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THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 12, 1899.

THE PROBLEM OF LONDON.

The British parliament has before it a measure relating to the government of London. A study of the existing conditions shows how vast is the problem involved in providing a good and economic system of government for the great city. A writer in Chamber's Journal sets forth quite clearly some of the difficulties to be overcome. It is pointed out that the total cost of London local government is thirteen million pounds annually, and the total metropolitan debt upwards of sixty millions. For governmental purposes there are two divisions, the city proper (which has an area of only six hundred and fifty-nine acres) and the metropolis. The latter is sub-divided into forty-two district councils. There are, therefore, a city council, a county council, vestries, district boards and local boards. The various bodies do not work harmoniously together, and cannot successfully deal with the problem of sound and economic government. Taking the question of water supply, neither city nor county council has control. There are nine different water companies, all seeking dividends, and working independently of each other, so that there may be a water famine in one section, as recently in the east end, while elsewhere there is abundance. The citizens are also at the mercy of a gas monopoly and of the railway companies. The present disjointed system also makes it impossible to deal successfully with the problem of overcrowding, in street traffic and in houses. Until the large number of governing authorities, which are often in conflict, are replaced by a comprehensive system with some central source of authority, the present evils will continue, and any attempt at reform is met by so much opposition from vested interests along with the traditional apathy of citizens, that progress in that direction will be slow.

OUR GENEROUS NEIGHBORS.

The New York Herald finds in the present dissatisfaction in Jamaica another reason for the exchange by England of her West India possessions for the Philippines. The West Indies, it declares, must henceforth look to the United States for political and commercial prosperity. Lord Salisbury is invited by the Herald to broach the subject to Mr. McKinley, and is patronizingly assured a courteous reception of the proposition. His lordship will no doubt be duly grateful for the suggestion and the assurance. A New York reader of the Herald, whose sense of humor is not sufficiently developed, takes that paper seriously and writes a vigorous protest, in which he says: "Moreover, the Jamaicans are a prosperous people, happy and contented with their lot and are more loyal to their Queen than the average Loadoner. They would to a man resent any proposition to be 'swapped' for a lot of Oriental savages." By the way, while the Herald is dealing with the question of annexation, it might give its views on the suggestion of Mr. Speaker Edgar that Vermont be annexed to Canada.

A SECRET BALLOT.

Before the present session of the legislature is prorogued a measure providing for secrecy of the ballot in provincial elections should be adopted. The fact that Mr. Hazen's effort in this direction was ruled out does not relieve the legislature of responsibility. The question has far more than mere party significance. It is true that one party suffered in the last election because the looseness of the present system made intimidation a practicable method of warfare on the part of the other party. It is perhaps true that no political party would refuse absolutely such an opportunity in the heat of a vigorous campaign, but that is no justification. The system is an evil one. It is the duty of the legislature to remove from all parties any temptation to tamper with the freedom of the voter, or prevent him from a free exercise of his franchise. The responsibility rests not with the government alone, but is shared by every member of the house. Mr. Emmerson's followers in the assembly should force the hand of the government in this matter. They surely are not so slavishly servile, or so incapacitated by partyism, that they dare not speak out in a matter of so much importance. If they by silence assent to the continuance of the present system, by which political profit is got by scandalous intimidation, they ought to be exceedingly lenient towards the highwayman who takes toll at the muzzle of his pistol. Morally, the responsibility is the same in the two cases. If there is any doubt in the mind of any member as to the iniquitous possibilities of the present ballot law, Mr. McKeown will be able to set that doubt at rest.

WHERE RELIGION IS DECLINING.

If Governor Rollins of New Hampshire states nothing but the truth in his recently issued Fast Day proclamation, there is a field ripe for the American missionary much nearer home than Cuba or the Philippines. The governor pointedly remarks:

"The decline of the Christian religion, particularly in our rural communities, is a marked feature of the times and steps should be taken to remedy it. . . . There are towns where no church bell sends forth its solemn call from January to January; there are villages where children grow to manhood unchristened. There are communities where the dead are laid away without the benison of the name of Christ and where marriages are solemnized only by justices of the peace."

Startling as this statement appears on its face, it is hardly conceivable that the chief magistrate of a proud New England state, whatever his patriotism might tempt him to incorporate in a Fourth of July oration, would be guilty of romancing in a fast day proclamation. It will probably transpire that Governor Rollins has painted his picture in somewhat stronger colors than the facts of the case will justify.

PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE.

So far as the action of the United States in relation to its new possessions is concerned, President McKinley is at present practically an absolute ruler. Congress is not in session and has issued no mandate, nor has the president sought a declaration of opinion from that body. He is not bound to accept the advice of the members of his cabinet, for upon him and not upon them will rest the responsibility. It is practically in his power to prolong or to end the military occupation of the new possessions. Naturally, therefore, the criticism by anti-imperialists is directed against the president, and the appeal to the people is made for the purpose of calling forth such a national protest as even a president would not be likely to ignore. There is no hope that such a protest will be forthcoming. The president has gauged public opinion pretty accurately. He knows, whatever the declaration of independence may have declared on the subject of government by consent of the governed, that the great majority of the people of the United States will not consent to withdrawal from the policy of expension upon which the nation has entered. While, therefore, he is for the time vested with almost absolute power, his policy is the policy of the majority of the people.

ROBBERY AND CONCEALMENT.

During the late local election campaign Mr. Emmerson wanted to know why the opposition had not brought up the bridge charges and had them investigated in the legislature.

The ghastly humor of this question is now apparent. The opposition in the late house tried to inquire into many things. The opposition led by Mr. Hazen is also making inquiry and asking for investigation. In the last legislature and in this, the government, on one excuse or another, or without excuse, heads off every attempt to discover how the public money is spent. It is now evident that Mr. Emmerson will not allow this bridge matter to be properly investigated. He has made statements and explanations to the country that a discovery of the facts will prove to be absolutely untrue. The price paid for bridges is higher than that he has declared to be the price paid. The conditions are not as they were stated. An investigation will show that there has been deception as well as plunder. Therefore an honest investigation must be avoided.

The technical objections taken are all in the interest of the government. They are not necessary. They are not called for by the people. The people want publicity, for it is their money that is misappropriated. The fear of publicity is on the side of those who have taken the money for improper purposes. The documents that are wanted may not be in the possession of the house. But they are in the possession of the Chief Commissioner. Who asks him to keep them back? They are the property of the people. No public service is assisted by his withholding them. The public service would be helped by his producing them. The withholding is entirely in the interest of ministers and for their protection from exposure.

In the McGreevy investigation at Ottawa the committee examined documents covering ten years. All the papers in all the public buildings at Ottawa were at the disposal of the committee. All the accounts, papers, bank books and correspondence of the contractors were carried to Ottawa against the protest of the owners. The result was a thorough investigation covering the whole transaction. The government which was accused supported the prosecution in all its demands for information. Sir John Thompson was not in parliament to protect and assist boodling, or boodlers. Mr. Emmerson is not like Sir John Thompson.

Mr. Emmerson's government is not able to guarantee the bonds necessary to erect a permanent bridge at Hartland. The people of that section will have a wooden toll bridge. It does not follow that more favored localities will not secure permanent bridges, costing two to three prices, and entirely built at the public expense. With a large and pliant majority, and flexible rules of order, Mr. Emmerson should feel even a greater degree of freedom in such matters than before the election of members and the choice of a speaker.

An influential section of the United States press is assuring the people of the British West Indies that their commercial and industrial prosperity is bound up with that country. Such action can have but one object—to create or increase a feeling of disaffection in that portion of Britain's colonial possessions, and so, if possible, pave the way for annexation. And yet the same journals are profuse in their expressions of regard for Great Britain. The evidence of disinterested regard is not as apparent in some quarters as it might be. The man who flatters you while he picks your pocket is none the less a rascal.

Hon. Mr. Blair is understood to have intimated that arrangements for steamship service for next winter will be made at an earlier date than last year. The delay on the part of the government last year cost us the direct London service. The city council and board of trade should not for a moment lose sight of the importance of early action, and should not relax their efforts to secure the same.

The election of M. Loubet to the presidency of France appears to have greatly strengthened the government of that country. Premier Dupuy is able to say that the political situation both at home and abroad is eminently satisfactory. The premier would naturally present the case in its most favorable light, but other evidence is not wanting to show that the general situation in that country is more hopeful. No other country can produce an apparent crisis with so little difficulty, but the elements of discord have for the present been overcome.

The rapid movement of events since the close of the Spanish-American war, and the universal interest attached to the development by the United States of a colonial policy, have withdrawn public attention from affairs in Spain. The people of that country, however, appear to be adjusting themselves to the new conditions with much more dignity and less of friction than was anticipated. The present experience of the United States, both in Cuba and the Philippines, shows how great a strain upon the nation must have been the never ending disturbances in those dependencies.

And now Uncle Sam has to face a serious condition of affairs in Porto Rico. People are said to be dying of starvation in some districts. The trade of the island is in a very bad condition, money is hard to get, and the duties imposed on imports are very burdensome. While giving attention to this little matter the American press might with propriety preserve silence concerning the affairs of Jamaica and St. Kitts.

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NOVA SCOTIA NEWS.

HALIFAX, April 7.—The civic elections take place at the end of this month and a sensational incident, having a bearing thereon, is now engaging the attention of the people. Alderman McFatridge has a son in the contracting business, who has obtained a good deal of work from the city in putting down asphalt sidewalks. Some of this work, though passing the inspector, seems to be turning out badly. Mayor Stephen gave orders quietly that no further payment should be made on such unsatisfactory jobs. The story goes that the mayor was threatened with opposition to a third term unless he would withdraw from this position, but his worship concluded that he could play no better card than to appear before the public as the guardian of the people's interests in this matter. The trouble might have been settled quietly, for the city engineer rather sided with McFatridge, had it not been that the contractor, it is said, without consulting his aldermanic father, hired a lawyer to send a letter to the mayor threatening a civil action if he was not at once paid. This put the "fat" in the fire, and open war resulted, City Engineer Doane becoming embroiled in the controversy. It now remains to be seen who will suffer most, Mayor Stephen or Alderman McFatridge, both of whom are seeking re-election.

HALIFAX, April 9.—In all probability this city will never again see Admiral Sir John Fisher, and the chances are that it will be years before his flagship, the Renown, again visits American waters. The dockyard superintendent has received a cable from Admiral Fisher at Bermuda, stating that he would leave shortly for England on the Renown, and thus cancelling the arrangements that had been made for his reception on May 27th at this port. Admiral Fisher will hoist his flag as commander of the Mediterranean squadron in June. It may be that Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick George Durham Bedford, who has been announced as Admiral Fisher's successor on this station, may recross the Atlantic in the Renown, retaining that battleship to carry his flag in these waters, but this is not likely, notwithstanding the fact that only half of the Renown's three years' commission has run out. Navy officials here believe there is a strong probability that the Renown may be sent to the China squadron, where she would replace the Victorious. Vice-Admiral Seymour, commanding there, finds that battleship too long to enter the dry dock at Hong Kong, a difficulty that would be obviated if the Renown were substituted for the bigger ship, for the former could easily enter that dry dock. Admiral Fisher requested that General Seymour and Governor Daly be notified that he had decided to proceed to England on the Renown.

The police arrested a woman of 21 years of age on Saturday evening, charged with passing forged checks. She is Mrs. Ada Rendell, a Sunday school teacher in St. Mark's church. One of the forged checks had on it the name of the curate of this church, Rev. Mr. Simmonds. Mrs. Rendell had been a governess in the family of Capt. Grant of the dockyard. The young woman was about leaving for England, and on three checks which are known to have been passed she obtained one hundred dollars' worth of goods. Some little time ago she had separated from her husband. There may be other bogus checks not yet reported.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., April 7.—The event of the season at the university town was the gymnastic exhibition this evening. It was largely attended. The programme comprised thirteen features, including various drills, club swinging and aerial performances. Mr. McCurdy, the director of the gymnasium, led all the events, and gave an A 1 exhibition. Mr. McCurdy excels not only as an athlete, but as a teacher.

It would be difficult to single out any one or two who were especially apt in their manoeuvres. Much applause was accorded the performances of Messrs. Duval and Schurman of St. John and Steele of Amherst, and Rice, but this list of first class men is only partial.

For effect on the audience the torch swinging was by far the most worthy of note. The performers had each two torches, which they handled to perfection. The room was darkened, and in the doubtful gleam from the torch-lights the swingers loomed like the heroes of old playing with lightning. The "Human Alphabet" was a clever hit, those engaged forming by the contortions of their bodies the letters A-C-A-D-I-A, H-C-A, S-E-M, each of the three forms standing for one of the branches of education at Wolfville. The concluding feature was the pyramid building, a feat requiring and receiving the concentration of all the gymnastic powers of the students. In short, the exhibition was a first class, up-to-date athletic entertainment.

CORNWALLIS, N. S., April 7.—Nathan Eaton, of N. W. Eaton & Co., lost a valuable mare last week.

Major Beckwith of the 88th Batt. has returned to Canning, having completed a course at the Military school, Fredericton.

Walter Galley of Mill Village had his shoulder fractured while cutting trees in the woods last week. A heavy branch fell on him.

The funeral of Mrs. M. C. Wilson took place at Kentville on Tuesday. The deceased was forty-eight years of age and was a former resident of Upper Stewiacke, Colchester Co. She leaves a family of six children.

The death of William Marchant of Brooklyn street occurred on Sunday.

PARRSBORO, N. S., April 8.—Steamer Beaver loaded here twice this week with flour and feed for Minas Basin ports.

The ladies of St. George's church gave a very successful dramatic entertainment in St. George's hall on Tuesday evening.

C. C. Langill, one of the owners of the wrecked schooner E. Mayfield, went to Digby on Thursday to make arrangements for bringing the vessel to this port to be repaired.

Dr. J. A. Johnson, dentist, has taken into partnership Dr. C. McArthur, who has recently graduated at the Baltimore Dental College, winning the gold medal for this year.

Dr. Godsoe of St. John, grand chancellor of the maritime provinces domain of the Knights of Pythius, will make an official visit to Kenilworth lodge, No. 13, next Tuesday evening.

Notwithstanding the positive assurance from ministerial quarters that the exodus has ceased, no fewer than eight persons left Parrsboro this week to reside in the United States.

There is likely to be quite a building boom here this summer.

HALIFAX, April 10.—The steamer Manchester City arrived from St. John this afternoon.

The steamer Vancouver had a rough passage, Captain Jones says the roughest this winter. She landed 277 passengers and 100 tons of cargo, and sailed for St. John about 10 o'clock.

Sadie Randall, the young woman arrested charged with passing forged checks, was examined today and remanded till Friday.

Mrs. Henry Peters, whose death occurred yesterday at New York, had a life interest in $36,000 of investments left her by her deceased husband, who provided by will that at her death the money should be divided between L. J. Fuller, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. E. Kenny, son and daughters of Hon. H. H. Fuller, and the children of Simon and Charles Peters of Quebec, brothers of deceased.

J. H. Hugill, who has been manager of the Furness and Manchester steamship agencies in Montreal since last spring, has severed his connection with the Furness line. Mr. Hugill's successor has not yet been named, but it is reported that the promotion will be made from one of the Canadian offices. No explanation is made of Hugill's retirement. Stephen Furness, one of the directors of Furness, Withy & Co., is now in Montreal.

FIFTY YEARS' POSTMASTER.

A correspondent of the Colchester Sun writes: "Our esteemed postmaster, Ebner Archibald, who has been ill for a couple of months, is now, to the great joy of the whole community, able to sit up, and hopes are entertained that he will fully recover and be again out in the office at his former post. I noticed in some papers that the supposed oldest postmaster in the maritime provinces died in New Brunswick. That is an error. Ebner Archibald of Old Barns, Colchester, is the oldest postmaster in the maritime provinces, if not in the whole dominion. If the old gentleman lives a few months longer he will see his fiftieth year as postmaster at Old Barns."

ST. JOHN MARKETS.

In the country market the usual scarcity of eggs immediately after Easter was noticeable last week, and on Saturday as high as 20c. was asked. Of course the scarcity will not last. In meats, poultry and vegetables the market is steady. Maple products are now quoted.

The flour, fish and provision markets show no change. In groceries, sugar is fractionally higher. The molasses market is firm.

Egyptian onions are now on the market at 3c. per lb.

THE EXODUS FROM NEW BRUNSWICK.

(Maine Farmer.)

No wonder the people of the provinces regret the exodus of young blood to the states and the sure loss to the farmers there. One of the officials at Vanceboro informs us that 250,000 second class passengers came into Maine over the Canadian Pacific railroad in 1898. To be sure only a small per cent. came from Provincial homes, but the number is large and New Brunswick feels the loss. These young men and women are finding occupation in our towns and cities and will make the successful citizens of the coming generation.

LIPTON ANGRY

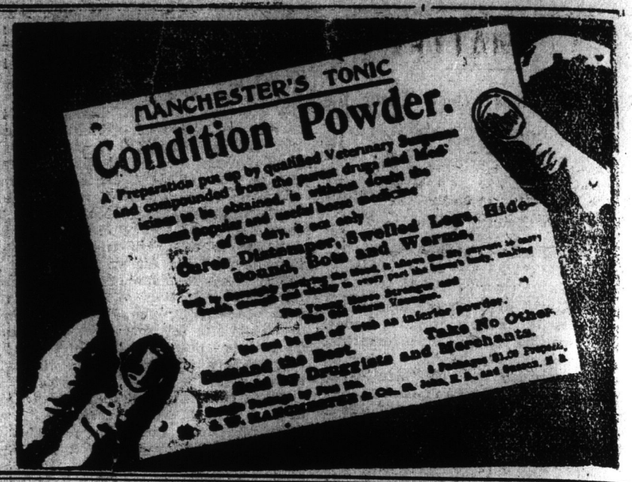
At the Conduct of British Newspaper Spies

LONDON, April 10.—Sir Thomas Lipton, owner of the America's Cup challenger Shamrock, has written a letter to the Associated Press on the subject of the men arrested for spying upon that vessels. He says they are English newspaper men, and that he has decided not to prosecute them in view of the circumstances. He adds:

"I wish it to be known that the men are in no wise connected with America. This is the third attempt that has been made by journalists, and I hope it will be the last, as I shall be sorry if I am compelled to take measures which may jeopardize the good feeling at present existing between myself and the press."

DREYFUS ENQUIRY.

PARIS, April 10.—The Figaro, continuing its publication of the evidence before the court of cassation in the Dreyfus revision inquiry, will print tomorrow the depositions of M. Casimir Perier, former president of France, Gen. Marquis de Galliffet, and Professor Painlove of the Ecole Polytechnique, all of which are understood to be highly important.



VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Conducted By J. W. Manchester V. S., St. John, N. B.

THE WEEKLY SUN takes pleasure in notifying its readers that it has perfected arrangements with J. W. Manchester, V. S., whereby all questions with respect to diseases of the lower animals will be answered by him, and treatment prescribed in those cases where it is asked for through the columns of THE SUN.

All enquiries must be addressed:

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT,
Weekly Sun, St. John, N. B.

E. S.—My mare, nine years old, bruised her leg between the gambie and fetlock. This was done last fall. The leg swelled, broke and discharged matter for some five weeks. I have not been able to get the swelling out of the leg or to heal up the sore. Please advise.

Ans.—Probably a portion of the bone of the leg was killed by the bruise, and if so it will probably require an operation to cure it. In some cases, however, the dead portion comes away of itself, and the leg gets better. As a wash you might try the following: Plumbi acetate, one ounce; zinc sulphate, one ounce; water one pint, mix and apply two or three times daily.

R. M.—A young horse caught his hind pastern with the tether rope last fall. The leg has remained swelled since, and has the chronic scratches. He is driven fourteen miles a day. What shall I do?

Ans.—The leg will always remain a little enlarged. As to the scratches, apply zinc ointment and also give him in his drinking water one ounce of Fowler's solution of arsenic a day.

B. B. B.—What is the cause of staggers in a horse, and is there any cure?

Ans.—To answer that question fully is beyond the limited space of this column. I would refer the enquirer to the works of Fleming and Williams. Generally speaking, however, there are several forms of staggers. I consider it due to a temporary increase of blood pressure on the brain, usually owing to diminished calibre of the veins taking blood from the brain, and it is practically incurable, though some cases do recover. Stomach staggers, so called, is often due to indigestion, and in rare cases to poisonous plants. I have seen a case caused by eating Rhus Toxicodendron, but believe the cause is a rare one.

A REMARKEBLE SCENE.

There is consternation in one of the outlying districts of Hastings. Some months ago a house was rented by an old English gentleman, whose marked eccentricities excited the curiosity of his neighbours. Every day at noon the occupant parades in his front garden, arrayed in extraordinary attire. On his head he wears a turban fashioned of cloth of gold and costly materials of Indian fabrication. His body is perfectly naked, with the exception of a babba, or coolie loin cloth. His feet are shod with richly wrought sandals, the binding straps of which are embellished with priceless gems, which flash and sparkle with rare and dazzling brilliancy. On emerging from his house he first prays to the Sun, which he apostrophises as the Father of Light and Good. Subsequently he prostrates himself before a quaint little structure in which a grotesque idol with diamond eyes, is enshrined. A large number of people witness these odd daily devotions. To some of them the old gentleman has volunteered the information that his prayers are offered for the conversion of England to Buddhism.—Hastings and St. Leonards, England, Mail.

ITALY INVITED.

ROME, April 10.—Italy has been formally invited to the disarmament conference at the Hague, and has appointed as one of her delegates Marquis Visconti Venesta, minister of foreign affairs in the late Rudini cabinet. This is held to imply that the vatican will not be invited to send a delegate.

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