

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 16, 1914.

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SOCIAL CENTRES.

The attention of members of the school board, the superintendent, principals and teachers in the public schools, and citizens generally, is directed to the short series of articles which begins in today's Times dealing with the social centres as social centres. While school buildings as social centres, it would not be practicable to make use of the present school buildings in this city to any large extent for social centre purposes, a beginning could at least be made, and new school buildings could be planned for social centres, as well as day-school purposes.

The article on another page of today's paper quotes a definition of the social centre movement by President Wilson, and gives also the testimony of Professor Forbes of Rochester, president of the board of education, as to actual results from social centre work in school buildings. It is also shown that the National Education Association of the United States heartily endorses this movement, and there is a statement of the number of social centre workers and the amount expended for that work in United States cities last winter. All this should be of deep interest to the readers of the Times. In tomorrow's Times further information will be given.

IN PARLIAMENT.

The opening of parliament yesterday without any incident out of the ordinary. The speech from the throne was a rather barren document. New members of the house of commons were introduced, a little formal business was transacted, and the house adjourned until Monday. In the meantime Mr. Borden will have opportunity to confer with his supporters from various parts of the country, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers will consider the action to be taken in relation to important matters which were not referred to in the speech from the throne. The Ottawa correspondent of the Standard would have the readers of that journal believe that the Liberals are non-plussed by the elimination of the navy bill from the government programme. The fact is, however, that Mr. Borden's failure to say anything about the navy confirms the declaration of the Liberals last year that there was no emergency, and his failure to say anything about a permanent Canadian naval policy may be accepted as confirmation of the view that he now favors a policy of contribution, and of tribute to the big shipbuilding firms and armament makers of the old country, rather than a self-respecting Canadian policy which would provide for a Canadian navy, built and manned as far as possible by Canadians.

No reference is made in the speech to tariff revision or to the increased and steadily increasing cost of living, with an accompanying increase of unemployment. There is not even a reference to the departmental commission appointed to investigate the cost of living. The speech is a particularly barren production, outside of the references to a redistribution bill and the appointment of more senators for the Telegraph.

A London cable to the Telegraph this morning announces that Hon. George E. Foster sails today for Canada to take his place in parliament. He has decided not to accompany the commission on its trip to South Africa. Mr. Foster's presence will add spice to the debates and may not add much to the peace of mind of some of his colleagues. The session promises to be very interesting, as members of the opposition already have questions framed that ought to bring out some very interesting information. There will be a special local interest in the answers to Mr. Emmerson's questions concerning the arrangement between the government and the C. P. R. in relation to the transfer of the big mail steamships from St. John to Halifax.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION

It was decided at a meeting of temperance men last evening to inaugurate a Scott Act campaign in the city and county of St. John. Opinion even among advocates of temperance is divided to some extent as to whether an attempt should be made to secure an act closing all the licensed saloons at once, or to proceed by local option to reduce the number of licenses and eventually wipe them all out. Even concerning the wisdom of the latter course there is division of opinion, since it was stated by a minister after a local option campaign in several wards where local option was defeated there were enough church members to have polled more votes in favor of closing the saloons than were polled by the victorious party.

In the province of Ontario the local option campaign made some further gains this year in the smaller towns and rural communities, but was not so successful in the larger centres. In the province of Quebec the government is introducing legislation for the gradual abolition of the bar and the substitution of refreshment houses and hotels, which will only be allowed to sell drinks to persons who have also ordered food. It is also proposed by the government to make a reduction of nearly two hundred in the number of licenses in the city of Montreal. A despatch from Winnipeg says that in the legislature yesterday a resolution asking for a referendum on

the question of abolishing the bar in that province was defeated. A similar resolution was defeated last year. In Nova Scotia there appears to be a movement in favor of abandoning the Scott Act in counties where it is in force and adopting the provincial prohibition act, the claim of those favoring this change being that the Scott Act is not enforced, and that the machinery for enforcing the provincial prohibition act is much more effective.

A FIREBRAND.

The most shameful and disloyal utterance from a British statesman during the recent bitter discussions on Home Rule was that of Mr. Bonar Law in Bristol last evening. He declared that the country was drifting rapidly and inevitably to a civil war which would shatter the whole fabric of national existence. Parliament, he declared, had no right to sell the people of Ulster into slavery. Then he went on to say that if Premier Asquith was right he would lose nothing by a general election.

But suppose a general election were held and the government returned, as it certainly would be, since a majority of each of the four kingdoms has already declared itself in favor of Home Rule, what then would be the attitude of Mr. Bonar Law? Would not Ulster still be in danger of being "sold into slavery"? Would not the country still "be drifting into civil war," and would not the whole fabric of national existence be endangered? Mr. Bonar Law boasts that with the help of the Almighty the Unionists will keep their pledge to support Ulster in rebellion. What sort of talk is this for a responsible statesman, the leader of a once great party? Mr. Bonar Law is playing as dangerous a game as was ever played by a scheming politician or an out and out fanatic in the long history of British politics. The government will not fall in its course. It will carry out the declared wishes of the people of the United Kingdom.

Germany has modified its naval building programme. This is sad news for the emergency men in Canada.

The council yesterday appropriated a small sum to be paid to Mr. Clarence Ward for preparing a history of the city. The work could not be placed in better hands, and the sum voted might well have been somewhat larger.

The storm during which the Cobquid went on Trinity Ledges appears to have been one of the most terrific that has ever swept the coast. Reports from other vessels show that all of them experienced great hardship in the fury of the storm.

The civic authorities might do a much worse thing than secure the services of a policeman to deal particularly with the cases of delinquent girls, and girls whose conduct on the street suggests that they are in serious danger of becoming delinquents.

The reports of the various departments of the city as they are submitted and reviewed show that the commission form of government is producing more satisfactory results than the old system of city government. The council yesterday was able to devote \$50,000 of unexpended balances to the sinking fund, and to paying interest on the bonded debt of the city, while \$42,500 estimated revenue from different sources will go into the same fund.

The recommendation of the St. John pilot commissioners that pilot stations should be established at Brier Island and Point Lepreau, with steam vessels fitted for cruising in all kinds of weather, is one which, in view of the steadily growing commerce of this port, should receive the serious consideration of the marine department. There should also be at this port a swift vessel with wireless equipment ready for instant service during the winter season.

Touching a matter that is of interest in St. John at present, the Canadian Courier, in an article entitled "Save the Boy," says:—"Cutting down the number of licenses from 400 to 800 or from 100 to 75 will not save the boy. He must be saved by the mother, the father, and the school teacher. Teach him that intemperance is unmanly and injurious to his physical and mental well-being and he will be saved. Make his home life attractive. Give him Y. M. C. A.'s, athletic clubs, reading rooms, and he will not be attracted by the lures of the bar-room. To save the boy, he must be given a real ambition. To know that life is earnest, life is real, and that as a man sows so he shall reap is of prime importance. Take the money received from liquor licenses and spend it on public clubs, baths, gymnasiums and playgrounds, and the boy will have a chance. A clear, clean mind in a strong, clean body is the best safeguard against dissipation."

A Logical Sermon. A famous clergyman tells of a lay preacher's conference in which a veteran described his method of sermon preparation.

"I take my text," he said, "and divide my sermon into three parts. In the first part I tell 'em what I'm going to tell 'em. In the second part—well, I tell 'em. In the third part I tell 'em what resolution asking for a referendum on

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16.

Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, an eminent English actor, who is about to make his farewell tour of Canada, is sixty-one years of age. Strange to say, Sir Johnston was originally an artist and intended to make his living as a painter, but the glamour of the stage seized him and he went on the boards when he was just twenty-one. He still continues his painting as a pastime and when playing with Sir Henry Irving in "Much Ado About Nothing" was commissioned by the great actor to paint the church scene in that play. Sir Henry proposed to pay \$150 for the painting, but was so delighted with the result that he insisted on sending Forbes-Robertson a check for \$200. The latter returned it twice, but in vain. Irving would have his way.

LIGHTER VEIN

Min. How great is mind! It grips the carast; To it the mighty pachyderm surrenders. It sways the universe; yet cannot act As substitute for one pair of suspenders! —New York Sun.

Victims.

First Highwayman—"Hullo, smoke. Pikey, didler see de fat wad dat de old guy was flashin'?"

Second Highwayman—"Sure, You can have him, Cully. I'm tradin' de chap wit de basket of eggs."

The Thrifty Scot.

Jack (after several drinks)—"Say, MacCohen, you've been used to wearing kilts, haven't you?"

MacCohen—"Hey, mon, rather!"

Jack—"Thought so. I haven't noticed you put your hand in your pocket lately." —Tit-Bits.

The Child in the House

"Tell me, dear, is it because you think me very pretty that you look at me all the time?"

"Oh, no, it isn't that; but papa says you are a two-faced woman, and so I am searching for the other one!" —London "Opinion."

Innocent Bystander

"What's the matter with your eye, Mike?"

"Sure, it is black."

"Well, I saw an altercation between man and wife yesterday."

"And did you mix up in it?"

"I did not. I was only an innocent bystander." —Yonker "Statesman."

To Madame La Suffragette

Reporter—"We are so interested in your book 'We Wish To Be Admired Only for Our Brains,' that we would like to publish your photo in our paper."

Madame—"Thank you! Wait a moment while I put on another hat. This one is so unbecoming."

A Dark Morning and An Appointment --- A Good Night's Rest and An Alarm Clock

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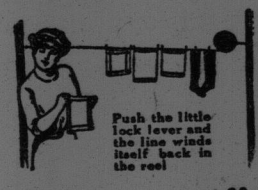
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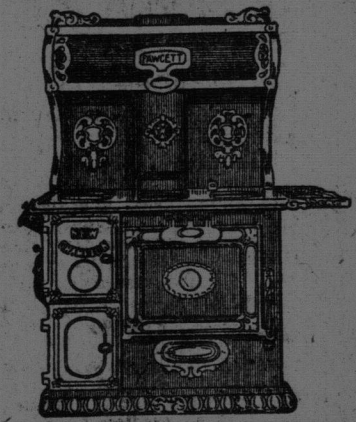
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Assessors' Notice

The Board of Assessors of Taxes for the City of Saint John hereby require all persons liable to be rated for the year 1914 forthwith to furnish to the Assessors true statements of all their property, real estate, personal estate, and income, which is assessable under the "Saint John City Assessment Act, 1909," and hereby give notice that blank forms on which statements may be furnished can be obtained at the office of the Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath and filed in the office of the Assessors, within thirty days from the date of this notice. Dated this Fifth day of January, A. D. 1914.

Arthur W. Sharp, Chairman
Uriah Drake, Assessor of Taxes
Timothy T. Lantallum, John Ross

Extracts from "The Saint John City Assessment Act, 1909."
"Sec. 32. The Assessors shall ascertain, as nearly as possible, the particulars of the real estate, the personal property, and the income of any person, who has not brought in a statement in accordance with their notice and as required by this law, and shall make an estimate thereof at the true value and amount, to the best of their information and belief; and such estimate shall be conclusive upon all persons who have not filed their statements in due time, unless they can show a reasonable excuse for the omission."

"Sec. 48. No person shall have an abatement unless he has filed with the Assessors the statement under oath within the time required; nor shall the Common Council, in any such case, sustain an appeal from the judgment of the Assessors, unless they shall be satisfied that there was good cause why the statement was not filed in due time as herein provided. 8840-2-6

Precaution

"George, what are you burning, dear?" she asked, going to the grate and peering over his shoulder.

"The letters I wrote you before we were married."

"You heartless wretch! I wonder if all men are so devoid of sentiment?"

"I am doing it in your interest, dear. I'm trying to fix things so that when I die nobody can dispute my will on the ground of insanity." —"Tit-Bits."

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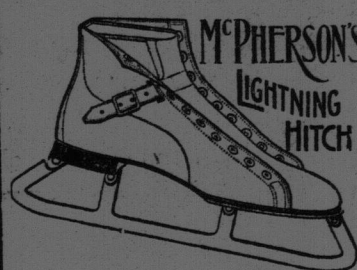


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Second Sight.

Miss Candor—What a splendid world it would be if we could only see ourselves as others see us!

Miss Hardhead—I know something better than that!

Miss Candor—What?

Miss Hardhead—To see others as we see ourselves.—London Life.