

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAP, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1920

The Evening Times and Star

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GET IN NEXT WEEK.

St. John is forging ahead in the matter of playgrounds and athletics. A review of the situation is worth while, now that the activity of the spring season has begun.

Two years ago the South End Improvement League was formed and set out to make a playground. It asked and received some aid from the city. The West End followed its example and began to make a playground on Queen square. Last spring the East End Improvement League was formed, and now has the best playground of the three. Next week the North End will organize an Improvement League and go after a playground. Meanwhile the city council has begun actual work developing the great area at the entrance to Rockwood Park.

All this is in line with the general plan set forth when the South End Improvement League was formed. It was made of the city's four great playgrounds and baseball field, and crowning the system a great general playground at Rockwood Park. On the latter all kinds of sports could be carried on by high school, Y. M. C. A., Y. M. C. I. and other young athletes, and it would be the place for championship meets in which athletes from the four Improvement Leagues would compete, as well as those from other parts of the province. Of course on all the playgrounds provision would also be made for girls as well as for the children. And now Fairville is to get into the game. It has selected a fine playground, and secured authority to assess the people for the necessary improvement work. By next year, therefore, St. John should be on the athletic map in bright red. Nor is aquatic sport to be overlooked. By next year each Improvement League and perhaps some other organizations should have single and four-oared shells, and young oarsmen in practice.

The first baseball games of the season will be played on May 24. Then, on June 26, the Olympic marathon trials for the maritime provinces, with an afternoon of field sports at the same time, will be staged here. It will be the biggest sporting event in St. John for years, and will attract a great many visitors to the city.

All this is pleasant reading. In two years, following the faithful spade work of a few years before, the city has come to the front in quite a wonderful way. The support of such organizations as the Rotary Club, Commercial Club, and Board of Trade has been of great value, and the Trades and Labor Council has also begun to take an active interest, being well represented in the Playgrounds Association.

But there is still great need of a wider popular interest in the work of getting the playgrounds into shape. All four Improvement Leagues will hold meetings next week. The people in each section of the city should join and take part in the work. A city-wide support by individual citizens is necessary. The more there are in the work the better will be the equipment of the grounds and the greater the benefit to all the young people.

Next week, therefore, let everybody begin to talk about the playgrounds and ask what they can do to help the movement that will be of such lasting benefit to the city.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Some interesting information was given in a discussion of proportional representation by the Montreal charter committee this week. Mr. H. S. Ross described the system. He said the next election in Ontario would probably be held under that system; and that the Manitoba legislature will elect its Winnipeg members by this system in July. "The city of Calgary has for a number of years elected the members of its city council under the system and the movement is gaining ground in cities of British Columbia. It was used in the municipal elections in Ireland in January, and is used in Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden and some other countries. In the United States, Ashtabula, Ohio, has elected its councilors under proportional representation for a few years. Kalamazoo, Michigan, has adopted the system and it is also in force in Boulder, Colo.

Mr. Ross favors what is called the Hare system, and thus enumerates its advantages:—

"Voters get real representation; votes are of equal value, discouraging corruption; there is no necessity of splitting votes; it encourages strongest candidates; votes need not be thrown away; it gives representation to all substantial minorities; it encourages representatives to have principles and to be true to them; it secures co-operation of the community; it makes a policy-forming council so representative that it can be made responsible for the appointment of administrative officials."

The system is somewhat complicated, but, it is said to be simple enough for the voter, who simply indicates his first, second, third or any number of preferences among the candidates. The real work is in the counting at the central electoral office, to give effect to the popular verdict.

WHAT WOMEN ENDURE.

Judge Cusson in the Montreal police court this week had before him several husbands charged with neglect. One who earned \$8.60 per day, gave his wife \$15 per month to keep herself and three little children. She had to scrub floors to earn more money. The judge said:—"I am satisfied that you are a heartless husband and father, but I am going to see that you take care of your wife and children. You have no right to expect your wife to work when she has to take care of three children, one of which is not yet one year old. You are going to pay her thirty dollars a month, and you are going to make a payment right now, or I will send you to jail for at least six months."

Another man earning forty to fifty dollars per week had given his wife no money for months. They had no children, but the wife had to sell some of the furniture to get money. The judge said to this man:—"Your wife would not have to sell her furniture if you supported her. You are another heartless brute and I would like to send you to jail. You are going to pay your wife fifteen dollars a week, and you are going to make a first payment right now or take the car for Bordeaux."

These two illustrations serve to reveal a condition that is by no means confined to Montreal. There are great numbers of wives and mothers suffering from neglect, who are too sensitive to take their case to court. Because so little attention is paid to community welfare work, those whose influence might bring about a change are ignorant of the daily tragedy under neighboring roofs. Women and children suffer, and the world goes carelessly about its business and pleasure. And in cases where the courts are appealed to, if a man is sent to jail, the wife's condition is not improved, unless she had also to support him in his idleness when he was at large. There is need of a system to compel such men to work, and to pay their wives the value of that work.

The plebiscite on prohibition in this province will be held early in July. Every church, every temperance organization, every man and woman who oppose the saloon and desire absolute prohibition will have a work to do in this connection. The liquor interests will seek to pervert the people's attention to the responsibility for the conditions under which much liquor is now produced, and it must be made clear that these conditions are due to the law that permits importation from Quebec. That law must be changed, and the first step will be to roll up an overwhelming majority for provincial prohibition.

An intimation of what it will cost to construct highways this year was given in August, Maine this week. When tenders were opened by the state highway commission for certain sections of road. For 4.71 miles of bituminous macadam road the only bid was \$171,811.80. For another stretch of 2.54 miles the bid was \$100,810.48. For another of 3.92 miles one bid was \$116,449.06, and another \$124,986.96. All these tenders were rejected and new proposals will be asked.

Should the West India delegates to the Ottawa conference come by way of St. John it goes without saying that they will be given a hearty reception. Increased Canadian trade with the West Indies means more business for the port of St. John, and the West Indies will eventually become a great winter playground for Canada.

Sir Hamar Greenwood, the Canadian who is now Irish secretary, has been returned by a large majority in an English constituency where there is a very considerable Irish vote. The by-elections lately have gone in favor of the Lloyd George candidates.

In Montreal an effort is being made to raise \$100,000 for a Business Girls' Hostel. Such houses are needed for the benefit of girls who are away from home and working for their own living. In every city this need is being more fully recognized.

There is to be another lory convention in Toronto next week, engineered by Hon. Robert Rogers, by way of a salute to Sir Robert Borden. How will Sir Robert like it?

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Kiev has been captured by Poles and Ukrainians. Bolshevism has not brought peace to Russia.

The intermediate class of the Y. W. C. A. gymnasium girls were the hostesses at a very enjoyable party in the recreational centre last night. About forty young people were present, and dancing, games and music made the time pass all too quickly. Delicious refreshments were served before the entertainment was brought to a close. Every one had the best of good times and regretted when the time came to go home. Mrs. J. D. Hunter, Mrs. T. H. Somerville, Miss K. McK. Matheson and others of the Y. W. C. A. executive assisted the girls in entertaining and acted as chaperones.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

BALMY DAYS.

When arrives the month of May, winter's gone, beyond dispute; which reflection makes us gay, and our loud bazoes we toot. It is good to go to bed, twenty minutes after ten, knowing that the storms we dread for long months won't come again. It is good to rise at morn in a balmy atmosphere, gazing on the sprouting corn, and the playful colt and steer. May's a pippin and a peach, o'er whose charms all hearts enthuse of the pebbles on the beach, she's the one the wise boys choose. Oh, a month ago we felt that the winter might return; and the sleek again might pelt, and there might be snow to burn our noses; but now, in suspense, and the weather prophets all were forever on the fence, knowing not what might befall. And a month from now we'll fry in the superheated air, and no doubt the passers-by will forgive us when we swear. But May brings us no distress, in her genial smiles we bask; we wait, as we go to press in the smoothest man could ask. It's the month that hits the spot, after winter, cold and drear; every other month, I wot, should be May, throughout the year.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

ON TO PRETORIA.

Night had fallen on that early day in May, 1900, with the naval guns of the British shelling the Boers at the Vet River where the Canadians, with the other Britishers, were attacking the strongly entrenched forces of the enemy. A hard fight was expected the next morning for the foe had shown great determination in the fighting before nightfall. But at daybreak there was no trace of the enemy; he had vanished in the night.

It was Sunday morning, but there was no trace for a religious service. The order was "Forward" after the flying foe. Ninety men of the Canadians under Captain Macdonell had been in the saddle all night endeavoring to cut the Boer line of communication with Koonstad. They caught a glimpse of the Boers just as they fled from the village of Smal-deel and at once set out in pursuit of the fugitives.

The Boers had gathered a strong force and were preparing to take the offensive for a time under such generals as Boer and DeWet. So it was necessary for the British to halt and allow their troops to come up to Smal-deel. It was becoming miles and on every knee big guns were being brought up to prevent the British from crossing the Zand River. The main army left that place on May 9, and marched to Weingegen. A part of the Mounted Rifles were ahead of the Zand to study the Boer position. It was a strong one, with the front covered by miles and on every knee big guns were being brought up to prevent the British from crossing the Zand River. The main army left that place on May 9, and marched to Weingegen. A part of the Mounted Rifles were ahead of the Zand to study the Boer position. It was a strong one, with the front covered by miles and on every knee big guns were being brought up to prevent the British from crossing the Zand River.

As the mounted men approached with in range of the Boers shells began to fall so they turned their horses about and leisurely retreated with the knowledge that the big battle would come in the morning. When the sun went down on May 8, at least 45,000 soldiers lay facing each other preparing for the battle on the morrow. The fight began with a shilly shally at dawn, then the infantry went into action. By the middle of the afternoon the enemy saw that the plan of victory had failed, as they slipped from the trenches and fled for Koonstad, while the Canadians slept on the ground the Boers had occupied in the morning. On the morning of May 10 the British line along the Zand River extended from thirty to forty miles.

THERE'S MANY A TALE OF SPRING BEING SUNG

There's many a tale of spring being sung.

Of Crocus path and bloom above.

There's many a tale of love begun—

And is there ever an end to love?

You know the feeling of the air

When first the breath of spring comes in?

The smell of damp fresh earth is there,

You know the throbbing of the heart

When first the thrill of wing is heard?

How loved the bird is, and the bird?

And wonder is it saint or bird?

The bending, glowing lines of trees,

The water rushing down and cool,

The soothing drone of early bees,

Then violets by a sunken pool?

There's many a tale of spring to tell,

But mine 'tis of a brave white face—

He loved me in the spring so well

My Eros of immortal race.

—Marjorie Weir.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

The stage manager was often at his wit's end to keep up with an amateur dramatic critic who regularly attended the theatre and kept up a running conversation in a loud voice about the merits or demerits of the plays he saw.

The piece was a thrilling melodrama of the old school when the critic happened to be there one night. The hero, an understudy—was slender and short; the lovely heroine tall and stout, and working for their own living. In every city this need is being more fully recognized.

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Jenkins and his best girl were motoring a considerable distance to see one of the last round cup ties, and the margin of time was very tight.

With about twelve miles to go, he bared his head and, turning to the girl of his heart, exclaimed:—"We're going at fifty miles an hour. Are you brave, dear?"

The girl, she swallowed a quantity of dust, replied, with emotion:—"Yes, dear; I'm full of grit!"—London Tit-Bits.

THE SUGAR SHORTAGE.

(New York Evening Post.)

In immediate explanation of the soaring sugar prices it is stated that the government has no control over the Cuban crop. But more fundamentally, there is a world shortage and an increased world consumption. When the European war broke out, affecting the greatest sugar-growing area on earth, strenuous efforts were made in America to reduce its use, yet our imports rose in 1916 to \$200,000 tons, a record figure. Prohibition has increased the demand for sugar throughout North America; the confectionery trade grows steadily.

The main facts regarding the shortage of production, though estimates vary and are far from exact, are plain. The All-American Sugar League makes the computation that the 1919-20 crops is 5,000,000 tons less than that of 1918-19. As in 1918-19 the world's total production of cane and beet sugar was 26,655,900 tons, this estimate would mean that the present supply is about three-fourths the pre-war crop. Great beet sugar fields in Belgium and France were destroyed, great areas in Germany were made unproductive, in other regions labor costs were restricted, and in Louisiana and Cuba weather conditions have been unfavorable to the cane. The production of beet sugar in this country in 1918-19 was 738,401 tons; it reached 874,000 tons in 1915-16, but in 1919-20 has fallen back to 726,400 tons. The Louisiana crop in 1918-19 was 288,000 tons; in 1919-20 it was still high, 280,000 tons; but the federal crop estimate on April 24 placed the present season's output at 210,000 tons only.

In support of estimates showing a very great decrease in world production, the Statistical Sugar Trade Journal publishes figures obtained from the very best foreign sources. The German crop in the season before the war was very nearly 3,000,000 tons, and in the present season is placed at 385,000 tons. The pre-war production of Austria-Hungary was 1,780,000 tons, and that of Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, 1,919-20 is believed to be 750,000 tons. In all, our government gave the total for Europe in 1918-19 as 8,654,702 tons, while the present season's output is estimated at 1,919-20 at much less than 4,000,000 tons. In the five years 1909-13 Germany exported an average of 578,000 tons of sugar, and the present crop would allow for export only what she could save from a per capita annual ration of slightly over thirty pounds. And in the first ten months of 1919 Americans consumed sugar at the rate of ninety-one pounds per capita.

No sugar-containing shortage is likely, in spite of the tremendous cultivation of its sweet tooth by man. Present high prices should bring the European beet lands into cultivation. In the world at large beet and sugar cane have been running a close race, but the cane promises to forge ahead. There are great tropical areas which, if labor can be cultivated, as Hawaii, Fiji and Porto Rico all have been recently brought into production. One of passing through the immediate stringency by economy and wise use. Sugar for candy is dispensable, but sugar for fruits is not.

MOSS-SIDE.

("Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life.") Many cottages are there in Scotland like Moss-side, and many such humble and virtuous cottages as were now beneath its roof of straw. The eye of the passer-by would not mark them, or mark them not, but they stand peacefully in thousands all over the land; and most beautiful do they make it through all its wide valleys and moorlands. In the low hills, encircled by the rocky walls of a bonny burn—its green mounts, its little crowning groves, its bare pastoral hillsides, and all its healthy moors, on whose black bosom lie many a patch of flowers of exquisite verdure, inhabited by flowers, and visited only by far-flying bees.

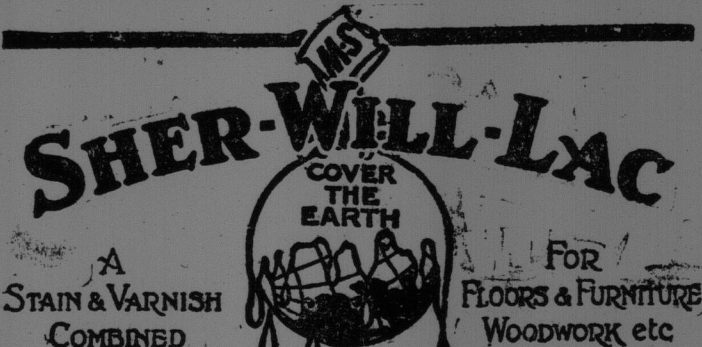
Moss-side was not beautiful to a careless or hasty eye; but when surveyed it seemed a pleasant dwelling. Its roof, overgrown by grass and moss, was almost as green as the ground out of which it grew. The moss behind it was separated from a little garden by a narrow slip of arable land, the dark color of which showed that it had been won from the wild by patient industry and by patient industry retained. It required a bright, sunny day to make Moss-side fair; but then it was fair indeed; and when the little brown moorland birds were singing their short songs among the rushes and the heather, and a lark, perhaps lured thither by some green barley field for its nest, rose singing all over the enlivened solitude, the little black farm smiled like the paradise of poverty, affecting in its lone and extreme simplicity. The boys and girls had made some plots of flowers among the vegetables that the little garden supplied for their homely meals; pinks and carnations, brought from walled gardens, grew here with somewhat diminished luster; a bright show of tulips had a strange beauty in the midst of that moorland; and the smell of roses, mixed well with that of the clover, the beautiful clover that loves the soil and the air of Scotland.

MORNING NEWS

OVER THE WIRES

At the reorganization meeting of the Moncton Medical Society last evening the following officers were elected: Dr. W. A. Ferguson, president; Dr. L. H. Price, vice-president; Dr. S. W. Burgess, second vice-president; Dr. A. H. Landry, treasurer; Dr. P. McD. Atkinson, secretary.

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secretary, and J. W. Pugsley of the Canadian department of railways. His trip to the south the premier says has done a great deal to restore his health.

The fishermen on the south coast of Nova Scotia are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the mackerel schools and have their seines all ready. The fisheries branch of the naval department has arranged that a boat with wireless equipment will be stationed off Cape Sable to convey information to the harbors along the coast regarding the approaching fish.

JAMBOREE OF THE BOY SCOUTS

The question of who will be among the one or two hundred boys chosen to represent the United States at the great international "Jamboree" in London next July is causing a lot of excitement among the 488,247 Boy Scouts and their leaders in that country.

Scouts from fifty-six lands in which this great world brotherhood exists have been called to send their best troops and individuals scouts to London, where in the enormous Olympia building the contests will take place between July 30 and August 7.

A native American Indian boy will probably be one of the features of the Scouts from the United States.

There will be demonstrations in scouting and in woodcraft, an international competition for the world's scout championship, a handicraft exhibition, a great boy scout zoo where the pets and troop mascots from all over the world will be shown, and the great displays in the arena and an opening procession led by the London choir of 500 voices.

There is a possibility that the scouts from the United States will also journey to the battlefields of France and visit the graves of American soldiers dead from their home towns and cities with the idea perhaps of decorating them and photographing them and then reporting back to the families.

The displays will include fire-fighting, ambulance teams, aid in accident of all sorts, train collisions, airplane falls, shipwrecks, floods, earthquakes, air raids, runaway horses, etc.

The exhibitions of physical training will include cycling, trek-cart work, cabin and shack constructing, bridge building, rocket drill, fire lighting and camp cooking.

This great international meet, representing the millions of Boy Scouts all over the world, is intended, in the words of General Baden-Powell, chief scout of England, "to mark appreciation of the restoration of peace, toward which Scouts, past and present, have done their considerable bit."

The objects are stated as follows: To make the aims and methods of scouting better understood among educationalists, parents, the clergy and the public; to bring foreign and overseas scouts into closer touch; to push forward the organization in the densely populated industrial centres where moral and physical training is so badly needed for boys.

Chicago, May 8.—A committee of forty-seven, representing all branches of grain production and marketing, will be appointed to plan the handling of the wheat crop and to take action on the opening of grain exchanges for future trading in wheat after May 31, when the wheat guaranty act expires. This was decided yesterday.

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