

"THE BLACK FEATHER" AT THE OPERA HOUSE A FINE PRODUCTION

Albert Brown and Capable Company Give St. John Theatre Goers Entertainment of Distinctly High Class.

"Just tightening the bonds of Empire" is the way Dick Kent describes his love scene with Evelyn Thornton, a Canadian girl—and it is just tightening the bonds of Empire that Mr. Albert Brown is doing by his most wonderful portrayal of an Englishman—the silly ass' kind which before the war we were disposed to look down upon and despise because they had a few mannerisms and were a bit different from our own men.

The quotation is taken from "The Black Feather," the "Made in Canada" play in which Mr. Albert Brown makes his second appearance in St. John and which had its first night at the Opera House last evening. There was a good audience but nothing short of a full house would do justice to a production such as "The Black Feather" put on by Mr. Brown and his excellent cast of players. The audience was very appreciative and Mr. Brown received an ovation on his appearance and many curtain calls after each act.

The ripples of laughter at the humor of which the play is full showed that we are an appreciative people and can laugh at witty sayings. The lines were the kind to go away and chuckle over, if one only could remember them all.

The character of Dick Kent is similar to that of Kit Brent in "The White Feather," but the play is cast along different lines and "The White Feather" lacked it had the inimitable "Fraulein" which the irascible Englishman "Sir George Caxton" with his profanity which always (though of course it is quite wrong) seemed just the right word.

Mr. Brown is called the only American who can really play an English role. It simply intensifies one's admiration for his art when you learn his nationality, for no Briton could possibly say "Rippon" with a more perfect English accent. The criticism that this or that trait, or mannerism, is exaggerated usually brings forth the statement from some one that it is just that mannerism which was so real to them. He can certainly make love in a most convincing way and one that might well carry a girl off her feet. The description of his meeting with Evelyn Thornton, their attire (there had been a fire in Pullman) and how he described the Pullman! she in "such a pretty kimona all lacey sort of cream-puff and Charlotte Russey don't you know," is perfectly charming.

Surrounding Mr. Brown is a capable cast of players who understand the possibilities of their roles and make the most of them. Miss Clemence Randolph is a very lovely young actress who plays the part of Evelyn Thornton the Canadian girl. She plays the part so that the sympathy of the audience goes out to the girl who trusted where there was no evidence but let her intuition tell her whom she could trust.

Miss Helen Keers, as Lady Venetia Caxton, gave a good characterization of the fastidious English lady of the old school who was much shocked by the modern ways of the young people. The part played by Robert Richard Ranier, of Jack Thornton, whose weakness is played upon by the Austrian Countess, is slight, but he portrays it well.

Miss Sara Perry, as the Countess, was artistic in her part and the parts of the Baron and the Spy were well filled.

The play itself was written by Mr. W. A. Tremayne of Montreal, a Canadian dramatist, who has scored many successes in the past. Mr. Tremayne has been for some years the coach for the Trinity Literary and Dramatic Society of Montreal. This club includes many talented people and they have put on some splendid amateur productions. Mr. Tremayne is the author if several other plays. "The Black Feather" was specially written for Mr. Brown and is staged by Mr. Brown and the author himself. The writer has also many motion picture scenarios to his credit and in his rooms the walls are covered with portraits of artists whom he has met.

The cast is as follows: Baron Ernst Von Arnheim . . . . . Joseph De Stefan Jack Thornton (Jack's sister) . . . . . Robt. Richard Ranier Evelyn Thornton (Jack's sister) . . . . . Clemence Randolph Sir George Caxton, Chas. Walsh-Homer Lady Venetia Caxton, . . . . . Helen Keers Dick Kent . . . . . Albert Brown Paul Houge . . . . . Henry Sherwood

SHIPPING TONNAGE DOUBLES

Canada's Total for 1915-16 was 102,239 Tons—Shipbuilding Shows Decrease.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Nov. 13.—The tonnage of vessels registered in Canada during the past fiscal year which ended in March last, was nearly double that of the year before. For 1916 the tonnage was 102,239, as compared with 53,354 in 1915, and 46,909 in 1914.

Shipbuilding, however, showed a decrease. The figures of tonnage in the last few years were: 1916, 13,497; 1915, 45,721; 1914, 46,887; 1913, 24,325. This year's shipbuilding was the lowest since 1897. However, there were very many small vessels built in Canada for the Royal Navy. The navigation figures for 1916 showed an increase over 1915. This year the tonnage of vessels inward and outward, exclusive of the coasting trade, amounted to a tonnage of 57,721,098. In 1915 it amounted to 53,604,153 tons; in 1914, 61,919,483 tons.

The coastwise trade diminished slightly, being 68,709,424 tons, a decrease of four and a quarter million tons.

OBITUARY

Thomas Henry de Mille.

Thomas Henry de Mille, one of the best known and highly respected residents of Sussex, passed peacefully away on Nov. 11th at 9.30 p. m. after a lingering illness.

The late Mr. de Mille was born in Woodstock in 1839, and was a son of the late Squire Rufus R. S. de Mille, of Woodstock. Mr. de Mille was well known throughout the province, having taught school for thirty-four years and by his Christian and noble character won many friends who will learn with deep regret of his death.

Mr. de Mille was of French Huguenot descent, his grandfather coming from Paris, France, to the State of New York, and later to Canada with the Loyalists. The late Mrs. Lewis Peter Fisher of Woodstock and the late Mrs. Isalah Wallace of Lawrenceton, N. S. were sisters of the deceased.

Mr. de Mille is survived by his wife, two sons, Moody T. of Rexton, N. B., and Watson F. of St. John and three daughters, Mrs. Albert Scott of Panobscquis, N. B., Mrs. J. L. Cameron, Sussex, and Miss Florence Annette, at home, also a half-sister, Miss Ada de Mille, Sussex, and half-brother, Rufus E. de Mille of South Framingham, Mass.

A funeral service will be held today at his late residence, Sussex Corner, at 2.30 p. m. The interment will be at Sussex Corner cemetery.

St. David's Y. P. A.

At the meeting of the Y. P. A. of St. David's church last night a very interesting paper on "The War in Caroons," was given by James Laidlaw and was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. F. W. Girvan acted as chairman for the evening and music was furnished by F. J. Punter. The attendance at these meetings is growing larger every week and the Y. P. A. expect to have a very successful season.

Countess Wanda von Holtzberg . . . . . Sara Perry Barnes (a chauffeur) . . . . . Geo. Henry Patton (a gamekeeper) . . . . . Thos. Shaw Synopsis of scenes: Act I—Sitting-room of Jack's apartments, London. Act II—A corner of Sir George Caxton's estate at Thorncliffe. Act III—Same as Act I. Act IV—Same as Act I.

The action of the play takes place during the summer of 1914. Production staged under the personal direction of Mr. Brown and the author. Manager for Mr. Brown, L. E. Wood Representative, Stephen Marshall.

DIED.

REED—In this city, on November 11, 1916, Charlotte E. Reed, widow of Thomas M. Reed, Mayor of St. John, in the 57th year of her age, after an illness of four years. Funeral from No. 7 St. James street Tuesday at 2.30. Interment in Fernhill.

CANADIAN BUSINESS MEN MUST NOW MAKE READY TO MEET AFTER WAR PROBLEMS

Hon. George E. Foster in Address to City's Merchants and Manufacturers Gives Elquent Warning That Bells of Peace Will Usher in New and Serious Conditions—If They Are to be Met Now is the Time to Prepare.

The business men of St. John showed their interest in trade conditions by turning out last night in large numbers to hear Sir George Foster talk on "Trade conditions as they exist in Canada today, and as they probably will exist after the war." The meeting was held under the auspices of the Board of Trade, and the chair was occupied by the president, J. A. Likely. Sir George was in splendid form and delivered one of the best addresses he has ever given. He has his subject at heart, and from the close study he has made of conditions as they exist in Canada, Great Britain and France, is particularly well qualified to speak with authority on the question. He had his points with him, and as he made his speech was greeted with applause. Sir George has a dry subject, but his eloquence made it most interesting for those present.

Shortly after eight o'clock the chairman took his place and in a few words called on the speaker of the evening whom he announced would speak on "Trade in Canada today and as it would exist after the war."

Sir George Foster.

On rising Sir George was the recipient of a round of applause. He said his subject was "Trade as it was in Canada today and as it would be after the war." He might, perhaps, make a very good fist of dealing with the first part of the subject, but he did not think any man could say with like after the war.

He had come to them in pursuance of a plan or policy of trying to centre the thought of the business men of the country on conditions which existed today, and some which were likely to exist after the end of the war. Some time ago in pursuance of this policy a call had been issued to the business men of the Dominion asking them to consider these matters. He had not attempted in any way to dictate to them, but asked the business people generally to give to this matter a thoughtful consideration, looking toward concerted action to deal with the problems which arise at the close of the war. The idea was to have each particular line of business have its experts meet and talk over the best way of dealing with their own particular problems and form some plan of action; then have all the different business activities of the Dominion send representatives to a central place and there plan for concerted action on the part of them all to deal with the problems facing them. All branches of the business world were co-related each to the other, each branch would know what was best for his own line, and when they came together and compared notes a wide national policy could be framed, which would advance the interests of all.

A short time ago he had visited Europe and the people there were far more alive to the situation than we were in Canada. In England he had visited all parts of the country and practically all of the great industrial plants, and he had found that they were not only busy getting out munitions of war, but a wealth of thought was being given to the matter of preparing to go back to peace conditions, and they were planning working, making ready for one of the most trying and most eventful periods in the history of Great Britain, the British empire and perhaps of the world.

In this respect Canada was perhaps behind the times as compared with the European countries. In from country would be facing what was practically a new world, and now was the time to get ready. Since coming back from Europe he had been using a mild publicity campaign and he had been addressing the business men of the country whenever the opportunity offered. He had been accused by some people of going around the country scolding, but did not intend to let criticism of that kind deter him from going on with his work.

In his travels he met men of different kinds and he proposed to answer some of the objections which they raised. One class called him a disturber of the peace, and said that there was only one business for Canada just now, and that was to finish the war, and when it was finished it was time enough to talk about other things and outline a policy to meet the conditions which would arise then. He did not take much stock in that argument, and to answer it he proposed to go back a few years in history and recall something which happened just previous to the war. Before the outbreak of the war there were people in England "who troubled Israel." Lord Roberts, for instance, had told the people that there was a sure menace of war, but they had laughed at him and said when war comes we will prepare for it, and the consequence was that they closed their eyes to the danger had been that when the war did come it had taken 24 months to get ready to do her full share in a land war. She had paid oceans of money and rivers of blood in holding back the enemy, and it had taken two years to get ready to take the offensive. This example he thought was sufficient answer to that frame of mind.

Another class said: "The country was never more prosperous than it was today, and they pointed with pride to the trade returns and the bank balances showing that the country at large was prospering. They take local conditions, there was work for everybody who wanted to work, and the country was doing first rate so why should he bother himself and raise such a pother, why not let well enough alone. An examination of this claim would show that while it was true the country was prosperous, 19-20ths of the prosperity was of a temporary nature, and founded on the war, which would stop when the war ended.

Another class was the happy-go-lucky sort of fellow, who said things would come all right, and they seemed to think that all that was necessary was for some one to issue the claim "when you were" when the war stopped and everything would be just as it was. This argument hardly needed an answer. He then took up some of the considerations as to why the men of the country should make up their minds what was to be done after the war to meet the changed conditions. Item 1. When the war was ended there would have been withdrawn from beneficent production 500,000 men.

Item 2. For every soldier who went to the trenches it was estimated that one or more must labor to keep him supplied, and that meant a great many more men taken from beneficent production. Item 3. It was impossible to make war without expenditure. This was going on daily and hourly, and would be a burden on the producers for generations to come. Then there was the trail of consequences which always followed in the wake of war.

Some of the men who had gone out would never come back, and their dust would enrich the soil of a foreign country; the major portion of the men would come back, but none of them the same as they went. It was impossible for any man to go through this awful hell of war and be the same as he was before. Many of them would be disabled, and the country would have to care for them, and while it would be a pleasant duty to look after their welfare it would nevertheless add to the burden which the country must carry. The great majority of the men could not be the same factors in the life of the community.

Some day the war would stop and the war munition factories would close, and those employed in them and their subsidiary concerns find themselves out of employment. Then would have to come a readjustment of employment, and would it not be better to get ready beforehand. Another factor was the fact that many of the manufacturing concerns who had gone into the making of munitions had in a sense lost their former trade connections and would have to make new ones when the war stopped, and the best time to begin was now.

Another matter which needed to be dealt with was the relation between capital and labor. Every student of affairs knew that the relations between them had been strained before the war, but he believed that they could get together now and settle their difficulties, if the same spirit of sacrifice which had been shown in defence of the Empire was carried into the settlement of the differences between them. Both sides needed to realize that there was more than one factor to be considered, and each should be prepared to do what was best for the interests of the country as a whole. He dealt with the over-speculation which had characterized the dealers in real estate in the west, and said that he believed that the people of this country needed to realize that the only basis of true wealth was production, not trade or distribution. The men of the country needed to get a new vision of business and put more spirit into it, and help the other fellow while helping themselves.

SIR SAM HUGHES RESIGNS HIS CABINET PORTFOLIO

Continued from page one. Official Statement. The following official announcement was issued from the Prime Minister's office this evening:

"It is announced that the Prime Minister has requested and has received the resignation of the Minister of Militia and Defence. The resignation of Sir Sam Hughes is in part the outcome of the establishment of the ministry of overseas forces and in part is due to the assumption by Sir Sam of powers which in the judgment of the prime minister can be exercised only by the government as a whole. It is anticipated that the correspondence which brought about the request for the minister's resignation will be made public immediately. It must first be submitted to the government-general."

"I am quite happy. There is a load off my back that has been on for years," said General Hughes to the Standard late tonight. "It is time that I had resigned, but not for the reasons assigned in the report given out. Accompanying my resignation was a request to the prime minister that all the correspondence in connection with the affair might be published promptly."

General Hughes looked quite cheerful as he sat in his office in the militia building and discussed the straggling events of the day. "The Canadian citizen soldiers are second to none," he continued. "They have proved themselves gentlemen, and they have been fearless and self-sacrificing. Canada regards the force with pride. "In leaving this department I feel I have nothing special to regret in the way of work or men. The officers, so far as I am aware, have been loyal and self-sacrificing. They have been true. In Britain during the first year of the war Canada had practically no control. The British system was followed. We have since, however, reorganized the pay, and medical departments, and of course have improved the training to meet the changed conditions of the war."

"Last year for nine solid months our soldiers had no rest from the trenches. I then planned extra divisions so that fully a quarter of our troops could be resting at a time. "But perhaps the most important development of all has been the establishment this year of perfect harmony with the war office, with Sir Wm. Robertson, with General Whishman, indeed with all the senior officers there. They could not be more obliging and helpful; the British statesmen also including Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. F. E. Smith, Lord Grey, Mr. Walter Long, Lord Selborne, Lord Derby and others, in short all British statesmen, are now ever ready and desirous of advancing the wishes and best interests of Canada and Canadians."

"To Sir Max Aitkin Canada owes a deep debt of gratitude for his part in the war." In concluding Gen. Hughes said: "I conceive it to be my duty to give every assistance I can still to help on the cause. I do not know who my successor will be, but whoever he may be he can count on my assistance in every legitimate way to help him on in the great cause. I have parted from my colleagues with more or less regret and in future if they pursue proper lines I will be pleased to give them or anyone else pursuing proper lines my cordial support. "And now what are you going to do?" General Hughes was asked. "I am going on 'spiculations,'" he replied, "just as before only more so."

Later Sir Sam said: "The correspondence will show that Sir Robert Borden asked for the resignation of the Minister of Militia on account of the tone of a letter written to him on November 1st by the Minister of Militia showing that the Prime Minister had made misstatements which the Minister of Militia promptly proved to be incorrect and criticisms which were unanswered when all the facts were considered." Premier Not To Retire. The following statement was issued from the Premier's office this evening: "With reference to the rumor that Sir Robert Borden intends to give up the premiership and retire from public life, the announcement was made today that all such rumors are absolutely destitute of foundation. The Prime Minister deems it his duty to remain at the post until after the

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close of the war, and he will so remain so long as he has the mandate of the people. So far as he is concerned there has been no thought or suggestion of accepting any judicial or other position either here or in Great Britain. All such rumors are purely imaginary."

Accosting Girls. Last night, about 8.30 o'clock, Detectives Barrett and Briggs arrested a man who gives his name as Bert McCabe, on the charge of being drunk on Brussels street. The prisoner is also charged by James Sten with accosting girls on that street.

A conference of the girls' branches of the Women's Auxiliary to the Mission Society of the Church of England in Canada was held in the Trinity church last night, there being between fifty and sixty present, representing the different branches in the city as well as many throughout the province.

Miss Gladys Frink, who was appointed secretary this year, was in charge of the meeting. The first portion of the meeting was devoted to a conference on mission study, which was led by Mrs. James F. Robertson, who emphasized the necessity of mission study, and for an example gave an analysis of the first chapter of the "Why and How" of foreign missions, which is recommended for study this year.

Mrs. John M. Hay, diocesan Dorcas secretary, told of the work of that department, and showed that the Women's Auxiliary were supposed to provide clothing for the children in the Indian boarding schools throughout the northwest. Mrs. Hay's talk was very interesting and was followed by some discussion. General business was then taken up and Miss Frink addressed the conference, encouraging the girls to continue the work with increased model efficiency.

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ST. V... HIG... COR... It is... Blenc... of Fine... Casey C... Yesterday... School in Ch... impressive c... Bishop LeBl... J., of Boston... inspiration a... the large nu... Rev. Mr. J... M. Duke, R... P. Costello, G... O'Neill. A... stone contain... newspapers a... follows: "We are he... of the last... national insti... young girl fo... to take her... Here she will... will not shir... in a palace... We are here... of the women... every detail... best; no effo... part the mos... when the tas... dent that the... finished work... "We do hig... lar education... particularly b... fluence which... her soul's fa... "The highes... to her to ad... have a galax... Catherine, G... summed up i... woman, the... And the girl... heart, pure o... comfort her b... part if so God... no virtue for... adorn these... preparation of... When comp... be of most im... clude a gymm... and shower l... twelve class... physical labor... rooms, teach... floor, library... assembly hall... The building... length for the... front of the b... is three stor... ground floor... The walls will... Indians stone... ing will be a... fireproof const... atus on each... steel stairway... a new system... and the bolle... three very lat... which can be... the other. The main f... provides for 60... for 100, or 700... The gymnas... space of 11x40... not in use. T... accommodate a... The swimmi... x6 feet, with b... it and vert r... steps. The contrac... who are in... ing in accord... specifications... West, member... of Civil E... CAS For Inf... In Use For... Always bears... the Signature of... St. Vincen... The annual... ended Novemb... Paul Society... \$875.92; expen... latter included... groceries, \$191... \$71.54; clothi... \$21.40; child... rates, \$13.50;... laneous items... will be taken u... Sunday at the... society. The King's C... be formally r... eight o'clock... Home. Hon. C... will lecture.