

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., JULY 24, 1926.

TAXES

The discount date is past and gone. The city has gathered a very welcome harvest. After meeting all obligations there should be reasonably ample funds for expenses and naturally civic officials will have a sigh of relief. Provided that all the preliminary breath to gain wind for a resolute tackling of the whole taxation system it may be permitted them.

Of late there has been a vociferous demand for investigation. The citizen has broken the shackles of apathy and taken full and proper interest in his own affairs. This has not always been so, and it will be salutary to remind ourselves of the fact just now when the Vocational School is, amongst other things, held up to execration.

In 1924 there were 17,843 electors on the roll, but of these only 8,008 were eligible voters by reason of tax payments. Of these 7,851 polled votes for the mayoralty, but only 5,104 marked their simultaneous ballots on the question of the Vocational School. These figures need no elaboration as a text for a sermon on civic irresponsibility. The vote for the Vocational School was 2,812 and against it 2,952. After tremendous efforts the proponents were able by the votes of less than one sixth and the apathy of two-thirds of the electors' list to obtain what they wanted. The citizen may kick now, but has he got the least right to do so unless he happened to be one of the 2,812 who recorded their objection by the ballot?

LOW WAGES IN ITALY.

The Fascist movement in Italy has set everybody to work, but the member of a Canadian or United States trades union would hardly wish some of the results, especially since strikes in Italy are absolutely forbidden by the Government. Prof. R. M. Maciver of Toronto has been contributing to the Toronto Star a series of letters from Italy, and in one of them he says:

"Under present conditions the chief question is that of wages. The normal wage rates would seem to us very low. Here are some examples from the industrial north, where wages are distinctly higher than in the south and working conditions much better. In Milan compositors receive 180 lire a week (about \$6.00 at the present rate of exchange) and linotype operators 205 lire a week (about \$6.50). Bricklayers receive about 18 cents an hour, and work on an eight-hour day. More is paid for overtime, and for work on Sunday double rates are in order. Consequently workers are most anxious for Sunday labor and do as much of it as possible. The established wage rates are adjusted monthly to the internal value of the lire. Government inspectors are charged with the task of seeing that this is done. Italy is making tremendous efforts to develop hydro-electric power, for which great facilities are provided by nature. Her difficulty, of course, is that her natural resources are limited, so far as manufacturing is concerned, and much raw material must be imported. With a wage scale like that reported by Prof. Maciver, however, she could accept a handicap in some other direction, and still have an even chance in competition."

ONE POINT.

Very soon New Brunswick is to have her say in the matter of justice from the Dominion. Generally speaking, her say will coincide with that of the provinces down by the Atlantic, but, as must be admitted, each has some special arguments inapplicable to the three, and these special reasons for the adoption of certain remedies germane to the whole can only be traced by one who is conversant with the situation. The winter shipment of every bushel of the Western harvests through Canadian ports is agreed on as one of the main considerations. Many reasons for this may be advanced, but there is one which alone, Saint John is an important channel of one of the main arteries of Imperial communications, in addition to being the rational winter port of Canada.

London is geographically the centre of world communications and London, for this reason alone, is the logical heart of the British Empire. This does not in any way conflict with equal Dominion, status of other components of the Empire. There must be a centre, the Empire holds the world's centre of communication and naturally that becomes the Empire's heart. The arteries radiate therefrom to the most distant parts of the body and of these one of the most important is that which links London with the Pacific Coast of North America.

Communications must have both commercial and strategic aspects. In other words, communications must be invulnerable as it is possible to make them. Communications are by sea and by land—the air is not yet sufficiently conquered—and the British navy exists for the purpose of safeguarding the first. London can be reached from Vancouver via Montreal and Quebec for a portion of the year, via Halifax and Saint John all the year round. It is evident which route is imperially more important. For obvious reasons

the route through the States cannot be considered an Imperial artery. The rail section of the London-Vancouver artery is therefore through Halifax or Saint John. West of the Maritime there are several vulnerable points particularly the Winnipeg centre and the section from Quebec to Rivière-du-Loup, both within easy bombing distance of foreign territory, and although the chance of war against the United States is remote, these call for rectification. But there is another spot very easily assailed by a potential enemy other than the United States—the Chignecto isthmus which could be cut by planes released from carriers out at sea. This rules Halifax out of consideration as the main branch of the artery. Both Halifax itself and the isthmus could be defended less easily than could Saint John. The least vulnerable communication is the strategic communication. Therefore Vancouver-Saint John-London is the Imperial artery.

This could well be made a point for consideration by the Commission along with others of ethics and economics. Saint John must be fostered for Imperial reasons as the chief year-round grain-shipping port of the East.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

Mrs. J. L. Garvin, in the London Observer, directs the attention of Britain and Europe to the United States as an illustration of how capital and labor may compose their differences. He says:

"In the supreme business of bringing capital and labor into practical partnership, America is setting while Europe is theorizing. Large numbers of workers across the Atlantic hold shares in the concerns employing them. They are members of the corporations and companies they serve. In one big motor business 90 per cent. of the employees are buying stock in the installment plan. In another business, investments of its workers are enough to enable them to elect a majority of the board of directors. This sort of Americanism is a man with a car. He feels himself to be anything but a miserable wage slave. He is not ashamed of his status. He looks his employer in the face like any other man, and he earns his money by putting his back into his job. A real constructive revolution is progressing in America. There is no possibility of a solution in Europe except on the same lines."

Mr. Garvin insists that higher wages and partnership are the only cure for labor troubles on the other side of the Atlantic. "Either," he says, "capital will have the vision and courage to offer labor more and more, or the profits of capital—assuredly of fixed capital—in this country will be less and less."

Of course it would be incorrect to say that the United States has solved its labor problem, for there are still strikes and lockouts; but it is true that great numbers of industrial concerns, and the list is growing, have no serious labor troubles because employees and employers have got together for their mutual advantage. The I.R.C. is true in Canada in an increasing ratio, and is greatly to the benefit of industry and industrial workers.

Odds and Ends

Whose "Star" is in Them-selves

(London Free Press)

To a great extent a people is made by the nature of its environment. Mountain people differ from people of the plains. Inland people are not like people at the water front.

So we have the English poet, William Watson, saying in a fine couplet on the British race:

Time, and the ocean, and some fostering star,

In high cabal have made us what we are.

"Time!" Time in which to ripen into a homogeneous nation, the union of which are so closely knit by common historic experience they know no cleavage.

"The ocean!" All the great Empire-building adventures of Britain have sprung from the love the British have for the Seven Seas.

"Some fostering star!" Shakespeare would take exception to Watson at this point, since Shakespeare thought if a people were "underlings" the fault was a fault of character, not of destiny.

Let us say of the British, then, that their "star" is in themselves.

Notes on Aborigine

(Boston Transcript)

Weeping willows should be set out in tiers.

Hat trees do best indoors.

Ambushes, of course, are for dark places.

Family trees flourish best in exclusive sections.

Nut trees are appropriate for insane asylum grounds.

Show trees to yield galoshes, must be grafted with the rubber plant.

Achievement

(Theodosia Pearce in "Lights from Little Lanterns.")

Better to climb the steep hill of Excellence

Than to watch others climb;

Better to struggle on with strong persistence

Than to lose pace with Time.

Better to reach, footsore, the postern portal

Than win with ease the goal;

Better to know through weary, torn and mortal

Mine is a growing soul!

Just Fun

IT IS reported that one of the fastidious newly married ladies of this town kneads bread with her gloves on. This incident may be somewhat peculiar, but there are others. The editor of this paper needs bread with his shoes on; he needs bread with his shirt on; he needs bread with his pants on, and unless some of the delinquent subscribers to this "Old Rag of Freedom" pony up before long, he will need bread without a damn thing on, and Saint John is no Garden of Eden in the winter time.

WAITRESS: Here's your shortcake, sir.

SARCASTIC Diner: You call that shortcake? Take it out and berry it!

EFFICIENCY experts say you can't sit quiet and produce profits. We refer him to artists' models and the hens.

DON'T STOP MY PAPER

Don't stop my paper, Printer, Don't strike my name off yet! You know the cash comes slow, And dollars hard to get; But tug a little harder— Is what I mean to do; And scrape the dimes together— Enough for me and you.

I can't afford to drop it, And I find it doesn't pay To do without your paper, However, others may; I hate to ask my neighbors To give me just a loan; They don't just say, but mean it— Why don't you get your own?

MAG: I'm smoking a terrible lot of cigars lately!

JACK: You certainly are, it's that's one of them!

SAFEST place in the world is in church. Almost never does a fatal accident happen there.

IGNORANCE is when you don't know anything and someone finds it out.

DURING his first few days in camp the young recruit was the victim of so many practical jokes that he doubted all men and their motives. One night while he was on guard, the tall figure of one of the officers loomed up in the darkness before him.

"Who goes there?" he challenged.

"Major Moore," replied the officer. The recruit scented a new joke.

"Glad to meet you, Major," he said cheerfully. "Advance and give the ten commands."

THE baby and the radio both do the cutest things after the guests have gone.

"HE is all the world to me. What would you advise me to do?" a girl asked her aunt one day.

"See a little more of the world," replied aunt.

WASHINGTON forecasts big cotton weevil crop for 1926. Why can't some scientists teach them to cut weeds?

HER hair looks like a mop having convulsions.

THE only difference between dancing and wrestling is in the music.

WHERE ignorance is bliss there's a little trouble in floating bonds to build another school house.

WELL WELLED

GROOM—have you kissed the bride?

Best man (absently)—Oh, yes, hundreds of times—

WHICH WAS NO BULL

"I WROTE to the paper to find out how long cows should be milked."

"And they said—"

"Just like short cows"—Goblin, Toronto.

THE CHANGING YEARS

"YOU said that play? What did you think of it?"

"Oh, I liked it, but really, it is hardly a play which a girl could take her mother."

—Answers, London.

TO AVOID TROUBLE

HE—"But you promised at the altar to obey me."

SHE—"Of course, I didn't want to make a scene."—Judge.

FUEL TO THE FLAMES

WIFE—"Don't you dare to speak to me for a month."

Husband—"You think you'll have finished all you want to say by then?"

—Answers, London.

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Playing The Game



Foreigner: "Ah, ma foi Zee Inglesh; Nine weeks of coal stoppage, and yet they play their games!"

POEMS I LOVE

"Lies" by Rose Terry Cooke.

THIS love poem was written by an American woman, who died in 1892, and who, in addition to her verse, wrote much short story dealing with New England life. She is scarcely recalled now, but several of her poems make a strong appeal to me, because of their simplicity and straightforwardness.

If I were a cloud in heaven,
I would hang over thee;
If I were a star of even,
I'd rise and set for thee;
For love, life, light, were given
Thy ministers to be.

Or a sunbeam coming after,
Lie on thy forehead fair;
For the world and its wide hereafter
Have naught with thee to compare.

If I were a fountain leaping,
Thy name should be
The burden of my sweet weeping;
If I were a bee,
My honeyed treasures keeping,
I'd kiss thy hair!

There's never a tired ocean
Without a shore;
Nor a leaf whose downward motion
No dew depletes;
And I dream that my devotion
May move thee to sigh once more.
If I were a wind's low laughter,
I'd kiss thy hair!

Queer Quirks of Nature

HE DOESN'T GO HOME UNTIL MORNING.

By AUSTIN H. CLARK.

OF ALL our giant moths, the most beautiful is the lovely light green long-tailed luna. This is a common moth, though seen perhaps less frequently than certain of the others.

Unlike the ecrotopia and the polyphemus it prefers woods to the more open country. It usually first appears

long after dark and flies till morning, while the others appear at sundown and fly but little in the darkest hours.

ABOUT THE LIGHTS.

Occasionally you see it about electric lights, where it is easily recognized at once because of its light color and its long tails on the hind wings. The other giant moths are frequently confused with bats, but no one can mistake the luna for a bat.

THE luna has a much less erratic flight than the males of our other giant moths. Instead of swooping and darting this way and that as is their habit, it travels in a straighter course, but it has a curious way of dancing up and down for several feet about the other branches of a tree.

SOUTH IN AUTUMN.

The luna appears abundantly in May and June, in the north in June and July, and again in much smaller numbers in late August and September. The number seen in autumn increases southward, until in the far south there are regularly two broods a year.

But it has a curious way of dancing up and down for several feet about the other branches of a tree.

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