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MONDAY, JULY 29, 1929

A JAIL SCANDAL

It is now over two weeks since a sensational attempt to burn the Court House and Jail of Prince County was reported in the press. The fire, which was fortunately discovered and extinguished before a great deal of damage had been done, bore every evidence of having been set deliberately. The Summerside Journal reported that the place where the fire was set was adjacent to two cells on the basement floor occupied by prisoners who had been convicted and sentenced, and were leaving the following morning for Dorchester penitentiary. The doors of these cells, the Journal stated, had no locks. "In fact out of the ten cells on the floor there were only five with locks that were any good."

The Grand Jury, at a previous session of the Supreme Court, had drawn attention to this astonishing state of affairs, but it seems that nothing whatever had been done. Furthermore, people living in the vicinity of the jail declared that on the evening before the fire they heard an uproar in the building and there were insistent rumors that when the convicted prisoners were being taken away in the morning they were intoxicated. One prisoner was found by the jailor hiding behind a pile of wood in the engine room, apparently waiting a chance to make his escape in the excitement caused by the fire. The whole affair was a scandalous one, calling for immediate investigation and the publication of all the facts bearing on the subject. The suspicion of gross negligence in placing convicted prisoners in unlocked cells where they had practically free access to any part of the interior of the jail, demanded thorough enquiry by the Attorney General. The report too, of drunkenness among the prisoners, should not lightly be dismissed. If they secured liquor, it must either have been passed in to them or carried in by some one having access to the jail. In either case an investigation which should have taken place immediately after the fire would have cleared up the matter. Summerside citizens are naturally indignant over the silence with which the Government has enveloped the whole affair. For if irregularities have been permitted to go on, if carelessness has been exercised in the detention of prisoners to such an extent that they can roam at will over the jail and even secure liquor while awaiting transportation to penitentiary, where is it going to end?

At the time of the fire, there were eighteen prisoners in the Prince County Jail. Had the attempt of the guilty parties succeeded and the jail been destroyed, there might have been serious loss of life.

If the Government has made an enquiry into the affair, if they have exonerated the jailor and found that the fire was an accidental one for which no one was responsible, that the locks were properly attached to the cell doors where they were required and that there was no evidence of drinking among the prisoners on the eve of the fire, it would surely be in the interests of justice to publish all the facts and evidence, and let the people judge for themselves.

SUCCESSFUL MARKETING

In the last analysis successful marketing rests with the producer. The commodity, be it industrial or agricultural, which possesses real merit is assured of a place in the market and of the highest price that the market can afford, provided its merits are made known. Competition has now reached a level which makes it impossible for anything but the best to secure recognition. When this is realized and the producer sets himself to compete successfully with the best, his place in the market is assured. Merit and publicity should go hand in hand. The producer who is proud of his work and appends his name to his product need not fear being crowded out of the market. This is the meaning of the label on any commodity, and the label should al-

ways be held sacred. This is what made Denmark for many years the leading agricultural country in Europe, and the example of Denmark has set the world striving along the same direction. We in Prince Edward Island have the material and the advantages at hand which, if properly guarded, will enable us to compete successfully with the foremost agricultural countries in the world. It has for a long time been suggested that a Prince Edward Island label be attached to every commodity that leaves the Province. This label, lived up to, will ensure a worthy place in any of the world's markets.

LORD LLOYD ON EMPIRE

Lord Lloyd, about whose resignation as High Commissioner of Egypt a storm of comment has been raised in the House of Commons, is a statesman of high calibre and has held his responsible position in Egypt since 1925 with credit to himself and to the Empire. As a speaker, he may be judged from the following timely utterance at Cairo on the occasion of Empire Day. Pointing out "what it is that stimulates us to keep Empire Day," he said:

"We are not a demonstrative people and we are generally at our best when grumbling. During the War we, the older guard, woke up to the fact that we could not take England for granted. We were reminded that it was possible to lose everything that we cared for, and I wish to remind you that you have to fight pretty hard for the things you love. I expect that those who have recently arrived in Egypt take England for granted, but all the time people in other parts of the world are fighting to keep England where she was. When you have done your turn of guard in the East it will be different. The Empire is an eternal romance, and boys and girls need no detective stories while there are the stories of the Empire to read. For there are no stories so exciting. Keeping and guarding the Empire is something like a relay race. We hand the stick to you, and you have got to carry it on and run your hardest, thinking of the goal. This race is not for the laggards or the listless. It is a wonderful heritage and for those who want it there is the excitement of trying to see beyond the next mountain range. When you grow up you will go into business and will encourage people to 'Buy British.' You will help people to live up to British gallantry, British chivalry and British truth. I believe that in Egypt we have a youth growing up second to none in the world."

WOULD MAKE FOR CULTURE

A plea for the teaching in public schools of the elements of architecture and the history of its development is made by a contributor to the London Spectator, who points out that this subject was formerly given more attention in educational curricula than it now receives. Just as in the sixteenth century every gentleman could write a sonnet, so in the eighteenth century every gentleman knew the five orders and could criticise a building. In the Victorian age, despite the impassioned appeal of Ruskin and a few other art enthusiasts, there was little or no public conscience in the matter. The result can be seen in the deplorable taste of many edifices erected in England in that period of great industrial growth and cultural decline. The arguments advanced for architecture as a good school subject at the present time are:

- (1) It offers opportunities for drawing, and a very large number of boys enjoy drawing; moreover, one tends to remember a thing when one has drawn a picture of it.
(2) It helps the teaching of history, simplifying the almost overwhelming task of getting a boy to "see the centuries" as different entities; and, no less than the study of dead languages, it connects the modern world with the ancient.
(3) It is not entirely an abstract subject: the practical advantages of the pointed arch in ecclesiastical architecture, or the solution of simple household problems in domestic architecture, bring what the book-reviewers call "a welcome touch of reality into the class-room."
(4) The present age is an age of architectural transformation and activity, and this should help to arouse interest in the subject.

Notes By The Way

Prohibition may not be taught in United States public schools, nor may any church dogma, or controverted political matter. One Miss Sutter, official chief of the division of statistics and education of the Prohibition Bureau, made the attempt to use the public schools of the country for the dissemination of Prohibition propaganda. It was interwoven with other subjects of an unobjectionable nature. She was ready, we are told to lay her plans before the annual gathering of the National Education Association.

"Reading of her announcement in the newspapers," says The Ohio State Journal, "President Hoover sat down hard on the proposal. And there he shows his sound Americanism and good sense." For, explains the Boston News Bureau "to inject suddenly into the school-room the most controverted issue of the generation, closely allied with politics, and giving but one side of the whole case would have stirred the wrath of a multitude of parents and the disgust of educators."

Many other influential journals quoted in the Literary Digest strongly endorse President Hoover's decisive instructions and their endorsement seems to be unanimous among the papers we have seen. Propaganda is knocking at the school-house doors here in Prince Edward Island and Prohibition is as much a political and highly controversial issue here as it is in the United States. Prohibition propaganda has no rightful place in the school-rooms of our Province, where the parents of the pupils hold opposite views on the question.

A cheerful view of the short crop of wheat in the Prairie Provinces this year was given to the Mail and Empire by a western man a few days ago. He went so far as to say that if the prairie country had this year a wheat crop as it had last year, the consequences to the Canadian West would have been no less than ruinous. Wheat would have dropped to 75 cents a bushel, the cost of taking off a half billion bushel crop would have had to be paid out of the slender returns and the net price to the farmer would perhaps be the lowest on record.

"As only about 250 million bushels is expected, 2,000 fewer hands will be needed to garner it. So that half the cost of harvesting last year's crop will be saved. Under the crop reduction, the market for wheat promises good prices, some forecasters raising expectations of \$2 a bushel. There is a possibility therefore, that the farmers of Western Canada will obtain for their wheat crop in 1929 as much cash as they obtained for that of 1928, and that consequently their buying power may not be less than that from last year's crop."

Evidently that "western man" was a dyed-in-the-wool optimist. How many more like him there may be out on the boundless prairie we can only guess, but we can fancy that not quite all the grain growers are really praying for another short crop next year.

It adds to the value of our fairly good hay crop here at home that good weather for cutting, curing and gathering it has so far accompanied the process. There is a vast difference between the feeding value of hay cured and houses in good hay weather and that which suffers from frequent wetting after it is cut.

President Beatty of the Canadian Pacific Railway found much to admire in the scenery and resources of the Maritime Provinces. He is evidently an alert and discriminating observer wherever he goes, and the expression of approval in regard to the Atlantic Provinces, their present condition and outlook ought to prove of high value as an advertisement. Mr. Beatty is one of the foremost railway men of the American Continent, and his first visit may be hoped to impress many more leading men in the Central and Western Provinces to follow his example in visiting the Maritimes for the first time.

THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK LEIGH

THE BATTLE OF BEAVER DAMS

Q. When and where was the Battle of Beaver Dams fought?
A. The Battle of Beaver Dams was fought, during the war of 1812, at a point near Thorold and St. Catharines on June 26, 1813. Fitzgibbon commanded a detachment of the 49th Regiment, about fifty men, with several hundred Indians. Boerstler, with a party of 600 men, advanced from Fort George by way of Queens-town surprise him, but was ambushed by a body of Indians. Fitzgibbon, who had been warned of the approach of Boerstler by Laura Secord, ad-

An Attic....

Salt-Shaker

THE news that they are to tear down Mark Twain's old home on lower Fifth Avenue, New York, recalls a memorable occasion—to me when I visited him here 20 years ago. I was then a reporter on the New York Times. Late one afternoon, Arthur Greeves, City Editor at that time, called me over to his desk.

"Go down and ask old Sam Clemens what he has to say about this," he said, handing me a clipping of something in the day's news.

As I started to leave, Arthur called me back. "Oh, say, and ask the old ruffian when he is going to pay me the sixty five cents he has owed me for thirty-five years."

I was puzzled. Seeing that he went on. When I was a boy I used to serve old Sam with newspapers. He went away one summer owing me sixty-five cents and I have never been able to collect it. See what you can do."

WELL, down I went to the Clemens home on Fifth Avenue—it was early evening—where I was informed that the great man would see me. I found him in bed with a bad cold. But he was sitting up, wearing one of his famous white jackets and smoking a black cigar. The room was joyously untidy and the bed littered with newspapers, letters and the remains of a half-eaten meal. Having explained my reportorial mission, Mark bade me sit down, and for two hours we talked—at least, he talked.

FINALLY, it came time to go, and I had not mentioned the embarrassing matter of Arthur Greve's sixty-five

CHATTI WEEKLY

BUDGET OF STORIES ABOUT FAMOUS PEOPLE

cents. Bracing myself I began faintly. Mr. Clemens, Mr. Greves requested me to present my compliments to you and to remind you that there is a little matter of sixty-five cents which he says has been owing to him for thirty-five years, and would it please, be convenient for you to pay."

MARK eyed me quizzically, and seeing that I was evidently serious, nervous, and shall I add, green, said with a kindly humorous twinkle in his eye: "You tell Mr. Greves to do his own dirty work and that I will not be bull-dozed into paying."

I LEARNED later that I was not the first young reporter by a long chalk who had been given that assignment by Arthur Greves, and I doubt, very much, that I was the last. It always gave me—and I suspect, Mark too, a good laugh and sometimes a story for the paper.

THERE was only one thing about Mark Twain that grieved me, and that was his contempt for Jane Austen.

"Jane Austen" he said on one occasion—Robert Underwood Johnston reports the conversation in his "Remembered Yesterdays"—"Why, I go so far to say that any library is a good library that does not contain a volume by Jane Austen!" And when his auditors had had time to appreciate this he added: "Even if it contains no other book!"

ONE winter night during the World War, Field Marshal Earl Haig, wearing a rough khaki overcoat and with the red band on his cap concealed by the flaps being pulled down over his ears—it was cold and dark—went aboard a cross-channel boat at Havre for Southampton. Also on board were some Tommies going home on leave. One of them offered the British Commander-in-Chief a "fag" which he instantly took.

THEN a general grousing began around him—what a good time the fellows at home were having, and what a rotten time the boys were having "up the line." Haig listened—no distinguishing remarks were visible on his overcoat.

"Don't you think some of these 'ere brass-hats want blinkin' well shooting?" a Tommy asked. "Of course," agreed the Field Marshal. "Some of them want burning."

AFTER more grousing somebody started up "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag," and the song was taken up by all hands. And Haig stood there singing that old favorite as heartily as any Tommy, declares Sergeant T. Secrett (in "Twenty-five years with Earl Haig.")

When the boat got to Southampton, Haig went down the gang plank in the grey light of early dawn. A quick-eyed transport officer spotted him, and springing to attention, called the guard out.

IT WAS then that a crowd of horrified on-lookers saw the Field Marshal, in the grey light of early dawn, a quick-eyed transport officer spotted him, and springing to attention, called the guard out.

THE SAILING OF THE FLEETS

Now the spring is in the town, now the wind is in the tree, And the wintered keels go down to the calling of the sea.

Out from mooring, dock and slip, through the harbor buoys they glide, Drawing seaward till they dip to the swirling of the tide.

One by one and two by two, down the channel turns they go, Steering for the open blue where the salty great airs blow;

Craft of many a build and trim, every stitch of sail unfurled, Till they hang upon the rim of the azure open world.

Who has ever, man or boy, seen the sea all flecked with joy, And not longed to go with joy forth upon adventures bold?

Who could bear to stay indoors, now the wind is in the street, For the creaking of the oar and the tugging of the sheet?

Now the spring is in the town, who would not a rover be, When the wintered keels go down to the calling of the sea? —Bliss Carman in "Later Poems."

—BY—

W. ORTON TEWSON

rified Tommies discovered that their companion of the crossing who had heard all their bawdy jokes and fearful and weird criticism of the High Command was none less than Field Marshal Haig himself! He turned to them:

"Good-by boys." Mind you enjoy yourselves!" And they raised a cheer then and there.

ONE DAY, in a Cleveland street car, a lady whom John D. Rockefeller knew sat beside him. Rockefeller handed the conductor a quarter. The latter returned fifteen cents change. "You've made a mistake my friend," insisted Rockefeller.

"Aren't you paying for two fares?" asked the conductor. "No," returned Rockefeller shortly. "Let this be a lesson to you young man. Never take anything for granted."

Flushing painfully, the lady fished out a nickel and paid her own fare. "Nourished his nickels as he did his million," comments John K. Winkler, telling the story in his book about the Standard Oil Chief.

TO Henry M. Flagler, more than to any other individual, does John D. Rockefeller credit the building up of the Standard Oil mammoth business. Once Flagler remarked to Rockefeller:

"John, a friendship founded on business is a whole lot better than a business founded on friendship, isn't it?"

The name of Flagler is never rough up today (says Winkler), that John D. does not recall the quotation.

SPEAKING of Standard Oil reminds me that S. C. T. Dodd—father of Lee Wilson Dodd, the novelist—as the "legal brains" of the Rockefeller Oil interests in the early days, was given a dinner at 26 Broadway on the eve of his first visit to England in the interests of the Standard Oil. At the top of the menu was inscribed:

"In Dodd We Trust."

FOR TEACHERS' SALARIES

Sir.—Now the Plebscite is over and Prohibition has come out victorious, I suppose the Saunders Government will close the two rum shops in Charlottetown and Summerside. Oh! the Temperance Alliance say they are not rum shops, they are vendors' offices. You don't say so! Well, my mistake, they are vendors' offices but at the same time when you go by one of them you get about the same smell as the old grog shops of 50 years ago. Then they could take the salaries of the two bartenders to increase the salaries of the public school teachers. I would also suggest they take the salaries of the extra sheriff we have in Prince Co., which is absolutely unnecessary and add it to the same fund.

I am, Sir, etc., ECONOMY

Kensington, July 26, 1929.

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THE modern hold-up man is not the picturesque and sportsman-like fellow the highwayman, of two hundred years ago. He never maltreated anybody, but rather endeared himself to those he robbed. Ned Wicks, a romantic Knight of the road in the days of John Gay, of "Beggars' Opera" fame—I got the story from Sherwin's biography of Gay—

Continued on page 5

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