

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1919

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SEND US THE SHIPS.

The people of the maritime provinces have another reason for protesting that in the opinion of too many people Canada is regarded as beginning at Quebec, with nothing of importance farther east. Sir John Ball, British timber controller, and Mr. M. L. Meyer, British timber buyer, are now in Canada, but expect to sail for England again this week. They came to New York, went thence to Quebec, Montreal and the west, and quite overlooked New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, although these provinces, and especially New Brunswick, would like to have a word with them. Wharves and mill-yards in this province are piled up with some hundreds of millions of feet of lumber purchased by the Munitions Board during the war. That board was the only customer. It bought but did not move the lumber. It is not moving it yet, although a few steamers are about due to load at St. John and north shore ports. It is imperative that this lumber be moved, and without delay, to give the manufacturers space for piling this year's cut. The only reason it is not moving is the refusal of the British timber controller to pay current rates of freight. Tonnage could be got, but he will not pay the rate. He said in Montreal—"I believe that your country has today a great opportunity of enlarging and developing the lumber industry such as she never had before." Now if Sir James will clear the decks and give Canada a chance she will proceed to develop. He should be the more willing to do so because he was profuse in his praise of what Canada had done for the Empire in the war. Mr. Meyer also professed himself keenly interested in the development of the Canadian timber industry. As actions speak louder than words, and as there is said to be 800,000,000 feet of lumber yet to be moved from Eastern Canada on government account, the timber controller may fairly be asked to speed the ships. If he will do that Canada will do the rest. Montreal is getting plenty of tonnage now. The maritime provinces should not be overlooked.

THE POLICE WOMEN.

The Times-Star has received two letters protesting against any attempt on the part of police-women to interfere with what the writers regard as the rights of young women in the streets at night. Both writers are young women. One has a great contempt for "our esteemed upholders and bigoted temperance cranks," and demands to know why she should be accosted by a police-woman if she chose to go abroad in the evening. The other is very emphatic about the rights of the working girls, who must have some fresh air and amusement in the evening, and should not be interfered with by "some people who have lots of money and think they can rule over the poor working class."

The writers of these two letters are laboring under a misconception. It is a very good rule not to groan till you are hit, and well-behaved young women who go quietly about their business or pleasure of an evening need have no fear of interference. If these young women will, however, consult the police magistrate, any police official, any member of the executive of the Children's Aid Society, or of the Municipal Home board, or the secretary of the Associated Charities, or the matron of the Evangeline Home, or any organization having full knowledge of social conditions in St. John, they will quickly come to realize that partly because of parental neglect and partly because of their own tendency or weakness of mind there are many girls of tender years in the streets at night who should not be there unless accompanied by older and wiser persons. The Times-Star is quite sure that Miss Ross, the police matron, would be very glad to make a tour of the streets any evening with either of the writers to this paper and convince her in an hour that there is the very greatest need for the services of police-women in St. John—not to insult or harass, but to save young girls.

THE WINNIPEG STRIKE.

When extremists meet there is trouble. That is the case in Winnipeg today. Because some employers were stiff-necked, and some employees wanted a soviet government an ordinary labor dispute has assumed the proportions of a general strike with the gravest possibilities threatening the city. There are similar possibilities in Toronto, Hamilton and some other cities where the Bolshevik element has been particularly active. The latter must be suppressed at any cost. "Soviet government as it is in Russia" is an infinitely worse tyranny than that of the Czars. The mind of the healthy Canadian, no matter what his station in life, revolts against it. However determined he may be to bring about a better social and industrial order he is clear-eyed enough to see that human society must be based on something higher than the whim of a Trotsky or Lenin.

In settling disputes between employer and employed there is a paragraph in a letter addressed by the British minister of labor to employers' associations and labor unions which is worthy of the most serious attention. He wrote:—"The government trust that the employers and the work-people will approach these problems, not as opposing forces each bent on getting as much and

giving as little as can be contrived, but as forces having a common interest in working together for the welfare of their industry, not merely for the sake of those concerned in it, but also for the sake of the nation which depends on its industries for its well-being."

Commenting on this appeal, Canadian Finance, which is published in Winnipeg itself, made these observations:—"That the British people accepted this appeal in the spirit which it pleaded for is evidenced by the recent announcement that already three and a half million workers are organized under the Whiteley scheme. Evidence of a similar desire to promote the national welfare and to submerge petty sectional differences would be welcome in Canada. Before industrial peace can be secured there must be mutual confidence existing between employer and employee. There must be recognition of a minimum wage for the laborer and a minimum return on capital for the financier. There must be proper representation for labor on industrial councils and, finally, there must be full and faithful realization, not only of the rights of the employer and the employee, but also of the responsibilities of these classes to the community at large. It should no longer be necessary for the community to remain practically impotent but subject to all the inconveniences and discomforts which ensue when employer and employee engage in open warfare. The last weapons in industrial warfare—the strike and the lockout—when resorted to, too often cause unnecessary distress and suffering to those who have no voice in the solution of the problems involved. The duties and responsibilities of the employers and the employees to the community should not be overlooked in the enforcement of the rights which these industrial citizens claim to be theirs."

Christian Science Monitor: "A condensed report of prohibition in an American state comes in the remark of a Valparaiso (Indiana) business man: 'We have forgotten we ever had saloons. Or, if we remember, it is only as a bad dream.' An Indiana newspaper verifies the remark for the state as a whole. Crime has noticeably decreased. Business is better, in spite of continuing high prices, and merchants say that they find it easier to collect their bills. In one county that had been known to undesirable fame for its 'dirt' the children of the former drinkers are visibly better clothed. Bank deposits have increased and there are more savings bank deposits. These are all practical points tending to the same conclusion that if money is not spent for temporary indulgence in liquor it will be spent for something more useful, desirable, and lasting."

Now that the city council has decided to spend another \$500, or \$1,000 in all, on a neighborhood playground on the west side the other Improvement Leagues will of course receive equally generous treatment and the general recreation field at Rockwood Park should be good for at least \$2,000 to \$3,000 this year. The energetic west side men went after the money and got it. The others have only to follow their example, as the city council knows no distinction between sections of the city and must treat all alike.

One wonders how it is that eight men can find nothing more profitable to do on a fine afternoon than gather in a field and become drunk.

On Monday there will be a vote in Toronto on the question of a general strike, similar to that in Winnipeg.

Despite the probable fate of Hawker and Grievie, it is declared that Raynham will essay a trans-Atlantic flight.

The German cabinet has authorized a statement that it will not sign the peace terms. Well—Foch is ready.

BIG STEAMER DEAL

New York, May 20—The proposed sale to a British syndicate of the British-owned ships and assets of the International Mercantile Marine Company—a transaction involving five British companies and 750,000 tons of shipping value at approximately \$185,000,000, was approved today by the board of directors and finance committee of the company. A stockholders' meeting to vote on the proposition was called for June 16.

Waiting for Sir Robert.
(Toronto Globe.)
Sir Thomas sat by the window
And murmured "Oh, why does he
room?"
The tariff would not affect me
If only Sir Robert were home."

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QUIET AT SMYRNA.

Paris, May 20—The Allied casualties at Smyrna last Thursday include a small number of dead, together with some prisoners. British, French and Italian forces are still holding the forts and other strategic points, while the Greeks are occupying the centre of the city proper.

Despatches received from Smyrna this afternoon indicate that the city is quiet. Greek priests are recommending just

treatment for the Mohammedans and making every effort to prevent a conflict over religious beliefs.

The Seven Seas Chapter, I. O. D. E., held a meeting last evening at the home of Miss Morrison, Leinster street. It was decided that the members would knit all through the summer, and the socks and scarves will be given to the Navy League. Miss Dorothy Jones, the regent, presided.

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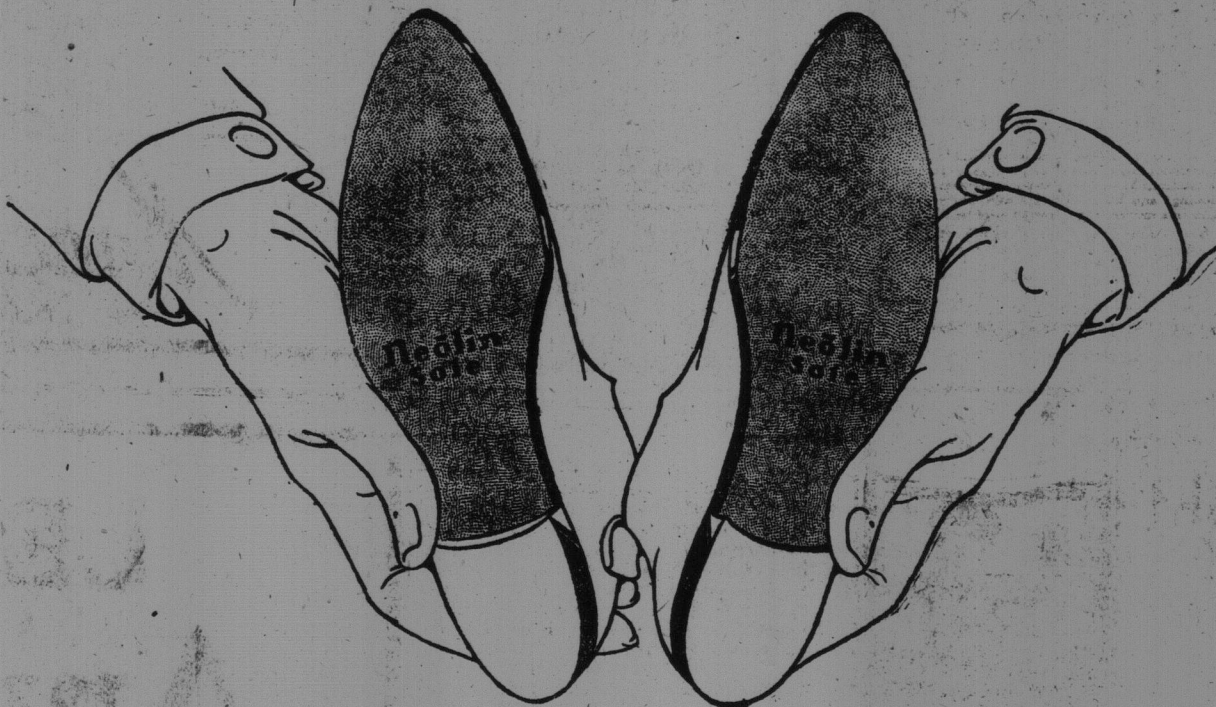
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