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EDITORIALS

Easter was originally a pagan institution. It was adopted by the early Christians as the date best suited to commemorate the resurrection of the Christ. The exact date of the crucifixion as well as that of the birth of Our Lord is in dispute and will probably never be known accurately. It is a very fitting thing, however, to associate the resurrection with the spring when Nature is bursting forth into newness of life, and it is quite easy to imagine the feelings that led the Church to the adoption of this date. But not only does Easter represent the springtime of Nature; it stands, too, for the periodical revival of the individual. Who is it that has not experienced the Good Friday—or rather the Bad Friday—of sorrow and of sadness which proceeds the glorious dawn of the soul; when all that is best in us seems to triumph over everything that is base. Good Friday and Easter are fundamental facts in human experience and the Church has done well to lay hold of an institution that is so pregnant with everything that is good.

The City Council will have an important matter to deal with when the proposals of George L. Clayton come up. He is asking the city to guarantee the interest on bonds of a cold storage company for the period of five years in return for certain concessions in price of commodities furnished by that concern. The first question, of course, to consider is whether the city has power to make this arrangement in view of the strong opposition of the Municipal Clauses Act to bonuses of all kinds. There is no doubt whatever but that the practice of giving bonuses in any form is one that must be handled with a great deal of care for unworthy schemes are continually coming up. When it comes to a question of securing an industry, however, that will mean much development for the city and which cannot be otherwise obtained it is worthy of very serious consideration.

Should the plan seem feasible one of the first things to enquire about is the personnel of the company. It will not do to make any concession of this kind unless the men behind it are ready with the funds to proceed with the work. In other words, this city should not be placed in the position of having her guaranteed bonds

peddled around and perhaps refused, for that would seriously injure her credit. Of course, this is only the impossible case in dealing with a man like Mr. Clayton, but since he has other associates it is better to cover even the impossible. Another important matter is the agreement. It is the easiest thing in the world to twist words all over the farm and make them mean the very opposite of what was intended. The best legal talent in the country should therefore be secured to pass on the final drafting.

Granted that all these things can be satisfactorily arranged, it looks as if this city might be able to make a profitable deal. There is no doubt in the world but that in spite of all our advantages it will require a fight to deprive Seattle of her fish trade. The railway and steamships have already met our rates and the only advantage at present is that of being able to land our fish in the Eastern markets in a much more fresh condition. Nevertheless, human ingenuity and keen business ability are working hard against us and unless we exert ourselves we are liable to be yet beaten at our own game. One would have expected that the G. T. P., for their own protection would have arranged suitable accommodations for their business long ago but since they do not seem to possess the necessary foresight it is incumbent upon the men who have all their earthly belongings tied up here to get together and "put their shoulder to the wheel." If Mr. Clayton can at all meet the conditions laid down his proposition should be sympathetically received and referred to the people for adoption.

One of the chief advantages apart from the securing of ice and bait at a reasonable price is that more competition is buying would be had. One of the big complaints of the fishermen even in a city like Seattle is that the buyers "see them coming" and arrange their price accordingly. How much more is that likely to happen here where in the past the buyers have been reduced to the minimum. With two cold storage plants in the town and ample accommodation for buyers, it is only a matter of time when the fishermen of Seattle who deal at all with the East would be forced to come here. It would seem that opportunity is knocking hard at the door of

Prince Rupert and let us hope that the present proposition is the proper Moses to led us out into "the promised land."

CONDUCT REFLECTS MORALS OF BUSINESS

Winnipeg, April 3.—Since the Saskatchewan government two weeks ago declared for prohibition of the liquor traffic to begin July 1, except from wholesale houses and dispensaries operated by the government, there has been an epidemic of hotel-burning throughout the province. From Saturday to Wednesday night hotels at Paynton, Roblin, Magee, Sovereign and Walsh have been burned, with losses ranging as high as \$80,000, but all well covered by insurance.

ZEPPELIN DESTROYERS.

Will Be Used to Protect London Against German Air Raid.

New York, April 3.—A Zeppelin destroyer carrying a long range gun and speedy enough to overtake the largest craft with ease will be launched into the air at London in about a week, according to Thomas A. MacMeachin, president of the Aeronautical Society of America, who sailed for Liverpool on the American liner St. Paul.

MacMeachin is the expert director who has been placed in charge of a factory near London to manufacture the destroyers. "The Germans undoubtedly will make a zeppelin attack upon London in the early spring," Mr. MacMeachin said, "and when their big craft cross the Channel they will be met by a fleet of destroyers which, I feel sure, will make short work of them."

AUSTRIA DISMISSES CONSUL GENERAL

San Francisco, April 4.—Dr. Joseph Goricar, formerly consul general in this city for the Austria-Hungary government, has been summarily dropped from the diplomatic service of his country. According to advices given out by the local consulate, it has been rumored that Dr. Goricar was promoting a rebellion among the southern Slavonic states and was also opposed to Austria joining Germany in the present war.

D. Gorical recently left San Francisco for Chicago, where he was refused admission to the congress of Slavonic states.

Dr. Gorical was consul general for Austria at Berlin at the outbreak of the war, but on the opening of hostilities he fled to Russia and thence to San Francisco.

68th REGIMENT, EARL GREY'S OWN RIFLES.

Orders by Major J. M. McMullin, Commanding, April 3, 1915:

Parades.
 "A" Company will parade at the Exhibition Building on Wednesday and Friday, April 7 and 9, at 8 p. m.

"B" Company will parade at the Exhibition Building on Monday Thursday, April 5 and 8, at 8 p. m.
 W. S. MARSHALL, Lieut.,
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IN THE LETTER BOX

Dear Editor,—Judging from street talk, there is not a question but that the general opinion prevails in this town that the Daily News has made a number of false moves lately, and no one seems to check you up on any of them. No doubt you mean all right, and I believe if your mistakes are pointed out to you, that doubtless you will be better able to command more prestige for your paper, and save yourself from life membership in the "In-Bad Club." I am not prone to writing letters to the papers, but I am compelled to show you, with the very best of feeling, where you are entirely wrong in the stand you have taken last evening editorially on the proposition submitted by the Cold Storage Company to the City Council. The fact is that your editorial is about as tactless as could be imagined, in the face of efforts to secure advantages for every man, woman and child in Prince Rupert, with yourself and the Daily News included.

The negotiations leading to a lower price for ice and bait and for storage charges were not opened by the Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Company. They can not, therefore, be held to be "out for the whole hog."

As a matter of fact, the City Council request of the Cold Storage Company a proposition as to just what inducements would be expected of the city in order to be able to accomplish the following objects:

1. To sell ice at a price of \$3 per ton.
2. To sell bait at \$15 per ton.
3. To freeze fish and carry it in storage for one month at one-half cent per pound, and one-eighth cent for every month thereafter.
4. To freeze bait and carry in storage for one month at \$5 per ton and one-twentieth cent for every month thereafter.

These prices, with the exception of ice, are less than those prevailing at any other port on the Coast. On the other hand, various commodities necessary to the trade will be found higher in price in Prince Rupert than in other ports, and the committee of which I was a member, calculated that if the lower prices as above listed, could be secured it would equalize the higher prices on other articles, and thus make a common low average for everything necessary to the fishing trade in Prince Rupert.

The Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Company must always bear in mind the interests of their stockholders, of course, but I know that the men attached to the company are reasonable and fair business men. This company is worth more to the welfare and prosperity of Prince Rupert than any other single asset, save the Grand Trunk, and our misfortune is that we do not have a number of enterprises going and with a large payroll established of equal amount to theirs.

Allow me to indicate roughly what the Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Company has done for Prince Rupert, and then you can

judge whether or not my statement is correct. This company built a plant here costing probably \$300,000, a cannery in which about \$100,000 is invested, and I think that their fishing fleet, etc., would stand them \$500,000, making nearly \$1,000,000 as the total investment. I have had personal business transactions with them for the past three years, and have always found them to be fair. They buy fish of all comers, and at times it happens that when they are the only company a fisherman can look to to buy his catch they never try to take an unfair advantage. At present the company probably distributes \$25,000 a month to the fishermen on their boats, and employees at their plant, which will be increased later in the season to perhaps double that amount when the cannery is opened. They buy locally all supplies that they can consistently, and have a decided inclination to favor Prince Rupert, and to boost in every way for the town.

On the other hand, the large cannery industry, located on the Skeena River, which is contiguous to Prince Rupert, the trade of which naturally belongs to this city, does absolutely nothing to favor this port. On the contrary, I believe that practically all of the trade of the Skeena canneries is centred in the Southern cities. Efforts have been made to secure the Skeena River business for Prince Rupert have been treated with contempt. This is stated to show you the difference between the treatment accorded to us by the Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Company and our neighboring cannery companies.

The Canadian Fish and Cold Storage Company are pioneers in Prince Rupert, and are doing a pioneer's work. Thus far, I dare say, the stockholders have not received any returns, and until this or other investments in this locality can be made to pay, it can not be readily interested in any other industrial undertakings. In conclusion, I wish to say that if free power, free water, and no taxation were given to the company and a cash bonus on top of that, it would be the best investment that Prince Rupert could make.

I believe that the question interests every citizen in Prince Rupert, and I believe that every citizen is willing to do his share towards assisting the development and progress of our city, and it is only natural that the company should look out for its own interests. Personally, I feel that their demands are not unreasonable as a basis for further negotiations. Apologizing for taking up so much of your space, I am,
 Yours very truly,
 G. W. NICKERSON.

ANTI-HANGING BILL PASSED.
 Nashville, Tenn., April 4.—The bill abolishing capital punishment in Tennessee, except for cases of criminal assault or life convicts, who commit murder, was passed yesterday by the Senate and now awaits the Governor's action.

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