

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1912

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AN EMPLOYER'S PROBLEM

An employer of female labor writes to The Times about the difficulty of securing satisfactory help. As an illustration he tells of two advertisements which he placed in a newspaper, one asking for a girl for office work and the other asking for girls to do manual work in his establishment. To the latter he received practically no response. To the former he received quite a number of applications, badly written, showing that the writers were not competent for the work which he had applied. Householders, on the other hand, tell us that it is difficult to secure domestic help, because so many girls seem to prefer work in factories or elsewhere. Perhaps the question of wages has something to do with the case, but the condition that exists in regard to female help is doubtless more largely due to wrong notions about the dignity of labor. The problem is not one that is easy of solution. It would be interesting to know whether in establishments where the proprietors enable their help to work under healthy conditions and not too many hours per day, at a fair wage, have constant difficulty in securing sufficient help of the same kind. The conditions of life in the city at present, when the cost of living is so high, and there are so many demands upon the purse, are such that one would expect to find a degree of eagerness on the part of all able to work to contribute something to the maintenance of the home, or at least to be independent and pay their own way. The fact remains, however, that many employers complain, as already stated, of great difficulty in getting efficient help.

POLITICS CREEPS IN

Even so non-political an institution as the Carnegie Foundation may not be free from the influence of political bias. The Popular Science Monthly tells this story in connection with William Wilson, who is a possible Democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States:—"The Carnegie Foundation was originally established to grant pensions for length of service as well as for old age and disability. The length of service pensions were abandoned through lack of means, but the trustees, practically all of whom are university or college presidents, instructed the executive committee to 'safeguard the interests of those whose twenty-five years of service includes service as a college president.' Under this clause Dr. Wilson, when retiring from the presidency of Princeton University to be a candidate for governor of New Jersey, applied for the pension to which he was entitled by his services. The application was refused, and in some way information in regard to the matter was made public to Governor Wilson's political injury. The trustees at their last meeting rescinded the resolution in favor of the university president, and Dr. Fritchett states in his report that 'no person has ever been retired under this authority.' But the president of the State University of Iowa, not in an accepted institution and not eligible to retire for age, was granted a pension in August, 1911. The members of the executive committee of the foundation are in politics strongly opposed to Governor Wilson, and the secretary of the foundation was elected to the vacancy caused by the retirement of the president of the University of Iowa. Their action may have been altogether unimpeachable by these considerations; but they illustrate the dangers possible under a centralized pension system in which the pensions may be used by the president and the executive committee for ulterior purposes."

FARMING AND CAPITAL

The Montreal Financial Times, a new journal which made its appearance last week, and which gives promise of being a valuable addition to the financial journals of the country, has an interesting article on Farming and Capital. It is based on the remark of one of the British touring party now in Canada that waste of opportunity due to limited capital is the great drawback in agriculture in the Maritime Provinces. We quote:—"The fact, of course, is that the Eastern Canadian farmer is very seldom a capitalist, even of the most limited variety; that he does not regard his own vocation as a business requiring capital, and that when he does accumulate a few dollars beyond his actual needs of the moment he deposits them in the bank to draw three per cent, or loans them on a mortgage at five or thereabouts. Scientific farming is impossible without a fairly expensive 'plant.' A good many farmers still laugh at scientific farming as a fad of the legislators and agriculture departments, although they do not laugh quite so confidently as they used to. There is still a marked reluctance among the agriculturists to borrow money for the sake of investment in plant, even though such investment is a sure source of increased profits far in excess of its interest charge. It is a reluctance that dates from the old days, when the Canadian farmer was a pioneer working on a mortgaged farm for a bare subsistence, and liable to the danger of foreclosure in any year of poor crops. Conditions have utterly changed, but the farmer's mind has not yet changed with them, and it may be that the banker's mind has not changed either—that the banker is still less willing to advance money for farm plant than he would be for the outfitting of any other industry. If so, there is need in Eastern Canada for

a general change of heart about the loaning of capital and the incurring of obligations for farm betterment."

It is probable that the greater need of change is in the heart of the banker, but as that is likely to be a slow process, the obvious thing to do is for the governments of the provinces to provide a system of state aid to farmers, enabling them to secure necessary capital on long terms of payment at a low rate of interest.

There will be many visitors in St. John in the Back to New Brunswick week. The citizens generally should now be planning their share of work to make the city attractive to all comers.

The strike of the waiters in New York has failed. The strikers were at a disadvantage, since the men who took their places could stay on the premises and avoid being approached either with arguments or clubs.

One reads with regret that acts of vandalism are sometimes committed at Rockwood Park. The park was established and maintained for the benefit of all the people. It is, in reality, their park. They should protect it.

More definite news concerning the drowning of Mr. J. Douglas Trueman of this city shows that he died a hero's death. Realizing that the frail canoe, in which there were three persons when it overturned, would only keep two of them afloat, he turned his face to the shore and, as the sad event proved, relinquished the chance of life. Those who mourn will have at least the sad consolation that he died as a brave man should.

A serious problem is that of getting skilled female labor for factories where dry-goods specialties, clothing and the like are made. There is no way in which they may become skilled except by working for very small wages for a considerable period, and this they seem unwilling to do. A city that hopes to be a large manufacturing centre should be able to supply skilled labor of all kinds.

The Democratic national convention has formally cut loose from the plutocrats. It has declared that it will not accept as a candidate for the presidency any man who is the representative of or under any obligation to the privilege hunting and favor seeking class represented by J. Pierpont Morgan, Thomas F. Ryan, August Belmont and others of that ilk. This is a grandstand play which is expected to have considerable effect on the country. A much more lasting effect would be produced by the nomination of a candidate whose name and record would be a guarantee that he would stand for a square deal. There seems some hope that this course will be pursued.

Mr. Louis Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies, opposes the agitation for the total suppression of the opium traffic. He says that the compulsory reduction of the traffic has already led to an increase of the use of morphine and cocaine. Mr. Harcourt is merely stating in another way the fact that to insure the total suppression of a habit something more than mere legal enactment and restriction is necessary. That is found to be the case in Canada, for example, in connection with the liquor traffic. The adoption of the Scott Act in a New Brunswick county does not put an end to consumption of liquor. There must be behind the law a public sentiment so strong as to utterly discredit those who sell and those who drink liquor before prohibition can be made effective.

GALLERY TICKET SALE MONDAY

Good \$1 Seats For Anglin Engagement Next Week — Sale Begins at Ten O'Clock For The Four Performances

The tickets for the gallery will go on sale at the Opera House box office Monday morning at ten o'clock for the four Anglin performances next week. These cost only \$1, and although unreserved, give an excellent opportunity to hear the great attraction at a low figure. As only a limited number will be sold, it would be wise for intending purchasers to be at the box office Monday morning.

The gallery seats not only afford an excellent view of the stage, but the acoustics are so good that one can hear just as well as in any other portion of the house.

ENGLISH CAPITAL IN NIAGARA POWER

Niagara Falls, Ont., June 27.—A recent visit of Lord Montague, a noted engineer, to Niagara Falls was of more than ordinary interest, and it is said that he came for the purpose of making an inspection of the local power development with a view of gathering data on which to base a report to a English investor who may or may not subscribe to a proposed stock and bond issue of the Niagara Falls Power Company, recently authorized by the Public Service Commission of the State of New York.

It is probable that the entire issue of \$3,000,000 will be underwritten by the syndicate. The major portion is for the purpose of additions to the plant and transmission lines of the Canadian Niagara Company.

To prevent new kid gloves from splitting when first worn place the gloves between the folds of a damp towel for an hour or so before putting them on. This will stretch them and prevent them from splitting.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

NOTHING SO CHEAP.

"Are you girls going to have a daisy chain at your commencement exercises?"

"I should say not. There are none but rich girls at our school. We are going to have an arched chain."

A CONCLUSION.

"If it is a crime for a man to fall in love—"

"Then I suppose marriage is a capital punishment."—Baltimore American.

HER LIFE A PROBLEM

Half a woman's time is occupied in thinking up what to have for dinner, and the other half in finding a girl to cook it.—Baltimore Sun.

AN UNLucky THOUGHT

Bixby—"What do you think about the new 3-cent piece?"

Bagge—"It's fine. I'm not so sure about the half-cent."

Bixby—"What's the matter with them?"

Bagge—"Well, suppose you pay your car fare with a dollar and get 194 half-cents in change!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

GOT DESPERATE

An Italian who kept a fruit stand was much annoyed by possible customers who made a practice of handling the fruit and pinching it, thereby having it softened and often spoiled. Exasperated beyond endurance, he finally put up a sign which read:

If you muss pincha da fruit—Pincha da cocconut!—Lippincott's Magazine.

"Contentment is better than riches," said the ready-made philosopher. "True," replied Mr. Dustin Stax; "but my observation is that a man who is rich has a better chance of becoming content than a man who is contented has of becoming rich."—Washington Star.

Farmer (to one of his laborers, who had come home after his first training in the militia):—"Which would you rather be, a soldier or a farm-hand, Daddy?"

Pat—"A soldier, of course."

Farmer—"And why so, Daddy?"

Pat—"Well, you see, you'd be a long time working for a farmer before he'd tell you to stand at ease."

"What do you mean by laying hands on this young man?" asked the policeman.

"Why," replied Mr. Cortese, "then clothes—"

"That's all right. He's a marathon runner."

"Excuse me. I thought he was walking in his sleep."—Washington Star.

MADE THE MOST OF IT.

A poor peasant on his deathbed, made his will. He called his wife to him and told her of his provisions.

"I have left," he said, "my horse to my parents. Sell it, and hand over to them the money you receive. I leave you my dog; he is valuable and will serve you faithfully."

The wife promised to obey, and in due time set out to the neighboring market with the horse and dog.

"How much do you want for your horse?" enquired a farmer.

"I cannot sell the horse alone, but you can have both at a reasonable rate. Give me ten pounds for the dog, and five shillings for the horse."

The farmer laughed, but as the terms were low, he willingly accepted them. Then the worthy woman sold her husband's parents the five shillings received for the horse, and kept the ten pounds for herself. Tris-Bite.

MAN WHO SCALED HEIGHTS OF MOUNT MCKINLEY



Professor Hershel Parker, of Columbia University, who is reported to have scaled Mount McKinley, being the first to do so, although Doctor Cook once declared he had done so, and received a medal for it.

THIS MAN A TANK

Morristown, N. J., June 28.—The testimony of Adolph Hagan in the suit for alimony brought by his wife, that he had spent \$225 on beer in a period of 27 days, furnished material for some energetic figuring on the part of those who were present.

At five cents a glass, Hagan's beer investment stood for a total of 14,500 glasses or sixty-three glasses a day. The total for the 27 days is 180 cubic feet of beer, enough to fill a pool six feet wide, fifteen feet long and two feet deep.

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A lawyer of New York overheard the following conversation between two new boys: "Say, Harry, what's the best way to teach a girl how to swim?" asked the younger one.

"That's a cinch. First off put yer left arm under her waist and you gently takes her left hand."

"Come off; she's me sister."

"Aw, push her off the dock."—Kansas City Star.

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ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

One of the advantages of having local universities rather than only a central state institution is illustrated by the co-operative engineering course of the University of Cincinnati, from which students were this year, for the first time, graduated, and it is an interesting fact that the first experiment of this character should have been initiated by the first municipal university. Owing to the initiative and skill of the dean of the college, Professor Herman Schneider, arrangements have been made by which students work alternate weeks at the university and at commercial shops. The theory is taught at the university and the practice is obtained in the manufacturing plants.

Students are paid for their work in the shops at the same rate as other men doing the same work, and no inconvenience is caused by the plan of alternate weeks, as the men work continually in the shops in two relays. Students can thus practically support themselves while they are taking the engineering courses in the university. They probably learn more in the shops than by practical courses which the universities could arrange, and the shops obtain superior men. The course is five years, and students probably can gain as valuable an education during this time as in four years wholly devoted to engineering studies.

Night schools, extension courses, correspondence schools and the like are all useful, but the plan of working half the time at the university and half the time in practice seems to be superior to any other. There is no reason why the system should not be extended in other directions, as to teachers in the public schools of a city. The University of Cincinnati is certainly to be congratulated on having inaugurated a movement which demon-

strates the peculiar usefulness of a municipal university.—The Popular Science Monthly.

A FRIGHTFUL SHOCK. The president of the university had dark circles under his eyes. His cheek was pallid; his lips were trembling; he wore a hunted expression. Every now and then he turned and glanced apprehensively behind him.

"You look ill," his wife said. "What is wrong, dear?"

"Nothing much," he replied. But—I had a fearful dream last night, and I feel this morning as if I— as if I—"

He hesitated and stammered. It was evident that his nervous system was shattered.

"What was this dream?" asked his wife.

"I—I dreamed the trustees required that—that I should—that I should pass the freshman examination for— admission! I signed the president.—Youth's Companion.

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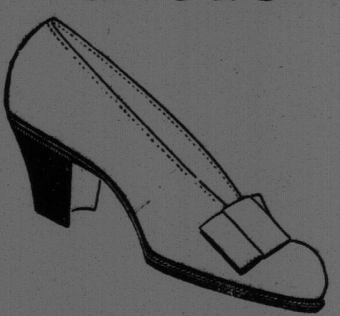
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