

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 7, 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.

EDUCATION.

That education should be regarded as of national as well as of local and state importance is a conviction which is spreading in the United States. At a recent meeting of the Harvard Teachers' Association a federal department of education with a secretary of education in the president's cabinet was favored by most of the speakers. President Judd of Chicago University expressed the general view in the following extract from his address:

"The department of education, if it is to be effective, must be endowed with power to help and even to compel backward States to act for the improvement of education. What we need in this country is a national insistence on improvement in the States. We do not feel confidence at the present time in state educational organization. We are not content to let the different sections of the country go on without answering to the nation. Our plain duty is to create a national department which will be something more than a passive witness of what goes on in the States, something more than a recording and auditing agency."

"We have reached the stage in the evolution of our American school system when narrow, local control and support, and even centralized state control, should be supplemented by a broader national participation in educational organization. A national educational agency should be created which can encourage and compel progressive improvement in local schools. To this end the national department should be endowed with supervisory powers. These powers should be made effective by legislative enactments which will compel the States to show full grounds for their federal funds apportioned to them. The powers conferred on the department should be made so explicit as to remove all possibility of arbitrary domination by the secretary of education or his agents, but they should, on the other hand, be explicit enough to make clear the obligation of each state as a party to the national policy. The federal department of education thus created should include the bureau of education, the federal board for vocational education, those divisions of the department of agriculture that deal directly with public schools and such other divisions of the federal departments as full and explicit conference shall show to be directly related to public schools."

Canada hopes that much benefit will result from the great educational conference held in Winnipeg, which recognized that there was need of infusing national spirit more effectively into our educational system. There are perhaps obstacles here which will be less easily surmounted than in the United States, but there can be no question that federal aid is necessary to achieve the most satisfactory results. It has been too much the tendency to permit localities to have good or bad educational facilities as pleased the generosity or the selfishness of the people. A system that would bring education to all, and at the same time foster high ideals, and a true national spirit from coast to coast, should be the aim of governments, provincial and federal.

THE WAGE PROBLEM.

As wages advance beyond a certain point the amount of available employment is reduced. It is therefore a question as to what extent labor will eventually profit by rising wages and shorter hours. For example, in the building trades in Chicago the demand is for ten dollars per day for an eight hour day, but it is announced there will be a curtailment of fifty per cent. in the amount of building activity, and this will sharply affect other lines of business and those employed in them. Since increased production would tend to lower prices, it is by no means clear that higher wages, shorter hours and lessened production will solve the worker's problem. For this reason it would seem that the men who have gained their point in Chicago will not be any better off at the end of the year, while many other people, because of lessened employment and general business will be worse off. The class which really suffers most is the salaried class, which is unorganized and must merely look on while prices advance much faster than salaries. There must be an end of the industrial strife which divides capital and labor into opposing camps and brings the greatest suffering to those who are not directly a party to the dispute. Organization of what is termed the middle class is suggested as a remedy, but the struggle would still go on. The greatest trouble is the class-consciousness already existing and which prevents capital and labor from getting together.

Five new steamers have lately been added to the Canadian Merchant Marine. The vessels of this growing fleet have only two winter ports on the Atlantic, unless they use American ports. St. John and Halifax should be the winter ports, and the ports should be equipped to handle their traffic. What does the government propose to do about the ports? Another winter will not be long in coming and time is required when wharves and warehouses are to be constructed.

FORESTS THAT PAY.

We hear a great deal these days about waste of forest wealth and the need there is for a policy of nation-wide conservation. Forestry is a paying business in some countries. Note, for example, this paragraph from an exchange: "The Swiss, among other European peoples, solved the problem of a continuous supply of lumber years ago. Zurich, in Switzerland, has a 2,800-acre communal forest, regularly renewed by scientific forestation methods, which yields the community some \$20,000 a year, or about \$7 an acre. The annual 'crop' of trees goes mainly for firewood. This forestry not only safeguards agricultural lands against damage from the elements, and benefits the climate, but it also affords a direct, well-paying business."

Of course it will be many years before such a necessity arises in America as has caused European countries to adopt so progressive a policy, but we are wasting our resources year by year, and cannot afford to go on pursuing that course. It is quite possible to get a large return from forest areas without stripping them bare; and it is also possible to prevent a great annual waste through fire. The paper shortage has directed public attention to this subject in a very special way, and made it clear that carelessness and waste in cutting timber means great future loss to the country.

They are having a Boys' Week in New York, and thousands of boys are engaged in track meets and other activities while the attention of parents is directed to the importance of giving the boys opportunities for proper development. On Tuesday the streets in front of every school were closed to traffic from 1 o'clock while the boys held track meets under police protection. This is a recognition of the right of the boys to a chance to play. In the matter of playgrounds and recreation spaces New York has expended millions of dollars.

It seems safe to say that St. John is to have a great modern hotel, conducted by a corporation owning many hotels of the first class, and in a position to bring business as well as to take care of it. The need is obvious, if the city is to be placed in a position to accommodate comfortably the traffic of all seasons of the year. Today the city does not even boast of a public dining hall large enough to accommodate a big banquet. Such a dining hall and an auditorium for great meetings and conventions are very much needed.

Two straightforward utterances have been made by British statesmen this week on the Irish question. Baron Birkhead has asserted that in no conceivable circumstances would the government concede the demands of the Sinn Féin, and Premier Lloyd George has declared that the government will take no official notice of agitators in the United States who are interesting themselves in Irish affairs for political purposes. Mr. Bonar Law adds that demonstrations for such a purpose do not represent the real sentiment of the American people.

Sir Robert Borden is on his way to Ottawa and may arrive there on Sunday. He can hardly keep parliament and the country in suspense much longer over the question whether he is to lead or to retire. Important matters await his arrival. The Unionist party is without a leader, and must have both policy and leader. A few days should bring a clearing up of the general situation so far as the premier's intentions are concerned. His retirement would create an entirely new and interesting set of conditions.

MERCHANTS FROM ENGLAND TO TOUR UNITED STATES

Will Make Study of Department Stores—Twenty in the Party.

New York, May 7.—(Canadian Press)—Wireless messages of welcome to an incoming party of twenty British merchants aboard the liner Celtic were sent yesterday by Secretary of Commerce Joseph W. Alexander and the National Retail Dry Goods Association. The merchants, who will be guests of the association on a six weeks' tour of the United States, come commissioned by the British Board of Trade as representatives of the Drapers' Chamber of Trade of the United Kingdom, to study department stores.

The delegation is headed by F. W. Cook, of F. W. Cook Limited, of Dudley, Worcestershire, Bristol and Birmingham, chairman of the Drapers' Chamber of Trade.

The Housing Problem.

Predominant Mail.—Some families were not able to secure houses May 1 and the civic authorities are trying to place them in temporary quarters until other arrangements can be secured.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

LAP OF SPRING.

The spring was slow in coming, I thought 't would ne'er appear; but now the bees are humming, and jays and things are here. Before the dawn of Easter warm days betokened spring; I ground my spade and greased her, and started gardening. I cried, "The winter season is buried in the past; and spring, which has no fleas on, has come to stay at last. Farewell to winter weather, which bores me and annoys, so let me get together, and sing of vernal joys." Alas, on Easter morning old winter had returned; and from its solemn warning a lesson I have learned. Hereafter I'll be cautious about announcing spring; for people come and Josh us when we given fancy wing. I will not be up-bobbin' with vernal stuff again, because I've seen a robin, or heard a lonesome wren. I will not sell the heater, or pawn my winter coat, because a stray musketeer has crooned its mournful note. Spring signs must come in legions here. I will admit that in the arctic regions the blizzard works have quit. Oh, Easter was a hummer, and winter had its fling, and I will wait till summer before I look for spring.

THE TRUE BIBLIOPHILE.

What is a bibliophile? Mere lover Of Whatman page and Meane-made cover, Of crushed levant wherewithal doth hover A rare aroma? Whose bookcase, double-locked, affords Such ancient treasures bound in One has suspicions that it hoards An MS Homer?

What is a bibliophile? Mere seeker For finds to make all rivals meeker. Now down in Ann Street, now in Bleeker, To lose no chance That some neglected shop may show A fine, opened, pristine Poe, Flanked by an unfixed Folio, With provenance?

What is a bibliophile? Mere sifter For Treasures, Derrance and Payne? A buyer Of Incunabula by wire, Or tall Bodoni? Who, in his dreams, of sales doth rave, To others' bidding still a slave, And oft to many a bookish knave Who claims him cronny?

These things I do not hold as gauds; But must one, as a bibliophile, Be captive on a treasure trove, And And live as I live? "Better twice to not to hoard or spend, Better to borrow books—or lend— And know, like Field's O'er-pitied friend, Their insides only."

Give me the man who's always finding With threads of love about it winding— A book no longer; Who laughs with Lever, smiles with Spouts "Rare Ben Johnson," or with Sam Learns to despise the great world's sham, And so grows stronger.

Ah! though you have all Rosinantes Were ever drawn for blithe Cervantes, And all the text of all Danes, "Will little profit If you shall feel not in the Knight The paths of his human plight, Or share not in the Stygian night The terror of it."

—Robert Underwood Johnson.

LIGHTS REVEIN.

The Explanation. She—Sometimes you appear really manly and sometimes you are effeminate. How do you account for it? He—I suppose it is hereditary. Half of my ancestors were men and the other half women.—Dallas News.

Just Preparing. The Sunday school teacher was astounded to see one of her small pupils sitting on a young boy's playground and holding him tight to the ground. "Why, Johnny?" she exclaimed, "didn't I tell you not to strike anyone until you had counted 100?" "Ain't hit 'im yet—sixty-five—seventy—seventy-eighty."—Harper's Weekly.

"Witness," asked the attorney for the defense who was trying to prove the temporary insanity of the prisoner, "was it this man's habit to talk to himself when alone?" "Just at this time," returned the witness, "I don't recollect ever bein' with him when he was alone."

A few weeks ago the mayor of Los Angeles slipped away from business and made a personal tour of "Sonora town" to get a line on conditions there. During the tour his eye was caught by a trinket in a shop window and he stepped in to purchase it. The proprietor was just about to close up and, in fact, had already taken his cash to the back room. As he had to bring it back in order to make change he called his young son and, perching him on the counter, whispered in his ear to keep his eye on the customer. A moment later he returned with the change and the boy blurted out, "He didn't steal anything, daddy; I had my eye on him every minute."

In a collision between an auto and a load of hay the driver of the latter was projected into the village road on his head and lay there semiconscious until two occupants of the more speedy vehicle lifted him out of the dust and started to carry him toward the sidewalk. "Shall we take him into that undertaker's place there, or to the drugstore farther down the street?" asked one of the burden-bearers. The victim raised his head with alacrity and vociferated: "Take me to the drug store first, you darn fool!"

ROTARIANS AND GARDENS.

Last year there were nearly 200 returned men working vacant lots in Toronto, 15 of them at Withrow Park. The Rotary Club has conducted the enterprise for four years to the satisfaction of many soldiers with large families and small back gardens at home. About 250 acres of vacant land is cultivated, divided into 45 gardens, 40 feet by 100 feet. The Rotary Club provides free seeds and, as the land is free, it costs the citizen nothing. George Baldwin, head of the movement, estimated that the vacant lot produce was worth \$50 to \$100 to the producer, and declared that the cost of living today called for higher production juts as much as during the war. The Rotary Club, he said, still needed vacant lots for the work, as applicants doubled the supply.

CAN IMPORT LIQUOR.

Ontario License Ruling on Summer Residents. Those having summer homes in Ontario, whether they be citizens of the United States or Canada, are entitled to import liquor from Montreal to such homes in the same way as persons permanently domiciled here, according to a ruling made by the Ontario license commissioners, who are charged with the administration of the Ontario temperance act.

Chairman Flavell said that the owner or tenant of a summer cottage would be entitled to store liquor in such dwelling, and, if he did not wish to take the risk of having it stolen, might place care taker in charge, but he could not remove the liquor to the caretaker's dwelling or any place other than his own private home.

United States citizens owning cottages at Crystal Beach, on Lake Erie, at Grimsby or Lake Ontario, in the vicinity of Windsor and elsewhere in Ontario, have been making inquiries as to the legality of importing liquor to their summer residences.

POLAND'S AMBITIONS.

(New York Evening Post.) If the Polish campaign against Soviet Russia is only a manoeuvre in the prolonged peace discussions with Moscow, if its purpose, as asserted in some quarters, is to force Lenin into a more compliant attitude with regard to Poland claims, then it can be only said that the attitude adopted by Warsaw far outruns the objective. By opening up a war in defence of Ukrainian independence Poland has opened up an entirely new issue. It has begun a war which cannot be terminated on the Dnieper, but which involves the existence of Russia as a whole.

The new issue has come to the front with startling suddenness. Last winter there was the fear of a Soviet "drive" in the spring, and Poland properly prepared herself for the event. The spring drive did not come off. Fighting did not break out over the question, apparently, of peace discussions should be conducted. Suddenly the issue broadened. Poland addressed demands to the Soviets calling for the restoration of the Polish boundaries of 1919, together with absurdly extravagant economic and financial concessions. It was certain that the Soviet government would not consent to such sacrifices in territory and to permit the Poles to establish themselves in Smolensk within striking distance of Moscow.

Put the separation of Ukraine from Russia, for which the Poles are now fighting, is a still more vital question. The Russian campaign cannot live. Every factor in Russia has recognized that fact, Bolsheviks no less than monarchists. Denkin destroyed his chances of victory for the Ukraine by diverting his attention from Moscow last summer and began fighting with Petura. The procedure was suicidal but the motive behind it every Russian can understand and sympathize with. Ukrainian independence, even if it should be respected only as a victorious Polish move, the utter dismemberment of Russia. For Lenin to consent to such a step would be to arraign against himself the forces of Ukrainian nationalism. They have so conspicuously helped him to victory against Kolchak, Denkin and Yudenitch.

If the new war is to go on until Ukraine is liberated, then we have a war to the death. That is a ghastly prospect which the civilized world cannot tolerate. Allied pressure should be brought to bear at Warsaw to check an adventure threatening dire consequences and undertaken without due cause. Full autonomy for the Ukraine is assured under a Russian regime. Separation of the Ukraine from Russian regime will tolerate.

WHAT WOMEN MUST DO.

(Toronto Telegram.) "The measure of a civilization is its care of its children. All the progress of the race is made on the little feet, not the big ones!" This was the point which Mrs. Jane Ripplin emphasized most at the Big Sister luncheon. "Look to your little girls," was her behest, and at the conclusion Mrs. Sidney Small echoed it by declaring this was now an outstanding duty.

"I've yet to see the reformatory that reforms," declared Mrs. Ripplin in urging women to look after the young girls. Moral disintegration is so slow that it is almost hopeless to save the confirmed class. The reclamation of a first case is simple, but others are almost helpless save by a straight religious appeal at a psychological moment. "This is a work that's got to be done by women who were in rocking chairs before the war. Some of them got out of them during the war and they should never get back again."

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LOCAL NEWS

The Mission Band of Carmarthen rect church gave a fine concert in the school room last night under the direction of Miss Stella B. Marie. The following took part: Gerald Milley, Hilda Clark, Hazel Hayman, Harold Green, Margaret James, Christian Mercer, Basil Vay, Maude Edmondston, Gladys Brindle, Doris Brindle, Lillian Foster, Stella Fox, Hazel McBeath, Margaret James, Ethel Brindle, Jean Hoyt, Alice Orr, Bertha Hoyt, Freda Hoyt. The sum of \$40 was realized.

The Y. P. S. of Centenary Methodist church staged a two-act comedy, "Sally Lunn," last evening. The entire cast took their parts well, under the direction of Miss Laura Baxter, to whom much credit is due. The following took part: Miss Elizabeth Good, Allison Cushing, Miss Nan Powers, Arnold Young, Laura Baxter, Miss Star McAlpine, John Chisholm. Those taking part in the chorus were the Misses Mildred Wilson, Alice Young, Jean McAlpine, Sally MacDonald, Blanche McColgan, Marion Terry and Horace Brittain, Arnold Young, John Chisholm, Ellsworth Field, Reginald Brown and Laurence Manning. Miss Hilda Brittain was accompanist.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the Queen square Methodist church held last night a life membership was presented to Miss C. E. Pratt, Mrs. C. W. Dickinson, being president, made the presentation, being aided seconded by the first vice-president, Mrs. F. Blizard. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. C. W. Dickinson; first vice-president, Mrs. P. Blizard; second vice-president, Mrs. T. O. Dales; recording secretary, Miss T. O. Dales.

In London the person who first reports to the water department the bursting of a water main gets a reward of several dollars.

It is a curious fact that grains ripen earlier in Norway than in the south of Europe, an advantage due to the long days and short nights of the summer in the north.

Instead of burning its old bank notes, France treats them with an acid which turns them into a dark-colored pulp. The pulp is used for making the covers of government ledgers.

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