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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1913.

SUPERVISED PLAYGROUNDS.

Citizens of St. John who realize the importance of supervised playgrounds will welcome indications that the movement is spreading. Recent returns received by the Playground and Recreation Association of America which has been conducting an enquiry show that in 285 cities in Canada and the United States regularly supervised playgrounds and recreation centres, to the number of 2,094, were maintained during the year ending November 1, 1912. In addition to the 285 cities which had supervised play centres, 43 cities reported centres carried on without any supervision other than that of caretakers.

These figures apply to cities of 5,000 inhabitants and upwards. It is of interest to note the large number which realize the importance of providing supervision. The enquiry was made in each case as to whether or not supervised recreation was conducted. Unless play leaders are employed or volunteer supervision has been so regular and efficient as to approximate paid supervision, the city is not listed by the Playground and Recreation Association as having playgrounds. This is done because experience has shown that the first essential for organized recreation anywhere is a play leader, just as the chief essential for a school is a teacher.

Play leaders are necessary—not to safeguard property, or keep the peace, or repress active instincts, but to teach play to the many children who do not know how to play. It is essential to organize games, to free and guide active impulses and to shape growing citizens through the universal play instincts whose educational powers are pointedly suggested by Wellington's statement that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.

According to the Association's report forty-three cities joined the recreation movement as new recruits last year and opened supervised playgrounds. In 1911 forty cities were added to the movement; in 1910, thirty-five; in 1909, thirty-five and in 1908, eighteen—a record of steady progress.

The Playgrounds Association of St. John is not affiliated with the American Association, but returns were sent in response to an application. A movement, well worthy of support, is being made locally, to organize a National Association for Canada, and from the correspondence received from other cities there is every prospect of success.

The decision of the Horticultural Association to transfer to the city, the grounds near Rockwood Park, which were donated by Mr. Joseph Allison for a playground, paves the way for greater development. If this is St. John's growing time, the City Council cannot do better than devote a share of the city's revenue for the benefit of the children, who are also growing.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught turned the first sod of the Rockwood Park playground last year. Now that the Council has full control of the property, it will be money well spent to develop it. We have the children always with us. The advantages of modern supervised playgrounds in these days are not open to question.

A NOTABLE RECOGNITION.

Advocates of equal rights for women will learn with satisfaction, that the Royal Geographical Society of London, an organization known the world over as leading all other societies of that nature in influence and activity, has decided to admit women as fellows on the same terms as men. This concession, according to the New York Sun, is due mainly to the active interest which Lord Curzon of Kedleston, president of the society, has taken in the question. As a result the council referred the proposal to the general body of fellows and the vote was canvassed at a special meeting on January 15. The Society decided, by a vote of 2,189 to 678, that women should be admitted.

This recognition is not without significance. The Royal Geographical Society has existed for eighty-three years without a woman in its membership. A considerable number of women have been notable in exploration and in the advancement of geographical science, but they were not wanted in the society, though any respectable man with the requisite fee was eligible. The society's custom, with a few exceptions, had been to exclude women from its platform except on holiday occasions arranged for children. It is a sign of progress and broad-mindedness that the society can no longer claim the questionable distinction of being the only geographical society which excluded women from membership.

AN INCOME TAX FOR THE STATES

The States of Delaware, Wyoming and New Mexico by endorsing the income tax amendment to the constitution of the United States have thereby provided two more than the three-fourths necessary for its adoption. That the Democratic congress will promptly utilize this new constitutional form is not doubted. By United States Journals which are in favor of an income tax the "glorious work" which has been finished is heralded with the announcement that "wealth must pay the bill." Its opponents take the ground that it is a tax on success and that if a man possesses the ability to make money it should not be taken from him to help those who can't. Both arguments have their strong points. It is clearly evident that the income tax will be popular among those who will be exempt from its provisions and correspondingly distasteful to those who are not.

Details of the new amendment may be briefly stated. As ratified by the States it gives the power to Congress to levy a direct tax upon incomes of all persons and corporations, from whatever source they come and without reference to the States. The act does not provide a specific tax or any exemption minimum, these points will be fixed by legislation which Congress now has power to pass. Supporters of the bill believe the levy will be on all incomes over \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year and may be approximately 1 per cent. This, it is estimated, would yield a revenue of upward of \$100,000,000 per annum.

The new act will supersede the present corporation tax and collection from the source direct, requiring certification of salary lists, is provided. The act will become operative after careful examination of the States ratifications, through the proclamation of the President. The needed legislation by Congress, probably, will be passed at the extra session this spring.

It is of interest at this juncture to recall two previous attempts by the Government of the United States to tax incomes. The first, as a result of the civil war, was begun in 1861 and continued with frequent modifications until 1872. The law in 1864 taxed incomes over \$5,000 at 10 per cent; those between \$5,000 and \$600 at 5 per cent, and those under \$500 were tax-free. The tax was declared unconstitutional by decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, but its great unpopularity prevented its renewal in 1872.

A second attempt was made as a part of the Wilson Tariff Act of 1894 in order to facilitate revision and to provide for a deficit. Incomes of \$4,000 were to be assessed 2 per cent, regardless of State lines. In 1895 the United States Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional on the ground that taxes on real estate, or income from real estate, and on personal property, were direct taxes, and thereupon to be apportioned among the States according to population.

The first official step towards the amendment of the constitution which has now been adopted by thirty-eight States in the Union, was taken by the Senate on July 7, 1909. By unanimous vote that body adopted a resolution, submitting the amendment to the Legislatures of the respective States. Only a few days later, on July 12, the House of Representatives passed the resolution by a vote of 317 to 14.

The movement took form during the tariff debate in 1909. Amendments to the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, incorporating an income tax and inheritance tax measures, were then passed. It is of unusual interest, now that Mr. Taft is retiring, to recall that as president he finally sent a message to Congress, urging the passage of a tax upon "the doing of business by corporations, measured by their income," and the submission to the States of an income tax amendment to the Constitution.

Great care and judgment will naturally have to be exercised by Congress in considering so important a measure as the introduction of a sweeping new tax calls for. The question of the point at which exception ceases, as the New York Post points out, will be more critical, perhaps, than any other. The question of discriminating rates for great incomes, or for incomes from investments as distinguished from incomes from personal effort will also be of importance.

The Springfield Republican, which is classed as an independent journal, takes a fair view of the situation. "The Federal Government's expenditure," it says, "are increasing so rapidly, on account of the new social demands upon it emanating from the people, and military expenses are so much increased by reason of the international competition in 'battleships' that the addition of an income tax is simply social justice. Wealth must more and more pay its share."

"bills, on the principle that those who have most are the most obligated to finance the Government that protects them in their possessions and in their gainful occupations. This principle has never yet been applied as it should be in Federal taxation. With the advent of the income tax a new era dawns."

GOLD IN FRANCE.

The Toronto News calls attention to the fact that war and the rumors of war have resulted in the hoarding of gold by the French banks and that the hoarding has been in progress for three months without apparent serious effect upon the general industrial conditions of the nation. According to a Paris despatch the yellow metal is now at twenty cents premium upon one hundred dollars, or one-fifth of one per cent. But it is of interest to observe that the imposition of a premium on gold does not interfere with internal trade as would an advance in the discount rate, the latter being the resort in England and other countries and affecting all applicants for banking accommodation.

The bank of France is permitted by law to meet its current obligations in silver should such action be deemed advisable in order to protect the bank's gold stock. A premium is then placed upon the more precious metal. As the agit affects only those desiring gold for export there is no interference with domestic trade. In this way the bank's discount rate is more stable than those of the Bank of England and the Reichsbank. It is a happy and effective expedient and one peculiar to France on account of its dual monetary standard.

CURRENT COMMENT

As To Number 13.

(Chronicle, London, Eng.)

Quite a tenth of the London streets have no No. 13. There is no such number in the Strand, nor in Holborn, Westbourne Grove, Haymarket, St. James's street, Lowndes Square, or Park Lane. Even the doctors ban it, for Upper Brook street goes from Nos. 11 to 15A on the odd number side of the street. In the humbler quarters of London it is the same, in for instance, Charlotte street, Southwark, Rotherhithe street and Charles street, Hoxton. Even the printing-press does not drive away superstition, for in Wine Office Court and other purveyors of Fleet street the number is missing. City men, too, have banished it from London street, Tokenhouse Yard, and Threadneedle street. There is, however, a manufacturer—greatly daring—who for years has carried on business at No. 13 Friday street.

Looks Good, Anyway.

(Stratford Herald.)

Montreal, the city of Sunday trees and almost nightly hold ups, has been suddenly attacked with a spasm of morality and in consequence agitation has been begun there to constitutionalize the city. The Montreal banish lights from the theatre stages—and this, whether the lights are in Shakespeare or other plays. We have yet to learn the particulars of the agitation—yet to learn, that is, whether the desire is to abolish the lights in order to protect the morals of the wearers or the onlookers; and for that reason we are not prepared at the moment to pass a final judgment upon the suggested reform. At present we can only say that anything that will improve Montreal in any way, will be a blessing.

Police and Sanitation.

(Vancouver Province.)

Prizes of \$100 and \$50 and \$35 respectively are offered by the police by Mayor Blankenburg, of Philadelphia, for the best reports on the conditions of their best requiring immediate attention. Bad pavements, poor garbage receptacles which permit the contents to be strewn on the highways, overflowing sewers, buildings obstructing fire hydrants and other misdemeanors are to be reported by the patrolmen whenever they find these conditions.

A Poor Judge.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

According to the woodchuck there is six weeks more of cold and stormy weather ahead of us. The woodchuck, however, is a bad judge. Last Summer, when he might better have been sleeping, he was abroad, and all through December and January, when he might have enjoyed an outing, he hibernated. He doesn't appear to know anything more about the weather than animals that have no paws to suck.

Deeds that Pay.

(Pittsburgh Record.)

New York spent \$10,000,000 in building docks which produce a rental large enough to pay the interest on the money and take care of a sinking fund which will cancel the \$10,000,000 of dock bonds when they become due. This fact having been established the New York courts have decided that the \$10,000,000 of dock bonds need not be counted against the city's borrowing limit.

Gained by Waiting.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

If President-elect Woodrow Wilson has his way the Democratic Congress will place breadstuffs, meats, vegetables and fruit on the free list in order to reduce the cost of living. This will open up the market of the United States to Canadians and still leave them free, as they ought to be, to regulate their own tariff.

"THE POETS' CORNER"

AS CHILDREN DO.

Sometimes when night is creeping down
 And all the world about is dim,
 And he must go to Sleepytown,
 You lie down at the side of him
 And whisper soothing little things
 In childish words, such as your
 name.

To tell the sound of beetle wings
 And how the firefly gets its flame.

And soon the world grows darker yet
 And to the little fellow's eye
 Strange, hidden dangers now beset
 The shadow places in the skies;
 But you speak low and comforting
 And tell him none of them are
 there.

That he is not all alone
 But what is kind and good and fair.

Then trembling comes his little hands
 Out through the dark and find your
 face.

As though by touch he understands
 That he is in the safest place;
 And so with fingers on your cheek
 He sighs contentedly to sleep—
 Amazed, for nay not even speak,
 So very, very still you keep.

Some time you, as a little child,
 Shall fare into the unknown night
 And shall yearn for the stars that
 smiled
 With all their soothing, drowsy
 light.

And you, as little children do,
 May creep out through the dark
 of space.

THE STORY OF FRANCE.

The condition of France after the defeat of King John at Poitiers and his capture by the Prince of Wales was deplorable in the extreme. After reading what contemporary writers have to say of it and regarding it from the twentieth century standpoint, it seems incredible that a nation should have passed through such a crisis and emerged from it with a spark of vitality left. The ravages of the Black Death had swept away hundreds of thousands and probably millions of people. Long years of foreign and domestic war had drained the country of much of its best blood. Then, as now, it was the young and vigorous who were sacrificed on the battlefield. The kingdom was without its king, and during the previous century it had been so to regard the royal will as the sole source of authority. A foreign sole source of authority. A foreign sole source of authority.

There were at this time three claimants to the French throne, John, the captive king; Edward III of England, and Charles the Bad, King of Navarre. Navarre, it may be mentioned, was a feudatory state, and the king of England recognized the suzerainty of the King of France in respect to some of his French possessions. Such was the condition of the kingdom when the King of France in respect to some of his French possessions. Such was the condition of the kingdom when the King of France in respect to some of his French possessions.

John's eldest son was Charles and he seems to have been the first heir to the French crown to be known as the Dauphin. This was the title borne by the dukes of Dauphine, which was ceded by its last reigning duke to the heir to the crown should always bear his title. Charles deserted his father on the field of Poitiers, notwithstanding the fact that his young brother Philip, a lad of fourteen had remained by the side of the King. He seems to have been of jovial and rapacious spirit, yet intriguing and ambitious. His portrait shows a man of whom any man might be suspected. After his father's capture, Charles became regent and one of his first acts was to convoke the states-general. His invitation was not generally accepted but among those who came were the people of Paris as their representative. Marcel seems to have been a man of the same type as D'Artagnan who we saw make himself master of Planchard, although he came from the ranks of commerce.

He seemed likely to become dictator to that which befel his Flemish prototype. With Marcel ruling Paris, the Dauphin exercising some sort of rule in the provinces, the King or Navarre preparing to assert his claim to the crown, and the English holding with no gentle hand the territory they had conquered, there was only lacking a peasant uprising to fill the cup of France's bitterness to the brim. This occurred in 1358. Some authorities blame Marcel for it; others are inclined to regard it as the natural outcome of social conditions.

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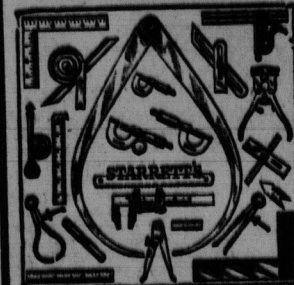
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