

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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BRITISH HONOR AND WEALTH.

GREAT BRITAIN'S enormous wealth is second only to her inflexible honor. The enormity of the one and the inflexibility of the other have exemplified in the manner in which she is meeting the obligations incurred in funding her war indebtedness to the United States in 1923. It will be recalled that during the first three years of the war the United States remained neutral, that is, as far as participation in hostilities was concerned, but free to sell munitions and advance money to the belligerents. Great Britain guaranteeing payment for same when sold or advanced to nations whose credit was not up to the United States safety first standard.

The Washington correspondent of the London Morning Post tells what Great Britain has done in this matter so far and refers to the British Government's determination to discharge her assumed obligation to the last dollar, asking for no compromise or reduction. His despatch to his newspaper tells such a wonderful story that we publish it here in full: "The British Government today paid the American Treasury \$2,950,000, being \$67,950,000 on the semi-annual interest on the war debt, and \$25,000,000 on the reduction of the principal. It will no doubt be as surprising to the British people as it will be to Americans to learn that, including the payment made today, the British Government has already paid to the American Government \$642,830,000 of the debt, no mean achievement in the light of the economic and other difficulties Great Britain has had to meet since the debt funding agreement was made early in 1923. During the war Great Britain gave demand notes to the United States having a face value of \$4,074,818,358.44, on which was charged interest at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent., which made the interest accrued and unpaid up to December 15, 1922, \$629,836,106.99, or a gross total of British indebtedness to the United States of \$4,704,654.43.

"It has been the general belief in both the United States and Great Britain that the highest rate of interest charged by the United States was 3 1/2 per cent., 3 per cent. for the first ten years and 2 1/2 thereafter, but the United States was paid 4 1/2 per cent. on the principal of the debt until the settlement was made. This resulted in the British Government making two payments to the United States in 1922, one in October and the other in November, amounting to \$100,526,379.69, which included accumulated interest at 4 1/2 per cent. After this payment was made, Great Britain still owed the United States \$4,604,128,085.74. To reduce the total to even figures, a further cash payment of \$4,128,085.74 was made leaving the gross amount of British indebtedness \$4,600,000,000 for which bonds were issued by the British Government, and are now held in the American treasury.

"Payments began in 1923, when on June 15, \$69,000,000 was paid on interest. On December 15 a similar amount was paid, and \$25,000,000 on principal. In 1924 two payments of \$68,655,000 each were made on interest and \$23,000,000 on principal.

"In 1925 semi-annual payments for interest were \$68,310,000, and \$24,000,000 for principal. This year the interest payments have been semi-annually, \$67,950,000, and the payment on principal has been \$25,000,000.

Summed up to date, Great Britain has paid to the United States \$547,830,000 as interest, and the debt has been reduced by \$95,000,000.

These colossal figures are additionally interesting when it is recalled that, while Great Britain paid to the United States this year \$135,900,000 as interest, plus \$25,000,000 on account of reduction of debt, from all other debtor nations the United States received in round figures only \$20,000,000. The American press has frequently discussed the possibility of His Majesty's Government asking for a cancellation of the debts or a revision of the agreement.

"The British embassy when asked if there was a probability of this being done, referred the enquirer to the statement made by Sir Austen Chamberlain, the Foreign Secretary, last August. In substance Chamberlain said while England was indebted to the United States, the amounts owing to England far exceeded what she owed the United States. England was prepared to wipe the slate clean of all the obligations among the allied and associated powers, but as that solution did not commend itself, no British Government would think it becoming its honor to ask to be excused from its obligations.

"We will make no complaint. We will discharge our obligations," he concluded. The British Government recognizes that the loans were made, and used for war purposes, and they are being repaid in accordance with the terms of the agreement made between the two governments."

C. N. R. MAGAZINE.

THE Canadian National Railway Magazine for December is an exceptionally interesting number, giving as it does, from this inside, much valuable information which usually does not find its way through the ordinary channels, information which it is most desirable that the public should know. A note of optimism and confidence pervades this excellently edited magazine, a note in striking contrast to the general opinion which prevailed a few years ago when most people in Canada were ready to sell the Canadian National to anyone who would undertake to buy it, and write off the whole indebtedness. The management of the C. N. R. is a credit to Sir Henry Thornton and the capable officials with whom he has associated himself in the conduct of the biggest proposition in the world. The annual deficits of only a few years ago are being gradually reduced, the operating expenses are more in keeping with the revenues and the growing prosperity of the country is reflected in last year's railway returns.

The magazine is an authoritative and informative one and richly deserves its increasing circulation and popularity.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Nothing to think about now but Christmas!

Isn't it fine that parliament is not in session during this cold spell?

Have you completed your Christmas buying, revised your mailing list? Are you broke, if not, you have not done your whole duty.

Who can measure the enjoyment of our boys and girls are getting out of the snow? A full grown lady with bobbed hair and fashionably short skirts, watching the little ones tobogganing down the steep slope in front of St. Paul's church, yesterday, they themselves being the toboggans, was heard to remark: "I've a notion to go and make a toboggan of myself."

Notes by the Way

ALL Canadian are familiar with the spruce tree which grows in every province, and is doubly familiar at this season as the Christmas tree which bears so many delightful fruits for young and old. And it is an Evergreen; unchanged by the rigors of winter, and ever giving us reminders of the hopes and joys of the springtime and the summer. But why should the spruce tree also remind us of silk stockings? The answer is, because rayon, chiefly made from spruce wood, seems destined to rival silk in all its essential qualities, and also to take a share in the place now occupied in the textile trade by cotton and wool.

At the close of last century rayon was just heard of. In 1900 nearly two million pounds of it were produced. Last year all the greater nations were producing rayon and the total reached 185,000,000 pounds. This year the output is estimated at 245,000,000 pounds. The United States leads in production but Europe still produces two-thirds, with Italy making great strides in developing this great new industry. In three years past Italy has increased its output many fold and last year had 23 rayon plants with a capitalization of \$68,000,000.

England produced last year 32,000,000 pounds, and found it necessary to impose a duty on imports, beginning in July last, to shut out foreign competition. The British product finds customers at home, in Canada, Australia, South Africa and the Orient, but Japan, famous for silk, has also taken up rayon production. The world demand far exceeds the supply and new uses are being found for this remarkable product already utilized in the making of hosiery, knitted underwear, linings, draperies, ribbons, upholstery, ties, shirts, bedspreads and many other articles. It is used in its pure state, or mixed with cotton, silk, wool or flax. Its lustre is permanent and its resistance to friction is said to be remarkable.

Below-zero weather and occasional blizzards are bad immigration agents for the treeless prairies, and yet some two millions of people have gone there to live and they have prospered abundantly. And it they have cold snaps out there, the climate is healthful, as the vital statistics show. Also when the winter breaks, it passes away quickly, and the prairie farmers begin their planting earlier, than the Maritimes.

That Premier King is going to have his hands full, as the saying is, when he again meets Parliament, is the opinion of the Toronto Globe expressed a few days ago. He will be expected to explain many things, among them wherein consists the new Magna Charta of Dominion liberty. About this there are many widely different views. The Manitoba Free Press exults over Mr. King "establishing Canada's nationhood on the ruins of the Empire." The Ottawa Journal "scolds loudly" over the labors of our Canadian delegates who "when they got to London—with General Hertzog at their head—marched up a hill and then marched down again with a vast amount of noise, but finished where they started.

The Montreal Star and the Halifax Herald are cited, the first named stating that the delegates "got their pictures in the papers and that was about all," while the latter points out that "the clamorous cries of the extreme autonomists in South Africa, Canada and Ireland, introduced" a disintegrating germ that may be harmful. The Globe concludes that in view of the criticism which the preliminary report has evoked "it becomes necessary for the Premier to explain very fully the nature and extent of what was done if, indeed, something was done one way or the other." The Premier will hardly accept this as a flattering endorsement.

The London Times recently gave a brief editorial word picture of the English winter, which might make the average Canadian shudder. "Winter is dark," it said. "It is dirty, it is cold; it is treacherous; and like some sermons, it goes on long after it ought to have stopped. If we give it a chance it will have us by the heels—or worse, by the mucous membrane, and the spirits." But England is not inviting immigrant settlers to her shores. She has emigrants for export.

The shortest day and longest night of the winter has passed. The sun begins today his northward journey again and his return will be welcome, especially to the sick and those in advanced years.



By James W. Barton, M.D. A SOURCE OF BRONCHITIS.

Formerly in a case of bronchitis it was always blamed upon a cold in the throat, and perhaps the tonsils, and this cold was supposed then to extend down to the bronchial tubes and cause bronchitis.

This may still be true, but our physicians are now finding that many of these cases of bronchitis and bronchial asthma get their start from some infection in the sinuses or cavities adjoining, and connected with the nose.

Two Cleveland physicians, Drs. Mullin and Ryder, have been able to demonstrate that the lymphatic system drained these sinuses by way of the glands in the neck and chest, to veins on right side of heart and lungs.

These glands are in close relation with the windpipe and bronchial tubes, and when they swell up with the infectious material from the sinuses above, you can readily see that the pressure from them will cause cough, and also they will press on parts of the bronchial tubes, and prevent material that should be expectorated, from coming up from the finer tubes in the lungs.

Now these glands gradually give up their material, and the patient gets well, but when there are repeated attacks you can see how the natural lining of the bronchial tubes, and the thin tubes, becomes thickened and loses some of its power of secretion, and the power to throw off these secretions. The lining of the sinuses becomes "thickened and soggy," and the natural drainage of material into nose, and thus out of the body, is prevented to a considerable extent.

This is a most important matter in children because measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever and so forth start the trouble, and cough and bronchitis follow. These physicians suggest that, where youngsters or grown people have repeated attacks of bronchitis, or asthma the sinuses should be investigated.

You will remember that our nose and throat specialists believe that the organisms that cause the common cold, grippe, or flu as it is called, are often lying in a resting state in the sinuses, and get busy when awakened by sudden changes in weather, overeating, under-exercising, and so forth.

READ AND UNDERSTAND— "Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, . . . and Ezra blessed the Lord, and Great God, as was written in the book of the law distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Neh. 8: 5, 6, 8.

PRAYER—O Lord, open Thou our eyes, to behold wondrous things out of Thy law.

THE MINSTRELS PLAYED THEIR CHRISTMAS TUNE

The minstrels played their Christmas tune. Tonight beneath my cottage eaves; While, smitten by a lofty moon, Then encircling laurels, thick with leaves, Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen. That overpowered their natural green.

Through hill and valley every breeze Had sunk to rest with folded wings Keen was the air, but could not freeze Nor check the music of the strings; So stout and hardy were the band That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.

And who but listened?—till was paid Respect to every inmate's claim; The greeting given the music played In honor of each household name, Daily pronounced with lusty call, And "Merry Christmas" wished to all!

For pleasure hath not ceased to wait On these expected annual rounds; Whether the rich man's sumptuous gate Call forth unelaborate sounds, Or they are offered at the door That guards the lowliest of the

Why There Was "No Room in the Inn"

LIGHT FROM ORIENTAL LIFE UPON THE EXPERIENCE OF JOSEPH AND MARY, WHO GAVE THE HOLY FAMILY PLACE IN THE STABLE—WHAT SORT OF PLACE WAS IT?

By William T. Ellis. Author of "Bible Lands Today: A Traveler's Experiences."

Tragedy and pathos touch the tale of Christmas in the luminous words, "For there was no room in the inn." That phrase strikes the strings of the dramatic on the harp of the human heart. That the parents of the world's Saviour should be denied lodging in the caravan of Bethlehem seems to affront the ordinary sense of fitness of things. Ten thousand sermons and stories have been pivoted on this phrase.

Why was there "no room in the inn" is there anything in the continuing usages of Bible Lands that explains the plight of the two anxious visitors to Bethlehem from Nazareth? And what is the significance of the refuge in the stable?

Some characteristics are true of the whole Orient. I first approached the East, more than twenty years ago, by way of Japan; and I well remember how I revolted at the self prevalent usage, whereby a "daymio" or other grandee, could onst all of the guests of an inn, so that his nobility could occupy it alone. In 1900, at a town in Palestine, my companion and myself were denied lodging in the one hotel, because a German prince was expected, and had commandeered the whole establishment. The proprietor wrung his hands as he told us the bad news.

This is the way of the undemocratic East. On Christmas night, some years ago, when I was traveling in upper Mesopotamia, over the route of the Wise Men, I came to the town of Sevek, which had a good khan, or inn, room. Because I bore letters from the Sublime Porte, the khani was all for showing out the occupants of the room, that I might occupy it; which summary action, of course, my American sense of fairness would not permit. The inn-keeper could only have been following the custom which obtained in Bethlehem. The khani was all for showing out the occupants of the room, that I might occupy it; which summary action, of course, my American sense of fairness would not permit. The inn-keeper could only have been following the custom which obtained in Bethlehem.

We have enough facts in the gospel to enable us to reconstruct the scene in the Bethlehem inn. The census registration was on. The best room in the inn had been requisitioned by Roman officers. Rich merchants had the rest with perhaps a religious dignity on two lodging in the inn-keeper's own quarters. A poor man simply had no chance. All the private lodgings were taken on that night, gathered for the census—and it may have been that urgent need for immediate shelter for Mary, her hour upon her, did not permit Joseph to make a thorough search of the town. Nothing is more explicable than why "there was no room in the inn" for a way-faring workman.

Turned from the door of the Bethlehem khan, with many sincerely regretful expressions on the part of the inn-keeper, what should Joseph do? I think the explanation of what followed is the simple, natural one. The drivers, loitering about the door of the inn, as is customary, heard the colloquy. They saw Joseph was of the laboring class, like themselves. Perhaps, also, they perceived the plight of Mary.

With the universal friendliness and fraternity of the poor, they provided help. At the turning of a rich man from the overcrowded khan, but here was one of their kind in distress. They themselves lodged with their horses and donkeys

How touching, when, at midnight, sweep Show-muffled winds, and all is dark, To hear—and sink again to sleep; Or, at an earlier call to mark, By blazing fire, the still suspense Of self-complaint innocence.

The mutual nod, the grave disguise Of hearts with gladness brimming o'er; And some unbidden tears that rise For names once heard, and heard no more; Tears brightened by the serenade For infant in the cradle laid, Hall ancient Manners sure defence, Where they survive, of wholesome laws;

Remnants of love whose modest sense Thus into narrow room withdraws; Hall, usages of pristine mould, And ye that guard then Mountains Yes, then can make, who fail to old!

Short leisure even in the busiest days, Moments, to cast a look behind, And profit by those kindly rays, That through the clouds do sometimes steal, And all the far-off past reveal. (By William Wordsworth)

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In the spacious and warm cave-stable, at the back of the guest rooms. So they offered to share their quarters with the worried stranger from the north, and his wife and the donkey on which he rode.

There was nothing extraordinary about lodging in the stable. The Orient lives very close to its animals. There has not been a light, for thousands of years, wherein uncounted myriads of Orientals have not slept in the same room with their beasts. Occidental art has overstressed the hardships of the stable. Multitudes of babies have had managers for their first cradles. So there was no feeling of abnegation in Joseph's heart when he accepted the hospitality of the friendly drivers; who quickly made a secluded corner in the room for Mary—and I doubt not, summoned the inn-keeper's wife to minister to her.

Nearly all of the animals of the Orient are crowded into Nativity pictures by the ancient artists, who were unfamiliar with the customs of the Holy Land. Dogs and sheep and camels and cows are common background for Christmas scenes. It is the usage of the East to stable only the donkeys and the horses. The other animals are not kept indoors especially is the dog not a household pet. "Without are dogs" is a Bible passage that is literally true. All probably, the dumb companions of the Birth, were only the horses and donkeys of the guests of the inn.

This it came to pass that the Babe was born as a guest of lowly

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tolens, in friendly nearness to man's best dumb servants. Ring it, ye bells of the kirk; The Lord of Love, Came down from above, To dwell with the men who work." As Henry van Dyke sang: (Copyright, 1926, by The Ellis Service.)

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