The Evening Times.

S. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 24, 1908

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A GLOOMY PREDICTION

Cables from Great Britain of late have had much to say concerning the vast number of unemployed persons and the gloomy outlook in some of the great cities, and yesterday's papers told of a labor dispute in Lancanshire, involving no less than 140,000 operatives. An interesting statement of opinion concerning the conditions and outlook has been given to the Vancouver World by Mr. F. T. Andrews of that city, who has lately returned from a prolonged visit to the mother country. We quote:—

"Great Britain is on the eve of a great crisis as a result of the stupendous war now being waged between capital and labor. Some of the largest concerns in England, Scotland and Ireland have closed down—not because of strikes—but solely because of the opposition of the employers to the openly expressed dissatisfaction of the men."

"Financial conditions in the mother country," said Mr. Andrews, "are somewhat tight and the laboring classes are presenting a problem that is difficult to handle, but which is being taken advantage of by the opposition and which may result in a change of government at the next elections.

"Open dissatisfaction with wages and conditions is being expressed, and meetings all over Great Britain are being held every day, while Hyde Park is seething with Socialists and agitators, who, it is feared, are not bettering the cause of the laboring man by their red hot utterances.

"Some of the largest factories have declared a lock-out in mere protest, closing down indefinitely, thereby adding to the surplus of labor that already floods the market. The struggle between labor and capital has now reached gigantic proportions and a crisis is imminent.

"The opposition promises of protection if restored to power seem to have only added fuel to the fire, for a part of the laboring class believe this would increase the cost of living and cut off cheap goods now being imported from Germany.

"The wages known to exist in Canada, combined with a lack of knowledge of kindred conditions here, is a factor that is helping to foment the trouble, and though the fights that have taken place have so far not been really serious, some strong action must be soon taken to prevent the clash becoming a matter requiring national intervention."

NAVAL SUPREMACY

The New York American fears that the United States will fall astern in the battleship race of the nations, and cries out for a more powerful fleet. Even Roosevelt could not be more zealous in advocacy of this course. We quote from the American:

"Britain has launched the St. Vincent, the eighth of its warships of the Dreadnought class. Simultaneously a Brazilian Dreadnought was launched at Portsmouth. And Japan is busy building them. The general adoption of these tremendous ships of war is a positive evidence of the belief in their invincibility. The United States is building only a few of the type—not enough to come at all close to the Dreadnought power of Britain—or, perhaps, to even up with Japan! The naval policy of Britain has been to have enough force to exceed the warship power of any other two nations. But there is no reason for the United States to maintain a sea force of that magnitude. However, there can be no question about the necessity of being able to control the two seas where we have territory. One is the West Indian sea—the Caribbean—and the other is the great Pacific, whose waters lave Hawaii and the Philippines, where our flag flies. Naval authorities unite in the belief that the great men.o'-war with ten or twelve guns of the largest calibre absolutely will control the oceans. Our navy department has changed its plans and is transforming every authorized battleship into a near-Dreadnought. However, Britain has the most of them, and Japan and Brazil are beating us. And the late congress was led into the folly of not appropriating money for enough of the new great ships to keep our position of power at least second to that of Britain or to stay ahead of Japan. It is to be hoped that the next session of congress will display larger wisdom. Certainly the attitude of the Independence Party is powerful on this subject. It demands fleets able to protect both the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts. But, beyond that, we have Hawaii in the mid-Pacific, and we have the Philippines. That only one way is to have a larger and more powerful fleet in those waters than any Asiatic power. To carry out that necessity means that we should not fall behind in building Dreadnoughts, the naval power generally acknowledged to be invincible. Do we wish to be second to every Asiatic power? Surely no! We must build the ships!"

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

An eastern banker in an interview with a western paper a few days ago said:—

"The financial condition in Canada is now 'easy.' The banks have a sufficient supply of money to move the crops, and it is, therefore, to be hoped that the farmers will immediately take their produce to market. It is the duty of the farmers this autumn to rush their grain east, so that as much as possible can be sent down the waterways before frost closes the harbor at Montreal, for as soon as the produce is exported money will at once be available for the farmers to pay their debts, thus putting much-needed money into circulation and assisting to restore the market to its normal condition. There is no reason why the farmers should hold on to their grain, for the prices at the outset will be good. Furthermore, by promptly selling their produce the farmers will be able to pay their debts and thus remove further interest that is piling up against them, besides ensuring better conditions during the coming winter.

"The country is growing at a remarkable rate and business increases at a greater ratio than the savings, so that the savings are out and in demand all the time, and incidentally keeping up the rates of interest. Money that has been placed on call in New York has been brought in, but no more than the amount required for the removal of the crop has been recalled as the money in New York is earning good interest."

A TRUE WITNESS

Advocates of prohibition have found an unexpected ally. Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Journal, an American trade paper, says that the constant law-breaking of saloonkeepers has discredited their business and made "personal liberty" a term of reproach. Saloons have been run in defiance of law and decency, and it seems now as if they are doomed to total extinction except in the large cities. The article continues:

"We do not mean that all saloons or the majority of saloons have been conducted in a disreputable manner, but we do mean that a sufficient percentage of such places have been badly conducted, that is, have been disorderly, have sold to intoxicated men, have sold to women and to minors, have conducted gambling adjuncts, have kept open after legal hours, and on Sundays, to create a hostile sentiment that has crystallized into a war of extermination. We realize that this is a big admission, but the facts demand the admission that our trade may properly grasp the situation."

When statements of this sort are made at a temperance meeting the speaker assumes the risk of being called a fanatic. The veracity of this witness, however, will not be questioned.

The Toronto News says: "As a sort of variation of the policy of benevolent assimilation certain United States journals are urging that the duty on lumber be taken off, so that Canadian forests may be used up while United States forests are saved. Canada has no objection to getting a free market for its lumber, but if Canadians are wise they will lumber their forests in such a way that they will never be used up, first, last or any other time."

Some bankers who were in the west recently, on a trip to the Pacific coast, expressed themselves surprised to find that many western towns had doubled their populations in three years.

NEWSPAPER ARTIST DEAD

Philadelphia, Sept. 24.—F. M. Howarth, one of the best known comic artists in the country is dead at his home in Germantown, a suburb of this city, aged 43 years. Death was caused by pneumonia. He was one of the first men to do newspaper illustrating in this city and is credited with having originated the comic series, using the same characters day after day, in the newspapers. Two of his best known series were "E. Z. Mark" and "Lulu and Leander."

JUST THE PLACE.

(Boston Traveller.)

One of the comedians of a Boston company went out with a fishing party and soon began to suffer from thirst and evident failure with the hook. Finally one of the crowd took pity on the sufferer and fastened a bottle of beer to his fishing line while he was on a voyage of exploration. When the actor returned he found his line rather heavy and started to haul in what he thought was the biggest fish of the day. Gleeful over his changed luck, he shouted to the captain: "Hey, captain, this is the place. Anchor right here; we're sailing over a brewery!"

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SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE?

(Harper's Weekly.)

"Shall the people rule?" says Bryan.
"That's the question, Billy B.
Calls the bright and burnin' issue in the comin' balltotry,
"Shall the People rule the country, and continue as before
For to say who'll have the latch-key of the swingin' White House door?"

Really looks as though they was to—
that's a fact we must allow,
For, you see, they've got the habit, and they cannot break it now.
Since the days when Old King Georgie, sittin' on his distant throne
Tried to boss 'em they have spoken in a pretty certain tone.

Spoke right up to Mr. Georgie, sassed him squarely to his face,
Took his troops and sent 'em packin' back to Britain in disgrace.
Wouldn't pay his bloomin' taxes, chucked his soldiers in the sea,
And they waved a flag fornenst him sayin' "Don't You Tread on Me!"

Kept it up a dozen decades—been a rulin' ever since.
Had their way in all elections, made the under fellow wince.
From the Keeper of the Pound up to the President, you bet,
They've been rulin', and a rulin', and they're still a rulin' yet.

Spoke out loud in ninety-six, and back in nineteen-hundred, too.
"We've a sort of notion, Willyum, that we have no use for you.
We don't want you in the White House!" Said it twice before all men,
And, bigosh, the signs ain't wantin' that they'll say the same again!

Yes, the People will be rulers till the tag-end of all Time.
'Tis a million to a doughnut, or a billion to a dime,
And they ain't a-goin' to stop it for a million years or more,
When your Potted Voice is runnin' like your real one did before.

—J. K. B.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

ANOTHER LINCOLN STORY.

(New Orleans Picayune.)

In 1854 some gentlemen who had just returned from a trip through the West came to Washington and went to call on Lincoln. During their visit one of the men spoke of a body of water in Nebraska which bore an Indian name.

"I cannot recall the name now," he said, in a vexed tone, "but it signified 'weeping water.'"

President Lincoln instantly responded, "As 'laughing water,' according to Longfellow, is 'Minnehaha,' this evidently should be 'Minneboohoo.'"

JOHN WAS CALLED DOWN.

(Argonaut.)

The young man and the girl were standing outside the front door having a final chat after his evening call. He was leaning against the doorpost, talking in low tones. Presently the young lady turned around to discover her father in the doorway, clad in a dressing gown. "Why, father, what in the world is the matter?" she inquired.

"John," said the father, addressing himself to the young man, "you know I have never complained about your staying late, and I'm not going to complain of that now; but for goodness' sake stop leaning against the bell push and let the rest of the family get some sleep."

HAD GONE TO EXTREMES.

(Philadelphia Post.)

A Philadelphia lawyer tells of his residence years ago in an Indiana town whereof he was the only legal light, and where he was accustomed to arrange the disputes of his neighbors.

On one occasion, says he, he was awakened at an early hour in the morning by a loud knocking at his door. Putting his head out of the window he discovered that the individual who had thus rudely interrupted his slumbers was one Malachi McCabe, for whom that day the lawyer had drawn a will.

"What's the trouble, Malachi?" asked the lawyer.

"It's the will," said McCabe. "I couldn't get a wink of sleep thinkin' of it."

"The will!" repeated the lawyer, in surprise.

"Yes," said the Irishman, "ye've fixed it so I've not left meself a stool to sit on!"

WHEN TAFT WAS A POET.

(New York Times.)

Very few persons know that Secretary Taft has written poetry. Most people have an idea that a poet is a lean, long-haired creature, who looks as if he had lost his last friend. The genial Republican nominee appears too well fed to be a rider of the steed Pegasus. But ——

Once, before the world had heard about Mr. Taft, he made a visit to the home of a favorite aunt in Iowa, who knew not of his courtship of the muse. When he had told his beloved relative "how all the folks were" and answered her one hundred and one questions, and dined with especial attention to the fatted calf, he proudly took from his pocket a couple of clippings from the newspaper which had printed his "soul songs." He admits the verses were clever.

The aunt of the future great statesman read them diligently.

"Will," she asked simply, "do they print those things for nothing if you send them in?"

SOMETHING ABOUT HANBURY-WILLIAMS

Earl Grey's Secretary Has a Record as a Distinguished Soldier.

Very little is known by the average Canadian of Col. Hanbury-Williams, the Governor-General's secretary, who was knighted on the occasion of the Quebec Tercentenary. A writer signing himself "The Marquise de Fontenoy," who contributes syndicate articles on English notabilities to a number of Canadian papers, has an article about Sir John which may very well be reprinted. The article runs:

His appointment as military secretary to the Governor-General of Canada four years ago was made at the personal instance of the king, who entertains the highest regard for Hanbury-Williams, and who wished to atone for the undeserved slight placed upon him through the cancelling of his nomination to the post of military attache to the English embassy at Paris. The assignment was cancelled at the request of the French government and military authorities, who objected to it in consequence of the fact that the colonel's wife was a Miss Annie Reiss of Manchester, a member of the Hebrew race, though not of the Jewish creed.

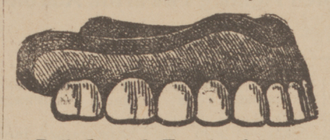
It was considered by the authorities at Paris that in view of the Anti-Semitic feeling that still prevailed among military men in France and also in certain political and social circles in Paris—four years ago the anti-Dreyfus fever was still strong—the fact that Mrs. Hanbury-Williams was a Jewess would give rise to difficulties.

King Edward, who, like Emperor William, entertains no prejudice whatever with regard to the Jewish race, not only endeavored to atone for the affront by inviting the Hanbury-Williamses to be his guests at Balmoral, but likewise directly interested himself in their future, the colonel's appointment to the staff of the Governor-General of Canada being made, as I have mentioned above, at his suggestion.

Sir John Hanbury-Williams is a particulary able officer. He distinguished himself in several of the Egyptian campaigns, as well as in the Burmese and South African wars; was military secretary to Lord Milner throughout a considerable portion of the latter's Lord High Commissionership in South Africa, and was afterwards secretary to the Secretary of State for War. Lady Hanbury-Williams is not only wealthy, but also a tactful and clever woman, who has made hosts of friends in Canada. Sir John has received, in addition to his knighthood, the Star of the Victorian Order, and it is said that the Prince of Wales intimated to him on behalf of his father, the King, that the latter was particularly pleased to bestow the honor in question on so distinguished an officer.

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