

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 26, 1919

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2457. Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$5.00 per year in advance. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

PROHIBITION.

Because the province of Quebec decided that it wanted light wines and beers, although prohibiting stronger liquor, some timorous folk have got the notion that it is a mistake to have a strict prohibitory law, and that attempts to enforce it will only cause a revulsion of feeling and bring back the saloon. Do they forget the facts and ignore the record? Wherever prohibition has been adopted social and industrial conditions have improved. We do not repeat other laws because they are broken, and why make an exception in the case of prohibition? An American exchange presents some facts that have a direct bearing on the subject, and that are worthy of general attention. We quote:

"Time after time, a community that has perhaps doubtfully done away with its saloons, has found unexpected business prosperity, as well as expected peace and order, without them. One of the remarkable instances just now is Detroit, Michigan. A year ago this city, the first of the million population cities to go dry, saw its 1,200 saloons wiped out by the state prohibition law. As early as February of this year the mayor was able to say that data in his hands at that time proved that the city had benefited enormously. Local merchants reported a greater business from working people than ever before; banks showed a greatly increased number of depositors; factory superintendents discovered that tardiness, absences, and accidents at the plants had been reduced; theatre business had improved; real estate values had not been permanently affected; and even hotels, which had been expected to show some decline, had continued in business. Now a recent issue of Public Business, from the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, is at hand, giving noteworthy figures as to the improvement in public order and decency. While the manner of presenting the figures allows for a record of increase or decrease in comparison with the preceding years, every record under the head of felony and misdemeanors for 1918 shows a pronounced decline over the record for the year previous. For example, the year without saloons stopped three-quarters of the begging and vagrancy, almost as much of the drunkenness and disorder, not to mention large part of the sex-related crimes and petty thieving. It cut the number of robberies by half, reduced the number of murders in similar measure. And while compilers say nothing about the liquor law, they do say, simply but conclusively, 'There has been a remarkable decrease in Detroit crime during the past year.' The fact that the year mentioned is the first under the dry regime cannot fail to have significance.

"In New Hampshire, where May 1 marked the close of the first year under a prohibition law that was somewhat inconclusive and was amended during the year, the effect nevertheless was to reduce the jail and prison population remarkably, allowing the closing of the jails in about one-third of the counties, and preventing the usual increase in the cost of maintaining public charges, besides decreasing drunkenness.

"Now Norwich, New York, contributes its proof of the good effects of a dry regime by results accruing in the six dry months just past. Court convictions dropped from 82 to 13, those for intoxication being respectively 44 and 7, and wet predictions of the failure of the new era, on being followed up, were found not to have come true. Factory workers are reported satisfied with the present regime; savings banks deposits have increased by over \$259,000 in a total of about \$3,142,000; old debts are being cleaned up; former saloons have been in many cases already taken up by business concerns that pay as much as the saloons paid; theatres are doing nearly a fifth more business than before; and the expected increase in the tax rate is, in the opinion of local observers, counterbalanced by the increase in savings. More than all, it is reported that employers and workmen are working in greater co-operation than ever before, and that conditions in the shops are at a high standard.

"From Springfield, Mass., comes the news that umbrella contract work at Hampden county jail is falling away behind schedule owing to the decreasing number of prisoners, and this in turn is ascribed by the probation officers largely to the increasing scarcity and high price of intoxicants. The contract at the jail, entered into four years ago, was based on the availability of about 100 prisoners for umbrella manufacture, but at present only about half that number is available. Figures are added to show that fewer habitual drunkards are being sentenced from the county courts, and this is held to be mainly due to the increasing difficulty in obtaining 'hard' liquors."

Similar testimony comes from Canadian cities, and St. John people know that the abolition of the saloons has been of enormous benefit. That being so, a more rigid enforcement of the law will produce still more satisfactory results.

TEN CENT MILK.

Ottawa Citizen: A large increase in the consumption of milk is reported by the local companies dealing in that commodity since the inauguration of the ten cent a quart rate. The fact is illustrative of the tendency of the public to purchase far more in the aggregate at a slightly reduced rate than when prices are higher.

Montreal Herald: The same thing would happen in Montreal if the price were lowered to ten cents a quart. It is possible that the result would be still larger profits for the milk companies, for small returns on large turnovers quickly mount up into surprisingly large profits. There would be a tremendous increase in the sale of milk in Montreal if prices were made popular. The result would be greater satisfaction all round. More farmers would be able to send their milk to Montreal, and get city prices for it, instead of selling it at about half the price to cheese factories; the milk companies would make larger aggregate profits, and the public would reap the benefit by being able to afford larger supplies of a wholesome food. Is there any particular reason why milk cannot be sold in Montreal at ten cents per quart, as well as in Ottawa?

In St. John the price of milk is twelve and a half to thirteen cents.

A recent London letter, dealing with teachers' salaries, in comparison with the high wages paid to unskilled workmen, says:—"In singular contrast is the position of school teachers. It has just come to light that more than 200 teachers in Great Britain receive only \$2.40 a week. One certificated head teacher gets less than \$3.10 a week, and three certificated assistant mistresses the same. And \$6.24 are paid less than \$10 a week. More than a quarter of the male teachers and four-fifths of the women have to accept less than \$15."

If any but Germans were making the assertion the world would gasp at the audacity of Count Von Brockdorff-Rantzau's latest contention. The leader of the Hun delegation at Versailles, while really admitting violation of Belgian neutrality, says German responsibility for the carnage of four years—and for war's effect on future generations—rests at that. One is forced to the wish that the Allies, as represented at the peace board, would give these arrogant representatives a more prompt lesson on the subject of who are the masters.

There is joy in the homes of Hawker and Grieve, intrepid challengers of the Atlantic's breadth, and there is a load off the mind of the watching world. The news that the airmen are safe is good indeed. Pity it is that their enterprise failed, but they have to their credit a flight of more than half way across the ocean. They are the pioneers. Their effort is equally to be extolled, though the full measure of success was denied them.

The light of a bright young life went out when James T. Duke met death at the scene of the Courtenay Bay work on Friday. In his quiet way he was exercising a good influence about him and he was making progress in his profession. Deep sympathy goes out to those bereaved.

But a few years ago news of such a disaster as that which is reported to have taken many lives in Java would have appalled the world. Four years of war have had their effect in lessening the shock of news of great disasters.

Reports recently indicated that the Bolsheviks in Russia were encountering hard times. The despatches today even more surely point to a crisis in the affairs of Lenin and those of his stripe. Speed the day when their savage rule shall be at end.

That will be an impressive and historic ceremony when the colors of the 29th N. B. Battalion are placed in Trinity church on next Sunday.

FRANK, AT LEAST

Chatham World—Visitors are unanimous in saying that Chatham is unclean, that bad smells abound in it, and that many of the backyards are filthy and unsightly, and they ask if we have a board of health, a town council, or a sanitary inspector. Surely it is time for a thorough spring cleaning. We don't want an epidemic of fever, diphtheria or some other dirt bred disease. Get to work, somebody, everybody, and clean house.

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NEW BRUNSWICK WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT GOOD ROADS CONVENTION

At the sixth annual convention of the Canadian Good Roads Association, which was held in Quebec last week, a resolution was adopted urging the federal government to spend \$20,000,000 for permanent roads without delay.

New Brunswick was represented at the convention by Hon. Mr. Veniot, Hon.

Speaker Hetherington, Burton Hill, the public works engineer; D. F. Maxwell, the railway engineer; David Johnston, the mayor of St. Stephen; T. P. Regan of St. John, president of the N. B. Automobile Association, and Pius Michaud, M. P. of Edmundston. All the other provinces were represented, except Nova Scotia, there being about 400 delegates altogether. Mr. Regan was elected a director of

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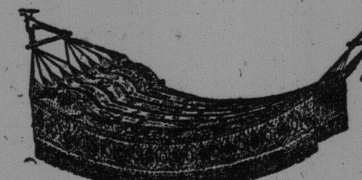
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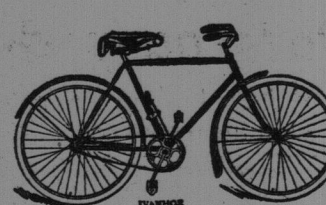
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the association. The next convention may be held in Winnipeg.

JAMES T. DUKE DIES OF INJURIES SUSTAINED IN COURTENAY BAY BLAST

A serious accident, which resulted in the death of James T. Duke, a prominent young man of this city, occurred about four o'clock Friday afternoon at Courtenay Bay, when a large piece of stone thrown by a particularly heavy blast struck Mr. Duke in the hip. So grave was the injury that, although medical attention was obtained immediately, death followed about two hours later. Mr. Duke was standing with R. Dufresne, manager and chief engineer of the St. John Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company; Alexander Gray, government inspector; F. L. Richardson, Edwin McQuade and James Turnbull, assistant engineers, about 700 feet from where a heavy charge was being fired. A short distance behind them were Harry McAnlay of Alexander Gray's staff, and Messrs. Cameron and McKenzie, assistant engineers on Mr. Dufresne's staff. Some of the fragments of stone flew in the direction of the party, and although his comrades succeeded in hurrying to

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safety, Mr. Duke was seen to fall. His friends ran to his assistance and it was found that he was terribly injured. He was carried to the engineers' shed and the ambulance sent for. Dr. Ferris of the St. John County Hospital meanwhile rendered first aid. Accompanied by his brother, Rev. Wm. M. Duke, rector of the Cathedral, and Rev. Robert B. Fraser, the injured man was taken to the infirmary, where it was realized that there was no hopes for recovery, and he died two hours later, retaining consciousness to the last. Mr. Duke had a host of friends in the city and elsewhere who will regret to hear of his death. He was a graduate of the University of New Brunswick in the direction of the party, and although since graduation had been engaged in various engineering works about the province. After joining the staff of the Dominion Public Works department, he was employed in looking after the interests of the department at Courtenay Bay, where his ability won for him the post of assistant engineer. He was an energetic worker in the Y. M. C. A. and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. In his college days he was regarded as one of the strongest men on the university football team and was active in other branches of sport. Mr. Duke was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Duke and he leaves, besides his brother, Father Duke, three sisters, Sister Mary Camillus of the St. John Infirmary staff, and Misses Emma and Genevieve at home.

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