as speaker in the evening. Both services, as well as the Sunday school session, were very largely attended. Announcement was made at both services that the pulpit of Knox church was now vacant, and in accordance with the wishes of the church, the presbytery urged upon the people all speed in calling a new rector. The Sunday school of the former St. John church met at the old Sunday school rooms and marched in a body to Knox church, where they were met and welcomed by the former St. Stephen's teachers and pupils. Following the regular Sunday school exercises, a meeting of the teachers of the united school was held. Rev. J. A. MacKeigan served as moderator, and Miss Lyle V. Kennedy was named secretary pro tem. The body then proceeded with the election of officers, with the following being elected for the year: John L. Irvine, superintendent; R. E. Stothard and W. J. Capson, assistant superintendents; Robert McAfee, secretary; Donald Armstrong, assistant secretary; Miss Lyle V. Kennedy, treasurer; Miss Florence B. Cummings, superintendent of cradle department; Mrs. Hammond Campbell, superintendent of primary department; Mrs. W. Cameron and Mrs. Hammond Campbell, in charge of the home department; R. McQuarrie and Mr. Townsend, librarians, and Mrs. Scott and Miss Kennedy, organists.

Knox church is the outcome of the union of the congregations of St. John and St. Stephen's Presbyterian churches.

SYDNEY IN JOYOUS MOOD OVER UNITED STATES DECISION TO JOIN THE ALLIED NATIONS. Sydney, N. S., April 8.—Sydney on Saturday night celebrated the entry of the United States into the war. The demonstration, in which thousands of citizens took part, started with a torchlight procession, headed by bands and carrying the flags of the Allies conspicuous among which were the Stars and Stripes. The procession was followed by a grand display of fireworks. An open air meeting was then held in front of the Sydney hotel. Addresses referring to the action of the United States were delivered by Mayor Muggah, W. F. Carroll, M. P., and J. C. Douglas, M. P., to which the people gave an enthusiastic response. A number of American citizens took part in the demonstration.

WIRELESS MACHINE FOUND ON ROOF OF FIFTH AVENUE HOME. U. S. Secret Service Agents Discover Receiving Plant Where Benastorff, Boy-Ed and Other Hun Agents Were Frequent Guests. New York, April 8.—United States secret service agents have discovered, it was learned tonight, that until a few weeks ago a wireless receiving plant of the most expensive type was operating on the roof of the Fifth Avenue home of Mrs. Hugo Reisinger, daughter of the late Adolphus Busch, millionaire brewer of St. Louis.

While the secret service agents maintained silence, it was understood they had information that a German who had been employed as butler in the Reisinger home constructed and operated the wireless plant. He recently resigned his position. It was said, and disappeared. Mrs. Reisinger had often entertained at her home Count Von Bernstorff, Dr. Heinrich Albert, Germany's commercial attaché, and Captains Karl Boy-Ed and Franz Von Papen, naval and military attachés, respectively.

EVEN CROSS, SICK CHILDREN LOVE SYRUP OF FIGS

If Feverish, Bilious, Constipated, Give Fruit Laxative at Once. Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign its little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with sour waste. When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul waste, the sour bile and fermenting food passes out of the bowels and you have a well and playful child again. Children love this harmless "fruit laxative," and mothers can rest easy after giving it, because it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet.

Keeper handy, Mother! A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, plainly on the bottle. Remember there are counterfeiters sold here, so surely look and see that yours is made by the "California Children of all ages and for grown-ups" formula Fig Syrup Company, and back with contempt any other fig syrup.

Best Quality Of Goods At Lowest Prices

24 lb. bag Royal Household... \$1.45 24 lb. bag Purity or Roses... \$1.50 24 lb. bag Star Flour... \$1.40 Choice White Potatoes... 55c. peck Sun-kissed Seedless Oranges... 25c. doz. Crisco—1 1/2 lb. tin... 36c. 5 lb. tin Corn Syrup... 10c. lb. Pickles—Mustard... 15c. jar large bottle... 25c. 2 tins B. C. Pink Salmon... 25c. B. C. Red Salmon... 20c. tin B. C. Red Beans... 15c. tin Snider's Beans and sauce... 18c. tin 3 lbs. Starch... 25c. 3 Old Dutch... 4c. 3 lbs. for 25c. Powdered Sugar... 10c. 3 lbs. for 30c.

LILLEY & CO'S. Prices on Meats and Provisions Will Save You Money!

Beefsteak... From 22c. per lb. Beef Roasts... From 16c. per lb. Stewing... From 14c. per lb. Corned... From 14c. per lb. Fresh Sausage... 16c. per lb. Bologna Sausage... 12c. per lb. Head Cheese... 10c. per lb. Scotch White Puddings... 12c. per lb. Pressed Corned Beef (cooked)... 25c. per lb. Cranberries... 2 qts. for 25c. Apples, Cabbage, Lettuce and a large variety of other goods at lowest market prices.

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THE 2 BARKERS LIMITED 100 Princesses - 111 Brussels Goods Delivered to All Parts of City, Carleton and Fairville