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A COUNCIL OF WAR.
The proposed peace treaty, between Great Britain and the United States, bids fair to become a failure because the United States wants all matters of arbitration to be made subject to the concurrence of its senate. The senate is the highest legislative body in the republic, and contains some very able men. But the evidence has been offered of how cranky and irascible they can become. The trade agreement was negotiated by representatives of the government, who acted in a non-partisan and independent way. These men co-operated with the administration in the development of a purely business proposal. It passed the lower house, but was held up and jockeyed out of the senate, and the president had no alternative than to call a special session of congress and insist upon its action. That is a sample of what may happen at any time in connection with the peace negotiations. The senate may be the only body in the United States which can compel a treaty, but it is too cumbersome and too liable to change of membership and policy, to meet the conditions in an ideal way. The senate is indeed a council of war, generally, not a council of peace.

DOPING THE BACTERIA.
Two facts have come to light in connection with recent water tests, one in Toronto and one in Kingston, and both are very important. The bacteria are not killed by hypochloride as the medical men at first supposed. They are simply sluggish or doped and for the time being rendered incapable of damage. They will recover later, and by careful nursing. So says the medical health officer of Toronto, and he adds that chlorine treatment of the water should not be abandoned, for in any case it makes the water purer. For the time being the germs are rendered harmless, as the experience of Toronto and other places has fully demonstrated.

A second fact is that made clear by a Kingston experiment, namely, that water taken beyond the intake pipe was found to be impure. Which is not surprising, seeing that a similar fact was emphasized by the health officer in connection with the Conservation Commission. His idea was that the water of the lakes should be protected from impurity by laws passed in the United States and Canada, forbidding the emptying of sewage into it. Further tests should be made and precautions taken to protect the water as far as possible.

When they are the laws against pollution will be enforced and respected. Still more, each municipality that cares for the lives of the people will see the wisdom, even at great price, of providing filtration basins and passing all water required for domestic consumption to pass through them. "It will be hard to provide pure water," said a representative of our water committee, "if it is not to be had in the lake."

THE PAST AND PRESENT.
The Mail says the postponement of the reciprocity debate for a couple of months "is a blow at the system of absolutism established at Ottawa." It is a sample, rather, of the forbearance of a government that has the majority and could enforce its edicts if it desired. There is no absolutism like unto that which prevailed under the conservative rule and when Mr. Foster formed part of the combination. Then it was a case of accept what the government dictated or do the other thing, and the records teem with instances in which the tyranny of the government was carried to extreme.

The last triumph of absolutism occurred in 1896, and before the Tupper government went to smash. The old man, in his last epistle, tells of the time he came to Canada to stomp the Maritime Provinces for the MacDonald government. He did not tell of the later occasion when he came from England to assume the premiership and at a time when the members of the government were fighting like so many Kilkenny cats. Sir Charles caught the spirit of the times and asserted his kingship by declaring that the Remedial School bill should pass, "for he himself had said it." And pass it did, but the people resented it and the government which gave it effect. There cannot be any triumph of absolutism now, without the consent of the people. They must approve of the trade agreement or it cannot last a year. By the way, it is contingent on public opinion. Why not pass it and let the people later deal with it upon its merits?

SOME AFTER-DINNER TALK.
The leader of the opposition entertained Hon. Mr. McBride and Hon. Mr. Borden, of the British Columbia government, Hon. Mr. Hazen, of the New Brunswick government, and Hon. Mr. Rogers, of the Manitoba government at a dinner in Ottawa on Friday evening. The meeting of these men in the capital was not a coincidence. It was the result of a prearrangement, the response to a cry of distress which Mr. Borden raised a while ago, and following the periodical agitation for a change of leadership. The fact that the Ontario government was not represented is remarkable. It cannot be said that Sir James Whitney was not convenient, or that he was so occupied that he could not, if he desired, attend a convocation of provincial leaders in Ottawa.

The speech of Mr. Borden was not his happiest effort. It was laboured throughout. It was a heartless defence of the policy of the party and the attempt to justify it under the circumstances. That the party made a mistake in opposing the trade agreement, and that they misjudged the temper of the people by the hostility of a few bankers and lawyers and manufacturers, is quite apparent. The fact is bitterly resisted, but not because it is inimical to the interests of Canada and the mother country. That is the pretence, and only a pretence. It is fiercely opposed because of its popularity, and the promise it affords of another victory for the liberals at the polls.

The note that was clearest in the speech of the opposition leader was that which ran through his appeal to the provincial leaders. Should the opportunity occur it was the duty of these men to rally to the federal leader and assist him in giving the people proper government. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier formed his government in 1896 he selected the best men he could find, and some of these were transfers from the provincial governments. How he was censured for this proceeding, and by this same Mr. Borden! The premier was reflecting upon the capacity, the ability, the loyalty of the men who had fought the battles of the party and deserved his recognition. What about the conservatives who have been savagely at work, seeking to serve their leader and the party at Ottawa? Are they to be hewers of wood and drawers of water only?

It is well that these provincial worthies should be guarded in their promises and that they should not appear to be too eager about their transfer to Ottawa. There will be several moons before the government changes in Ottawa and Mr. Borden is called in to ferry the government.

EDITORIAL NOTES.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in England, will not only be a power in the imperial conference but a corrector of many fables about Canada and its trade policies. After he has spoken the troubles of all kinds will have to take a rest.

A government inspector complains that certain cheese have been found very short of weight on their arrival in Scotland. Some cheese buyers may be imposed upon, but not the Scotch. Usually they want all that is coming to them.

The Borden party should take a homograph with it across the continent. To catch the western spirit and emblem in it tin foil of an Edison machine would be to convince the commons, if not himself, that there is something doing in the west.

Mr. Borden will do the sensible thing when he goes across the continent, at the close of the session, and samples public opinion on the reciprocity agreement. But he will need something more attractive than H. T. Ames and his magic lantern to cheer him by the way.

The Telegram chap who wrote "Chronicles of Reciprocity," ought to write another chapter, just one, and then give up the ghost. There is no likelihood of this one being buried in the ruins of Toronto and dug up for the enlightenment of the sages twenty centuries hence.

The county member, in his long talk against reciprocity, remarked that with the agreement in force the farmers have no protection against the whole agricultural world. Has he any protection now? Is he not the only representative of Canadian industry who has to pay tribute to all other classes without getting any in return.

If so much change or good followed the hasty trip of Sir John French through Canada how much greater would be the good of a permanent head of the same type, or of the prolonged residence of one who was capable of projecting improvements and carrying them into effect? In the headquarters' staff there appears to be too many second-rate men.

The Mail says Mr. Foster's heart was gladdened by the reception the party gave him at Friday night's dinner. He needed something to cheer him after Mr. Borden had invited the provincial nabobs to join him in fighting the liberals and in forming a

government. Mr. Foster is one of the fighting men, without any hope of office. Cheerful outlook.

How is it that the Ontario government was not represented at the meeting in Ottawa where Mr. Borden and the provincial leaders undertook to build castles in the air? Sir James Whitney was a while ago talked of as Mr. Borden's successor. And he was absent. This is significant.

Hard on Mr. Borden.
Winnipeg Tribune.
So far as the West is concerned, Mr. Borden is taking the step that will absolutely convince the people, all the people, that he is not the man for the premiership of Canada. He offers nothing. He is just against freedom in trade. He is for restraint in trade. Restraint in trade means combination—we have scores of them already. Mr. Borden, by his attitude, becomes the champion of the combines. He says reciprocity "involves the national existence of the country," and the man with even the commonest intellect knows that Mr. Borden is simply talking rot. Mr. Borden does not enlarge upon the subject. To enlarge would only further betray his littleness of grasp or make more clear the attempted deception by the combine interests. Mr. Borden is against opening a market of 90,000,000 people where Canadian farmers may freely sell their cattle, grain, fruit, in fact all the natural products of a country, in which sixty per cent. of our people make their living out of the farming industry, and a goodly proportion of the remaining forty per cent. are dependent upon the farmers to get the wherewithal to make both ends meet.

Mr. Borden's declaration calls for fresh declarations from the farmers and consumers of Canada. The declaration is against the interests of the people, and the people should show Mr. Borden that he is entirely out of touch with Canadian opinion on the tariff. Protection has been one of the curses of Canada, demoralizing, materially and morally. The people are not going to lose the present opportunity of striking a blow for freedom. Little difficulty will be experienced in brushing Mr. Borden's opposition to one side.

The Care of the Insane.
Toronto Globe.
There is no more reason why Toronto should take the care of its insane off the shoulders of the province than that it should pay the cost of running the parliament buildings. So long as the care of the insane of Ontario is a charge upon the province, Toronto must demand equality of treatment. It is to the shame of the government of Ontario, and not of the city of Toronto, that there are forty-three insane persons at present crowded in the jail awaiting an opportunity of admission to the asylums of the province.

It is proposed that the city provide a site for an hospital for incipient cases of insanity on condition that the province supplies the building. This city is probably rich enough and humane enough to do so, rather than see those poor insane people left in the dreary cells of the jail, but that does not change the basic responsibility for the present condition of affairs. Hon. W. J. Hanna is the man responsible for the filling of the jail with insane people.

How the Farm Papers Act.
Winnipeg Free Press.
Practically all the farm papers in Canada are friendly to the reciprocity agreement, while all the farm papers in the United States are bitterly opposed to it. The Rural New Yorker, one of the oldest and most influential of the agricultural journals in the United States, sums up the case against reciprocity in these terms: "With the tariff removed from farm products, the trickling stream of immigration away from this country will swell to a flood. The man in Alberta or Saskatchewan will be as near the wheat or cattle markets as he who lives in Iowa or Kansas. Yet the former can find land at twenty dollars an acre, even superior to that for which the latter must pay 150 dollars. Yet with free trade the products of the two farms will meet on equal terms." There could be no better advertisement for Western Canada than this.


The Bill Has Passed.
Winnipeg Free Press.
One of the provisions in the parliament bill, which has been fiercely but unavailingly fought by the opposition in the British House of Commons, prohibits the House of Lords from rejecting or amending a money bill and makes the speaker of the commons the sole judge in the event of a dispute as to what is a money bill. The conservative suggested many alternatives such as leaving questions of this sort to an outside judicial tribunal or having a joint committee of the two houses, on which the speaker of the commons would have the casting vote, pass upon disputed measures. Mr. Asquith was, however, adamant, and all the proposed amendments were in turn rejected. The bill, the whole bill and nothing but the bill is plainly the programme of the triumphant coalition party.

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RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP.
Addition to Black Sea Fleet Nine Years in Construction.
London Standard.
The latest addition to the battleship squadron of the Russian Black Sea Fleet is the Sviatoi Evastafi (St. Eustathius), which yesterday made her first trial trip at sea from Sevastopol, with, it is said, satisfactory results. This is merely worth mentioning in illustration of the time ordinarily consumed in the construction of a first-class warship in a Black Sea yard. The keel-plate of the Sviatoi Evastafi was laid at Nikolaiiev in the early spring of 1902, and extra night shifts of shipwrights were employed in her building. It has taken, therefore, nine years to construct and hand over for commission this new battleship of quite ordingry dimensions and armament.

It may be legitimately asked whether the four Ironclads which to be built in these waters—two at Sevastopol and two at Nikolaiiev—will not be already antiquated by the time they are ready for commission. The remembrance of the Turkish navy is, of course, the compelling motive of the increase of Russia's maritime force in the Black Sea, but it is evident that she cannot hope so long as the Dardanelles is closed against the ingress of new and foreign-built warships, to preserve her supremacy in these waters.

Flinton Pioneer Dead.
Flinton, May 6.—There are quite a few cases of fever here. Octave Brashirian's two children are sick. Mrs. Shiran went home to Northbrook from her school to attend her little boy, who is ill. Miss Frankie Banford takes her place. James Smith has gone to Gilmour station to work for the summer.

Another old and respected pioneer was laid to rest in the Roman Catholic cemetery, on April 30th, the late Joseph Baskey, aged sixty-five years. He leaves a widow, and grown up family of ten children, five daughters and five sons. Mr. Baskey was taken ill with brain fever and lived about three hours. He worked for the late William Flint in the lumber woods here during the hardship of pioneer life, but leaves his widow in a comfortable home surrounded by the most of their children.

Scarlet fever among children has been around for some time, visiting many homes. Mr. and Mrs. Octave Champagne have moved from their home to take care of the old folks. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Champagne, who are both in very poor health. In the Roman Catholic church by the Rev. Father Powell, on April 25th, Edward Allair was married to Miss Lilly Brashirian.

Hurrying in London.
All nature loves a lover—and all London loves a Londoner in a hurry. If in London, you tell a cabman that you have seven minutes in which to catch a train—two miles off, he will say "Yes, sir," and whip up his horse, gallop through a square, taking his chance of a fine if a holly sees him; he will put his hand to the trapdoor, and say: "I think we shall do it, sir, and be done at. He enters, in fact, into the spirit of the thing—it is a sporting matter for him. And it is the same with messenger boys, railway porters or fellow-passengers. I have even made a South Eastern train come in "on time" and catch an 11.30, and have done so, in fact, by telling the guard that I was in a hurry. My Atlantic.

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