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EXCHANGING FREIGHT CARS.

It hardly seems probable that the proposed appointment of an International Railway Board to solve the car shortage problem by investigating why our cars are being kept on the other side of the border and why American cars are on this side will be a solution of the difficulty.

Canada knows now that there are in the vicinity of 30,000 cars belonging to Canadian railroads, at present in the United States. It is true that there are also American cars on this side but the number is much smaller. The proposed International Railway Board, if appointed, probably would give the subject very careful study and no doubt before it completed its sittings it would have data showing the number of every Canadian car in the United States and of every American car in Canada.

It might arrive at some agreement, whereby there could be a mutual return of cars. But all this would take a great deal of time, cost a great deal of money and then after it was all over, the business of getting the cars back, would still have to be undertaken. It cannot be expected that railroads are going to disrupt the business of their lines in order to hurry the return of those cars. The whole question of freight car handling, loading, unloading and routing back, must be a highly complicated problem, requiring the constant attention of expert railway men. Surely, it is the business of the railroads, and themselves, to arrange about their cars and it is very doubtful if the appointment of an international board would hasten the return of sufficient rolling stock to warrant the expense which would be involved.

The Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners would be in a better position to interest itself in the question on behalf of Canada. Even the most drastic steps would not hurry the return of Canada's cars very considerably because their movements must of necessity be more or less controlled by the line which is in temporary possession and the belief that this session is nine points of the law combined with the "passing of the buck" will delay the return for many months. It is understood that the Canadian National Railways are to build more locomotives. Perhaps the cheapest method for them to adopt in the long-run and the one most beneficial to the industries of Canada would be to also construct more freight cars, as there is admittedly a shortage of equipment even to meet normal requirements.

RUSSIA'S GRADUAL REVIVAL.

Students of the Russian situation have recently expressed the opinion that there is taking place a revival of industry in Russia and that Sovietism is gradually divorcing itself from Communism. The return to productivity is being carried out by the Soviets, upon whom the hold of the Bolsheviks is weakening, slowly but surely. As they rid themselves of the debilitating influence of Communism, the Soviets are gradually stabilizing conditions and are getting back to the business of producing instead of destroying, of adding to the resources of life and of the accessories which make for comfort and for happiness.

It is significant that the return of Russia's power to produce is taking place hand in hand with its gradual overthrow of Bolshevism. Starting on a campaign to rid the country of capital, to destroy existing institutions, to endeavor to establish the equality of men and to put into actual practice the ultra-socialistic theories which are opposed to the very fundamentals of democracy, the Bolsheviks who overthrew the constitutional Kerensky Government established an oligarchy instead of the Utopian state which many blindly believed would result. The many millions of Russians, outside of the handful of reactionaries who seized the reins of power had no voice in the government of their country. They were ruled by force and the Soviet leaders showed that they had no perception of the deeply rooted institution of property rights, when they sought to abolish private ownership.

Their failure is but one more proof of the unsoundness of their reactionary doctrines. Whatever ideals some of them may have had were lost in the desire for personal gain and aggrandizement, so soon as they smelt the breath of power, proving that they were moved by no nobler purpose than were those whom they tore down, but rather animated by a much baser motive for they made the people but the dupes and tools to serve their selfish ends.

It is gratifying to learn that there has come about a return to reason and moderation in Russia. We see few tangible evidences of it as yet, other than the reports of travelers and students of international affairs who have recently returned from that country. But, Russia, having tested the full bitterness of the folly which forced it to adopt the unsound theories of Communism, and having learned that the equality of men resides only in their souls, may be expected to emerge in a chastened mood, content to allow individuals to prosper and forge ahead according to their abilities and their initiative.

THE PLANS OF FRANCE.

According to a dispatch to the New York one of Premier Poincaré's plan for exploiting the two islands and establishing a barrier between the valley and the rest of Germany can be developed as to produce more than 1,000,000 gold marks, equal to \$250,000,000 a

year. These figures are estimated by experts who have been studying Germany's production reports for the last few years.

The industrial development of the Rhineland and the collection of a percentage of profits for reparations are not considered difficult, according to this information, providing the coal supply of the Saar and Ruhr can be kept up. French experts are working on this problem in the hope that they may be able to provide the necessary statistics for the conference of Premiers on Tuesday.

The experts estimate that the Ruhr coal output if subjected to a 10 per cent. tax or better still, a 10 per cent. levy on the coal itself to be sold abroad, would produce more than 1,000,000,000 francs at present prices, while an additional 1,000,000,000 could be obtained by a similar levy on the finished products of the Ruhr steel mills and factories. Although ready to admit the danger of strikes, the French, if they should decide to apply such a plan without British support, would pursue the same policy as during the occupation of Frankfurt and make the retirement of large units of troops conditional upon good faith as shown by the Germans.

Contrary to the policy advocated by Clemenceau's paper as well as a few minor journals, M. Poincaré believes a few companies of engineers and infantry would be sufficient to maintain order while the customs ring was being established, and it is understood Marshal Foch has reported recently that half the troops now in the outskirts of the Ruhr district would be sufficient to protect French customs agents during the initiatory period, which is not expected to last more than two months.

Meanwhile the French expect to receive a note from Berlin before the end of the week giving the first indications of how Germany intends to meet the January 15 reparations payment, which, failing any decision by the Reparations Commission, must revert to the London schedule of payments and will call for at least 250,000,000 marks gold in cash or in kind during the first quarter of the coming year.

The meeting of the Allied Premiers is to be continued on Tuesday and while there is little yet to indicate the way out, it is fervently hoped that an agreement may be reached which will eliminate the necessity for such drastic action on the part of France.

A FOREST PRESERVATION LESSON.

The fact that Germany offered to pay a large portion of its indebtedness in lumber and various forest products, is full of significance for the people of Canada. In Germany, with its immense population, there is sufficient forest land to offer its products as one of the most important sources of reparations. In Canada, for many years the magnificent virgin forests have been destroyed by fire and pest and cut down, without adequate measures being taken to replant.

According to statistics there is 11 per cent. more timber in the Black Forest of Germany than there was in 1914, while Canada has lost a very large percentage of her forest wealth. Today, when the art of reforestation is so thoroughly understood there is no excuse for the fact that it is to be found all over Canada. As Mr. F. J. D. Barnum pointed out in a letter to Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King, it will be too late to start reforestation work when the forests are gone. Drastic steps to offset the terrible annual loss must be taken now.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.

In an address before the American Historical Society at New Haven, last evening, Sir Robert Borden stressed the point that the British Empire was a Commonwealth of Nations.

"It is impossible," Sir Robert declared, "for them to assert a national status unless they are prepared to assume corresponding national obligations for the commonwealth's safety. It cannot be doubted that within the British League of Nations their security is greater and their responsibilities in this respect less burdensome than if they should withdraw." Sir Robert made the security and co-operation of the British League of Nations a plea for the international League of Nations, stating that the League had prevented the outbreak of war in Europe at least four times, even without the aid of the United States. It had also "established a court of international justice and it is continually exercising a potent influence for the determination of international differences by peaceful means."

Could the League of Nations be operated with the broad sympathetic understanding between nations, which animates the relationship existing in the Commonwealth of Nations within the British Empire it indeed would be the greatest force for the establishment and preservation of world peace. It is possible for it to so operate but it must include in its membership the great nation to the south of us.

The Journal is in receipt of a handbook on Manchuria, described as "the land of opportunity." This book telling of the resources of this land situated in the North-eastern part of China and embracing a total area of 365,000 square miles gives a history of the great progress which has been made there in the last fifteen years, presenting the amazing transition from primitive agricultural life to twentieth century industry and organization, which has taken place in that time. The book is prepared by the Southern Manchuria Railways in order to give American and Canadian exporters and importers some idea of the opportunities which exist for development of trade with the land of the Manchus.

The attitude adopted by the City Council towards the new offer of the Power Company shareholders is rather difficult to understand. The acceptance of the offer provides a way of getting rid of the competition which admittedly is going to cost the City a good deal more than the acceptance of the offer would, but apparently the slogan "the Power Company must be crushed," is to override natural prudence and sound business judgment.

A rough-and-tumble fight is being waged in Toronto over what is known as the "water-front-grab." From all reports it is a very similar proceeding to the campaign which was waged here on behalf of "the hidden hand." It all has to do with the Ontario Hydro Commission which wants an exclusive right-of-way along the Toronto water-front for the visionary scheme of radial railways which Sir Adam Beck wishes to operate.

Present indications are that still another conference will be a failure. Lausanne, apparently is doomed not to accomplish its purpose.

Reminiscences of New Brunswick

POLITICS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

A quotation from a letter of correspondence addressed to the writer, under date Frederickton, April 2nd, 1842, will show the state of affairs further insight into the state of matters existing at that time—

The conflicting statements of members, the Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts, and the declarations of Legislative Councilors, all show that there has been nothing certain or correct in the various statements which have been laid before the public. Every member has a different sum fixed upon, as the real debt of the Province; and there has been no labour spared to conceal the actual state of the country from its inhabitants. One Hon. gentleman says, it is only \$20,000; another \$50,000 a third \$80,000; and one of the Executive Councilors, during debate, states the sum to be at least \$100,000. Those who insist on the smaller amount, take into the account sums that are due, but cannot be collected; and, like many other silly swaggers, in reckoning upon their future, embrace all the hazy, ever lost. But from all I have been able to collect from the Journals and Debates, the real debt of New Brunswick is at least \$100,000!

And this grand discovery was never made known to the people, until the last shilling was gone from the Treasury, and the banks refused to pay the cash for warrants upon it. Now what effect has this discovery had upon the conduct of the majority of the members of the House of Assembly? Why, it appears to have driven them to desperation; for they have within a few days actually granted away \$90,000 more, without providing any certain means of making good the amount. Can this be called madness, folly, or stupidity? Is it not a reckless defiance of integrity, justice and humanity? Nay, our language supplies no term sufficiently severe for these shameless and disgraceful proceedings. The very persons who in their debates would fain make the world believe that they were chary how they entailed a debt upon the children of their constituents, and talked feeling and sympathy for the Province, have in a moment committed the very act they so loudly and eloquently condemned.

Allowance must be made for the strong language here employed in consequence of the excited state of the times, and the party bias of the writer. Although these charges may be exaggerated, and some of them successfully met, still there is no denying the fact that the loose system of the day was productive of great political demoralization. The people possessed a strong check upon all such reckless propensities. It is the Government who are held responsible for any misappropriations, or malpractices in the public departments. Seldom or never at the present day are such reckless propensities indulged in by the House of Assembly—other shoulders have to carry the burden and bear the lash. The people have something to take hold of, a corporeal existence in nine individuals, of palpable form and substance. Their complaints were addressed as it were to mere shadows—the responsibility for bad government was divided between nearly forty men; and as every one of them owed political allegiance only to the abstract idea of the Legislature, those who secured the majority, were able to render signal service to the special interests of his constituents in monetary matters, there was no redress or improvement to be counted upon. If the people themselves failed to see the danger of the situation, the antidote, which they had the power of doing at the polls, it could not be expected that their representatives should possess the scruples which a more conscientious course in regard to the public interests demanded.

There is but one remedy, and that appeared to be distant. So long as so much apathy prevailed in the country, and wily politicians exercised a powerful influence over the public mind, the general interests, the application of a remedy would necessarily have to be the work of time. Responsible Government was now fast gaining ground in Nova Scotia—this so far was encouraging to those who advocated it here; the country of reform could not revolve rapidly on one side of the Bay, without its rotary motion producing some effect on the other. There was a connecting link, an interchange of political ideas, an affinity of feeling, among the Reformers living in both Provinces. Besides, in 1843, the Press of New Brunswick began to show some signs of political vitality, an earnestness for the introduction of "Responsible Government," and if it required more than half a dozen years for the establishment of what was contended for, still there was a large number of intelligent people (Conservatives as well as Liberals) who saw that a change in the old system was inevitable. The line was now fairly drawn. The Whigs of party on the Liberal side was "Responsible Government"—on the Conservative side "the maintenance of British Institutions." On the Responsible side, the members were comparatively few and undetermined, the Conservative or "British" side, they probably stood as three to one—embracing nearly all the official and family influence in the Province—to say nothing of the education and talents which it was but reasonable to suppose, were in a large measure inseparable from their social position, thus giving them advantages unknown to the unpretending plodders after "fair play" and "equal rights."

This was the condition of things at the time of the General Elections which took place in December, 1842.—Fenety's Political Notes.

MAJOR KEEFER DIES

Toronto, Dec. 28.—A distinguished career as a surgeon and soldier was ended in the death here of Major William Keefe. He was a member of the Canadian Military Institute.

TRIBUTE

By Berton Braley.

Dr. Royal M. Whitnack, of Newark, N. J., died recently of meningitis, contracted in his practice among children. His last words were, "How are my little babies getting on?"

Read this, you realists, who say that man is selfish, cruel, wallowing in greed; Read of this doctor—try then if you can To hold your faith in your remorseless creed Of human soullessness.

In face of death
Waking a moment ere his life was gone,
He whispered softly with his dying breath,
"How are my little babies getting on?"

I say the Savior's spirit is not dead,
Who one who made the children all his care
Asks, at the end, before his soul has fled
Only to know how well the children fare!
Who dares to sneer that man is but a clod,
When there are words like this to think upon,
Words worthy of the gentle Son of God—
"How are my little babies getting on?"

Brave Man, True Lover, Servant of Mankind;
Living, the Little Ones whom Christ has blessed,
He tolled to aid. Dying, they filled his mind,
His final thought before his quiet rest,
His was the faith of man, unselfish, vast,
Through which, on earth, heaven shall surely dawn;
This Newark doctor, asking, the last,
"How are my little babies getting on?"

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

The Journal invites Correspondence on any topic of public interest and will print the same in reason, without assuming responsibility for the opinions expressed. Letters must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer and when explicit statements are made affecting individuals the letters to be published must be signed by the writer.—EDITOR JOURNAL.

SOME POSERS
Elm St.,
Moncton, N. B.
Editor St. John Daily Journal,
St. John:

Dear Sir—As a reader of your valuable independent paper, I appeal to you to answer the following questions which the "Moncton Transcript," through their Query Corner has ignored.

1st. What is the population of the City of Moncton?
2nd. How many employees (temporary and permanent) are employed by C. N. R. at Moncton (male and female)?

3rd. How many Acadicians (temporary and permanent) are employed by C. N. R. at Moncton (male and female)?
With best wishes, and thanking you for your valuable space,
I am yours truly,
"Special privileges for none."

H. JONES.
[Moncton was credited at the last census with a population of 17,488. The Journal cannot answer your other questions because it has not the information. It might be possible to obtain it at the C. N. R. offices in Moncton.—Editor.]

A HEARTLESS FABLE FROM MAIN STREET

Sir: One day the Ruble, the Yen, the Tael, the Mark, the Franc, the Lira, the Pound, and the Dollar met at a new restaurant, the old Hotel Warshaw (American Plan) having failed. "Well, before, however, had they been so close to real food."

"Hi hi, Sam," said the Pound, addressing the Dollar; "Hi hi on you again—what?"
"Sam Dollar grinned. "Help your selves, gentlemen," he said grandly, "according to your needs." All grabbed trays and began to fill them with the rich dishes spread about. After a hearty meal, during which even the Franc and the Mark forgot to squinch the Ruble's eye, the Dollar, in spite of his matted nest of whiskers, the dejected coins sat around smoking Sam Dollar's cigars. Now and then the more hungry ones would steal a glance at the Dollar's bank of the back and take a look at the bank of the dejected meat or the onion salad; they were accustomed to reckless eating.

"Think," said the portly Pound, "Hall of the great blessings spread before us 'ere we begin to eat. Without us men would starve, ah! indeed they would deserve to, so far as Hi see the rights of hi."

The Ruble lifted a bloodshot eye and a heavy lid wobbled in a daze. The Mark in his shabby paper clothing was already sound asleep, and the Franc and Lira, also in rags, were nodding with their eatings. The Tael and the Yen bowed meaningfully at Sam Dollar. They were the most respectable of the lot.

"Come, get out now, boys; we close at 2.30 on Saturday." The proprietor shoofed them towards the door. Sam Dollar briskly paid his check and departed from the Commercial. John Pound, noting the trick, hastily du the price from his own wallet, and left before the ragged crew behind might realize their predicament. The Mark, the Franc, the Ruble, the Lira, the Yen, and the Tael remained behind for hours, scouring dishes and floors until their meal had been paid for by labor. It was a new experience to most of them.—Babbitt. (in the N. Y. Post)

Girl Foils Attempt Of Ontario Bandits

Barnia, Ont., Dec. 28.—Masked and armed men attempted a robbery here last night at 11.30 and were frustrated by Miss Theolina Hamilton, 16, daughter of Mrs. Catherine Hamilton, who keeps a grocery store. The girl disregarded the revolver in the hand of a man who approached the door, banged the door in his face, bolted it, and summoned the police. Even then the man showed a tendency to attempt to gain entrance to the store until employees of the Imperial Oil Company approached on their return from night shift when he ran away.

A THOUGHT

As every man hath received the gift, even to minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.—1 Peter 4:10.

The man who never makes mistakes never makes anything. Many chips, broken instruments, cuts and bruises belong to the history of any beautiful statue.—Anonymous.

Ismet Pasha Defies The Western World

(Continued from page 1)
characterize mixed tribunals set at the Hague as worse than capitulations."

Baron Hayashie, Japanese representative, followed Barrere. "I regret to hear that the Turks have rejected the allied proposals," he stated. "Japan has accepted capitulations for years during which with the aid of European nations, Japan has developed herself until finally with full consent of the European powers, the capitulations were abolished. It is imperative that the Turks do the same."

To all of which argument, Ismet had answered in advance—
"The allies must understand that if we (the Turkish delegation) ceded the Turkish claims for full restitution of Mosul we'd be hanged on the first tree in Anatolia upon our return."

"The Turks are astounded at the proposal of the allies, to have judges appointed by the Hague to sit over Turkish judges when foreigners are tried."

Proposal Refused

"Turkish judges are equal to those of any in the world. Turkey never admitted any distinction between Turks and foreigners and will not accept the allied proposal that capitulations be maintained."

Despite the fact that there was not direct reference Thursday to the rich oil deposits of Mosul—the prize of the Near East—many impartial observers declare that it was this commercial consideration that precipitated the crisis. Those of this belief point out that it was Lord Curzon's ultimatum to Ismet on Wednesday, which declared that Britain would never relinquish her claim to the territory, that caused Turkey to take an out-and-out stand of opposition to all capitulations.

It is believed that other capitulations almost all of them but Mosul—could have been settled by compromise.

FLEET OF WARSHIPS SENT FROM MALTA

London, Dec. 28.—The best argument against a defiant Turk is to make him look into the muzzle of a gun. This, it was authoritatively disclosed Thursday, was the conviction that led the British government to dispatch a fleet of warships from Malta to the near east.
Word from Lord Curzon, British foreign minister, the Ismet Pasha, Turkish representative, had repudiated the principles of the christian world laid down at Lausanne was followed almost immediately by a mobilization of the navy. The dispatch of the government has long believed that there is no use to argue with the Turks unless it has an armed force to lend weight to the controversy. It is expected in official circles that the fleet will accomplish the same purpose that it accomplished when Kemal Pasha invaded the neutral zone of the Dardanelles two months ago—force the Moslem government to listen to reason.

The announcement of the Admiralty, which confirmed the news that the Mediterranean fleet was returning to Constantinople, minimized any danger of war however by saying the departure of the powerful men-of-war was merely a precautionary measure, a species of "moral influence toward peace."

Premier Bonar Law, by ordering ships to the Near East, did exactly the thing that caused the overthrow of David Lloyd George. It was a storm of opposition in England over Lloyd George's act of threatening force against the Kemalists if they did not withdraw from their neutral zone of the straits that swept Bonar Law into office. The dispatch of the fleet has caused a lot of self-satisfaction in Georgian circles which are now exclaiming, "We told you so."

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