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THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1923.

The Evening Times-Star

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THE BANK PROSECUTIONS.

There is little enough in the Bank Act provisions to which the Minister of Finance calls attention in connection with the arrest of President Daly and the Home directors, it remains to be seen how much benefit there is in the official prosecuting machinery, how many individuals fall within the law's reach in this instance, and what proportion of the liberal loans made by the easy-going institution are recoverable. Moreover, there is the further point upon which a vigilant public attention will be concentrated for some time to come, which is this: How far will prosecuting action in this Home Bank business result in the actual protection of the public against like occurrences in the future? In this connection the provisions of the law are interesting and their very nature suggests that the Home Bank is not the first case of the kind in connection with which they might well have been vigorously invoked. Imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years is the penalty fixed for the making of "any wilfully false or deceptive statement in any account, statement, return or report, or other document respecting the affairs" of a bank, or the use of any false or deceptive statement respecting the bank's affairs with intent to deceive anybody. The law does not mention any other deception alone. There is a three-year term of imprisonment for any president, vice-president, director, auditor, general manager or other officer "who negligently prepares, signs, approves, or concurs in" any report, statement or document containing false or deceptive information. The evident purpose of this clause is that there should be no immunity for dummy directors, no successful efforts to unload responsibility upon subordinate or minor officials. Mere negligence, or simple concurrence in a false statement even through ignorance, thus becomes an indictable offence punishable by imprisonment not to exceed three years. The general manager of the Home Bank is dead, but it should not be difficult through the president, the directors and other available witnesses to definitely fix responsibility for the transactions which led to the bank's suspension, and to show how many of those in authority under the law knew what was going on while, for a long time, the bank presented a false front to the investing and depositing public. Judging from the curator's statements, some men with great names in Canada's financial circles were able to draw very generously upon the bank's funds. The nature, and the present day value of, the security they gave will be known presently. That the proceedings now undertaken must be thorough is evident enough. The rights of the depositors and the still greater demands of the public interest, require the most searching inquiry and the most complete revelation of all the facts. It is not to be questioned that more than one living man must share responsibility for the downfall of the bank, and it is not to be forgotten that the harm done is money loss. This case, in fact, looks like one in which the public interest is very deeply involved, and in which the duty of the authorities acting on behalf of that public is very clearly indicated. To the extent that the evidence warrants it, the value of the Bank Act must be vindicated. Failure in this matter would be a heavy blow to public confidence.

LLOYD GEORGE'S REPARTEE.

Lloyd George, due in New York tomorrow and in Montreal on Saturday, while he comes in no official capacity, is still a world figure of commanding interest and it is confidently anticipated that while his public speeches are few they will be noteworthy. Just before his departure, the newspapers are producing a crop of Lloyd George anecdotes. A. G. Gardiner, the English essayist, tells one which ought to be true if it is not a fabrication. The former Premier was addressing a audience of Welsh farmers. "We will have home rule for Ireland and for England and for Scotland and for Wales," he said. "And for hell!" interposed a deep, half-drunken voice, "Quite right! I like to hear a man stand up for his own country," was the instant retort. If we mistake not that one has been credited to others, but that does not particularly matter. There is a somewhat similar one told at the expense of a leader, who like most of his class, did not have much luck with Lloyd George. The latter, in his introductory remarks was beginning to explain the purpose of the meeting. "I am here," he began, and age of the slight pause, said: "Well, for that matter, so am I." "Yes," said Lloyd George like a shot, "but you are not all there." Lloyd George is described by Mr. Gardiner as "at bottom the most resolute, the most subtle, the most resolute and the most wilful force in politics."

ASPIRATION.

(Arkansas Gazette.) So brief the beauty, Heart's Heart, in the shadow Of rose leaves laid along a sunny wall! So faint the singing down the swaying meadow Of little racing winds that plead and call. So swift the fashioning of Time's fleet "Wings" not! That weave a web of glamour o'er our hearts— One shining hour that glows and lingers, And then departs. If loveliness lives but a little hour, Let me work swiftly ere the day be through! "I don't know yet. The doctor is up at the house now."—The Passing Show (London Mail).

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

"Tommy—I want another box of those pills I got for mother yesterday." "Have you enjoyed your strawberry feast?" he asked as they were leaving. "Oh, yes, sir!" came the reply. "Then," asked the master, seeking to point a moral, "if you had slipped into my garden and picked those strawberries without my leave, would they have tasted as good?" "No, sir!" "Because," said one small boy, with an air of conscious virtue, "we shouldn't have had any sugar or cream with them." Philadelphia Times.

Stolen Fruit.

It was summer-time. The master had been entertaining the boys in his garden, and feeding them with strawberries and cream. "Have you enjoyed your strawberry feast?" he asked as they were leaving. "Oh, yes, sir!" came the reply. "Then," asked the master, seeking to point a moral, "if you had slipped into my garden and picked those strawberries without my leave, would they have tasted as good?" "No, sir!" "Because," said one small boy, with an air of conscious virtue, "we shouldn't have had any sugar or cream with them." Philadelphia Times.

Philadelphia Turns.

"These," said the epicure to the bright Philadelphia girl, "are snails. I suppose Philadelphia people don't eat them for fear of cannibalism." "Oh, no, sir!" came the reply. "Then," asked the master, seeking to point a moral, "if you had slipped into my garden and picked those strawberries without my leave, would they have tasted as good?" "No, sir!" "Because," said one small boy, with an air of conscious virtue, "we shouldn't have had any sugar or cream with them." Philadelphia Times.

How many Missouri-born women

walked into the trap when they registered at the polls Tuesday, into which Mrs. Geraldine Travers fell so suddenly? Mrs. Travers gave her name and then the registrar asked: "Age?" "Over 21," replied Mrs. Travers, cautiously. "Born in Missouri?" "How long have you lived in the precinct?" "One year." "In the city?" "Ten years." "In the State?" "Thirty-one years."—Kansas City Star.

CADETS AT WORK

Cadet units from King Edward, Victoria and Winter street schools, numbering some 150 boys, gathered on Tuesday evening at the armory and started their training for the season under the direction of Capt. Palin. Drill in St. Peter's school was started last Friday with 80 boys in attendance. The boys on Tuesday evening were very attentive and displayed great keenness in the work. It is proposed to give cadet and gymnasium drill on alternate nights.

EPWORTH LEAGUE SOCIAL.

The first meeting of the Carmarthen street Methodist Epworth League since the summer was held last evening with about thirty members present. The president, William Tynan, was in the chair. Following the opening devotional exercises a social evening was spent at the close of which refreshments were served.

WILL HELP MAKE BIG DRY DOCK DAY

Civic Committee Enthusiastic for Co-operation—To Meet Mr. Ross.

Mayor Fisher was appointed chairman, and T. F. Drummie, secretary of a civic committee, which will co-operate with the St. John Drydock and Shipbuilding Company, in the celebration of the formal opening of the largest drydock in the world, now nearing completion at Coteney Bay, at a meeting held in the Mayor's office yesterday. The collector of customs and the agent of Marine and Fisheries were added to the committee. Those attending the meeting were: Mayor Fisher, E. Allan Schofield, W. C. Allison, Commissioner Bullock, Commissioner Frink, Commissioner Thornton, A. P. Paterson, F. S. X. McMillan and T. Drummie.

A letter from F. M. Ross, general manager of the St. John Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company, was read by the mayor in explanation of the purpose for which the committee had been appointed. Mr. Ross announced that the formal opening would take place on October 29 and told something of the plans formed by the company for the observance of the occasion. He also suggested that, if the city should wish to join with the company in observing an occasion which would be of great importance to the whole community, the company would welcome such co-operation. This suggestion had been heartily approved by the Common Council and His Worship had been authorized to appoint a committee to consider details.

A general discussion of the functions of the committee and of ways in which the city could co-operate followed. Each member expressed himself heartily in accord with the proposal to show in substantial way the city's recognition of the importance of the occasion and various suggestions were offered.

It was decided, finally, that the committee would be in a better position to make definite plans when they were informed of the arrangements already made by the company. It was learned from the company in what way the citizens should show their interest in the best advantage. Accordingly, the chairman and secretary were authorized to consult with Mr. Ross, of the dry dock company, and arrange for another meeting at which Mr. Ross would be present, if possible.

LUDLOW STREET RALLY.

The young people of the congregation of the Ludlow street Baptist church had a successful social evening last evening. Supper was prepared and served by a committee of ladies in the room which was decorated with autumn leaves. R. H. Parsons was the chairman and a sing-song opened the programme. After prayer by Rev. W. A. Robbins, Mr. Parsons spoke of some phases of young people's work and Mr. Robbins then outlined a suggested programme of activities for the coming season. It was planned to have a Trail Ranger group and a Tuxis group for boys and two C. G. I. T. groups, and it was hoped to have some gymnasium work on alternate nights.

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work if suitable quarters could be obtained. F. J. Punter sang solos and was accompanied by his thirteen-year-old son, Albert Punter, who also gave piano solos. Rev. W. C. Machum, general secretary for young people for the Baptist denomination in the maritime provinces, outlined various programmes for young people and appealed to the members for co-operation in the undertakings. After the meeting there was a conference of the leaders of the Sunday school and young people's leaders with Mr. Machum, who went into the work more fully.

Tar, used in the construction of the road, was destroyed by fire at Kane's Corner yesterday afternoon at 8.30. The fire department were called out to extinguish the flames.

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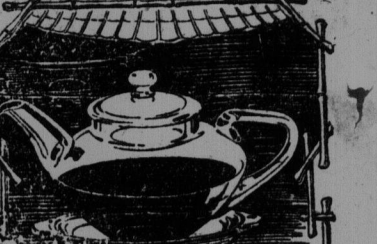
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IF WOMEN WANT TO SMOKE LET 'EM KEEP OUT OF JAIL.

Denver, Oct. 4.—Female prisoners in the Colorado State penitentiary are no longer permitted the solace of smoking within the walls of the institution, according to statements made by investigators. A regular tobacco ration is issued to the male prisoners. In answer to protests against his action, Warden Tynan said: "It doesn't look well to see women smoke. If they want to smoke, let 'em keep out of the penitentiary." Four-fifths of the women inmates of the Colorado penitentiary smoke, according to statements made by investigators. A regular tobacco ration is issued to the male prisoners. In England there are 1,726,000 acres of land protected by dikes.

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