

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1921

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GET THE REGISTRATION.

The Rotary Club took a practical step yesterday which it thought not be necessary for that organization to take. There is no good ground for the objection at City Hall to a Dominion employment office, costing on the mayor's estimate \$6,000, but of which the city would only be called on to pay \$1,500. Such an office would get a registration and classification such as is not possible with the office it is now proposed to open. Of course such an office does not provide employment, but it does reveal conditions, and it does bring those needing workers and those who need employment together in a systematic way. Sooner or later St. John must get in line with other cities. Why not now? If the Board of Trade, Commercial Club, Rotary Club, Retail Merchants' Association, Trades and Labor Council and other organizations unite and request action, the city council will no doubt withdraw its objection. It should be given the opportunity.

Touching the general question of unemployment, the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada says:

"It is coming to be recognized that society owes to every man willing to work, or, failing that, sustenance when necessary for himself and family during periods of enforced idleness."

Let us at least give the unemployed and employers as well the benefit of the best possible system of registration and classification. Doubt is expressed that there is really as much unemployment in St. John as has been represented. Let that doubt be removed or confirmed by registration. Then the extent of the need for work will be clear to everybody.

THE FRENCH ATTITUDE

The attitude France has taken with regard to submarines is deplorable. That country has nothing to fear from Great Britain, and yet adopts a policy which is a distinct menace to Great Britain. Professing a desire for permanent peace, she insists upon a great armament of the most deadly and indefensible character. It is not surprising that not only the British, but the American and other delegates to the Washington conference should give expression to a feeling of disappointment. That France should be determined to be in a position to deal with Germany is not surprising, but she does not need submarines for that purpose, and her policy in that regard can only have reference to future possible relations with Britain. The latter had so little fear of trouble with France that she would have the submarine abolished, but now, in the face of the French attitude she must have her own defence. This militant attitude of France is not only ill-timed, but without justification. She chooses to disappoint both her British and American allies at a time when the three powers working together could exert a tremendous influence upon the whole world. The representatives of the other nations are reserved in their comments, but we may readily understand their keen feelings of disappointment at the French attitude. There is of course the hope that at a later international conference a better understanding may be reached, but when all was going so well it is greatly to be regretted that any nation should appear to challenge the motives or good faith of the others.

THE MERCHANTS' BANK

The Toronto Globe calls for vigorous action at Ottawa as a result of the Merchants' Bank affair. The reserve of this bank had been impaired to the extent of \$2,000,000, and the directors negotiated with other banks, finally recommending to the shareholders the offer of the Bank of Montreal to absorb the institution. The Globe says: "It seems that some official, without the knowledge of the directors, accepted worthless securities as collateral for enormous loans. These securities may not have been worthless when accepted, and may have been taken in good faith, but as their market value declined any official who was watching carefully the interests of the bank would have called for a continual contraction of the loans or endeavored to withdraw them altogether. The fact that the directors were unaware of the true state of things until the damage had been done is a feature of the case that strengthens the demand for a thorough inquiry with the object of imposing stricter safeguards on the banking system. The new information as to the misfortunes of the Merchants' Bank leaves a painful impression on the public mind, which can only be effaced by prompt and vigorous action by the department of finance. One of the first duties of the financing administration must be to fix the responsibility in this particular instance, and to devise measures or regulations that may be needed to allay any apprehension as to the probity and stability of the banking business in Canada. The very great merits of the system are obscured if it is in the power of one man, even though well-intentioned, to bring any bank to the verge of disaster."

WHAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT DO

Canadian Finance, reviewing a bulletin on unemployment by the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, pays a tribute to the work of the employment service of Canada through its offices in so many centres, these being of especial benefit in normal times, but points out that the faulty distribution of work is an evil hard to overcome at the best of times. Continuing, Canadian Finance says: "The bulletin suggests that our governments—federal, provincial and municipal—could stabilize these uneven conditions to some extent, if they would postpone a portion of their public works program during periods of business activity, until a period of depression comes along. This appears to be a very practical suggestion, and it is worthy of note that the State of Massachusetts has lately considered the advisability of setting aside 10 per cent. of its annual appropriations for public improvements in order to create a reserve fund to provide employment in hard times. When public works are done in greatest volume during prosperous times, governments and individuals compete for the available supply of men and materials; wages and prices increase; inflation results and then the inevitable crash comes. It would certainly be a move forward if our governments would balance the situation to some extent by deferring expenditures in the manner suggested above."

It appears that the Meighen government made provision for the return of Mr. Meighen to parliament without the ordinary courtesy of consulting the incoming premier. This was an amazing course to pursue, and Hon. Mr. King has given very vigorous expression to his views on the subject. Mr. King would have no serious objection to the presence of Mr. Meighen in the house, but naturally does object very strongly to the method adopted to put him there.

The condition of affairs both in Egypt and India gives concern to the British government. The report that Ghandi is regarded by ignorant Hindoo villagers as a man with supernatural powers suggests a serious effect upon the minds of those people. Fortunately Ghandi is opposed to violence, but he may be starting a fire that will be hard to extinguish.

Mr. Lloyd George declares that in the Irish peace treaty the British government has gone the limit and will go no more. This puts it up to Ireland, and the news coming from that quarter indicates a popular desire to accept the treaty and have the Irish Free State established. What the members of the Dail Eireann are doing during the recess will probably influence the great majority to carry out the popular wish and ensure both peace and prosperity.

It is expected the new cabinet at Ottawa will be sworn in this afternoon.

CANADIAN AUTHORS.

(Montreal Gazette) There is a rapidly-increasing band of brothers in Canada, recognized for the brilliancy of their writings, all imbued with the laudable desire to make Canada better known. The works of Canadian authors have only to be better known to be appreciated. The public appetite for old authors of the Scott, Dickens, George Elliot type will always linger, the demand for their writings remaining as insatiable as ever. Some people allege that the writers of a past generation interpreted the life and character of the times in a superior way, while the writers of the present day resemble their relations. The authors of Canada, in this instance, are likened unto poor relations who are worthy and deserving of support, but Canadian authors are not sufficiently selfish to suggest that Canadians should only read Canadian literature. Canadian authors are worthy of support, and they fill a niche in Canadian life by presenting to the present generation of Canadians a more intimate knowledge of their own country and its people. Charles Headie gave the world something when he wrote "The Cloister and the Hearth." The "Fickwick Papers" of Dickens will never die. What can exceed "Adam Bede" by Eliot? There may be embryo Dickens and Eliots and Reades in Canada if only they are "discovered" and encouraged. Canada is young and the future for Canadian authors is bright. Murray Gibson deserves especial commendation for the painstaking efforts he has taken to further the interests of Canadian authors. There may be very excellent Canadian books. "Ralph Connor" enjoys an international reputation as a writer of distinction. There are many others, without individualizing, who have brought to Canadian literature the hall-mark of general excellence. Canadian literature requires sympathetic introduction to many Canadians who are not yet familiar with its attractiveness. Canadian publishers have done a great deal in this direction, and others associated with the trade have materially helped. The Press of Canada has done its part. "Books," said a celebrated writer, "are to me instead of friends." The feast of reading is always before those who wish to partake of it. In future Canadian literary feasts are asked to be good for the literary feast provided by Canadian authors. The fact of Canadian authors being Canadian should go a long way to serve as a recommendation for the perusal of their books.

LONELINESS.

(Rev. George Scott.) If it were mine to truly say
The spot of earth where I would dwell,
Though none could give me answer nay,
What I should choose I cannot tell.

So many times I've seen the sun
Rise from the sea with sovereign grace,
And watched until his course was run,
And ached to see a human face.

I've wandered in the shady woods,
When birds were singing sweet refrain,
Till loneliness possessed my moods,
And galled me like a fetter chain.

And when the skies were soft and clear
I've passed the margin of a lake,
And fled the stern immensities
A human voice its echoes wake.

And I have heard beside the seas
The surf break on the solid lands,
And fled the stern immensities
For the warm clasp of friendly hands.

I would not choose to dwell apart
In some sweet wilderness alone,
Lest selfishness congeal my heart,
And turn my sympathies to stone.

Nav, rather, let me live and strive
Amid the hum of passing feet,
With toilers in our human life,
Where toil is long and rest is sweet.

For I would know the grip of things
Are handled by the sons of men,
And I would feel the breath that brings
To poverty and grinding pain.

And I would speak their common speech,
And I would think their common thought,
And I would ever strive to reach
To cunning works their hands have wrought.

Yet sometimes in the city's ways,
Delegated by its wild unrest,
The burden of its weary days
Falls like a load upon my breast.

And then I love to steal apart
Into some kindly wilderness,
And feel the throbs of God's great heart
Soothe all my aching loneliness.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Charles's Aunt.
Highland Farmer (to his neighbor),
After waiting two acts of "Charles's Aunt,"
at the village hall—Eh, man, it
is a peety they couldn't find a woman to
play the aunt's part.—Punch.

A Question of Grammar.
Lady Harriet Baring, Carlyle's friend,
reproached Monckton Milnes with the
revolutionary tendency of a pamphlet he
had just published. "Why," said Milnes,
"the writings of your uncle are much more
modern." "You mean they are much more
read," she corrected.—Sunbeam.

Scots Farmer (to unwelcome visitor).
A'ye delighted to see ye. But man, it's
an awful night for a call.
"Visitor (hanging up dripping coat).
Ye're richt. But a gran' night for findin'
folk at home.—Punch.

The Practical Waiter.
A certain Barber county man was in
Topeka several years ago and when dinner
was served at one of the hotels resorted
to by the military he was extremely fond
of corn in this style and he ordered some.
The corn was fine, he said, but he was
much more fond of the waiter, who was
much more read.—Punch.

The Prisoner, though he stuck to his
confession yesterday, was not so calm
about it as he had been Saturday night.
The night of solitary confinement in a cell
had made him realize his position that
he was facing the electric chair. He was
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liked the experience of sleeping in a cell.
He has not been visited by any member
of his family from Worcester, or by his
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was a telegraph operator there. Mrs.
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Westling was held without bail by
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District Attorney Edward J. Glennon
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"What do I want of a lawyer?" he
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holds a long list of honors for notable
service in war and peace, yesterday was
named commander of the White Star
fleet. In May he will assume command
of the 56,000 ton Majestic, the world's
largest ship, on her maiden trip in the
New York-Southampton service.

DIVING GIRL ON AUTO
LEADS TO TWO ARRESTS
Montreal, Dec. 29.—The graceful figure
of a diving girl as a decoration on the
hood of an auto led yesterday to the
arrest of Jos Senecal and George Baker
in Hull, both wanted by a coroner's
jury court here in connection with the
death of Jos. Paquette of Montebello, on
Dec. 17. Paquette was found dying on
the roadway in the east end of the city
on that day. He had been dragged and
robbed by a confidence man.

At the inquest there was evidence that
Murray Gibson which had been seen near
the scene of the tragedy, had carried the
diving girl figure as a decoration. The men
arrested are being held as material wit-
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MEANT TO KILL,
SAYS SLAYER
OF JEWELER
(New York Times.)
Albie J. Westling, who killed Carl
Moller, an elderly jeweler, and shot his
wife in the Moller's home at 1688 Nelson
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Saturday morning, gave the police more
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Returned From London.
At the time of the revolution, Westling
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beginning of his hard luck. He had been
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