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TORONTO.

THE TORONTO WORLD

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 30, 1923.

THE CRISIS AT BAT FORTAGE.

Bat Fortage has long and vainly been striving to acquire notoriety as a gold center. It appears likely now, however, to acquire notoriety as the head centre of the boundary dispute. For some time previous to the Ontario government's act of aggression, or rather of possession, the Manitoba government had been assuming to administer affairs in that locality in a happy-go-lucky sort of way, but, practically, anarchy prevailed. On the arrival of Mr. Mowat's special commissioners and constables matters came to a crisis. There was at once a collision of authority. The Manitoba government was granting licenses; the Ontario government was doing the same; and each disputed the other's right. As there were two opposing forces of constables there, it was inevitable that sooner or later some unpleasant contumacious act would occur. This came on Thursday and Friday last, when the rival constables were busy arresting each other, and quarrelling about the look-up in the endeavor to liberate each party's friends. As the Ontario force is the stronger, it is said that the premier of Manitoba has gone to the scene to see in more special constables; and fans of bloodshed are expected.

It is evident that a crisis has been reached in the boundary dispute. It is devoutly to be hoped that for the credit of Canada, the lives of none of her people will be sacrificed in an interminable struggle of policy a kind. If there is bloodshed, the case of it will rest upon Manitoba alone. That province owes more to Ontario than to any other section of the Dominion. Its population is chiefly from Ontario. Its laws and whatever institutions it possesses are modelled on those of Ontario. It has been built up largely on Ontario capital, and its people hope largely on its friendship with Ontario. Manitoba will do well not to abuse that friendship at the present critical juncture in its own affairs. It may light a fire that may not be easily extinguished. The boundary dispute is one between the Dominion and Ontario solely. It does not concern Manitoba, except remotely and indirectly; and we are convinced that the people of Manitoba do not sympathize with Mr. Mowat in his present ill-considered and hasty interference. If he gave them a chance, they would tell him plainly that they don't want to quarrel with Ontario and that he had better mind his own business.

The question of possession is another matter. On any view, Manitoba has no right there at present. If the award is now valid, the territory is still in dispute, and can only be regarded as no-man's land. But the unanimous award of the arbitrators has assigned it to Ontario, and the Ontario government is only doing a duty it should have done long ago in acting upon that award by taking possession, leaving its validity to be contested by those who dispute it. In this the government will be assisted by the people. If the Dominion government raises an issue, as of course it will, there is no reason why it should not be settled peacefully, by reasonable process of law. But in the meantime Manitoba is a trespasser, whom both the Dominion and the Ontario government should unite to eject.

BUTTER AND EGGS.

The New York Times reports large accumulations of butter in that market. There are about 200 merchants in that city who receive butter in large quantities, 150 of whom have large quantities of their ware.

It is in view of the fact that the telegraph companies have been unable to obtain operators to fill the strikers' places, that the Montreal Herald thinks it desirable that there

should be more telegraph schools and that young people should be more encouraged to take up the study of telegraphing. This is a most mistaken and mischievous view to take, as our contemporary will surely see on a little reflection. The work of young people into clerical occupations and into office work, is far too great already, without further inducements. A scheme for inducing more young men to become bookkeepers or dry goods clerks would be a bad one, but one for multiplying telegraph schools is not much better.

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In England there appears to be something more than a mere undertone of disappointment at the government's refusal to sustain the Queensland movement for annexing New Guinea. In the hands of a strong foreign power or of incompetent and pirates, who are by no means scarce in the South Pacific, that vast island would be a perpetual menace to the trade of Australia, of Queensland especially. Mr. Gladstone's excessive forbearance may have good grounds of European diplomacy to rest upon just at present, but it will not make his posterity either in England or Australia. The remark is being made, however, that the colonial authorities would have shown better judgment had they asked permission of the home government before hoisting the standard. To which we may add that it would have been entirely unnecessary to ask such permission in the days of Queen Elizabeth or Cromwell, or even in the later days of Marlborough, Nelson, or Cochrane.

Midsummer is about the time when the longest races in the world are now run—those of the tea ships carrying the first of the new crop from China to England. The steamship *Shirley Castle* recently made the shortest time on record, 31 days 10 1/2 hours, from Hankow to London. It may give us some idea of what an extensive country China is to learn that the steamer, the port from which the ocean steamer started with her cargo, is away up the Yang-tze-Kiang river, 800 miles from the sea. Allowing two days for the river trip brings the time from China to England down to something under thirty days. At an early period of her voyage the *Shirley Castle* passed a vessel which had started out from Hankow two days before her.

A contingency in contemplation by the telegraphers' brotherhood is the calling out of the railway operators, who have hitherto been allowed to stick to their jobs. If offers of a compromise do not come from the Western Union very shortly, this extreme measure will very probably be resorted to. It has been reported from Pittsburgh, however, that the plan in favor of the brotherhood's headquarters is that of calling out the operators on the Jay Gould lines of railway only, thus placing the lines on which the great monopolist is largely interested at an enormous disadvantage, the operators being allowed to continue on all others. In all probability we shall hear more of this before the present week is out.

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