

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JULY 6, 1925

# The Evening Times-Star

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## GREY AND CHAMBERLAIN.

It is natural that Viscount Grey should give his support to the proposed compact between Britain, France, Belgium and Germany, for before Mr. Chamberlain outlined this treaty Viscount Grey had already pointed out very strikingly that we would inevitably result if Europe continued in a state of fear and suspicion. That very argument has been used most effectively by Mr. Chamberlain in asking that the new arrangement be supported by all parties in Great Britain.

Should this proposed compact fall of dissolution, Lord Grey agrees with Mr. Chamberlain in saying that France would naturally continue to maintain a great standing army and that the same policy would be followed by Poland and her other allies. Germany would as naturally form a counter-alliance, probably with Russia. Under such circumstances reduction of armaments would not only be impossible, but there would be a new period of over-increasing preparation, and every nation in Europe would be constantly counting its bayonets against the coming day of combat.

Even those who view with anxiety any proposal that Britain shall commit itself to the use of force, if necessary, to prevent any change of the frontier between Germany on one side and France and Belgium on the other, are bound to give due weight to the Chamberlain argument that the security pact is necessary in the absence of anything safer or better. Great Britain, as a matter of self-interest and reasonable insurance, even if only the selfish view were to be considered, is bound to guard, so far as is possible, against another conflict in which she would be involved. As before 1914, her first line of defence still lies across the Channel. Mr. Chamberlain, in warning the public concerning the danger of another war, speaks of the proposed compact as an opportunity, perhaps the last opportunity, to prevent it. Much of the civilized world read with an increased sense of peril his solemn statement that Europe, six years after the signing of peace, still stands ranged in two hostile camps, "with distrust not lessened but deepened by the progress of time, with dangers of a new struggle breaking out in the future not growing less as time goes by, but becoming greater."

## STOCKTAKING IN CANADA.

A warning that national policies must be developed with due regard for the good of the West and of the Maritime Provinces, as well as for that of Central Canada, is issued by the Manitoba Free Press in an editorial on Canadian conditions. It finds encouragement as well as discouraging factors in the country's outlook. On the credit side of the ledger the Free Press sees the fact that in comparison with older countries Canada has little grinding poverty and unemployment, and no artificial barriers to advancement. It has no great color problem, and "we do not live in a continent torn and racked by ineradicable hatreds and jealousies." There is much, in fact, for which the country should be thankful, but while it is relatively a happy land, the Free Press says conditions do not justify light-headed and indiscriminate optimism. The future, it submits, is a matter of grave consideration to every thoughtful and patriotic Canadian.

Thirty-five years ago a portion of our population was favoring commercial union with the United States—free trade between the two countries with a common tariff against the world, that would have meant that Canada would have accepted the United States tariff against all other countries, and a Free Press says that would have involved political union. Canada rejected that solution with great reluctance. To-day the Free Press somewhat similar situation arises because of the demand for a high tariff. It thinks that if we adopt American fiscal policy the result would ultimately be the loss not only of our industrial but of our political independence. It says:

"These protectionist appeals with their constant reiteration that Canada cannot exist unless by slavish imitation of American expedients imply, as surely as did the arguments for commercial union a generation ago, that there is no economic future worth while for the manufacturing areas of Canada, except as part of the industrial system of the U. S. This will be furiously denied just as in the eighties and nineties of last century the advocates of commercial union denied that policy would lead to political union; but nevertheless it is true. There is only one way by which the manufacturers of Canada can get the blessings of massed production and a great home market protected by a high tariff. If they do not desire that solution for their difficulties—and of course we do not suggest for a moment that they do—they had better modify their arguments and look elsewhere for a remedy for economic trouble, which they share in common with other Canadians. They have no monopoly of restricted markets and diminishing returns."

What is the remedy for to-day's conditions? Not free trade, not high protection, the Free Press says. It

wants "real national policies which will take full cognizance of the economic differences and sectional preoccupations which arise from the scheme of nation-building which puts geographical considerations in second place." "Canada's danger to-day," it says, "arises from the fact that we have had imposed upon the whole Dominion, policies conceived in the interests of a section (admittedly the most considerable section) but claiming to be 'national.' The discontents everywhere visible in Canada and becoming increasingly vocal are the fruits of these sectional policies. That there is a severe strain upon confederation in consequence it would be useless to deny. Yet this is the time chosen for advocacy of a still stronger application of this sectional policy. If these plans should succeed there would be an access of discontent in the Maritime Provinces and a deepening sense of exploitation in Western Canada, with results which might be very unfortunate."

The Free Press calls upon public men to realize that hitherto the legitimate desires of outlying sections of the Dominion have been ignored to a dangerous extent. To geographical disabilities there have been added political disabilities, and the result is a problem of growing complexity and danger, which calls loudly for the attention of our statesmen—if we have any."

## A USEFUL LIFE.

A remarkable instance of the triumph of a great soul in the face of staggering disability is the career of Sir Frederick Fraser, Superintendent Emeritus of the Halifax School for the Blind, who died yesterday at the age of seventy-five. He won to a career of the highest usefulness in spite of an affliction which would have crushed one of weaker will and feeble purpose and rendered him dependent always upon others.

Frederick Fraser, when he was a child of six years, met with an accident which greatly impaired his vision, and he became totally blind when he was fourteen. He continued his education, attending school and college in Windsor, his native town, and later he studied at an institution for the blind in Boston, and subsequently received degrees from Dalhousie University. Realizing as only the blind can the full measure of the terrible affliction, he determined to devote his life to the service of those who suffered as he did. He became Superintendent of the Halifax School for the Blind in 1878, and under his direction that institution grew steadily in scope and usefulness. Indeed, under his management it became one of the leading schools for the blind in the whole country. He directed this work for more than fifty years, and his success in bringing about free education for the blind and in securing free postage on braille covered his great work. He was publicly thanked by the Nova Scotia House of Assembly in 1918, and in 1915 he was knighted in recognition of his services. Thanks to his efforts his province led the way in granting free education to the blind, an example subsequently followed by other provinces and countries.

He lived to a great age, and his work was of the highest usefulness. His example is an inspiring one, and his memory will be held in lasting honor.

Ottawa expects that the new trade treaty with the West Indies will be signed to-day. The details will be made known to-day or to-morrow. An improved steamship service, with proper refrigeration equipment, is known to be one of the features of the compact, together with wider preferential arrangements. If the details justify the Ottawa forecast there should be important gains in trade, in which the Maritime Provinces will share.

The German census gives that country a population of 62,800,000, or about as many people as pre-war Germany had in 1908. The population in 1914 was about 68,000,000, and it is said that but for loss of territory, together with the war casualties, Germany would to-day have 75,000,000 people.

Mustally Explained—To a certain doctor came a benighted suffering from the well-known effects of "the night before." His wife had been anxious about his unworldly condition and had persuaded him to see a doctor. As the young man was leaving he remarked: "My wife wants to know what I'm suffering from." "Oh, tell her it's 'gonorrhea,'" was the reply. On reaching home the husband told the wife what the doctor had said. The wife did not know what the word meant, so she looked it up in a dictionary and read: "Synonym—An uneven movement from hair to hair."

## Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

## The Quakes

(Springfield Republican)

Science as yet has not got so far, and to locate the scene of the expected disturbance may prove an impossible task because of the complicated elements of the problem. Yet substantial progress has already been made, and the shocks in Montana and at Santa Barbara gave a prompt indication of the Italian seismologist, Prof. Benndorf of Faenza, who on Sunday predicted a week of earthquakes. It should be noted that on Monday, the day of the Santa Barbara "quake," a distinct shock was reported from the prairies of Alberta, where such a phenomenon had never been known. Prof. Benndorf has still to make good on his prediction of a violent shock on July 8, but if it occurs, as he suggests, in Central Asia, it may never be heard from.

For the eastern United States there is no cause for alarm in the forecast of a period of lively activity in various parts of the earth's crust. If a serious shock, like the one at Charleston which stands unique in modern annals, were to occur it would perhaps be more likely to occur at such a time, just as one is more likely to be struck by lightning during a thunderstorm. A shepherd girl was killed in France the other day by a literal "bolt from the blue," and a similar case is recorded in the misadventure of the American Magazine more than a hundred years ago. Yet such phenomena are so rare that the most timid are not afraid of thunder while the sky is clear.

The Free Press calls upon public men to realize that hitherto the legitimate desires of outlying sections of the Dominion have been ignored to a dangerous extent. To geographical disabilities there have been added political disabilities, and the result is a problem of growing complexity and danger, which calls loudly for the attention of our statesmen—if we have any."

## Why Not Go Under the Ice?

(Ottawa Citizen.)

If some enterprising and solvent explorer really wants to reach the North Pole in comparative comfort and without a fraction of the risk attached to flying over pack ice in an airplane, let him hire a submarine, and some special fittings to it, and go under the ice. The idea is novel, but it is the Citizen's. It is put forward and elaborated upon by Vilhjalmur Stefansson in his book, "The Northwest Passage of Empire," which ought to be read by all Canadians.

Stefansson, with characteristic originality of mind, first suggests the idea, and with equally characteristic thoroughness, explains every advantage and disadvantage of the scheme. He thinks it is feasible. The greatest peril would be that of getting under a big ice island and not being able to draw to the surface for many hours. His plan is to carry equipment and devices for breaking through the ice when necessary. Three ways are put forward. One is to blow the ice through with an explosive; the second, to drill a hole and get air that way; the third, to melt the ice with electric appliances (a glorified toaster maybe). Amundsen took soundings on his recent flight and found the water under the ice extremely deep, leading him to the conclusion that no land existed between Spitzbergen and the Pole. Possibly there is deep water clear to Alaska on the coast of the ice. The ice is rarely more than seven or eight feet thick or more than forty or fifty miles across. What is more, it is generally "rotten" in summer time. Submarines have already traversed considerable distances under ice—in the vicinity of Archangel during the war. And if the British submarine which penetrated the Dardanelles.

The scheme is herewith presented to any adventurous Canadian who would like to make use of it. Think of the book he could write about it afterwards!

## Home Lessons.

Young Harold was altogether much too glib in school to please his teachers. Punishments were tried without any apparent effect upon the boy, until at last the headmaster decided to mention the lad's fault in his monthly report. So the next report to Harold's father, had the usual "Harold talks too much," but with the addition of a great deal. "Back came the report by post, duly acknowledged, but with this written in red ink: 'You ought to hear his mother!'"

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## Canada to England.

(Marjorie Pickthill.)

Great names of the great captains gone before  
Beat with our blood, who have that  
Blood of thee:  
Halsigh and Grenville, Wolfe and all  
The free  
Fine souls who dared to front a world  
In war:  
Such only may outreach the envious  
years,  
Where feebler crowns and fainter stars  
remove.  
Nurtured in one remembrance and one  
love,  
Too high for passion and too stern for  
tears.

O little Isle our fathers held for home,  
Not alone thy standards and thy  
hosts  
Lead where thy sons, shall follow,  
Mother Land,  
Quick as the north wind, ardent as the  
foam,  
Behold, behold the invulnerable ghosts  
Of all past greatness about thee stand.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN

If the sun had nothing to do but shine  
on the truly good it wouldn't have to  
set up so early.

"How did your school team come out  
in the swimming match?"  
"Well."

"Have you seen Jackson lately?"  
"No."

"He's a sight. Face all cut, arm in  
a sling and walks lame."

"How did he do it—on his bicycle?"  
"No; if he could have stayed on the  
bicycle, he'd have been all right."

A horse trader was trying to show  
off a wind-broken nag to a prospective  
victim, trotting him up and down the  
road. "And hasn't he a fine coat?" said  
the trader enthusiastically as he patted  
the animal's back.  
"Oh, his coat's all right," replied the  
prospective, "but I don't like his short  
pants."

"What is your name, my boy?" asked  
the visitor to the hotel, when the page  
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"They call me Billard Cue," answered  
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"What a funny name! Why do they  
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"Because I work so much better with  
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road. "And hasn't he a fine coat?" said  
the trader enthusiastically as he patted  
the animal's back.  
"Oh, his coat's all right," replied the  
prospective, "but I don't like his short  
pants."

"What is your name, my boy?" asked  
the visitor to the hotel, when the page  
brought his boots.  
"They call me Billard Cue," answered  
the boy.  
"What a funny name! Why do they  
call you that?"  
"Because I work so much better with  
a tip."

A horse trader was trying to show  
off a wind-broken nag to a prospective  
victim, trotting him up and down the  
road. "And hasn't he a fine coat?" said  
the trader enthusiastically as he patted  
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