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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1919

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THE WASTE OF WATER.

Before the city council makes it necessary to stop the running of water taps at night in severe weather it must consider what is to be done to relieve many thousands of citizens when the water pipes freeze and they are left without water. It is a matter of common knowledge that in great numbers of tenements in all parts of the city the only assurance the tenants have of a water supply is that the taps remain open to allow at least a small circulation of water continuously through the pipes. It is easy to talk about waste and meters and that sort of thing; but so many water pipes are unprotected from frost in St. John houses that the tenant must choose between an open tap and no water for family use. Of course this is a very undesirable condition, but until pressure is brought to bear upon the owners of tenements the condition is not likely to be changed. Those who live in well-constructed houses have no knowledge of the troubles of those who are compelled to shiver in poor tenements throughout the winter, and if the latter are deprived of their water supply the result will be a menace to the public health. Let someone qualified to do so suggest a really practical remedy for the conditions that exist.

AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE.

A remarkable educational movement is reported from the State of Delaware. Not only is it state-wide but it is marked by co-operation on the part of the people, who subscribe necessary funds and provide teachers. An exchange says:

"Delaware is planning a most advanced system of rural night schools. Evening classes and trade and vocational courses for unemployed men and boys of the small towns and farming districts of the state, and provision for teaching English and other Americanization subjects in remote places, by volunteer teachers, are features. This work will not call upon county or township boards for any appropriations from the tax funds, but it is to be supported by voluntary local subscriptions. Existing buildings, such as churches, barns, garages, or machine shops will be utilized. Talbot County, on the eastern shore, has already found this method an effective measure for keeping its young people in local industry, since young men are attracted to the cities not so much by wages as by the opportunities for after-work amusements, schooling and training offered there. These classes are especially popular with the lonely foreign farmhands, misanthropic and unable to get into friendly touch with those about him."

We are told that bankers conduct classes in book-keeping and banking; college graduates teach English and science subjects, while local automobile experts, electricians, architects, engineers or mechanical experts give technical instruction. As a result, "in many small communities on certain evenings otherwise idle halls or Sunday school rooms are filled with earnest classes of young men, many from distant farms, anxious to improve themselves."

Such a movement as this must be of the very highest value to the state. It makes for industrial efficiency and better citizenship.

STREET RAILWAY CONTROL.

Toronto is to decide whether it shall purchase the street railway system. The Globe says:

"The by-law and questions to be submitted to the taxpayers of Toronto regarding the acquisition of the street railway system do not provide for immediate purchase, as some citizens may imagine. An immediate purchase might involve the payment of a good deal more money for the property than the company can get by selling under the law in 1921. The by-law asks the property-holders to reaffirm the decision in favor of purchase recorded in last year's referendum. One of the questions asks that authority be given the city council in 1920 to apply for legislation enabling it to borrow money, without a further vote, to acquire the street railway property and make arrangements for the operation of the service. Another ballot paper contains the proposal to entrust the operation of the system to a commission of three ratepayers to be appointed by the council who are to act without salary."

The Globe is a stout advocate of public ownership and says it is only necessary that the people understand the law in 1921. The by-law asks the property-holders to reaffirm the decision in favor of purchase recorded in last year's referendum. One of the questions asks that authority be given the city council in 1920 to apply for legislation enabling it to borrow money, without a further vote, to acquire the street railway property and make arrangements for the operation of the service. Another ballot paper contains the proposal to entrust the operation of the system to a commission of three ratepayers to be appointed by the council who are to act without salary."

St. John has not yet solved its street railway problem. After the supreme court has given its decision as to the cost of the railway there will still be important matters in dispute, which will have to be submitted to the legislature either a very real measure of public

control or public ownership must eventually develop.

The German steel king who will suffer ten years imprisonment, fifteen years of exile, and a fine of ten million marks for the pillage of factories in eastern France will have ample time to reflect upon his conduct; and his sentence will not be without its effect upon others of his countrymen who embraced the doctrine that might is right.

The United Farmers are beginning the work of organization in Quebec province. It has been asserted they would make no headway there, but they have given Ontario a great surprise, and may have one in store for at least a portion of Quebec.

Yesterday brought happiness to the inmates of many institutions and brought the joy of giving to the citizens at large. And it was a white Christmas, after all.

NEW YORK LEADS IN LOW-COST RESULTS

Five Per Cent. Better Than Chicago — Psychological Change Has Decreased Prices There, Says New York Food Administrator.

(New York Evening Post.) New York and Chicago are now in a contest, with each city trying to claim the lower end of the price ladder of high prices more rapidly than the other. Chicago is holding conservation and economy meetings, work-and-save meetings and large production campaigns. New York has been striving for the same results.

The city has undergone a complete psychological change since last August, said Mr. Williams today. "With the co-operation of the public and the press, following the lead of our minded committees, men, women and children have heeded the advice of food and clothing merchants."

"The effects have been remarkable. There is a lower price on all meats and vegetables, while not so greatly decreased, are less in price. The season specialties, like milk, butter and eggs, cannot be kept, it seems, from increasing in cost at times. The sugar situation is also bad, but it is at least being regulated."

Mr. Williams stated that he did not wish to draw comparisons between the work in Chicago and that in New York. The figures which he has had compiled with accurate data, however, show that a family of men, women and child can be clothed fully for \$137.86 in New York, while Chicago is trying to attain a level for the same family's clothing of \$140.45.

Mr. Williams' figures show the following:

	Chicago	New York
Man's suit	\$65.50	\$58.48
Woman's suit	63.00	60.58
Child's suit	12.95	18.80
Total	\$140.45	\$137.86

Mr. Williams said the price in Chicago were based on the goal for which the people there are striving; the New York prices, he said, have actually been adopted and advertised by the merchants.

The food administrator mentioned the work which has been done in New York through women's committees, community councils and other kinds of co-operation, such as that with the army and the navy. He feels sure that New Yorkers' interests are being greatly advanced to aid in cutting the high costs. Chicago will not be able to win first place in the low cost of living league.

"Santa Claus is only a myth," "Yes," replied Senator Sorghum. "But aren't we all more or less myths? Most of the men I know are admitted or feared for qualities which exist largely in the popular imagination."—Washington Star.

"Is your apartment building fire-proof?" "To some extent. Nothing the janitor does in the way of fire makes any impression whatever."—Washington Star.

FORMER EMPRESS



Ex-Empress Eugenie of France, who celebrated her ninety-third birthday recently. She has lived long enough to witness the downfall of the empire that brought about the destruction of her own.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

GETTING BACK

Let us all get back to working, back to earning honest rocks, back to baking, painting, clerking, back to winding eight-day clocks. Long enough we've whooped and danced, making all the willing ring, long enough we've knocked and hammered every name and useful thing. If we'd all get back to toiling like a bunch of earnest men industries now dead and spoiling would be cutting grass again. There would be a trade revival that would simply beat the band, and a boom without a rival in the annals of this land. There would be no idle pulley, smoke would come from every stack, if we'd be less wild and woolly, if we'd hit the old time track. Let's get back to useful labor, as we labored long ago, peeing coins with a sabbat, saving firewood with a hoe. Let us all resume our knitting, make the shining needles fly, working blithely, nor admitting any "agitator" guy. Let us darn the socks and mittens, prune the hedge and shear the cow, hunt the eggs and drown the kittens—let us all get busy now.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

THE CITY OF KINGSTON.

When one visits the modern City of Kingston it is rather difficult to picture the early days of that place, for Kingston is one of the centres in Canada whose history goes back to pioneer times, to the time of the explorers. It was founded by Count Frontenac in 1673, although almost one hundred years afterwards it was captured by the British under Colonel Bradstreet. In those days there was a French fort near where the Tete de Pont barracks are situated in the modern city.

After the war of the American revolution its real progress began for some of the finest of the United Empire Loyalists settled there and it is at the entrance to the Canadian side of the lake. The government in 1873 established a grist mill there—a greatly desired establishment then—and a grist mill was established in the town by the British authorities. Naturally such a place of strategic importance was much coveted in the war of 1812-1814 for its dockyards and harbor, were among the most important of the lake. Although it tried hard to be chosen as the capital of the Province of Ontario, or Upper Canada, as it was called then, the honor went to Toronto. Later, however, it was for three years the scene of the provincial government. It is the home of the Royal Military College, of Queen's University and the penitentiary of the province. As it is at the entrance to the wonderful Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence the city possesses a tremendous tourist trade each year. Its 25,000 inhabitants are among the most comfortable housed in fine homes of all the inhabitants of the Dominion.

THE NILE.

It flows through old Egypt and Egypt is its lands. Like a sword, it mightily thought, threading a dream. And times and things, as in that vision, keep along its eternal strands. Carved pillars, pyramids, the shepherd that roamed through the young world, the glory extreme.

Of high Soudan, and that southern beam, The laughing queen that caught the world's great hands.

Then comes a mightier silence, stern and vast, a world left empty of its throng. And the void waits on us; and then we wake. And hear the fruitful stream lapsing along Twixt villages, and think how we shall Our own calm journey on for human sake. —Leigh Hunt.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Representative Krivy tells this one: "I was being shaved the other day when a grizzled chap in a captain's uniform came in. He sat down and asked me to hold the chair next to my own. 'Hair-cut,' he said in gruff tones, 'give you like it or not?' 'Yes, sir,' I answered. The captain, who was balding, answered gruffer than ever: 'Line up the hairs and number off to the right. Old numbers each want an inch. Dress smartly with bay rum and brilliantine. Then dismiss.'"

The shadow of the arch enemy next door appeared in the doorway of the humble kitchen.

"Mrs. Jones!" she exclaimed, with folded arms, "let me tell you that child of yours is badly spoilt."

"O! Get away with you!" snapped Mrs. Jones, testily, venting another complaint as to her young hopeful's conduct.

"Well," rejoined the aggrieved neighbor, "if you don't believe me, just come out and see for yourself what the steam roller's done to him."

A boy twelve years old, with an air of melancholy resignation, went to his teacher and handed him the following note from his mother before taking his seat: "Dear Sir—Please excuse James for not being present yesterday."

"He played truant, but you needn't whip him for it as the boy he played truant with and him fell out, and he licked James, and a man they threw stones at caught him and licked him, and the driver of a car they hung onto licked him, and the owner of a cat they chased licked him. Then I licked him when he came home, after which his father licked him, and I had to give him telling his father. So you need not lick him until next time."

He thinks he will attend regularly in future.

Two weary parents once advertised: "Wanted, at once, two fluent and well learned persons, male or female, to answer the questions of a little girl of three and a boy of four; each to take four hours a day and rest the parents of said children."

AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION.

(W. F. Maclean, M. P., in Toronto World.)

The indecision and inaction of Sir Robert Borden in regard to his health and continuance in his responsible office as head of the government of Canada, is characteristic of his course for a long while back. If he is as ill as he says he is, and as he does say he is, he ought in all fairness to the country and to himself, carry out the determination imparted to his colleagues that he must resign. A sick and indecisive prime minister must impart those same qualities to his government. He has been unable either to reconstruct or strengthen his cabinet.

Canada was never in so critical a condition as she is at this moment of mounting debt and pressing need for reconstruction. And the prime minister, after having further alarmed the people about his own condition, decided to go away and let public affairs at Ottawa drift along as they have been drifting for some time. The captain is not in command, but a crew that can be neither changed nor strengthened is sailing the ship. The trouble is Sir Robert is in all fairness to the country come out and say the ship should put up the political house of Canada in order forthwith so that the people in a general election may have a government of whom to choose to carry it on.

Or, to put it another way, Canada has herself hung with the most well-intentioned but half-baked programme in regard to imperial relations and national defence, ourselves in a league of nations carrying the most stupendous commitments, as was set out by Mr. Borden at the Imperial Conference yesterday, and all at a moment when we must more or less revise our programme in regard to imperial relations and national defence, ourselves in a league of nations carrying the most stupendous commitments, as was set out by Mr. Borden at the Imperial Conference yesterday, and all at a moment when we must more or less revise our programme in regard to imperial relations and national defence, ourselves in a league of nations carrying the most stupendous commitments, as was set out by Mr. Borden at the Imperial Conference yesterday, and all at a moment when we must more or less revise our programme in regard to imperial relations and national defence, ourselves in a league of nations carrying the most 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