



MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1929

BACK TO THE STANLEY

It is idle to speculate, at this stage, on how long the Car Ferry will be tied up in Halifax undergoing repairs necessitated by the untoward accident of last week. We do not know whether the Halifax drydock is immediately available for the ferry steamer. We have no assurance that the spare propeller said to be procurable will fit the boat, or whether it will be necessary to send for one from the workshops of Great Britain. We do not know definitely whether further damage has not been sustained to the steamer, which will mean a protracted period in drydock. We do not know, in fact, whether the Car Ferry will be disabled from service for weeks or for months, or for the season. One thing, however, is certain. We have been placed in a most awkward position, and whatever remedial steps are now taken to solve the difficulty, there will be a disruption of the transportation service to and from this Province which will put our people to considerable delay, inconvenience and expense. We are placed in a worse position than we were twenty or thirty years ago because of our steadily increasing traffic and because we have been caught unawares. We are in a position which would not be tolerated in any other Province in Canada. If such a thing should happen as a tie-up in the freight transportation service of any of our sister Provinces for twenty-four hours, the officials at Ottawa and Montreal would be deluged with protests and there would ensue a swift and merciless search for the goat. There would, first of all, be a prompt resumption of service at whatever cost, followed by a full and complete investigation into the whole matter. A second car ferry has been advocated for years in this Province through the press, and by our Boards of Trade and business people generally. Strong resolutions have been passed, and eloquent speeches have been made by politicians and others on the matter. We have even succeeded in having a sum of \$1,000,000 appropriated by Parliament for the building of a second steamer—a belated measure which, had it been taken immediately upon the recommendation of the Duncan Commission, might have saved us from the middle we are in today. But what has it all amounted to? Another session of Parliament will be held, another appropriation must be voted, another set of plans will have to be prepared, before the second car ferry will even materialize on paper. And here we are, in the lurch, in the middle of winter, with a disabled steamer and with transportation prospects which can only be described as intolerable. If the S. S. Stanley is placed on the Borden-Tormentine route, as now suggested, what assurance have we that she will not become ice-bound in the Straits for a week or a month, following a period of severe weather such as we had at the beginning of last week? The Stanley was frequently tied up in this manner when she was on the service before, and we can recall the consequences. The proper place for the Stanley, as experience has demonstrated, is on the Pictou-Georgetown route. Another ice-breaker should operate with her, thus providing a double service to handle freight as well as passengers. If the S. S. Montserrat is not available, let the Department get busy and supply another boat immediately. This is the least they can do. If an aeroplane service could be maintained regularly for the mails, well and good. But the difficulty, encountered by the post, of finding a suitable landing place, has interfered with the carrying out of this plan. The plane could not reach here on Saturday and made a belated ar-

rival Sunday afternoon. It is obvious that we cannot place dependence on a service of this kind. The mails, however, could be carried if two ice breakers were placed on the Pictou-Georgetown route. Failing this, we may as well prepare at once for the re-establishment of mail transportation by ice-boat across the Capes. Since we are getting back to old times, let us prepare for the worst.

SOME CHEESE, PLEASE!

"Eat more cheese week" having been advocated at the meeting of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, the Toronto Mail and Empire suggested that householders should have an opportunity to buy mellow, matured cheese instead of the fresh stuff generally offered to them. A reader who saw the suggestion wrote: "If there is any food more appetizing or satisfying than a piece of mellow, well-ripened Canadian cheese I have yet to taste it. But like hundreds and hundreds of other people, I simply dare not eat it, for it ties my bowels into double hard knots."

To which the Mail and Empire replies:—Compassion is the orthodox remedy for a complaint of this kind and we would be inclined to offer it were it not for the precept of Sir Thomas Browne, somewhat to this effect, "By compassion we make another's misery our own." And we very much doubt his argument that, "by relieving them we relieve ourselves also." We do not know personally our correspondent but we think that those of whom he writes suffer from sins of omission. The trouble is caused not by the mellow Canadian cheese which they eat, but by the indignity they put upon it in the eating. Too many people nowadays bolt their food, washing it down with some form of liquid, and do not chew it properly. There is need of another Fletcher to teach people how to chew. The present unhappy process can be seen in every hotel, restaurant and eating-house in the land. The person careful of digestion cannot obtain dry bread or bread a day or two old. Everyone is supplied with fresh, soft stuff, little better than dough, and the reason given is that such is the popular demand. It can be bolted in a hurry for so many people think they have no time to eat properly. Good Canadian cheese need not be shunned by anyone whose internal mechanism is in good working order. On the contrary, it is a valuable food for the strong and vigorous regardless of age. Gout used to be prevalent in England, it may be yet, and cheese and port got the blame for it. But cheese could plead innocence. It was the port which was the guilty partner for have we not the warning of an anonymous writer:

"Fair and erect the Caledonian stood; Sound was his mutton and his claret good; Let him drink port! the English drank; He drank the poison and his spirit died."

THE BRITISH WAY

It is well for us to be reminded occasionally of the rights of British citizenship. The point was emphasized recently by the Chief Justice in charging the jury in a criminal case. The question concerned the admissibility of certain evidence. "You have heard," said his Lordship, "a great deal about 'wringing out a confession.' That is not admitted in any British Court of Justice. The days of the rack and thumbscrew are far back in history. Today any evidence admitted by the court is free and voluntary. No hopes or fears must be presented. If an officer of the law should say to a witness even 'It would be better for you to confess,' and he did confess, the evidence would not be permitted to come before the jury."

Notes By The Way

Among the negative precautions against the flu which our health officials have hitherto neglected to mention, is some means of preventing an indiscriminate indulgence in kissing. Modern flappers who have been somewhat lavish with their osculations, it is now suggested by a writer in the Vancouver "Province," should be warned to curb their ardor for a while. Married men should be careful, too, especially those who have been married a long time to wives of acidulous temperament. Better wait until summer. The flu will be over by then, and your wife will be away for her holidays. A very special warning should be directed at engaged couples, and couples who ought to be engaged, though it is going to be very hard indeed to make them see the error of their ways. Members of our energetic service clubs who are so fond of doing things thoroughly and well might even convince themselves that it is their public duty to wear a bright red button with these words in jet black: "Please don't kiss me!" Somebody ought to start the ball rolling.

We have heard a great deal in the Liberal press and on the floor of the House about the advantage to our fishermen of the special course of instruction to be instituted by the Federal Department of Fisheries at Halifax. The course is now underway. Seventeen Maritime fishermen are taking the course, one of whom is from this Province. If the purpose is to have those who receive the course disseminate the information they acquire among their fellow fishermen on their return home, our lone representative will have his hands full.

Premier Mussolini has had a special commission overhaul the elementary textbooks used in Italy, and the textbook has found that "not a single history or geography now being used is fit for the schools." The history books do not give the proper emphasis to political developments since the march on Rome six years ago and the geographies do not present the proper facts about the populations and minorities along the frontier. Special textbooks, favorable to the Fascist ideals, are being prepared. This is one way of "improving" education and instilling an intense form of patriotism; but it is a dangerous way. It has been tried before and it is being tried today for other reasons in certain sections of the United States. It will always fail of its purpose. History, especially, cannot be cut in to fashionable patterns or into any homogeneous design which would be satisfying to the political or social reformer. There are a lot of embarrassing facts in history but to disapprove to the extent of censoring them is really an absurd attitude to take. We were not sent into the world to air our prejudices.

When Robert Burns lay on his death-bed in Dumfries he is said to have declared to his wife "I will be better known a hundred years from now, Jean, than I am today." More prophetic words were never uttered. The poet who died tormented with a debt of \$50 hanging over him that he was unable to meet is known everywhere today, while the sale of one copy of an early edition of his poems or the proceeds of one of the thousands of concerts which will be held this month in his honor, furnish enough money to have kept Burns in affluence all his life.

A correspondent in the Toronto Globe depicts the evils of tobacco smoking so convincingly that it is quite evident our local reformers are derelict in their duty in overlooking the havoc wrought by this insidious vice. King James of England, who wrote on everything from theology to tobacco, is quoted as condemning the smoke of that horrid Stygian pit that is bottomless. "It is pointed out that there is only one passage in the Bible that favors it: 'He that is filthy let him be filthy still.' There is, it is stated, only one poison known stronger than the oil of tobacco, and there is enough of this poison in a single cigar to kill a man. One drop taken from the bowl of an old pipe and put on the head of a snake will kill it. The poison of tobacco affects the heart. Its use is especially injurious to the young. The habit so enslaves its victims that they lose all respect for the rights of others. The loss every year from fires caused by careless smokers is incalculable. The money worse than wasted for tobacco in one year would build a railroad twice around the earth at twenty thousand dollars a mile. Here, surely, is abundant material for another moral crusade. Let our political prohibitionists ponder the suggestion over their after dinner pipes.

That Body of Hours
By James W. Barton, M.D.
USING DRUGS FOR ABDOMINAL PAIN IS DANGEROUS

The knowledge of the use of certain drugs is now so common that it is not unusual for families to buy supplies such as aspirin, paregoric, castor oil, and epsom salt, as they would groceries or fruit. That occasions arise for the use of these is only too true, but these very simple drugs can prove very dangerous under certain conditions. For instance you may feel a little sick at the stomach, in fact may vomit, with pain right in the pit of the stomach. Now these folks with a supply of medicine on hand may do one of two things. Either take some aspirin or paregoric to ease the pain, or take some castor oil or epsom salts to get rid of whatever is irritating the stomach or intestine. Easing or quieting the pain, which may be due to appendicitis, by the use of either aspirin or paregoric, will permit the inflammation to become so serious that when the operation is performed the appendix may have burst, gangrene set in, and the operation be too late. And so also with the use of a purgative such as castor oil or epsom salts. Should the trouble be appendicitis, the use of a purgative very frequently ruptures the appendix, and is the cause of many deaths. If you get a pain in stomach and it seems to shift around from place to place, sometimes ending up almost entirely there it is likely due to gas, and will not cause any temperature or any pain on pressure. However if the pain starts at stomach and gradually goes down to the lower right side of abdomen and stays there, with tenderness on pressure over the spot, and hardening of the abdomen over the pain, and some temperature also, then it is likely appendicitis and there should be no delay in calling your doctor. There is naturally the temptation to ease the pain or get rid of offending irritant, but an enema or injection is the most that should be given before the doctor arrives. Remember then that drugs are dangerous in appendicitis, and abdominal pain is often due to appendicitis.

Words often misused: When two or more personal pronouns are connected by "and," the second person precedes the third and first, the third precedes the first. "You and she and I are going." Often mispronounced: directly. Pronounce the i as in "it," not as in "die." Open misspelled baron (nobelman), barren (unproductive). Synonyms: idle, indolent, lazy, inactive, inert, slothful, unemployed, trifling. Word study "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: CONTRIVE; to plan ingeniously; scheme; plot; invent. "Their plans were cunningly contrived."

Daily Lessons in English
By W. L. GORDON

Household Scrapbook
By ROBERTA LEE
Tan Colored Fabrics
Gold Teeth
The Poet's Corner
AN EPITAPH

Help Check The Influenza
Mac's Cold Tablets
A Bottle of Mac's Syrup of Tar
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Limitations of Science

In spite of all the new discoveries, there is a truth in the past which is not and cannot be ignored nor brushed aside. Much of the knowledge of the past is still eternal truth, and just as Einstein embraces all Newton, so presumably the truth of the present is merely a supplement to and an extension of the truth of the past." So declares Dr. R. A. Millikan in last Sunday's New York Times. Said Chancellor Brown a year or two ago, "Students must gain the power to render change itself a factor in moral stability." The scientist and the university president aim at the same thing. This is the great need of the present, to discover anchors that do not drag. Somewhere in all the questions which have been uppermost in the past decade or so are fixed truths to which people can repair in times of doubt and unsettlement. Where are they?

A Real Service

Dr. Millikan does a real service in stressing this fact. One of the most distinguished of American scientists, he has no fear that science, which more than anything else is responsible for the rapid changes in our era, will leave us without moral and spiritual props. Like Voltaire, he believes that if God did not exist it would be necessary to invent Him. Upon scientists with his oriented faith our age is particularly dependent for guidance. Indeed it would be well if leaders of science would make a concerted effort to instruct the public in the limitations of science quite as much as in its vast possibilities. For as regards science the public has been decidedly "oversold." The greatest reproach that can be brought against a person today is to say that he is "unscientific." It is small wonder that this should be so, considering the strides which science has recently made in mastering natural forces and applying them to the needs of mankind. Miracles some of these would have seemed not more than a quarter of a century ago. All the same, science is not yet everything and there are plenty of truths dating from far back which have not yet been overthrown. Greek symmetry, whether in architecture or in life, still holds its own. Leonardo da Vinci is remembered for his paintings rather than for his speculations on aviation. Shakespeare, who had but a smattering of science, has never been surpassed, or equalled, as a dramatist.

But today belief in the power of science is our ruling fetish. It has taken hold in educational circles almost as much as in less strictly trained minds. Production, distribution, social reform, education, the writing of history all show its effects, and it is headed up in the popular feeling towards prosperity. In some way or other science supposedly, can furnish a technology for each of our varied activities. Until the recent slump in stocks we doubt not that tyros believed that science was serving them in their play of the market.

History Felt The Urge
The spell of science has not been easy to resist. If science was so potent in its own bailiwick why could not its method be transferred to other spheres? This was the question first asked by scholars. History soon felt the urge. Since the scientific method meant ascertaining facts, as distinguished from guessing them, and proceeding from one ascertained fact to another and accepting no inference not based upon such ascertained facts, the method seemed reasonable for the study and writing of history, too. It did, indeed, help students of history much. Origins and causes of wars were examined anew, with some surprising results, especially as regards American history. Yet we have this statement from the authority, George Trevelyan Macaulay, Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge, made late in 1927: "Sir Walter Scott, who was a great antiquarian before ever he commenced novelist, did more for history I venture to think, than any professional historian in modern times. . . . It was he who first taught us to think of our ancestors as real human beings with passions and aspirations like our own."

Good Old Human Truths
Then economics undertook to become scientific, and made such progress that today in many minds any interpretation of life that is not predominantly economic is worthless. We all know in what high regard economic engineering is held by no less a person than our President-elect. Psychology followed suit. Its application to everyday life is so well recognized that a magazine bearing the unadorned name Psychology is read eagerly by the man in the street. A successful teacher goes so far as to say that 85 per cent of one's earning power, to the extent at least that this is determined by education, is pro-

duced by expertness in business psychology. Finally, the science of statistics which has advanced so notably in the last few years, has combined with all the other rehabilitated subjects, until their united efforts are formidable indeed. Schools of education, philanthropy, social betterment, civic reform all swear allegiance to the scientific method. We recall that leading citizens of Pittsburgh contrasted shamefacedly the slipshod ways of their city government with the admirable technology of their great industries, and the inference was that perfection in the former could only come after being patterned on the latter. The Pittsburgh episode is amusing because the weakness of this industrial centre is the admitted absence of a technology of distribution at all comparable with its technology of production. If Pittsburgh cannot discover scientific means for building up ample and economical markets for what it produces, how can it hope to apply the scientific method to so divergent a sphere as city government?

Dangers To Be Overcome

Science has done wonders for our civilization, but the misunderstanding of science can destroy us just as wonderfully. This can rob us of religion, can reduce art to technique, make a yardstick of education, exalt material prosperity to a national ideal. The way out of such difficulties is through the teachings of science itself. And Dr. Millikan and others are in a position to make these deeply felt, owing to the prestige which science now enjoys. First and foremost, is the passion for truth for its own sake and regardless of its money value which has kept scientists patiently at their confining tasks. Wealth is but a by-product of truth, and great magnates who today control vast fortunes are the beneficiaries of scientific research, most of which were pursued because some one loved truth more than he loved riches. This is a primary fact the stressing of which may be a wholesome corrective in a time of national prosperity. Secondly, would that our men of science might shout from the housetops the fact that as a rule great scientists have possessed imagination and broad sympathies. It required a long look ahead to prefigure the law of gravitation from the sight of a falling apple. And today it requires imagination and understanding to grasp the meaning of the scientific method, its true scope and its limitations. Old truths still prevail, as Dr. Millikan justly points out. Diplomacy, social reform, education, to go no farther, have elements which will never completely respond to mere science; old truths are the only safeguard. Our own nation may well take this to heart, especially as regards international dealings. Our great prosperity, largely the outcome of scientific advance coupled with vast natural resources, is the world's bugaboo just now. It needs the leaven of some good old human truths to make it a blessing.

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Modern Etiquette
BY ROBERTA LEE
Q. To whom should one send courtesy letters upon returning home, in addition to the hostess?
A. To any friends who have helped the hostess entertain you.
Q. Is it proper to tip a chambermaid when stopping at a hotel?
A. Yes.
Q. Where does the hostess stand to receive her guests for a formal dinner?
A. Just within the entrance to the drawing room.

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