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THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS

THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS ST. GEORGE, - - N. B.

PUBLISHED FRIDAYS J. W. CORRELL, - Editor

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FRIDAY, MAR. 29, 1912

The British Ultimatum. (New York Sun.)

Seldom in recent years has there been a blunter or more direct statement made by the official spokesman of one government and addressed to the people of another nation, still in all conventional ways friendly, than that which Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, made yesterday in the British House of Commons and delivered directly to Germany.

Shorn of all other details, Mr. Churchill's declaration amounts to the assertion that England purposes to maintain its fleet at the ratio of 8 to 5 so far as the German fleet is concerned. To accomplish that it has resolved to adjust its building programme to the German. If Germany adheres to the present programme England will build seven dreadnoughts every two years for six years. If Germany adds two ships to her programme Great Britain will respond with four more.

The spirit of Mr. Churchill's declaration is far less provocative than the fact it sets forth. In presenting the British programme the first lord of the admiralty frankly invites the Germans to accept a policy of moderation. If the Kaiser's government refrains from adding three ships to the regular programme England will deduct five from her programme. But the decision must be with Germany. A few years ago, when Campbell-Bannerman was prime minister, the British ministry undertook a private "conversation" with Germany to procure a limitation of armament. This was rather brusquely rejected and aroused much chagrin and dissatisfaction in England. The Asquith ministry has plainly chosen an exactly opposite method of accomplishing the same desired result.

What effect, if any, Churchill's speech will have in Germany is of course a matter of conjecture. His address at Glasgow recently, which was very similar in character, was badly received by the Germans and contributed to the failure of the Haldane mission, which, it is now agreed, accomplished little or nothing in the way of improving Anglo-German relations.

One thing, however, is fairly clear. Either Germany must now decide to limit her naval construction or embark frankly and manifestly upon a naval programme which will seek to equal the British. A duel in shipbuilding of unprecedented magnitude must inevitably result from such a policy.

England has now publicly and, to the Germans, particularly specified the exact extent of the superiority she purposes to maintain for her fleet. Anglo-German ententes hereafter will have to be predicated upon such a concession to Great Britain. But the possibility that Germany will accept such a condition, for her bound to be humiliating, seems slight.

On the surface at least this latest British affirmation of sovereignty of the seas seems to forecast a new multiplication of dreadnoughts and naval expenditure and a further accentuation of the Anglo-German had feeling of last summer. The manner in which the statement has been made is certainly novel in recent history

and an interesting experiment in what has been described as "shirtsleeves diplomacy."

Hydro-Electric Bill.

Fredericton, N. B., March 22.—The corporations committee held their first meeting this morning. Mr. Slipp presiding, and took up the Hydro-Electric Bill. Messrs P. W. Thomson and W. E. Foster, two of the promoters of the bill, appeared with Mr. H. A. Powell, K. C., Mr. W. Cockburn, K. C., and Mr. R. B. Hanson as counsel. Mr. J. W. McCready appeared for the New Brunswick Union of Municipalities; Mr. F. R. Taylor Messrs Stetson Cutler Company, and Mr. F. Howard Grimmer, as secretary treasurer of Charlotte county, and also with Mr. A. C. Gillmor on behalf of Senator Gillmor and the Gillmor estate.

Considerable progress was made with the bill. Regarding the section providing that before the company could enter the city of St. John with its lines, etc., it should comply with the regulations of that city regarding the use of streets, it was suggested that the City of St. John was safeguarded in that respect under another section of the bill.

Mr. McCready on behalf of the Municipalities Union, suggested that the bill be amended so that it would provide that the company should comply with the regulations of any city or town before entering upon the use of its streets and this would protect St. John as well as other places. The section was adopted with the proposed amendment.

Mr. F. Howard Grimmer opposed the section of the bill giving the company expropriation powers and urged that with the development now taking place in the province, it was not well that valuable water powers should be handed over to corporations such as this bill would create. He also read a resolution passed by the Charlotte County Council protesting against the expropriation powers which the bill would give the company.

The committee adjourned until next Tuesday morning with a suggestion from the chairman that in the meantime representatives of the Gillmor estate and the company should get together and try to arrange upon terms whereby the company might take over the Gillmor interests.—St. John Globe.

Fredericton, March 26.—The corporations committee met this morning and continued consideration of the bill to incorporate the New Brunswick Hydro-Electric Company. It was stated to the committee that negotiations between the promoters of the bill and Gillmor interests had not reached a successful conclusion. The company offered \$8,000 and the Gillmor interests asked \$15,000. An alternative proposition suggested was that the Gillmor interests might have a certain amount of power reserved for them. The question of arbitration proceedings in the event of expropriation being provided for was considered at length. Promoters were willing to have a provision in the bill that the company should in all cases pay their own costs. Hon. Geo. J. Clarke asked to have it specified that there should be no power given under the bill for the new company to expropriate any holdings of the St. George Pulp and Paper Co. on the Magaguadavic. The company had attained its rights not by expropriation, but by paying good money for them. After some discussion it was agreed that expropriation rights under the bill should give authority to the new company to expropriate the property of the St. John Pulp and Paper Co. for storage purposes only. It was also agreed that there should be provision made for the reservation of a certain amount of power for the Charlotte county users. P. W. Thomson, one of the promoters of the bill, said that the cost of the proposed works to be constructed by the company and for which plans had been drawn, would be \$1,150,000, about equally divided on the Lepreaux and Magaguadavic. The committee then went into private consideration of the bill.—St. J. Globe.

Fredericton, March, 27.—All other committees suspended business this morning for the meeting of the corporations committee. The committee first met in private, and agreed upon their report on the New Brunswick Hydro Electric Com-

pany's bill, which, as intimated, has been greatly pruned and will be passed in a vastly different condition than it was presented. The bill will be recommended to the House subject to a number of modifications, including one which practically exempts the St. George Pulp and Paper Company and other industries on the lower end of the rivers from having their present supply of power diminished. Provision is also made that at least one-fifth of the power shall be reserved for Charlotte County, subject to conditions to be agreed upon between the proposed purchasers and the company, or if they fail to agree, to be settled by the Public Utilities Commission. The company will have rights to expropriate only on the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.—St. J. Globe.

Gillmor Interest on the Magaguadavic.

The Hydro-Electric Company May Buy Them Out. (Special to St. J. Globe.)

Fredericton, March 23.—Senator Gillmor arrived in the city yesterday from Ottawa, and in the afternoon had a conference with Mr. P. W. Thomson, of St. John, one of the promoters of the New Brunswick Hydro-Electric Company, regarding the sale of the Gillmor interests on the Magaguadavic River. They are fighting the bill before the legislature so far as it gives the company expropriation powers, and it was suggested when the committee adjourned that the parties should get together and try to arrange for the company to acquire the Gillmor interests. It is understood that the price placed by Senator Gillmor on his interests was \$20,000 and that the company would not agree to pay that amount.

At the sale at Fredericton last week of the fishing privileges on the crown lands on the N. B. streams a total of \$15,785.00 were realized almost all the privileges going well over the market prices. The sale of the Tobique river was a genuine surprise when Donald Fraser of Fredericton ousted the rich millionaires of New York and other American cities out of the privileges they have so long enjoyed at a nominal figure, he paying \$1300. for the river. The Club however own their

club house and a great many of their pools are either owned by themselves or leased from private owners. His royal Highness the Governor General Duke of Connaught etc., etc., will still have the pleasure or opportunity of placing himself under a compliment to their high grafters Lord Strathcona, said millionaires, etc., etc., and we suppose Dannie as he is familiarly known will not object to allowing him any privilege he may wish on his purchase.

Who got the \$50,000,000 Russia cannot trace.

St. Petersburg, March 4. Graft reached its limit here during the war with Japan, the accounts of which have just been cleared, with \$50,000,000 unaccountable deficit.

Though four years have been spent in searching for this sum all trace thereof is hopelessly lost. Whether the commissariat had it or whether it went into the pockets of the War Department dignitaries will now remain a mystery.

The Novoe Vremya, always up in official news, declares that this sum only represents a small part of the missing money. The rest, running into some fifty millions, has been hushed up by order of the Grand Duke, who keeps the imperial boot store on the Nevsky Prospect, and had charge of the Russian fleet during the war.

A Scotsman was on his deathbed, and his friends persuaded him to forgive a neighbor with whom he had had a standing feud for some years. The neighbor came to the dying man's bedside.

After they had shaken hands and made peace the Scotsman exclaimed: "If I get better, Donald, remember all this goes for naught."

"I beg pardon," said the reporter, "but are you Mr. Spudde, the Potato King?" "Yes, but I don't like that term," replied the Murphy magnate testily. "Oil kings and cattle kings and the like are so common. Call me a potato entate."

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Finding Grand Opera Stars.

Ten years of carrying coal would seem to be responsible for the strength and beauty of the voice owned by Domenico Ventresco, an American coalman. During a recent sojourn in prison on his marvellous voice was discovered and it is now very probable that he will enter grand opera.

There is a delightful touch of romance about the discovery of a number of the operatic stars who have gained fame during the last few years.

Caruso, for instance, was earning the equivalent of 16 a day in an Italian mechanic's shop when he was "discovered."

Years after, in a Pittsburgh church, Caruso was listening to the choir, and he heard a very fine tenor, whom he afterwards found out was a New York bootblack. This man has since sung repeatedly at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, and is now one of the leading tenors of America.

Mlle. Cavalieri began life as a flower girl in Rome, and Mr. Ben Davies was employed in a Swansea store before he found that he possessed a voice worth a fortune.

Mr. Nevada Landine, who made a brilliant appearance at Covent Garden about a year ago, was formerly a street newspaper seller; and Mr. Ricardo Martin, the great tenor, discovered the beauty of his voice after a severe cold had nearly deprived him of speech.—Answers, London.

In these piping times of peace it is depressing to observe that Germany is increasing the number of her warships, and thus piling taxes on a tax-burdened country; that Great Britain has just launched a dreadnought the twenty-sixth of her class, and is prepared to keep up her superiority to Germany and all other powers; that Austria has just launched her second dreadnought; that France is engaged in building up her navy; that Italy is similarly engaged, and that there is a demand in the United States for more naval activity. A halt is called in Canada's navy building. Ex.

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Miss Kate Murphy, 1911 \$5.60 Dated at St. George this 28th day of March 1912

Jas. O'Brien, Collector.

Education Or-?

One of the cheapest things to have and one of the most expensive things to do without is a moderately good education, remarks The Northwest Farmer. Yet, according to some figures recently published, we find that the latest census statistics of the United States show that in that country there is six times as much money spent for patent medicines as for school books. This is notwithstanding the fact that the true principles of hygiene, as taught in the school text books on physiology, might be made a greater aid in the securing and retaining of health than the use of a great deal of this patent medicine. Some other very interesting comparisons between the amount spent for school books and other commodities might be instituted. For instance we find that the outlay for malted and distilled liquors is thirty-five times as great as for school books. The amount spent for tobacco of different kinds is about twenty-seven and one-half times as great, that for confectionery is about seven times as great, and the nation even spends more money for corsets than it does for school books. Yet who will say that the benefit that the nation derives from its education is not infinitely of greater importance than the benefits derived from any of these other things?

"Is my hat on straight?" "No. One eye shows."