

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1920

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TOO BUSY.

Hon. Mr. Meighen has declined a proposal which the people of Canada would have been very glad to have him accept. He professes to be too busy to discuss the reasons for or against a general election, although the opportunity afforded him was one of the most inviting character. A Peterboro despatch says that the prime minister has written a letter to Mr. J. H. Burnham, who recently resigned from the House of Commons, declining Mr. Burnham's invitation to discuss at a joint meeting in Peterboro the propriety of a general election. Mr. Burnham's resignation calling for such election, and the state of affairs in Canada generally. Mr. Meighen, says the Peterboro despatch, declines on the ground that he has not the time to spare and that the proposed discussion might not be of general interest.

Mr. Burnham resigned from the House of Commons because he believed the time for a general election had come. He told his constituents that as a follower of Union government he felt that he had served the purposes for which he was elected, and that the time had come when the country should be given a chance to register its views on the domestic issues of the hour and to make these views effective through a newly elected parliament. The question raised by Mr. Burnham in his letter to the prime minister, and which Mr. Meighen says he has not time to discuss, is much more interesting to the people at large than many of the matters to which the premier has found ample time to address himself. He is a busy man, but two or three hours at most would serve to give the country the information Mr. Burnham thinks it should have.

In his recent speeches Hon. Mr. Meighen has avoided the question of a general election, not because he has not had the time to discuss it but because he believes it is not a profitable subject for himself and his party. If he were frank he would tell the country that the elections are not deferred indefinitely because the people do not want them but because the Meighen administration is convinced that it could not at this time survive an appeal to the electors. Mr. Meighen avoids public discussion of the demand for a general election just as he has avoided the cost of living, definite references to tariff revision, and the government's reasons for refusing an investigation in connection with the Board of Commerce following the Murdoch charges.

MORE CHEERING OUTLOOK.

The International Institute of Agriculture, which has special facilities for gathering information regarding world crop conditions, sees nothing in the present outlook to cause anxiety concerning the world's bread supply. In its July Bulletin the Institute says: "On 1 April 1920, there were still 105 million quintals of wheat and rye available for shipment from the exporting countries (50 million in North America, 32 million in South America and 13 million in Australia). The importing countries are shown to require between 1 April and the periods of their respective harvests, 81 million quintals. The stocks at that date were consequently sufficient not only to supply all requirements up to harvest-time in the northern hemisphere, but also to leave a surplus available in the coming season. According to the figures just quoted, this surplus should be 24 million quintals, on 1 August 1920, but it may be even larger, in the probable event of insufficient means of transporting the whole of the 81 million quintals within the limits of the four closing months of the current campaign."

Turning to this year's crop it is found that there is every prospect of a good harvest in Europe, with correspondingly less demand for imports from America and elsewhere. The summary of conditions in the exporting countries is as follows: "It is quite doubtful whether Roumania can do anything material towards the world's supply next season, owing to the seriously reduced area sown last autumn. As regards Russia, there is no means of forming a definite opinion. "British India has had a larger crop than last year and even over average. It therefore seems probable that exports will recommence next season, after their present suspension."

"The United States expect a crop falling short of that of 1919, but above the average of pre-war seasons. There are no official Canadian estimates, but it is stated that the crop is doing well and the yield may be considerably larger than last year's."

"The latest reports confirm what is here said about the United States crop, and only this week it was predicted that Canada would have 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 bushels more of wheat than last year. Hence, if there is a surplus of 24,000,000 quintals of cereals held over from last year's crop, the Institute is justified in saying:—

"The outlook for the coming year may therefore be summarized, so far as the present situation indicates, as one which does not justify any serious anxiety, either with respect to the needs of the importers or to the extent of available supplies in the exporting countries."

FINANCIAL WIZARDS.

The financial adventures of Ponsi in Boston, and the experience of many thousands whose hunger for mighty dividends at short notice clouded their reason, have caused reviewers to recall many famous swindlers. In the list which should have been a warning are mentioned the South Sea Bubble, the schemes of John Law, and, in more recent times, "220-per-cent. Miller," Mrs. Chadwick, and Madame Humbert. In spite of all the warnings there always is an army of people, usually of small means, to whom the promise of large profits, or something for nothing, has a fascination too great to be resisted. The usual method of the "financial wizard" is to give people back some of their own money and call it a dividend, to pay the few who drop out with the money of the much greater number who come in, and, as long as possible, to "keep them coming."

To those who express amazement that nearly 40,000 people entrusted Ponsi with their money it may be said that any glittering scheme which gets a start is irresistibly bound to have supporters even though it is opposed to all the rules of common sense. In this connection the New York Evening Post recalls the famous failure with which the name of General Grant was unfortunately associated. "Such achievements as those of Ponsi," says the Post, "are in fact by no means confined to relatively humble ventures. Old Wall Street men will possibly remember how the ingenious Ferdinand Ward deceived his innocent special partner, General Grant, with the story of fabulous winnings on the Stock Exchange, and deceived the Stock Exchange itself by whispered tales of War Department contracts obtained through the General's influence, while all the time he was engaging in an infatuated speculation of his own in South American securities. No pretext, one would say, could have been more easily proved to be pure deception. Yet even in the heart of Wall Street, Grant & Ward were able to fall with credit liabilities of \$25,000,000 and assets of about \$25,000."

Those interested in harbor commission should read in today's Times a letter from the deputy minister of marine to Messrs. Cashin and Company dealing with the matter of charges on harbor traffic here and at Vancouver under the commission plan.

ONTARIO TO HAVE A THOUSAND NEW HOMES BY WINTER

Provincial Housing Commission Has Used Up \$8,750,000 Received From Dominion Government.

(Toronto Telegram.) More than 1,000 new homes will be erected this summer under the provincial housing scheme throughout Ontario, and no less than \$4,000,000 will be spent in this direction. The points most directly concerned in this effort to provide homes at a reasonable cost are Windsor, Ford City, Niagara Falls, London, Guelph and Ottawa. About sixty new houses are being erected under the scheme in the Township of York, where about \$2,000,000 will be spent on the work this year. Twenty houses are being erected in the Township of Etobicoke, where about \$1,000,000 is being spent on the work.

The best work in the province, according to the authorities, was done in New Toronto, where about sixty houses were put up at a cost of about \$200,000. New Toronto is, however, not doing anything this year.

Most of the money loaned under the provincial housing scheme was to men owning their own lots. The provincial commission, which received \$8,750,000 from Ottawa, loaned \$4,000 for brick houses and \$5,000 for frame houses. The builder gave his deed for the land as security and the Housing Commission of the municipality in return gave back an agreement for sale. The local Housing Commission in town deposited its securities with the Provincial Housing Commission as collateral.

The Provincial Housing Commission has no more money to loan.

GIBBS DISCOVERS SCULPTOR.

Praises Canadian's Conception of Modern Work-a-Day Men.

Sir Philip Gibbs, known through his graphic descriptions of battles and the men who fought them, has discovered something new in art through the works of a Canadian sculptor, on exhibition in London.

"The artist is Dr. Tait Mackenzie, a Montreal physician, formerly attached to McGill University and the Montreal General Hospital, and of his work the famous British war correspondent says: 'Here is something new and something good in the art of sculpture. New but not ugly or violent or wild, like so much modern work which attempts desperately to break with old traditions. Dr. Mackenzie believes in beauty and achieves it, though he has gone beyond classical ideals and adventurous purpose to reveal the character of modern manhood in its ordinary workaday dress, and to show beauty of physical energy as it is seen in our playing fields and training camps.'"

Famous Words of Famous Women. Now you know I never talk about my neighbor and his—set.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

EVERGREEN.

You'd say I'm in the yellow leaf, if you should count my years; but I don't travel much with grief, or shirk around in tears, and so I work enough for anything on earth. I have all kinds of pea-green pains along my legs and back; but when a lot of Jakes and Janes are culling at my shank, on maladies I waste no words, I don't discourse of woes; I talk of hams and hummingbirds and cheerful things like those. A man is old when he begins to talk of ailments dire, to sigh all day and toast his shins before a fire. A man grows old when he is prone to boost the vanished time, to view the present with a groan, and swear it is a crime. If I should live eight hundred years, composing helpful rhymes, as Noah and such prophets hinged on in ancient times, I'd still be young as I am now, though outwardly defaced, with heavy furrows on my brow, and whiskers to my waist. For when I see what old men do, I hate the other thing; their vain repinings I eschew, and whoop around and sing.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

FORT WILLIAM HENRY.

On August 16, 1757, Montcalm, the great French general of the pioneer regime, burned Fort William Henry, which he could not occupy himself, and which he determined no one else should have. It was a strong position at the southern end of Lake George, held then by 2,200 English troops under Lieutenant Colonel Munro. Fourteen miles away, by an easy route, was Fort Edward, where Colonel Webb had a force of 3,000 Englishmen under his command. The two officers, knowing that Montcalm was intending to strike Fort William Henry, had agreed to unite for the defence, but a few days before Munro was attacked, Webb wrote his associate that he did not intend to come to his assistance and advised him to surrender.

On August 4 of that year the English saw something suspicious near the fort and went out to investigate. They were met by concerned Indians, Nipissing braves, and in returning the fire they killed a very important redskin chief. This kindled in the Indians a furious desire for revenge and was the inspiration of a dreadful massacre that was to come soon.

The next day the French laid siege to Fort William Henry with all their guns. Munro was, of course, summoned to surrender, but this offer he refused and fought gallantly. By the seventh of the month the fire had reduced the fort to a smoking ruin. Montcalm then ordered his English commander to surrender to save useless bloodshed. Two days later terms were agreed upon by which the English were to be marched out with all the honors of war and be escorted to Fort Edward by 400 French troops with the agreement that they were not to serve again in America for eighteen months and all the French who had taken prisoners were to be released. Montcalm made an agreement with the Indians to no way molest the English in the retreat.

But when the French came the braves broke loose, thirsting for revenge for the killing of the chief. Montcalm did his best to protect the defeated force, but the English were massacred and 700 English prisoners by the Indians. Montcalm was so sick at heart over the treachery of his allies to proceed with the agreement that they were not to serve again in America for eighteen months and all the French who had taken prisoners were to be released. Montcalm made an agreement with the Indians to no way molest the English in the retreat.

Lighter Vein. "They tell you you love good music," he said, "but you don't play the piano."

"Oh!" said she politely, "that doesn't matter; please go on!"

Wants to Know Him. "Mabel writes me that she wants to know about me every week at the summer resort."

What for? "She says she wants to get a little better acquainted with the man she is engaged to marry."

Getting Discouraged. "Your father did not object to our marriage as much as I expected."

"Oh, poor papa! He was under the idea of being too particular."

More Correctly Stated. "The Newriches are certainly going to give us a party."

"They are devoting themselves to pleasure regardless of expense."

Save Trouble. "There was not even standing room in the crowded electric car, but one more passenger, a young woman, wedged her way along just inside the doorway. Each time the car took a sudden lurch forward she fell helplessly back, and three times she landed in the arms of a large, comfortable man. The third time it happened he said, quietly, 'Hurry! You better stay here!'"

An Advertiser. Peckham—What was Scorcham arrested for? Tootham—Past driving.

"That's too bad."

"Not at all. He wants people to believe he owns a fast car, and he tipped the policeman to arrest him."—Answers.

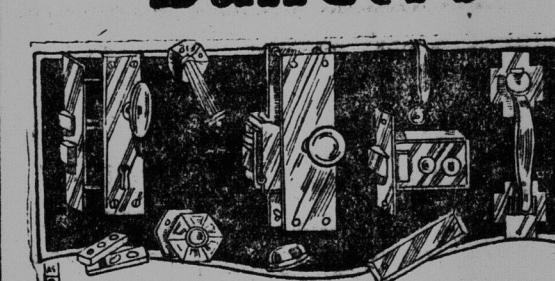
Other Days. "I want to get back to the good old fifty-fifty days," remarked the reminiscence person.

"What do you mean by 'fifty-fifty' days?"

"Fifty days when there was twice fifty cents' worth in every dollar."—Chicago Herald and Examiner.

NO SIGN OF WINNIPEG DELEGATION IN OTTAWA. Ottawa, Aug. 18.—(Canadian Press)—The anticipated visit of a Winnipeg labor delegation headed by F. J. Dixon, had not materialized up to last night. The Winnipeg men had not reached the city; neither had they made hotel reservations here, nor sought any appointment with the premier or members of the government to discuss the case of their comrades whose release they were seeking.

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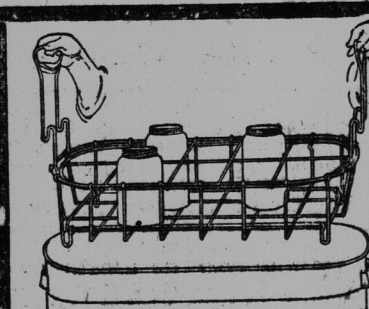
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Colors—Purple and Taupe, Navy and Brown, Delph Blue and Green, Copenhagen and Brown, Black and White.

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The car was badly damaged. Mr. Hunt is representing the Sackville Tennis Club at the New Brunswick tennis tournament in Rothbury. He spent last winter in the city attending the King's College law school.

BARTENDERS FROM AMERICA FLOCK TO GREAT BRITAIN.

London, Aug. 18.—Due to prohibition in the United States, Great Britain has been almost engulfed in a tidal wave of American bartenders. With the advent of these mixologists from the United States, tourists can now get any drink they desire, and are enabled to indulge in their own country. One bartender inserted an advertisement for a position, saying he could make more than 200 different drinks.

GETS \$125,000 POLICY. Chicago, Ill., Aug. 18.—Benjamin H. Bensinger, president of the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company, has completed arrangements for a straight life insurance policy amounting to \$125,000. The corporation is beneficiary. Mr.

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