

# The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 19, 1926.

## GOING AFTER BUSINESS.

Vancouver is taking a leaf out of Montreal's book. The Montreal Board of Harbor Commissioners some time ago sent Mr. Michael Fennell, port manager, to Europe to explain the advantages of Montreal's port facilities in shipping and commercial circles in Britain and on the Continent. Now the Vancouver Harbor Commissioners are sending a delegate to China and Japan to promote an increase of commerce between those countries and Canada—through the port of Vancouver. The increased consumption of wheat in the Orient well justifies this piece of enterprise.

Saint John needs that sort of promotion, not only with respect to grain but in connection with all classes of import and export cargo.

The growth of Vancouver as a grain port is shown by the following statement by E. A. Ursell, statistician to the Board of Grain Commissioners, Fort William:

"Vancouver, with ample ocean tonnage available, is handling almost 40 per cent. of the total North American wheat exported at present, and is only prevented by lack of demand from shipping far more. Oriental purchases accounted for a large proportion of the Vancouver shipments until the last few weeks when shipments to Europe increased substantially. From present indications, the volume handled through Vancouver this season will exceed all previous records."

Mr. Ursell takes note of the fact that European countries are using up their own wheat surplus and also making larger use of rye, and therefore the demand for Canadian grain is dull. He says:

"Until conditions change, it is hardly to be expected that Canada's surplus can be disposed of very rapidly. In the meantime, by the end of January, upward of 36,000,000 bushels of wheat will remain in storage here and in Atlantic seaboard ports. Port William and Port Arthur elevators were full and interior public elevators rapidly filling."

How much of the balance of the Canadian crop moving eastward will be shipped through United States ports? Saint John and Halifax are especially interested in the answer to this question.

## CIVIC TAXATION.

The Board of Trade, which is steadily expanding its activities and broadening the scope of its work in the public interest, has appointed a committee to study civic taxation, a difficult and complicated line of endeavor, but a highly necessary one.

Ever since the days of the famous Tax Reduction Association movement, which resulted in a small civic revolution, efforts have been made at intervals to keep down the rate, but without conspicuous success. At times the rate itself has remained practically the same for two or three years, but the assessment values have been steadily increased. The net result has been that real taxation has considerably more than doubled in twenty-five years. This has been the experience in most other Canadian cities, and we have to remember also that the scale of living has advanced very materially within that period, that nearly all prices have increased heavily, and that the purchasing power of the dollar is now much less than it was in 1913.

The last changes in our taxation system, made as a result of a report by an investigating commission ten or twelve years ago, were good in the main; but experience since then has brought to light some weaknesses which require amendment. The salaried classes—particularly in cases where their incomes are known—undoubtedly suffer in comparison with other taxpayers. It is maintained in some quarters that the taxes on real estate are too high, but, as for that, the same complaint is made regarding all taxation. Mere comparisons of the rates existing in different cities is useless because the systems differ both as to rate and assessment, yet, thanks to the Citizens' Research Institute and other investigating authorities, real comparisons are increasingly possible in these days.

The difficulties at City Hall are all the greater because the percentage of expenditure that is controllable is very small in proportion to the total levy. The public has demanded large outlays, notably in connection with education, and over this expenditure the Common Council has no control. Interest charges eat up another large slice of the city's income, and the amount remaining for the upkeep of the department services and for public improvements is by no means great. In fact, it is too small.

Undoubtedly favorable taxation conditions contribute in no small measure to civic growth and progress. It may well be that the time has come when our civic taxation plan requires considerable overhauling. The first essential is to discover sound lines of advance, and to that end a careful and penetrating exploration of the whole problem is clearly necessary.

It is interesting to note that Mayor Mitchell, of Windsor, Ont., has announced that he may recommend to

the Council the abolition of the municipal income tax. Windsor faces Detroit, and the Mayor has been receiving protests from many citizens who are threatening to move across the river, because over there there is only one income tax, the federal one, which has been greatly reduced, and which is very small in comparison with the Dominion income levy. Windsor is naturally anxious to keep its population, and the Mayor does not believe it can do so if it piles a municipal income tax on top of the federal one—as we do.

But Windsor, even if it abolishes the civic tax on income, cannot prevent the citizens, who are given such apparent relief, from paying indirectly, through their rents or otherwise, some share of the civic levy. The city has to get the money.

It may be said of Windsor that it is constantly and rapidly acquiring additions to its taxable property and to its population. That, unhappily, is not the case with Saint John at present, and that the fact that it is not the case necessarily reminds us that at the bottom of our taxation problem lies the need for business growth, for new enterprises and added population contributing to the civic treasury. In other words, while we need taxation revision, we greatly need more paying passengers. If we can lower taxation it will be easier to get them. If we get them, the solution of our taxation problem will be greatly simplified.

The Halifax Board of Works has decided to set the jail prisoners to work to clear away the snow which is blocking many of the streets. Years ago in Halifax, as in Saint John, was the custom to employ jail labor, but the practice was abandoned in both cities owing to the pressure of public opinion. Apparently it is to be revived in Halifax as an emergency measure only. In Saint John the prisoners were engaged in breaking stone and in doing other work in connection with the public parks. While there was some objection to the proposal to have the prisoners tackle the snow blockade, the Halifax Board of Works decided in favor of the plan upon representations being made that conditions were dangerous and that if a serious fire occurred it would be so difficult to move apparatus that the consequences might be most disastrous.

## Odds and Ends

Julian Grenfell (Maurice Barling)

Because of you we will be glad and gay,  
Remembering you, we will be brave and strong;  
And hail the advent of each dangerous day,  
And meet the last adventure with a song.  
And, as you proudly gave your jewelled gift,  
We'll give our lesser offering with a smile,  
Nor falter in that path where, all too swift,  
You led the way and leapt the golden stile.  
Whether new paths, new heights to climb you find,  
Or gallop through the unforgotten asphalt,  
We know you know we shall not lag behind,  
Nor halt to waste a moment on a fear.  
And you will speed us onward with a cheer,  
And wave beyond the stars that all is well.

## Another Wolf Story Exploded

(Bystander in Toronto Globe)

Another "e-e-r-r-r-r-r-r" wolf story of a fight between men and wild beasts in the North, goes by the board, and fades from the records as fiction that developed from the telling and retelling of certain commonplace incidents in connection with life in the mining country. A correspondent at Elk Lake writes The Bystander as follows: The sensational wolf story which is going around to the newspapers, dated from Elk Lake, concerning a terrible fight with wolves, in which dogs were eaten up, and all the other frills were attached to the yarn, started in a joke. The truth of the matter is that a prospector in Elk Lake did shoot a wolf, having happened to run across it when the wolf came close to him without seeing him, and with the wind in the right direction so that the wolf did not get scent of the man, so that the trapper was able to shoot it. There have never been many wolves in this section, and in fact the Indians say that for a great many years they have never seen any along the Montreal River in this neighborhood; but within the last few months there has been a small pack of perhaps four or five which has followed deer into this section, and probably found it a very good place for wolves on account of the great number of rabbits which were to be seen during the last two or three years. The men at the construction camp on the new power line from Elk Lake to Gowganda say they heard a few miles out on the Gowganda Road, and it was one of those that was shot by the trapper. Another one was followed by another trapper a few miles out from Elk Lake. This is the real story so far as this part of the district is concerned.

## Just Fun

IT IS pretty hard to tell where this bare knee fad will end.

NEITHER Edison nor Ford can make a speech. No need to since their work speaks for them.

NO NEED for Argument—Four bullet wounds were in the dead man's body and it was evident that he had been killed.—From Exchange.

"CLASS," said the new teacher, "I want you all to be as quiet as you can; so quiet that you can hear Silence was golden. Small bass voice in the rear of the room: "Let'er drop."

GUILTY  
"LAST night I made an awful mistake."  
"That so? How?"  
"I drank two bottles of gold paint."  
"How do you feel?"  
"Guilty."

BENNY (having difficulty in teaching the little sister to whistle): "AW, just make a hole in your face and push."

MANY soda fountains have been set up where bars used to be, but we never hear of anybody who wants to kiss the soda fountain attendant good night.

A WOMAN will spend half her days trying to find out something the discovery of which will make her unhappy for the rest of her life.

A CHICAGO banker was dictating a letter to his stenographer. "Tell Mr. So-and-so," he ordered, "that I will meet him in Schenectady."  
"How do you spell Schenectady?" asked the stenographer.  
"S-c-e-r-e-r-r-r-tell him I'll meet him in Albany."

MISUNDERSTOOD  
"WE WOMEN are always misunderstood."  
"Well, no woman ever tries to make herself plain, does she?"

TOURIST—"How far is it to Pleasant View?"  
Native—"One thousand three hundred and forty-six signboards."

A MAN uses the spring on his couch for an indoor aerial. Probably wants to be sure that he won't miss any of those "bedtime" stories!

## Timely Views On World Topics

By MARTIN L. DAVEY.

OUTSIDE of letter carriers and clerks and the few directly concerned with the handling of the mails, the civilian employees of the government include the largest number of loafers, time killers and backpassers I have ever seen here. I do not know how much personal knowledge you may have concerning the work or alleged work, or working conditions of civilian employees of the federal government, but here are some facts:

They report for duty at 9 in the morning and leave at 4:30 in the afternoon for lunch, although most of them take considerably more. This represents a maximum of seven hours per day. In addition to these short working hours, they have Saturday afternoons off during the summer, and all other times when there is an excuse to close the departments. They also have thirty days' vacation and thirty days' sick leave, not counting Sundays or holidays. So the average civilian employee puts in less than ten months per year. But this is not the worst. I will venture the assertion that more than half the civilian employees of the government, not counting letter carriers and clerks, are the most expert loafers and time-killers in the American Service—what irony there is in that word, applied to the business end of the United States! Existing conditions are a tragic perversion of the spirit and purpose of government.

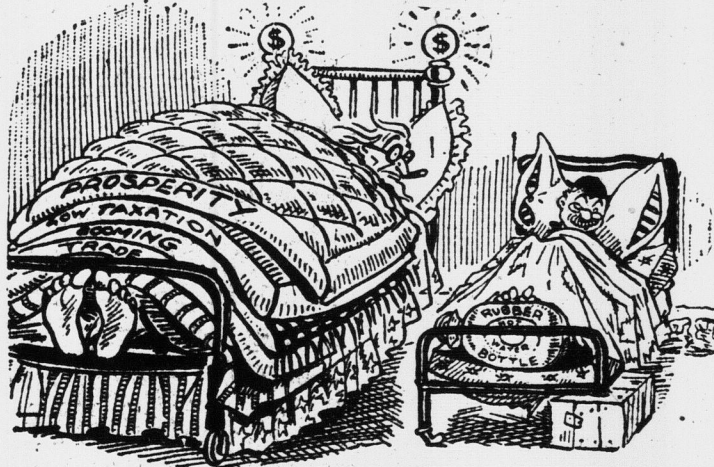
We should get rid of 100,000 or more of the tax-eating drones, co-ordinate the various activities of the government, eliminate senseless public work, effort or alleged effort, and establish a reasonable basis of work and service. There are many who are efficient and meritorious and a great many who are really underpaid, but they are decidedly in the minority. This deserving minority is held down and injured by the vast army of useless and inefficient ones. Moreover, many who would otherwise be good and valuable government employees have become victims of the vicious system, the philosophy of which is to do as little as can be done and keep the job alive. The majority of good, competent workers who enter the employ of the government either get out of the service through disgust or else become discouraged and drift into this vicious system and are swallowed up by it. I know of nothing more hopeless than the situation of a willing worker in the employ of the United States government. He is held down by a horde of useless and inefficient employees, discouraged by the destructive philosophy of the government service, and is without hope of reward for meritorious work.

## Other Views

BEAUTY, BARBERING AND BY-LAWS.  
(Ottawa Citizen)

A barber, according to a dictionary definition, is "one who shaves beards and dresses hair." City Solicitor Proctor has offered the learned opinion that one who does not shave beards but does dress hair is a barber "within the meaning of the act." Mr. Proctor's legal opinion is probably sound, but it is arrived at by a circuitous route which offers stumbling blocks to the layman. By no stretch of the imagination can a modern "beauty parlor" be called a barber shop. A barber shop

## A Great Footwarmer



The warmest people are not always those with the most clothes.  
The Daily Express, London.

## Poems That Live

### WE THANK THEE.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see.  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!  
For blue of stream and blue of sky;  
For pleasant shade of branches high;  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

## The Best of Advice

BY CLARK KINNAIRD.

### CURING THE SICK WITH A WHIP.

MAN in all his infinite wisdom improves slowly. Once he punished those he calls criminals by drawing and quartering them, or by merely tearing out their eyes. Now he burns them to death with electricity, or locks them up to contemplate their sins and devise means of escape. Some day he will realize that criminals are only sick men, needing to be treated as such; that caging them like wild animals can never cure their distorted and diseased minds.

WE HEAR much today of the crime wave, its causes and its cure. "Shoot them down without mercy," cry some. "Build more gallows," cry others. Occasionally, some thinking soul rises to remark that five thousand years of failure ought to be sufficient evidence that such methods do not cure men of criminal desires. What's the solution? One Harry P. Meyers, while waiting to die at the hangman's hands, wrote this: "A wild rose cannot be torn from its native heath, transplanted into a flower bed and be expected to produce blossoms like a cultivated plant. "Nor can the criminal be taken from his environment, immersed for a season in prison and be expected to be a good citizen.

It is an ancient institution. It has undergone transformations, but remains a place of historic interest. In the old days it was the meeting place of the town worthies, where political gossip and social intelligence were as important commodities as shaves and haircuts. As stated, it has been subject to changes, but still endures as a centre of community life, the domain of the male, and a repository of copies of Life for 1908. Beauty and barbering never went hand in hand before. But the new ruling links them in a legal bond, by ordaining that beauty parlors come within the by-law governing barber shops. Up to now, beauty parlors have been to men realms of secret rites and exotic mysticism. They have been the haunts of modern ladies in search of the elusive grace and charm of the eternal Eve. But because that search has led to shingled hair, and hence hair dressing, the trained legal mind has succeeded in stripping it of its romance and its mystic air and pronouncing it a barber shop within the meaning of the law.

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## Who's Who IN THE DAY'S NEWS

BENITO MUSSOLINI.  
HAS Benito Mussolini, former vagabond, dreams of becoming another Caesar, another Napoleon? Europe is afraid he has, and is watching with bated breath the situation he created when he issued an ultimatum to Germany regarding German activities in the South Tyrol. Mussolini has been playing with matches around the European powder-house ever since he marched to Rome at the head of a Fascist army and took possession of the government. Yet Mussolini was once forcibly ejected out of Italy as a vagabond. This was when he was 20 years of age. He went to Switzerland and entered the Lausanne university. His activities as a revolutionary socialist caused his banishment from Switzerland. From Austria, too, where he went from Switzerland, his political beliefs exiled him. He finally returned to Italy and settling in Milan became the editor of a socialist paper. When the world war broke out he joined the army and fought at Monte Nero and Carso, being severely wounded. Later, with the swift action, terrific speed and irresistible force which mark all his undertakings, he crushed the Communists in Turin, the great manufacturing centre of Italy. They were planning to seize the industrial machinery and run it on Bolshevik lines. Mussolini swooped down on the town in an airplane, rallied the war veterans and other conservative elements, and ended the Bolshevik menace. It is said that there are 1,000,000 men ready to respond to Mussolini's call at any moment. Not only the army but the entire intellectual community of Italy looks to him for orders.

Versions of his early life are conflicting in many particulars, but it appears he comes from a middle class family. In school he was not a brilliant scholar. He is married and has several daughters actively interested in the Fascist movement. Originally a rebel against the Catholic church, he has lately receded in his opinions in this respect. Only last December he had a priest put the church's approval on his marriage, performed years before by a civil official.

"The proper thing to do is to find out how much intelligence he has and give him the education he needs. If a man has the fundamental base for this polish, it is the duty of society to see that he gets it. "A prison should be a college where the misdirected material of a glorious manhood is salvaged, not a pesthouse awash with other blind, groping humans. "The motive and incentive of humans, singly, nationally and universally, is selfishness, merging unduly into pride, for no one does anything for which he expects to get nothing. The criminal does wrong for gain and will do right if a true sense of values is substituted for his false ones, provided he may be taught that his gain (however measured) will be greater."

"This does not put the case perfectly by any means, but who can say that this doomed man (now dead) did not put his finger upon the cause of the failure of our system of what we call justice, to end the deluge of crime?"

WITH a jerk the bus came to a halt and two girls clambered aboard. It was raining and had been so for upwards of an hour, the streets were muddy and the air was cold.

"Oh!" she gasped. "I've got the wrong hand!"

With a smile the man withdrew his hand and held out the other.

"All right, miss!" he said reassuringly. "There's the other one!"

"Yes, he's a fine actor," remarked one person to another. "I remembered seeing him when he brought the house down."

"Ah, brick by brick, I expect."

Dr. McKnight  
New Management  
This office is now under the personal management and supervision of Dr. G. T. McKnight, assisted by Dr. Geo. F. Bamber.

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Where ignorance is bliss tax payers are boggled with bond issues to build more school houses.

One of the girls was a little unsteady on her feet, and after the bus had indulged in several violent lurches, she decided that it would be safer to hold on to something. Accordingly, she grasped what she imagined was her friend's hand.

After standing thus for a few moments she looked down, and, to her embarrassment, discovered that she was holding the hand of a strange man.

"Oh!" she gasped. "I've got the wrong hand!"

With a smile the man withdrew his hand and held out the other.

"All right, miss!" he said reassuringly. "There's the other one!"

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