

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1923

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. 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 Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 360 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, 400 Association Bldg.
The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

Political events in Great Britain have marched with amazing rapidity. Parliament is to be dissolved on Thursday and the general elections held in December. The Baldwin Government has decided to seek a snap verdict on the protection issue. An effort is being made to get Austen Chamberlain and Lord Birkenhead back into the inner circle of Conservatism, and it is hoped to line up Labor in support of the Government. The Liberals have not been slow to respond. We are told the Asquith and Lloyd George factions have sunk their differences and will present a united front in defence of free trade. The battle will be the most exciting that has been waged in many years. Mr. Lloyd George has returned to England in the nick of time, to throw himself with renewed prestige into a great struggle. The fiscal question will predominate in the discussion and foreign affairs will take second place. Only a few weeks have passed since Premier Baldwin stirred the country by a speech in which he declared himself in general terms in favor of a protective policy. It was said he was feeling out the country. Apparently he and his colleagues have decided that the chances are more favorable now than they would be later, and so the House is to be dissolved. It will be a battle of the political giants to be followed with the keenest interest throughout the Empire.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

Premier Mackenzie King told his Edinburgh audience yesterday that "if he were seeking to break up the British Empire he thought he would seek the way of an Imperial Council or a Cabinet sitting at Westminster." He commended after King George's picture of "a community of free nations." The Imperial Conference coincided with Mr. Mackenzie King's view when he declared that the parliaments of the different parts of the Empire must decide the nature and extent of any action taken by them in relation to Imperial defence. It was recognized that local defence was primarily the duty of each part of the Empire, but action must be taken by authority of its own parliament.

There are those who still cherish the dream of Imperial Federation, but its realization is farther away than Joseph Chamberlain's time, while the fact that binds the Empire together is stronger than it ever was before. Along the lines of local autonomy and co-operation by consent lies the future of the Empire. The conference, looking strong ground on the subject of naval defence, and it may be assumed that each portion of the Empire will be prepared to contribute its share, since it is so obvious that in the present condition of world affairs it would be folly to be other than amply prepared to protect the trade and the trade routes of the Empire.

The Imperial Conference has voiced the general feeling when it said that the European situation could only be lifted to a plane of possible settlement by the co-operation of the United States. This, Mr. Lloyd George believes, will be eventually secured, although a Washington dispatch today asserts that ex-President Wilson's condemnation this week of the present American isolationism will have no effect upon President Coolidge and Congress, so far as the American attitude toward the League of Nations is concerned. So far as British foreign policy is concerned, the Imperial Conference made no demands upon the Imperial Government, but the whole matter of foreign relations was fully discussed, so that the representatives of the Overseas States are much better informed and in a better position to inform their home governments regarding questions that may arise and call for joint action. The Conference has reaffirmed the faith of the Empire in the League of Nations, and is itself a great example of such a League, that ought to impress the rest of the world.

SIGNIFICANT DAYS.

The observance of Armistice Day in St. John proved that the memory of those who died for Canada is warmly cherished. It should be so for very many years to come. Wreaths for their graves and eulogies of the fallen do not, however, pay the debt. There are soldiers' and soldiers' families to be cared for, and there is the responsibility of keeping Canada worthy of her heroes of the Great War. They gave their all to their country. What are those they helped to save giving in devotion to the same country? Are there not far too many who merely regard their country from the standpoint of what they can get rather than what they may give? The Dominion has great possibilities, but these can only be made realities in good citizenship and national prosperity when the living are inspired by the courage and devotion of those who lie in Flanders fields.

THE CANADIAN CLUBS.

At the last meeting of the executive of the Canadian Club of this city the president, Dr. E. J. Ryan, referred to the fact that on a recent tour of the Pacific Coast he had found the Canadian Club in a state of disrepair. He said that the life of the cities than has ever been the case in St. John. The matter was discussed at considerable length, and among other things it was suggested that the Club here, in conjunction with the Women's Canadian Club, might arrange for a series of addresses on Canadian topics, quite apart from the ordinary luncheons. This appears to be a very good suggestion. A Canadian Club or any other club is what its members choose to make it. So long as a club with a membership of over six hundred is content with a luncheon once in four or five weeks, at which perhaps a tenth of the members will be present, its usefulness is bound to be limited. There is, of course, the difficulty that we have no dining room in the city that would accommodate half the membership of the Club, and the fact that because we are so far from Montreal and Toronto it is difficult to get speakers of the calibre that is available in the cities of Central Canada. Merely to hear an occasional speech, however, is not the sole function of a Canadian Club. The present is a time of some anxiety in regard to the development of a national spirit in the Dominion. While we have not in these provinces a large portion of the population new to the country and its ideals, there is nevertheless need of disseminating a wider knowledge of Canadian history, Canadian aspirations, and Canadian resources. The east and west are not in close sympathy. From every platform we hear the plea for greater understanding and unity. If these existed there would be no need to plead for them. It is fitting that Canadian Clubs should ask themselves what they may be able to do to inspire a deeper love of country and a greater solidarity in the future of the Dominion. We are to have in St. John next year the annual convention of the Association of Canadian Clubs. It would be a fine thing if the St. John Club could then be in a position to point to definite and constructive work along the line of the development of a better national spirit. Such a revelation would have a marked effect in linking us closer with the people of the Central and Western Provinces.

THE KATSER IS NOW SAID TO BE MEDITATING A DESCENT UPON GERMANY.

The result would only be to precipitate civil war and make Germany's condition worse than it is at present. The ex-Crown Prince is not regarded in London as a disturbing factor although the Allies resent his departure from Holland, but it might be different if the late Emperor went to Berlin. If Germany were wise, he would be stopped at the border.

IMMIGRATION.

We know of more urgent duty upon the Government than the promotion of immigration. The details are material, the difficulties considerable. We have not only to find the people, but as well a place for them when they reach Canada. Faith will remove mountains. There is faith in Canada, in its resources and opportunities, and that faith can best be expressed by opening the door and extending the hand of welcome to men and women of health and industry whenever they may come.

Press Comment

THAT BRITISH PREFERENCE.

(Ottawa Journal.)
The British Government has decided to extend its preferential policy to the Dominions by favoring their exports of canned salmon, fresh apples and honey. Just what this means to Canada may be seen from three facts:—
1.—Canadian exports of fresh apples to the United Kingdom for the twelve months ending September totalled 1,323,841 barrels, valued at \$5,234,988.
2.—Canadian exports of canned salmon to the United Kingdom for the twelve months ending September totalled 10,617 cwt., valued at \$2,095,764.
3.—Canadian exports of honey to the United Kingdom for the twelve months ending August last totalled 7,450 pounds. Thus it is clear that the British action is of considerable advantage to the Dominion. It confers a particular and distinct benefit upon two exceedingly important productive enterprises of this country—fishing and the growing of apples.

NEW TREE FOR EACH ONE CUT.

(Hollywood Transcript.)
Recent despatches from the Ruhr area had now by the French show that the invading forces have already begun to work the great forests of the region. Some four million board feet of lumber have been shipped from two of the forests and the lumber goes for the rebuilding of the French areas made desolate by the German invader in recent years.
Casual reference is made to the fact that for every tree cut the French are setting out a tree, which does not fit very closely with the record made by the French forests and even went so far as to girdle fruit trees in every orchard over an area of a thousand square miles as a minor item as the "rightful" list. To understand the French position, one must understand the immediate fore for trees which the French have in the life of the cities than has ever been the case in St. John.

UNCLE SAM'S WARD.

(The Forum.)
It has cost us over \$700,000,000 to maintain our relationship with the Philippine Islands, says Cecilia F. Wells in The Forum. Not one dollar of return has ever come from this investment, or ever to be expected. Each year additional appropriation is made by Congress. And the Philippine Legislature, deriving its existence and its annual appropriation of one million pesos for propaganda for its purpose the severing of the relationship. This fund is quoted in Washington as an open grant fund, probably the publication of its books—if, indeed, they have kept any books—would do more for the establishment of stable government in the islands than any one thing that could be suggested.

But this is only one of the absurdities connected with the situation. A congressman tent his official frank in the spring for the free use of the United States mails by the bureau maintained for this fund, for the circulation of an attack on the administration in the islands, thus putting the United States Government itself in the United States of fostering propaganda—or its own overthrow there.

THE PRESS WILL SURVIVE.

(New York Times.)
In deciding that no longer will be allowed to enter his house and read papers which recently have criticized himself and his friends and antagonized their political aspirations, Mr. Murphy has exercised what indubitably is his right, just as it is the right of everybody else to do the same thing for reasons deemed sufficient. But does he mean, also, that from this time on he will no longer read these papers? That, too, is his right if he chooses, but even the severest of Mr. Murphy's critics have been wont to credit him with enough common sense to see that disagreement with the policies and methods of a newspaper is in itself a reason for reading it with care rather than one for giving the order, "Stop my subscription." Mr. Murphy is supposed to be something of a philosopher, and he has been heard to say long enough to have become wanted to attack.

A GOOD OUTLOOK.

(Halifax Chronicle.)
The optimistic addresses made by Mr. Wolvin, President of the British Empire Steel Corporation and Premier Armstrong at the luncheon of the New Glasgow Board of Trade, should do much to inspire greater confidence in the industrial future of our Province. The progress and prosperity of Nova Scotia are dependent to so great an extent upon the continued development of our steel and coal resources that the men engaged in prosecuting them are entitled to the fullest measure of public support in all laudable efforts to that end. The gathering under the auspices of the New Glasgow Board of Trade should do much to spread a better understanding of the difficulties confronting these industries and to enlist the sympathetic interest and aid of all loyal Nova Scotians.

THE BOY AND THE LAW.

(Toronto Star.)
A Toronto lad—an orphan living with his grandmother—disappeared on the morning after Halloween and was missing for some days. His grandmother went to the Penny Bank, where he had a deposit, and asked the officials to watch for him and to detain him if he attempted to draw money there. The lad did appear, a pretext was made for delaying the payment, and a couple of kindly men from the juvenile court were shortly upon the scene. It transpired that the boy had sent in a false fire alarm on Hal-

lowe's. Knowing he had been seen, he had fled in terror from his home, and had been sleeping in sheds and outhouses. The law regards the ringing of false fire alarms as a serious offence, but because the offender was a minor he was treated kindly in juvenile court, and was made to understand that the law was his friend, but expected him to return its friendship in future. And he was sent home to his grandmother, the most relieved and happiest boy in Toronto.

The juvenile courts, the big brother and big sister movements and other agencies of social reform are aiming nowadays to reconcile mischievous hood and foolish girlhood to the law instead of thrusting the offenders beyond the pale of good citizenship. The results are good.

ALBERTA'S COAL.

(Edmonton Journal.)
Alberta passed Nova Scotia some years ago as the leading coal producing province and, according to the statement of the inspector of mines, it will this year go far beyond its previous best record. It is now a million and a half tons beyond that of November 1 of last year. The wage roll will run between eighteen and twenty dollars for 1923. Great as the development of the industry has been, this can only be considered the beginning in the light of the province's immense coal wealth and the need which exists to utilize it for the benefit of the whole country.

IN THE CUSTOMARY WAY.

(Toronto Star.)
When the news came from Stockholm that the Nobel Prize for medicine had been awarded to Dr. Banting and Dr. Macleod, of the University of Toronto, the New York Times announced that Dr. Banting and Dr. Macleod were "fourth and fifth Americans to be honored by the award of Nobel prizes." It is quite accurate, of course, to speak of Canadians as Americans, but it is seldom done by our bright and interesting writers except in a case like this, where it yields them a little cream off the top of the latest news.

DERBY.

The derby, popularly known as "Iron hat," appears to be doomed. It still has a big life in the eastern states, but the trend nationally is towards soft felt hats and caps.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad. The derby fits so tightly that it interferes with flow of blood in the scalp. Causes baldness.

WOULD USE THE LASH.

(Montreal Gazette.)
Thefts of motor cars occur in Montreal with a frequency which can apparently be checked except by some change in the law or in its administration. The burglar, nowadays, is not content with the use of the lash to the criminal, but he is also using the lash to the motor car thief. The motor car thief would give car owners in Montreal the protection which they should have, but which, as things are, they have not got. A few strokes of the lash at the commencement and at the termination of a jail sentence would make this class of crime unpopular and would ensure the safety of automobiles, whether standing on the street or housed in garages. The mere fact that this punishment would be imposed, once it was known, would probably suffice, but there should be no doubt as to the determination of the courts to resort to it, and one or two demonstrations would eliminate such a doubt.

MINING'S SIGNIFICANCE.

(Quebec Chronicle.)
The development that has recently been taking place in the mining industry of Northern Quebec and Ontario not only emphasizes its tremendous possibilities from a purely industrial standpoint, but indicates, in the words of a Canadian financial review, that it "may have a very important bearing upon the growth and solidarity of Canada." As pointed out by this review, economic progress has been retarded in Canada by virtue of the expansive and largely unexploited gap south of Hudson's Bay, that makes a distinct cleavage between east and west. This area, to quote again from the financial commentator, "has presented very serious problems in transportation and the distribution of goods, and its gradual utilization and settlement may easily have far-reaching significance in the future development of the country."

It is now an established fact that the area surrounding the lower end of Hudson's Bay and extending even beyond the lakes, known as the Pre-Cambrian Laurentian shield, offers tremendous possibilities for expansion. As yet this area has been exploited only in a very small way.

THE DANGER IN ALBERTA.

(Ottawa Journal.)
Arrogant, saloon-keepers without capacity or inclination to know public opinion hasten abolition of the bar. Arrogant hotel-keepers in Alberta who appear to think that it was their interests the public voted for on Monday may well make a similar blunder. Clause "d" which carried in Alberta provided for the sale of beer "to be consumed on licensed premises." But it quite clearly carried for the simple reason that it was foolishly bracketed with the provision for Government control—those who wanted Government control had no alternative. Because this provision for licensed premises, was dragged to victory by the desire for Government control, the hotel-keepers immediately demand the right to sell beer on their premises. They at once display the forked tongue which in the old days disgusted decent people with the saloon-keepers.

IN NO STRANGE LAND.

(Francis Thompson.)
O world invisible, we view thee,
O world intangible, we touch thee,
O world unknowable, we know thee,
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!

Does the fish soar to find the ocean,
The eagle plunge to find the air—
That we ask of the stars in motion
If they have rumor or thee there?

Not where the wheeling systems
Darken,
And our benumbed conceiving
soars—
The drift of phantasies, would we hear-
ken,
Beats at our own clay-shuttered
doors,

The angels keep their ancient places;
Turn but a stone, and start a wing!
Thy yea, thy yea estranged faces,
That miss the many-splendored
thing.

But (when so sad thou canst not
sadden)
Cry—sadden upon thy so sore loss
Shall shine the traffic of Jacob's ladder
Pitched between Heaven and Char-
ing Cross.

Yes, in the night, my Soul, my daugh-
ter,
Cry—clinging Heaven by the hem;
And lo, Christ walking on the water
Not of Gennesaret, but Thames!

CHALLENGE.

Better the steel snapped shorn asunder
In the ringing shock of a battle
thrust,
Than a weapon cobwebbed over and
under
And pitted deep with rust!

Better the tall tree, burnt and riven
By the lightning's stroke on the high
hills destruction,
Than dead limbs stark on a scornful
heaven.
As the slow rot gnaws them down,
Better to fall in a last mad rally,
And fall with the goal almost in
sight,
Than drowse at peace in a tight wall'd
valley
With never the grit to fight!

Play to the end—and a fig for the
guardian!
Grin at defeat—and a shrug for
chance!
But pity the shirker who dodges the
burden
And shrinks from the heat of the
game!
—Ted Olson, in Forbes Magazine.

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DECKERS



Here is a close-up study of Herr Deckers, the merchant, who was a guiding spirit in the Rhineland Separatist movement.

What makes us laugh out loud is seeing a girl with bobbed hair one day and long hair the next.

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The Telephone Directory which will be issued on January 1, is now being prepared for the Printer, and will close to the Public on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

If you wish to have a Telephone installed, make any changes in your present equipment or change your listing in any way, you should make application at the Exchange Manager's Office at once.

No Changes or Corrections Can Be Made After November 20

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