

# The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 30, 1921.

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## A FITTING CLOSE.

Health Week in this city had a fitting conclusion last evening when steps were taken to form a provincial branch of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. A nation-wide organization to combat the white plague is needed. We in St. John have not been wholly neglectful of our duty in this respect, as the County Hospital and the free dispensary bear witness. It is nevertheless a fact that there are many cases of tuberculosis not properly cared for because full advantage is not taken of the facilities offered, while all over the province the disease takes a heavy toll which is wholly unnecessary. The disease can be stamped out. The people need but to be educated and aroused to take advantage of the proper means of prevention and cure. The national association, with provincial branches having major branches scattered over the provinces, can carry on this educative work, and the municipal authorities when fully convinced of the need will provide the means for treating cases requiring special institutional care. The conservation of health is a national as well as an individual need, and New Brunswick, which has already made so good a beginning, should be in the very forefront of progress.

## MARITIME FEELING.

The remarks of Hon. Dr. Roberts at the manufacturers' dinner will attract a good deal of attention, the more so that he is a member of the government of this province. The maritime provinces are not getting a square deal from the rest of Canada. They are the victims of broken pledges. They are blinds them to the rest of Canada is sentiment. We talk of the development since the date of confederation, but who can measure the development that would have taken place if the three provinces, with their maritime position, resources and their available markets had formed a union and remained separate from Canada, under the British flag? They went into the confederation, persuaded by assurances held out that their interests would be fully guarded and their rights respected. They are ever since that day they have been going as supplicants to Ottawa to ask that the pledges be redeemed. Today we see our representation at Ottawa decreasing, and we have less influence than ever before. There is no sentiment in the feeling of the rest of Canada toward these provinces. We provide a good market, and pay a great deal more for many lines of goods than if we were in a position to import them direct. Our old financial institutions have been swallowed up. We are at a constant disadvantage. Our manufacturers are hard hit by freight rates on the railroads. Traffic that should come here goes through American ports. When we say we have an interest in natural resources in the west we are told the west owes nothing to the east. We in New Brunswick find ourselves burdened with the Valley Railway, which should have been taken over and that burden removed. No amount of rhetoric about the marvellous growth of Canada, her achievements in the war, or her future prospects can turn the mind of the maritime province citizen from contemplation of the treatment this portion of the country is receiving from the other and larger portion. Hon. Dr. Roberts has put in words what is in many minds, and there is a steadily growing feeling that the time approaches when maritime province people will sit down together and ask what it profits them to be part of a confederation which regards them only as it finds them useful. There has been a very decided and general change of feeling in these provinces of late, and Ottawa would do well to take note of the fact.

## HON. MR. ROWELL'S VISIT.

The visit of Hon. N. W. Rowell to St. John to address the Canadian Clubs on the League of Nations is an event of exceptional interest, because this will be the first opportunity the citizens have had to hear the subject discussed by one who had an active part in the negotiations and the formulation of the treaty. Hon. Mr. Rowell was not a mere look-oner, but participated in the discussion and represented Canada in a manner highly gratifying to his fellow citizens. He is a fluent and able speaker, and members of the Canadian Club will remember that he addressed them in January, 1915, on the subject of Democracy versus Militarism. Mr. Rowell was then leader of the opposition in the province of Ontario. In the six intervening years he has achieved much in public life and today enjoys an international reputation, as one of Canada's representative public men, competent to discuss both national and international affairs with the leading men of his time. Hon. Mr. Rowell is rendering good service. Not long ago Sir George Foster sent to all Canadian Clubs a letter urging the members to study the subject of the League of Nations, and Mr. Rowell's visit to the provinces will place the whole subject before the people in a clear light. He will be heartily welcomed to St. John.

Ottawa issues a warning that the income tax collector, like death, will get you sooner or later.

## DOWN TO BUSINESS.

The resolutions adopted at a representative meeting in Moncton last evening in regard to control and operation of the old Intercolonial Railway, will bring this matter to a head. The first resolution declares "that the old Intercolonial should be operated directly under the department of railways, and that the freight and passenger rates on said road should be made in accordance with the terms and promises under which Nova Scotia and New Brunswick entered confederation." The second resolution asks the governments of the three provinces to present the case to the federal authorities, and that all civic, commercial, labor and agricultural organizations send delegates to emphasize the demand. This is the real beginning of a fight for justice and redemption of pledges which will not terminate until satisfactory results are attained. This matter of freight rates is not the only grievance, but for the present attention will be chiefly centred upon that question. The rest of the country must learn, if it does not know, that a confederation cannot thrive upon broken pledges, and that so far as these provinces are concerned there must be a show-down and a settlement. No doubt last night's meeting in Moncton is but the first of a series that will be held in all parts of the three provinces.

In an address in Washington this week President Harding, referring to Canada, said that, "after all, it little matters what flag we owe our allegiance to, the North American continent. I like, above all else," he continued, "the example of Canada and the United States dwelling throughout the past century in peace and under the most amicable relations, with a single purpose, to forward the cause of human kind. I want Canada to know that she can understand us, and I want her to give us her trust, because we are seeking the same fundamental objects in the onward march of human kind." Canadians are very glad to reciprocate these sentiments, but they want our neighbors also to bear in mind the fact that Canada is a part of the British Empire, and shares the feelings and the aspirations of the people of the Mother Country, desiring the same friendship between the United States and Britain as between the republic and Canada.

Referring to the statement that there were twenty thousand children in Toronto suffering from malnutrition, Dr. James W. Robertson said this week that nothing in the way of public buildings or the building of great harbors, good as these were, could ever take the place of the salvaging of this great mass of childhood. The country needed to be awakened to the need. It was the duty of every man, Dr. Robertson contended, to do his bit, "not by giving a check, and thus, seeking to absolve his conscience from all further responsibility, but by giving himself to the cause and by doing personal service."

Addressing the Credit Men's Association, yesterday, Mr. W. J. Ambrose declared that business in the maritime provinces is fundamentally sound, and that with a policy of caution the merchants would come through the period of depression very well. We owe much, as Mr. Ambrose pointed out, to the fact that in these provinces there is no over-speculation. He finds a spirit of optimism prevailing, and that in itself is a great factor in keeping trade moving in a healthy way.

Montreal Herald—"As over ninety-nine per cent. of the population may quite safely be said to know nothing about professional accounting, it is quite probable that the documentary result of the nation's struggle with the income tax literature will convince the government that it made a mistake in imposing upon individuals the task of making their own assessments. If the taxation inspectors are not faced with the greatest muddle in the history of Canada as a result of this policy it will be a miracle."

Following the recent utterances of Archbishop Bruchesi in condemnation of the Y. M. C. A., it is interesting to note that there are more Roman Catholic members in the Quebec city Y. M. C. A. than of any other denomination, and nearly as many as there are Protestants of all denominations.

There are rumors of May Day strikes in a number of Canadian cities where there is already serious unemployment. Wage reductions and the open shop are being resisted by the unions and in some cases the controversy may assume considerable proportions.

Owners of automobiles are urged to refrain from damaging the roads by too frequent use before the spring rains are over. All car owners should heed the request for they will want good roads all summer.

Those members of parliament who object to expenditure on quarantine stations at points of entry into Canada would be the first to shout if a few diseased immigrants were dumped into their constituency.

## MAY TIME

(Rev. George Scott)  
Singing in the valleys, dancing o'er the ridges,  
Comes the queenly Maytime fluting in the sedge,  
Garland with posies, perfumed breezes  
Blithely from the tree tops happy birds reply.  
Tripping through the orchard, by the marshes stealing,  
Subtlest of enchanters, glories revealing;  
Ever is she tender, glorious in her wooing,  
Mortals needs must follow maddest moods outdoing.  
Ever is she busy tapestries unfolding  
Over all the landscape, wondrous in beholding;  
Purple is her kirtle, and her dainty fingers  
Comb her wonted tresses where the sunlight lingers.  
In the silent places Peewees are calling,  
Where the quivering shadows on the lakes are falling;  
Violets and orchids, tender moss and grasses,  
Weave their carpet duly where the moonlight passes.

Welcome royal Maytime; fairer than the Regal is thy beauty, sights and sounds the rarest,  
Splendid is thy promise, worthy of the praise.  
Every fluttering courier from the woodland haunts.  
Welcome royal Maytime! fairer than the fairest,  
Princely is thy presence, rich the gems thou wear'st,  
Merciful thou strayest fluting in the sedge,  
Nursing fragrant blossoms in the wayside hedges.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN.

A man never realises how mean he is until he has become a candidate for some office.

Essentially So.  
Our idea of a non-essential industry is a corkscrew factory.—Herald-Courier.

In Which the "A's"  
Austria is sure to be among the first nations in the league — alphabetically speaking.—Columbus Dispatch.

Why?  
President Wilson gets \$40,000 for the Nobel peace prize. Jack Dempsey gets \$100,000 for a single fight. Why be a pacifist?

Warned.  
Clergyman (who had sat down next to slightly intoxicated man):—"Do you allow a drunk on this car?"  
Conductor (low voice):—"It's all right so long as you don't get noisy!"—Garvey.

## WAGE PROBLEM CALLS FOR A FAIR SOLUTION

Reductions in Numerous Industries, But Process Not Fully Completed—Action Generally by Pressure of Necessity.

(Toronto Globe.)  
There is no more important economic question at the present time than the matter of wages. In Canada, and elsewhere throughout America and Europe, the issue as to the division of the profits of industry has been brought up in countless instances. Diminishing prices and an even more important diminution of profits have brought up the question of wage decreases. It is becoming generally recognized throughout the continent that deflation of commodity prices cannot be brought about without a corresponding reduction in wage rates. The principal point at issue is the amount of the reductions.  
Labor, on the one hand, is unable to see that living costs, particularly rents, have been reduced sufficiently to compensate for a substantial decrease in the reward of toil. Employers, on the other hand, find that their selling prices have shrunk and are still shrinking, and that distribution is so inactive that it is almost justification for saying that full-time operations are the exception rather than the rule. Losses by reason of the lower replacement value of inventory stocks have been increased by actual losses on operations. The public has been clamoring for cheaper goods, and employees are equally anxious that their wages shall not be altered. One reason for reluctance to take small remuneration is the apparent slow downward movement of retail prices. In explaining this situation, it is only fair to assume that the public's knowledge of retail trade problems is not as intimate as that of the merchants themselves, and that those issues are more intricate than is generally supposed.

Industries Need to Explain.  
There is generally an aversion to accepting less for either services or commodities, except under the pressure of necessity. It is frequently the case that employees are not given sufficient information to convince them of the necessity of wage cuts. The policy of extreme frankness is always to be commended in negotiations of such character between employers and their men.

An admirable example of the "cards on the table" policy was afforded recently when the International Harvester Company of Canada reached an amicable understanding with their employees on the matter of wages, through the operation of the company's Works Council. The eight representatives of the employees, together with the company's representatives, examined the corporation's books, and after investigations extending over five days, decided on a report. One paragraph of the document which is particularly illuminating is as follows:

"We, the employees' representatives, find that owing to the lack of orders on account of the high cost of machines and large stock on hand, the company's proposed reduction of twenty per cent. on day and piece rates and 10 per cent. on salaries seems reasonable, and wish to go on record as respectfully accepting in the

hope that the plant may be kept running." This affects approximately 1,500 men. It is anticipated that the reduction in wages will enable the plant to keep operating in the coming months.

Readjustments of 1921.  
There are numerous other instances to hand of wage reductions that have been made effective in recent weeks. Detailed information sent to The Globe in December last by scores of manufacturers situated in all parts of the Dominion, indicated that wage reductions were mostly in the future. Some were imminent at that time, and invariably the employers expressed the hope that when they did finally "come they would correspond with the decreased cost of living."

The four months that have elapsed since the individual manufacturers' reports were received have brought many of the anticipated wage decreases, and those that have not been adequately adjusted yet are due for revision in the near future.

Credit Men's Announcement.  
An announcement of policy was made last week by J. H. Tregoe, executive secretary of the National Association of Credit Men of the United States, in which he argued that labor should take its loss as well as manufacturers and wholesalers.

With the lowering of the price peak, competition is in a rather disorderly fashion, manufacturers and wholesalers were forced to liquidate promptly and in such a situation liquidation is the very best policy. Thus we saw the prices of manufacturers and wholesalers in many lines tumble fast, and where this occurred room was made for later improvement and much more will surely come. The retailer was slower in action in liquidating commodities. He dammed the stream awhile, but this is a process which cannot be eternal, and after a time the retailer felt the pressure and the liquidation process gripped him. Labor reached a higher peak than commodity prices. To get things right, liquidation must affect every commodity, and we class labor as a commodity, so that the proper basis for new operations can be reached and properly gradually brought about.

"Why should not labor stand a little of this, if in so doing the situation can be improved? We believe that labor prices generally can be reduced 15 per cent. without affecting the wage value, and now if the laborer were to realize his part in the situation, and be willing to take a little loss himself, beyond the amount that he can relate without any effect on the cost of production, it would be tremendous on the nation, and much of the indignation would be removed which naturally comes to those who are also laborers with increased cost of commodities and labor abroad between the upper and lower millstones."

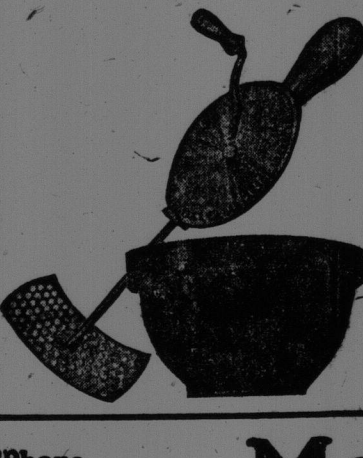
Some Outspoken Declarations.  
Pronouncements on the Labor issues have been made very recently by some of the leading industrialists of the continent during the last week. Judge Cary's speech denouncing unionized labor drew fire from Mr. Samuel Gompers during his Empire Club speech in Toronto last week. Mr. Gompers' speech was eminently sane, and drew the applause of representative manufacturers and business men for his fair and humanitarian viewpoint on most of the issues concerning Labor and industry.

A happy event of the past week was the fourth annual joint conference of officers and workers of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey at Newark. The company's Labor platform was outlined by Mr. A. C. Bedford, Chairman of the Board of Directors and one of the outstanding industrial leaders of the country. Mr. Bedford went two better than ex-President Wilson by embodying his company's Labor policy in 10 clauses. Since Standard Oil has taken a place among the most advanced and considerate of employers on the continent, the statement is well worthy of careful perusal by Canadian employers.

Standard Oil Attitude.  
The features of the programme, as already established at the references is as follows:  
1. No discrimination by the company or its employees against an employee on account of membership or non-membership in any church, society, fraternity or union.  
2. Collective bargaining as to all matters of mutual interest, made effective through the industrial representation plan.  
3. Paying at least the prevailing scale of wages for similar work in the community.  
4. The eight-hour day or its equivalent.  
5. One day's rest in seven, preferably on Sunday, or the equivalent of such period.  
6. Sanitary and up-to-date working conditions.  
7. Just treatment assured each employee, with opportunity for submission of all grievances for adjustment through the industrial representation plan.  
8. Continuous effort to eliminate accidents through effective safeguards and active co-operation of employees and committees under expert supervision.  
9. Payment of disability benefits in case of accidents incurred while at work.  
10. Health supervision by a competent medical staff.  
11. Payment of sickness benefits after one year's service.  
12. Opportunity for special training for employees in the better work with standard system of keeping record of service performed.  
13. Promotion according to length of service and ability demonstrated.  
14. Partnership through stock ownership made easily possible for the thrifty employee after one year's service, the company adding 50 per cent. to the amount invested by the employee.  
15. Assurance of a generous annuity at the age of 65, guaranteed for life after 20 years of service, with special consideration for those who become disabled before that period.  
16. Death benefits to insurance providing \$500 to \$2,000 for dependents of employees of one year or more of service.

VIOLATING CONFEDERATION.  
(Moncton Transcript)  
Is the government in allowing the application of the Railway Commission's decisions to the International acting within the constitution or at any rate the express agreement under which Confederation came into being? Premier Foster raised this point in the legislature when moving the resolution demanding a revision of railway rates on the I. C. R., and it seems well taken. The Laurier Government created the Railway Commission to act as a representative of the public interest between private railway companies and users of railway service. The justification for this was that railways were a natural monopoly and the Government had contributed largely to the cost of private railways. Only recently has the Railway Commission been given the power to fix rates on the I. C. R., the original government railway, and such power seems inconsistent with the

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