

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1920

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UNHAPPY IRELAND

Nationalism in Ireland demands independence. Nationalism in Scotland is able to flourish in a union with England, for the Scottish national spirit has not been destroyed, and the Scot of today is freer than his forefathers were before the union. Quebec is able to preserve its national spirit in union with the rest of Canada. A recent writer has pointed out that the history of triumphant nationalism in Hungary, Germany and Poland does not offer much hope for minorities within the nation that so triumphs, or of peace with its neighbors. That there is a group of new national units in Central Europe as a result of the war is very far from being an assurance that there will be no more wars in that region; for if the League of Nations should fail, there would doubtless be interminable conflict. Settling up different nationalities in business is not all that is needed to ensure world peace, or even peace, tolerance and fair play within the nationalities themselves. If the people in Ireland cannot settle their own differences along constitutional lines, an Irish republic would not solve the problem but make it more difficult. If the Sinn Féin is to be judged by the utterances of its leaders it is intolerant and disposed to be autocratic. Even if that be equally true of Ulster, the case is not much worse. If the rest of the United Kingdom could simply say to Ireland: "Go and be happy," assured of that result and of no threat or danger to the welfare of the other partners in the present union, the whole question would present a different aspect; but there is no such assurance. It is easy to denounce England, and it is easy for Englishmen who have a political motive to denounce the government. Above all it is easy for persons in the United States to foment trouble while they themselves perfectly safe; but the best friends of Ireland today, at home or abroad, are those who advocate constitutional methods such as were adopted by Daniel O'Connell in the great struggle for Catholic Emancipation. In adopting other methods the Sinn Féin cannot but defeat its own purpose. The national spirit of Ireland cannot be destroyed, but it may find expression within the Empire just as does that of Scotland or of Wales. But Ireland must first make peace with herself. Every British subject must deplore the terrible conditions that exist in Ireland today, and pray that a basis for agreement may be found which will conserve the rights of all. For the moment the outlook is very black. Bitter passions have been aroused and dreadful deeds have been committed. The first step would seem to be the dissolution of the so-called Irish republic.

THE CITY HALL

In the course of an article in the Rotarian for December, Dr. Emanuel Sternheim, an eminent Jewish lecturer, makes a brief reference to municipal government and asks this question: "How long will it take Rotarians to realize that the city hall is their business not only at election time when they are feverishly excited about the election of a reactionary as opposed to a radical, but for three hundred and sixty-five days a year, because the city hall should be the physical embodiment of the social spirit of the community?"

Making a local application of this query, how is the city hall in St. John regarded by the average citizen? A partial answer to this question was given at the meeting of the Commercial Club last week, when several members admitted their complete ignorance of the matter of the civic budget. Indeed the great body of the citizens of St. John are not interested in the city hall, even at election time, as is proved by the small number of them who go to the polls. To most the city hall stands for the persons who levy taxes and spend money, and to suggest that it embodies in any sense the social spirit of the community is to speak in language that has for the listener no significance.

And yet Dr. Sternheim is right, and if the Commercial Club can stimulate its members to give continuous attention, even in a limited way, to civic affairs it will accomplish a great good. The city council is the one organization which represents all the citizens, and has to do with matters which affect the personal welfare of every one of them. Every one of them is a shareholder in the corporation of which the mayor is president and the commissioners are the directors. This corporation is not in business for profit in the ordinary sense; but it declares dividends or fails to declare them in the form of community benefits according to the ability and devotion with which the affairs of the city are conducted. It goes without saying that much depends upon the attitude of the shareholders—the citizens.

A keen and intelligent interest on their part will stimulate and encourage the directors. It would be of the greatest possible benefit to St. John if here and there throughout the city committees or groups were formed, both of men and women, to study civic affairs. They would be assisted cheerfully by the civic officials in their search for local information, and a judicious course of selected reading would give further food for profitable discussion. The contact of mind

with mind in such a study would be stimulating in more ways than one, and the time so occupied would be well spent by the individual and of profit to the city. The city hall should be regarded as much more than a place where taxes are levied and money spent. None would have a general public interest more than the mayor and commissioners. They are familiar with visitors who go because they want something for themselves or have a criticism to offer. They would be glad to grow familiar with those who have helpful suggestions to make, and are sufficiently well informed to know what is and is not a reasonable civic proposition.

The Canadian Municipal Journal for November devotes an article to the influence of municipal government upon our social life. It points out that the broad principles of local government cover not only the purely municipal administration but the social welfare of the community as well, but that the fact is not appreciated as it should be. If it were, there would be fewer separate welfare agencies, for the people would insist that social welfare work be carried out by the municipal authorities.

We quote: "The average citizen, not having had the opportunity to study for himself the ethics of municipal government and his own responsibility towards its proper administration, has unconsciously brought about the delegation of the duties—but not the powers—of the council as the elected social leaders of the community, to other agencies. The result is that throughout the land social welfare agencies of all kinds have been established to mitigate the evils of vice and crime, to provide the necessary funds to be expended on the necessary, often by the same people who subscribe generally to the outside agencies. Such an anomaly is not conducive to the best civic spirit, and is always deterrent to good government."

The Municipal Journal points out that the "average taxpayer in the mother country pays fifty to sixty per cent. more for his municipal service than the taxpayer of Canada. Hence he gets a better service. Consider also the following quotation: "The community that has well-constructed, clean and well-lighted streets and sidewalks, efficient drainage and pure water, good health, parks and playgrounds, proper protection, and when the by-laws are strictly carried out, is infinitely better to live in than the dirty, carelessly administered community, where happiness is impossible. Yet in each of the two communities the citizens have the same power. The difference is simply one of self-determination."

To which of these classes does St. John belong? The winter months are upon us. The evenings are long, and afford opportunity for study and conversation, as well as entertainment. As a people we read and think too little. Such a condition has its dangers. A committee of the Commercial Club at the meeting of the city council to discuss the matter of the civic budget. The Club will do well to keep this whole matter of civic affairs before its members, for their benefit and for the good of the city at large. The aim is not at all to criticize the city council but to co-operate and if possible improve the system of administration.

To all but a few persons who have no interest in sport except as gratifies their personal aims and desires, the decision of the A. A. U. of C. to stand by pure amateur sport and have nothing to do with professionals will give the greatest satisfaction. The thing to keep in mind is the interest of the boys coming up and not that of the men who have chosen to professionalize themselves. President Covey of the maritime branch of the A. A. U. of C. should have the undivided support of all lovers of clean sport in these provinces in keeping the slate clean.

The Massachusetts bricklayers who are asking an increase to \$1.50 an hour are probably manoeuvring to prevent a cut in the present scale, although the Mason Contractors' Association reports a shortage of good bricklayers in the country.

Those who do their Christmas shopping this week will have a better choice of gifts and make it easier for the weary clerks in the stores next week.

In Newfoundland, which a year ago was reported to be exceptionally prosperous has now an unemployment problem.

IN SEA THIRTY MONTHS. London, England, Dec. 13.—After being in the sea for two and a half years, the ship *Warrior*, which was wrecked during the war, has been washed ashore in good condition at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight.



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THE SECRET SORROW.

I have a sorrow in my breast, a brother to despair; and I've concluded it is best to keep the blamed thing there. You ask, "What is this carking woe, that has your soul espoused?" But you will never, never know—it won't be advertised. I've found a martyr never fails men's sympathy to share, so long as he omits details about his Secret Care. 'Tis best to tuck away a sigh, and sadly wag one's ears, and carry in one's starboard eye a pair of united tears; and one may spring some cautious hints about his broken heart; but if he hands out large blue prints, the listeners depart. A mystic sorrow, undefined, its boundaries in doubt, appeals quite strongly to the mind of every human soul. Men wonder what has wrecked your past, destroyed your fondest goal, and frozen, as with winter blast, the current of your soul. And there is pity in their glance when you tell them you have a sorrow, a "Secret" or "Scat!" For every honest voter seems a sordid woe like that. And so I leave a soulful sigh, an on an on, 'twould fain be dead; but if you ask the reason why, I merely shake my head.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Memorable Set.

"Have you ever appeared as a witness in a suit before?" asked the bully-ragging attorney.

"Why, of course," replied the young lady on the witness stand.

"What suit was it?"

"It was a blue suit with a white collar and white cuffs and white buttons all the way down the back," replied the young lady.—Los Angeles Times.

Severely So.

Summoning all the paths possible into his voice, the amateur settlement worker was addressing his audience on the subject of certain poverty-stricken foreigners, who, if they weren't wretchedly miserable, at least ought to be.

"Think of it!" he cried, dabbing at his eyes. "There are people down there who live on garlic alone! Imagine it! Garlic alone!"

"Well," called back the Old Grouch, as he made his way down the aisle toward the nearest exit, "if they live on garlic, they ought to live alone!"—The American Legion Weekly.

Collect Privately, Too?

"My father," said the little boy, "is a numismatician."

"Why, Johnny," exclaimed the teacher, "a numismatician is a coin collector."

"Yes'm, that's what my father is; he's a collector on an electric car."—Stray Stories.

Rubbel Plant.

"What did you say Mr. Goppit does?"

"He operates what you might call a sweat shop."

"A sweat driver, eh?"

"No, he's the proprietor of a Turkish bath."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

A motorist, touring in the country, managed to get his car stuck in a tenuous mudhole.

After he had made vain attempts to escape, a boy appeared with a team.

"Haul you out, mister?"

"How much do you want?"

"Two dollars."

After a long and fruitless argument the motorist agreed to pay the money to the lad, and the car was pulled to dry land.

After handing the money to the lad, the motorist asked:

"Do you haul many cars out in a day?"

"I've pulled out twelve today."

"Do you work at night, too?"

"Yes; at night I haul water for the mudhole."

MORNING NEWS

OVER THE WIRES

Enrico Caruso, world's leading tenor, who ruptured a blood vessel in his throat while singing at the academy of music in Brooklyn, Saturday night, will be able to sing tonight according to an announcement made by his physician today.

The accident occurred during the first set of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*. The first break in the regular Italian army occurred Saturday when four armoured cars started for Udine, three reaching the palace of Gabriele D'Annunzio in Trieste.

The four armoured cars were stopped, but the occupants escaped and reached Fiume on foot. General Cavaglia, Italian commander, sent a courier with commanders, who are opposing the forces of D'Annunzio, in Abozza Saturday.

The Dominion committee on liquor legislation concluded its annual session in Winnipeg, Saturday, during which they adopted a bill giving to the whole dominion to those desiring to join the committee in its work. The committee went on record as favoring absolute government ownership and direct control of the entire trade in liquor.

A terrible fire in the surrounding country had made ready, should the necessity demand it, to go into action at a moment's notice.

In the first few days in the positions in which they were located, the men did very little but get straightened away after their long and trying march. There was a multitude of little things, which had to be neglected during the march, to be attended to, but so soon as these had been looked after the men settled down to enjoy as much as possible their sojourn in the occupied country.

(Continued on Wednesday.)

REFUGEES ARE IN DIRE STRAITS

Greek Bishop at Gallipoli Reports on Situation—Eating Grass for Lack of Food.

Constantinople, Dec. 13.—The Greek bishop at Gallipoli, in a report to the Greek patriarchate describes the situation of the Russian refugees in the gloomiest colors.

The death rate, he says, is mounting steadily in consequence of bad sanitary conditions, and lack of food.

Forty-nine thousand persons have been concentrated in Gallipoli 25,000 being troops, and notwithstanding the requisitioning of all available buildings and the establishment of military camps, hundreds remain in the streets all night in the rain or snow. The Greek church has been transformed into a hospital.

Nauts were showing some friends a revolver, from which he had removed the magazine, but there was a cartridge in the chamber, and when Nauts pulled the trigger the bullet entered Mrs. Elmo's body. She died within a few minutes. The police exonerated Nauts.

KILLED BY SHOT IN HOME WHERE SHE WAS GUEST

Needham, Mass., Dec. 13.—Mrs. Stanley Elmo, of Waltham, was accidentally shot and killed yesterday by Fred Nauts, at whose home she was a guest.

REPORTED SUSPICION OF COPPER ROYALTY IS CONTINUED FOR DECADE

The Pas, Man., Dec. 13.—(By Canadian Press).—The federal government, following representations made by the Flin Flon syndicate and the mining institute of Canada, has agreed to a modification in the mining regulations by suspending the royalty on copper ore for another period of ten years, according to word received by Professor Wallace, commissioner for northern Manitoba, from Hon. Edward Brown, member for The Pas in the provincial house, who is at present in Ottawa.

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WOMAN WITH PLANK SAVES MAN IN POND

Crawls on Board Over Ice and Drags Him to Shore—Mrs. St. George Collapses After Heroic Deed.

Holden, Dec. 13.—Mrs. Sidney St. George, who lives near Carr's pond at North Woods, saved John Mattson, of 30 Brooks street, Worcester, from drowning, after he had broken through the ice while fishing.

She heard the man's cries for help, ran to the pond and, after securing a long board, crawled out on it and pulled him from the water and to the shore, after which she collapsed from her exertions.

Mattson was taken to the mill near the pond and revived. He had been in the water half an hour, being unable to get out of the hole because the ice broke continually under his weight.

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D. J. Barrett, 155 Union Street.

Geo. W. Merrill, Haymarket Sq.

J. M. Logan, Haymarket Sq.

Quinn and Co., 415 Main Street.

C. H. Ritchie, 320 Main Street.

P. Nase & Son, Ltd., Indian town.

J. A. Lipsett, Variety Store, 233 Brussels Street.

H. G. Rowley, 1 Brussels Street.

J. Stout, Fairville.

W. E. Emerson, 81 Union St., West End.

BOSTON BANKS

COME TO RELIEF

Offer \$9,000,000 in Loans to Savings Depositors With Four Closed Trust Companies.

Boston, Dec. 13.—Temporary relief to the extent of \$9,000,000, if necessary, will be offered by Boston banks to savings depositors in the Hanover, Fidelity and Prudential Trust Companies, in order that the depositors, most of them small, can be aided over the holiday season.

The large sum of money, which will be handled by a central committee, will be for the benefit only of holders of savings deposits and not for holders of commercial accounts, which include checking and Christmas club accounts. That was decided upon at a meeting in the Second National Bank, presided over by Thomas F. Beal, president of the Second National.

Savings depositors in the four closed trust companies will, upon proof of claim, be allowed to borrow on their accounts as security a sum up to 25 per cent. of the amount of their deposit. An interest charge of 6 per cent. will be made for the life of the loan. With the money market between 7 and 8 per cent. at present, the rate is considered very fair.

JOHNSON BILL TODAY.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Final disposal of the Johnson bill providing for practically complete stoppage of immigration for one year was postponed in the house late on Saturday until today.

EMBER DAYS.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are fast days in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. They are known as Ember days of Advent.

JOHNSON BILL TODAY.

Berne, Dec. 12.—The congress of the Swiss Socialist party, in session here, rejected admission to the third (Moscow) international yesterday by a vote of 350 to 218.

The left wing of the congress thereupon left the hall, declaring they would no longer take part in the work of the Socialist party.

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