

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1924

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 28 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. B. McKenna, President.
 Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.
 The Times has the largest circulation of any paper in the Maritime Provinces.
 Special Advertising Representative—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg.
 The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

BETTER TIMES AHEAD

The Telegraph Journal this morning published letters from Moncton, Fredericton, Sussex, Sackville, Campbellton, St. Stephen, Newcastle, Woodstock and St. George, giving a review of the business situation at the opening of the spring season. In every case these reports are optimistic and they convey a decided impression that the province is entering upon an era of better times. One of the chief causes is the great activity in the lumber business, but there are others, and from each corner comes a confident expression of faith in the better times just ahead.

It has been said that good and bad times are largely a state of mind. Certain it is that state of mind has a great deal to do with the condition of business. When people are cheerful and confident they show greater enterprise and money is put more freely in circulation. When doubt and despondency prevail the tendency is to hold back, and we have stagnation or worse.

There is good reason for a hopeful outlook at present. There has been a large expenditure by lumber operators this winter—much larger than usual—since there is a record cut. The manufacture and shipment of the lumber will mean much work at good wages through the spring and summer. The farmers have had a good year for potatoes, which are at a higher price now than in the winter, and the demand is good. The general outlook for the farmer is good, and especially for those in the dairying industry. There is reason to anticipate a better year than last for the fisherman. With basic industries in a good position, others will share in the general activity and the benefits derived.

There is yet the tourist traffic to consider, and there can be no reasonable doubt that a much larger amount of money will be brought into the province and expended this year by tourists than in any previous year. Our good roads are better known, the motor tourist traffic grows larger every year, and hotel accommodation in the provinces is being improved.

It is most desirable that our people look upon the bright side of things and go forward with confidence. There has been much talk of dull times in St. John during the winter, and yet it is doubtful if in any previous winter as many people went away on pleasure trips or to spend a portion or all of the winter in other climes. Undoubtedly the season has been a quiet one in business, but wholesale merchants report that improvement is now in sight, and they anticipate a good year. With confidence as the keynote the province will move forward to much better times.

MR. FORKE'S REMINDER

"National unity must be based upon national justice."
 In these words Mr. Robert Forke, leader of the Progressives in the House of Commons, put the whole case for the West and for the Maritime Provinces. The speech from the Throne, he said, had mentioned national unity, and it seemed to him that this is a question on which everybody should be terribly in earnest. Then he went on:

"We have heard mutterings in the West and some in the East, but I for one hope we shall hear no more of them, that that shall be a thing of the past, and that henceforth we are going to march forward as a united country, seeking only the welfare and happiness of the people of this whole Dominion."

Mr. Speaker, in the final analysis national unity must be based upon national justice. That is the only basis upon which we can build up a great and prosperous country. Is wealth to be centralized in any particular spot in this Dominion? I for one do not want to see this a country of millionaires and paupers living side by side. I want to see it a country of moderate wealth, widely distributed over this Dominion, and no section will long continue to pay tribute to any other section of the community."

"Nowhere will these sentiments have a stronger appeal than in the Maritime Provinces, which so long have been paying tribute to the Central Provinces and at the same time have been denied those things promised them when they entered the confederation. Mr. Forke is right."

"National unity must be based upon national justice."

Twenty-five lives have already paid the penalty of the failure of the people of Windsor, Ontario, to observe the simple precaution of being vaccinated against smallpox, and the epidemic is not yet ended. This should be a lesson to other communities. In New Brunswick this year the Health Department has been put to considerable trouble and houses quarantined in a number of places because smallpox developed in two lumber camps. Why are men who are not vaccinated allowed to go into the camps?

Press Comment

THINGS LOOKING UP.

(Daily Chronicle.)
 It is quite clear, then, that as far as our export trade is concerned we are more than holding our own, while in regard to imports of manufactured articles statistics reveal that these are far less than they were before the war. Our progress may not be too rapid, but it is proceeding along healthy lines. We could, nevertheless, do infinitely better were we to produce more cheaply and abundantly, thus developing to a greater extent consumption in our home market.

REINDEER MEAT FROM ALASKA.

(New York Herald.)
 With reindeer meat from Alaska, quail from the Argentine, partridge from France and grouse from Scotland in the local markets there is less cause for complaint on the part of those who are fond of the good things of the table than formerly, especially in that period immediately following the passage of legislation forbidding the offering of American game for sale.
 The sale of reindeer meat promises to grow considerably. Those who have eaten the flesh say it is the equal in flavor of venison. The carcasses come from Alaska thoroughly refrigerated. They weigh about 125 pounds each, and the price, while a trifle more than is asked for prime cuts of beef, is less than would be expected, considering the expense in getting the meat to the Atlantic seaboard.

It is a thoroughly organized business. American consumption, and the concession for the sale of the meat East of the Mississippi River is in the hands of a firm of international reputation. It is given to kill 10 per cent. of the young steers in the enormous herds of reindeer that make their home in Alaska. Reindeer, whose economic value is not confined to their usefulness as a source of food supply, require little attention, and as a single individual is a prolific breeder and with a 10 per cent. brood each year the herds renew themselves every three years.

Alaska, once valued for its timber and mineral supply, has uncovered a fresh and popular asset.

UNITED STATES BANKS

(Toronto Globe.)
 Between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, according to official Treasury figures, seven National banks and ninety-five State banks in the United States have failed. In the Northwestern States, the competitors of the Canadian Prairie Provinces in the growing of cereals, during the period from Aug. 14, 1920, to Feb. 15, 1924, 552 bank failures have been reported, as follows:

States.	Nat'l.	Banks.	Total.
Michigan	2	2	4
Minnesota	11	64	75
Montana	45	108	153
North Dakota	40	201	241
South Dakota	77	96	173
Wisconsin	5	5	10
Totals	95	457	552

The financial stress in districts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, where there have been crop failures during the years covered by the United States Treasury figures, has been serious, but manifestly far less so than in the American wheat-growing States. The situation has been saved because land values have not been so high, the average yield per acre has been materially greater, and on the whole handling costs have been less in Canada than across the border. In no pharisaical scheme we may be thankful that our plight has not been so serious as that of our neighbors to the south, and as a whole our banks and loan companies have stood the strain without evidence of serious injury. The conditions in the West had little or nothing to do with our one disastrous failure—that of the Home Bank.

THE TWILIGHT OF PRIVILEGE.

(Indianapolis News.)
 Something more than appeal to passion and prejudice is going to be necessary to win in national politics this year. People have been deeply stirred by revelations of incompetency, and perhaps dishonesty, in public affairs. They are in no mood to be beguiled by party appeals of the stereotyped variety.

A stripping to the essentials of honest government is desired. Foremost is economy, and that means a cutting off of paternalistic and parasitic agencies that interfere with private initiative and consume tax money. As far as many of them serve no purpose it is that of assisting in the building of a political machine for personal and party benefit. Next to economy must be a use of administrative offices for the general good. Special treasury grants, through contracts, subventions, leases or otherwise, must be stopped. Democracy, in itself, is not a panacea. It is valuable only to the extent that it is applied wisely and that means the selection of a high standard of public officials. The leasing of government oil reserves under conditions that from the first aroused suspicion could not have taken place if those in authority had had a proper conception of their obligations. In itself, it does not endanger the foundations of the representative system, but it does call attention to the importance of eternal watchfulness on the part of the people of government. It has been said:

It was not made with the mountains, it is not made with the deep. Men, not gods, devised it. Men, not gods, must keep.

Back in world war days there was a minority member of a committee in Congress that, even more than some members of the President's own party, was making a fight for certain port and war measures. Some men in his home city sent him a telegram, questioning his course and warning him that alliance with the administration might mean political suicide. "But what about the country?" was the Congressman's answer. Incidentally, the suicide has not yet occurred.

There is questioning today as to what government intends to do for the general welfare and to stop inroads of special privilege. Candidates will find that more than platitudes are necessary in answer.

HEAR FROM FORMER PASTOR.

An interesting part of the proceedings yesterday afternoon at the Portland Methodist Sunday school was the reading of a letter from Rev. Benjamin Chappell, who was pastor of the church 48 years ago. The letter came from Tokyo and was read by S. A. Kirk, superintendent of the school.

TO A FRIEND IN SORROW

(Kansas City Star.)
 The sorrow in your heart today
 Reflects itself in mine;
 The tears that dim and cloud your eyes
 Are weeping, too, in mine.

So closely are our lives entwined,
 So strong is friendship's tie
 That when you smile my world is bright
 And when you grieve I sigh.
 —Katherine Edelman.

SHE LAUGHS SOMEWHERE

(By Vivian Yeiser Larimore in Contemporary Verse for March.)
 I'm weeping for the little girl
 I cannot be again,
 The little girl with trusting eyes,
 The little girl of ten.

I'm weeping for a carefree lass
 Who played beside the sea,
 A carefree lass with laughing lips—
 Can she be lost in me?

She laughs somewhere, the little lass,
 She laughs and knows not how
 I weep for her with bitter tears,
 As I am weeping now.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

It Might Be Worse
 Vers Librist—"Alas! I fear I haven't
 Written anything that will live."
 Friend—"Cheer up! Be thankful you
 are alive in spite of what you've written."

Warning to School Teachers.

(Fairfax News in the Oklahoma.)
 A teacher in the public schools has set an unruly boy on fire. This is the way it happened: The teacher gave the youngster a paddling. The boy had some matches and a paper in his hip pocket. The matches were lit, the paper-caught fire, which spread to the boy's clothing. The teacher saw smoke, but thinking it dust from the trousers, continued the punishment. Soon, however, she became aware that the dust was smoke and the pants were on fire and the boy was in danger of getting more of a "warning" than the teacher had planned.

AGAIN DISAGREE IN BECKWITH TRIAL

Jury Unable to Reach Verdict in Case Where Assault is Charged.

The second trial of John Beckwith, on the charge of assault and attempt to rob John H. Hamilton in Spring street, ended in a disagreement by the jury and the accused was remanded to jail to await the decision of the crown in regard to a third trial.

The trial began on Saturday morning and the evidence had been taken and argument concluded by 4:30 p.m. At 5:35 they returned for information and at 6:20 asked if supper might be supplied as they were likely to be some time arriving at a verdict. The Chief Justice decided that supper would not be furnished and at 7:28 the jury reported a disagreement. Chief Justice McKewen accepted the verdict and discharged the jury, remanding the prisoner to jail on Monday morning.

W. M. Ryan appeared for the crown, and E. J. Henneberry and S. A. M. Skinner for the defence.

COLLISION IN KING STREET.

At 10:10 o'clock Saturday night street car No. 114 and automobile No. 7214 were in collision at the intersection of King and Germain streets. The automobile was owned by Joseph Ayles, and the right side running board and the steering gear was damaged, while the street car escaped damage. It is understood that the automobile came out of Germain street without the driver noticing the street car, and could not be stopped before the collision.

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SOVIET TRADE CHIEF ARRIVES IN CANADA

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Alexander A. Yaskoff, official agent in Canada of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, accompanied by his son, Vladimir A. Yaskoff, a student in engineering at the Moscow Academy, and Nicholas N. Kostitsyn, first secretary of the delegation, arrived here yesterday on the Canadian Pacific liner Montrose to endeavor to establish a trade treaty with Canada. They were met at the dock by Iven Kuznetsov, one of the advance party of the delegation which arrived at this port two weeks ago. Mr. Yaskoff was detained in London recuperating from a serious operation, and has not yet fully recovered from the effects of his illness. The entire party of four left on the first boat train yesterday for Montreal, where they will remain for some time before proceeding to Ottawa.

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