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H. F. McRAE, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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WILSON HESITATES TO BUY RAILROAD

President Affected by Campaign Conducted Against Copper River System.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—While Secretary Lane, on behalf of the President, was opening the Exposition at San Francisco last Saturday the Senate in Washington was doing just that which Secretary Lane feared would happen should he be absent—passing the sundry civil bill without an attempt to raise the year's appropriation for the Alaskan railroad over the \$2,000,000 allowed by the House. Secretary Lane is a loyal subordinate of the President, but he would have preferred to remain here and look after his Alaskan railway. His only satisfaction in the matter must lie in the fact that no opposition to the \$2,000,000 appeared in the Senate.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ABSOLUTE FAITH IN NAVAL SITUATION

Minister of Marine Says France Is Not Intimidated by the German Blockade of British Ports.

Paris, Feb. 25.—"The sinking by Germany of merchant ships is simply an extension to the sea of her war against non-combatants on land," said Victor Augagneur, the French Minister of Marine, to the Associated Press.

"The French government has absolute confidence in the naval situation," continued M. Augagneur, "and is not intimidated by the German blockade. When the steamer Amiral Gangteau, bearing women and children was torpedoed and several lives lost, great indignation was felt throughout the civilized world, but we now regard the sinking of merchant vessels with a certain calm. Germany did not wait until February 18 to begin torpedoing."

With regard to Germany's alleged reason for her announced sea blockade, M. Augagneur said: "Torpedo Not Infallible."

"Germany evidently fell the great efficiency of the Allies' blockade of German ports, and the proclamation of a counter-blockade is the result. We expect merchant vessels to be sunk, not, however, as many as Germany expects. The torpedo is not an infallible weapon, as is shown by the case of the steamer Dinorah which, after she was torpedoed, was towed into port."

Dealing with the right of merchant vessels of belligerent countries to fly neutral flags, M. Augagneur said: "This practice has always been recognized as a legitimate result of war and even has been resorted to by men-of-war, provided they hoisted their true colors before entering into action. The Germans have no cause for complaint on this score, as they used it themselves when the cruiser Emden entered the belligerent port of Penang flying not only false colors, but disguised with a false smokestack."



LATE FANNY CROSBY.

Well known hymn writer, author of 6,000 hymns, who died at her home in Bridgeport, Conn., on February 12 in her ninety-fifth year. She was unable to read by the raised letter system having got all her knowledge from her remarkable memory. She has been blind since birth.

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EDITORIALS

Tomorrow Prince Rupert will say farewell to a number of her sons who are going out to fight for the Empire. The motives that prompt these men may be all different, but their action is thrusting them into the centre of the big events that are making history. What part they will play the future has not yet disclosed, but they are to be trusted to give a good account of themselves if they get a chance. No better advice can be given than that of the Roman matron with which she sent her son to the fight: "Return with your shield or upon it." May they all return bearing their "shields" after having done honor to the cause they espoused.

people of Canada. Canada is right with the Empire in this struggle and is quite prepared to pay her share. The strange thing about the whole matter, however, is that the 7 1/2 per cent increase duty on imports and the special war stamps which will be used on all letters, cheques, etc., are not for the purpose of raising a war revenue at all. All the money which will be thereby raised will be required to make up the deficit of the government for this year. The cost of the war will be handed on to posterity—for what has posterity done for us?

There is an old tradition that the planets stand still while great events are happening, or, as the poet puts it, "The heavens declare the birth of princes." The battle of Waterloo has always seemed to be shrouded with a halo that lent a touch of the supernatural. The characters that walked across the stage of that time appear to be double their normal size. We stand today amid bigger events than Waterloo because there is more at stake. The trouble, however, is that we are too close to get the perspective. Future generations will look back with amazement at the titanic struggle of 1915, and the men who have even played a little part—if they play it well—will be enrolled among our heroes. Where is the man who is not proud of his great grandfather who fought at Waterloo. The great grandchildren of the present age will be just as proud of the men who will fight the battle of Berlin.

Everybody knows that the resources of every country on earth have been shrunk by the great war. It is not on that score, therefore, that the Borden government is to be criticized. Where they fell down was in the unparalleled waste of public funds that took place prior to the war. In this issue there is reproduced an article from the Toronto Globe giving a list of these fearful extravagances. The \$35,000 which has been sunk in the local post-office site and the thousands wasted in its excavation has been duplicated all over Canada. Indeed, the wasteful expenditure of public funds at Ottawa is a good deal similar to that which has been going on at Victoria. Both governments have shown a disregard for public funds that should receive a severe chastisement from the people.

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President Not Won.

If Secretary Lane had hoped to acquire both the Copper River & Northwestern and the Alaska Northern, and many things point to the fact that he did, there are evidences that he has not won the President entirely to his way of thinking. To put it bluntly, the President has been affected by the campaign some interests have been conducting against any proposed purchase of the Copper River road.

Hence the President's refraining from making a fight to get more than \$2,000,000 this year from Congress. Talk that the administration proposed to buy out the J. P. Morgan road was distasteful to him. The result is a small appropriation and promises of comparatively little work being done this year in Alaska. Much of the \$2,000,000 granted will be used in further surveys.

Negotiations Not Dropped.

This does not mean that negotiations for both the Copper River and the Alaska Northern are to be dropped. Those for the last named road have progressed far. It is significant that Thomas Riggs, of the Alaskan Engineering Commission, spent several days in New York last week, and the responsible ownership of the Copper River lies in New York.

Also of significance in other ways is the fact that Sidney B. Condon, confidential stenographer to John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, has resigned his position to become assistant cashier of the Hariman National Bank at Seward, the bank chartered last week. He will leave for Alaska about March 1.

Salvation Army.

Public meetings, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 p. m. Sundays at 7:30 p. m.

Place the curiosity of a young widow before the camera and the result will be a picture of some man.

KILLED TRYING ESCAPE AS REPRIEVE IS NEAR

Prisoner Held at Whitehorse, Y. T., Awaiting Execution, Makes Break and is Shot.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—News of an unusual tragedy in Northwest Canada reached the Dominion yesterday. Romolo Caesari, under sentence to be hanged at Whitehorse, Y. T., for murder, attempted to escape and was shot by Constable Hayes, of the Northwest Mounted Police, who was guarding him. Two bullets took effect and the man died.

A few minutes before this occurred a telegram from the Canadian Minister of Justice had reached Whitehorse, directing the authorities not to proceed with the execution, as the government had decided that Caesari was insane and had commuted his life sentence to life imprisonment.

The sheriff was on the way to convey the news to Caesari when he made his fatal dash for liberty.

CHINA FEARS FOR HER SOVEREIGNTY

Opens Negotiations With Japan—One of Tokio's Desires Is Port on Chinese Coast.

Pekin, Feb. 25.—Lu Cheng-Hsiang, the Chinese Foreign Minister, has paid a visit to Eki Hioki, the Japanese minister to China, and inquired whether the minister was willing to discuss with him twelve of the demands Japan has made on China, which China has agreed to consider. It is stated in Chinese circles that Lu Cheng-Hsiang took the initiative in the matter in order to refute accusations of the Japanese newspapers that the Chinese government was delaying negotiations.

According to information from Chinese sources, the Japanese minister told Lu Cheng-Hsiang that he was awaiting further instructions from Tokio. It is stated that the Chinese government cannot accept even the twelve debatable demands unless they are materially modified.

A Disturbing Article.

The following is said to be a special article in the Japanese demands, the wording of which has disturbed officials:

"The Japanese government and the Chinese government, with the object of effectively protecting the territorial integrity of China, agrees to the following special article:

"The Chinese government agrees that no island, port or harbor along the coast shall be ceded or leased to any third power."

Word "Third" Omitted.

The word "third," it is declared, was omitted from the Japanese communication to the powers. That the number of "forcible Japanese advisers in political, financial and military affairs," which Japan desires to place in China is not mentioned is said to be causing concern to the Chinese. This is the foremost question which the Chinese are said to have declined to discuss.

And many a charitable woman allows her husband to have her own way.

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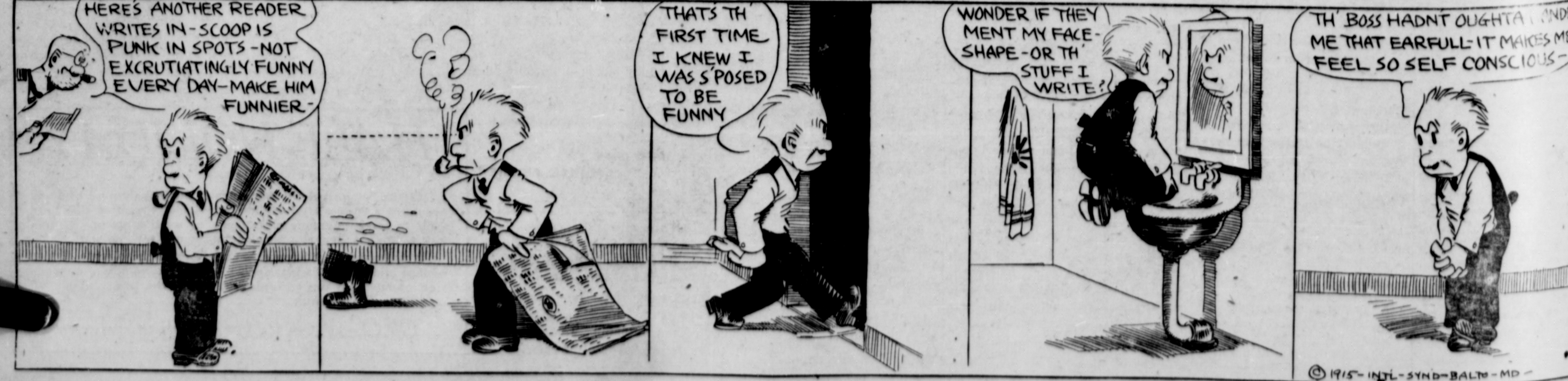
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