

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 29, 1912.

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UNDER WHICH FLAG?

Will the Christian church take the lead in the solution of great social problems which press themselves with growing force upon the world's attention, or will the leadership be taken by those Socialists who repudiate Christianity? This question was presented with clearness and force yesterday by Mr. John T. Hawke in an address delivered in this city. It is perhaps the most important question presented at the present time in any country. A social revolution is unquestionably in progress. Everywhere special problems are being forced to the front, and the most outspoken and determined of the advocates of radical change are not in the Christian church. Mr. Hawke gave one striking illustration when he told of seeing in London churches with comparatively few men in attendance at the service, while outside in the streets crowds of workmen listened to speakers who stood under the flag of Socialism.

There is a church in the city of Winnipeg which has just decided to keep its doors constantly open. The pastor of that church is making an effort to the extent of his ability to make the church do its part in solving the social problem. There must be no aloofness if the church is to gain the desired hold upon the confidence and energy of all the people.

Mr. Hawke was quite right in urging that there should be less emphasis upon the joys of heaven and more upon the doing of right because it is good to do right. Perhaps greater emphasis along the line he suggests would strengthen the work of every branch of the Christian church.

The social revolution which is in progress must have a profound influence upon the relations between the church and the working man. No one doubts that the principles of Christianity, sincerely and resolutely applied in every department of human life, would overcome all that is unhealthy in social unrest. It is for the church to say whether or not it will meet the crisis in the right spirit; and with the fearless energy which marks the lives of the great leaders of Christianity in ages past.

UNSANITARY HOUSING

The people of Ottawa must have been shocked by the report of the medical officer to the effect that 307 houses in the city are unfit for habitation. The statement is made in his annual report, which goes further and declares that the infant mortality rate in Ottawa is twice as great as in London. Putting it another way, he says: "If the infant mortality in Ottawa could be lessened by one half, it would still be too high." A sanitary survey of Ottawa was taken, and this report of the medical health officer shows the need of reform in various directions.

Ottawa is not only the capital of Canada but an industrial centre of increasing importance. The city is rapidly growing, and there has been during the last year an increased activity in real estate. The bounds of the city are being extended. There has been much talk about the importance of a proper system of town planning, in order that the newer sections may be kept free from slum conditions. The fact that the medical health officer finds 307 houses unfit for habitation shows not only that a careful system of town planning is the need of the new sections of the city should be adopted, but that the city authorities should insist upon cleaning up some sections of the present city. It is a remarkable fact that in a new country like Canada there should be a duplication of the slum conditions of old world cities. There is no excuse for it, nor should it be any longer tolerated. Ottawa is by no means a solitary example of a Canadian city where some of the people live in houses that are unfit for habitation. We would probably shrink from letting the public know how many such houses an investigating committee would find in the city of St. John.

HOME IN CITIES

The citizens of Winnipeg desire a larger measure of home rule than they enjoy at present. At a recent meeting a speaker complained that the city could do nothing without being expressly and specifically empowered by the legislature, and that for almost everything the city wanted it had to fight. The Winnipeg Tribune, commenting on this statement, declares it is undoubtedly true that at no time in the year does the city have to dread corporations more than during the sessions of the provincial legislature. The Tribune says that the citizens find it necessary sometimes to assemble, use very emphatic language, and pass the strongest resolutions to prevent legislation that would be against the interests of the people. Incidentally it may be remarked that the Tribune pays a tribute to the splendid stand taken by Winnipeg's representatives at the last session of the legislature, and that one of these is Mr. S. Hart Green, who is a son of Mr. Louis Green of St. John. It may be added that one of the planks of the Liberal party in Manitoba is home rule for Winnipeg, and a greater representation for the city.

The citizens of St. John can sympathize to some extent with those of Winnipeg. This city should have a larger measure of home rule. It ought not to be necessary to submit the local affairs of St. John to the members from the counties who do not understand the conditions, and are not concerned in the result. The Times recently pointed out that German cities have a very large measure of home rule,

having practical control of all matters directly affecting their local interests. The same principle should be applied to a much larger extent than at present Canadian cities.

THE FLAG-FLAPPERS

The St. John Standard appears to have been mightily disturbed by a short paragraph touching the report that freight originating on the Grand Trunk Pacific will be sent to Portland, Maine. The Tory organ makes a vicious attack upon the Liberals, forgetting that when the Conservatives were in power it was necessary for the people of St. John to force two Conservative members for this constituency, one of them being Mr. Hanson, to threaten that they would resign their seats if justice was not done to this port. During the whole Liberal regime St. John never found it necessary to go on its knees to Ottawa for justice. It is due to Liberal policy that this city will soon be the Atlantic terminus of three trans-continental railways.

Touching the matter of reciprocity, the Standard affects to believe that the proposed trade agreement is dead. As a matter of fact, a provincial election in the province of Saskatchewan is now being fought out with reciprocity as the chief issue, and all over Canada the people are realizing more and more fully how wrong they were to be swept off their feet by a wave of prejudice and passion at the bidding of so-called Imperialists and the Nationalists. No amount of flag-flapping can hide the hypocrisy of the Conservative leaders. If they were true Imperialists they would have a naval policy. The truth is, those who degrade the flag by dragging it into a political campaign for party purposes, do not deserve to retain, and cannot for a long period retain power in Canada.

The Standard makes much of some correspondence that passed between Taft and Roosevelt concerning reciprocity, in which it was said that reciprocity would make Canada an adjunct of the United States, and that reciprocity was desirable both for economic and political reasons. The flag-flappers think they see in this a menace to the Empire. They really pay a very poor tribute to the patriotism of Canadians when they insinuate that if we bought more goods from the United States and sold them more goods we would forget our allegiance to King George. The Canadian people are quite able to take care of their loyalty under all circumstances. If their loyalty is so weak that they cannot be trusted to trade in their natural market and with their nearest neighbor, they will never amount to very much as a bulwark of the British Empire.

The struggle between Taft and Roosevelt in Massachusetts has stirred the Republican party to its depths, and each has many enthusiastic supporters. We shall very soon see who will have the larger number of delegates in the convention.

Premier McBride of British Columbia wants a Canadian navy and does not hesitate to say so. This is somewhat embarrassing for Mr. Borden, who does not know what he wants and who has been laboring earnestly ever since he came into power to dodge the issue.

With regard to recreation grounds at St. John, the extension of the street railway to Rockwood Park would do more than any other course which might be pursued to give the people easy access to one of the finest recreation grounds in the country.

Because of the nature of the earliest reports concerning him there was at first a very general feeling of resentment against Mr. J. Bruce Ismay. Several witnesses in the inquiry at Washington on Saturday, however, testified that Mr. Ismay was not only remained on deck until the last boat was launched but that he insisted upon sending the women first. The boat in which Mr. Ismay finally left the ship had only got a very short distance from the Titanic when she went down.

The feeling of resentment in England in the case of the Titanic inquiry is natural. There could be no objection to a proper inquiry in the United States, because United States interests suffered heavily, and many American citizens lost their lives. The objection is not to the inquiry, but to its method, which is very far from being a judicial one. It should not be necessary for the inquirers to assume that the witnesses are criminals. There is nothing convincing in such a case in more noise. The purpose of an inquiry should be to get at the facts quietly and fairly, treating everybody with the utmost consideration.

SHOOK HIM.

A youth, who thought that he had become a favorite with a certain maiden, persistently begged her to accept his hand in marriage. Here is a bit of conversation between them which was snatched by an unintentional listener a few nights ago:

"I assure you," he commenced, "that I will not take no for an answer." "You need not take no for an answer," was her reply. "I will answer 'yes' on one condition only."

He was impatient to hear what the question was she wanted him to ask, and this was her gentle reply:

"Just ask me if I am firmly determined not to marry you in any circumstances."

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Gibbs—"Personal appearance is a helpful factor in business success."
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Boston Transcript.

LUCKY.
"Did you have any good luck at the crap game last night?"
"Well, I should say so! My wife found me and took me home before I had a chance to lose anything."

THE SEQUENCE.
Knicker—"April showers bring May flowers."
Brooker—"And April chills bring May bills."

NOT ON NOW.
"What sort of a lunch-room does Bill run?"
"Aw, you know the kind that is just out of anything you order but beans and catfish."

EXPLAINED.
"It should think some of these speech-makers would get tired of hearing themselves," said the proprietor of the village store. "Human nature's the same in politics as 'tis anywhere else," replied old Joe Struthers. "A man don't mind listenin' to the worst points a corrupt kin make, provided he's the feller that's doin' the practisin'."—Washington Star.

WHAT HE SOUGHT.
In his office the man of law was busy studying an intricate case.
So deeply intent was he that he failed to hear the door pushed open, or to see the little golden head which was thrust into his office.

At last a deep sob attracted his attention. Looking up he saw a small boy with tear-streaked face and watery eyes.
"Well, my lad," said the lawyer, "and what do you want?"

"Are you a lawyer?" asked the lad, stuffing a grimy fist into each eye and marking time with his whispering.
"Yes, sonnie," came the reply. "That's what I do."

"Then, please," said the new-comer, in a tear-choked voice, "I want a divorce from my papa and mamma!"

THE SEARCHERS.
Smith started out in answer to a write-up of a distant land.
Where fruits and flowers always grew
And south winds warmed a coral strand;
But soon a letter came along—
He had not been away a year—
And this was all he cared to write:
"You have to earn your living here."

Again Smith moved—and he was most enthusiastic over the view;
"Twas where, to quote the agent's boast,
The economy bushes grew;
But back a postcard winged its flight
To those at home who held Smith dear:
And this was all he cared to write:
"You have to earn your living here."

Poor Smith! In vain with his restless feet
Shall fare beneath the rainbow arch;
In vain through lands of gold and bent
Shall he, and kindred searchers, march;
For there has always been one sign
To great man's vainest toil or clear:
"E'en in Utopia it shall thine."
"You have to earn your living here."
—Arthur Chapman in Denver Republican.

MAY SUCCEED MR. HAYS

New picture of E. H. Fitzgibbon, who is likely to be appointed president of the Grand Trunk Pacific in succession to the late C. M. Hays.

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MR. ADVERTISER

The circulation of The Evening Times for each day of last week was as follows:—

April 22 Monday	- - - -	12,306
" 23 Tuesday	- - - -	12,302
" 24 Wednesday	- - - -	12,385
" 25 Thursday	- - - -	12,254
" 26 Friday	- - - -	12,308
" 27 Saturday	- - - -	11,512

Week's Total - - - 73,067

Average Daily - - - 12,178

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