

The Daily Mail

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THE CYNIC AND THE PEACE.

Whether he deserves all the censure he gets is uncertain but none will deny that the cynic is a most unpopular person. The world feels somehow that it could get on very well without him. People like to enjoy their views on life without having their inconsistencies constantly banded before their eyes. They dislike being questioned too closely or having their present ideas compared with what they were in the near or remote past. It would be a crime to do anything but rejoice at the happy outcome of the Locarno Conference, the signing of the pact, the banquets, the healing of the wounds of war, the hope of a long reign of peace and the feeling of amity that now exists between the Allies and their late enemies. It is obviously most desirable from any point of view, christian, moral or commercial. When Sir Austen Chamberlain and the German ambassador pledged each other in the loving cup at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London it was a happy omen for the future.

But the cynic will remember that a decade ago it was firmly resolved that never again would there be any truck with an enemy, who, by his dastardly methods of warfare, had placed himself forever beyond the pale of civilization. He might, if he chose, produce as evidence articles from the press and sermons from the pulpit denouncing in scathing terms a foe, who could never again be admitted to the comity of nations. What has happened to bring about this complete change of front? Germany has never for a moment shown herself repentant, indeed, she persists in denying her responsibility for the war. She has sought by every means to avoid the indemnity demanded of her for the damage done. In the face of the pledges made the only valid reason for burying the hatchet, apart from economic necessity, is the conviction that the war-time propaganda employed by the Allies was so exaggerated as to be almost untrue. There can be no doubt that on both sides no effort was spared to depict the enemy as a monster in human form.

The hate that is engendered through a natural desire to distort the truth and exaggerate the false is one of the ugliest features in the picture of war. It may spur the contending armies to fight more desperately for victory; it may serve a useful purpose when nations are struggling for their existence, but it is the negation of all that is best and chivalrous in human nature. The German corpse story has been discredited, while the Germans have ceased to believe the British starved their prisoners to death. Probably most of the tales of atrocities were invented or frightfully exaggerated. With war unhorsed and peace firmly in the saddle most people are willing to concur in that opinion. But the cynic has ample scope for his talent. What a pity the loving cup was not so potent in 1914! War memorials and memories do make things a little difficult.

PRESS INACCURACIES.

There seems to be an amazing amount of ignorance of Canadian affairs among our American neighbors. Some of the comments on the recent general election in responsible newspapers are only fit to be classed with the proverbial schoolboy howlers, which never fail as a source of amusement. While the difficulty of viewing foreign affairs in their true perspective must be admitted, it should be comparatively simple for American journals to be reasonably accurate in the facts and figures relating to a country with which they are so closely associated. It only goes to show that people who demand a true insight into world politics should not rely too im-

plycity on the service of the press.

Long and careful study of conditions past and present is essential to a reliable understanding of the complex problems in any country. A journalist, who is packed off at a moment's notice to report some crisis, would be a superman if he could grasp more than the bare outlines in the time at his disposal. His story is usually based on information gathered in a series of hasty interviews with persons who tell him what they think it is good for him to know. Unless he resides permanently on the spot he need not hope for too much. That explains why the information based on press despatches is so often misleading.

The election of Hindenburg last spring to be President of Germany is one of many examples. The choice of the German people was denounced in many a ringing editorial and special article. Many journals even predicted the speedy restoration of the Kaiser and immediate preparations for another war. As a matter of fact the old general seems to have performed his duties remarkably well and to have worked wholeheartedly in the spirit of Locarno. It might be more accurate to define such errors in judgment as mistaken prophecies, but they nearly all spring from a common source, namely, hasty conclusions based on superficial information. Newspapers merit great praise and the world would be a poor place without them. Faced with tremendous difficulties, always fighting against time in their search for news, it is not surprising that their accuracy is often seriously at fault.

The death of Mr. John R. Booth removes one of the great outstanding personalities from Canadian life. Starting his long successful career at the bottom rung of the ladder of fame, he worked his way to the highest point of vantage solely by his ability, determination and capacity for hard work. His path was not strewn with roses for he suffered many hard knocks at the hands of Fate; but he always emerged triumphantly from his troubles, conquering failure by refusing to recognize it. His hard battle to wealth and fame is a living proof that Canada offers unlimited opportunities to every man, who has the gift of vision and the pluck to stick through "thick and thin."

JOHN R. BOOTH, LUMBER KING, DIED YESTERDAY

(Continued from page five.)

as a monument to what J. R. Booth did. Once interested in the railway, he developed traffic for it by building elevators, purchasing steamships and buying wheat. At the time of its purchase by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1904, the Booth system handled annually more than 200,000 tons of flour and package freight and 20,000,000 bushels of grain.

Mr. Booth's favorite grandchild Lois Booth, daughter of J. Fred Booth, became the centre of world interest in the spring of 1924 when she became the bride of Prince Eric, of Denmark. At the time of the marriage unconfirmed rumors were circulated to the effect that the Princess' grandfather had given her a dowry of \$4,000,000.

Not Much of Politician. J. R. Booth was not much of a politician, although an outspoken opponent of reciprocity in 1911. He was not a philanthropist in the sense that John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie were. That does not mean that he did not give to the needy. His charities went deeper than the mere signing of checks and found their records in the unspoken thought rather than the written word.

Robert Dollar, who afterwards became a millionaire ship owner in San Francisco, was at one time in Mr. Booth's employ.

"Old J. R.," as the late Mr. Booth was generally known in Ottawa and to his associates throughout the country was a prominent figure in Ottawa from its birth. He was particularly generous to the city, and in the earlier days when public money was not so plentiful, contributed largely towards the construction of utilities.

He was not a politician, but it is said, that on one occasion he did extend himself in this direction. This was in 1911, when opposed to the proposed Taft-Fielding pact, he addressed a large gathering of his employees from the top of a woodpile in the Booth lumber yards. To these woodpile speeches the government attributed in no small measure, its defeat in Ottawa.

Gave King Dinner.

It is told of John R. Booth that at one time upon his visit to Canada King George V. was his guest on a crabs quare timber on its journey through the lumber sluices at Ottawa, and that he tendered His Majesty a real shanty dinner of "pork and beans."

He was a director of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, president of the Dominion Nickel and Copper Company, and a director of the Canada Cement Company.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given, that pursuant to the provisions of the Fredericton Assessment Act of 1907, there will for the purpose of satisfying the arrears of City taxes for the years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925 inclusive, made and assessed against Arthur Gray (and owned by Henry Montgomery-Campbell and Herbert Montgomery-Campbell) and amounting in all to \$189.45, unless the said sum together with the costs of this notice are sooner paid, be sold at public auction in front of the City Hall, Fredericton, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, the thirteenth day of February, A. D. 1926, all the right, title and interest of Arthur Gray and of Henry Montgomery-Campbell and Herbert Montgomery-Campbell in and to the lands and premises following:

"All that certain lot of land situate 'and being in the City of Fredericton, 'bounded as follows: Commencing at a 'point on the Northwesterly side of York 'Street, distant 141 feet measured South 'Westerly from the intersection of the 'Northwesterly side of York Street and 'the South Westerly side of the reserved 'street between block 'I' and 'G' in 'the plan of Messrs. Campbell's lands 'made by Baird and Howie, thence North '33 degrees 30 minutes West 141 feet; 'thence South 51 degrees 30 ' North 47 ' 'thence South 33 degrees 30 ' East 141 ' 'to York Street, aforesaid and thence 'along York Street 38 degrees 30 ' East '47 ' to the place of beginning being 'known as Lot No. 4 in Block 'I' in plan 'of survey of Campbell lands prepared by 'Baird & Howie."

Dated at Fredericton this second day of December, A. D. 1925.
(Sgd.) C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Treasurer.

Notice To Taxpayers

Only those whose taxes for the current year have been paid on or before December 12th next shall be qualified to vote at the Civic Elections to be held in January next.

C. FRED CHESTNUT,
City Clerk.
City Hall, December 3, 1925.

NOTICE

There will be a talk on "Line and Design in Clothes" by Miss Barnett B. S., Supervisor of Women's Work for the Vocational Board and an exhibit of the work of the Clothing and Millinery Classes

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