

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1926

The Evening Times-Star

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MISPLACED MERCY.

Once again, if the despatch from Sherbrooke, Que., conveys a correct impression, a jury has stepped in between a foul criminal and the just sentence demanded in expiation of a dastardly offence. The details of Germain Girard's loathsome crime against Irene St. Germain, described by the judge as a chaste and respectable young girl, are too revolting to recapitulate. There was not an extenuating circumstance so far as can be seen. He lured the girl into his car by promises to drive her straight home, took her to a lonely spot and used such fiendish force that she died there in his arms.

The judge in sentencing Girard said that there was not the least doubt that the monstrous act was committed deliberately, in cold blood and with premeditation. There was not even the doubtful excuse of sudden overwhelming passion. And in bringing in a verdict of manslaughter the jury added a rider recommending mercy.

Of this the judge said: "The jurors have added a rider to their verdict; they have recommended you to the mercy of the court. I can hardly understand this recommendation but it is my duty to take practical notice of it. Without this recommendation I would have condemned you to twenty years. The sentence that I will impose upon you will rid society for a while, of a serious menace to the security of young girls of this district, and will serve as a lesson to those who would be tempted to follow your steps." He then pronounced a sentence of seven years in the penitentiary.

It is impossible to say on what rule or precedent the judge acted in dividing the sentence he would have imposed by nearly three because of the jury's recommendation, but, when read with his scathing denunciation of Girard's cowardly and monstrous conduct, it must be assumed that his hands were virtually tied in the matter.

Trial by jury is undoubtedly the greatest safeguard against wrongful conviction, but it depends on the mentality of the jurors whether justice is done or not. There should be no sentiment in these matters. The question is a criminal charge is simply guilty or not guilty according to the evidence, and in certain cases of guilty the question is allowable of what crime—that charged or a lesser one.

Of late juries have been inclined to add merciful recommendations and these are seldom justified. The sentence is in the judge's hands; he has heard all they have heard; he is a trained jurist and knows that part of the business better than they. Apparently in Girard's case, through a jury's soft-heartedness for a despicable ruffian, he is to serve a sentence of seven years when the judge's estimate of appropriate punishment was twenty years. The quality of mercy is not strained, but its exercise can be misplaced.

The women of Canada might have a straight talk with their menfolk on this and kindred matters.

DECORATION DAY OR ARMISTICE DAY.

While the idea underlying Commissioner Wigmore's suggestion that Decoration Day as followed in the United States should be copied here is sound and creditable, it would appear that the Commissioner has overlooked the fact that the heroic deed of the Great War are already honored throughout the British Empire on Armistice Day.

On that day graves, memorials and cenotaphs in every country of our Empire are decorated. Poppies are sold and displayed, the proceeds of sale being devoted to funds in aid of those still incapacitated, and the two-minute silence ordained by His Majesty is a tribute to those who laid down their lives in the cause of civilization.

So Commissioner Wigmore's suggestion, implying, as it does, that we do not honor our dead as they do across the line, is not altogether justified, and while we have a solemn celebration of our own, there would seem to be no need to copy that of our neighbors and allies.

MOTOR COMPETITION FOR RAILROADS.

Railroads, once the leaders in transportation expenditures, are yielding first place to highways and the motor vehicles using them. The change in the last twenty-five years has been phenomenal. Figures showing the dominance of motor transportation as a financial factor when compared with steam transportation, indicate an even more sweeping transformation than usually is conceived.

We have not authoritative figures for Canada, but figures compiled in the United States show that federal, state and local expenditures for highway work in 1925 amounted to approximately \$1,000,000,000. The bill for gasoline-propelled trucks, buses and passenger cars is put at \$2,900,000,000. Tires and replacement parts required \$1,000,000,000, giving a total of \$5,900,000,000.

The railroads used about \$750,000,000.

for capital expenditures, \$825,000,000 for maintenance of rights of way and structures, and \$1,268,000,000 for equipment maintenance. These items, corresponding to the highway items listed, show a sum of \$2,843,000,000. The highways, exclusive of city paving, have almost a two-to-one lead.

This relationship does not indicate the decadence of the railroads and their displacement by motor traffic, for figures show that the railroads are carrying an ever increasing volume of traffic. Motor transport, to a certain degree, is supplementary rather than competitive.

Applied Fire Prevention is the title of a book compiled by the New Brunswick Fire Prevention Board and issued in 1924 (in English and French) with the blessing of the Board of Education, to all teachers in the Public Schools. If this book does not teach the children fire sense, nothing will. Adults might profit by a study of its pages.

We are glad that the threatened duel between Premier Skrzynecki and General Sapieycki is not to take place. From the first we were convinced that there must have been a misunderstanding capable of explanation. For instance, the action of either one merely mentioning the other's name might have been misconstrued into gross discourtesy.

The Crown Princess of Sweden spoke at length on the sight which had impressed her most in New York—the legs of the typical New York girl. The fact that the meaning of "girl" has been extended in modern times and the use of the words "at length" make one think that the Crown Princess has been reading the works of a celebrated short story writer who suggested as the title for a song: "It's A Long Way Back to Mother's Knee."

Lord Reading, whose possible return to the practice of law is mentioned, remarks the Manchester Guardian, is rather fond of telling the story of his first client—a fruit merchant who was used by a counterfeiter in the matter of some boxes of figs alleged to be unfit for human consumption. Under Mr. Isaac's cross-examination the sutor became angry and cried: "Look 'ere, gov', nor. If you eat three of 'em and ain't sick, I'll give you the blooming case!"

The judge urged Mr. Isaac to accept the challenge, but he hastened to point out that his client was the proper person to make the test.

"What'll happen if I don't eat 'em?" anxiously inquired the fruit merchant.

"You'll lose the case," said his counsel.

"Then I'd rather lose the case than the case," said the merchant.

"It is not recorded which side got the decision."

Five point fringes for shingled girls are described as the latest fashions. They sound more like a streak of lightning.

Odds and Ends

I Would To Thee A Told Unfold

(Phyllis Fernie in Toronto Star.)

Oh! judge me not by words you hear,
From out my backyard arbor.
The tale I tell will bring a tear,
And memories of a neighbor.

I planted early seedlings with greatest care and pains,
My neighbor's dog broke through the fence
And dug them up again.
I tipped the wire from 'round my yard;
A high board fence I made,
Then gazed in admiration at my solid barricade.

I once more planted out my seeds, to find 'twas all in vain;
My neighbor's cat climbed over the fence
And scratched them out again.
So once again I tore my hair,
And then I roundly swore
That neighbor's dog, or yet his cat,
Should never enter more.

I drove sharp spikes into the top, so no cat there could climb,
Then to my bed I gaily went,
To rest and peace sublime.
Next morn I woke, and thereupon I near did go insane;
My neighbor's hen had flown the fence;
The seeds were out again.

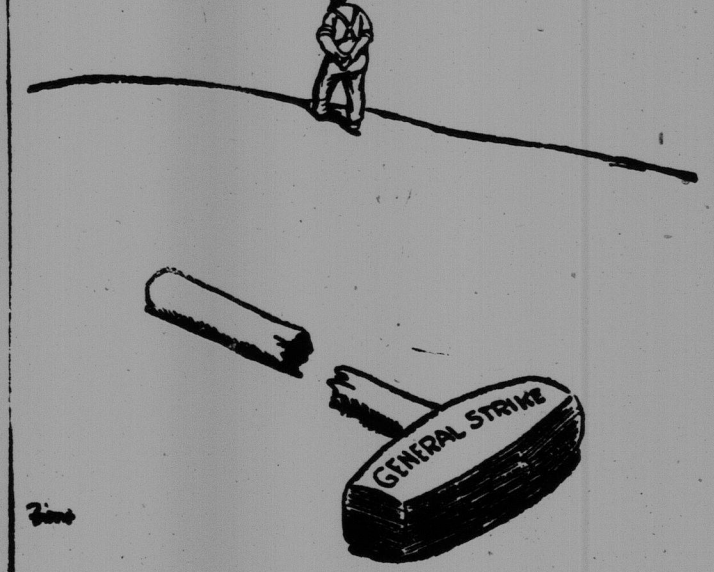
One last resort I made to try to keep all things away.
So, o'er my garden all the time
I thought I was successful;
I pruned at last my luck—
Just now I've looked without to see—
My neighbor's busy duck.

So, judge me not by words you hear,
And if the air seems blue,
Forgive me, remember year on year
The tale I have told to you.

Cow Does Horse's Work.
(Manitoba Free Press.)

At Sturgeon Bay, Wis., Wallace Mann, a farmer boy, has succeeded in breaking a cow to do the work usually required by a horse. He has trained the milk cow Belle to bit and reins, a soft bit being used, and as she answers to go and haw and the slap of the reins, he ploughs and does light work about the place with her. He is now training two calves to drive as a team. He never has struck the animals.

Tried and Found Wanting



—From The Louisville Times.

POEMS HOME

By CHARLES HANSON TOWNE

"What is so rare as a day in June?"
Climbs to a soul in grass and flow-
ers;
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and val-
leys;
The cowslip starts in meadows green,
The buttercup catches the sun in
its chalice,
And there's never a leaf nor a blade
too mean
To be some happy creature's palace;
The little bird sits at his door in the
sun,
Attila like a blossom among the
leaves,
And lets his illumined being o'er-run
With the deluge of summer it re-
ceives;
His mate feels the eggs beneath her
wings,
And the heart in her dumb breast flut-
ters and sings;
He sings to the wide world and she
to her nest—
In the nice ear of Nature which song
is the best?

Queer Quirks of Nature

TWO KINDS OF BASS AND THEIR HABITS.

By ARTHUR N. PACK
President, The American Nature

THE small-mouthed black bass has been characterized as the gamest fish that swims.

It was originally found only in the clear, cold rivers on either slope of the Alleghenies, and in certain tributaries of the Mississippi from Manitoba, south to Arkansas and South Carolina.

Within this area are many streams which for various reasons were not inhabited, but introduction to these waters has been made, and the fish seem perfectly at home. It has also been transplanted to many of the streams of Europe with favorable results.

The large-mouthed species, the subject of the illustration, differs from its cousin in the character indicated by its name, and in other respects. Its original range was more extensive, especially southwardly, where it deigned to live in many streams whose tepid waters were scorned by its more sporty relative.

This species is less esteemed as a game species than its small-mouthed cousin, but it is still an excellent fish from the standpoint of both the angler and the epicure.

The pursuit of these fish by the commercial fishermen who have found means to net them in large numbers during the colder months has recently resulted in the passing of a law prohibiting their shipment in interstate commerce, and their sale at all times.

Many of the states have already

Just Fun

HOW time does fly. It seems but yesterday that we were eternally spoken to by the constable for riding our bicycle after sunset without a light. He threatened to "pull" us if we did it again.

"ENGAGED" to four girls at once? How do you explain such conduct?

"I don't know. Cupid must have shot me with a machine gun."

"WELL, that fixes next week's paper," said the country editor as he changed the date on this week's paper.

Etiquette books say
That people of good breeding
Wear clothes that are
Inconspicuous.
A girl I know
Must be awfully well-bred
Because I saw her on the street
And her dress was so inconspicuous
That it wasn't until I was real close
That I could say for sure
That she had one on.

THE fellow who knows it all would stand a better chance if he would forget part of it.

TWO little girls were comparing notes.
"We had chicken four times last week," said one.
"How extravagant!" said the other.
"Oh, no," replied the first. "It was the same chicken."

MRS. HOBART—How can I make my husband jealous?
Mrs. Bugart—Why, you old-fashioned thing, divorce him!

WHENEVER you go to a theatre and see a couple yawning between acts you can bet dollars to dimes they're married.

WE HAVE just been wondering if the time will ever come when others will think as much of us as we think of ourselves.

A CERTAIN business man who has been a summer widower 10 days has not had to wash a breakfast dish. He drinks milk out of the bottle, takes

The Very Idea!

By HALL COCHRAN

GRATIS

ALTHOUGH the house is near a wreck, I must admit they're cute as heck. Just tiny things, a rumm' roun', but tearing all things upside down.

The rocker legs are badly scratched. The front room rug must soon be patched. The curtains in the door are torn. Ah, woe, the day when they were home.

The pitty-pat of tiny paws is heard throughout the day because ya just can't keep the wee things still. They're nothing else but time to kill.

And eat? Why, say, you'd show surprise, if you could only realize the appetite that comes from play. They drink four quarts of milk a day.

Yes, I'll admit they're mighty cute. Most kittens are, I guess, but shoot, their frets and cares much work brings—does anybody want the things?

Whenever a ship is lost the newspapers always say, "Ship Lost at Sea." Probably to save people the trouble of looking in vacant lots and alleys.

He walked right in and kissed his wife. Of course it set her thinking. The only answer she could find was, "Surely, he's been drinking."

A person who spends most of his times thinking about himself ought to get over the habit of worrying about trifles.

Anyone who has never kissed a little child good night, has no business talking about the good things in life.

ONE LADY: Mrs. Whoosis tells me she's going to get a coiffure.

ANOTHER: How foolish. She hasn't even got an automobile.

FABLES IN FACT

THE MINISTER IN A LITTLE COUNTRY CHURCH GREW TERRIBLY NERVOUS WHEN HIS CONGREGATION FAILED TO KEEP THEIR EYES ON HIM DURING THE SUNDAY MORNING SERMON PERIOD HE WAS DISCUSSING IT WITH HIS WIFE.

ONE DAY COMMA WHEN HIS YOUNG SON BUTTED RIGHT IN AND SAID COMMA QUOTATION MARK SAY PA COMMA WHY DON'T YA HAVE A CLOCK PUT RIGHT BEHIND THE PULPIT QUESTION MARK QUOTATION MARK.

AN unfortunate man, who bore the name of a proud family and who had fallen into low waters through no fault of his own, managed to obtain access to a certain millionaire.

He commenced to tell his sorry tale—in fact, so graphically did he depict the woes of his family, that the millionaire found himself affected as he had never been before. He was by this time a relation of the unfortunate's, and it was only natural he should feel for the poor man.

With this in his mind, he rang for the butler and, in a quivering voice, remarked:

"Be good enough to put this poor man out. He's breaking my heart!"

DURING the regular pastor's summer vacation the sermons at the Baptist church were preached by well-known ministers from other churches. A list of coming attractions was posted in the vestibule. One morning when making his announcements for the coming week the day's incumbent mislaid the slip containing the name of his immediate successor, but he supplied the information in this fashion: "On the way out you will find the preacher for next Sunday hanging up in the vestibule."

Other Views

STILL SPENDING (Winipeg Tribune.)

The government has not reduced nor does it plan to reduce the scale of its expenditures. It is spending on the same lavish scale as in the past five years. That does not make the budget unpopular. No one is affected to any greater degree than any one else, so there is no protest. But until we get down to the business of spending less and reducing the national debt, we are facing disaster.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

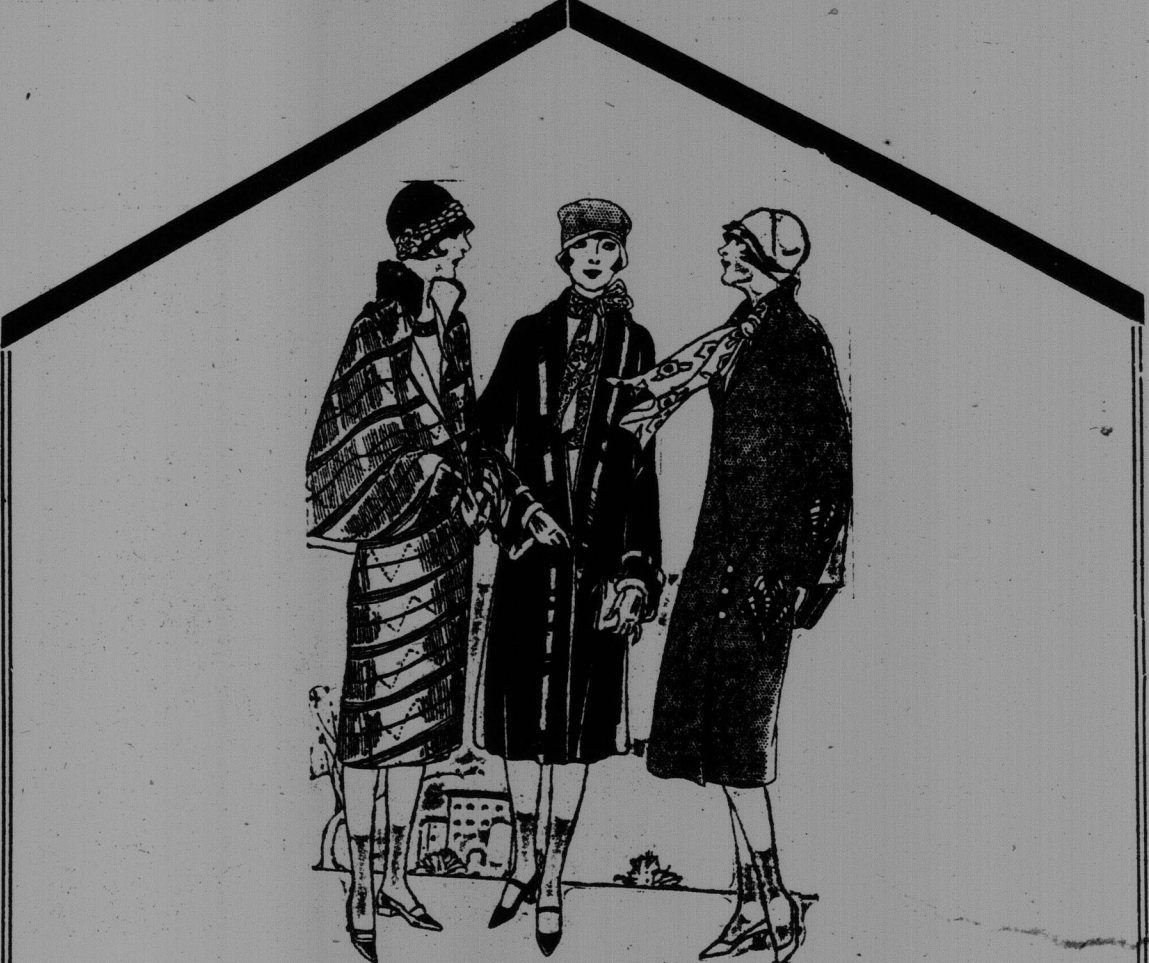
(Le Canada, Lib.)

The municipal authorities should endow the city with a greater number of places for recreation. If we compare with Montreal American cities of the same area and having approximately as many inhabitants, we shall easily see that the latter are better provided than we are in the matter of recreation spaces. Everything cannot parks and open spaces which it needs.

MEN WHO SHAVE

(London Sunday Express.)

Men who shave may be divided into two classes—(1) those who wash their faces before they shave, and (2) those who shave their faces before they wash. We have tried both methods with equally painful consequences. Our skin is thin. If your skin is thick, you should wash before you shave, because washing softens the stubble. If it is be done in a day, but we should neglect nothing to give Montreal the



JULY COAT SALE

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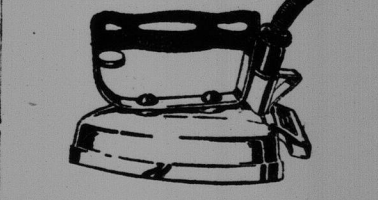
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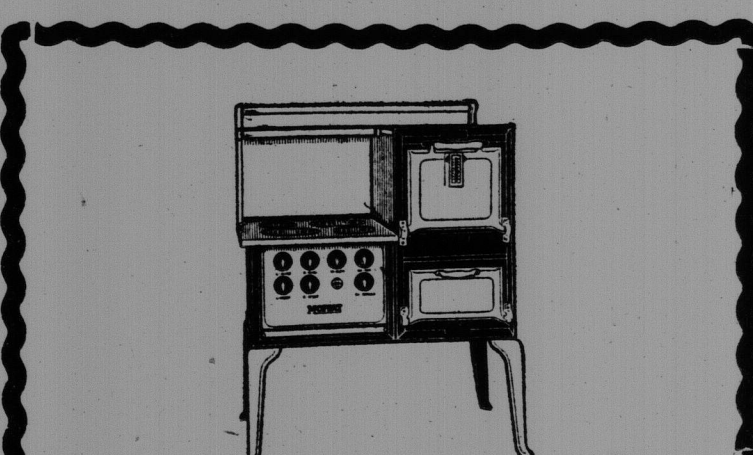
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