

The St. John Standard

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MAGAZINES IN CANADA.

Every week in the year there are received in Canada trainloads of monthly magazines published in the United States, magazines devoted to the portrayal of American business and social life, to the dissemination of American doctrines and policies which while doubtless appealing to the people of the United States, are not always the best class of publications for Canadian readers. Some of these magazines are brought to Canada by freight or by express for distribution through newsdealers, but great numbers are carried through the mails subject to the low rate of postage required by the United States post office department, but distributed throughout Canada under postal union agreements and without producing one cent of revenue for this country. There are no Canadian magazines to be compared in point of circulation and ease of distribution with those which we import from the United States, although Canadian ideals are just as high, our country just as interesting, and our need of interchange of ideas between provinces just as great. One reason, and the most important reason for this, is that since confederation our various governments by upholding an obsolete postal law have prevented such distribution through the mails as every magazine must enjoy in order to prove successful. No matter how worthy a magazine may be, regardless of the excellence and the desirability of the matter it contains, it is shut out from Canadian mails excepting at a prohibitive postal rate. In the United States the postal law extends the second class mailing privilege to any publication "originated and published for the dissemination of information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, or some special industries." In Canada we have never recognized literature, the sciences, arts, special industries or the desirability of public interest in national affairs. On the contrary mailing privileges are extended to such publications as "consist wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto." And in each individual case the decision rests with the post office department at Ottawa, as is but natural. Now how any monthly or semi-monthly publication can consist wholly or in great part of political or other news is something which no official of that department has ever been able to discover. News is not news when published a month after the incident described by it occur, and on its very face this regulation is absurd in its limitations. A journal such as the official organ of the Boy Scouts of Canada, an organization national in its character, which contains matter of interest to many thousands of boys throughout the Dominion, does not enjoy second class mailing privileges. This is only one instance of many which have arisen in recent years and by reason of the excess postage required on all Canadian publications devoted to literature, the sciences, arts, special industries or the dissemination of information of a public character, the subscription rates on these publications are necessarily so high as to prohibit successful competition with United States magazines which enjoy the free use of the Canadian mails. The present restrictions prevent the establishment of magazines of a truly national character, and until some change is made in the postal regulations our people must depend on the United States for the bulk of their reading matter, a situation which is not altogether desirable.

THE NURSES' HOME.

There are two thousand women in St. John who are members of the Hospital Aid. Many of them are feeling annoyed over what they consider is indifference on the part of the hospital commissioners and members of the Municipal Council. As a matter of fact this annoyance is not wholly justifiable, for while it may be that members of the women's organizations have not been kept thoroughly posted on what was being done in respect to the proposed nurses' home, it appears that those to whom has been committed the task of arranging for the construction of this building, are doing the best possible under the circumstances. For years the Hospital Commissioners have followed the unfortunate habit of not asking for sufficient funds for hospital requirements. There has always been financial pressure for the provision of improvements and other features outside the ordinary operation of the institution. However, a year or so ago when the question of hospital extension became acute, application was made to the Municipal Council for an appropriation sufficient to provide a nurses' home, a maternity wing, and other additions. In view of the general condition of municipal finances it was considered that the plans then in mind were too ambitious, and eventually the request was narrowed down to what was thought would be ample for the construction of a nurses' home. Then the women stepped in and furthered the efforts of the hospital commissioners by a dis-

play of deep personal interest. On the advice of the Municipal Council preliminary plans were prepared and an estimate was submitted which was believed sufficient, this estimate being one hundred and five thousand dollars for the completed building, with seven thousand dollars additional for incidentals. The Municipal Council very promptly decided to make such an appropriation and authorized the Hospital Commissioners to call for tenders on complete plans and specifications, and to report. Tenders were called in accordance with these instructions, but it was found that the lowest received, instead of coming within the one hundred and five thousand dollars allowed by the Council, was one hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars. Naturally such an expenditure was beyond the power of the commissioners, and steps were taken to reduce the cost of the building by omitting some of the features originally included, by reducing the class and quality of materials, and by other means. Tenders were received on these amended specifications, with the result that the lowest was still found to be nearly thirty thousand dollars greater than the appropriation. These circumstances have naturally held up the whole proposition. The commissioners are bound to report the situation to the Municipal Council, which it is now understood will hold a special meeting for this purpose on Tuesday of next week. Possibly in view of the keen interest they have displayed the members of the Hospital Aid might have been shown more consideration, but it is difficult to see how the commissioners could have acted otherwise than they did in this matter.

RELEASING THE FOOD.

Attorney-General Palmer of the United States appears to be producing results in his campaign against food profiteering. His department has not set out merely to punish offenders. Rather it is the desire to release for consumption the immense quantities of foodstuffs known to be held in store, are in the hope that by throwing these supplies on the market, prices will be reduced. It is, however, made clear that those who neglect or refuse to distribute stocks now held by them will be subjected to criminal prosecution. As a result of the activities of Mr. Palmer, there has been noted already a marked drop in the prices of certain commodities in individual districts, and the expectation is that when this campaign becomes nationwide, as is the intention, material reductions will be made over the whole country. The Attorney-General includes in his effort action against retailers who, it is said, have been adding excessive profits to goods sold by them. It has been declared that, while in the past, attention has been almost invariably directed towards producers and wholesalers, retail merchants have quietly continued to add to the prices of their wares a larger margin of profit than has been justified. It is the retailer with whom the great majority of people come in contact. The individual purchaser knows nothing whatever of the wholesale trade, but when he finds any article of daily use selling at what he regards as an exorbitant price, his kick is naturally made against the retail merchant from whom he buys. And the latter invariably shifts the responsibility to the wholesale merchant, thereby evading criticism of his own policy and creating in the public mind a sentiment against the wholesale dealer.

Whether retailers, speaking generally, are guilty of profiteering on a small scale, is one of the things which Mr. Palmer proposes to learn, and while it is impossible to investigate the conduct of every retail dealer in the country, still the Attorney-General believes that those guilty of unjustifiable practices in this regard may be deterred if examples are made of a few.

EAST ST. JOHN.

In considering the various localities which may or may not be suitable as residential suburbs, scant attention has been given to East St. John. The thoughts of most people have been directed towards Lancaster, and while the Western section possesses many advantages we should not overlook the possibilities of the eastern side of Courtenay Bay. Between the West morland Road and the almshouse there is any amount of good land awaiting development. This district is served by the street railway, and along the main road water supply is available to all. Although in the fog belt, this locality suffers no more than any other portion of the city, while in clear weather the outlook towards Courtenay Bay is extremely pleasing. In view of the attractiveness of East St. John the wonder is that so few people have built homes there.

WHAT THEY SAY

Is Lonely. Baltimore Sun. In these days the fellow who isn't striking or threaten-

ing to strike runs the danger of being a rather lonely fellow.

Haven't Strayed. Arkansas Gazette: Canada wants the United States to keep its agitators at home. But there has been no indication lately that any of them had strayed.

Be More Energetic. Pittsburgh Dispatch: Daylight saving repeal has been passed by the House over the President's veto. If the House could only be half as energetic in something worth while!

How's Your Strike? Halifax Chronicle: In passing the time of day the old time salutations in many places have given way to "How is your strike?"

Gather Strength. Columbia State: The weaklings of the south seem to gather fresh courage from the coming of universal peace. The Turks, who yesterday were broken and shivering supplicants, are today defying the Supreme Council of the victorious Allies, and Mexico seems to fancy herself another Ajax and is challenging the strength of both Great Britain and the United States.

Go To Work. Minneapolis Journal: What the American people need right now is to go to work to produce, to save dollars. Work will solve our difficulties, and keep us out of a lot of home-poucs to boot. What America and the world require from all of us just now is production. But too many do not care for so dull a business. They would rather reform everybody else, regulate everybody else's habits, prescribe rules for society in general and hand down moral decisions for all to obey.

A BIT OF VERSE

SAID HIS MOTHER TO ME.
 "Few people understand him as I,"
 Said his mother to me.
 "There are some who say he will lie,
 But I'm sure it can't be.
 His lips have been sweet with a song
 From the days of his youth,
 And always, whenever the wrong,
 He has told me the truth."

"His hand, which the cold-hearted
 Has been tender to me;
 He has come when the stars faintly
 burn
 Many times to my knee,
 And though all the old friendships
 have died,
 And men sneer at his ways,
 I know just how hard he has tried
 To be worthy of praise."

Through the nights when his fever
 ran high
 I watched by his bed;
 I answered his pitiful cry,
 I heard all he said,
 It was my hand he longed for back
 then.
 To stroke his hot brow;
 He has called me again and again
 As he's calling me now.

"Did I fail him because he was ill?
 Or whimper the night that he came?
 Or whisper the night that he came?
 Though he's blackened with shame?
 Though he's lost to the world and its
 joy.
 And is sick as can be,
 Oh, shall I not answer my boy
 When he calls unto me?
 —Edgar Guest in Montreal Herald."

A BIT OF FUN

Herb—"I can make a worse face than you can."
 Winnie—"So you ought! Look at the one you've got to start with."
 "Was your daughter's musical education a profitable venture?" asked Smith.
 "Rather!" said Brown. "I bought the houses on either side of us at half their value."

The Colonel (a great sufferer with corns)—"Look here, sergeant, I believe you have a man named Smith who is a chiropodist?"
 The Sergeant—"Mistaken, sir—'s Church of England."

Explained.
 "I wonder why women are so perverse and contrary."
 "You must remember that she was made out of one of the crookedest parts of man."

Careful Cow.
 Bertie—"What's that bell around the cow's neck for?"
 Charley—"Oh, that's what she rings when she wants to tell the calf that dinner's ready"—London Dailly.

No Room For It All.
 As they drove through the glens of the Emerald Isle the English visitor was admiring the scenery.
 "I say, Pat," he exclaimed, "what a lot of hills you have in Ireland!"
 "Sure an we have, sir," replied Pat. "We had such a lot o' land in Oireland that, bedad, we had to put it in heaps!"

Heard in a Store.
 First Shop Girl—Gee! I'd like to have been on the R-34 when she came across.
 Second Ditto (who had read the log)—They could have used you all right, mame, when they wanted that rum chewed to mend the water jacket.

A Family Secret.
 "I bet I know what makes sister wear her hair bunched down over her ears," said the small boy.
 "Do you?" replied the affable young man.
 "Yes. But I ain't goin' to tell. Only if my ears were as big as sister's I'd do something like that myself."—Washington Star.

Not Yet Satisfied.
 "Going far?" asked the chatty little man on the train.
 "Only to Albany," replied the other, who hated talking to strangers and wished to nip this one in the bud. "I am a commercial traveller. My age is forty-six, I am married. I

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I was walking alone eating ginger snaps this afternoon, and who did I see carrying a big piece of ice rapped in newspaper but Ed Wernick, being such a heavy peeper he was walking in all different positions to make it lighter, me saying, Hello, Ed, wait, you're doing, learning to be a ice man? You'd better all right, I've carried it 2 blocks already you couldn't even carry it one, you got to have some muscle to carry this hunk of ice, said Ed Wernick.

And he kept on carrying it home, and I said, Who says I couldn't carry it, wait you want to bet?
 Wait the use betting, you couldn't even lift it, much less carry it, said Ed Wernick.

Well you jest leave me try, I'll show you, I said, and Ed Wernick said, I've carried it this far, I mite as well carry it the rest, and I said, Aw come on, Ed, I'll give you a ginger snap if you leave me try.

Its more fun carrying the ice than eating a ginger snap, said Ed Wernick, and I said, Well I'll give you 2 ginger snaps, 2 ginger snaps is more fun than carrying a old hunk of ice.

Well, all right, I'll leave you to it jest out of friendship—wears the 2 ginger snaps? said Ed Wernick. Which I gave them to him and he handed me the ice and I started to carry it, being such a heavy hunk for its size you wouldn't of thawed it, and I started to wawk crooked with it trying to wawk strate with it, thinking, Gosh, G. holy smoke, I bet he's jest trying to get out of carrying it himself.

And I quick laid it down on the pavement, saying, I've changed my mind, I don't want to carry it, wears the 2 ginger snaps?
 Aie, said Ed Wernick. And he stuck the 2nd one in his mouth whole and picked up the ice and started to carry it himself again looking as if he was glad of the rest, not to mention the ginger snaps, and I jest stood there thinking, Gosh, heck, G.

have a son thirteen; he is at Harvard. My father died last January. He was on the stock exchange. Mother is still living. I have a niece with red hair. Our cook's name is Bridget. Is there anything else?
 The chatty little man smiled affably. "What all do you use for your tongue?" he inquired slowly.

Unbiased.
 "Say," began the inquisitive caller, "are you the man who writes those articles on how to be happy though married?"

"Yes," replied the bald headed essayist.
 "Got a wife and children?"
 "No."
 "Ever been married?"
 "No. That's my standpoint. I can approach the subject without prejudice."

HEAVY TRAFFIC.
 A passenger traffic which necessitated fifteen cars with most of the male passengers standing all the way from Moncton inwaded delayed the 5.30 p. m. C. P. R. train yesterday afternoon. A heavy power freight locomotive brought the train in 35 minutes late.

Had a Very Bad Attack OF Bowel Complaint

IT WAS CURED BY DR. FOWLER'S EXTRACT OF WILD STRAWBERRY

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This old tried and proven medicine has been on the market for the past 74 years. You don't experiment when you buy it. Surely the test of time proves this.

Mrs. Daniel Hartwick, Mountain Grove, Ont., writes:—"I used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry and have found that it is a good remedy. When my little girl was 2 1/2 years old she had a very bad attack of bowel complaint. Nothing prescribed by the doctor seemed to do her any good. She got worse, until we thought we would lose her. I got a bottle of 'Dr. Fowler's' and she soon found relief. Every one who has children should not be without it in their homes."

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—but now I carry a neat little LOOSE-LEAF Memo Book that tucks away in my vest pocket. It's so thin and compact I never know it's there 'till I need it. I can take out and replace sheets in a second—there's no dead matter in it and the index makes it simple to locate the item I want. Let us show you how they will help you.

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