

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 29, 1919

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ST. JOHN'S OPPORTUNITY.

In no previous winter were so many active young business and professional men giving concerted and systematic study to matters relating to progress and development in St. John. Large committees held meetings to discuss different subjects, appoint sub-committees to gather information; and, after full consideration, outline courses of action. These young men, with a sprinkling of older men, are very much in earnest. As one of them put the case in a recent conversation, they are to go on living in St. John and its growth and prosperity will mean better opportunities in life for them and their children. "This is a very wise and practical view. It is also to be noted that attention is by no means centered on the question of material growth. The forward movement embraces education, recreation and better social conditions. Such matters as housing, playgrounds and amateur athletics, and child welfare, are receiving their share of attention along with those relating to industrial and commercial development. As yet no outstanding result of all these deliberations appears, for the movement is still young, but those in close touch with what is being done have no hesitation in saying that the city has entered upon a new era of progress. Before the winter is over there will be results sufficient to give all the citizens a new inspiration.

The Times-Star ventures a word of counsel to those who have shown an interest in the forward movement. It is that they throw themselves into whatever work may be assigned to them in the committee, or that may appeal to them as worth doing, with a real and sustained energy. "Do it for St. John" means doing it for all the people, ourselves included. Take, for example, the Commercial Club. It has been divided into teams, each of which is in itself a very large committee, with its own chairman and secretary, and special questions referred to it for study and for recommendations based thereon. Every member of every one of these teams, of which there are already five, should be so personally obligated to attend its meetings, give the benefit of his thoughts, and labor to make his work as fruitful as that of any other team. The like is true of other organizations or committees working along any special lines for civic improvement in any direction. There is no reason why, for this winter, all the citizens should not concentrate on the purpose of the Commercial Club, "to make St. John a better city to live in," and pave the way for a season of great activity during the coming spring and summer.

St. John has sometimes been described by its own people as a city of spasms. Let it now be demonstrated that it is a city of steady and well-directed effort for substantial and sustained progress. A city is what its people make it, and with its natural advantages St. John should grow steadily until it has become a great city. There are many instances of what has been accomplished from time to time by a relatively few resolute persons who clung to their task, and if all the people become imbued with the spirit of progress there is no limit to what they may accomplish. The city of Moncton did not have to plow a lonely furrow when it set out to improve itself. As soon as it became known that Moncton was putting itself in larger letters on the map there were great numbers of people to come in and have a share in the work with the result that its population has very rapidly increased, and its taxable valuation advanced in proportion. The like is true of every city whose people are not afraid to strike out along the path of progress. Let the people of St. John imbibe the spirit of progress and make it manifest in their works.

BOLSHEVIST ATROCITIES.

Toronto Saturday Night quotes this paragraph from a letter written from Odessa in Russia by a young Canadian to his father, telling what Bolshevism has done: "I went into the late Soviet headquarters yesterday. In that place alone they tortured and killed seven hundred people a week. Not content with their own depravity the Bolsheviks have paid hands of professional Chinese torturers, who from all accounts over-earned their pay. The wildest things ever heard of have easily been surpassed by these gentry. I went around the place and saw some of the professional instruments. My main job, however, was to keep myself from being ill. The floors were half an inch thick with blood, and the state of the walls against which the lucky ones were shot can only be imagined."

"The letter," says Saturday Night, "then goes on to describe some of the Bolshevist torturers, including a negro, two Chinese and three Russian girls, who had been captured by the volunteers, and had been promised a speedy end for the atrocities committed. When told what their fate was to be one young girl, described by the writer as the 'youngest and gentlest' boasted that she had gouged out the eyes of six hundred peo-

ple and was well content to lose her own head in exchange."

It is inconceivable that these murderers should gain and hold power for any lengthened period. This madness must burn itself out.

The Valley Railway, especially during the Christmas season, has proved of great value to the people living along the line, as well as to the merchants in the towns. The next step is to have a McGivney section brought up to the transcontinental standard, the bridge at Fredericton strengthened, and facilities provided for handling export traffic by this route at St. John. All this should be done, in the interest of Canadian trade, before next winter. It is a matter that should be pressed upon the attention of the federal government without delay and without ceasing until the work is completed.

Organized labor in the United States resents any legislative action affecting the right to strike. It all depends on how a right is exercised. When the interests of the general public are seriously injured the case must be protected. Only when they are disregarded does there come a demand for legislation. The recent coal strike was a case in point. Its continuance would have inflicted enormous loss and suffering upon the public, which ought to be protected from such another danger in the future. If this can be done without legislation, well and good.

In spite of the evidence of prosperity and of spending capacity on the part of the citizens there are many calls of want and suffering in St. John. Social workers know it, and their hearts ache for the children. All those families which were regarded as in need of Christmas dinner did not say good-bye to their troubles on Christmas Day. They face a winter of hardship and should be the object of continued sympathy, helpful suggestions, and whatever assistance may be given—not to make them objects of charity—but to make them as nearly self-supporting as possible.

Those Conservative papers which have sought to discredit the Foster government on the ground that the recent provincial loan did not realize a satisfactory return will not get much comfort from the fact that the New Brunswick bonds brought a better price than a recent issue of Toronto city bonds, and nearly two points more than a late issue of province of Ontario bonds. Let us see if those papers will now admit that their charge against the Foster government was without foundation.

One is impressed by the number of foreign names mentioned in connection with the wood-alcohol orgy in the United States. But there are also names of native-born Americans with a thirst for a desire to profit by the sale of poison. Nor may Canadians afford to throw stones. It is not a revelation to inspire pride in humanity.

There is general satisfaction in England over a steady revival of commerce and a cessation of labor troubles. Conditions have also greatly improved in France, and in the United States. The world outlook steadily improves, despite the enormous difficulties to be overcome. Canada is the most fortunate of all the countries engaged in the late war.

St. John ought to have a good hockey rink. It should not be outclassed by the smaller centres in the province in this regard. There should also be a revival of speed skating in a city which in the past produced champion skaters.

With half a dozen steamers lying in the stream, in addition to those at the wharves all round the harbor, the latter presented a busy aspect yesterday morning.

The Times-Star gives today further interesting extracts from the speech of Premier Lloyd George on the Irish Home Rule bill.

What a pity so much money is spent for other liquors in St. John when so much good water is going to waste.

D'Annunzio is now prepared to fight Italy. His madness has entered a new phase.

ARMLESS MURDERER.

London, Dec. 29.—Respite has been granted to William Lamb, an arduous man, who was recently condemned to death for the murder of a woman in Edinburgh. The respite is granted pending the king's consideration of a petition for reprieve.

Wilson's Birthday.

Washington, Dec. 9.—President Wilson observed his sixty-third birthday quietly yesterday, much improved in health, surrounded by the members of his family, with the exception of Mrs. W. G. McPherson, who was unable to be present.



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PROBLEMS. These Christmas bells stood as they ring everywhere, of good old days behind us, when problems didn't scare; our problems then were smaller, and wouldn't fetch a dollar; we took them by the collar and slugged them with a chair. In those old times 'twas seldom that problems came our way; in high esteem we held 'em, and watched the blamed things play; our dull routine was broken when problems from Hoboken blew in, with sign and token that they had come to stay. Then life was calm and peaceful, we worked, and made no wine, and had a large valise full of seeds put down in brine; we did the tasks allotted, the flies we blithely swatted, and to the hay we trotted at twenty after nine. One was like another, we kept our divers spheres, and no man skinned his brother, as do the profiteers; or so it seems, back gazing; the old days seem amazing, while present times are raising their racket in our ears. But now our problems vex us, and never lose their grip; each day some new one wrecks us, and smites us: thigh and hip; and so we're backward glancing; we wish we might be prancing to those old times entrancing when problems raised no yip.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST.

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

CAMERON'S FALLS.

If one is traveling on the Canadian National Railways nowadays towards Port Arthur he will notice a signboard seventy miles east of that place with the words "Cameron's Falls." It is just a drop of place in the great northland of Ontario but it is the entrance to one of the most spectacular works now in progress in this province. For at that place the Hydro-Electric Commission of the province is harnessing the Niagara River and attempting to make use of its mighty vast power running to waste in the stream. It was near there that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales rested and fished for three days early last fall.

When the engineers of the works began operations at the waterfall last winter their first work was to clear a site for the tap-pared shafts that were to house the turbines of the great power plant. That was soon accomplished and then the buildings were erected and 800 workmen brought for the task. There they have toiled ever since, blasting out great masses of rock and making the plant that will one day bring light, heat and power to thousands of homes. Surrounded as they are by the great wilderness of the north daily, they see in their hands the opening of the game that once was so numerous in the land. The bear, moose and deer are at the very edges of the clearing, the woods are filled with partridge almost as tame as the ordinary barnyard chickens, while in the stream itself some of the finest game fish in the dominion are to be had. The beaver still works unhindered in the stream, and the beaver dams along the rivers and creeks, cutting with his strong teeth the timber of the forest. It is not surprising that the price spent three happy days.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Did't Know Mother.

The teacher was giving her class a little problem in mental arithmetic, and she called to Billy Jones' turn. "Now, Billy," said the teacher, "your mother bought four dollars' worth of meat for two shillings and a dozen, what would it cost your mother?" "Don't know, sir," said Billy promptly. "Don't know," exclaimed the teacher in surprise. "Surely it's simple enough!" he replied. "Take your mother's habits in the norms of mind, we find the ways of thinking that do not conform to it abnormal, mysterious and tricky. We can get the key to mental operations only by studying social antecedents and environment, and not merely in the terms of an old civilization like the Chinese. We have to understand beliefs and traditions to understand habits, and we have to understand historic institutions to understand beliefs."

The story of the difficulties that had to be overcome in the introduction of railways into China in perspective the best known of Chinese incidents. But it bears retelling because it affords a typical illustration of the fact that the chief obstacle in the effective contact of West and East is intellectual and moral. Opposition to railways was not a matter of routine conservatism, blind sluggish apathy to the new just because it was new. The Chinese have the normal amount of curiosity, and perhaps even more than the normal amount of practical sense of the advantage to be gained by novelty which does not conflict with traditional beliefs. A difficulty presented itself in getting a clear right of the graves, which, from the Western standpoint, are scattered at random. But from the Chinese standpoint, they are hallowed with the utmost sanctity, and to disturb them is to throw out of balance the whole system of ancestral worship, and that is the centre of civic organization. The tale might have been invented to show how completely the forces to be reckoned with are intellectual and moral, and how completely they are bound up with the structure of life. Without a change of national mind it is hopeless to suppose that China can go forward prosperously because of intercourse with the West.

FOUR YEARS STRIKE ENDS.

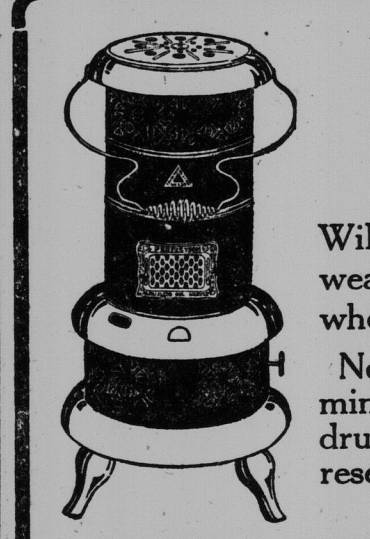
LONDON, Dec. 29.—After lasting four years the mule spinners' strike at Tanga Mill, Middleton Junction, has been settled. The strike began in September, 1915, owing to the alleged grievances of the operative spinners. Since that time the mules have been idle and the mill has been carried on by ring spinning. About 150 spinners and piecers were affected by the dispute.

DOG UPSETS MOTOR PARTY.

LONDON, Eng., Dec. 29.—Running in front of a car on the Moorroad, Crofton, Lancashire, a large black dog was caught by the rear fender wheel and the car overturned, the three occupants being injured. The dog escaped, apparently unhurt.

Travelers' President.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—C. J. Tutthill was re-elected president of the Commercial Travelers Association of Canada at the forty-seventh annual meeting here Saturday afternoon.



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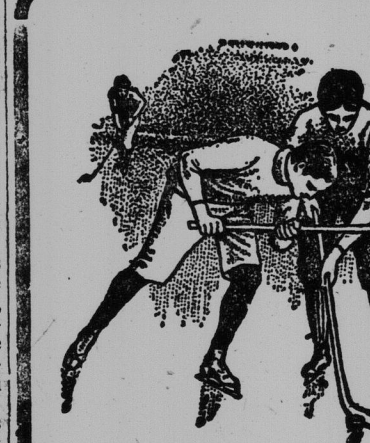
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JAM FOR BREAD, OFFICER'S WORRY

Official of Steamship Line Gives Unique Story of Troubles on Shipboard.

New York, Dec. 29.—The passenger line Princess May of the Diagonia Fruit Line almost foundered at sea when the bilge water pumps were stopped while the chief engineer worried about "jam" in his head, according to Michel Myers, general traffic manager of the line, who arrived here aboard the vessel on Saturday. The ship was towed into port after a belated voyage from Kingston, Jamaica.

When the liner reached port the crew were out and the ten passengers and twelve men of the crew were suffering from cold. The only source of heat was from several small oil stoves and by exercising and drinking up the ship's rum supply.

The trouble began about 180 miles southeast of the Ambrose Channel lightship, according to Myers. He said every body was in "high spirits," hoping to get home by Christmas, when the chief engineer "let out the first note of dissent."

"He wanted jam, common ordinary old jam, spread on his bread," said Myers. "There was plenty of marmalade but he wasn't satisfied and soon the first note grew into a tune."

Things happened "thick and fast," the traffic manager said. First the ship began to list because bilge water had accumulated. "The bilge pumps were stopped while the chief engineer worried about 'jam.' Then something went wrong with the oil feed, he declared, and the first thing anybody knew the ship was out of control."

The wireless "S. O. S." call was sent out. Mr. Myers said, and was answered by a Clyde liner. About the same time the wireless went out of commission and the lights were extinguished. "We had no steam or heat," he added. "The deck force rigged up a hand pump and that's the only reason we did not just naturally founder where we were." He said the ship would have a new engineer and return to Kingston.

UPWARD TENDENCY OF WOOL PRICES

Although Very Little Business Is Reported The High Level Is Maintained—January Expected to be a Busy Month.

Boston, Dec. 29.—For some time it has been conceded that the Boston wool market is the cheapest market in the world, and Frank M. Eshelman now states in an interview with The Street, that it is the largest. Mr. Eshelman says it appears that more wool has been handled through Boston during the last few years than through London, formerly the world's premier wool market, as 80 per cent of the wool clip of the United States passes through Boston and, in addition, this port receives large imports. The reason for Boston's priority is attributed to the large consumption of wool by the New England mills and to the enterprise of the wool merchants of this city, assisted by the banks.

Little new business is reported in the local market and dealers do not anticipate that there will be much doing now until the new year. Although the holiday feeling reduces the amount of business, it has no effect on prices which remain strong, with an upward tendency. January bids fair to be a good month for the wool trade as, in addition to the government auctions, the Australian and New Zealand wools owned by the British government will be offered. The regular government sales are to take place from Jan. 7 to Jan. 10, the purpose at present being to offer secured wools on Saturday morning, Jan. 18.

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AUSTRALIA TESTS CONCRETE HOUSES

Disappointed in his expectations of being able to obtain bricklayers and bricks in sufficient numbers and quantity to cope with the demand for houses, D. R. Hall, the New South Wales minister for housing, gave a trial to concrete, which needs mainly unskilled labor. On Oct. 18, he declared the first cottage open, and ready for a successful ballroom on time payment, at an agreed cost of £250. The payments to be made are 24s a week, and the house and land together are valued at £800. The house contains three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, bathroom and other appointments, with a laundry and playroom in the basement. The cottage was built in three weeks. Mr. Hall hoped, within a few days, to sign a contract for the building of seventy or eighty cottages of similar material.

Critical builders say the house really cost £2,000, and that it could be built of brick for less money. Other critics object that the most urgent demand is for houses of a much cheaper class, which can be let or sold on the installment plan, at from 10s. to 20s. weekly.

Montreal Holds-up.

Montreal, Dec. 29.—On Saturday night two armed holdup men robbed Quinn & Sons of \$40 in his laundry, and Emile Trudeau received a bullet wound in the thigh when, going home at 1 o'clock yesterday morning he told two armed men that he had no money and on proceeding on his way was fired on at a distance of a couple of pages.

WHISKEY GIVEN AWAY.

London, Eng., Dec. 29.—Because no license has yet been granted to it, a cinema theatre, just opened in Bombay, is offering free drinks to its patrons.