

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921

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A MEIGHEN JOURNAL'S VIEWS

The Ottawa Journal, which is a supporter of the Meighen government, takes a cheerful view of the situation from the government standpoint. It says: "Under the stimulus of a new leader, Unionism has crystallized into a new party, the old flag of protection has been nailed to the mast, organization and propaganda, so essential to party success, and so neglected during the war, has been developed, problems have been attacked with vigor, war has been waged upon the various creeds and isms that arose during the past five years, and the country has been brought to clearer political thinking."

A doubt as to the accuracy of this description may arise in some minds, as well as in relation to the further assumption of the Journal that the Liberals and Farmers are in a rather hopeless condition. Indeed the Alberta farmers are getting ready to oppose whoever may be the government candidate in the constituency that was represented by the late Hon. A. L. Sifton. Indeed the Journal itself objects to a fly in the ointment in the "inability of the prime minister thus far to reorganize and buttress his cabinet. The minister" it adds, "judged by its personnel, is not as strong as it might be. Retirement of Sir Robert Borden, Sir Thomas White and Mr. Rowell, three men of outstanding capacity" says the Journal, "left a very wide gap, and while the splendid enthusiasm which Mr. Meighen's virility inspired in the party rank and file more than balanced the loss, it is nevertheless beyond question that both the government and party would be substantially stronger for the addition of a few good men and the retirement of a corresponding number of ministers whose usefulness has become impaired."

Whether the prime minister will profit by this hint is of course problematical, but the Journal mentions Stevens, of British Columbia; Tweedie of Alberta; Manion, Cronyn and Stewart of Ontario, as persons whose entry into the cabinet would be welcomed. It does not say what minister should be retired—which is really a regrettable omission. Regret is expressed that Quebec has not accepted the olive branch, but it is explained that this is not the fault of Mr. Meighen, which is no doubt strictly true. Quebec is not eager to have the "old flag of protection nailed to the mast," or to contribute to a Conservative victory.

The Journal anticipates a brief session of parliament, and says the three main topics will be the tariff, the imperial question and nationalization. Of the tariff it says:

"The government will bring down its new fiscal proposals, based upon its tariff inquiry, but there will be no radical changes. The new tariff will recognize the necessity of three things: (1) a large revenue; (2) adequate protection; and (3) fiscal independence. It will be a tariff neither for revenue only nor for protection only, but a tariff just sufficiently high to keep Canadian factories in Canada, employing Canadian capital and Canadian women and men."

This is delightfully indefinite, but the "old flag of protection" helps to explain its meaning. With regard to the Imperial Conference next summer the Journal says the premier will probably invite the leader of the opposition to go, but that neither the Liberals nor Farmers would be likely to agree to the proposal. There may also be the Journal thinks, some talk about Article IX of the Peace Treaty, and about a Canadian representative at Washington. Concerning the latter, Mr. Meighen apparently is not greatly concerned. On the question of nationalization the Journal says:

"The annual and increased deficit of the National Railways will produce the usual 'I told you so' and the usual defence; there will be the customary battle between the advocates of private and public ownership, but nothing will be done. The reason is that the House knows that it is not the failure of either public or private ownership that is oppressing us, but the evil consequences of railways built for politics instead of for transportation."

CIVIC EXPENDITURES

So much of the money realized by taxation in this city is beyond the control of the city council that the mayor and commissioners find it difficult to curtail expenditure. Nor have those who have gone to City Hall pointed out any method by which savings could be made that would make any material change in the tax rate. To attack a small expenditure here and there is not the method by which material reductions can be secured. The members of the city council must use their own judgment and while the present is not a time for lavish spending there is no sound reason for a miserly policy. Business men are no doubt stating a fact when they say they will do well to break even this year, and that is a fact to be considered; but they will also say that they anticipate a change for the better before the end of the year. For any citizen or newspaper to preach blue ruin is a mistaken policy. St. John is not going to be done.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The vocational training board and all believers in vocational training in this city should get together at once, consider the local situation very fully and carefully, and save the city from the disgrace of a backward step in a matter of such vital concern. A few people with small knowledge of the subject appear to have got the ear of the city council. If the system as now being carried out is not producing the best results, let us know who is responsible for the failure. The Board of Trade has over and over again endorsed vocational training. The Trades and Labor Council has done the same. There has been no real opposition to the principle. It is time somebody, connected with the vocational board spoke, and spoke with emphasis. St. John cannot afford to confess failure. It would be too great a humiliation, and public sentiment should make itself felt.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Principal Grant of Upper Canada College made some observations on education, in an address in Toronto this week, which expresses what is in the minds of enlightened people. Declaring that only an enlightened democracy can endure, he affirmed the need of the education of adults for citizenship. A report of his speech says:—"In support of his argument as to the necessity for a continuance of education into the adult stage, he quoted from the findings of an English committee on the subject. After careful investigation that committee had reported back to the British government that adult education must not be regarded as a luxury for a few persons here and there throughout the British Isles. It was a national necessity, the committee set forth, that every person be offered educational opportunities during the whole of his lifetime. 'It is this question of adequate education,' declared Principal Grant, 'that lies at the basis of all our problems.'"

Principal Grant lays special stress upon the need of education for the workers of the country, and says:—"The whole improvement of the status of the worker—and that is the next big task which lies before our civilization—should be accompanied by a widening and a deepening of education. An educated citizenship is a national necessity. It is an individual necessity also, because in the long run it is the educated man who will win out."

The truth of these statements is beyond question. Education for a vocation and education for citizenship should go hand in hand. Only where both are universal can the best results be attained. Our educational system is lacking in many respects, and there is too great a tendency to fall down and worship it in its imperfect state.

As an illustration of what other cities are doing for playgrounds the following from an Ottawa paper will interest St. John people. "The Civic Playground Commission will appeal to the city council for \$28,700 to carry on its work in 1921. This was decided at a meeting of the commission yesterday. Mr. W. J. Neale, director of recreation, stated that it would take \$8,000 to provide for the winter sports; \$18,000 for the playgrounds proper; \$1,200 for the east end bowling green, and \$1,500 for one near centre town. The completion of the Ottawa South playground would require \$2,500, and \$800 would be needed for necessary improvements to the playground in Ottawa west."

All over the United States industrial plants that have been idle or doing little are becoming more active. The press despatches to the morning papers tell of greater activity in the steel industry at Gary, Illinois, while from Cleveland, Chicago, Sharon, Pa., Buffalo, Port Huron and half a dozen New England cities come reports of mills starting up again. The general situation therefore confirms the faith of those who expressed a belief that conditions would begin to improve early in the new year.

If the Quebec government really means to prevent the export of liquor from that province to others it will be doing a neighborly act that will be very highly appreciated. Quebec has been a fertile source of trouble for other provinces because of liquor poured into them from Quebec dealers.

France has good reason for resentment against Germany, but appears to be a bit too exacting in the matter of reparation. It is not good policy to demand the impossible, and according to Mr. Lloyd George this is what France now seems bent on doing.

Amherst News: "The worth of a juvenile court is not something that has only a theoretical existence. It's value has been proven. Amherst would do well to carefully, at an early date, consider the establishment of such a court."

TAKE RESTRICTIONS OFF DYE STUFFS EXPORT

London, Jan. 28.—It is officially announced that restrictions on the export of dye stuffs will be removed on February 1.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

THE HAPPY PAST

My auto didn't cut out vice, when New Year's Day invited vices, and now, instead of running nice, it's balky as the law allows. Two cylinders are pumping oil, and when up heavy grades I climb, the radiator starts to boil, and oh, I have the diangedest time! I sometimes think when stepped in woe, in grief that seems to have no end, of happy days of long ago, when Dobbin was my faithful friend. Year after year he plucked along, contented with his hay and oats, and seldom did his works go wrong, as go the works of modern beasts. He had all kinds of pep and power, from blowouts, punctures, he was free; he made six pairs saigs an hour, and that was fast enough for me. He didn't freeze up overnight, when he was in the stable stalled; no punk mechanics found delight in seeing he was overhauled. No carbon in his system formed, his cockpit didn't cough, he didn't back till he was warned, when in the morn I drove him off. And in those happy bygone times I had some kopecks in my duds; I always had the needful dimes to buy some sausages or some suds. But now I'm always in the hole, the motor car has wrecked my life; the sterner mechanic gets my role and buys more diamonds for his wife.

SONG.

There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
There is ever a something sings always
There's the song of the lark when the skies are clear,
And the song of the thrush when the
The sunbeams shimmer across the grain,
And the bluebird thrills in the orchard tree;
And in and out, when the eaves drip rain,
The swallows are twittering carelessly.
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
Be the skies above or dark or fair;
There is ever a song that our hearts may hear—
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear—
There is ever a song somewhere!

There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
In the midnight black or the midday blue;
The robin pipes when the sun is here,
And the cricket chirrups the whole night through.
The buds may blow and the fruit may grow,
And the autumn leaves drop crisp and sure;
But whether the sun or the rain or the snow,
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear.

There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
Be the skies above or dark or fair;
There is ever a song that our hearts may hear—
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear—
There is ever a song somewhere!

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

LIGHTER VEIN.

A man who was house hunting discovered the kind of house he wanted. The door was opened by a pretty parlor maid. He asked her some questions nervously for he was a timid man. Presently remembering the servant problem he said:

"And are you to be let with the house?"
"No," answered the maid; "if you please sir, I am to be let alone."

Johnny and Jimmy were at a party and being away in a corner at supper time they were not looked after very well. They managed to get some jelly and bread and butter, but no spoons. "How shall we eat our jelly?" asked Jimmy. "Balance it on your bread and butter," said Johnny. "I tried that," retorted Jimmy, "but it won't stay on it's too nervous."

"I hope, Jennie, that you have given the matter serious consideration," said a lady to a servant girl who had "given notice" because she was to be married. "Oh, I have, ma'am," was the earnest reply. "I've been thinking of it all day and I've decided to take a job as a typewriter and I've decided to take a job as a typewriter and I've decided to take a job as a typewriter."

At a dinner on one occasion a professor, who would ask a colored cloak room attendant a few questions about his memory. As the attendant handed him his hat he said: "How do you know this one is mine?" "I don't know that, suh," was the answer. "Then why do you give it to me?" queried the professor. "Cause ye gave it to me, suh."

Little Willie would at times acquire an absorbing thirst for information, and on such occasions would give his parents uneasy quarters of an hour.

"Pa," he said one evening, holding up a seed, "if I plant this it will grow into an apple tree!"

"Of course it will," replied father. "That is one of the most interesting things in nature. You see, my son, the apple is just the covering for the seed, and the seed is the life."

"And would it grow into a big apple tree, father?"

"Of course," snapped father. "That is what I am telling you about."

"Well, it's very strange, father," Willie continued, "for, you see, this is the seed of a pear!"

"Indeed," said father, grimly. "Very well, my boy, now that I see you take such a deep interest in nature, let me draw your attention to the remarkable plant which gives us sugar—and cane!"

ONTARIO MILD WINTER

(Toronto Globe)

The adventures of the U. S. navy balloonists may revive the legend abroad that Canada is a country of ice and snow and foreign newspaper readers may gather from the outline maps which are published that Moose Factory is a suburb of Toronto. But the youth of Ontario, at least, who delight in winter sports have another story to tell. In most parts of the Province hockey, skating, snow-shoeing, ski-ing, curling and other sports have been retarded or prevented by the absence of frost and snow. Nor is this an unusual occurrence, for meteorological records confirm the opinion of the oldest and most reliable that winters are growing milder.

Artificial ice for skating and hockey is comparatively new in Ontario, only three or four such places having been erected, but the weather justifies an increasing use of it. Hundreds of hockey clubs, dependent hitherto upon the ice provided by nature, have their schedules of games upset by nature's negligence this winter. The admirers of hockey in Kitchener and Waterloo have combined to erect an artificial ice rink available from November 1 to March 31. Figure-skating requires ample room for individual practice and proper facilities for instruction. Skill in this wholesome and fascinating exercise can be attained only by hard work and competent instructors. But the Toronto Skating Club will have next year the finest facilities on the continent for the promotion of figure-skating.

CANADA'S MAPLE PRODUCTS.

The manufacture of sugar and syrup from the sap of the sugar maple is an important farm industry in the eastern provinces of Canada, and particularly in Quebec. Long before the white man settled the country, maple syrup was known to the aboriginal and apart from wild honey was the only intensely sweet product at their command. The methods of procuring it were naturally of a very crude description. Modern methods have greatly improved the product and have led to an ever increasing demand. Quebec province is the centre of the industry. Of the 20,000,000 pounds, or thereabout, produced annually in Canada, more than two-thirds have been credited to Quebec. Ontario is officially reported to be responsible for five million pounds, and the Maritime Provinces for half a million pounds.

The other provinces of Canada do not figure in the calculations. These facts are gathered from a timely pamphlet just issued by the Department of Agriculture, of which Mr. J. E. B. Spencer, director of publicity, is the author. From this well-illustrated and technically detailed publication it is also learned that the production of maple sugar, and its equivalent in syrups, of late years has shown a tendency to decline. The statistics for 1861 are as follows: The average yearly production was about 13,500,000 pounds, from 1861 to 1871 was 14,000,000 pounds, and from 1871 to 1881 22,500,000 pounds. The latter was the pinnacle of annual production, for in the next decade the average per year was 21,200,000 pounds, and in later years the average has been little less than 20,000,000 pounds. It is thought that the present decline in price that has taken place recently greater production may be looked for. It is estimated that the value of the yearly manufacture of sugar and syrup is \$2,000,000, and that 50,000 people are employed in the industry, at the height of the season, which is of very short duration. The industry is only five or six weeks at the most. Stringent laws against the adulteration of the product have been passed, especially in Quebec, where schools of instruction have been established and the Pure Maple Sugar and Syrup Co-operative Agricultural has been organized.

THE HORSE STILL THRIVES.

Motor power has largely invaded the province of the horse, but the animal still lives and stives and still has its widespread usefulness. The great war and its devastating influence on the horse and also developed the value of machinery in its place. But experience has proven that there are still many uses to which the horse can be better applied than motor or steam power. When trains came in the horse was to disappear. When the trolley was adapted to public service, a crippling blow was dealt the horse. When the bicycle became a furore the horse became an object for scorn. When the automobile and, later, the tractor appeared, the horse was to vanish, but he maintained his ground. His numbers are not decreasing to any notable extent, while his quality is ever an upward trend.

Breeding stations are being established and every effort is being made to maintain breed type. Saskatchewan's success in winning championships at the recent international stock show in Chicago is an evidence of the marked success that has been met with in Canada. But the west is not alone in the march of horse improvement and development. Then the French-Canadian horse there is probably no breed that is more hardy or agriculturally useful. The French-Canadian Horse Breeders' Association has long been in affiliation for record purposes with the National Live Stock Record Board at Ottawa, and in the last two years that association has

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turned over to the Dominion Department of Agriculture for twenty years a farm of 500 acres at St. Joachim, Que., to be used mainly for the breeding of its particular type of horse. There are at present sixty-seven French-Canadian horses on the farm, all registered. Entries were made at some of the more prominent fall fairs in Quebec and in each instance first prizes and championships were won. The December number

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of The Agricultural Gazette of Canada gives full details of the work that is being done at the recently acquired French-Canadian horse breeding farm.

ADVANCE IN TELEGRAPHY.

A Christiania despatch to the London Times says: "The morning newspapers here publish detailed accounts of a demonstration given at Sandefjord on Saturday of an important improvement in telegraphy by Hemed Petersen, chief manager of the radio department of the telegraph service. 'This invention, in the opinion of the experts, will revolutionize telegraphy. It is the result of four years' work and consists of a new system based on the alternating current instead of the con-

tinuous current system hitherto used. 'The new system eliminates errors of any kind and reproduces with photographic accuracy at practically unlimited distances all sorts of handwriting, type, drawings and photographs.'

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