

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 23, 1911.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 South Cross Street, every evening (Sundays excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

CHRISTMAS We come again to that benign season when the Great Anniversary sends over all Christendom the spirit of peace on earth and good will to men.

Here and there discordant voices are raised to tell us that there is not peace but war in the world of men, and that in the religious world there is not concord but dissension. But in the very act of recording this unseasonable protest one realizes of how little moment it is, by comparison.

Talk there is of creeds, talk of changing beliefs, talk of peace interrupted by some rattling of the swords of the nations; but the world is not to be judged by a day or a year, or a generation, but by the steadiness with which it swings evermore truly toward its epoch star of truth. Men change in their conception of formula, but the fundamentals do not change.

The world is emerging from the clogging multiplicity of creed rules, and coming yearly to agree more and more upon the outstanding simplicities of religion. Love is service. This is the great creed, and yearly more and more of the world's people subscribe to it, realizing, even in an age stamped above all others as material, that selfishness is humanity's greatest foe.

They are blind who do not see, as each Christmas comes, that the current of good becomes always broader and more powerful. To the mature in mind Christmas is at once a season of rejoicing and of thoughtful pause. The world calls a truce from its myriad activities, and thinking folk give attention to causes and results.

ance of a few financiers, there is no reason in the world why the public which buys stock should not see the works of the watch as well as the face thereof. So here is more power to Sir Sanford's elbow.

A tariff war between the United States and Russia is on the programme. A tariff war means a system of fines for the consumer. Such fines ought to be paid only by the politicians who raise the tariff.

C. P. R. officials in Montreal deny that their company has purchased a site for a big hotel in St. John. This rumor persists in the face of many denials, a fact due probably to the universal belief that the C. P. R. will find it a good matter of business to establish a big hotel in St. John before the Grand Trunk Pacific has time to do so.

An Ottawa despatch to the Standard says that if Mr. Borden is knighted the honor will be given "in recognition of his fight for British connection and unity of the Empire in the recent election."

The manufacturers have already told Mr. Borden that the preference must not be increased. And now this whole country is waiting to see what the Premier is going to do about it.

PHASES OF HIGH COST OF LIVING

(Toronto Mail and Empire) It has been well said that the reason for the high cost of living is the cost of living high; and that the consumers themselves are directly responsible for the sin of which they have accused the middleman.

The trial of the Chicago meat packers is going to occupy months and cost a mint of money. But the trial of the meat consumers has extended over many years and has cost many millions.

If there is any Liberal office holder who has not yet been fired for "offensive partisanship" the chances are less than he should to be if he will send his name to Mr. Monk in confidence.

There is an intimation from Ottawa that the Premier of Canada will be Sir Robert Laird Borden early in the new year. The news is pleasing and of some importance, but it would be more to the point if Mr. Borden would take Canada fully into his confidence with respect to the tariff.

During the new year St. John will introduce commission government and will at least give thoughtful examination to the merits of gradually exempting improvements from taxation.

The suit by the Bank of Montreal against Sir Sanford Fleming may result in leaving the lead line into the water in the cement merger stock. Sir Sanford Fleming has money enough to afford to do a little submarine investigating, and he recently told several friends that before he got through he would turn the cement merger inside out. Beyond the distur-

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

PORTER'S DRUG STORE Cor. St. Patrick and Union Sts.

CHRISTMAS SORROWS 'Tis Christmas Eve, the fire burns bright Within the grate of yonder dwelling. And grandpa's heart is moved to-night By mingled joy and sadness swelling.

He sees each grand child, girl and boy, In sweet expectant slumber dreaming; His aged heart is filled with joy Yet down his cheek a tear is streaming.

He feels again the rule of youth That thro' his childish hoarse started When Santa Claus was gospel truth To him in days now long departed.

Some incident of childhood days, That had for years been all forgotten, Again appears before his gaze, At sight of each expectant stocking.

The sleeping doll, the gilded drum, The music-box with sweet vibration, The glittering sword, the polished gun, The skates for healthily recreation.

The odor of the painted toys, He's sorting out with feeble finger, Awakes again the vanished joys, That e'er in the memory linger.

For Christmas mirth will ever tend To wake the dormant chord of sadness, By recollections of the friend Who shares no more our festive gladness.

The vacant chair that's never filled, The happy voice whose ringing laughter, The heartless rooper rudely killed, To waken in the bright hereafter.

In every home such thoughts as these Are mingled with the season's greeting Throughout the world where'er you please You'll find them in the family meeting.

Forgive me, reader, if I wrote A line to mar your festive gladness, I only pen the lines to note How Christmas joys are linked with sadness.

RUBIED TIPPILING IN LIGHTER VEIN She: "Yes, I like Ted, he is so extravagant." He: "That is hardly the best quality for a husband, is it?" She: "Of course not; I am not going to marry him."

Guest at a Restaurant—"Excuse me, sir, can you let me come to the telephone?" You have been here twenty minutes without saying a word.

Concoited Bridge-Player—"Come here and sit by me, Kitty. You can learn a good deal by watching my game." Kitty Quicktongue—"No thanks, I never could profit by other people's mistakes."

Professor Stone—"To the geologist a thousand years or so are not counted as any time at all." Man in the Audience—"Great Scott! And to think I made a temporary loan of two pounds to a man who holds such views!"

"Why don't you try to write your name on the scroll of fame?" "My friend," said the severely practical person very earnestly, "I have never seen anybody leaving jackets out of the scroll of fame and getting them cashed at the bank."

An old country woman asked a young lady the other day, "How long have you been learning the piano?" "Two years," was the reply. "My, what a time!" exclaimed the old dame. "Or jock got a gramophone, an' he could play it off the first shot."

Two servant girls had the following brief but pointed colloquy—"Well Sally, how are you?" "Oh, capital. My master's got the gout and can't wear his boots, so I haven't got to clean 'em of a morning; while my mistress has got the indigestion so she can't eat, so I've got nothing to cook."

"Oh, what luck!" a host of modern paraphernalia that was not considered essential in the good old days when butter sold at a York shilling a pound, and when the customers would carry bags of potatoes on their shoulders from Parliament street over the Don.

Mayor Shank's Plan The most notable of contemporary movements against the high price of food necessities is that inaugurated by Mayor Shank, of Indianapolis. Becoming convinced that the retailers were charging unfair prices, and that they were combining to keep up prices, he boldly attacked them by constituting himself a market.

He sent into the country and bought a number of carloads of potatoes from the growers at 60 cents a bushel, and after paying incidental charges, was able to sell them at 75 cents. At that time the retailers in Indianapolis were charging \$1.60 a bushel. When Mayor Shank began to cut prices the dealers a bushel, but raised them again to a dollar a bushel, but raised them again as soon as the Mayor's supply was exhausted.

Then his Worship invaded the fruit market, and similarly cut prices, while his supplies lasted. On Saturday he helped seventy-five people to get their Thanksgiving turkeys at 18 cents a pound. He also sold 300 dressed chickens and 300 pounds of country butter at prices considerably below those charged in the stores of Indianapolis. He declares that he will go on with the fight until the retailers abandon their ring.

Better and Cheaper Food The people of the city appear to be very strongly in favor of the Mayor's campaign, and never let him keep his stock long on hand. Probably they have figured out by this time why the government was a success. The Mayor has taught them to go to the market again. He does not deliver the goods. He has the supplies delivered at the market, and the people have to come for them. He fills no telephone orders, charges nothing, has no bookkeeping expenses, no high rent to pay, and the

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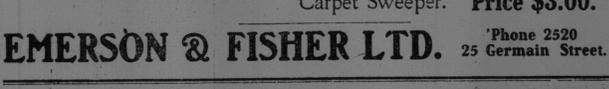
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