

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 25, 1920

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THE NEXT GREAT REFORM

One of Saturday's despatches said that in eleven public schools in Toronto there had been found 382 pupils who were mentally less than eighty per cent. of normal, and out of 122 who were below seventy per cent. one hundred bore the stamp of degeneracy. As a result of the enquiry Dr. C. K. Clarke, medical director for the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, has recommended two special schools, centrally located, for mental defectives.

When the mental survey of New Brunswick has been made this year by the National Committee it will be found that St. John and perhaps one or two other centres should have a school for defectives. In Ontario there is provision for auxiliary classes, and some other provinces have similar legislation, but public sentiment has not been sufficiently aroused to produce desired conditions in regard to such classes. There is an exception—British Columbia. A mental survey of that province was followed by the voting by the legislature of land and money to provide a Home for Feeble Minded. In the city of Vancouver a directress of special classes was appointed by the school board, and a psychologist to determine the mental status of pupils. No less than twelve special classes have been formed, and it is claimed they are responsible for the diminution of truancy and juvenile delinquency, while their formation has relieved the regular classes in the schools of a serious handicap; for it is well known that the presence of defectives in a class of brighter pupils retards the progress of the whole class. One of the special classes, and this is of special interest to St. John readers, is connected with the detention home of the juvenile court. The special classes so well conducted, giving the pupils work suited to their capacity that they are all happy and make good progress; and the work given them is so interesting that it has aroused the envy of normal children in the regular classes. The classes were really begun two years ago, although there had been for several years previous two classes for low-grade feeble-minded children. A central clinic was established, with an observational class and here a careful study is made of each child to discover defects and determine his or her capacity for learning. In June of last year there were fourteen workers in the department, with the prospect of five more being added last fall, as it was planned to have fourteen special class teachers, two manual training teachers, a supervisor of special classes, an assistant in the clinic, and a field worker, besides the superintendent. Great stress is laid on manual work, and some remarkably good results have been achieved. This is doubtless one reason many children in regular school classes would like to get into the special classes, and it suggests a needed change in the regular school course. The aim, however, is not to get finished work done, but to develop the individual child. It is the aim in Vancouver to enlarge the scheme to include crippled children, those with defective speech, the tubercular and others needing special care. Those who are a menace to society will eventually be permanently segregated, and those able to live in the world will be fittingly trained. This will involve a vocational school for the older boys and girls.

The city of Toronto is also making progress in this regard. Following an outdoor mental clinic conducted at the General Hospital and a study of the data obtained, the city council decided to provide for several hundred feeble-minded children in a training school on a farm near the city, and voted \$100,000 for the purpose. The staff of the psychiatric clinic consists of three psychiatrists, three physiologists, one bio-chemist, two social workers and three stenographers. This staff studied from thirty to sixty cases per week. Arrangements have now been made to have a mental survey of the schools of Toronto by the National Committee. Already a survey has been made of institutions for girls and boys, and as a result the government of Ontario is considering provision for larger accommodation in separate institutions for the feeble-minded who should be segregated.

A survey of the schools of Guelph has been made and special classes will be instituted. Ottawa has asked for a mental clinic. In Montreal an outdoor mental clinic has been organized in connection with the Royal Victoria Hospital. French and English in Quebec province are co-operating to establish a progressive mental hygiene programme. Manitoba has had a mental survey. Alberta has asked for one, and all over Canada the question is being taken up in a serious way, with a determination to improve the conditions and give proper care to mental defectives. There is something very inspiring in what the city of Vancouver has done and is doing and it may be hoped that when a mental survey of this province has been made the people of St. John will follow the excellent example set by the people of the city on the Pacific coast.

Justice Hodgins of Ontario, in his report on the feeble-minded, recommends the compulsory establishment by boards of education of special training classes for mental defectives. He goes further, and would prevent the marriage of mental

defectives. Also, it is worthy of note, he recommends an enlargement of the scheme of juvenile courts.

GIVE FAIRVILLE A CHANCE

The city council and town-planning commission should lend a sympathetic ear to the appeal of the people of Fairville for a site for a permanent playground. It would be a crime against the boys and girls of generations to come to let the town grow without provision for play. Industries are valuable, and so are streets and houses; but the boys and girls are the most important consideration. There seems now an opportunity before a house is built in the immediate neighborhood, to lay out a permanent recreation field. In the best interests of the city that will swarm over the Fairville area in the years to come this field should be set apart now, and developed as a play centre. The city fathers and town-planning commission should act, when called upon to do so, as if they heard in their ears the voices of happy children, growing up healthy and strong and well-disciplined, to be the men and women of tomorrow. Fairville wants to do what is being done in the city in the development of play spaces, so that its young people may develop their physical powers, get the benefit of team play, and compete in athletic events with the young people of the city and province. Give them the chance.

Parliament opens tomorrow. Hon. Mr. Reid, on his way back from the south, is expected to meet Sir Robert Borden in New York on Friday, but there is no further information as to Sir Robert's movements and plans. The session of parliament is expected to be marked by vigorous attacks upon the government. The franchise act will be a bone of contention. The former members are said to be in a fighting mood, and Hon. Mr. Crerar will doubtless give a good deal of attention to the tariff. The Liberals are apparently prepared to force the fighting under their new leader, and altogether it will be a memorable session.

The election of Mr. Asquith in Paisley will be hailed with satisfaction throughout England. Parliament needs his mature judgment and long experience in political affairs. The Labor Party is strong in Paisley, but was not able to accomplish his defeat, which will give new hope to the Liberals in and out of parliament. His attitude during the war, after Lloyd George had become premier, proved him to be a broad-minded and patriotic statesman, who was unwilling to embarrass the government in the hour of the nation's peril.

The tall-towers in the United States congress have another serious count in their indictment of perfidious England. Gen. Pershing has been caught wearing a uniform of British cut and carrying a cane. It is this sort of thing that threatens the world's peace. Gen. Pershing still keeps his h's, however, and if he will stay away from Washington while congress is in session war may be averted.

In the middle of January deaths in Petrograd averaged about three thousand per day, and living conditions were described as intolerable. Soviet rule has brought the people to a condition such that they care little whether they live or die.

The resumption of steam service between St. John and Boston will be welcomed here. A service of such long standing is greatly missed by the citizens.

In Montreal hereafter applicants for civic appointments must pass an examination. That is another step in the direction of the abolition of patronage—a greatly needed reform.

Lady Astor's maiden speech in parliament was an appeal for drastic reform of the drink traffic. Mrs. Astor, M. P., has made a good beginning.

It would be unfortunate if the proposed paving programme should be held up this year.

LOCAL NEWS

Band on Carleton rink tonight.

SPECIAL MEETING
Of Teamsters' and Chauffeurs Local 661, in Goul Shovelers' and Timmer's Hall, at 8 o'clock tonight. Business of importance. By order of President.

NEW FORD
Many are availing themselves of the opportunity of looking over the new Ford being shown at our salesrooms, 145 Princess Street for a few days. Have you seen 17 Universal Car Co., 145 Princess street.

FIRST AID CLASSES
The local branch of St. John Ambulance Association has arranged a class in first aid, for women. The first lecture will be given by Dr. Pratt at Red Cross Depot, Hazen avenue, Saturday afternoon, 8:30. All those wishing to join classes please send or phone names to Mrs. Reed, La Tour Apartments.



(Copyright by Geo. R. Matthews Adams.)

LITTLE THINGS

Little dimes and nickels salted down today, make the safest pickles man can put away. Little spells of sickness jar a mortal's soul, if there is no thickness to his greenback roll. Little does and nurses throng around his bed; little wobbly hearsees get him when he's dead; then his sad survivors wring their hands and while, if he had no stivers put away in brine. Little tinhorn houses fire him from his job, then the total losses welcome him and sob. Little cheap reverses sweat him many times, then he rants and curses if he lacks the dimes. Now a little sheriff chases him with writs, and such chaps don't care if he throws forty fits. Little pewter roubles, little iron men, drive away your troubles, bring you peace again. Note the little spender, see him run amuck, sweating legal tender, blowing in the buck! He keeps going stronger, with his trail of smoke; wait a little longer, and you'll see him broke.

CAN-DA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

THE FIRST NEWS PAPERS.

The first Canadian newspaper was published in the city of Halifax, the second in the city of Quebec. On June 24, 1754, the Quebec Gazette made its initial appearance, the probability being that the British commander, General Murray, was the main support of the endeavor. But two Philadelphia printers were the first proprietors, having bought their presses, types and ink and paper in England. Half of the paper was in French and the rest in English, the two languages being in parallel columns. To start the venture 800 subscribers at \$3 each a year were essential and so the first edition did not make its appearance until this was assured.

Montreal was the next city to have a paper. This grew out of the American occupation in 1776 when the three commissioners of congress came to the city to influence, if possible, Canadians to be neutral or anti-British in the war for independence. Benjamin Franklin brought type and materials for a paper from the States by a dangerous journey through Lake George, up the Richelieu river and landed at Chambly. The press was set up and the paper issued from the Chateau de Ramsey where the American congress had voted \$100,000 to win over the Canadians and the paper was a part of the plan. Joseph Elie of Mesplet was engaged to edit the paper, the leading articles of which were from the pen of Franklin. But the campaign was a failure and when the Americans were forced to quit the place they left the printing press behind with Mesplet. He revived the interrupted journal in June, printing a four page paper. He clashed with various civil and church authorities frequently so that his career in the city was a very exciting one. At one time he was ordered to quit the province—an order which was revoked later.

DISTANT VOICES.

Remember the house of thy father
When the palaces open before thee
And the music would make thee forget.
When the cities are blithering around thee,
Remember the lamp in the evening,
The loneliness and the peace.

When the deep things that can not be
Are drowned in a riot of laughter,
And the proud wine foams in thy cup,
In the day when thy wealth is upon thee,
Remember thy path through the pine-wood,
Remember the ways of thy peace.

Remember—remember—remember—
When the cares of this world and its
treasures
Have dulled the swift eyes of thy youth;
When beauty and longing forsake thee
And there is no hope in the darkness,
And the soul is drowned in the flesh.

Turn, then, to the house of thy boyhood,
To the sea and the hills that would
heal thee,
To the voices of those thou hast
lost.

The still small voices that loved thee,
Whispering, out of the silence,
"Remember—remember—remember—"

"Remember the house of thy father,
Remember the paths of thy peace."
—Alfred Noyes.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Too Busy to Talk.
"You never mention the high cost of living any more."
"Too busy to talk about it! Hustling for the price!"—Washington Star.

Kept Busy.
"I'm afraid you're an idle fellow, Sam. I'm afraid you like to idle away your time."
"Oh, no, sah, I don't, sah. Why I gits 'n' wife 'n' work dan she can do, sah!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Infants Terrible.
Mrs. A.—Are you bothered much with your children telling lies?
Mrs. B.—No, but I am with their telling the truth at very inopportune moments.—Boston Transcript.

Another Miss-Alliance.
Annie—"So Jack is engaged, is he?"
Ann—"Mabel, the bride-to-be?"
Fanny—"She is the tried-to-be!"—London Tit-Bits.

Artful Dodger.
"And are you quite sure, Mr. Pultrous, you could stand me as a mother-in-law?"
"Madam, it was in order to acquire you as a mother-in-law that I fell in love with your daughter."

Passing the Buck.
Overworked Husband—"You've been keeping me waiting around here like an old fool for an hour."
Wife—"Well, my dear, I may have kept you waiting, but I had nothing to do with how you waited!"—Harvard Lampoon.

PERMANENT RECREATION FIELD WANTED

Site on Town-Planned Area Favored

Use Firemen's Park Temporarily—New Impetus Given to the Movement at Fine Meeting Held Last Evening.

Fairville wants a permanent recreation field for its boys and girls and will press the need very strongly upon the city council and the town planning commission. It is hoped to get the temporary use of the Firemen's park, and in the meantime to have set apart and developed as a recreation field an area within the bounds of the proposed new town on city lands, of which the plan has been made by the town planning commission.

The site selected is on the end nearest Fairville, and near the Manawagonish road. It would serve as a recreation field for both the new area, when built up, and the present community of Fairville.

A meeting was held last evening in the Gaiety Theatre, under the auspices of the Community Council, to discuss the whole question. Rev. W. P. Dahm, the president, was in the chair. He opened the meeting and called on A. M. Belding to address the meeting.

Mr. Belding said he was there because of his interest in playgrounds and because he felt Fairville should share in the forward movement in the regard which is now in progress in the city. He reviewed the changes of the last two years, which have given neighborhood playgrounds to the south, west and east ends, and the prospect of one for the north end, besides the promise of development of a general recreation field at Rockwood Park. He explained briefly how this was all accomplished, and urged that Fairville get into the running, so that its baseball players and other sportsmen would not be left out of the city playgrounds. This they could not do successfully without a well equipped field of their own for training.

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Not Sure Yet That King Albert Will Go to Brazil

Brussels, Feb. 25.—The visit of King Albert to Rio Janeiro has not yet been definitely decided upon, the Associated Press was officially informed yesterday. The trip is for the object of negotiations between Rio Janeiro and Brussels, and Queen Elizabeth and possibly the crown prince will accompany King Albert if he goes to Brazil.

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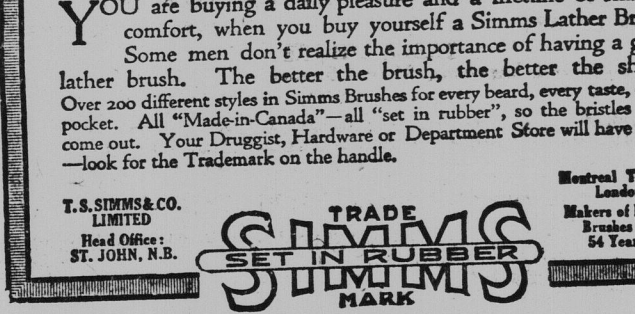


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Monosaccharide of salicylic acid is the chemical name of "Aspirin".
The Germans Named It "ASPIRIN"
Canadians Call It ACETOPHEN

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Madrid, Feb. 25.—The chamber of deputies yesterday, by a vote of 144 to 17, gave an expression of confidence in the government's ability to pass the budget and settle urgent impending questions.

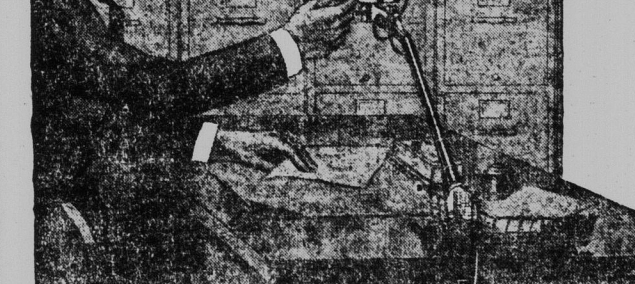


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