

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1912.

THE TORONTO NEWS AND SIR LOUIS DAVIES.

A few days since Sir Louis H. Davies addressed the Intercolonial Club in Boston by invitation. Sir Louis has many friends in the Bay State, who are by no means confined to those of Canadian birth. It was quite natural and a thing to be expected that on such an occasion that he should speak in some sort of the relations existing between Canada and the United States. And yet this was rather delicate ground for a Canadian Judge, especially in view of the somewhat excited state of public opinion last year on both sides of the line over the reciprocity agreement.

Sir Louis in his political days had long been an ardent advocate of reciprocity, and even of "unrestricted reciprocity" in the early nineties of last century. Doubtless this fact led to his utterances before the Intercolonial Club being listened to, and his reported words being read with closer and more critical interest than would otherwise have happened. And it unfortunately occurred that some of the synoptic reports of his address first sent out to the press made it appear that he had spoken warmly in behalf of reciprocity.

It is now known that the tenor of his remarks was misrepresented, although he admitted that in his "pre-ponderant days" he had been the advocate of that measure. As yet we have seen no denial that he also spoke of the two countries being separated by a tariff barrier "almost heaven high," which he pronounced to be "almost ridiculous." We fail to see anything very reprehensible in the fact of a Canadian Judge thus expressing his opinion upon the American tariff, although it might have been safely omitted. But even this has jarred upon the nerves of some of the protectionist journals in

Canada, among them the Toronto News, which broke forth as follows: "This statement by the Canadian Judge is understood to have had reference to the customs barriers between the two countries and to have been an argument for continental free trade. The Judge should favor the country with an immediate explanation. Nothing could be more intolerable than that Canadian Judges should interfere in political issues. If Sir Louis Davies has made the egregious blunder of going to Boston to urge Reciprocity between this country and the United States he should be asked at once to resign from the bench in order that he may be free to express the partisan opinions which he cannot be permitted to express while he holds a judicial position."

The matter will be one of only amusing interest in this Province where Sir Louis Davies is so widely and favorably known. He was not "interfering in political issues," or "urging reciprocity between this country and the United States," or expressing "partisan opinions," and it is very safe to say that he will not be asked to resign his judicial position. Sir Louis Davies is by no means the least discreet of Canadian Judges, and perhaps in no country in the civilized world are the members of the judiciary more careful to avoid intermeddling in politics than in Canada.

The Toronto News has been unduly excited over what seems to be an occurrence of trifling significance. It rarely occurs that press censures upon the Judges of the land, or instructions in regard to their duty when on or off the bench, are either necessary or justifiable. Reciprocity is not now a political issue in Canada nor likely soon to be again a political issue, although The News seems to fear that it may be. President Taft, by the publication of his correspondence with Colonel Roosevelt, has done much to close the chapter.

ORDAINED, OR PERMITTED?

Mr. Marks of New London in his poem on the Titanic, which appeared in last Saturday's Guardian, in one of his lines spoke of "The God Who ordained the wreck." A correspondent, whose letter appears elsewhere in today's Guardian, challenges the correctness of Mr. Marks' line, and says surely the poet does not believe, or expect others to believe that the wreck was ordained. And yet that is precisely what many otherwise intelligent persons do believe. It was not the hand of man that moved the iceberg down from the north and placed it in the pathway of the great ship at the fatal hour.

The belief in fate is as old as the race. Under the Jewish and Christian dispensations and teachings the frequent intervention of Almighty power in human and mundane affairs has been clearly set forth. It is true that in our time many do not believe in such intervention. To such persons all things happen in accordance with natural law. These persons sel-

dom take the trouble to extend their disbelief to its logical and inevitable results. No doubt there are difficulties to be encountered on both sides, for those who believe that all things are fore-ordained, and for those who adopt the opposite belief that nothing is so ordained. There seems to be no logical middle ground between these two lines of belief. Mr. Marks may perhaps claim poetic license for the words he uses, but if he chose to do so he could support them by quoting some hitherto eminent divines.

THE HYDROPLANE.

The hydroplane, as our readers are aware is a flying machine fitted to arise from the water or land safely in the water, as the case may require. A few days ago the feat was successfully accomplished of taking a passenger from the wharf at New York and landing him on board an outgoing steamer that was miles from port. This was done by Frank T. Coffin, a noted hydroplanist and aviator, with apparent ease and safety, the passenger, who was an amateur photographer, taking pictures while on the way.

The significance of this and other achievements of the hydroplane is that it suggests the great possibility of the successful use of this machine in saving life at sea. If passengers can be carried from the shore to a ship, it would seem equally possible to carry passengers from a ship to the shore in like manner. It is also quite conceivable that the hydroplane might be made use of in rescuing passengers who were afloat in the sea, perhaps temporarily supported by life-preservers, when no boats, or not boats enough, were a-

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available for the work of life-saving. There seems to be many new possibilities of usefulness before both the aeroplane and its amphibious rival, the hydroplane, that were not thought of when these novel appliances were first put in operation.

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THE TITANIC.

Sir:—In perusing The Guardian of Saturday, 4th inst., I noticed a poem on "Titanic" signed "by John R. Marks." A good effort, but surely the writer does not believe or expect the people of today to believe the first line of the fourth verse which reads: "The God who ordained the wreck." Was it not rather the lack of proper precaution and other causes that resulted in such an awful tragedy. Methinks the God of Love is not to be blamed for every error that man makes

J. A. W.

A MUSICAL AT MT. ALLISON.

SACKVILLE, Mar 3—A large and enthusiastic audience was assembled in Beethoven Hall this evening to greet Miss Jean Elder Allison of Sussex, N. B., who this year completes the course in the Organ Department of the Mt. Allison Conservatory of Music. This instrument when ably handled calls for alertness of both mind and music, as well as concentration and comprehensive observation of all the principles of musical interpretation. These prerequisites were abundantly fulfilled in the young graduate who has an exceptionally musical temperament and ability for painstaking study. The recital was exceedingly gratifying in every detail. The pedalling and manual dexterity were admirable, as well as the art use of the stops; the orchestral combinations being especially fine. Mention should be made of the "Intrusions" by Hollins and "Selections from Tannhauser." However more than passing reference must be made of the "Andante" composed by our own Professor Pickard, Head of the Organ Department. The audience sat spell-bound during the rendering of this number and the repeated applause attested to the great delight and appreciation of the listeners.

The graduate was assisted by Miss Myrtle King, cellist of Boston, who is one of the most talented students enrolling in the Conservatory, and Miss Lennie Lushy, the well-known violinist of Amherst. Also by Miss Helen Hughes of Charlottetown, who sang exquisitely Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer." Miss Hughes is one of the graduates from the Vocal Department this spring and will give her recital in "Fawcett Memorial Hall" on Wednesday evening next.

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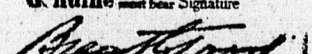
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