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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers. These newspapers advocate: British connection. Honesty in public life. Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 11, 1914.

WOMEN AND HONESTY.

How many women out of each hundred will deceive or avoid the customs officers if they can? And how many women who will smuggle will also avoid paying their fares on street cars if they can evade the collection box?

These searching if disagreeable questions are raised by the editor of Toronto Saturday Night, who professes to have acquired certain shocking knowledge bearing more or less upon the matter under examination.

"Of course, most women are natural born smugglers. It is no crime in their eyes to beat the French government out of a proportion of its revenues every time they get a chance. The only crime in this connection would be that of breaking the thirteenth commandment—being caught at it."

"The next step in the transaction was the most interesting of all, for the woman in the noble purple and fine furs, the younger of the two, and the prettier also, had palmed two 'red' car tickets, as a precaution, no doubt, against the time when some conductor would insist upon being paid."

"There is a concrete ethical problem. Would those two women do bigger things than a street car ride? Would they take the same pains to avoid meeting a larger obligation? Would a woman who palms a street car ticket and bluffs the conductor, take a nice little handkerchief off a counter when the clerk was looking the other way?"

It is a lamentable fact that some women will smuggle, and that some will "beat" the street cars; but that is an old story. What the writer in Saturday Night overlooks is that men smuggle on a larger scale than women, and that they lead the far sex in every other line of dishonesty. Besides, this disagreeable editor ought not to overlook the fact that no woman ever believes that she avoids paying her fare on a street car, being wholly convinced in her own mind that she had the fare ready and would have paid it if the conductor had given her any reasonable opportunity to do so.

As for smuggling, this is a free trade world at bottom, and no people ever assented to a customs tariff without some sort of mental reservation, or without saying afterwards in private that they did not understand the sweeping character of the transaction. It is only a step further for them to say that they are not bound by a bargain which they did not make, or at least, understand. But that is male logic. The women's way is simpler. She merely says that if she can purchase a bargain outside the tariff jurisdiction of her own country, no official male has any right to plunder her when she is carrying the spoils of war home.

TYRANNY IN PORTUGAL.

The people of Portugal welcomed the proclamation of a republic only three years ago, but even after that short life the republic can give us some points in tyranny. A pamphlet circulated in England states, among many other things, that "the people of Portugal are being governed by a devilish tyranny which is ruining the very soul and body of a nation that once played a noble part in history."

Efforts are being made to have Britain intervene in behalf of the oppressed political prisoners. Time was when such an appeal would be answered as a trumpet call with passionate protest from the whole people. On a similar occasion, when another country was concerned, Gladstone dashed the sky with controversial post-cards; he made impassioned speeches and flooded the country with pamphlets which ran into incredible circulation.

Young worshippers of freedom turned aside from their vocations and enlisted in a war in which there was to be no discharge, until the glory and intoxication of those days are gone. The idea of interference is not welcomed because it is more dangerous than in the past, and the spirit of Jingoism which is now strong is sufficient to kill any impersonal interest in the freedom or oppression of another people.

Britain has always taken an interest in Portugal. Apart from some little misunderstanding in the Congo and fighting between Portugal and the British South Africa Company, they have never been at war. Sir John Moore and Wellington fought for her against Napoleon, and in other ways did much to preserve her independence.

THE SHIPS.

Of the 6,098 vessels which passed through the Suez Canal during 1913, no less than 59.38 per cent carried the British flag. That is to say, the British ships were about twice as numerous as those of the rest of the world combined. The canal traffic showed a decrease as compared with 1912, when the number of vessels passing through was 5,973. The gross tonnage of the British ships using the canal last year (1913) was 14,697,205. The German vessels numbered 778, and their gross tonnage was 4,694,860. The Dutch were next with 842 vessels, the gross tonnage being 1,788,747.

The mercantile tonnage launched by the United Kingdom during 1913 was the highest ever reached, but 1913 shows an increase of 108,997 tons over the preceding year, and of the total nearly seventy-eight per cent, or 1,413,107 tons, was built for registration in the United Kingdom. The British built tonnage launched in 1913 was 2,238,539 tons. This exceeds the amount of tonnage launched by all the rest of the world. The total launched by Germany, the United States, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark and Russia combined was 1,423,714 tons.

As to trade generally, the rapidity of the British advance is well shown by this striking summary made by the New York Journal of Commerce:

"Roughly speaking, the annual sum of the imports of the United Kingdom is a little over twice as much as that of the United States, while the domestic exports of the two countries are not far apart. In round numbers, excluding re-exports in both cases, the foreign trade of Great Britain last year was valued at \$5,800,000,000 and our own at \$4,240,000,000. The domestic exports of the

United States, which in 1913 amounted to \$2,983,098,000, or within \$6,000,000 of the British total, were in 1913 \$2,448,576,614, or \$108,981,386 less than those of the United Kingdom.

"Last Friday night in the House of Commons Maritime Province members said a number of grievances regarding dismissals and appointments in the outside public service. One member told of a lighthouse keeper who had been dismissed for referring to the Conservatives, five or more years ago, as a dirty party. After losing the lighthouse keeper's position he fell ill and died."

"Another job of a man who, having the misfortune to lose both legs, had been appointed as fishery guardian during the Liberal regime, at the magnificent sum of \$30 a year. He had been replaced by a good party man when the present government came into power. Another instance of a convicted foreigner having been taken out of jail to be given a patronage job was referred to."

"Apparently, to see fair play to governing employes accused of political activity, Hon. Mr. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries, had commissioned a lawyer named H. P. Duchemin to investigate charges and report to the department at Ottawa. Liberal members accused Mr. Duchemin of falsifying the reports and conducting unfair trials to secure the dismissal of the accused government servants."

CONFONCTION.

On next Christmas day will fall the anniversary of a century of peace between Canada and her nearest neighbor. The idea of a gap between the two countries in any binding time is absolutely unthinkable. The two countries interchange the products of the farm, forest, sea, and mine continuously, excepting for the foolish barriers of the tariff, and not only do they interchange the natural products of the country, but there are hundreds of thousands of Canadians making their living in the United States and a similar number of United States citizens developing the resources of Canada.

WHAT THE PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE.

The New York Evening Post says: "That there are 277,608 illiterate males of twenty-one years of age and over in the United States is a statistical fact, and it is a fact of importance. What ought to be done about it is a question worthy of attention. But the additional statement made in the report of the House Committee on Education, that this number is enough to determine any national election at any period in our history, is childish nonsense. It would perhaps not be worth commenting on were it not an example of a vicious custom, extremely common among reformers of all sorts in our time, of blowing great bubbles of imaginary evils out of the figures relating to whatever thing the particular reformer is interested in."

"History has had no illiterate saints or sages, but even the Newgate Calendar contains no record of a great criminal who has been forced to make X his mark. As the Post says, 'The evil of illiteracy is what it is, why try to make it what it is not?' If it is a question of selecting a President a man who cannot write may be just as competent to select the right man as a college professor. The savages are skilful in choosing the best leader even when they are not wise in philosophy or the learning of the schools. Pirates will put the best navigators in charge of the ship, and gangs of boys in planning to outwit the trustee officer will choose the most sagacious to lead in counsel. A man may be illiterate without being a fool, and he may be learned without being wise. If ability to read the constitution be a test to qualify a man for citizenship under the idea that that will give wisdom, then the man who can read Sanscrit and is proficient in higher mathematics should have about twenty votes on account of his superior wisdom. But does it always follow that he is necessarily wise?"

A SORRY SPECTACLE.

Partisanship carried to extremes has convinced the Conservative Ottawa Citizen that it is time for a change. Not so much the number as the nature of the dismissals of officials in the Maritime Provinces for "offensive partisanship" is cited by The Citizen as a reproach to the country at large. As the Citizen is published in Ottawa, at Mr. Borden's door, and is the leading Conservative

journal of that part of the country, its words in this connection should be of interest. The Citizen says in part:

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"The Citizen does not mention the case of the man who received a Conservative appointment while he was serving a term in jail, or the Liberal official who was dismissed after he had been dead for some time. But the cases it does mention serve the purpose it has in mind. Of course The Citizen complains of the partisanship shown by both parties, but it makes no effort to produce cases from the Liberal record to match those which it has selected from the malodorous regime of Mr. Borden and Mr. Hazen. The Citizen wants politics kept out of the civil service. That is right enough, but surely it was Mr. Borden who was going to take patronage out of politics. And now The Citizen shows very clearly either that he has not tried to do so or that his failure has been miserable beyond parallel."

THE WORKINGMAN AND THE CHURCHES.

Perhaps the churches are no better at taking advice than the politicians and the newspapers, but perhaps hitherto they have not had so much offered to them. A great deal of advice, however, was offered the churches at the Social Service Congress of Canada in Ottawa last week, and some of it was very much out of the beaten track. There was an address, for example, from Dr. Charles Steale, consulting sociologist of the city of New York. He predicted that the masses—the common people—would yet be called upon to save the church. He said it was far more important to have mechanics than millionaires in the church, and that they should all be animated by a divine discontent with respect to social evils, and should all make an organized and sustained effort to better social conditions. He said that the laboring classes were naturally religious, and that the labor problem at bottom is a religious one. He asserted that, in spite of reports to the contrary, the workers of our day are responding to the appeal of the church better than ever before in history."

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER.

The reform of our present taxation system is demanded by justice, not by charity. Organized society has created the value of the land, and it should re- take for the satisfaction of its own needs a part of the value which it thus creates. We need a reform in our methods of taxation, and a reform of this nature would not increase rents or the cost of living. The cost of living in a city is largely due to ground rent on the one hand and to the cost of such services as transportation, gas, water and fuel on the other. The burden created by the growth of society should not be made an extra burden upon the citizen, but should be discharged by the fund which organized society creates. This tax should be used to compensate the individual for the losses he has incurred in making the city his home. This redistribution must be made sometime. It will involve cost, but the present system involves still more cost—cost which is borne by the many for the enjoyment of the few."

"Lloyd George says: 'A friend of mine is a student of social questions. You can start him on public health, or the drink problem, or the relation of the sexes; but wherever you start him he goes straight across country to the land question—and I am not the man to blame him. We cannot cope with consumption, or intemperance, or immorality, while the causing conditions are allowed to continue.' His friend goes to the root of the matter. He prefers 'healing' with causes to salving with effects. He wants to stop the leak before bailing the boat. He does not think that the proper treatment of the land question would remedy everything, but he knows that it would remove the fundamental difficulties and that it would facilitate the treatment of others."

The crowding of mankind together has created a social fund. In spite of that our taxes are so adjusted as to fall upon industry—a head tax upon workmen, taxes upon homes, factories and all efforts to beautify or improve the city. Our city is rapidly becoming one of increasing tenancy and landless men. This is steadily reducing nominal and real wages, discouraging those who would build homes and factories, or seek to improve and beautify the city. Land is withheld from us, and held for speculation at little cost, while industry is penalized. The city is struggling under the burden of

franchise and street railway monopolies, and the burdens are becoming continually heavier upon the poor. Taxes on the necessities of life by the Federal government, and on the homes by the city government, are producing a condition which no civilized people can long tolerate. The city can lift its share of the burden. If it does so it will remove most of the economic evils under which we now suffer. All that is needed is public intelligence, and an effort to remove special privileges. It is possible very materially to relieve the burden of existence, and that should be the chief study of legislators. It is possible to limit the life of the people, instead of limiting it as at present—to give to the many whose life goes to the city's upbuilding something more than ten hours of work, eight hours of sleep, a two or three roomed tenement for a home, and a few hours in the saloon as compensation for it all. Taxation reform is long overdue."

THE DOMINION SUBSIDIES.

Are the provinces going to ask the Dominion government for a revision of the Dominion subsidies? New Brunswick, which is always looking for new sources of financial supply, should be interested in a suggestion made by the finance minister of Ontario in his budget speech the other day. Ontario was facing a large deficit, but Hon. Mr. Lucas announced that the province had been able to secure from the Dominion government a very large sum in subsidies and back interest thereon in connection with the Temiskaming Railway, to which a subsidy was formerly refused because it is owned by the province of Ontario. This bit of financial procedure, "considerable surplus in place of the expected deficit. In 1904 Ontario and the municipalities derived \$450,000 from the liquor trade. In 1913 they received \$1,200,000 from that source. This by the way."

The suggestion with respect to additional income from the Dominion, made by Mr. Lucas was, in some respects, the most important feature of his speech. Ontario received last year in Dominion subsidies and grants \$2,896,373. The Department of Lands, Forests and Mines brought in \$2,790,900, and the succession duties \$1,022,694. These are the greater sources of income. Mr. Lucas, according to the Toronto News, "dwelt at some length on the subsidy relations with the Federal administration. At the time of Confederation, the province gave up its right to collect customs and excise duties and received in return from the Dominion an annual amount based mainly on population. The provincial treasurer believed that our subsidy should bear some proportion to the sum of these duties collected by the Ottawa authorities. For example the total customs and excise duties had increased from \$11,000,000 in 1897 to \$104,000,000 in 1913. Ontario had 'jilted' the sister provinces in urging the government at Ottawa to make a new arrangement, whereby, in addition to the fixed sum already granted, the provinces would benefit by ten per cent of this customs revenue. That request was still under consideration."

As Mr. Borden and his friends are likely to be hard pressed for revenue themselves in the immediate future they may not be willing to enlarge Dominion payments to the provinces. If the subsidy arrangement is open to revision the Maritime Provinces would have a large claim for better treatment."

Edmonton is actively discussing the advisability of introducing compulsory government.

St. John going to ask for definite information about the Valley railway, or travel along in the dark for another year or two? The Transcontinental and the G. T. P. will be ready for traffic this year. Why not have the inquiry now, instead of a year or so hence when the traffic we expected has begun to go elsewhere?

NOTE AND COMMENT.

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THE COMING OF SPRING.

February, with rare exceptions, gets right down to business and stays on the job during the whole of its somewhat short life. It blows and snows and freezes in a manner that shows an iron will. It is an honest, sturdy fighter. It is, in the battle of the seasons, assigned the duty of covering the slow retreat of winter, and it fights all the harder because it is a losing fight. Earlier and earlier comes the dawn. Later and later the red sun sinks over the white fields, and still February fights and snows and freezes until it lies "dead upon the field of honor." Then, inconstant March signs the terms of capitulation and ushers in victorious spring.

ABE MARTIN

Much comment has been aroused by a mysterious paragraph in President Wilson's canal speech before Congress. He gave several reasons for the repeal of the exemption clause, among them being that it would facilitate the foreign policy of the administration and relieve it of embarrassment in regard to "other matters of even greater delicacy and nearer consequences," with which he will not know how to deal unless this support is granted "in ungrudging measure." In some quarters a reference to Japan is here inferred. In others German intervention in Brazil is mentioned as among the issues foreshadowed. Mr. Wilson has not explained his words.

The Toronto News, Conservative, expects a big fight on the navy question this session. Its Ottawa correspondent says that the Liberals will try to compel the government to reveal its naval policy when the estimates for the navy are reached, and that deadlock may result. This correspondent says that the Con-

servative will see the closure to put the estimates through, as they are determined not to announce their permanent navy policy until next session or before the next election. Not having any permanent policy, the Conservatives would naturally be unable to make it public at this time. In the interval their \$35,000,000 "emergency" policy, about which they talked so much at one time, is dormant if not dead.

President Wilson's message to Congress yesterday, urging the repeal of the legislation exempting American coastwise vessels from payment of tolls at Panama, was, short, sharp and to the point. It was an admirable appeal, which should enlist the support of both Houses of Congress, and which certainly will have the approbation of the majority of the fair-minded people of the United States. In reviewing the first year's work done by President Wilson the New York Sun, although it disapproves sharply of his Mexican policy, says that no President from Washington to Taft has so impressed his personality upon the people of the United States in his first year in office as has President Wilson.

THE AGRICULTURE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

British Columbia can promote something in promoting agricultural production, favorable conditions, assist the way of extending loans easier and providing assistance and information problems confronting the farmer. The Agriculture of British Columbia, after a tentative examination of the has just placed its report before the legislature. An Agriculture direct interest in this principal features of the report:

Establishment of a commission to make loans to farmers. Employment of prior the manufacture of tile in line quarrying. Title paid for their work was played.

Establishment of rural system, with government Contract system on production. Establishment of board of graduation to afford financial assistance. Establishment of training for child immigrants. Development of co-operative. Government aid for co-ops. Enlargement of agriculture. Separate portfolio for farmers with advisory board of farmers. Improvement of close living areas. Government aid in a boring. Amendment to No. 4 act. Establishment of quarantine for pest-infected.

The adoption of an agricultural credit on the plan in force in New Zealand, in the report of the mission on Agriculture brought down in the legislation. The report proposes the board to be known as the Agricultural Commission, independent and four directors with matters appertaining to the administration of the department. It is proposed that the deputy ministers of agriculture be appointed by the governor-in-council and the deputy ministers of agriculture to be ex officio members. It is proposed that the deputy ministers of agriculture be appointed by the governor-in-council and the deputy ministers of agriculture to be ex officio members. It is proposed that the deputy ministers of agriculture be appointed by the governor-in-council and the deputy ministers of agriculture to be ex officio members.

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