

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1920

The Evening Times and Star

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LET THE PEOPLE KNOW.

The mayor and commissioners are probably divided as to the merits, or demerits, of harbor commission. Before they decide to submit the commission plan to a vote, members of the council, whether they favor the act or oppose it, should at least give the citizens a definite interpretation of the act and much more information concerning it than is now before the public. It is doubtful whether any member of the council believes the present act really satisfactory. Every one of them should make his stand clear beyond misunderstanding. It would not do merely to throw the act at the electors.

The people will want to know about the ferry.

They will want to know whether any other port in Canada is asked to pay interest on the cost of all the government property to be taken over by the commission, as St. John is asked to do.

They will want to know how the Canadian government cannot provide out of federal revenue, adequate terminals for its railways here, as is being done at Halifax. They should be told why it is necessary to include Indian harbor in the act.

Many people in St. John are still baling about getting \$200,000 for the harbor and spending that money on the streets. The mayor and commissioners should tell them that the city will not receive \$200,000, or any amount, to be spent on the streets or elsewhere, in the sense too commonly supposed.

The government is to take over civil debentures amounting to \$1,850,000. The harbor traffic will have to go on paying the interest on that amount. The city is to receive harbor commission debentures to the amount of \$500,000 bearing interest at five per cent. The city will sell these, or be content with the interest on them—but that interest must come out of harbor revenue.

Harbor revenue must also provide three per cent. on all the government property to be taken over by the commission. The people will want to know how much that will amount to. They should be told the total of the fixed charges which the harbor commission would have to meet before any new expenditures were undertaken. There is a great deal of talk about the expansion of harbor facilities under commission. That expansion would depend upon the raising of further harbor revenue to pay interest and sinking fund charges.

The people will want to know whether the mayor and commissioners believe it wise at this time to bind the city to an agreement which means that they shall receive no further direct government aid for the harbor, but under which the expenditures made here, although for national purposes, will be to be financed out of charges upon the shipping.

The mayor and commissioners should not throw the act at the people without making their own position clear, and without telling the citizens clearly what the harbor commission would have to do. It should be understood clearly that under the act not only will the harbor traffic have to pay fixed charges upon all existing property but will also have to provide revenue for any further facilities, and that the harbor commissioners can undertake no new work until they have satisfied the government that the harbor traffic will produce all the money necessary to finance the harbor and any new work that it proposed. The mayor and commissioners have no right responsibility in this matter. Each and every one of them should declare for or against the act as it stands, and should undertake to interpret the act clearly to the citizens before any steps are taken for a plebiscite.

The people are asking precisely what binding agreements there are for harbor development under commission. The mayor and commissioners should tell them just why it is proposed to waive the old agreement which bound the government, the pledge of 1911 for real nationalization, and, in fact, all our claims upon the federal government for harbor expansion here out of general revenue in the interests of national transportation.

CALIFORNIA'S JAPANESE. There is another anti-Japanese movement in California. Theodore Roosevelt, when was President of the United States, was compelled on one occasion to make a hurried visit to California in order to hold up state legislation which was threatening to produce a serious rupture with Japan. A crisis was avoided on that occasion, but California and other western states continued to regard the increase in Japanese population in that territory with dislike and suspicion.

The governor of California recently sent a letter to Washington asking the federal government to introduce legislation such as would definitely bar Japanese immigrants. Washington evidently regards the subject as too delicate for national action, and now certain Californian politicians are threatening state legislation such as would prevent Japanese from owning land. The census of

1910 gave California 41,355 Japanese residents, most of them engaged in some branch of farming. In ten years this population has more than doubled, amounting now to more than 87,000 Japanese, and it is found that while the land under Japanese control was small in area ten years ago it has now increased to 228,000 acres of the best land in the state. While the market value of Japanese produce in California was only a little more than \$6,000,000 in 1910 it is estimated as having been \$67,145,000 in 1919. In some of the small towns seventy-five per cent of the school children are said to be Japanese while local trade is almost wholly in the hands of their fathers.

These figures are employed to increase an already considerable current of ill-will towards the Japanese in California. The situation is all the more awkward because some publicists in Japan have lately expressed strongly anti-American sentiments. The people of California will continue to demand federal legislation to stop Japanese immigration. Japan will vigorously protest against any immigration laws placing her subjects under restrictions not applied to those of other civilized countries. The situation may be kept in hand until after the presidential elections, but after March next it is likely to be a source of trouble. Canada has a somewhat similar problem in connection with Oriental immigration which is so strongly resented in British Columbia.

A WARSHIP'S FAMILY PARTY. When the new battleship Tennessee of the United States navy was launched, Captain Leigh, who was placed in charge of her, announced his intention to recruit his officers and crew in the State after which the ship was named, and since then he has been carrying out his scheme with unabated zeal. To-day his ship's company is made up principally of sons of the Volunteer State and Tennesseans who have to stay at home have raised a fund to keep the crew in parties not provided for by the government. They have equipped the battleship with a reading room for the men, and have provided a motion picture camera so that pictures of "the blue jackets in foreign countries" may be taken, these pictures to be displayed "in all corners of Tennessee."

It is a big, happy family party which will sail on the Tennessee and it will be followed by the best wishes of the other members of the family. The vessel possesses the flag which was given in 1897 by the Tennessee Daughters of the Revolution to the cruiser Tennessee which was renamed the Memphis and was wrecked off the coast of Santo Domingo. The loving cup given to that cruiser also occupies a place on the battleship of the same name, and the Women's Temperance Union has sent a comfort kit to each member of the crew.

Captain Leigh is being warmly praised for his intelligent effort to stir up State enthusiasm for a warship bearing his State's name, and the prediction is made that naval recruiting officers will hasten to conduct similar campaigns in other States.

THE LESSON OF BABE RUTH. The Woodstock Sentinel-Review says editorially: "Probably no man, not even the presidential candidates in the United States, is more in the limelight at the present time than 'Babe' Ruth. Although he cost the New York American League club an almost fabulous sum, he has more than repaid his purchase price by his prowess, and hundreds of thousands watch the daily papers for news of his latest 'home'."

There is a case of a man who is doing all that was asked of him. He was secured by his employers for one purpose, to make home runs, and he is doing it. He is supposed to be a typical case of a man who makes good, who is asked to do a specific task, and who does it better than any other man who ever donned a baseball uniform.

"More 'Babe' Ruths are needed in every walk of life. We need more men who can come across with home runs and three-baggers when they are needed—more men who can win out in the game by their own personal effort. Canada would be a greater and a better country if we had more such men at the head of affairs."

"We need men who will deliver the goods they are paid to produce. There is little wasted effort with the home-run king, but we cannot say the same of labor today. We need men who will rise to the height of achievement, who will do things better than they have ever been done before. Let us have hundreds of 'Babe' Ruths in the ordinary everyday life of the country and there will be very little unrest and industrial disorder, and conditions will return to normal just as quickly as they became abnormal."

Song. "Oh, I have seen some strange, strange things," I heard an old man croon, Maids with wrinkles in their cheeks, Young people old in June. It seemed they had not learned to dance Or watched the sun go down, Or seen the silver ships come in, Beneath the summer moon, "It was not so when I was young," I heard the old man croon.

—Beatrice Washburn in New York Evening Post.

Rippling Rhymes

WOLF MASON

(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

JIM THE PENMAN.

The greatest forger of his day, of international renown, the other morning took his way, all footsore, to his native town. There were no greater human sharks in all the records of the past; he skinned unnumbered easy marks, and cleaned up millions, first and last. And now we see him sadly wend, to seek the town where he was born, without a buck, without a friend, all in, world beaten and forlorn. "Why, yes," the Village Fathers cried, "there is a haven for you here; the poorhouse doors are open wide—rest there, O wreck of yesterday." There Jim the Penman found a stall, nor will he leave those doors again; and there he sits, against the wall, and thinks of all that might have been. And to the poorhouse or the jail go nearly all the kings of crime, whose crooked plans for reaping kake use up the efforts of the prime. The man who fairly earns his money, by industry, can sing and smile; the hoodooed dollar is the one that's gained by trickery and guile.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

THE FIRST TELEPHONE.

On August 10, 1876, Andrew Graham Bell, who had been experimenting for years on what is now called a telephone, talked over a wire between Paris and Brantford, Ont. The message was transmitted over the telephone wires of the Dominion Telephone Company of Canada, which had been placed in his disposal for the experiment. The receiver of the telephone was in Paris, the transmitter in Brantford, while the battery power was in Toronto. Mr. Bell was elated because he could even recognize the voice of his father, one of the speakers. The first public demonstration of the telephone was given a few days later.

Mr. Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scot., on March 9, 1847. It was not until 1874 that the idea of a talking machine took possession of him. At once he began experimenting with it. His father, although the year did not produce much of value. In fact there were many times when the young man was wasting a great deal of very valuable time. But on his twenty-ninth birthday he received a patent for his invention. It is said that it was the most valuable single patent ever issued in the history of the world.

On April 4, 1877, the first telephone line ever built in Canada for public use was opened by the District Telephone Company. The next year the Hamilton Telephone Company took over the rights with an exchange in Hamilton, Ont.

But there have been many changes since those days and now the entire civilized world is linked by the telephone. They have equipped the battleship with a wireless message camera so that pictures of "the blue jackets in foreign countries" may be taken, these pictures to be displayed "in all corners of Tennessee."

IN LIGHTER VEIN. After many years of parting, the old school chums of the Heights, in the Bronx, is a barber whose claim to uniqueness in his profession is credited by his patron.

"But," began one suddenly, "you say you are in the grocery business. I thought you wanted to go on the stage?" "So I did," replied the other sheepishly; "but—er—I found out I wasn't suited for it."

The other man tilted and his face slowly flushed.

"Well, no, not exactly," he said; "but they might have been birds if they had been allowed to hatch."

An American teacher undertook the task of convincing an indignant native son of the Philippines that it was his duty to get out and hustle.

"But why should I work?" inquired the guileless Filipino. "In order to make money," declared the thrifty teacher.

"But what do I want with money?" persisted the brown brother.

"Why, when you get plenty of money you will be independent and will not have to work any more," replied the teacher.

"I don't have to work now," said the native; and the teacher gave it up in disgust.

GERMAN LONG-RANGE GUNS.

(By Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Miller, U. S. A., in Engineering.)

For the bombardment of Paris at long range the Germans used guns of a calibre of 21 cm. or 8.15 in., and they reboiled at least one to 24 cm., or 9.5 in. In length, the forward section of three more guns were under construction at the Skoda Ordnance Works at Pilsen, Austria. Until July 1, 1919, no direct information had been received from the Germans with reference to the design of any part of the entire mechanism, except the gun on which, as mentioned before, information had been received at various times before the armistice, the guns themselves were examined at the Skoda Works at Pilsen. Just why the Germans refused to talk about this gun is not known. In December, 1918, and January and February, 1919, a German engineer who was working with the American forces in the region northeast of Verdun helping to identify long-delay fuses and assisting on other technical matters, said that he was acquainted with the design of the gun and had seen it in operation. Very curiously, however, he refused to give any information with reference to the details of design of any other piece of ordnance that he was at any time asked about and it was more curious in view of the fact that there is really nothing wonderful about the design of the long-range gun, its carriage or its emplacement.

All the long-range guns were constructed from worn-out 38 cm. (15 in.) 45 calibre 17.7 or 30.5 in. in length, naval guns. The converted gun was in two parts, the main section 30 m. or 98.5 ft. in length, and the forward section 6 m. or 19.7 ft. in length. The 38 cm. gun was bored out and a very heavy tube with an inside diameter of 21 cm. was inserted; 123 m. or 402.9 ft. projected beyond the end of the original gun, and over this projecting portion another hoop was shrunk and locked to the forward hoop of the old gun. This 21 cm. tube was rifled at a uniform twist throughout its length. The other sec-

NEW YORK BARBER

UNIQUE IN HIS LINE

(New York Times.) Up on Fordham street in the Bronx, is a barber whose claim to uniqueness in his profession is credited by his patron.

A new-comer in that part of the city walked into his barber's shop the other day at the noon hour and found only two "tonorial artists" on duty. One was shaving a customer. The other was well along in years, but proved as spry as any youngster in preparing the chair toward which he motioned the new patron.

"I want my hair cut," said the man, and I want it cut the way I like it. Close in the back and enough left to part easily in front."

"Without a word, not even a 'Yes, Sir,' the old barber removed the head-rest of the usual cotton-tufting and began cutting the hair with the usual miniature 'mowing machine'."

About the time the new customer expected to see the barber drop the clippers and start using a pair of shears the man who was being shaved addressed a remark to the barber. It did not really seem for a while, but the stranger, rather surprised that the barber made no reply.

"By the time he had decided that the old man was either actually dumb or, even rarer, a non-talkative barber, he was being shaved and his hair was being cut in front and that the barber was still using the clippers, though holding up the hair with a comb as customary when using scissors. It was evident that his hair was not being shorn down to the scalp and he was not being cut nothing. But he watched and waited for the scissors."

Silently the barber laid down the clippers. But instead of picking up the scissors he held up a handglass, and, without a word, indicated that he was ready for the verdict on his work.

"It looks all right," said the customer, "and now I want a shave and my mustache trimmed."

Silently the old barber put back the headrest, prepared the lather, and finished the shaving job.

"Now for the scissors!" the patron said to himself as the barber began smoothing out the mustache. But the patron was wrong. The barber trimmed that mustache to a nicety with the clippers, and when, still without speaking, he handed the check to the customer he had not once touched a pair of scissors.

"Well," exclaimed the customer, "you're a wonder. In all my long life I never before saw a barber cut hair and trim a mustache without scissors, to say nothing of not once opening his mouth."

Then the customer got another surprise.

"Yes," said the barber supposed to be dumb, "and I'm the only man in the United States that can do it."

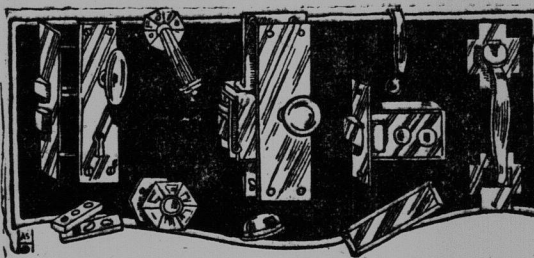
With that he suddenly became as "chatty" as any barber, and seemed ready to tell his life history.

"I've been barber sixty-two years," he declared, "and I've learned a lot of things. There's another thing I can do. I can tell the age of any man who sits in my chair." And he told his astonished patron his age within six months.

"How do you do it?" the man asked. "I tell by the feel of his skin," said the barber.

A Word to the United States. (Toronto Mail and Empire.) A word from the United States to Russia would now be in season. Our great neighbor did not go promptly to the aid of oppressed democracy at the beginning of the late war. It was slow to recognize the claims of Belgium to

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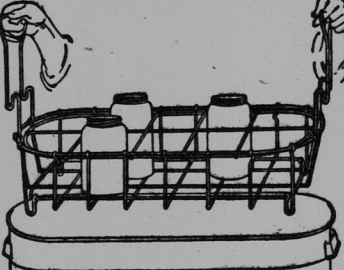
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the help of nations that were looked to as champions of liberty and protectors of the weak. But if there could be any excuse for doubt as to the merits of the plea for Belgium and Serbia, there can be none in the case of Poland. The recently restored power and new republic is fighting a practically hopeless battle to push back a wave of militarism no less to be dreaded than that which flowed from Germany for nearly five years. It is not possible to make the maintenance of the Treaty of Versailles other than it appears to be, Bolshevik Russia has become militarized under Lenin and Trotsky, and is bent on the destruction of Poland. That the United States government is in correspondence with the British and French governments on the situation is most probable. The United States is not yet bound by the Treaty of Versailles and is therefore not a party to the Covenant of the League of Nations, though its president signed the treaty. American politicians who prevented the ratification of the treaty by the senate have not in any case taken a stand of unqualified opposition to their country belonging to an international compact for the maintenance of the world's peace. There is every probability that the United States will subscribe to the Covenant with certain reservations. That being so, it would seem reasonable to expect the government at Washington to co-operate with Britain and France for the saving of Poland and the bringing of Russia to a state of peace. Our neighbor could now render a great service to the world by coming forward and letting Russia know that it will regard any further advance against Poland as an unfriendly action. President Wilson should confer with leaders of the Republican party and endeavor to enlist them in a national protest to Russia.

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