

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1922

THE EASTERN SITUATION

Pending word as to how the Unspeakable Turk takes the answer of the Allies, the situation in the Near East has at least one bright spot, namely the backing of France to the demand of Great Britain that the peace terms must be agreed upon before the Turks are put in possession of Thrace. It will be remembered that France at first inclined to the Turkish view, namely that possession of Thrace be given immediately and the peace terms arranged afterwards. It will be remembered also that when this report was received by the British government, Lord Cruzon went immediately to France to discuss the situation with Premier Poincaré. What happened at the interview is of course not known but, no doubt as a result of it, the announcement is made in our despatches this morning that France will back Great Britain in the matter. The Turk gets a slap in the face by this arrangement. Whether he will take it placidly or not remains to be seen. In the meantime the Turks are massing around the neutral zone and the British have added three more first class battleships to the fleet in the Dardanelles.

"THIS FREEDOM"

"For a great price obtained I this freedom," said a Roman officer to the Apostle Paul when the latter bound for a scourging, declared, "I was free born." The theme has been elaborated by many an essayist and many a poet. Freedom! the greatest privilege of man and brute and plant! Freedom! What price should we not pay for it? But, what is freedom?

One of the most popular works of the year bears the title "This Freedom," popular, perhaps, not because of anything intrinsically new or valuable in it, but because its author, Mr. A. S. M. Hutchinson, is one of the most popular of modern novelists and, to be in the literary swim, one must be in a position to say "I have read the latest most popular and most talked-about novel," just as one must be in a position to tell all and sundry that their new hat was fashioned by the most up-to-date milliner.

To the thoughtful reader the value of this book lies in the fact that it opens up, rather than clears up, many subjects of speculation, suggests many questions which it will be profitable to follow to a conclusion.

The story proper is a simple one. The heroine, Rosalie, enters into it at the early age of four years. She is the youngest child in the family of a rector who had had a brilliant college career but spoiled his opportunities for a brilliant career in after life by falling in love with and marrying a young lady who had sacrificed her future by caring for her invalid father. The rector, in charge of a poor parish, had become soured, life held for him no future. He had two sons and the daughter Rosalie. The mother devoted her life to caring for her husband and two sons, a graceless husband and graceless sons. To Rosalie's young mind her father was the lord of creation and all other men held proprietary rights under him. Her mother, the cook, the maid, had no other business in life but to wait on the men, to cook for them, sew for them, keep the house in order for them. She grew up, was fairly well educated, developed exceptional cleverness, fell in love with a brilliant lawyer and married him.

Then developed the idea of freedom, freedom to pursue a career of her own, independent of her husband, both sharing alike in the expenses of maintenance. The agreement was mutual; he made

plenty of money to maintain the home; she entered a bank, succeeded as few bank clerks do outside of a novel, became a partner in the banking business and was recognized in society and in the commercial and financial world as a woman with a brilliant career. In the meantime three children came in due course. These however were not permitted to interfere with her career. She placed them in charge of an expert nurse who knew theoretically all about children and how to feed and train them; later in charge of an expert governess who knew all the latest that science had divulged in the training of young minds. The children, thus fed and thus trained, became model children, the mother and father proud of them and the neighbors envious of them. The children grew up and, to make a long story short, the mother had won her freedom, had proved to the world that a woman could pursue her own career without detriment to the home. One by one the children went to the bad; one son became a criminal, a daughter committed suicide, and another son, disgraced by his sister's tragic death, also committed suicide. These are the "high-spots" in the story. The woman had obtained her freedom at this awful price. The inference is, and correctly, that the children because brought up mechanically and without the love and the natural intimacy between mother and children, went to destruction.

If the purpose of the novel is to demonstrate that a woman can not pursue a "career" without neglecting her children, generations of women prove the contrary. The world is full of examples of noble women who, not in search of "freedom" but by compulsion, worked out their "careers" and, while doing so, gave their children the natural mother love and care without which neither mothers nor children can be morally or spiritually healthy. Some such careers have not been as spectacular as that of Rosalie, but they are actually "starved for their bread" but the motherly instinct and the mother love did not fail even in death.

The trouble with the heroine in this story, although not so expressed, was that she was seeking for and found a freedom that was not freedom. No natural mother would regard as freedom the privilege of entrusting the bringing up of her children to another. Many women of today have found such freedom, not in a brilliant financial career, like Rosalie, but in the gilded palaces of so-called society. For this freedom many of these also have paid the price that Rosalie paid.

Rosalie at length realized the "great price" wherewith she had purchased "this freedom" and the story ends, as all "good stories" end in compensations which leave the hero and heroine as happy as a mother and father could be who had seen their three eldest children go to destruction.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION

The Veteran of September 30th takes a pessimistic view of the situation in the Near East. The issue was published before the result of the Mudania Conference was announced and the terms agreed upon are what the Veteran in advance, declared a menace.

"Because war was not immediately declared following the British Government's query to Canada concerning possible military participation in the Near East situation, says the Veteran, "the opinion became broadcast that conditions were not as bad as had been suggested. As long as Kemal Pasha, the Turkish leader, persists in his demand for the return of Thrace, the former Turkish province in Europe, the tinder but

Notes By The Way

From time to time we are reminded of how little some of our big inland newspapers know about Saint John, or Halifax, the two all-year-round open ports for the Dominion on its Atlantic side. Toronto, Saturday Night was a recent offender in that it stated on one of its bright illustrated pages that Montreal is the nearest port to Liverpool. It should have known that Montreal is 2760 miles from Liverpool while St. John is only 2754 and Halifax only 2485.

The error of the Toronto paper was a matter of six miles in one case and 275 miles in the other, as the Halifax Chronicle hastened to point out. So far as we can learn no one of the three Liberal governments in the Maritime Provinces took any notice of the insult or resented it in any way. Probably they may have attributed it to ignorance and not to malice. Letters frequently come from Ontario to this city addressed to Charlottetown, Nova Scotia, absolutely making our blood boil. Where there is such gross lack of information even in editorial sanctums, we can realize the importance of Premier Drury's admonition to his electors to "broaden out."

Who has not heard repeatedly from anti-prohibitionists that the restrictions placed upon the liquor traffic drives the drinkers to resort to the drug habit? Also, that prohibition keeps American tourists from coming to the Maritime Provinces? The answer is easy. Judging by the records of motor traffic more American cars came to Ontario this season twice over than came to Quebec, and Ontario is a prohibition province, while Quebec is quite the opposite. And Montreal and Vancouver, where the sale of liquor is officially encouraged, have about as many if not more drug addicts than all the prohibition provinces taken together. The objections here noted are a pure unadulterated bluff.

What becomes of all the needles and pins that are made? Reports show that ten billions of pins of the ordinary toilet variety are made yearly in the United States, chiefly in Connecticut—two thousand tons of them, costing nearly thirty millions of dollars. Ten thousand people are employed making them in 92 factories. The material is imperishable but the pins are lost and disappear mysteriously. Next year we shall want as many more and want them badly. Silence is expressed by saying "You could hear a pin drop," but nobody hears them drop. They simply vanish into the air. They fade away into oblivion.

It is interesting to note that Sir Henry Thornton, the new General Manager of the Canadian National Railways, is well spoken of by the press, while the same is not the case so far as the Opposition papers with regard to the composition of the Board of Management. Some of them are suspected of and others of them are known to have strong political leanings. This might have been expected when the appointments were made by the government on the recommendation of its political supporters. Each of these supporters naturally wished to have a friend at court.

But why were no railway experts included among their number? Surely the lawyers, millers, furriers and civic committee men who make up the bulk of the Board are not expert railway men. An ordinary section foreman in charge of a few miles of track knows more about railways and their actual working than all the lawyers, merchants, millers and furriers in the country. It would seem that the present occupations of the men selected gives evidence that they were chosen for political reasons chiefly, and that they accept their new positions with some knowledge that they are expected not to forget their obligations to the politicians who appointed them.

Yet these are the men who have been chosen to advise, and it may be to control the General Manager in operating 22,000 miles of railway which cost the country something like two billions of dollars. It takes the average man half a lifetime to learn what he is required to know in order to be a first-class lawyer, banker, or railway manager. Divert the most capable and successful man of business from one line of business activity to another and it will be years before he becomes a qualified expert in his new calling. In the present case the members of the Board have obviously to learn their new duties after they enter upon them and at the expense of the country. It would not be so if practical and experienced railway men had been chosen for these positions as should have been done.

That is an altogether horrible story of the hanging of Benny Swin at Woodstock, New Brunswick on Friday last. Convicted of killing a man and his wife in a fit of jealous passion, he confessed his crime, appeared penitent, was relieved because alleged to be insane, was declared sane, a new date set for his execution was again postponed for want of a hangman and finally hanged, resuscitated and hanged again and again, three times in all, by two separate hangmen, because the first one bungled, the period of torture covering a full hour. And rum was said to have caused the bungling! A revolting tragedy!

Turkey May Have Poet as Sultan

Abul Medjid, in whose behalf it is reported that the Sultan of Turkey has resigned, has been one of the mainstays of the Nationalist movement whose military exponent is Kemal Pasha. It would seem likely that the various Turkish factions would unite under him, and probable that he would make the wisest and most civilized ruler the country has ever had. From what is known of Abul Medjid, it seems highly probable that he would sanction massacres of Christians, but of course these massacres depend often as much upon the passions of the turbulent citizenry as upon the good or evil intentions of the rulers. While Medjid is a loyal Turk, he admits many imperfections in the Turkish character, and confesses that his nation has been incapable of taking in hand its internal administration. This was true of finances, the postal and telegraph services and above all of the educational system. Turkey, he said, had always been pre-eminently a nation of soldiers and, he added significantly "She is that today."

A Turkish d'Annunzio.

He made the remark in the course of an interview with L.C. Walters, an American newspaper correspondent some time ago, and the interview was as much concerned with the latest developments in art as with international politics. The Prince, it appears is something like d'Annunzio, in that he is celebrated in peace

time as a poet and painter, and in war time, while not leading troops in the field, tunes his lyre to patriotic tones and sings of the great victories of the Turks in the past. That was his course in the Great War, and while he was not able to quite sing his fellow-countrymen to victory, he was regarded as a great help to them. Since the end of the war he has been harping on the national string and has provided the Angora Government with wise advice and strong encouragement. He was also a powerful factor in the movement which led to the overthrow of Abdul Hamid in 1908.

Of late, his position has been a most difficult one, but he seems to have occupied it with a good deal of tact and self-respect. On the one hand he was the Crown Prince and heir presumptive to the Sultanate, and there was acute antagonism between him and Mahamed VI. But he always referred to the ruler in terms of the greatest respect, and vigorously denied that he or his intimates were concerned in any of the "red flag" plots which have occupied so much of the attention of the Allied police since the latest Nationalist movement was inaugurated. He had to attend the Sultan's privy councils, and yet all the time was in communication with the Angora Government which repudiated the Sultan and refused to offer any obedience to whatever recommendations or orders might issue from the council. Yet he is said to have played the game fairly between the two, betraying to neither any confidence of the other.

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discussion, Turkey should be heard as a sovereign people entitled to an equal voice in settlement.

Medjid is described by the correspondent as being "exquisitely refined in manner and speech, tall, looking young for his more than fifty years of age, and every inch a European." Throughout Turkey he is credited with holding moderate views, but of course one cannot tell whether the general belief is correct until he has had a chance to assert himself. He is at least not a Sinn Fein Turk. He says that his country needs outside help in establishing itself, and should be sympathetic to foreign capital in developing the resources of the country. He says that his people recognize the fact that the Dardanelles are an international highway and should be kept free, but insists that in the

FOR THE BELOVED. We see them not across the heavenly spaces. Those smiling eyes so dear. Our hearts cry out beside their empty places. Would God that they were here. And know not how with tender yearning faces. Our angels hover near.

Sorrow and love their bruised spines bearing. Still wait the dawn of day. Still to the far off heaven in grief despairing. Lift weary hands to pray. Angel of life! thy glorious garments wearing. Come roll the stone away.

And still our hearts beloved full of pity. Are waiting close at hand. Clothed with the radiance of the blessed city. A glad, immortal band. We hear their soft, "What aileth thee, O weeper?" But cannot understand.

Not here? O say it not, our eyes are hidden. As when the Master spake. Least life's deep stream from all its fountains ebbing. Grew empty for their sake. Least, should we see them in their deathless beauty. For joy our hearts would break.

Silent! O deem it not! The air is throbbing. With voices heavenly sweet. They sing with us the hymn of resurrection. The Easter morn to greet. Only our ears are dull to catch the anthems. The raptured lips repeat. Not far away since Christ is ever near us. And they with Him abide. Some morn. O heart! thou shalt from dreams awake. To find them by thy side. Darkness all fled, and griefs forever ended. Thou shalt be satisfied.

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