

Editorial

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1927

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PROMPT ACTION NEEDED

THE time approaches when the Legislature will be in session, and if any bills are to be presented from the city of Saint John they should be given early or immediate consideration. The British report makes many recommendations, and among them one for a change in the form of city government. If there is to be a change such as the report recommends, or one with some changes in detail, that is really the first thing that should be done. If it is believed we need a change in the form of city government, then that change should obviously be the first consideration. It is true the City Council has another very important matter to consider, and that is the nationalization of the port. It should be possible, however, to give consideration to both these matters; and, with the help of the citizens, arrive at a conclusion. Undoubtedly, it would be necessary for the members of the Council to work longer hours for a time, but in such an emergency they may be quite willing to make the sacrifice. Prompt and decisive action is needed, both in regard to nationalization of the port and the British report and city government.

THE MONTREAL TRAGEDY

ALL Canada will mourn with Montreal the untimely death of so many of that city's children, crushed and suffocated in the dreadful theatre panic which occurred yesterday. Necessarily there will be searching inquiry into the cause of this fearful catastrophe, but let it be stated that from accounts yet to hand no suggestion of evasion of law or inadequacy of means of exit in emergency has been brought to light. That the exits proved inadequate under the circumstances is appallingly evident, but it would appear that this was due solely to the panic against which it is virtually impossible to legislate.

Quebec has a law which forbids unescorted children to patronize entertainments unless such are advertised as providing a purely juvenile programme. The exception indicates that the measure is one designed to protect the mind rather than the body. Nonetheless it is significant that according to report no less than seventy-five of the children who died in the crash on the stairway of the Laurier Palace Theatre were there without the permission of their parents or guardians.

It is a dreadful affair. Enquiry will doubtless be searching and if means can—as indeed they must—be evolved to minimize the risk of recurrence of similar accidents, how is undoubtedly the time to see that they are instituted and enforced.

A SPORTING COMMUNITY CLUB

SAINT JOHN has numerous fine institutions, and amongst the most illustrious is the Saint John Fusiliers. Numerous citizens who have served in the Fusiliers in this unit, which bears the name of the Loyalist City along with a record of which any battalion may be proud. But nothing worth while is maintained without effort, and the efforts of the Saint John Fusiliers are worthy of the support of the community. The Fusiliers ask for no more from the community. All they ask is its sympathetic support.

It would be a gross exaggeration to claim that a militia unit in times of peace is a militaristic machine. The furthest it would be permissible to urge in this regard is that its members are men of goodwill ready to answer the call of duty in the event of national emergency. But, on the other hand, the Fusiliers are a community club, inviting membership from all groups, wherein all meet on common ground, with attractions—particularly of sport—covering fields to suit all tastes. How this has been effected is by the adoption of the "tary training" system. In brief it is this: Pay is available for nine days training annually for a limited number from each militia unit, according to the proportion of the militia estimates allotted to the Militia District, and thence apportioned to units. All ranks of the Fusiliers have agreed to draw no pay individually, but to fund it regimentally for the promotion of hockey, bowling, baseball, football, basketball and rifle shooting. A member of the Fusiliers will be backed in these and possibly other athletic fields. Already the exploits of the Fusiliers' hockey team are the talk of the town, and no less eminent will be the battalion's part in other sports.

Surely this should attract all the youngsters with sporting proclivities to join the Fusiliers, who help themselves, help sport and help the community spirit of Saint John. Little is asked of them in return—attendance at nine drills during the year. But the privileges these young men gain are great out of all proportion. They become members of the most extensive and all-embracing community club in Saint John; they are enrolled in a distinguished regiment; they may join in the sports; they may support the various teams of their own battalion, as spectators identified with the players; and they may enjoy the music of their own regiment's band.

So keen is the interest taken in sport by the girls of Saint John that it is a pity it is impossible to enlist them also in the Fusiliers. That being out of the question, it remains for them to join by proxy. Saint John girls can aid the Fusiliers to fill their ranks by nominating a knight errant, and by taking a particular interest in the sport of the corps. The movement initiated by the present members of the Saint John Fusiliers is a community movement. Let us all get behind it.

Hon. J. K. Fleming flatly contradicts the assertion of Senator Gould that he either sought or received money for himself during the negotiations for the contract for the Valley Railway. He admits there was a contribution to the party funds. The late Premier Clarke cannot speak for himself, but it may be said for him that when the most serious charges were being made against the Government of which he was a member not one of his political opponents charged or believed that he was personally dishonest, or sought to enrich himself at the expense of the party funds. Senator Gould did not strengthen his case when he attacked the reputation of a man who is not alive to speak for his own defence.

A POSSIBLE MARKET

THE Maritime Provinces should reap some benefit from the new treaty with Czechoslovakia. Some seventy-one Canadian commodities will receive the most favored nation treatment. They include: Flour, wheat, barley, wrapping paper, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, malt, peas, fresh and dried apples, all kinds of fish, including canned fish, lard, butter, honey, cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, condensed milk, agricultural implements and agricultural tools, rubber footwear, rubber tires, lead, zinc, engines and motors, adding machines, automobiles and various other items.

This is one of the overseas markets of which the Maritime Provinces may avail themselves. They have the fish, and can produce the agricultural products. Our exporters are no doubt giving some attention to the prospects for opening up business relations. The question of transportation comes up, of course, and is perhaps under present conditions a serious one. Nevertheless we must keep on reminding ourselves that our commercial future lies largely in overseas trade, and every new market available should be made the subject of careful enquiry.

A BETTER OUTLOOK

IT is very satisfactory to learn on the authority of a large grain exporter that there is no likelihood of further congestion in connection with grain shipments from this port this season. The recent trouble appears to have been caused chiefly by the desire of many shippers to get their grain to the coast as early as possible, while there are elevators a certain grade of grain, while there are elevators a certain grade of grain awaiting shipment. Apparently the rush of that particular grain is over for the season, and it will be easier for the elevators to handle shipments as they come along. With the elevator space available here to handle a very much larger quantity of grain during the season than has ever been done in the past history of the port. The experience of Vancouver, when it had only one elevator, shows what can be done. Of course, the port should be so equipped with elevators that it would be possible to handle quickly all grain offered. Nationalization of the port would be expected to meet that requirement by providing additional facilities.

The press of Great Britain is nothing if not forgiving. Mr. W. R. Hearst, who will not go down in American history as a mawkish Anglophile, now advocates a League of English-speaking Nations. Instead of viewing this remarkable change of front with suspicion, most of the London newspapers that comment on the phenomenon appear disposed to allow that Mr. Hearst means well, although he is making a big mistake. The Daily Telegraph approaches nearest to approval in saying: "If the American proposal is taken to heart by thinking men and women in Britain and the Dominions, it is as adding to, certainly not replacing, the system of peace preservation as represented by the League." The others see in it a wish to return to the old doctrine of balance of power, and a suggestion most mischievous in its effect on Latin and Slav Europe.

Other Views

CANADA'S MISSION

(London Observer)

THE ten millions of Canadians, if they will, can wield under the old flag more influence than any equal number of people elsewhere. Above all, Canada among the self-governing nations of the world has a position and a mission like no other. For three thousand miles her open frontier marches peacefully with that of the American republic. If she can rise to the highest view of her duty, she will work deliberately, steadily, to harmonize her intimate neighborhood to the United States with her membership of the British Empire. All they ask is its sympathetic support.

THE WHEAT POOL

(Three Rivers Nouvelle)

THE west is the country of experiments. It is the sworn enemy of tradition and is always ready to gamble on its economic future. One of the great problems of the west is the marketing of grain for sale without the intervention of middlemen. To solve this problem in the most satisfactory manner possible, the west has had recourse to co-operative selling and this has led the way for the Canadian wheat pool. At the start, there was some skepticism regarding probable results. After three years' experience, however, it is admitted that results are promising, and have justified the expectation of the promoters.

TWO SIMILAR CASES.

(Toronto Star)

SOME years ago a Scotch reporter visited Ireland in order to write an account of July 12 as celebrated in Belfast. There was the usual procession, in the middle of which was a tremendous Irishman, dressed in coat and waistcoat, banging the big drum for all he was worth.

The reporter made merry at his expense and thought it rather ridiculous that he should take of his coat and waistcoat to beat the big drum. He asked the Irishman to take off his trousers in order to play the bagpipes!

THE BETTER WAY.

(Boston Post)

IS the English coal strike, with its long drawn out suffering, with its losses to owners, workers and the public, with its sympathetic general strike, the straw that has broken the camel's back? Has it, in other words, taught the lesson already learned in many American industries, that co-operation and mutual understanding are saner, financially, economically and humanly?

At any rate, a conference between British government officials and trade union officials has proved so satisfactory that it may lead to a permanent organization. Whether these men with a vision can triumph over the die-hards who would create serious and the communists who want revolution is a question. Yet in them there is the promise of better things.

A MIGHTY FLEET.

(Quebec Chronicle Telegraph)

THE mightiest mercantile fleet in the world today is owned by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, whose purchase of the White Star ships adds nearly half-a-million tons of shipping to its list. When Queen Victoria granted a royal charter to the Royal Mail early in her reign the company and its fleet of four paddle-wheel steamers, which also carried sails. Today the Royal Mail controls more than five hundred ships.

The tonnage of its fleet before the White Star purchase was in excess of 1,200,000 tons, and is now increased to some 2,600,000. The additions include the Majestic, the largest steamer in the world, the Olympic, the Homeric and other ocean giants. The big fleet already included the Asturias, the largest motor liner in the passenger service. Truly, the British have a genius for all things pertaining to the sea.

News and Views From The British Capital

LONDON, December 30, 1926—Statistics prove consistently that a disproportionate number of London street accidents, now totalling an average of three fatalities a day, are due to private cars driven by amateurs. The 'bus and taxi drivers, who are churning through London's busiest streets day and night, rarely hurt a pedestrian. Surely the inference is plain enough? And most motorists of experience, if they are honest, will admit that since motorizing became really 'popular' the standard of driving has fallen enormously. It would be strange if it had not. I think some lady drivers are great offenders, but they are not the only ones who keep doing reckless things. Motorizing is a splendid hobby, and a great industry. But the surest way to make it safe is to compel all drivers to pass adequate tests and to enforce the regulations with Draconic impartiality.

Jicks is Interested.

For a long time now Whitehall has been periodically paraded during business hours by an enthusiast, clad in the dark lounge suit and bowler of middle-class respectability, who trots along the curb with big sandwich boards. On the boards in home-made printing is a rather hectic indictment of the Home Secretary and Scotland Yard, whose high impeachment is demanded for some injurious act associated with the licensing of taxis. I think the day will come when the 'Jicks' read the libel with complacent interest, and apparently the sandwichman was blissfully unaware that the Home Secretary was present.

Sunlight in the Zoo.

There is great news from the Zoo. There is to be artificial sunlight for the tropical beasts and particularly for the crocodiles. These latter residents are to have a luxurious palm beach all to themselves. They will swim in electrically-heated water and then lay themselves out to dry on electrically-heated racks. They will live in artificial sunlight, on an electrically-heated beach. In short, it would seem that the Zoo will be the best place in London to visit, in December, 1927, for surely, with all this electric heat, there should be some artificial sunlight left over for befogged humans. Perhaps the day will come when the Zoo is London's Lido, where we shall all congregate to find a place in the sun.

Mr. Bear's Decease.

I talked today with a man who is the nearest approach to the Santa Claus of tradition to be found in London. That is to say he is probably the biggest buyer of toys in Great Britain. From him I learned that Mr. Edward Bear, who was as Mr. A. A. Milne has it—but Mr. Golliwog is dead! Indeed, Golliwog died some time ago. It is strange that one should have noticed his passing. Yet you may seek him in toy shops, and find him nowhere. It was this present year that saw Mr. Edward Bear's decease. Their places are taken by other people, without tradition and without names. Yet one feels that, if only one searched old corners, that there must be some old-fashioned toy shop—some "Boutique Fantastique"—where one could meet both these gentlemen again, and hail them as members of a generation that has passed.

Pan-Americanism

(Montreal Gazette)

SOME time ago, an American writer in the Irish Statesman described the Pan-American Union as "that old League of Nations having its headquarters in a million-dollar building at Washington." It has a membership of twenty-one nations with a population exceeding 200,000,000, and has been at work for thirty-five years. The Government is composed chiefly of the ambassadors and ministers of the member nations, but there is also a permanent staff, and the United States pays half the cost. In the article quoted, the purposes of the Union are set forth in the following words: "First, to maintain the isolation of the Western Hemisphere from foreign encroachment, second, to further the spread of democratic principles of government within the hemisphere, and third, to promote a higher civilization, a vaster wealth and greater potential, if not actual, naval and military power than the Geneva League. It shows a large number of powerful republics revolving around the United States as the great central sun in a mighty constellation."

It is conceivable that Canada is not yet ready, despite the pending departure of Mr. Massey from Washington, to revolve around the United States in even so mighty, wealthy and powerful a constellation. It is difficult to see how this can be consistent with the newly-established principle of national equality, unless someone is prepared to write an account of July 12 as celebrated in Belfast. There was the usual procession, in the middle of which was a tremendous Irishman, dressed in coat and waistcoat, banging the big drum for all he was worth.

The reporter made merry at his expense and thought it rather ridiculous that he should take of his coat and waistcoat to beat the big drum. He asked the Irishman to take off his trousers in order to play the bagpipes!

His witicism around the wrath of an Irishman in the company who promptly retorted: "I can see that it is any more ridiculous for an Irishman to take off his coat and waistcoat to beat the big drum than it is for a Scotsman to take off his trousers in order to play the bagpipes!"

Just smile and bow to her," replied the doctor. So the young man picked out a pretty girl and bowed and smiled, and she bowed and smiled, and away they danced.

They danced not only one dance that evening, but three, and he was on the point of asking her for another when a strange man approached his partner and said, soulfully: "I say, darling, when are we going to have another dance? It's almost an hour since I had one with you."

"I know, dear," answered the girl, "but I don't know how to get away from this deaf-and-dumb fellow!"

Aeronautics

(Detroit News)

NO longer does any one doubt that the next great advance in transportation will be made by perfecting commercial aviation. If so much can be accomplished in the short space of 23 years, surely the business foresight, skill and enterprise of our time can provide the remaining details. For in comparison with the marvelous accomplishments of the inventors, the aviators and the lighting routes and providing adequately equipped landing fields appear a mere detail.

Peace In Industry

(London New Statesman)

ON fair terms, we believe British employers can have a big increase in the efficiency of labor any day they choose to ask for it, and show themselves willing, for their part, to shoulder the responsibility of setting their industries in order. It is not, of course, we fear that British industry has before it even greater troubles than it has passed through during recent years.

Poems I Love

By CHAS. HANSON TOWNE

Sir Walter Scott's Gathering Song of Donald the Black.
Pibroch of Donaul Dhu,
Pibroch of Donaul,
Wake thy wild voice anew,
Summon Clan Connell.
Come away, come away,
Hark to the summons!
Come in your war-array,
Gentles and commons.

Come from the deep glen, and
From mountain so rocky;
The war-pipe and pennon
Are at Inverlochy.
Come every hill-plaid, and
True heart that wears one,
Come every steel blade, and
Strong hand that bears one.

Leave untended the herd,
The flock without shelter;
Leave the waves come, when
Navies are stranded:
Faster come, faster come,
Faster and faster,
Chief, vassal, page and groom,
Tenant and master.

Fast they come, fast they come;
See how they gather
Wide waves the eagle plume
Blended with leather.
Cast your plaid, draw your blades,
Forward each man set!
Pibroch of Donaul Dhu,
Knell for the onset!

We are con-
fronted by some
difficulties in this regard to this country. We have long been a member of the community of nations and adjusting with our sister nations the rights and obligations and duties of members of that community arising from the necessity of diplomatic procedure which had been built up in the course of centuries—foreign officers and ambassadors and ministers and diplomatic notes and diplomatic memoranda and treaties, mediation and arbitration and so forth. But at the close of the great war when the greater part of the nations of the world united in the League of Nations they entered upon a new code of regulating their conduct with regard to each other and adjusting the differences that arise in the ordinary course of international affairs.

Proceed by formal conference of Council and Assembly and a large part of the business which foreign officers and ambassadors used to do in the old methods are now done through the machinery of the League. We have stood out of the League and we are going on in the old ways, by the old methods, and the utmost friendly consideration is needed to reconcile the conduct of international affairs in the new way by our sister nations across the Atlantic, and the old way by ourselves.

AND IT WAS LEAKY, TOO.
A MATEUR SAILOR: I say, Harry, we're two days overdue. Why do you suppose we're not sighted land?

Companion: Can't imagine, except possibly that ever since the compass fell overboard I've been steering by the barometer.—Till-Bits, London.

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Feature Bargain Tuesday WHITE TURKISH TOWELS Good large size, but not the bath size—45c pair

Feature Bargain Tuesday BLEACHED TABLE DAMASK You will know the value when you see the smooth lustrous texture and the assortment of patterns—75c yard

Feature Bargain Tuesday COLORED RUFFLE CURTAIN MATERIALS Voiles, Marquise, white ground with colored fill—extra good qualities; colors, canary, mauve, blue, and all white 25c

DON'T WAIT TO PREPARE THE DINNER ON TUESDAY, but come down at 9 o'clock and get your share of these Silk values. These qualities are high grade and the newest shades. Note the former selling prices.

Charmuse Satin \$1.49 Yard

Flat Crepe \$2.39 Yd

Before the sale this same quality Crepe was special at \$3.19. On Tuesday you take your choice from a wide range of color at \$2.39 yard.

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56 inches wide, has a soft broadcloth finish, can be used for knickerbockers or smart frocks. The regular price was \$2.95. On Tuesday \$1.19 yard

Feature Bargain Tuesday GIRLS' ALL WOOL FLANNEL PANTIE DRESSES Sizes 2 to 6 years, smart styles, good range of colors \$1.98

Feature Bargain Tuesday WOMEN'S WHITE SHAKER GOWNS Splendid quality White Shaker, well made, good roomy cut. 89c

Feature Bargain Tuesday WOMEN'S SILK STRIPE FINE JERSEY KNIT BLOOMERS In white and colors, reinforced gusset, gathered at waist and knee 69c

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