

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1923

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AN AWKWARD POSITION.

Though we have no Japanese problem in Eastern Canada, as Canadians we follow with a certain degree of sympathy the constant efforts of British Columbia to keep that province a white man's country, and it is not to be doubted that the latest decision of the Imperial Privy Council has left the people of that part of Canada in an awkward position. The provincial government, in response to popular demands for action some time ago passed an order-in-council, which the Legislature subsequently embodied in an Act, providing that no Chinese or Japanese should be given employment by individuals or companies having contracts, leases or concessions from the province. On private contracts Orientals might still be employed, but not on public works. Still more ground was covered by including concessions or leases obtained from the government.

Hon. Mr. McLeigh took exception to these provisions at the time, but whatever their validity in view of the treaty of 1913 between Canada and Japan, they were supported by a pre-dominant public sentiment in British Columbia. The desire for Japanese restriction was not confined to labor but was shared by traders and not a few employers. The Supreme Court of Canada, to which the question of British Columbia's right to impose such limitations was referred, decided adversely, and an appeal to the Privy Council results in sustaining the Canadian decision. The judgment is in effect that it is beyond the power of the province to make it illegal to give work to Chinese or Japanese residents in the way proposed, and that such action would conflict with the Japanese treaty which is binding upon all the provinces.

Having encountered a stone wall in that direction the British Columbia will be expected to try some other way in which to make their province a less attractive place of residence for the Asiatics whose growing numbers, whose scale of living, and whose methods of competition they very strenuously object to. They are very likely, in fact, to keep Ottawa in hot water over the question, as California keeps Washington. When they are asked to forget it or to think imperially, they are prone to reply that they will do either—after they have found a way to keep their Asiatic population from increasing in numbers and in competitive activities.

They may find in Japan's own treatment of foreigners a precedent for another form of restriction, as California has done. Japan, which claims equality of treatment for its natives, has in all other countries, and which is disposed to be insistent about it, does not concede all that it demands. It does not permit white foreigners to own Japanese land except in a few carefully specified areas and then only under regulations which render the ownership in most cases and to so discourage it in others as to prevent its growth to a point which native sentiment would regard as objectionable. There is the further point that white competition in Japan cannot, for various reasons, become the same sort of problem that Japanese competition easily becomes in British Columbia or California. In California, where feeling over this problem runs very high on occasion, action is being taken to restrict the lease or sale of land to Japanese, and Washington is in a dilemma over it.

We in the East may flatter ourselves that we are untouched by this British Columbia issue, but that is not the case. It will crop up in Ottawa, as it has in the past, but in sharper form, and when Parliament finally has to face the question whether or not British Columbia shall be kept white, the representatives of all the provinces will have to stand up and be counted. Something of the sort was expected last session but the issue was not pressed. The Privy Council decision, together with British Columbia's probable resort to other forms of restriction, may give the awkward question fresh life when Parliament is assembled again. It is an issue which partisanship might easily bedevil. It calls for cool and careful consideration by the best brains in public life.

DISTRIBUTING THE PRAISE.

It had been hoped that there would be no more talk about who won the war, but something along that line has cropped up in connection with Lloyd George's generous bestowal of praise of the part the Americans played in it. There has been a little rather ungenerous Canadian comment to the effect that the former Premier has rather "slopped over" in some of his American speeches. At all events the Toronto Star, in rebuking the Canadian critics, finds it necessary to remind them that his first step was to come to Canada, and to acknowledge the great service

rendered by this country in the hour of trial, and that Canadians should not be "churlish" because he has praised the Americans for what they did do. That there are mighty few Canadians who are complaining about it goes without saying. Some of the Star's phrases are neatly turned. For example:

"There are those who thought, apparently, that Lloyd George would foster pleasant relations between the British Empire and the United States by making the belated war activities of the latter the text of his American addresses. They seem surprised that he talks in a kindly way about what America did do, instead of abusing that country for what it didn't do. They think that he should go from U. S. city to U. S. city sniping and snarling at the war record of its hosts. What would be achieved by this no one knows. But it would certainly be bad tactics and worse manners, and would hardly tend to a better understanding between the two great English-speaking nations upon whose co-operation so much depends. The fact is that extremists in Canada who would make it appear that the United States did nothing in the war are as open to criticism as extremists in the United States who would make it appear that their country did everything in the war."

A careful reading of all this reveals the fact that if Lloyd George did not tell the Americans they did not win the war the Toronto Star contrives to do so, effectively though incidentally. But it says, and with justice: "The United States was a very welcome ally. The moral as well as the physical effect of its entry into the great struggle cannot be overlooked, and no good Canadian should wish to overlook it. Certainly the War Premier of Great Britain should not." And did not.

THEY DON'T LIKE IT.

The members of the "Whisper of Death" brigade have begun to belabor Hon. Mr. Robb, the Minister of Immigration. His crime is not very serious in the eyes of most Canadians, for he has only been guilty of making some rather optimistic and encouraging speeches about the condition of Canada, which he believes justify the conviction that the alarmists might easily find a better occupation. Even if he were painting too bright a picture he would certainly be doing the country much better service than the publicists who from some motive, not clearly defined but apparently sinister, persist in representing the Dominion as on the edge of ruin if not over it.

Hon. Mr. Robb's statement that more than 100,000 thousand immigrants have arrived in the last twelve months is greeted by the rejoinder that Canadians have been leaving their country in large numbers. He replies that fewer are leaving now, and that many have come back. Whatever the facts are as to the exodus and it has been serious—it is not unreasonable or improper to prove that immigration has begun to show real signs of growth. The Minister reminds Canadians that the export figures are encouraging, and not in volume alone. Today we are finishing the manufacture of much material which formerly was exported in the raw state. The difference in money and in employment due to the change is very great. Of the exports in 1920, valued at \$185,000,000, only six per cent were manufactured articles. Last year the exports were valued at more than a billion—and forty-two per cent of them consisted of finished products.

In discussing the financial resources of the Canadian people, who are represented by the alarmists as hopelessly burdened, Mr. Robb in one speech after another has presented the most cheerful view. He points out that of Canada's debt bonds Canadians themselves own \$1,938,000,000, while \$211,000,000 is placed in the United States and \$386,000,000 in Great Britain. At the end of March last the deposits on current accounts in the chartered banks amounted to \$489,000,000 and in savings accounts \$1,708,000,000.

The Minister of Immigration says these figures should help to convince people here at home, and immigrants whom we invite to come to Canada, that this country is neither bankrupt nor without great possibilities. In 1922 we had an unemployment problem of a very grave character. That has disappeared almost entirely. In many parts of the country there are more jobs than men.

The Minister's recital of some of the hopeful features of the general situation ought not to render him a target for attack. The business of pessimism has been overdone. The sane hope and confident state of mind invites the rapid recovery of business which everyone desires. The members of the Jeremiah squad do no good and the country is tired of having its troubles rehearsed and exaggerated.

Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express predicts a general election in Great Britain in the near future, the campaign to start with an announcement of a scientific tariff to give protection

to British industries. The Express thinks there will be no tariff on imported wheat or meat—but rather that the revenue from a tariff on imported manufactures will be applied to subsidizing the Dominions in the production of meat, wheat and cotton. The Prime Minister is to speak at a party conference on Thursday. If the predictions are justified by his speech the Old Country will have in the coming months the liveliest peace time campaign since Joseph Chamberlain launched his Imperial preference plan.

The British cross-Channel airplane service, which carried 4,400 passengers in 1920 has carried 18,500 in the last twelve months. The British Minister of Air, in telling the Imperial Economic Conference of plans for airship services to Egypt and India, referred to the growth of cross-Channel traffic, and noted that in thirty-two months, during which 2,000,000 miles had been flown, there had been no serious accident to staff or passengers.

SPINNERS AND WEAVERS.

(Boston Transcript.)
The spinner hath his task to spin
So many lengths of thread.
The weaver e'er the night draws in
Weaves so much cloth, for bread.
The pattern maker dreams his dream,
Nor counts his day by hours,
Nor counts his visions, and he seems
To feed on celestial flowers.

We are not pattern makers all:
God chooses which a few
And we labor at their call
To make their dreams come true.
The painter's hand, so eloquent,
Says pigment, brush, and oil,
Would its deft magic soon have spent
On unimpassioned toil.

Ah, let us then our good thread spin,
Weave canvas for his art,
Counting the hours till night draws in
By the beat of a laboring heart!

Then when the painted dream is shown
And the world finds it fair,
Something of life that is our own
Shall be immortal there.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Not The Eden Couple.
English paper—"Adam—To Eve,
wife of A. D. Adam, Gold Coast—
daughter."

A Peter Pan.

English paper—Wanted, two furnished rooms by couple with small boy (permanently).

He'll Know Better After This.

Hub—I struck a real bargain today. I got a suit for \$85 that was made to sell for \$70; saved just \$15.
Wife—So glad to hear it, dear. Now you can afford to buy me that \$35 hat because it will cost you practically nothing.

Eased His Mind.

Husband—Dearest, when I am gone how will you ever pay the doctor's bill?
Wife—Oh, don't worry about that. If the worst comes to the worst I'll marry the doctor.

Rapid Transit.

Booster had imbibed freely at the banquet and was starting for home. Holding on to an electric light pole he hailed a taxi. When it drew up beside him, Booster climbed in at one end and immediately rolled out at the other. He staggered to his feet and drawing out a roll of bills he said to the driver: "Well (he) how much do I owe you?"

BLACK PANTHER'S CUB AT UNIQUE

Sensational Spectacular Picture Scores at First Showing Here.

"The Black Panther's Cub," the first super-spectacular production to be made by W. K. Ziegfeld began a three day engagement at the Unique Theatre yesterday. It is remarkable for its brilliant and lovable star, Florence Reed, for its ideal casting, for the direction of Emil Chautard, for the nicety of detail given it by the producer, Mr. Ziegfeld, and for the forcefulness with which its theme has been presented by Ethel Donohoe, author, and Philip Bartholomae, scenarist. It is because of her wonderful background as a star on the legitimate stage that Florence Reed is able to give to the screen a type of acting that is rarely found in players who have had only screen experience.

This, by the way, is the premise from which W. K. Ziegfeld is proceeding in the production of his pictures and this accounts for the splendid cast in "The Black Panther's Cub."—Norman Trevor, Tyrone Power, Earle Foxe, William Roselle, Henry Stephenson, Paula Shay, Mile. Daise, Paul Ducet, Ernest Lambert, Henry Carville—these are names which, discovered all on one programme, make one rub one's eyes in wondering delight. The story is that of a woman known as "The Black Panther of Paris," owner of a luxurious gambling house, to which the wealth and fashion of Paris flock until one day the police compel her to close her doors. She has a baby daughter whom she gives into the care of the Earl of Maudsley, an old admirer. The Earl believes that environment is a greater factor than heredity in the forming of character, and brings up his foster-daughter accordingly. The Earl dies, and the young girl, whose name she is persuaded into posing as "The Black Panther," returned to the haunt of her former triumphs. She does so, with the understanding that she is through as soon as the necessary sum has been obtained. The Earl's story is proved to be sound, for "The Black Panther's Cub" remains true to the clean environment she has been reared in, and marries the man of her choice.

"GAME OF LIFE" IS THRILLING PICTURE

Big British Classic of Victoria's Reign Shown at Imperial.

"The Game of Life," the first English super-picture, which broke Great Britain cinema records from Land's End to Shetland Islands, was presented to large crowds of enthusiastic St. John people at the Imperial yesterday. "The Game of Life" is the story of three girls who were born on the same day as Queen Victoria, May 24, 1819. After the prologue, the picture proper starts on the coronation day of the Queen in 1837. All London is thronging to get a glimpse of the Bonnie Young Queen. Shop-keepers are renting out their upstairs rooms at exorbitant prices and to one of these rooms come the principal characters of the story.

Fate takes these six people and plunges them through the Game of Life. The ordinary couple fall into a huge fortune and come into contact with the other four. At the old London Music Hall, and at the Derby of 1850. The hero, Travers, is ruined on the stock market and plunges every penny he can scrape up on the outsider in the Derby, at fifty to one against.

An actual Derby of the Victorian period is staged. The story then takes the characters through the dramatic turn of fortune at the old London Music Hall, which is probably the most colorful setting in English history, and which is staged in the film to the last picture detail from the original prints in the British Museum.

They go through the murder trial at the Old Bailey, famous in Dickens and Thackeray and in the pages of English history. We see the hanging of the goal at Blackmoor, which plunges the prison into a raging turmoil of frenzied convicts and panic-stricken jailers, a touch of the good old English Drury Lane melodrama, which is so popular with the theatre-goer.

The course of the story then takes us to Crimea, and we see the battles of Balaklava and Inverness, and the horrors of the breakdown of the Medical Service at Scutari, and we find one of our girls in the hospital tent with Florence Nightingale.

But the most remarkable of all the Crimea scenes is the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava; six hundred madmen charging into the guns of the whole Russian army, the most glorious episode in history, and we see the charge not only in panorama but in heart-rending, nerve-shocking close-up, and according to the English newspapers, is the most masterful touch ever staged by a movie director.

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A Peter Pan.

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It would be an omission to make mention of the manner in which the Imperial presented this splendid British picture without complimenting director A. E. Jones upon the music he selected to interpret properly the dramatic and emotional scenes and extend that compliment to the excellent men under his baton.

DOMESTIC LIFE STORY AT QUEEN SQ.

"Does It Pay?" Deals With Phases of Modern Conditions.

"Does It Pay?" which was shown last night at the Queen Square Theatre, is a Fox picture featuring Hope Hampton. One often reads stories of the domestic tragedies in the families of prominent millionaires, the head of the house, after living in apparent peace and happiness with the mother of his children until well past middle life, permitting himself to be captivated by a younger and more dazzling woman, then a divorce from the faithful wife who helped him to win his battle in the financial world. This is the theme of "Does It Pay?" The development of the storm is dramatic in the extreme, the interest

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