

OUR MOTTO: "Suam Quique."

The Mail and Advocate

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(To Every Man His Own.)

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

I HAVE always thought of Christmas time, when it has come around, as a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time, the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely. And, therefore, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it. —CHARLES DICKENS.

WHETHER it has been intentional or not, Germany has availed of a favourable time of the year to suggest peace. And we find that all the war talk is now coupled with a spirit that is expressed in many English papers and other sources, a spirit which asks that if mediation is possible, not to let pride stand in its way, but to make an effort that will eventually pave the way for peace. The spirit of Christmas makes this idea more acceptable to us than it might be at any other season. This time of the year does not appeal to us as an aggressive time. It is the one time of the year when differences should cease, when we should have a broad charity to all and wish no one ill. For the present we prefer to let the atmosphere of the Season have its way with us, and if this influence has such an effect on all the warring nations, so that it will lead them all to do justly, to relinquish all that might have given them, and to settle the reparation and restoration in a Court of Arbitration, then we say we may well be grateful to this Children's Festival. President Wilson seems to think that the psychological moment has arrived, and without warning he has rushed into the breach and is endeavouring to keep negotiations open. We anticipate that the coming weeks will be perhaps the most critical that we have yet passed through.

WE DISLIKE very much voicing any complaint at this Season, but we should like to inform the readers of the morning paper that the absence of several messages from our columns was occasioned by their late receipt at our office. Yesterday morning we received only a part of President Wilson's message, while some of the part which we received was evidently not received by our contemporary The Daily News. If the Postal Telegraphs would accompany such discrepancies with an explanation it would be better. If this public message service can be improved we are sure that the Post Master General will do his utmost to have it done, as he has passed through all the difficulties and guesswork which meet us in the effort to decipher and make readable the typewritten sheets sent us.

THE Evening Edition of The Mail and Advocate will be published at noon to-morrow. Its character will partake of matter suitable to the season and we think will prove to make an interesting paper. We have a great deal of pleasure just here in paying CHRISTMAS a just meed of praise to Foreman Long and his staff for the invariably attractive and well printed work which they accomplish. Our experience has covered only one week, but that has been sufficient to show us the loyalty and harmony which exist in our pressroom in a very marked degree. To them, and to our reporters, who daily seek news under all weather conditions, we take this opportunity to extend Season's Greetings.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

DECEMBER 22 New Moon—24th. Daps Past—355. To Come—9. SIR PHILIP FRANCIS died 1818, aged 78. An English statesman of repute whose last years were spent in retirement, during which period it is believed he wrote the famous "Letters of Junius." GEORGE ELIOT died 1880. The pen name of Marian Evans who produced some of the most memorable novels of the 19th century, including "Adam Bede," "The Mill on the Floss," etc. FREDERICK TEMPLE, Archbishop of Canterbury, died 1902 aged 81. The famous Churchman made a strong Archbishop and dominated the church with his vigorous personality. PILGRIM FATHERS landed and founded the Colony of Plymouth, Mass., 1620. This date has long been recognized by the descendants of the early Colonists as a religious festival.

CHRISTMAS CAKE

Take the flour of Kindness, Stir it round and round (When Christmas comes along— you know the date). Add some spice of Friendliness, More than half-a-pound; Don't grudge to give a little extra weight. Mix some Generosity With the precious flour,

Add a little Honesty of Thought; Strain off Animosity. Or 'twill make it sour, Spilling quite the recipe here taught.

Add Congeniality, Mix with Commonsense, Sweeten with a real Spontaneous Smile; Drop in some Equality, Strain off all Pretence, Also all the Cant and all the Guile.

Take a cup of Charity, Have it rather full, Add a little Humor, too, with zest, Season with Hilarity, Never let it cool; Essence of Good-nature does the rest. Frost it o'er with Purity, Sweeten same with Wit, Let Olive Leaf and Holly form the crest; Wisdom in Maturity Must fill all of it— Of Christmas Cakes the sweetest and the best. —Allan Ross.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Fair to-day. Saturday: E. winds, increasing to gales, near West Coast, with sleet and rain.

FILE RATE INCREASES

The Canadian Railway Commission has ordered the railway companies to file at Ottawa supplements to the joint freight tariffs now in effect. These supplements must provide new joint rates, which must not exceed those now in effect by more than two cents per hundred pounds in the first class, down to one cent more for the fifth class.

REVEILLE BY CALCAR

WHO is to take up with serious mind, deep and sincere earnestness the problem of the unemployed in this country? On the constant and remunerative employment afforded its people must depend the prosperity and happiness of its people. Idle hands make a poor country, busy hands a prosperous one. It needs no argument to convince anybody of this. It is a truism that needs no telling, no waste of eloquence to bring home to even such people as those who at present usurp the prerogatives of government and style themselves "The People's Party."

Even the replicas who sit in the legislative assembly making the laws of the land have powers of apprehension sufficiently developed to grasp the truth of the remark, and this is saying a whole lot for the simplicity of the statement. Plain as it is and self evident to even the dullards of the government, it is worth repeating, for we are apt to let governments forget, overlook or in some way neglect it. Seeing that so much of a country's welfare is locked up in the steady employment of its people in the productive arts it should be the first duty of a government to see that every possible avenue of employment is opened up to the people.

All governments know this and attest to its force, even the Morris Government recognizes the truth of it, for even they, when it is expedient, and it is desirable to appeal to the favor of the people or to catch a vote have recourse to promises of development. We all know what electioneering kite-flying means. We all are familiar with the old gag. It is a popular position to take that you are going to induce large labor-giving concerns to operate in our midst. Nothing appeals more forcibly to the mawkish of the country than this promise of abundant employment. This fact proves that the people recognize the importance of labor and the development of industry to the well being of the country.

All wealth is in some way the product of labor, and the greatest loss to a country is the idleness of her people. This is the only real loss, not of course counting loss of population by death or emigration. Where a people are constantly engaged in productive labor, all things else being equal, the country must be prosperous. We think that a careful census of this country would reveal the fact that there is a great deal of idle time among the people, time that were better employed in some useful pursuit. This is true all over the country. Some of this is voluntary, but much of it is enforced. The number of men lounging in enforced idleness in St. John's alone is a blot upon our economic system.

There must be something wrong with the system which permits this to go on from year to year, and all the time growing worse instead of better. There should be no enforced idleness in a country such as this. Every year sees the gap between wealth and poverty growing broader, the one expanding to limits that make Croesus himself look like a Lazarus, and the other sinking deeper and deeper, not only by contrast but in actuality.

Newfoundland is Britain's oldest Colony, and it is safe to say there is not a more backward or undeveloped one to be found in all the broad dominions.

We have coastal waters teeming with fish, a great watery farm from which we may take year by year a finny wealth without in any way diminishing it or tending to exhaust it. We have not begun to realize the full importance of our position out here in the Atlantic anchored as it were on the great

est fishing grounds in all the world. There is wealth enough in this great unincumbered farm of the deep, if properly garnered and looked after to promote the welfare of every man, woman and child in the country, even if we had no other source of wealth to fall back upon. We are neglecting to give that attention to our fisheries that their importance deserves, and that other countries are giving to theirs. We export too much raw material. This is a prolific source of much of our backwardness. We have all the basic elements that go to the making of great subsidiary industries, but because of our stupidity these avail us but little. Our people are bound to be the "brewers of wood and drawers of water" to other nations.

Once we ranked high among the copper producing regions of the world. How do we stand in this regard to-day? Where are the copper manufacturing industries that should follow the development of our copper mines. The mines have become exhausted and we stand to-day where we stood before the mines were discovered, minus the ore and the splendid opportunity which the presence of those great ore deposits held out to this country. What we did in respect to our copper mines, we are doing to-day with our iron ore deposits, exhausting them as fast as we can, and sending every ton of the ore out of the country to be the basis of great industries elsewhere.

What do we get for it all, nothing but a beggarly royalty of seven and one-half cents a ton on part of the output, and the privilege of sending our sons to delve the ore at the risk of life and limb. That ore should be kept in the country and made into iron and steel and moulded into rails, plate for ship building, stoves and all the other things that are made of iron or steel. If this were being done Bell Island mines could be a source of wealth for centuries, whereas now it is a question of a short generation when those mines will have been abandoned.

Mines, no matter how extensive may be the ore deposit must sooner or later reach the limit to which it is possible to develop them. Then they represent only valueless holes in the ground. They are not reproductive, like the sea fisheries and the farm or forest. What are we doing to provide for that day when Bell Island will be a deserted village. Why are we not making a study of our resources that we may be fortified against the abandonment of the mines in process of exhaustion to-day? There are a thousand industries awaiting development. Why are we not making a study of the field.

ECONOMY IN CANDIES

The demand for National economy has had one far-reaching result in respect to candies. Mr. Runciman, speaking in the House of Commons upon the exorbitant charges that were inflicted upon the consumers in certain articles, hit out at the high class candies, handsomely bound in coloured boxes. Since then the press has got busy and shown that the profits on these fashionable sweets run into 200 and 300 per cent.

No Church Bells

A Clergyman was recently summoned at the North London Police Court for allowing the bells of his church to be rung after sunset. The magistrate said this was probably the first time a clergyman had been summoned for calling his parishioners together for evening service. The original idea of the bell was to warn off evil spirits, so that the congregation could assemble without fear, but now conditions had so changed that the ringing of the bell might summon a congregation of Zeppelins.

VARIA BY GALE

MONEY

THE Institutions which handle money, generally, will now occupy our attention for a brief space, and we shall discuss Banks—derived from the Italian word banca, or the O.H. German bank, meaning a bench. The special connection of the signification of the word with money is an Italian development; a credit institution or a dealer in credits.

The earliest bank of which mention is made in history was the Bank of Venice, founded A.D. 1171, though it is stated that the Lombard Jews had established banks prior to this date, and that bank notes had circulated in China as early as A.D. 808. Lombard Street in London is a reminder of the presence of the famous money-lenders in England in former times.

Funds deposited in the Banks of Venice could not be withdrawn, but they could be transferred on the books at the pleasure of the owner—in this respect not unlike the perpetual annuities of the British National Debt. The Bank was in reality merely a fiscal agent of the Government.

The Bank of Genoa went into operation in 1407; and for centuries it was one of the principal banks of Europe. It was the first to use circulating notes, which were negotiated or passed only by endorsement. It remained in operation till 1800 when it was pillaged by the French army under Napoleon.

The Bank of Amsterdam, established in 1607, was the earliest institution of the kind which looked to the promotion of commerce. It was plundered by the French army in 1794, when it was found that, with the reputation of fifty million dollars in its vaults, it had nothing, its capital having been loaned to the States-General, the East India Company, and the City of Amsterdam.

The Bank of Hamburg, established in 1619, was a bank of deposit and circulation based upon fine silver bars; and the deposits were confined to silver.

In 1663 a bank was established in London by Francis Child; and in 1667 the "London Directory" contained a list of goldsmiths keeping running "cashies." Hoare's Bank was founded in 1680; and Smith's Bank, in 1688.

The Bank of England, known the world over as "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" (a corruption of Thridneedle Street, i.e. the third street from Cheapside) was devised by William III. in raising supplies for the war against France. A charter was granted appointing Sir John Houblon governor, and Michael Godfrey deputy-governor, in 1694. It opened, with 54 assistants, in the Mercers' Chapel; but removed after a few months to Grocers' Hall, Poultry, 1695. The foundation of the present building in Threadneedle Street was laid in

1732. The Bank of England, the largest in the world, has had a very remarkable career. By Peel's Bank Charter Act of 1844 its issue of notes is limited to Fourteen Million Pounds, and it is required to furnish weekly returns.

The Bank of Montreal which has a large branch in this city is one of the oldest Canadian Banks, and is regarded as one of the strongest in the world, after the Bank of England and the Bank of France which occupies in France a place similar to that occupied in England by the Bank of England.

According to their foundation banks are either deposit banks or banks of issue. A bank of deposit has merely the right to receive money from depositors, but has no power to issue notes. A bank of issue has, as the name implies, the right to receive deposits and the power to issue notes. All the banks doing business in this country are of this class.

In England and Wales very few banks are banks of issue, the right to issue notes being confined chiefly to the Bank of England, which cannot issue notes of less value than Five Pounds. In Scotland and Ireland, however, the banks have power to issue notes and they are not restricted to the issue of Five Pound Notes, but may issue notes for any number of pounds from one pound upwards. According as the banks are owned by private individuals or a number of individuals (not being incorporated) banks are said to be private banks or joint stock banks.

As we mentioned before the banks doing business in this city cannot issue notes of smaller denomination than Five Dollars, the Dominion Government issuing the ones and twos. Canada still has a 25 cent note commonly known as "the shin plaster" on account of its diminutive size. The Newfoundland Government also issues "shin plasters" but they are of much larger size than the Canadian notes, and, by the way, it is very difficult to get rid of them anywhere outside of the Colony.

Newfoundland has had a banking history which is, as far as the writer is aware, without parallel in financial history. We need but refer to the defunct Commercial and the Union which closed their doors on "Black Monday," of December 1894. We do not wish to unduly emphasize this sad story, but we refer to it simply en passant as the greatest banking monstrosity ever conceived. By the failure of these two institutions—now however regarded as one of the greatest blessings which ever befel the Colony from a business viewpoint—hundreds of small depositors were irrevocably ruined.

A system of—shall we call it banking?—existed in Newfoundland in former times which was a very singular one, indeed. Plant-

ers left their annual balances on the "books" of the merchants; and they received no interest. On the contrary we are told that in certain instances merchants made a charge for "taking care of the money." This statement is founded on fact; and the writer happens to know at least one instance in which this actually occurred.

Since the failure of the Commercial and the Union many of our outport people, especially, have fought shy of banks, and they have returned to the primitive way of keeping their money—in the stocking. This is a very undesirable way of keeping one's savings; and we have already suggested a means by which the fishermen may be able to not only retain their savings, but to gather in a goodly harvest by way of constantly accumulating interest.

"In the Beginning God"

Mr. Alfred Noyes, the poet, speaking at Bedford College, said we were "in danger of something like intellectual disintegration."

"It had been made the test of a man's greatness in modern literature that he should be able to show in new and startling ways the ultimate nothingness of things. Solemn books were produced discussing nothing more and nothing less than the great question whether our world might not be an 'accident.'"

"Let there be no mistake about it: from that way of thinking came this hideous disaster upon our civilization. Germany carried it further than we did; they declared that there was no power above the State."

"All great art was to set the object with which it dealt in relation to the Eternal, and all great art was based on the first four words of the great Book: 'In the beginning God.'"

JUST LIKE DUTY

"Why does your wife call herself Mrs. Duty Rouser?" asked Mr. Naylor. "Where did she get the name Duty?"

"Oh, she adopted it," replied Mr. Rouser. "She claims that every married woman's middle name is Duty because she is either being done or neglected."—Exchange.

There is the little girl who was only allowed to draw Sunday pictures on Sundays, and who produced a drawing of a lady with a strange little quadruped seated on her lap:

"What is that, my dear?" inquired the mother. "A young she-bear," answered the daughter. "But I don't," was the rejoinder, "remember anything of that sort in the Bible." "Oh! it is not in the Bible, it's a hymn," rejoined the little girl, "don't you recollect?"

"Can a mother's tender care Cease towards the child she bears!"

--JUST IN-- No. 1 King APPLES Florida Sweet ORANGES J. J. ROSSITER.

Reid-Newfoundland Co. Steamship Service. The Bay steamers will finish this Season's Service, making their final trips (weather and ice permitting), as follows: S.S. "ETHIE" will leave Humbermouth on Wednesday, Dec. 27th. S.S. "WREN" will leave Clarendville on Friday, Dec. 29th. S.S. "DUNDEE" will leave Port Blandford on Friday, Dec. 29th. S.S. "CLYDE" will leave Lewisporte on Friday, Dec. 29th. S.S. "HOME" will leave Lewisporte on Monday, January 1st. Reid-Newfoundland Co.