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PERPLEXITIES OF A TRADE COMMISSIONER.

The Canadian trade commissioner to Japan, Mr. W. T. R. Preston, is realizing that there are some serious obstacles to be overcome before a direct trade between the Mikado's country and the Dominion can be established. It appears that in the Orient there are certain vested interests which have long had a monopoly in the markets of Asia, and when the newcomer appears on the scene they are up in arms. Among these interests are large merchants, who keep big stocks for sale to Japanese or Chinese merchants, and what are known as European commercial agencies, representing European or United States manufacturers. As might be expected, these people oppose any suggestion for direct trade with any country, and Canada's efforts in that direction are naturally vigorously opposed. This hostility has found voice in certain English newspapers published in Japan, which of late have been printing violent attacks on the Canadian commissioner.

In a recent report to the department of trade and commerce, Mr. Preston discussing this point, says:

"One very important member of a foreign board of trade in Japan, a short while ago, characterized the presence of commercial representatives here, particularly the Canadian representative, as unnecessary, unneeded for, and likely to have a disturbing effect upon existing conditions. This opinion had been freely expressed, because, believing the interest of Canada as of the first importance, I found it necessary to suggest that Canadian traders should make an effort outside of the usual foreign business channels to get Canadian commodities on the markets of the east. If a Canadian trade representative would divide his trade inquiries between various European commission agents in the east, his office would soon become a sinecure; he could have a very pleasant time and would be looked upon by a certain class as the proper kind of a government trade representative in the east. But the general result would be that Canadian trade would remain just about where it is; commodities from the United States, Europe and other places with which Canadian products can easily enter into favorable competition, would retain their hold on the market, and any hope of a satisfactory expansion of Canadian trade in the east would fall to be realized. This, frankly, is the situation."

Mr. Preston is convinced that it would be useless for Canadian firms to expect assistance from the British consular service. There is a marked difference, the commissioner says, between the duties of a British commercial attaché in the east, and the responsibilities devolving upon a trade commissioner for one of the colonies. The former is directly charged with protecting the interests of British agents, merchants and manufacturers, whether their headquarters are in Britain (and though they may be represented in the east by commission agencies), or whether they are regularly established British concerns in the east. Any course that is likely to interfere with the volume of their business, or which may possibly affect their business in any way, does not fail to meet with the disapproval of the British trade representative. He considers it as clearly his duty to protect the interests of the British merchant or commission agency, regardless of all other interests, just as it is the duty of a Canadian trade commissioner to advance the interests of the Canadian traders or manufacturers regardless of the interests of those from any other country.

The reasons are, therefore, obvious why the British official representative has no sympathy with the suggestion for direct trade. Manifestly, the trade problems presented in Japan must be considered by the Canadian trade representative only on such lines as are more likely to advance the interests of Canadian exporters or traders, even if these lines point to direct trade as a most satisfactory solution of the question. Direct trade, as Mr. Preston says, will undoubtedly interfere with the business of foreign general merchants or traders in Japan, as well as with foreign commission agencies.

Evidently the commissioner is justified in his conclusion that—

"If Canadian trade is going to grow to the proportions that the geographical position of the Dominion for supplying the eastern market render possible, then the expansion, for the reason given, as well as for others, in my humble opinion, must take place upon the lines of direct trade between the Canadian dealer or producer, and the Japanese dealer or consumer. This has to be done regardless of the criticism or unfriendliness on the part of those in the east who may consider the carrying out of this policy as detrimental to their own personal interests. The question is of too serious a character

to be settled in the way that may be pleasing to any section of the foreign commercial life in the east. It may be solely upon the lines in which the interests of Canada may be most satisfactorily advanced."

TAFT AND BRYAN.

The Presidential elections have been followed by a revival of industrial and commercial activity. Of course, Republicans attribute it to the victory of Mr. Taft, and the consequent assurance that there will be no drastic revision of the tariff. This argument is not a valid one, as Mr. Bryan was unfairly and even scandalously treated by powerful interests, which looked upon him as a greater enemy of their special privileges than his opponent. Many large firms openly announced that they would not resume operations, and others threatened a cut in wages, if Bryan were elected. This species of intimidation had a strong influence on the working classes. They were led to believe that their bread and butter depended upon Republican success. Yet the acute industrial depression in the United States coincided with the highest tariff the country has ever known. The inevitable rebound is beginning, and would, no matter what happened to the tariff. Prosperity would be retarded by a period of tariff-tinkering, but it would in the end be sounder and healthier if the customs wall were lowered.

If Mr. Bryan had been elected and had been able to carry a reasonable measure of tariff reform through Congress, cutting out the excrescences and monopolistic provisions of the present schedules, the condition of the country, now that it is emerging from one of those cycles of depression which no tariff can prevent, would become so satisfactory that the Republicans would be robbed of the cry which has frightened the American people into maintaining for so long the abuses of the Republican fiscal policy. There is not much hope that the tariff-revision pledges of the same party in this election will result in substantial reforms, but as Mr. Bryan, if elected, would have been confronted by a hostile Senate, he would have been unable to do more than Mr. Taft, and it is just as well that the Republicans should bear the full responsibility for the fiscal legislation to be enacted by the present Congress.

THE DEADLOCK IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

The political deadlock in Newfoundland suggests an apparent defect in the British system of government. Of the 36 seats in the Legislature, 18 have been won by supporters of Sir Robert Bond, and an equal number by the People's Party, under Sir Edward Morris. When the Legislature meets the present government will not be able to command its confidence. The driving-wheel of the machine will have come to a "dead-centre," and some exterior impulse will be needed to set it in motion again. This may be supplied by the governor ordering a new election, and continuing to hold elections until one party gets a majority of the seats.

Some American newspapers cite the situation as a proof of the superiority of the United States system in one respect. In the American republic the executive department is separated from the legislative, and even if Congress were in a deadlock the administration would not be interrupted. But even in the condition of affairs in Newfoundland an interregnum is not inevitable. The present cabinet may retain office till it meets the Legislature, and if defeated on a vote of confidence, the governor may call upon the other party to form an administration, and then order an election at once. At no time need the governor be without a ministry—a set of men to administer the various departments.

Logically, the British system is full of flaws and defects, but it presupposes common sense in the people who have to work it. On the whole, it has done its work well. And it has this advantage over the American system: the union of legislative and executive authority enables the will of the people to act more directly on the government than when the government is divided into several branches, each in a large measure independent of the other, and often in collision.

It is only fair to say that the Federal Opposition has been strengthened. The loss of Bennett, Fowler, Lefurgey and Pope could have no other effect.

The story that Hon. W. J. Hanna intends to follow Hon. Mr. Brodeur's example by abolishing the patronage list, and allowing Grits to sell something to the London Asylum, is a wicked invention.

Mr. Aylesworth has returned to Vienna to resume treatment for deafness. He came back to Canada against medical advice to take part in the elections. No public man has made greater personal sacrifices from a sense of public duty, and there is evidence that even his party opponents appreciate it.

The Sheffield Choir has sailed for home after two weeks of the strenuous life. The Yorkshire singers have delighted many thousands of Canadians, but the enjoyment has been one-sided. The memory of the discomforts they suffered at Hamilton,

Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal may wipe out all other impressions of Canada. Some one has blundered.

If denunciation could do it, the Calgary Eye-Opener would have been squelched long ago. Mr. McGillicuddy took the only practicable way—by getting after the individual responsible for the fifth. For this service he should have at least the commendation of journalists whose calling has been discredited by such a sheet as the Eye-Opener. There has been a chorus of praise for Mr. McGillicuddy's courage from the newspapers of the country. Our local contemporary, however, takes him to task, and thereby puts the stamp of its approval on journalism of the Eye-Opener class.

CUPID AT CHURCH.

[Washington Herald.]
"Are marriages made in heaven?"
"As to that I can't say, but I do know this much—"

"What's that, Peleg?"
"There's lots of courting done in church."

AN OVERWORKED ORGAN.

[Detroit Free Press.]
"What diagnosis did the doctor make of your wife's illness?"
"Said she is suffering from overwork."

"That's so?"
"Yes," he looked at her tongue and reached that decision immediately."

A TERRIBLE WARNING.

[Toronto Star.]
A commercial traveller from Nevada accidentally shot himself while asleep, a warning to all persons who indulge in the dangerous practice of going to bed loaded.

HAPPY IGNORANCE.

[New York Tribune.]
Francis Wilson, the comedian, apropos of certain curios, whereon he believed he had been swindled, said with a laugh: "The one drawback to knowledge is that it reveals so many dupes and swindlers to us. One summer, for instance, I was doing Switzerland. In the neighborhood of Geneva, where the Swiss talk French, I climbed a little peak one fine morning, and on my arrival at the chalet at the top I heard the pretty handmaid call into the kitchen in excellent French: "Quick, mother, quick! Here's a tourist. Put some more wood on the fire. I know they always like it warm from the cow."

A DIAGNOSIS.

[Boston Transcript.]
Bystander: Doctor, what do you think of this man's injuries?
Doctor (of Irish extraction): Two of them are undoubtedly fatal; but as for the rest of them, time alone can tell.

EVOLUTION.

[John B. Tabb.]
Out of the dusk a shadow,
Then a spark;
Out of the cloud a silence,
Then a lark;
Out of the heart a rapture,
Then a pain;
Out of the dead cold ashes
Life again.

THE YORKSHIRE SINGERS.

[Hamilton Herald.]
But hereditary aptitude could not account for the facility of the Sheffield choir singers in reading music at sight—an accomplishment which enables them to master new music quickly and with little trouble. This they owe in large measure to early training in the Tonic Sol-Fa system. Their accomplished conductor, Dr. Coward, bears testimony to this. He told a Herald reporter that nine-tenths of his singers were trained in childhood in Tonic Sol-Fa, and to this fact he attributes their facility in reading music.

PRECISE INFORMATION.

[London Graphic.]
Lodger: Here's a nice breakfast to ask a friend to. Did you lay the table, Mary?
Mary: Yes, sir. All but the eggs, sir.

A SONG FOR NOVEMBER.

[Catholic Standard and Times.]
When croaks croak in the leaden sky
O'er prone grey field and spectral wood,
And all that greets thine ear and eye
Sends eerie echoes through the blood,
Oh, close the door and come within;
Where never winter's chill may win;
Proportioned to thy need of me,
The measure of my love shall be.

When boiling night winds snarl and moan
Round gabled roof and frosty pane,
'Tis not our common hearth alone
'That makes the winds' forebodings vain.
But those twin sparks of fire divine
It feeds from in thy heart and mine;
For here, my dear,
Thy need of me, my need of thee,
The measure of our love must be.

THE HUMAN TEMPERATURE.

[New York American.]
Put to the test of the thermometer, it appears that the normal temperature of the body is almost invariable, regardless of latitude or season. Putting the bulb of the thermometer under the tongue of an Eskimo at the frozen north, or of a man under the blazing sun of the Tropics, we find that in each case, the body being in a state of health, the temperature is about the same, the difference not amounting to one degree. We may say absolutely that the average normal temperature of a human being is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, just as we may say that at sea level water boils at 212° Fahrenheit.

MODEST REQUIREMENTS.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
A steady job that pays me well,
A pleasant home in which to dwell,
A raincoat when it's raining;
A liver that is always right,
A never-failing appetite,
The wit to say things that are bright,
And I will quit complaining.

A chance to travel now and then,
The friendship of my fellow-men,
The luck to never stumble;
Hair that will not forsake my head,
A nose that never may turn red,
Sweet dreams when I crawl into bed,
And I will never grumble.

A manner that the ladies like,
The strength to knock out when I strike,
A bright sun that never shines;
A little richer every day,
Youth that will never wear away,
Three times a year a raise of pay,
And I will cease repining.

To have that which I want without
The sorrows of delay or doubt,
A tongue that's ever ready;
To be from worldly cares so free
That other men will envy me,
To wake each morning filled with glee,
And I will never worry.

UNBUSINESSLIKE METHODS.

[Branford Expositor.]
It is unfortunate that in so many ways the Hydro-Electric Company has shown that it is not a business enterprise. It has asked the municipalities to do business with it by methods which are not current in ordinary business circles. One of the most objectionable is that there is no finality with regard to price, such as a private firm having power to sell would be compelled to give, and another that the buyers which the ratepayers have

been asked to vote were all submitted on the "shut-your-eyes-and-see-what-you'll-get" plan, and were voted upon, not by freeholders only, but by the entire municipal electorate.

The near approach of the municipal elections affords an opportunity for a further consultation of the ratepayers, and wherever possible this course ought to be avoided.

THE BEST RESOLUTION.

[La Touche Hancock.]
I'm not a snot,
'Bout my hips,
I'll wear a hat,
High or flat,
Don't need those tips
With my shoes,
Do what I choose
And fix my hair
Just as I care,
I will not squeeze
My waist to please
The public sight
And be a fright.
In fact, I shall
Be natural.



The show which opens at Bennett's today, is said to be very strong, and consists of some picked acts, which include Sam Watson's faraway circus, the biggest and funniest animal act in vaudeville, Edgar Allen, and his excellent company, will offer Geo. M. Cohan's clever sketch, entitled, "The Fortune Hunter's Misfortune." Chas. Sweet will give some very clever piano playing and singing, Peacock Goldie and Lulu will be seen at their best today with a new act, introducing some unique dancing and singing. Carson and Willard will offer a pretty little act, entitled, "The Dutch in Egypt." Myers and Rosa, champion lasso experts, will also be seen, and the other act to complete a very strong bill will be Misses Mills and Morris, the minstrel misers, offering some very clever up-to-date minstrel ideas. The sheath gown matinee series is now in full swing and it looks as if this week's matinee business will be phenomenal.

"Divorce" Tomorrow.
What promises to be an event of surpassing interest, not only as regards London, but in the making of theatrical history as well, will be the presentation tomorrow evening at the Grand Opera House of Paul Bour-



IDA CONQUEST,
With "Divorce" at the Grand Tomorrow Evening.

get's great drama, "Divorce," the English version of which has been made by Mr. Stanislaus Stange.

Mr. Fred C. Whitney, who saw this play in Paris, where it created the greatest furore in years, was not only struck by the possibilities of its adaptation for the American stage, but determined to present it as few dramas have been presented in this country.

For this purpose he has engaged Miss Marion Terry, a sister of Ellen Terry, and herself one of the greatest actresses on the English stage, to create the leading role of "Gabrielle Darras." For some years Miss Terry devoted herself to the creation of special roles in London, and she had, up to the time that Mr. Whitney prevailed upon her to come to this country, resisted many flattering offers to show theatregoers on this side her marvellous dramatic ability.

Miss Terry, in Paris, and recognizing the possibilities afforded her in the leading role, she accepted Mr. Whitney's offer. In London, therefore, she will make her first appearance in Ontario, and the event is one worthy of particular notice.

Mr. Whitney presents the play here with one of the strongest casts that has ever been gotten together in this country. Miss Ida Conquest, for many years one of the leading women with the Frohman forces, is afforded an opportunity to give full rein to her dramatic talents in the part of Bertha Planat, the nurse; and the other women in the cast include Miss Julia Hanchet and Miss Florence Howard; while the part of the 11-year-old child of Gabrielle, is entrusted to Gladys O'Neill.

The male parts will be portrayed by the three leading actors in America. Mr. Vincent Serrano has the part of Lucien, the son of Gabrielle, by her first marriage; Mr. John Glendinning, who plays Albert Darras, and Mr. Eben Plymton, who will lend all his splendid art to the portrayal of the part of Pere Euvrard, the Catholic priest.

Chauncey Olcott.

"Ragged Robin," the delightful Irish play, in which Chauncey Olcott will be seen at the Grand on Thursday evening, is one of the most successful pieces in which that popular comedian has been seen in his entire starring career. It is of particular interest from the fact that it is the first Irish play in which the Irish fairies have been an important incidental element to be produced in nearly half a century. The interweaving

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STAHL'S WIDOW DEAD

Mysterious Death at Boston of Late Ballplayer's Widow.

Boston, Nov. 15.—While the Boston police were not inclined today to hold any person responsible for the death late last night in a South Boston doorway of Mrs. John Stahl, the baseball widow of "Chick" Stahl, the baseball player, there were still several mysterious circumstances to be cleared up. The most important of these was the absence of a considerable amount of jewelry. In seeking to account for this fact, and for the reason for Mrs. Stahl's presence in the rather poor neighborhood in which her body was found, the police sought a man who was seen to cross Andrew's Square, South Boston, with Mrs. Stahl, just before she entered the hall in which she died. This man is believed to have helped Mrs. Stahl into the doorway, but was not seen to leave the house.

The police waited for the result of the medical examination, which was set for this forenoon, before attempting to make any arrest in the case. Up to the time that relatives of Mrs. Stahl notified the absence of jewelry, the police had believed the case to be one of heart failure. But with the advent of robbery as a possible motive, the case appeared to be one of murder. According to Mrs. Stahl's father, John Harmon, the jewelry worn by her when she left home, was valued at more than \$2,000.

Mrs. Fred Smith has removed from Talbot street to 710 Waterloo street, and will receive the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

TWO DEATHS AT DERWENT

Obsequies of the Late Mrs. B. Hoxby and Mrs. John Kernohan.

[Special to The Advertiser]
Derwent, Nov. 14.—Mrs. Eliza Christie, wife of Mr. B. Hoxby, of Westminster, died on Thursday, after an illness of six weeks, from cancer of the stomach, aged 51 years. Deceased is survived by a husband and nine children.

Mrs. John Kernohan, of this place, died on Wednesday, after an illness of five days, from pneumonia. She is survived by one daughter, Miss Pearl Kernohan; also three brothers, Richard Holland, of Dutton; Thomas and Frank Holland, of West Lorne homestead. The funeral took place from the family residence on Friday, to the Dorchester Union Cemetery. Rev. R. H. Barnby, B. A., conducted services at the home and at the grave. The pallbearers were Messrs. Charles Beattie, James Dibb, Daniel Currie, Samuel Walker, Charles Shial and D. D. McCullum.

Miss Beesle Brackin has returned home to Clitham, after spending the past few days in London, with Miss Laura McDonald. She attended the concert given by the Sheffield Choir.

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