

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 14, 1920

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE PORT OF ST. JOHN.

If there are not sufficient railway yards and terminals at St. John to serve the present government railway's business in winter, what will the conditions be next winter, if the McGivney section is brought up to the transcontinental standard, the Fredericton bridge strengthened and freight from the west brought in over the Valley Railway? The Canadian National Railway must be provided with adequate facilities to handle business. Every public man who speaks of Canada's future tells us we must enlarge and enlarge the country's trade. Is the traffic to go to foreign ports? Was it for this the maritime provinces became part of Canada? The government which has built railways and is building steamships must provide facilities where rail and water meet, to handle the increasing traffic which we are told is essential to the continued solvency of Canada.

The leader of the Liberal party will be in St. John this week. This paper urged when the leader of the farmers' party was in the province that he be induced to visit St. John and look over the terminal facilities at the port which must handle so much of the traffic of the west in winter. That opportunity was lost. No such indifference should be shown when the Liberal leader is here. He should be shown the congested railway yards, the congested berths and the waiting steamers. He should be shown Courtney Bay and its possibilities, and the full significance of the Valley Railway connection with the transcontinental railway should be impressed upon his mind. For he and Mr. Lapointe will be in the house when the case for St. John is presented, as it must be at the coming session. It is the trade of Canada, not merely the port of St. John, that asks for facilities, and every member of parliament should be put in possession of all the facts. The country has been building railways and canals, and it must equip its ports. It is a national obligation and part of a recognized policy at all other ports than St. John. Here we have had to be content with partial development and broken pledges. St. John's politics cannot at the present time be divorced from St. John's position as a national port.

SOCIALISTS BARRED.

The suspension of five Socialist members of the legislature of the State of New York has caused a genuine sensation. It was expected that their trial would come up today. The charge against them is that they and their party are planning to overthrow the government by force and violence. There has even been a proposal to pass legislation disqualifying Socialists from holding public office in the state.

The state Socialist party denies that it has other than a peaceful policy, and points out that as recently as last August it emphatically reaffirmed its policy of education, organization and peaceful appeal to the suffrage of the voters. It denies that its policy is dictated by aliens or alien enemies. In a protest against the action of the legislature its executive asks:—

"Where are we drifting to? Are we going back to where Germany and Russia used to be? Is an effort being made to make anarchists out of those people who still believe in constitutional government and to abrogate the rights of legal representatives in the legislature?"

The New York press condemns the action of the legislature. The World says:—

"Something vastly greater than five assembly seats is at stake. A portion of the electorate has been denied its fundamental rights. The very principle of representative government is in the balance. Prosecution of undesirable minorities has failed under other forms of government which gave them no guarantees. It is the very essence of democracy that the undesirable minority should have its voice and vote."

The Globe says:—"As a stroke against Bolshevism it is simply silly, and if an expulsion of these men is railroaded through and their defeated opponents in the last election are seated in their place, more harm will be done to the theory of liberty under law and the principle of democratic government than has been done in generations."

The Evening Post agrees that the Socialist movement has its moderates and its extremists, the latter advocating Russian methods, and points out that the party split on that question last summer, the direct actionists forming two Communist parties. Those who remained in the Socialist party were the advocates of political action instead of their views and not those of the Communists. One of the Socialist leaders, writing last summer about the Communist convention held after the break with

the Socialists over the question of direct action, said:—

"The convention differed from the other gatherings in still another respect—in the development therein of a new terminology. For years the words 'class struggle,' 'economic determinism,' 'surplus value,' 'co-operative commonwealth' were bandied back and forth at Socialist gatherings. At the Communist convention, with monotonous regularity, one heard the oft-repeated phrases of the new movement—'revolutionary Communism,' 'revolutionary discipline,' 'dictatorship of the proletariat,' 'revolutionary mass action, ad infinitum.' The visitor would not have been surprised if, on leaving the close atmosphere of the hall, he had suddenly found himself walking the streets of Petrograd."

In view of the fact that the Communists separated themselves from the Socialists, the Evening Post sees danger in a harsh attitude toward the latter. Thus:—

"Into whose hands do the Albany tactics play? There are 125,000 Socialist voters in New York city. If their elected representatives are unseated at Albany, they will be educated away from the ballot box, which is the method of American democracy, to the 'revolutionary mass action' of the American Leninists."

The assertions made by the Socialists and the attitude of the press toward the action of the legislature lend a very widespread interest to the trial of the five assemblymen. Can the latter be proved guilty of planning to overthrow the government by force and violence? If not, the public at large will demand, in the interests of democracy, that they be permitted to resume their seats.

A ship, the Adamant, off the east end of the island of Anticosti on the morning of the 16th, saw a black cloud off to the west, although the vessel was sailing in the clearest of weather. By noon, however, the vessel was enveloped in a cloud that brought it to total darkness. It is said that the obscurity extended from Fredericton to Montreal. The mystery of the event remains unsolved. The rain that fell was of a dark color, and some say strongly impregnated with sulphur. Whatever the cause, the event provoked intense excitement among the pioneer settlers.

Why is it that taxes are so high in St. John today and there is so little to show for it? There are two reasons. One is that for very many years the city government pursued a wasteful policy in its efforts to avoid the bonded debt that would have given us better streets and other services. Enough has been wasted on the streets in forty years to have paved the whole city. The other reason is that a bad assessment law enabled those who should have paid large taxes to escape with a small levy. The people of today are paying the penalty for the lack of courage and the easy-going ways of the rulers of the city for a generation past, and their policy merely reflected the apathy of the people, who took no real interest in their own affairs. The people must make up their minds to bear if necessary a still heavier burden for a year or two, in order to get out of the rut and into the path of progress and expansion. A haggling policy at this time would be fatal to the hopes of those who want St. John to forge ahead.

It would appear to be about time for a stirring of the dry bones in regard to civic politics. An able and progressive city council is essential to civic development along right lines. There are opportunities for service at City Hall. Questions of policy and administration are of universal interest. What kind of a city council will St. John have for the next two years, during which it is hoped the citizens generally will be interesting themselves more than for many years in a great forward movement?

The hearing in the case of the New Brunswick Telephone Company is at hand. We may be sure the company will be ably represented. May the same be said with any degree of assurance concerning the public?

St. John is so important a link in the transportation system of Canada that to neglect the port is a national blemish. A study of the map and of distances and railway lines must convince the most skeptical that this is true.

HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS.

"The course of our public school course is its examinations, and the greatest of these is the high school entrance," agreed the urban trustees in their recent convention in Ottawa. Delegate Carmichael, of Kitchener, who is a public school principal, rather put it up to the department by remarking that when the high schools were congested, stiff tests were set and many failed. When plenty of room was to be had in the high schools, the bars were lowered and many passed.

I move that we as a body ask the department of education to abolish the entrance examination as it now exists," recommended Trustee Mrs. Courtice. "To apply to urban boards only."

"Here in Ottawa for the past seven years we have accepted the principal's recommendation," informed Dr. Patterson, senior inspector. "But I would not advise that for all schools. If we had consolidated schools throughout the province in charge of competent men and women, all would be well, but we haven't. We must have some standard of education."

"In my opinion the stiff tests now used as an alternative are far worse than the old entrance," declared Mrs. Groves. "What is education? Is it the stuffing of dry facts into children's heads so that they can pour it out again on to an examination paper? Certainly not, and the sooner we learn that the better."

A vote was then taken and the delegates agreed to forward Mrs. Courtice's motion to the department as having been endorsed by the trustees' convention.



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GOING FOR KEEPS.

Most things come back that go away; our ship comes sailing to its shore; the blooming flowers come back in May, the bird to its accustomed spray, but money burned comes back no more. Oh, often, when old age is here, the man of sorrow walks the floor, and thinks of joys that cost him dear, of spendthrift courses year by year, but money burned comes back no more. To think of chances large and fine he wasted, makes the dollar sore, had he put down his coin in brine he might possess his tree and vine, but money burned comes back no more. Old thoughts come back to break his heart, old memories of days of yore, when he forsook the shop or met to juggle in a mortgaged cart, but money burned comes back no more. And there were gay enameled maids who helped him blow his scanty store; their forms come back, from out the shades, and march along in dim parades, but money burned comes back no more. Their heads are bowed beneath the sky, then seeing one whose head is bowed bewailing troubles he made fly, recalling chances with a sigh; and money burned comes back no more. So let us from the weekly wage salt down nine plunks, perchance a score; let us enjoy our green old age, if we still loiter on the stage; but money burned comes back no more.

CAN-DA—EAST AND WEST

Journalism Happenings of Other Days

Darkness that was most alarming was the strange feature of a few days of October, 1785. The early settlers remembered them ever afterwards as "The Dark Days." On the afternoon of Oct. 9, between four and five o'clock, a strange darkness was experienced. It is described as a darkness partaking of a strange yellow color, with a fiery tone. It was succeeded by squalls of rain, wind, thunder and lightning. There had been, too, a severe frost the previous night.

On the following Saturday, the 15th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, there was another period of darkness, followed by a similar storm. On Sunday the day was foggy until ten o'clock in the morning, when an easterly wind cleared the atmosphere. Within an hour another dark period fell, but a rain broke it soon afterwards. From five to ten minutes after noon the darkness descended again and was so dense that services in the churches had to be interrupted while lights were obtained. Later at two o'clock it became perfectly dark for a short time, and again at four and half-past four it was necessary to light the candles.

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R. L. S.

"The most famous initials in British literature."—Clement Scott.

By his enchanted hand.

The children young and children old Forsake their old grey land For silver seas, and lands of gold.

On him, who sailed the North, And on his waters cast his spell, The Wizard of the North, The Great Sir Walter's mantle fell.

Though lying far away, Where heather decks no mountain's brow, The spot that holds his clay Is Scotland's "Treasure Island" now.

O! may, from Southern skies The joyous sunshine ever smile On thee—where daisies lie— Samson's lone Pacific side.

—Hope A. Thomson.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Mrs. Flatbush—"I am certainly very glad to hear you. I have heard so much about you."

Mrs. Bensonhurst—"Oh, indeed! I think you are the woman who has been stealing your servants from me!"—Yonkers Statesman.

You advertise this as the best hotel in town," said the man who had stayed over night.

"It certainly is," replied the clerk.

"Well, that may be," said the man for the hotel, "but it's a terrible knock for the town."—Boston Transcript.

"Well, come down to the shop tomorrow morning and I will put you to work."

"Tomorrow?" I couldn't possibly come tomorrow."

"Why?"

"Why, tomorrow I must take part in the great demonstration of protest of the unemployed."—Life.

"I am not surprised to hear she is an advanced spiritualist. She is a woman who always goes to an extreme."

"Is she? I thought she went to a medium."—Baltimore American.

"Don't you want a presidential boom?"

"I'm not particular," said Senator Sorghum. "At this stage of proceedings a presidential boom would be a very timely thing."

"Here in Ottawa for the past seven years we have accepted the principal's recommendation," informed Dr. Patterson, senior inspector. "But I would not advise that for all schools. If we had consolidated schools throughout the province in charge of competent men and women, all would be well, but we haven't. We must have some standard of education."

DOING WELL IN THE WEST.

An Edmonton paper says:—

"With work constructed and under construction aggregating more than \$800,000, giving employment for the working season of the past year to 350 men on an average per month, the E. M. Nesbitt Company, Limited, general building contractors, of Edmonton, are looking forward to a most prosperous year in 1920. Asked in regard to the outlook for construction in Alberta during the coming year, Mr. Nesbitt said:—

"While the outlook is very promising and I feel optimistic for the future, the most serious question with which we have to deal is labor. There is a scarcity of labor, and we cannot forecast the future in regard to it. Materials of all kinds have advanced in price, but despite these setbacks we have every reason to believe that Edmonton and the west in general will see a big building program carried out in 1920."

Mr. Nesbitt is a son of J. H. Nesbitt, of St. Stephen.

SOME OFFENSE.

London, Jan. 14.—A Woolwich income tax offender was stated to have changed his signature from Carpenter to "Carpenter" during the last week.

GREATER ST. JOHN

(Continued.)

To the Editor of The Times:—

Sir:—Since my communication of Dec. 6, 1919, there have been many instances to prove the fact that prompt action by those in authority is very urgently needed in the matter of comfortable homes for families of little children. Many have been found in deplorable conditions, more than a dozen families have been rendered homeless by devastating fires in packed tenement houses, and still others are crowded in one room of their terrible living quarters, with a small fire to keep them from suffering from the cold weather.

One place I visited last week I found the little children in bed with all their clothes on and when ascertaining the cause, the mother told me that the children cried with the cold and she was obliged to put them in bed to keep them warm.

Another place the man showed me through the house in St. Andrew street and to my surprise I observed holes through the wall to the open ice on the floor and the sink frozen partially. There were seven or eight persons in this house, including small children with the father and mother trying to make a home for themselves under such fearful conditions.

There is no use trying to turn your face from concrete facts. Prompt action is necessary if we have any sympathy for the unfortunate people who are obliged to submit to such conditions.

Just a few of these places are herein mentioned. There are others I might say that could hardly be described in your daily paper.

This condition goes on year after year and is not only the greatest menace to the physical and moral progress of the Greater St. John but a curse of the first water—a future generation of morally and physically degraded people—a shame for the good name of St. John. With the church standing on the one side with outstretched hands for the uplift of humanity and constituted authority standing with blind eyes to the stream of human souls drifting down the sewers of degradation and shame to an early grave.

This is none too strong, or shall I deviate a morsel from my assertions. The time has come when the cry of these little ones is ringing in your ears. Have you a heart? Have you respect for those who are blessed with children? Or do you want to crowd these people out of the way and let their places be filled with aliens? Stop and think—not too long—for every day is one day nearer to shame.

There are far too many who are content to go about their daily task with no thought of the great majority of little ones who are suffering in these lairs, refusing to make such repairs as would give a small degree of comfort from the biting winds and frost. There is but one way to cure the evil, and I trust that I may not be obliged to go over the same ground again.

Start forward, plan communication with the land lying east of Courtney Bay and there build your residential colony, thus obviating a serious menace to the traveling public. Since the inauguration of the Valley Railway this has become more apparent. The recent fire in that section calls for prompt action as to the removal of these old buildings instead of patching them up. The whole section from Paradise row to the railway should be razed and this part of Mill street used for the ever increasing railway facilities. A glimpse at these buildings should be had from Chamberlain's lane. Here you find out that they stand in the way of progress, which should not be. Greater St. John will take care of the tremendous traffic on the Canadian National Railway.

Trusting that my words may have the desired effect and wishing my fellow citizens good luck in their efforts for greater accommodation for the ships coming to our great port and thanking you for your valuable space, I remain, Yours very truly,

C. B. WILLIAMS.

29 Paddock St., City, Jan. 12 '20.

FOUR AT A BIRTH.

London, Jan. 14.—Mrs. Lucas, wife of Andrew Lucas, a miner of Cuthrie street, Hamilton, gave birth to four children, three boys and a girl.

There are two other children in the family, aged three years and fifteen months respectively.

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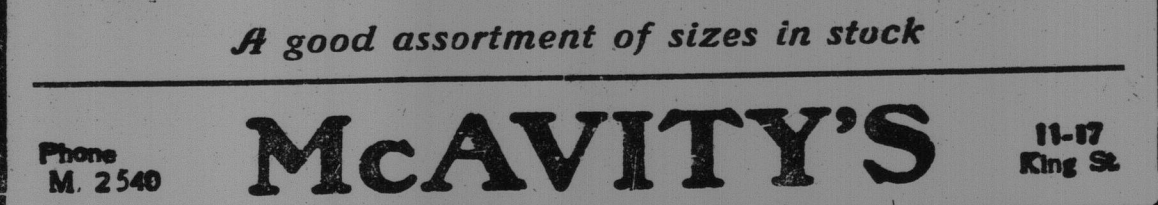
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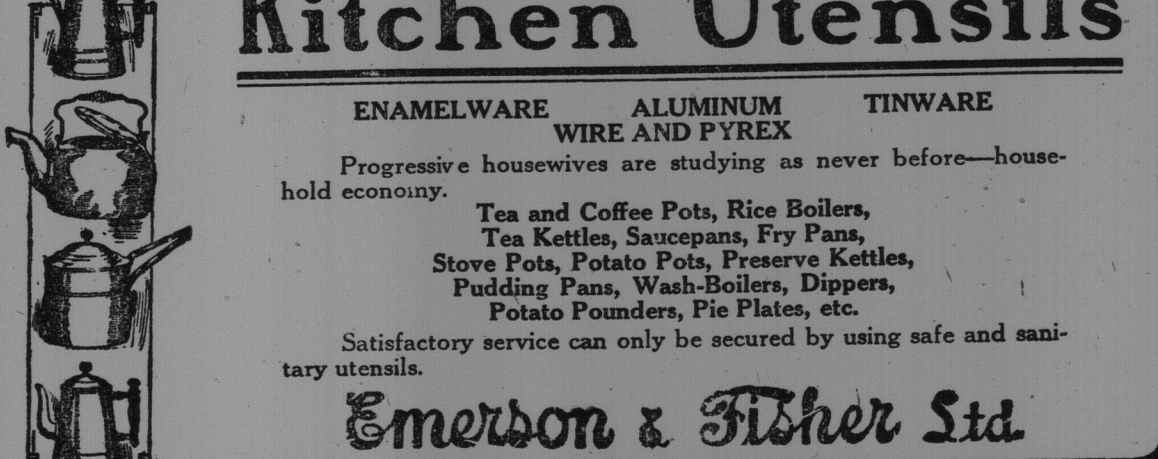
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SOLDIERS HAD NOT HEARD OF PEACE!

Paris, Jan. 14.—In spite of the solemn affirmation made by the German government several months ago to the effect that there were no more French prisoners of war in Germany, seven soldiers were found a few weeks ago in German jails.

One young soldier of the 141st Regiment of Infantry, named Louis Boucher, aged twenty, returned to his home at Dijon after being a prisoner in Germany since June 6 last year.

In a Danzig fortress he was imprisoned in a dark underground cell, where he saw nothing and heard nothing from the day he entered the cell up to some weeks ago, when his captivity came to an end by the arrival of French officers at the prison.

These officers visited all the cells of the fortress, and to their amazement they discovered seven French soldiers, including young Louis Boucher.

Not one of them knew anything of the conclusion of peace.

These seven soldiers were immediately set free, and they have been repatriated.

PARTED FROM HER GOLFING HUSBAND.

London, Eng., Jan. 14.—On the ground that her husband's conduct was prejudicial to her health, Mr. Justice Shearman, in the divorce court, granted Mrs. Medeline Violet Hadden a decree of judicial separation with costs. Mr. Hadden was said to have an income of \$50,000 a year, and his address was given as Hall Moon street, Piccadilly.

Cruelty was alleged by Mrs. Hadden against her husband, but he denied the charges. One of the wife's complaints was that her husband frequently left her alone while he went playing golf.

Mr. Justice Shearman remarked that this raised a serious question as to whether continued absence on the golf course amounted to legal cruelty.

JAPS BUY BIG RANCH.

London, Eng., Jan. 14.—The report that the Coldstream Fruit Ranch of 13,000 acres in the Okanagan Valley, the property of Lord Cowdray, may be sold to a Japanese syndicate has aroused much indignation in that famous fruit-growing centre. Lord Cowdray's agent states that the government's had refused to allow the sale of the estate for a soldiers' settlement, and that the Japanese offer was being considered. The residents intend to approach the authorities to prevent the proposed sale.

CO-OPERATIVE KITCHEN.

Montclair, N. J., Jan. 14.—Householders here will make another effort to revive the co-operative kitchen. The increasing gravity of the food and fuel problem has led to the belief that there will be enough demand for this service to make the experiment a success.

New containers have been installed by the organization, and it is ready to end to the homes of Montclair cooked meals which can be served immediately.

YOU CAN LINE YOUR OWN STOVE WITH FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRE CLAY

To be had of—

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J. E. Wilson, Ltd., Sydney St.

Emerson & Fisher, Ltd., Germain Street.

D. J. Barrett, 155 Union Street.

G. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq.

C. H. Ritchie, 320 Main Street.

Quinn and Co., 415 Main Street.

J. A. Lipsett, Variety Store, 283 Brussels Street.

H. G. Enlow, 1 Brussels street.

J. Stout, Fairville.

W. E. Emerson, 1 Union St., W. E.

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WILL SPEAK AT

IMPERIAL THEATRE

Friday, January 16, 8 p.m.

The new Leader of the reorganized and reunited Liberal Party will have a message of deep interest to every citizen.

His speech at the Imperial Theatre on Friday evening will mark the beginning of a new era in the political history of the province.

SPECIAL SEATING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR LADIES

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