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WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

THE COAL DUTIES—AND RECIPROCITY

There is a shortage of coal in Saskatchewan and Alberta at present owing to the coal strike. If the strike continues Saskatchewan and Alberta will have a coal famine this winter. And coal in winter-time is as necessary as food.

There is a lot of coal in Pennsylvania—more in fact than the people of Pennsylvania need for themselves. They want to sell some of it, in order to use the money to purchase things from other parts of the world.

If the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta need coal, and the people of Pennsylvania have coal to sell, why do not the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta buy coal in Pennsylvania?

The reason they do not buy coal from Pennsylvania is because in Canada there is a self-imposed tax on coal from Pennsylvania. This tax makes Pennsylvania coal too dear for the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta to buy. It was purposely made high, in order to prevent the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta and the other Canadian Provinces from buying coal across the border.

Fearing lest some of their people should perish from cold in winter unless coal was obtained, the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta on Monday asked for the removal of the tax on coal so as to enable them to buy what they needed. The Federal Government is considering the request, and will likely grant it. For the Federal Government has showed frequent desire of late to repeal taxation from the necessities of life. They have even gone to the trouble to combat the false arguments and the "appeals to patriotism" of those who profit by keeping taxation on the necessities of life.

If the taxation is kept on coal, the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta will go short of coal this winter. If the taxation is removed they will get all the coal they need. That is the effect of taxation—to make it more difficult to get hold of the things that are taxed.

Food is just as much a necessity of life as coal. Food that is taxed is subject to the same economic laws as coal that is taxed—i.e., it is more difficult to procure it when it is taxed. British Columbia cannot raise as yet all the food she needs. It is necessary for her to purchase from her neighbors. Yet in our foolishness, we impose taxes upon the very thing we need most. Then to cap the foolishness we pay the tax ourselves. The only consolation is that our neighbors are equally as foolish.

The reciprocity bill is a measure designed to end this piece of economic foolishness. The two nations who have to interchange food products, agree to mutually abolish the taxes on food.

When reciprocity passes, as it will pass, food will be cheaper, the dealers will be able to make more profits, and the margin of savings will be larger. Only those who at present receive parasitic nourishment from the tariff will go short.

What Saskatchewan and Alberta are driven to do in order to make coal more plentiful, the whole of Canada should do to make food more plentiful.

NOTES DUE

The attitude of the British Unionist party in Great Britain is cleverly hit off by "Buck" in a cartoon in the Morning Albertan. He shows a figure of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Jekyll is saying "Reciprocity is a device to ruin the Empire." Mr. Hyde is saying "What right have Canadians to interfere with our politics?"

The cartoon hits off the British Unionists' views on the political relationships of Canada and Britain very well.

By the way, how consistent the Conservatives are in trying to get away from their name and get the word Liberal tacked on. In Great Britain they call themselves Liberal-Unionists, in Canada, Liberal-Conservatives. In British Columbia some of them call themselves "independent Liberals."

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GRAND TRUNK CO. AND SEAL COVE

Mr. D'Arcy Tate Writes that There is no Intention to Fill up the Cove—G. T. P. Hopes to Have a Lumber Co. There Soon.

A letter from Mr. D'Arcy Tate received by the city council last night gives the assurance that it is not the intention of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company to fill up Seal Cove. On the contrary, it is hoped that a lumber corporation may locate there shortly, and the Company suggests that the City should do something to encourage any lumber company anxious to come.

CHARGE AGAINST ICE TRUST

Alleged to Have Withheld Ice from Dealers During Heat Wave.

New York, July 25.—The district attorney and the city police today began an investigation of the Knickerbocker Ice Company, which does by far the largest ice business here.

The charge is that the so-called ice trust has withheld ice from independent dealers during the recent prolonged heat wave. In other words, conducted its business in restraint of trade.

The situation in the tenement district, where the poor found it almost impossible to buy small quantities of ice desired for their humble homes, has attracted attention and spurred the authorities to action.

ASYLUM BURNED AT WICHITA

Two Main Buildings in Ashes—Feared that Many Inmates Have Perished.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Wichita, Kansas, July 25.—The state hospital for the feeble-minded is on fire and the entire institution is doomed. The two main buildings are already in ashes. Details are lacking but it is feared the loss of life is heavy among the unfortunate inmates.

ARE GIVEN FREEDOM

Empress of India and Many Passengers Released from Quarantine.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Victoria, July 25.—The steamer Empress of India which was quarantined on her arrival on Saturday was released at 2 o'clock Tuesday with thirty-three saloon and many of the steerage passengers.

Light Plant Coal

Tenders for coal for the electric light plant were opened in council Monday. The amount tendered for is 225 tons. Messrs. Rochester & Munro tendered \$8.85 cents for supplying and delivering. Messrs. Rogers & Black and the Union Transfer Co. each tendered \$8.25. The coal is to be of special screened lump quality for steam production.

BOBBY LEACH HAD TO QUIT

Intrepid Barrel Navigator was not Allowed to go over Niagara Falls.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Niagara Falls, July 25.—With the police on both sides of the border looking for him, Bobbie Leach, the barrel navigator who announced his intention of going over the Falls yesterday afternoon in a barrel, was forced to abandon the trip.

PEACH CROP SUFFERS

High Winds in Ontario Destroy Twenty Per Cent of the Ripe Fruit.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Niagara Falls, July 25.—Over \$100,000 damage has been occasioned in the fruit belt by the winds yesterday. Twenty per cent of the ripe peach crop is now on the ground.

A REMINISCENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEVIL'S FOOT

BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

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Holmes smiled at the compliment. "It took two, or possibly three, handfuls before the lodger came to the window. You beckoned him to come down. He dressed hurriedly and descended to his sitting-room. You entered by the window. There was an interview—a short one—during which you walked up and down the room. Then you passed out and closed the window, standing on the lawn outside smoking a cigar and watching what occurred. Finally, after the death of Tregennis, you withdrew as you had come. Now, Dr. Sterndale, how do you justify such conduct, and what were the motives for your actions? If you prevaricate or trifle with me, I will give you my assurance that the matter will pass out of my hands for ever."

Our visitor's face had turned ashen grey as he listened to the words of his accuser. Now he sat for some time in thought with his face sunk in his hands. Then, with a sudden impulsive gesture, he plucked a photograph from his breast-pocket and threw it on the rustic table before us.

"That is why I have done it," said he.

It showed the bust and face of a very beautiful woman. Holmes stooped over it.

"Brenda Tregennis," said he. "Yes, Brenda Tregennis," repeated our visitor. "For years I have loved her. For years she has loved me. There is the secret of that Cornish seclusion which people have marvelled at. It has brought me close to the one thing on earth that was dear to me. I could not marry her, for I have a wife who has left me for years, and yet whom, by the deplorable laws of England, I could not divorce. For years Brenda waited. For years I waited. And this is what we have waited for." A terrible sob shook his great frame, and he clutched his throat under his brindled beard. Then with an effort he mastered himself and spoke on.

"The vicar knew. He was in our confidence. He would tell you she was an angel upon earth. That was why he telegraphed to me and I returned. What was my baggage to Africa to me when I learned that such a fate had come upon my darling? There you have the missing clue to my action, Mr. Holmes."

"Proceed," said my friend.

Dr. Sterndale drew from his pocket a paper packet and laid it upon the table. On the outside was written, "Radix pedis diaboli," with a red poison label beneath it. He pushed it towards me. "I understand that you are a doctor, sir. Have you ever heard of this preparation?"

"Devil's-foot root! No, I have never heard of it."

"It is no reflection upon your professional knowledge," said he, "for I believe that, save for one sample in a laboratory in Budapest, there is no other specimen in Europe. It has not yet found its way either into the pharmacopoeia or into the literature of toxicology. The root is shaped like a foot, half human, half goatlike; hence the fanciful name given by a botanical missionary. It is used as an ordeal poison by the medicine-men in certain districts of West Africa, and is kept as a secret among them. This particular specimen I obtained under very extraordinary circumstances in the Ubanghi country."

He opened the paper as he spoke, and disclosed a heap of reddish-brown, snuff-like powder. "Well, sir?" asked Holmes, sternly.

"I am about to tell you, Mr. Holmes, all that actually occurred, for you already know so much that it is clearly to my interest that you should know all. I have already explained the relationship in which I stood to the Tregennis family. For the sake of the sister I was friendly with the brothers. There was a family

quarrel about money which estranged this man Mortimer, but it was supposed to be made up, and I afterwards met him as I did the others. He was a sly, subtle, scheming man, and several things arose which gave me a suspicion of him, but I had no cause for any positive quarrel.

"One day, only a couple of weeks ago, he came down to my cottage and I showed him some of my African curiosities. Among other things, I exhibited this powder, and I told him of its strange properties, how it stimulates those brain centres which control the emotion of fear, and how either madness or death is the fate of the unhappy native who is subjected to the ordeal by the priest of his tribe. I told him also how powerless European science would be to detect it. How he took it I cannot say, for I never left the room, but there is no doubt that it was then, while I was opening cabinets and stooping to boxes, that he managed to abstract some of the devil's-foot root. I well remember how he plied me with questions as to the amount and the time that was needed for its effect, but I little dreamed that he could have a personal reason for asking.

"I thought no more of the matter until the vicar's telegram reached me at Plymouth. This villain had thought that I would be at sea before the news could reach me, and that I should be lost for years in Africa. But I returned at once. Of course, I could not listen to the details without feeling assured that my poison had been used. I came round to see you on the chance that some other explanation had suggested itself to you. But there could be none. I was convinced that Mortimer Tregennis was the murderer: that for the sake of money, and with the idea, perhaps, that if the other members of his family were all insane he would be the sole guardian of their joint property, he had used the devil's-foot powder upon them, driven two of them out of their senses, and killed his sister Brenda, the one human being whom I have ever loved or who has ever loved me. There was his crime; what was to be his punishment?"

"Should I appeal to the law? Where were my proofs? I knew that the facts were true, but could I help to make a jury of countrymen believe so fantastic a story? I might or I might not. But I could not afford to fail. My soul cried out for revenge. I have said to you once before, Mr. Holmes, that I have spent much of my life outside the law, and that I have come at last to be a law to myself. So it was now. I determined that the fate which he had given to others should be shared by himself. Either that, or I would do justice upon him with my own hand. In all England there can be no man who sets less value upon his own life than I do at the present moment.

"Now, I have told you all. You have yourself supplied the rest. I did, as you say, after a restless night, set off early from my cottage. I foresaw the difficulty of arousing him, so I gathered some gravel from the pile which you have mentioned, and I used it to throw up to his window. He came down and admitted me through the window of the sitting-room. I laid his offence before him. I told him that I had come both as judge and executioner. The wretch sank into a chair paralyzed at the sight of my revolver. I lit the lamp, put the powder above it, and stood outside the window, ready to carry out my threat to shoot him should he try to leave the room. In five minutes he died. My God! how he died! But my heart was flint, for he endured nothing which my innocent darling had not felt before him. There is my story, Mr. Holmes. Perhaps, if you loved a woman, you would have done as much yourself. At

any rate, I am in your hands. You can take what steps you like. As I have already said, there is no man living who can fear death less than I do."

Holmes sat for some little time in silence.

"What were your plans?" he asked at last.

"I had intended to bury myself in Central Africa. My work there is but half finished."

"Go and do the other half," said Holmes. "I, at least, am not prepared to prevent you."

Dr. Sterndale raised his giant figure, bowed gravely, and walked from the arbour. Holmes lit his pipe and handed me his pouch.

"Some fumes which are not poisonous would be a welcome change," said he. "I think you must agree, Watson, that it is not a case in which we are called upon to interfere. Our investigation has been independent, and our action shall be so also. You would not denounce the man?"

"Certainly not," I answered.

"I have never loved, Watson, but if I did, and if the woman I loved had met such an end, I might act even as our lawless lion-hunter has done. Who knows? Well, Watson, I will not offend your intelligence by explaining what is obvious. The gravel upon the window-sill was, of course, the starting-point of my research. It was unlike anything in the vicarage garden. Only when my attention had been drawn to Dr. Sterndale and his cottage did I find its counterpart. The lamp shining in broad daylight and the remains of powder upon the shield were successive links in a fairly obvious chain. And now, my dear Watson, I think we may dismiss the matter from our minds, and go back with a clear conscience to the study of those Chaldean roots which are surely to be traced in the Cornish branch of the great Celtic speech."

(THE END)

NEXT STORY

"The Mystery of The Red Circle"

WAS NOT CHOLERA

Men from Steamer Bendu at Quebec are Released after Medical Examination.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Quebec, July 25.—The two men taken from the steamer Bendu and believed to be suffering from cholera were allowed their freedom today. The bacteriological examinations proved their disease was not what it was suspected to be.

CABIN WATER RATES

Ald. Newton Doesn't Agree with Ald. Hilditch on the Matter

Last night Alderman Newton moved that the water rates for one room cabins be put on the same basis as hotel water rates, that is, on a room basis. Alderman Hilditch thought that cabin dwellers are far less in need of consideration than small families living in two and three roomed houses. Alderman Newton remarked "Mr. Mayor, Alderman Hilditch may be right."

"That's a great admission," put in Alderman Hilditch.

The water committee has this in hand.

Want to Put in Sewers

An application from the Prince Rupert Building and Investment Company for permission to put in sewers with the recommendation of the City Engineer that permission be granted was referred to the Works Department last night.

For row boats and launches telephone 320 green. Davis' Boat House.

WILL DEVELOP YUKON MINES

South African Consolidated Gold Co. will start \$8,000,000 Company in Yukon.

(Canadian Press Despatch) London, July 25.—It is reported here that the Consolidated Gold Company of South Africa under the advice of John Hays Hammond have acquired a considerable interest in Yukon fields and intends to float a company with a capital of \$8,000,000.

MASQUERADED AS A BOY

Woman Has Posed as Her Husband's Brother for Seven Years.

Long Beach, Cal., July 25.—Mrs. Roy Ballou is no longer a "boy," after seven years of posing as her husband's brother during which time she worked as a boy on Ballou's cranberry craft. Mrs. Ballou on Monday walked into police headquarters and told her story. She said she was being followed by a man, she thought was a detective, and she decided to end her duplicity.

Mrs. Ballou says she got along much easier as a boy than she could by wearing skirts, as scarcely any attention is paid to boys, whereas, she claims, a woman's lot on the sea is anything but pleasant. Her last experience was in San Diego, when she was arrested on coming ashore from the steamer Yale, on which boat she was cabin boy.

After telling her story she was released by the police.

RECEPTION FOR PTE. CLIFFORD

Winner of King's Prize will be Well Feted on His Return to Toronto.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Toronto, July 25.—Great receptions are being planned in honor of Private Clifford who carried off the King's Prize at Bisley on Saturday. The city council has planned a great civic reception at which the public will be invited to attend.

In addition the Queen's Own Rifles and the city regiments are planning a military reception.

Fire Department Enquiry

Alderman Clayton's motion that a special committee be appointed to enquire into the Fire By-law and the Fire Department also was altered last night so as to leave the matter to the present fire committee.

Honey Crop a Failure

Toronto, July 24.—Dealers in honey declare that the drought in June and early July has caused a shortage of over one million pounds in Ontario's harvest from the hives. The practical failure of the small flowering field crops is given as the cause. The honey yield in some counties is valueless.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT SEDRO-WOOLEY

Two Whole Blocks in Business Section are Fireswept—Damage Totals \$200,000.

(Canadian Press Despatch) Bellingham, July 25.—A fire which started from an explosion in the Hardware store of Fritz Brothers last night swept the two main business blocks in the town of Sedro-Wooley causing a loss estimated at \$200,000. The insurance is given at \$100,000. Several people were injured during the fire.

Rough on Rats

Alderman Newton's Infectious Complaints By-law went through council last night. Its main provision is for precautions to be taken against the swarming ashore of the rats from vessels moored at the wharf. Copies of the by-law are to be printed and distributed as other provisions affect residents in the city, and are important in view of the serious difficulties any outbreak of infectious illness would cause in the city.

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