

# The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 13, 1920

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## DR. ROBERTSON'S MESSAGE.

Two points in the address delivered last evening by Dr. James W. Robertson to the business men of St. John deserve all the emphasis it is possible to give them. They are not new, but they are vital. The first is that increased production is a necessity, the second that extravagance is a serious injury to the nation.

With regard to the first point, and with special reference to food production, Dr. Robertson points out that millions in Europe are greatly underfed, and in his opinion the farmers of Canada during the next two years will have an exceptional opportunity to make an exceptional profit. But reasonable and even large profits in other lines as well as food there is need of greatly increased production, because of a world shortage of supplies. Before the high cost of living can come down to any marked extent the supply must in volume more nearly approach the demand.

As to extravagance, Dr. Robertson gave some striking illustrations, and every citizen can supplement these by his own observation of what is going on in his own community. The warning that the fruits of extravagance will be reaped later should not fall on dull ears at a time when there is so much of genuine misery in the world at large. Canada has been pecuniarily fortunate during the war and since, but the burdens imposed by the war are very real, even if not at the moment apparent to the careless observer; and production and thrift are the only means by which they can eventually be removed.

For the benefit of those uninformed and unreasonable persons who are always ready to have a fling at the United States, and who would blame that country for a condition of exchange which is really a result of world conditions, it is well to note what Dr. Robertson says of the manner in which the American food administrator helped Canada. After the armistice Canada had a very large amount of surplus food, and the demand had ceased and the situation was awkward. The American food administrator did not press its claims for a share of the available market but facilitated an agreement whereby Canada was able to dispose of its large stocks, and Dr. Robertson pays this tribute: "Mr. Hoover, as representative of the United States in food matters, in this as in every other case regarded Canada and her interests in the spirit of a friendly associate, with a leaning, if there ever was a leaning from strict equity, towards doing her a good turn whenever he could."

Dr. Robertson adds that so far as the present rate of exchange goes he would like to see the exchange value of the dollar go still lower if it would stop the extravagant importation of luxuries which people should be willing to forego at such a time as the present. Produce more and save more is the substance of his message to the people.

## THE PROVINCIAL MINISTERS.

Discussing the provincial government the Standard this morning says: "During the year all the ministers, except Hon. Mr. Veniot, have shown a strange disposition to attend to the duties of their offices. Whether due to the high cost of living or not, their chief preoccupation has been to keep away from the capital as much as possible."

Apart from Hon. Mr. Veniot and Hon. Dr. Roberts it may be said that Hon. Mr. Tweeddale practically lives in Fredericton, visiting his home only once or twice a month. Hon. E. A. Smith is in Fredericton every week. Premier Foster's office in St. John is constantly open to all who desire to discuss provincial affairs. In a word, the members of the provincial government are on the job, and the heads of the departments of public works, agriculture and lands and mines may easily be found in Fredericton attending to their duties by any who desire to do business with them.

It may be further remarked that the ministers receive less pay than a number of the clerks, inspectors and others in the public service, and therefore cannot afford to devote themselves entirely to their private business concerns. The Standard's reflections upon them are therefore exceedingly small potatoes. Enough said.

## THE CASE OF MONDA ROSE.

There is a lesson for women who make a parade of wealth in the remarks made by the girl known as Monda Rose, who was recently in Moncton, and who is now asked to explain to the court in Chicago a shortage of \$50,000 in the accounts of the company for which she worked for twenty-five dollars per week. When not performing her task as cashier she masqueraded as a member of a wealthy social set. After her flight to Canada and her arrest and return to Chicago, she said: "I simply adore society. Long ago I used to watch the well-dressed people and envy girls who rode or drove smart rigs or did any of the attractive things. I made up my mind then and never have lost the vision that some day I

would be well dressed and that when the time came I would have read enough and observed enough to be able to maintain my place and be certain of myself in any company."

This girl's ambition was not an unnatural one, and it was whetted by her observation of those, perhaps no more intelligent or deserving than herself, whose only purpose in life appeared to be to dress extravagantly and engage in the social whirl, seeking always some new diversion or sensation. If, however, such an ambition is associated with a weakness in moral fibre, there is grave danger. In the case of Monda Rose it seems to have led to a course which may involve very serious consequences. There will, moreover, be no nice balancing of responsibility to show how much her present position is due to herself and how much to her environment and the conduct of those about her. The wheel of the penalty falls upon her. And therein lies a warning for others who may be tempted to follow her example.

## CAN THIS BE TRUE?

The citizens must have paused to read a second time the following astounding paragraph in a report of a meeting of the board of directors of the St. John County Hospital:

"Cases have come to the attention of the board that patients in a dying condition were removed by overzealous of the poor in some parishes to save the cost of maintenance to that parish, and as a result death was hastened under the most regrettable circumstances."

This is not a chronicle of events in Russia or Armenia, but in New Brunswick. Years ago it was the custom to farm out the paupers of a parish to the lowest bidder. An aroused Christian sentiment finally changed the system, although there are still some counties without municipal homes; and to be told now that there are parishes where dollars are still more to be coveted than the spirit of common humanity cannot but arouse feelings of indignation and shame. If the statement quoted is correct, those guilty of the conduct described should be exposed.

American people charge that the American people are extravagant. They have reaped benefit from the misfortunes of the world. "Look at the extravagance," he said. "Never have you people consumed so much as they are consuming today. You speak of the high cost of living. Are you responsible for that? Out of the needs of the world you are making fortunes. You are making fortunes by killing the people of the world. There should be no high cost of living, there is no reason for it."

The remarks of Sir George Paish do not apply to the United States alone. The world, or that portion which can afford it, is living in an era of extravagance. Sooner or later there must be an awakening and a change of mental attitude toward the responsibility of individuals and nations.

Dr. Robertson, chief scout commissioner for Canada, gave the boy scout movement in St. John another impetus yesterday. His addresses to the assembled scouts at the Armory and later to the scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters, were full of inspiration; and his announcement that after he had concluded his present mission to the business interests of the country he will give much more attention to the boy scout movement, will still further encourage the local workers in this field.

There is a sting in the remark of someone at the meeting of the St. John Council of Women that men must be tempted with food to get them together, which perhaps is not wholly unwarranted, but the ladies should remember that busy men often find it convenient to get together at lunch when they could not otherwise as well spare the time. As for the ladies themselves: "Can you tame wild women?"

The great crowd at the championship skating races last evening proved that the love of athletic sports is not dead in St. John. It only needs playgrounds, athletic fields and rinks to bring about a great revival of public interest and participation in healthy sport.

The Review says: The slogan "1919 has been the radicals' year, 1920 belongs to the sane thinkers," may represent only a pious hope, but it is a hope worth holding up before men as one that is at least possible of realization.

The mild nature of the influenza prevalent this year is a source of universal relief, but the need for special care is not lessened by the fact.

## Egyptian Works Minister Resigns.

Cairo, Feb. 13.—Ismael Sirry Pasha, minister of public works, has resigned his portfolio.

An attempt was made on Jan. 28 to assassinate the minister of public works, when a man, impersonating a photographer, threw a bomb at his motor car. The car was shattered, but the minister was not hurt.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

This year I'll be a candidate for Woodrow Wilson's honored place; my friends keep chiding to my gait, and urging me to make the race. My platform is a simple thing, one single plank is all its own: Cut out extravagance, by jing, quite burning up the precious bones! The cost of government, these times, gives every thoughtful soul a wrench; our government blows in the dimes, yet calls on voters to retrench. It taxes people to the grave, and makes their workworn shirts sore, then urges every mark to save, so it can touch them for some more. When I take my residence where now the White House banner daps, I'll cut down every fool expense and fire all loafers who have snags. I'll shear the grafters to the hide, and clothe the toilers with their wool; all other schemes will get blue penciling when they are born; the man who'd make another debt will find me standing on his corn. So rally round my standard, boys, line up like soldiers, rank on rank; then government will make a noise like money in a savings bank.

## CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

## A DISCOURAGED PEOPLE.

When the campaign of the year 1759 opened in the French and English—It found a very discouraged people living along the banks of the St. Lawrence. The English were on the offensive and the French were finding it more and more difficult to get along. The river was practically in the hands of the English, and it required constant work on the part of General Montcalm to keep any heart in the French settlers and armies.

The harvests had been poor; a barrel of flour cost 200 francs, and most of the cattle and many of the horses had been killed for food. The people were living largely on a mere pittance of salt codfish or supplies obtained from the royal stores and the officers were finding it utterly impossible to live on their pay. Of course discontent increased rapidly, and it was necessary that something be done at once to restore confidence in the cause.

Montcalm was one of the few who remained cheerful and optimistic. He asked the King of France to recall him in July of 1759, but the monarch wished him to remain in command. So he was true to his post, although he understood as no one else did what a task had been laid on his shoulders. He made a direct appeal to the king for assistance and sent off one of his trusted assistants in a fast ship to urge the monarch to send help at once. Before any assistance could arrive General Wolfe, the English commander, had recovered from his illness, struck a terrific blow at Quebec, and was victorious on the Plains of Abraham. In the struggle on that field the victor and vanquished leaders died, and Wolfe passed away a few minutes after receiving his wound, while his opponent lived a few hours longer.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN.

An Oversight

A maid soldier was sitting in a room at the St. John Hotel, and she herself beside him began to play him with annoying questions. Finally the maid soldier started to rise and leave her, and for the first time she noted that his right arm was gone. "My goodness, you've lost an arm," she exclaimed excitedly. "Have I? How careless of me," snorted the hero, and fled—San Francisco Chronicle.

"Don't you ever find it hard to be a freak?" said the stoutly built woman to the fat lady. "No, not a bit," was the reply. "I often feel sorry for some of you people who seem to find it hard not to be freaks."

"Eyes tested while you wait," a sign read in a downtown window. The other day a man stood in front of the optician's window and was heard to say, "I don't know what I want, but I have them tested while I wait or leave them here and call for them later."

The girl had been sent down to the brook near by to fetch a pail of water, but stood gazing at the flowing stream, apparently lost in thought. "What's she waiting for?" said her mother, who was watching. "Dunno," wearily replied hubby. "Perhaps she hasn't seen a pailful she likes yet."

A lawyer who handles many divorce cases was approached the other day by a man who contemplated bringing divorce proceedings against his wife. "I want to find out if I have grounds for a divorce," he informed the attorney on entering his office. "Are you married?" the lawyer asked. "Why, yes, of course," responded the client. "Then you have grounds," the attorney said.

A certain physician who belongs to an athletic club was regaling some cronies with anecdotes that centered on the profession. One was on a fellow member. Seems he was called on the phone some time after midnight and listened half asleep to the following: "O, doctor, come over quick, Willie is awful sick. He can't stand, he can't sit, he can't lie down, he—"

"Coming right over," cried the doctor, adding, "and tell Willie to root till I get there."

"How old is your baby brother?" asked little Tommy of a playmate. "One year old," replied Johnny. "Ah!" exclaimed Tommy. "I've got a dog a year old and he can walk twice as well as your brother."

"Well, he ought to," replied Johnny; "he's got twice as many legs."

## LAPORTE AND MARTIN NAMED

By-Election in Montreal for Seat Vacated by Death of L. A. Laporte.

## PEOPLE JUST ROARED AT MARY'S SHINDIGS

Pickford Picture Now at the Imperial Creating Untold Merriment.

Talk about your up-to-date jazz parties and grand ball affairs, the "Shindigs" given by the heroine's (Mary Pickford) grandpa in the Kentucky comedy-romance, "Heart O' The Hills," at Imperial Theatre, has them all beaten for novelty, liveliness and side-splitting fun. Its an old-fashioned hoe-down, Boston Fancy, trip-the-willow and Sir Roger de Coverley rolled into one, and the heroic efforts of the town chap, country lad and others seeking the far side of the fence, by "showing off" their stepping ability—a whirlpool of dancing into which the heroine herself is drawn—creates billows of laughter. The eighty-year-old fiddler losing his false teeth in the excitement, leaves watchers gasping with merriment. Another very funny scene is when Mary beholds a railway train for the first time, her uncle equally frightened, tossing her into the ditch by the side of the track. The mule and Mary sweat mutual vengeance on the "threshing machine." In fact the John Fox Jr. story literally abounds in humorous and delightful fun and those who saw the feature yesterday and Wednesday say it is fully as good as "Daddy Long Legs." It is being run again today and Saturday. Serial story in addition—"The Invisible Hand."

ARE YOU A CANADIAN? St. John, N. B., February 12, 1920. The Editor of the Times-Star, St. John, N. B.: Sir—I have the honor to ask you the privilege of publishing this valuable article in your paper. If you are, prove it. Now is the time for all good Canadians to come to the help of their country.

You have heard a great deal about the "balance of trade" and the "depreciation" of Canada's money. As between the United States and Canada the exchange now stands at around 12 per cent. This means that a Canadian dollar is only worth eighty-eight cents in the United States of America. You may say, "That does not matter to me! I am living in Canada, spending my money here, and do not intend to visit the states, so who cares?" But it does matter to you, because it is seriously influencing our cost of living here, and, whatever does that, affects our cost of living everywhere.

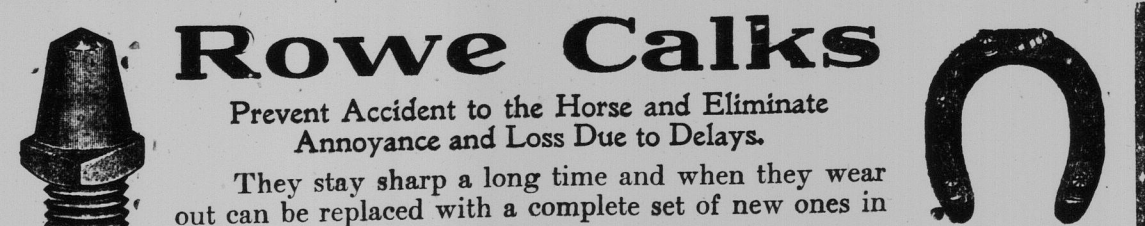
It means that everything you buy from the states is 12 per cent higher in price and therefore you are paying really \$1.12 for every dollar's worth of goods. There is one thing you can do, Mr. Canadian, and that is to do it right. Do not buy anything "made in America." Do not buy a suit, a dress, a blouse, underwear, shoes or anything that comes from the United States. Ask if they will please show you something made in Canada. You will not only pay less for it, but you keep Canadian money in circulation at its full value, and you will be loyal to the Canadian working man, and keep Canadian home-fires burning.

Do not buy canned goods from the U. S. A.; buy American bacon, ham, or poultry meats, or olives, or out-of-season tomatoes, and strawberry. These luxuries and this is no time for luxuries. Still, I must encourage the Canadian farmer and stock-raiser to believe that our country is a land of plenty, and reduce the cost of living by eating Canadian food. You stood by your country when your men were fighting in the trenches. You knitted, and you canned, and you preserved, and you put money into Victory Bonds. Your country needs you again—to save her trade, to keep up her credit as a nation. If you have a drop of Canadian blood in your veins, you are proud of Canada, proud of our war-record, proud of our men, proud of our overseas Victory loans.

Then show your pride by getting behind the cunning wheel of "trade relations" and showing. Shove the Canadian manufacturer along; give him a "boost." Buy his products; ask for "made in Canada goods," and make the Canadian dollar get you a good honest dollar's worth of goods—not a "messy" eighty-eight cents worth. Spend your money in Canada, where it was made, and make your slogan "Canada for Canadians" count. Thanking you very much, Mr. Editor, for your courtesy.

BONUS FOR TEACHERS. Moncton, Feb. 12.—The Moncton school board at its meeting tonight to prepare the estimates for the ensuing year, it was decided to give the teachers on the public schools teaching staff a bonus of \$100 and to take up the question of a general increase next year.

REPAIRS COMPLETED. Halifax, Feb. 12.—Repairs to the United States army transport Powhatan which was towed in here disabled, are about completed and it is expected that the steamer will sail for New York this week.



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## GOOD THINGS COMING TO THEATRES OF ST. JOHN

## FEATURE BILL AT OPERA HOUSE

New Programme Has Novel Attractions and Should Be a Pleasing One.

The new bill at the Opera House should be a pleasing one and will undoubtedly attract large audiences tonight. There are many features which are bound to please. For music lovers, "The Grand Opera" will render gems from the popular grand opera; Patsy Doyle should make a great success of her performance. There are two sensational Japanese athletes and acrobats, will give a thrilling performance. In addition there is a new episode of the motion picture serial, "The Midnight Man" featuring James J. Corbett.

## BIG NIGHT FOR SPORT LOVERS

Monday night will be a big night in local sporting circles for there will be a big-benefit performance in the Opera House starting at nine o'clock with a varied programme arranged to suit everybody. The entertainment consists of a musical and minstrel operating with several local favorites participating, a comedy sketch, solos by Clarence Givran and A. C. Smith; a banjo and mandolin quartette; step dancing, also clean wrestling matches with Brooks and Kimball, Jennings and Howard; and a grand finale, two popular local favorites, Joe Irving and Francis Burns will be seen in big punching, training stunts, and an exhibition of scientific skill. The big show starts at nine o'clock, immediately after the first vaudeville show. Tickets are now on sale at Opera House.

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## GOOD ADVICE

Those wishing to procure seats for the 1920 Revue, should apply at the Imperial lobby as quickly as possible as Thursday's exchange sale has already assured big houses for both nights. The larger number of the ground floor seats are sold for both nights, and the \$1 and fifty cent seats are also selling fast. As there are no rush seats it looks as if those expecting to secure admittance at the last minute may meet an S. R. O. A further announcement will be made sign. From now until the house is sold soon.

## SCIAPIRO, NOTED RUSSIAN VIOLINIST TO BE HEARD HERE

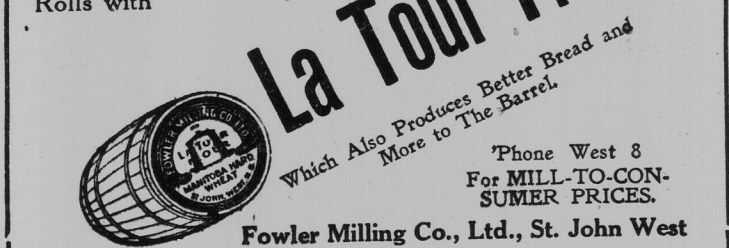
It is understood that the St. John Society of Music have negotiated successfully with Sciapiro, the famous Russian violinist, and arrangements have been made for his appearance here at an early date. The last minute may meet an S. R. O. A further announcement will be made sign. From now until the house is sold soon.

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