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THOMSON
STATIONERY CO.
325 HASTINGS ST. 'PHONE 3520

The Daily News-Advertiser.
FRIDAY.....June 12, 1908

A BANKER'S OPINION.

There is much to be commended in the remarks made by Mr. Walker, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in an interview, a report of which we published yesterday in a telegram from our correspondent at Toronto. As Mr. Walker says, to restore prosperity in the Dominion a good crop is not the only requirement. Coupled with a year during which economy was practised by all sections of the community, prosperity would be re-established and affairs placed on a normal basis. But economy is essential, and it is to a great extent to a disregard of economy during the last few years that the commercial and financial depression which marked the closing months of last year was owing. The comparatively bad crop last year in the North-West was, of course, an incident in the situation, but only an incident, and in the same way a good crop this year would be a favorable and mitigating circumstance, but, as Mr. Walker says, not all that is necessary for a complete restoration of normal conditions.

That view is not a novel one. From time to time during 1906 and 1907 there were those who looked a little ahead and suggested that during a period of such abounding prosperity was the time to prepare for a less favorable condition of things. Large crops and good prices were the record in the United States. Yet that country suffered severely, and is still suffering, because the tendency among all classes of the people was to live beyond the means which in the past had sufficed them and not to accumulate anything. They realise now the mistake they made, and may profit in the future by the experience, but that does not prevent the inconvenience and difficulties to which in the meantime they have been subjected.

This extravagance and a willingness to undertake heavy financial obligations without a clear perception of the manner in which those obligations were to be met, were not characteristics of individuals only. They marked municipalities and other public bodies, and some of these have suffered heavy penalties as the result of this lack of foresight and prudence. With easier monetary conditions, which a large crop may bring about, some of these municipalities may again take advantage of the change and once more engage in costly schemes and undertakings on borrowed money. But unless some regard is paid to economy, we cannot, as Mr. Walker says, expect to see another period of permanent prosperity for some time to come.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

We are confident that the course taken by the Board of Licence Commissioners in regard to the issuance of new licences to sell liquor will meet with the approval of an overwhelming majority of the citizens. No one can honestly pretend to say that there is not already a sufficient number of licensed houses in the City for all reasonable requirements. While we do not believe that any system of prohibition would accord with

desirable, and any action in that direction would only arouse an opposition that might result in rather drastic changes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SITUATION IN INDIA.

To the Editor of the "News-Advertiser":
Sir,—Recognising your policy of allowing a fair expression of opinion in your columns, I ask space for the enclosed article appearing in the London "Times" of May 22nd, and my reply thereto. The clipping reads as follows:

"Our special correspondent at Vancouver telegraphs: There is good reason to believe that a seditious movement in India is being directed from the Pacific Coast. I have positive information that Indians here are subscribing money for seditious purposes, and I have other information which indicates that Millside, near New Westminster, is a centre of revolutionary agitation. There is a certain 'school' there, ostensibly for the instruction of Indians in English, which is actually being managed by agitators for the purpose of imbuing the Indians with revolutionary ideas. The treatment which Indians are receiving here naturally makes them receptive of such doctrines. The 'school' is under the direction of three Indians, one from the Punjab and two from Bengal, who are well educated. The movement has spread to Seattle, which town the most dangerous of the three agitators is now visiting. This man is a Bengali, and recently started a paper called 'Free Hindusthan.' A grocer's shop on Granville Street, Vancouver, is being used for the exchange of letters between the agitators here and their friends in India. The proprietors of the shop are innocent, having no knowledge of the nature of the correspondence directed to their care. I am informed that directions for making bombs were recently sent from the Pacific Coast to India."

The London "Times" is ever notorious for misrepresenting facts, especially where the interest of bureaucracy is supreme, and the rights of man are most abusively ignored. We are Hindusthanis wherever we may be; our movement for getting better rights is regarded as dangerous. This is the case with us in British Columbia and the special correspondent of the London "Times" at Vancouver has become the supreme judge of it and kindly gave publicity to the world through his notorious message, "School of sedition in British Columbia."

We are obliged to say that the special correspondent of the "Times" showed a great lack of common sense when he used the sentence, "There is good reason to believe that a seditious movement in India is being directed from the Pacific Coast." His only good reason may be this: that some of the educated Hindusthanis sympathise with the newly started paper, "Free Hindusthan." If supporting a paper representing India is directing sedition, why does the special correspondent lack the energy to write to the Premier of Canada to suppress the paper at once, as his Anglo-Indian contemporaries are asking in India, and the self-sufficient British officials are following their advice there? We think our contemporary did regularly receive copies of "Free Hindusthan." If it is seditious and its publication is against the law, why did he not ask the Dominion authorities to suppress it? Indeed, "Free Hindusthan" advocates the liberal principle of rights of man and puts forth undeniable facts and figures about the exploiting principles of the British Government in Hindusthan. "Free Hindusthan" is nothing secret; it is published in the City of Vancouver. If the truth pinches we ask him or even the whole staff of the London "Times" to undo our statements.

We know the man, an Anglo-Indian, possibly of the Secret Service Department of the Indian Government, who has been in the City for the last three months, and who met me on the street the other day, who is the jubilant informant of the concocted stories of "sending directions for making bombs from the Pacific Coast." I shall say that there is no lack of eminent chemists in India, and if we could be successful in sending a formula for making bombs it would be great credit to us, that notwithstanding the opening of letters sent from this country we managed to send the obnoxious message to India. The idea is simply ridiculous. I think the informant is a green hand of the Secret Service Department, for he lacks common sense.

We personally know the special correspondent of the "Times" residing here, and he does not speak Hindusthan, but he is so sure about the school of sedition at Millside! This informant did not gracefully visit the school during the time of imparting education to the students—I mean the Hindu laborers—but the item is a great credit to both the gentleman's imaginative faculties of making up startling statements. The informant is an Anglo-Indian and he was in India over 20 years, and to him, as it is to mostly all Anglo-Indians, all educational movement is a red rag to a bull, because it is the policy of the British Government in India to keep the people in ignorance and exploit the country, and the informant is quite aware of the policy, owing to his long stay in India and secret connection with the Bureaucracy.

We have started a school in Vancouver, and we will continue it to educate our countrymen. If this is so disgusting to the special correspondent of the "Times," he should communicate the fact to the Government of British Columbia to suppress it.

By the way, we can give the address of several of the Oriental schools, especially of the Japanese, and it may help our contemporary to send another message to the world that the Japanese have several schools in British Columbia, and the ultimate end of these schools is to plant the flag of the Mikado in this country!

Our contemporary mentioned that the "school of revolution" is under the direction of three Indians, who are all well educated. We think it would have been better in the estimate of our contemporary if the school was guided by uneducated people. Our contemporary mentioned "the treat-

ment which the Indians are receiving here naturally makes them receptive of such revolutionary doctrine." It is a fact that we are not well treated in Vancouver, but we are better treated here in comparison with the treatment we get in India and South Africa. Canada as a free country makes every Hindusthani understand how he is oppressed at home. We teach not only how to read and write English, but tell them about their rights, and shall do, as far as I am concerned, right along. It is my duty and shall stick to it till the last. It is an open secret that I cherish, that the Government of India must be a government of the people of India, by the people of India, and for the people of India, and "Free Hindusthan" represents this idea.

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ment which the Indians are receiving here naturally makes them receptive of such revolutionary doctrine." It is a fact that we are not well treated in Vancouver, but we are better treated here in comparison with the treatment we get in India and South Africa. Canada as a free country makes every Hindusthani understand how he is oppressed at home. We teach not only how to read and write English, but tell them about their rights, and shall do, as far as I am concerned, right along. It is my duty and shall stick to it till the last. It is an open secret that I cherish, that the Government of India must be a government of the people of India, by the people of India, and for the people of India, and "Free Hindusthan" represents this idea.

I went to see the United States Fleet at Seattle, but the emissaries of the secret service are so much afraid of their own weakness that they thought I went to open a better scope for sedition! I think if the correspondent of the London "Times" were at Seattle he could have sent telegrams that the Japanese are arranging to torpedo the United States Fleet under the garb of fireworks, as the Japanese were making arrangements for fireworks.

Our contemporary also mentioned that we are attempting to make the Sikhs embittered with revolutionary ideas. We think it will not be out of place to mention that there was a serious riot at Punjab last year, and it was the retired Sikh soldiers who were more concerned in it, and the riot took place when the land tax was heavily increased. If the British Government in India is all right, then there is no danger of the people taking action. If it is not, then the people will assert their rights.

We don't know anything about the Granville Street grocery store; we get our letters direct from the Post Office.

Lastly I may say that the national movement in India will not be checked by threatening remarks of him or any of his co-workers.

The repression of the British Government in India will make the people more aggressive in their efforts to secure self-government. That is all India wants. So is not revolutionary, and when she is accorded the privilege of governing herself there will be no friction with the head of the Empire of which she forms a part.

TARAKNATH DAS,
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