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London, Ont., Wednesday, Oct. 26.

Closing the Mines.

Claiming that it is impossible to pay the wages demanded by miners, Roy M. Wolvin, president of the British Empire Steel Corporation, states the mines in the east may be closed for the winter. These include the properties worked by the Dominion Steel Corporation and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, both of which are included in the Empire Steel Corporation. The operation of the various steel mills and blast furnaces owned by the same corporation is also involved.

Such a move would be serious for the eastern section of the Dominion. Not only is coal mining one of the basic industries there, but the taking out of iron ore from the deposits off the coast of Newfoundland is also an undertaking of no mean dimensions.

The steel and coal business of Nova Scotia has not been in a healthy state since the conclusion of the war. The bringing about of the British Empire Steel Corporation was spelt in the first attempt by the impression of some of the promoters that there was to be a very large amount of stock available for rewarding the promoters. Since the corporation has been formed on a different and less extended basis, the operations of all the subsidiary lines, coal, iron ore, steel, shipbuilding, etc., have been carried on at low ebb. The world market has been against rapid development, and then they had to overcome difficulties that had been built up by years of dispute between the Scotia and Dominion companies, whose submarine properties in many cases were so interlocked that litigation and special legislation were necessary to make operations legal or even possible.

There is no reason to doubt that Mr. Wolvin states a very real case when he says it is impossible for the corporation to operate on a successful basis against present costs, and present costs are made up largely of the pay of the miners.

Whether the corporation is so capitalized that it cannot earn on the basis of reasonable returns, we are not prepared to state, although it must be admitted there has been no mad rush for the stock of the British Empire Steel Corporation since it was placed on the market. It recently received a large order for rails from the Dominion Government, but that may have been given with a view to keeping the steel mills busy until after the general election.

If Mr. Wolvin knows that a lower wage will bring enough business to keep the mines going, he will have a formidable argument that cannot be ignored.

"Unthinkable."

It may be urged that President Harding's Yorktown declaration that another break in the "peaceful and friendly relations between United States and Great Britain is unthinkable," is merely the warning over of a stock speech—that there is no new thought in it—no definite program—merely a pleasing remark to fit the occasion.

These two great nations need men who have sense and sincerity enough to make just such statements, no matter if they are 100 years old.

Both nations have enough factions working in the opposite direction.

Twisting the lion's tail and pulling feathers from the eagle has too long been the pastime and the stock-in-trade of those who would commercialize on public and find their glory in misunderstanding.

More power to the speaker, be he president of United States, or the humblest layman in the constituency, who has vision enough to reiterate to the point of monotony that "another break in the friendly relations between United States and Great Britain is unthinkable."

An Important Finding

Judgment has been handed out in the suit brought by Charles E. Campbell against the Vancouver Sun. The charge was made that certain extravagant amounts were paid to complainant for his property, taken over by the Government.

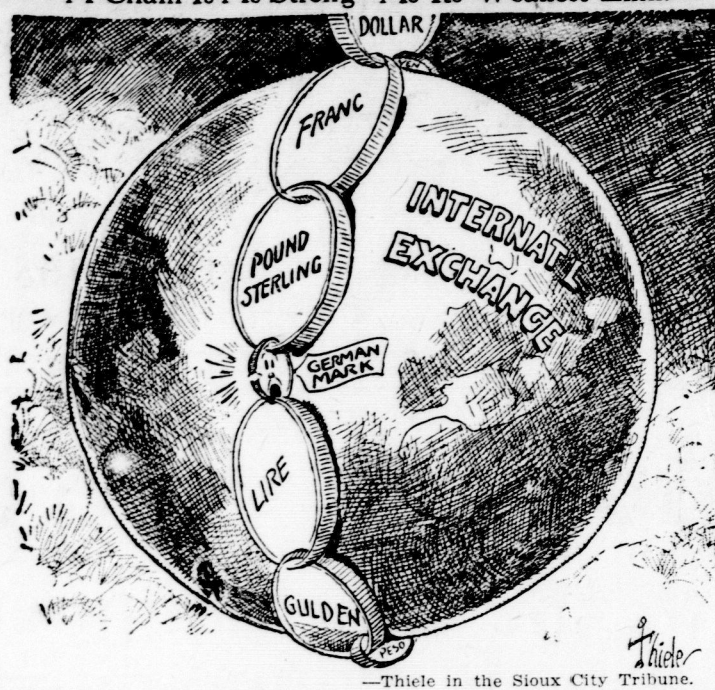
With that phase of the case we are not at the moment concerned, but there were certain essential points made that define quite clearly the length to which a newspaper can go in making charges and comments about people, incidents and things in general.

Mr. Justice Morrison, in his charge to the jury, spoke at length on the liberties the press might take in such discussions. Some of the points he made were:

"Everybody has a right to comment on a matter of public interest and this, I find, is a matter of public interest. A man may comment very strongly, but he must comment on the facts."

"Everybody has a right to comment on the acts of a man if the

"A Chain Is As Strong As Its Weakest Link."



—Thiele in the Sioux City Tribune.

subject matter is one of public interest.

"Now that is a privilege, gentlemen of the jury, that I am sure none of us wish to see curtailed, and that is the attitude of the defendant in this case, that, actuated by a sense of duty to the public he exercised the privilege of criticising what he called the acts of the plaintiff in a public or quasi or semi-public manner in dealing with governmental department or with the government of the day. He contends that that is a matter of fair comment and fair criticism."

Were this right of the press taken away it would be a serious thing for the country. It would cause temerity in the columns of the public press, and make papers subservient to any interest that cared to swing a fist in their direction.

There is a very close and vital connection between the liberty of the press and the liberty of the people.

The Basis of Liberalism.

In his book, "A Period of New Beginnings for Liberalism," Alexander Smith of Ottawa brings out some noteworthy references from British authorities.

Replying to a question often asked, "What Is Liberalism?" he says:

"Canadian Liberal leaders have ever kept and keep before the people four guiding principles of Liberalism. These are individual liberty, collective prosperity, racial and religious harmony, and growth toward nationhood. They struggled to make and continue to struggle to make political authority stable by resting it on the broadest possible basis of popular responsibility. They maintained and continue to maintain that the greatest security for the Empire was and is obtained by allowing the greatest diversity and fullest liberty of self-government in all its parts. And as regards the liberty of the individual they endeavored to make and continue to endeavor to make it a reality instead of a sham by the advocacy of public universal education and by an ever-increasing standard of humane conditions."

Further, in bringing the views of English "Liberalism," Mr. Smith quotes from the Right Hon. C. F. G. Masterman, as follows:

"Liberalism does not believe in a government by aristocracy of birth, of wealth, or of landed or other possessions. After these things do the Gentiles seek. It believes in government by an aristocracy of intelligence, of energy, of character. It believes that an educated and enlightened democracy will never rest content until such a government is attained."

"In its work for the fulfillment of these great ends, it calls to aid men and women of all classes, creeds and occupations. It will not favor the welfare of any particular class, nor will it in any way limit the choice of its representatives and leaders by the test of class. It will not select landlords because they are landlords, nor business leaders because they have been successful in business, or trades unionists because they are trades unionists, or rich men or poor men because they are rich or poor. It has been the glory of Liberalism in the past that it has thus been able to transcend the boundary of class limitation, and to call to its service men of good will of all and every class alike, in a fellowship 'wide as human life and deep as human need.'"

Better Conditions.

The following is from the editorial columns of the Galt Reporter:

"A notable improvement in the shoe-making trade is recorded by the manager of the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada. 'Within the last month,' he says, 'there has been a notable improvement in buying, due in part, no doubt, to the change in season. Many merchants had let their stocks get low and there has been a sudden rush to buy goods. There are practically no job lots obtainable and the majority of manufacturing plants are operating at

IF we are not here to try to do the best, in my humble opinion, the sooner we are away the better for all parties.

The Master of Ballantrae.

COMMON SENSE WAYS TO KEEP WELL.

VACCINATIONS

By Dr. R. H. Bishop.

Civilization has learned through long, bitter experience that epidemics and plagues can be prevented only through the absolute co-operation of every person in every community.

But even expert sanitary methods fail against such a disease as smallpox. It was not until science discovered vaccine for smallpox, that this disease lost its virulence against whole nations. Until this simple preventive was hit upon, thousands and thousands of people died of the dreaded plague.

Vaccination made smallpox almost obsolete. Yet carelessness and the rarity of the disease are bringing it back. This because people get off getting vaccinated or are altogether indifferent.

Vaccination is not dangerous. Over 3,000,000 persons were vaccinated in the last two years in this country without a single death.

The method consists in introducing vaccine virus into the skin, causing

what is known as a vaccination. A small pimple or sore appears in three or four days; the skin around becomes red, slightly swollen and tender. In ten or twelve days, a scab forms and soon drops off. There may be a slight headache or fever.

In some cases, vaccination is not successful the first time, in which case there is no sore, and the treatment should be repeated.

Since vaccination is the only sure preventive of smallpox, it is essential that one should be vaccinated early in life. A baby should be vaccinated during its first year and again at the age of ten. After two successful vaccinations, immunity usually lasts a lifetime. However, if one is exposed to smallpox and has not had the disease, he should be vaccinated at once unless he has undergone the treatment within the past five years.

Vaccination is a form of health insurance that pays many thousands of dividends in preventiveness.

JUST WAITING FOR DEATH IN FAMINE-SWEPT RUSSIAN AREA

WAITING for death. That describes the situation that faces hundreds of thousands of souls in Russia. Some of our most graphic information, and at the same time, the most reliable, is coming from correspondents of the well-known and reputable newspapers, who are, or have been, through the famine districts.

The correspondent sent out by the Manchester Guardian describes a trip he made into the famine and disease-swept areas. In part, he writes:

"So far we were still far from the famine country. But in the evening a little man with curly black hair and a curly red beard knocked at the door of our compartment and asked for me. He had heard in Moscow from a mutual friend that I was going down to Samara to investigate the famine, and introduced himself as the vice-president of the Council of Labor and Defense of the Khirghiz Republic, and capital of which is Orenburg. Would I not come on from Samara to Orenburg, to tell the western world of those millions of Khirghiz, for whom no help is in sight, for whom no help is possible unless it comes from the West? The republic stretches from the Ural to the Caspian Sea, and its people live mostly by cattle pasturing, and have been forced by the drought to kill their beasts. They have nothing before them but death."

Feeding Points, But No Food.

"I asked him what they had in the way of feeding points. He replied sadly: 'We have feeding points, but no food. We care as we can for some of the children, but we have no food for the food, and are surrounded by corn-growing countries, which, like ourselves, have been stricken by the drought, and can give us nothing. Help from abroad is the only thing that can save us.'"

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