

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 23, 1908

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AT QUEBEC

The whole of Canada joins in the welcome so ceremoniously extended to the Prince of Wales at Quebec yesterday. The Prince, who, on his return after a tour of portions of the empire, including Canada, told England that England must "wake up," had caught the spirit of the overseas dominions and realized in its full significance the meaning of the word imperialism. But apart from his keen appreciation of and warm sympathy for the people of Greater Britain, so fully shared by King Edward himself, the Prince endeared himself personally to Canadians on the occasion of his visit, accompanied by the Princess, to this country some seven years ago. In all his responses to the welcome extended he spoke not only tactfully, but in a manner which proved him to be a statesman of the wider outlook, seeing far beyond the confines and the local problems of the United Kingdom.

Canada has witnessed no more impressive ceremonial than that at Quebec yesterday, in which many nations were represented and to which the eyes of the world were turned with deep interest in an event which recalls three centuries of progress on the American continent, and places special emphasis upon the marvellous development of this Dominion.

WANTED—A HISTORIAN

In the course of the Central Railway enquiry yesterday the deputy surveyor general's testimony showed that in 1901 and 1902 the New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company were granted leases for 65 square miles of coal areas in Queens and Sunbury, for a period of twenty-one years. Contrary to custom, no licenses to search were first issued, and the company were given the exclusive right to mine coal in the area of 65 square miles. The company held these leases until less than two months ago, when they were cancelled by Surveyor General Grimmer. The company mined no coal and paid no royalties, but despite this violation of the terms of the lease they were permitted by the late government to hold on.

Who were the gentlemen making up the New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company—favored by special privileges, orders-in-council and that sort of thing? Were they foreign capitalists eager to invest money in the development of New Brunswick? Were they local capitalists moved by a like eagerness of desire? Or were they merely politicians and their friends, fortunate in the pliancy of a government in full sympathy with their aims?

These questions arise in connection with the facts brought out at the present enquiry. It appears to have been singularly easy for certain persons to get stock in either of the two companies dealt with in the enquiry, and there was also a delightful absence of doubt or difficulty when endorsements, or accommodation, or subsidies were required. Seldom does an industrial concern which has no industry find itself so fortunately circumstanced in the matter of finances. Seldom, perhaps, do gentlemen of influence find it so easy and inexpensive to become shareholders in a great industrial enterprise. Sixty-five square miles of coal areas is no mean consideration when thrust upon one's attention by persons eager to scatter blessings.

Of course the province is somewhat interested in this matter, in its financial aspect. Mr. Whitehead, who became an endorser of the company's paper to the extent of \$100,000, told the commission yesterday that the government guarantee

and subsidy were ample security for him. No doubt this is true. Most industrial concerns would be very glad to feel that if they failed to realize profits the financial assurance which is involved in an order-in-council and realized in a government subsidy would be theirs.

It is greatly to be deplored that the gentlemen connected with the large and interesting operations of the Central Railway Company and New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company are of so retiring a disposition and attach so little importance to their own achievements. They really accomplished wonders. This great enterprise lacks its historian. Even Mr. P. McWilliam's persistence has thus far failed to produce the man with the memory and the desire to do full justice to the great minds behind this undertaking, and their masterful methods of overcoming all the difficulties in the way. These were not miners of coal. Their process of operation was purely mental. The people thought they were building railroads and operating coal mines; but the people (the late Mr. Barnum once observed) like to be fooled.

It may be hoped that, even if the man with a memory does not reveal himself, it may be possible, out of the fragmentary information already available, along with that yet to be secured, to write a concise and illuminating history of the great Queens-Sunbury enterprise, with due credit given to the master minds by whom it was conceived and carried up to and beyond the million mark.

BAD LEGISLATION

The following from the Montreal Gazette shows the bad effect of certain Ottawa legislation upon the grain traffic of the west:

"A deputation of Winnipeg newspaper editors has just returned from a trip of some 1,700 miles through the wheat fields of the Canadian Northwest. Besides bringing back with them the estimate of a 120,000,000-bushel crop, they point out that fewer elevators are being built this year than usual. The scarcity of money may, of course, have something to do with this condition, but it is largely the result of the legislation passed at Ottawa. Under the operation of the law as it now stands, the farmers of the West have in their power to temporarily tie up a large amount of rolling stock until it suits their individual convenience to employ it. A farmer may order a car for the shipment of his grain and at the end of 24 hours come to the conclusion that he does not require it. When he so decides all he has to do is to write his name at the foot of the list again and next day or in a day or so he is again allotted another car. He has once more 24 hours in which to make up his mind. In this way he can go on until he finally uses the car, or perhaps, sells through an elevator, which could have promptly loaded the car he kept standing idle. The working of the law is to increase the car shortage which is inevitable during the fall months of all but the leanest of years, and to discourage the investment of money in elevators. This latter may become a serious feature of the situation."

Two correspondents have written to this paper to complain of the damage done by moose and deer to the crops of farmers. Today's correspondent appears to hold the view that the aim of the New Brunswick Fish, Forest and Game Protective Association is merely to provide a few sportsmen with amusement at the expense of the farmers. He has surely misread the association's policy, and cannot be familiar with the results accomplished in Maine by a like movement. This is a subject where the man who does not take a broad view is likely to miss the significance of a policy of fish and game protection.

The Montreal Star has the following despatch from Halifax: "For some time the Conservative party here have been in correspondence with Mr. R. L. Borden in regard to his again testing Halifax, and while it is not positively settled, unless something unforeseen happens, he is almost certain to be a candidate. His running mate here has not been decided upon, but present indications are that it will be John C. O'Mullin, who ran with him in 1906."

Referring to the statement that Mr. Devlin, a member of the Quebec government, may re-enter federal politics, the Montreal Gazette says: "It will not be surprising if Mr. Gouin is found to think the project rather a good one."

Canadians would have rejoiced to see Kerr win the 100 metres in the Olympic contests in London, but since he failed, here's to the man from South Africa. The empire still wins.

Boston's experience of the past few days should lead to a general disarmament of Italians thereabouts.

A man cannot go up in a balloon in Austria unless he has the written consent of his wife.

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(St. Nicholas).
There's a picture in the window
Of a little shop I know.
With boys and girls dressed as they were
A hundred years ago.
And since I saw it I have thought,
And keep on thinking how
The children, maybe, will be dressed,
A hundred years from now.

Will girls wear caps of farthingales,
Or hoops in grand array?
Will they wear bows like butterflies,
Just as they do today?
Will boys wear jackets short, or tie
Their hair in queues? Just how
They'll really look, I'd like to know—
A hundred years from now.

What do you think the boys and girls
Will eat in those far days?
Will they be fed on breakfast foods
In many sorts of ways?
Be worse for them than rice?
Will ice cream soda make them sick,
And every thing that's nice?

Will children's books have pictures then,
Or just all reading be?
Perhaps they'll be hand-painted and
Most beautiful to see.
But when I think of those I have,
I truly don't see how
They can be any prettier
A hundred years from now.

IN LIGHTER VEIN CONVICTION.

Benedict—"Ah, my boy, there's no happiness like the happiness of married life!"
Bath—"I'm blamed sure there isn't. That's the reason I stay single."

COMPARISON.

Young Mr. McNag
Is a terrible jagger—
He goes to a "stag"
And comes back with a stagger.

BAD WORK.

"Look here, young man," said the city editor to the cub reporter, "this story of the lynching won't do at all. The fact is all right, and your description of how they strung him up will do. But you've neglected to say 'the body of the unfortunate victim was then riddled with bullets.'"

BLACKWELL'S.

Ma Twaddles—"Well, here's a 'Napoleon of Wall Street' who was named."
Pa Twaddles—"How's that?"
Ma Twaddles—"He's spending his last days on the Island."

AN ADVANCED SOCIALIST.

"I think that the Mr. Buller you introduced to me at Mrs. Van Dingle's must be an advanced socialist."
"Dear me, and he's so well connected!"
Why, he's a second cousin of Pinkerton-Buller, who married the niece of the Duchess of Sniggleworth. What makes you think he's a socialist?
"Why he said he didn't know any good reason why merely common persons shouldn't have appendicitis the same as people in society. I never was so shocked."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A REAL SURPRISE PARTY.

"Where are you going, ma?" asked the youngest of the five children.
"I'm going to a surprise party, my dear," answered the mother.
"Are we all going, too?"
"No, dear; you weren't invited."
After a few moments of deep thought:
"Say, ma, then don't you think they'd be lots more surprised if you did take us all?"—Everybody's Magazine.

THERMOMETRIC HEROISM.

"The heroism of Peary's voyage is merely a question of heat or cold."
"How do you prove that?"
"Why, when our thermometers indicate 32, Peary's Arctic quest seems a thing of pleasure rather than of peril. When the mercury drops to zero, then we say that Peary is no worse than we are."
"How about an indication of say 60 deg.?"
"Then we don't think of him at all."

PULLED UP SHORT.

Prof. Charles Zeublin, of the University of Chicago, was retreating at a dinner, his belief that most American philanthropy failed of its object.
"Many a philanthropist, his heart beating with love of his fellow man, would be pulled up with a round turn," said Prof. Zeublin. "If he knew what really became of the last hundred or last thousand that he gave to charity."
"Yes, he would be taken as completely as back as the young man who said proudly to his girl in the moonlight:
"Tell me, my own, when did you first discover that you loved me?"
"When I found myself getting angry every time anyone called you a fool," she replied.—New York Times.

THE INGLENOOK

PHILOSOPHER OF
KENNEBECASIS BAY

A writer in the International Journal of Ethics for July asks, "Is American morality decadent?" and shows, to his own satisfaction, by a review of the political and social history of the country (the United States) that it is not. Old people are apt to mourn the decadence of the times and picture the days of their youth in glowing colors; the days when men were brave and loyal and honest, and women were true and beautiful; when even nature herself was kinder and freer and more bountiful in her gifts than she is to-day. They may be right and foolish dreamers, but I am inclined to think that many of their recollections are based on something more substantial than dreams.

The writer in "Ethics" goes at his task well armed with data of various sorts. I shall allude to only two or three of my personal recollections of events, dating from fifty to seventy years ago. It was during the presidency of Martin Van Buren that one Swartout, a government employe, ran off from Washington with thirty or forty thousand dollars of government money and found refuge in Texas, which was then an independent republic. The United States demanded that he should be surrendered to its officers; Texas refused to do so (there was no extradition laws then). For a time war seemed likely to result, but the matter was finally adjusted peacefully and Swartout went free. For months Swartout was constantly discussed in the newspapers, on the street corners and in the pulpits of the great United States. Now recollections of equal or greater magnitude are of so frequent occurrence that they hardly attract any attention. Indeed, a recent writer asserts that values to the amount of at least \$100,000,000 pass from hand to hand in the United States annually without any consideration, through the rascality of politicians, corporations and individuals, and this rascality, if the laws were enforced, would send its perpetrators to the penitentiaries, in many instances, for life. Few of these men's names are known; Swartout's name is immortal, and this shows that he was no common man in his time.

About sixty years ago Mary Rogers, an exceptionally pretty girl, was clerk in a cigar store on Broadway, New York. One day she disappeared, and her body was discovered floating in the river off Hoboken a week later. She had been murdered. The city was aroused—so was the whole country. Newspapers from Maine to Texas gave columns of their space to the pretty girl, and Edgar A. Poe wrote a novel in which she was the principal character. I believe her murderer was never brought to justice, though many arrests followed the crime. Since then hundreds of "pretty girls" have been murdered in New York, of whom the public have never heard except through brief newspaper paragraphs. This shows that murder as well as peculation is more common now than it was fifty or sixty years ago.

The increase of crime on this continent is far in excess of the increase of population and therefore I conclude that America is morally decadent.

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