

The Daily Journal

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1922.

MORE ABOUT NEWS GARBLING.

The venerable Globe of Saturday says "tu quoque" to the Journal with respect to news garbling. Before going on to show that there was no attempt on the part of the Journal to garble the news of the Council meeting on Friday, when the offer on behalf of the first and second preferred share holders was made, it might be well to point out that the stand assumed by the Globe is a direct admission of guilt in this regard. The Globe's statement amounts to "Yes, we garbled the news but you did also."

This is the statement made by Commissioner Frink, as reported in the Telegraph of Saturday, which the Globe says the Journal refused to give the public. "So people who paid \$50 or \$75 for \$100 share now expect the city of St. John to give them \$100 a share," remarked Commissioner Frink. The solicitor made no reply.

This is a false report of what took place. Commissioner Frink did make that statement, so our representative who attended the meeting informs us, but Mr. Sanford, the solicitor for the shareholders did make an answer and his answer was deemed quite sufficient to wipe out any importance the Commissioner's remark might have had for the public. This was Mr. Sanford's answer, "If it is thought necessary to go into that question I can furnish the exact figures but 75 is not correct."

The Telegraph, quoted by the Globe, did not publish Mr. Sanford's answer but reported a deliberate falsehood, when it said "The solicitor made no reply." It is apparent that the Telegraph considered Mr. Sanford's reply quite a sufficient answer to offset any importance which Commissioner Frink's statement might have for the public, when it not only refused to publish it but published instead a downright untruth. The Globe might ask the Telegraph if it misrepresented what took place because it "did not happen to please" the interests which the Telegraph is serving.

With regard to Commissioner Frink's remark it is sufficient to point out that in the event of the City considering the offer which Mr. Sanford has made on behalf of the preferred shareholders, the price which the shareholders paid for their stock and not the figure at which it was underwritten, would be a more appropriate subject for discussion. Commissioner Frink evidently had reference to underwriters' figures.

Which does the Globe think the wiser course to pursue, to leave out a remark, which, when all the facts are known is shown to have really no direct bearing on the question and which being incorrect must create a wrong impression, or to publish that remark and add a falsehood to it for the evident purpose of fostering that wrong impression?

ITALY ABANDONS PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

Benito Mussolini, Italy's new Prime Minister, who, until nine years ago was known as a Socialist, has begun his tenure of office by inexorably laying the axe to the root of all public service institutions owned or managed by the state, such as railways, telephones, telegraphs, letter and parcel posts, which show a deficit, and even some others which are more or less successfully run.

The railways in Italy are perhaps the most striking example of the difficulties and weaknesses of state management. During 17 years of such control, declares Professor Ugo Ancona, an expert on financial questions, they have ceased to be the largest producers of national profit, and are today virtually owned by the railroad men. Before the great war the railways brought in from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 lire a year, which might be taken as interest on the five and a half billion lire which had been spent on constructing them. The deficit in 1921 was over a billion lire, although the price of tickets is now three times what it was, and it is said that the deficit for 1922 will be still greater.

In fact, says Professor Ancona, the net result of government management is disorder on all lines, deficiency of material, deplorable condition of running stock, service deteriorated, and discipline entirely wrecked. The number of employees and their wages have enormously increased; the average rate of pay having risen from 2000 lire a year before the war to over 10,000 lire today. To this should be added the greatly increased number of strikes, and the fact that thefts on the railway, which used to amount to 10 million lire a year, have now risen to over one hundred million. Five billion and a half lire were spent in 60 years in order to construct the railways; two and a half billion lire have been spent during the 17 years of state control merely to enlarge them.

The only remedy likely to bring in a reign of economy and efficiency, according to this financial expert, is the radical one of gradually ceding to different private companies the lines which, as one great whole, have been such a failure in the hands of the state.

There are two lessons in Italy's experience. One is an illustration of the inefficiency of publicly owned enterprises. The other is a lesson for communists and socialists. Mussolini, a confirmed socialist a few years ago, realized when he seized the reins of office the utter futility of socialism as a practical form of government.

SIR HENRY THORNTON.

Sir Henry Thornton arrived in the city last evening, so that he will be able to spend more time with us than was at first anticipated. The Board of Trade and City Council will have a better opportunity to place before him the needs of St. John, regarding port development, railway rates and a new station. Sir Henry has lent a sympathetic ear to the requests made by the other points which he

has visited in the Maritime Provinces, and it is probable that by this time he knows all the ills we have been heirs to, and those which have been forced upon us, as well as our hopes and ambitions for the future development and progress of this section of Canada. No doubt he realizes that with the future development of the Maritime Provinces is linked up the future development of Canada as a whole and of the Canadian National Railways. The railway system which he manages can do much to assist in that development and in fact its proper co-operation is essential.

Lower freight rates and the actual practice of the policy "Canadian ports for Canadian trade" will benefit the Maritime Provinces but eventually will also benefit the Canadian National Railways and the whole Dominion.

THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

Scarcely correct would it be to say that the London conference of premiers was completely barren of results, for it called attention anew to the fact, and in no uncertain terms, either, that the final settlement of the great issues of the World War cannot be delimited by purely national boundaries. Moreover, it declared unmistakably to those with ears to hear that the great problem of reparations and national debts is one which affects the whole world almost equally. The Christian Science Monitor thinks it is but natural to find that the evidences are accumulating to show that America is slowly but surely developing a policy in accordance with the larger world-wide point of view which is pressing so insistently upon the consciousness of mankind. There is no doubt that America, by reason of its wealth and power, can wield a positively inestimable influence for good if it will face the issue of world expansion unflinchingly. The nations' finance and industry appear to be swinging towards chaos, and America can do much to avert a catastrophe. The Monitor believes that the "Administration will measure up to the high ideal toward which the world is calling for peace." For the peace and the future prosperity of Europe and of the whole world let us hope the Monitor may be correct in its view.

HEARST PROPAGANDA.

An article appeared in the New York Evening Journal a few days ago, featuring the advertisements of R. P. & W. F. Starr, Ltd. and the Maritime Mail Co., Ltd. in their editorial columns, and giving the fact that firms were advertising coal for sale as a reason why Canada should get no more coal from the United States. The explanation, of course, of the attitude adopted by the New York Evening Journal is that this paper is a Hearst publication. The following is the editorial as it appeared in the issue of December 13:

AMERICAN COAL IN CANADA
Plenty of it, and THERE THEY DON'T
Have to Use SUBSTITUTES.

You might cut out and send to your Senator, if he happens to be a real Senator and not an old woman, the following advertisements from the St. John Journal published in New Brunswick Canada:

(Then followed the advertisements)

Here are two concerns IN CANADA with plenty of American coal, HARD AND SOFT, for their customers. No waiting for delivery a week, or relying on false promises. No solemn orders by coal conservators to use substitutes.

What do you suppose the United States is doing when it allows unlimited American coal to go to Canada, while American citizens do without?

IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, but you might send this advertisement to one of your Senators anyhow. They manage things in Canada. There they have a republic under the form of a monarchy. Here we have corporation government under the form of a republic.

This is merely Hearst propaganda to prevent Canada getting a fair proportion of anthracite coal. Because firms advertise whatever kinds of coal they have on hand and let their customers know through the medium of newspapers when their shipments arrive, surely cannot be taken as an indication that there is lots of coal in Canada and that there is no use of substitutes.

Since April 1, only 15,000 tons of anthracite have been shipped to New Brunswick from the United States. On September 1 last, there was a stock of anthracite on hand in St. John of 13,000 tons and since then 10,000 tons have been imported, making a total of 23,000 tons when our normal requirements for this season of the year are at least 60,000 tons.

It will be seen from these figures, which are official, that Hearst's New York paper is grossly unfair in its assertion that Canada or that St. John has plenty of coal. New Brunswick has less than forty per cent. of its normal requirements and the Fuel Administrator is constantly reminding the people of the necessity to conserve the anthracite and to use substitutes. Hearst is anti-British and anti-Canadian. He would like to prevent Canada from obtaining any coal. But this example of his propaganda is an illustration of the methods he employs to achieve his ends.

Models of the designs for the St. John War Memorial have been completed and will be exhibited at a meeting of the War Memorial Committee, to be held this evening in the Board of Trade rooms. All citizens who are interested in the proposed erection of a war memorial are invited to be present. There has been considerable discussion of the advisability of having a war memorial erected in St. John and an energetic committee has been working on the project for some time. It was finally decided to have some form of memorial, in the nature of an arch or shaft and the final decision probably will be made tonight.

Every citizen should get behind Carnival Week. The determination of a few to make it a great success will not achieve that object unless all the citizens co-operate.

If you have not sent in your contribution to the Journal's Empty Stocking Fund, you can still do so. Every little bit will help to make some poor kiddies happy.

Trouble with a man who is a wonder at talking is wonders never cease.

Cuff links are suitable gifts for a man. Give him sets to send to the laundry with every shirt.

We didn't realize Christmas was as near, as it is, until we saw so many little boys at Sunday school.

Do you want a present for an enemy? Give him a cigar lighter.

FRANKNESS

By Berton Braley.

When anyone says "To be perfectly frank—" As preface to further remark, I know he's about to say things that are rank, To which I must patiently hark. He'll haul all my faults into pitiless light, And strip the truth woefully nude, For "Frankness" implies, if I read it aright, "Get ready, I'm going to be rude!"

No one ever says, "To be perfectly frank, I think you are noble and smart." Ah no, it's a sign they're preparing to yank Your character roughly apart. So when "To be frank" is the opening phrase, I shudder, prepared to endure Opinions of all my actions and ways Which will not be pleasant, I'm sure.

We say we want frankness from all of our friends But when it comes down to a test, We find that the comradeship frequently ends Through frankness too frankly expressed; For neither your character, brother, nor mine, Of faults and of foibles is blank; So let us forget them, we'll get along fine By not being, "Perfectly Frank!"

Reminiscences of New Brunswick

The Mysterious Stranger
Henry More Smith

While in confinement, the following letter was received from his wife: "Dear Husband—I received your letter of the 22nd Oct., 1915. You say you have sent several letters, if you have I have not received them. You wish me to come and see you, which I would have done, if I had got the letter in time; but I did not know whether you were in Kingston or not. My dear, do not think hard of me that I do not come to see you. If you write back to me I shall come immediately. My dear, as soon as you receive this letter send me an answer, that I may know what to do; so no more at present, but that I remain your loving and affectionate wife, Elizabeth P. M. S."

H. F. M. S., Kingston. The jailer, by the direction of the Sheriff cleared out a small room above stairs, with an ungrated window, which we confined him, with his family, for the night. On the next morning, the 30th of August, finding that there was no vessel bound for the States, I determined to send him to Nova Scotia, and happening to meet with my friend, Mr. Daniel Scott, he informed me that he had a vessel then lying at the wharf, which would sail for Windsor, Nova Scotia, in half an hour. I accordingly prevailed on him to take Smith on board, which was done without loss of time, and at high water the vessel hailed off from the wharf, to my great satisfaction and relief.

While the vessel was getting under weigh, Smith was in the cabin alone, and seeing a great number of chains and trunks lying on the cabin floor, he took them up and threw them all out of the cabin window. "Because," said he, "they would get about my neck again." During the passage he appeared very active; he played on his fife, and was quite an agreeable passenger. But on the vessel's arrival at Windsor, he left her immediately without any ceremony, and notwithstanding the very strong regard which he had always possessed for his family, as he called them, he left them alone, and everything else that he had brought with him. He was seen only a very short time in Windsor before he entirely disappeared, and never was known to be there afterwards, but was seen at some distance from Windsor, in several other places and recognized my many, but always carefully evaded being spoken to.

After having made his appearance in different parts of Nova Scotia, he called at a certain house one morning, on a bye-road, and ordered breakfast, and asked for a towel and a piece of soap, that he might wash at a small brook that was near the house. The woman of the house, and a maid, were the only persons in the house at the time. Smith left a large bundle, which he said was his, and a piece of soap, that he might wash at a small brook that was near the house. The woman of the house, and a maid, were the only persons in the house at the time. Smith left a large bundle, which he said was his, and a piece of soap, that he might wash at a small brook that was near the house.

When he came in, he handed the towel to the young woman, and said, "There were just fifteen watches, were there?" He said, "Yes, but she said, 'you were mistaken about my stealing them, for I came honestly by them.' Upon which the young woman instantly recognized him to be Henry More Smith, and concluded that he was collecting his 'hidden treasure,' which he had deposited while he was in Roden.

This information I received from Mrs. Beckwith, a respectable lady from Nova Scotia, who resided at the time in that neighborhood, who also said it was not known that he had ever seen his wife at that time from the time of his release from confinement. The next account I heard of him stated that he had been seen on board of a plaster vessel at Eastport, but he was not known to have been on shore during the time she remained there. He employed himself while on board engraving a number of small articles, some of which he made presents of to young ladies who chanced to come on board.

He was next seen at Portland, by a gentleman who had known him at Kingston; nothing, however, transpired here concerning him, only that he was travelling with considerable weight of baggage through the State of Maine, which gave rise to the following ludicrous story, which I saw published at Eastport, of a mysterious Stranger travelling in a stage. One cold and stormy night, the bar room of a hotel was filled with sturdy farmers surrounding a cheerful fire, and discussing the affairs of state over a mug of flip. The night having been tremendously stormy and wet, the wind whistling all round the house, and making every door and window rattle, the landlord expressed much fear for the safety of the stage-coach; but suddenly the sound of a distant stage-horn announced the approach of the coach and removed the landlord's anx-

ety. He replenished the fire, that the approaching traveller might have as warm a retreat as possible from the usual inclemency of the night. Some time passed, and yet the expected coach did not come up. The landlord's fears got up anew, and with an expression of concern he put the question around, "Did not some of you hear a horn?" and added, "I have expected the stage a long time, and I thought that a few minutes ago I heard the horn near at hand; but I fear that something has happened in the gale that has caused it to be thus belated." "I thought I heard the stage-horn some time ago," answered the arch young farmer Hopkings; but then you must know that ghosts and witches are very busy on such nights as this, and what kind of pranks they may cut up we cannot tell. You know the old adage,—"Busy as the devil in a gale of wind." Now who knows but they may have—"He was interrupted by the sudden opening of the door, accompanied by a violent gust of wind and the dashing of rain, when in rushed, from the fury of the storm, drenched with wet from head to foot, a tall stranger dressed in a fur cap and shaggy great coat. From an impulse of politeness and respect, not unmingled with fear, all arose on his entrance,—the expression "The devil in a gale of wind," rushing upon their minds with a significance to which a profound silence gave expressive utterance. The stranger noticed their reserved yet voluntary respect with a slight nod, and proceeded to disencumber himself of his wet clothes and warm his fingers by the fire. By this time the driver entered, bearing the baggage of his passenger. "The worst storm I was ever troubled with, blowing right in my teeth, and I guess the gentleman there found it the same."

Here a loud whisper ensued between the driver and the landlord, from which an unexpected word or phrase dropped upon the ear of the inmates. "Don't know," came in the, as rich as a mine, etc. Upon this information the landlord immediately took his wet garments and hung them carefully before the fire.

(To be continued.)

FLU

The cause of "flu" remains an unsolved mystery, says the Journal of the American Medical Association. That's alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, trail ends where it starts. "Flu," which became highly pandemic in our country in 1918, was a disease such as follows every great war. It got its start where people were the most miserable, undernourished and unsanitary. Developing strength, it spread and easily struck down victims among the strong. Now that humanity has less starvation and suffering, it has greater resisting powers against "flu." Applying the principle to individuals. A well-nourished body and a cheerful mind can ward off most diseases. And it's doubtful if our generation will have another severe "flu" pandemic on a big scale.

HEALTH

Are you in good health? No human body is absolutely perfect. An old joke, but it's true, a doctor can always find something wrong with a patient.

Nearly every ailment, including cancer, is curable in the early stages. Neglect is what kills, rather than disease. Important for everyone to have periodical physical examinations—teeth, eyes and a general overhauling. How often? Once in six months is a good rule. Fires are easily checked at the start.

LOSING

Barnum set the country talking about his white elephant—until rain drove a parade washed off its coat of white wash. Stung once, most of us doubt there's really such a thing as a white one. Which is a study in human nature.

Word comes that white elephants do exist in Siam. Several are kept in captivity in Bangkok, where the straw hats come from. But, alas, the white elephant is losing its prestige among the Siamese, who formerly considered it a supernatural. Millions believe that Buddha was a white elephant in one of his incarnations. Ours is an inconceivable age.

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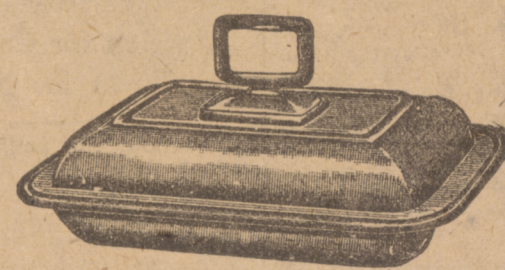
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