

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 13, 1919

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A CIVIC CENTRE?

The partial destruction of the court house by fire has revived interest in the project of erecting a civic building worthy of St. John. The old city hall could be sold and a new structure erected that would accommodate the courts and the city and county offices, and be an ornament to the city. There is now an opportunity which will not come again. King square ought to be a civic centre in the widest sense of the word, but some buildings which ought to be there have been located elsewhere. A proper civic building could be erected on the site of the court house, and the whole subject should be fully considered by the municipal authorities before action is taken to replace or repair the old structure. The citizens would doubtless be found to favor the larger project if it is financially possible at this time. The question of the money is the only one that would cause any hesitation, but perhaps even that difficulty is not insurmountable. It would be a fine thing to have a large and handsome civic building looking across the square to the head of King street.

SHOULD BE CONDEMNED.

In their frantic efforts to prevent the people of St. John from using their own school buildings in a legitimate way, the superintendent and principals of schools have caused the people needless alarm. They have sought to create the impression that public use of school buildings would spread social diseases. There is about as much danger of that result as there is of being struck by lightning or a meteoric stone. If what these gentlemen say is true the public lavatories everywhere should be closed, no comfort stations should ever be established, and people should never risk a long journey on a train. But medical authority does not uphold this contention. That there is some danger of contracting disease in the manner indicated is quite possible, just as it is possible to get in the way of a street car or automobile, or the germ of any disease; but to attempt to frighten people as has been done in the matter of the schools is to deserve the severest censure. It is more than an insult to the people of the south end of the city. Autocracy takes long chances sometimes, but the atmosphere of St. John is not altogether congenial for civic, educational or other autocrats. The people, in the end, get what they want, especially if they merely ask that which it is their right to request.

THE HOUSING QUESTION.

The British government is going about its housing scheme in a very businesslike manner. The following from the London Mail tells the story: "Building in connection with the government's housing scheme is to start almost immediately. A chief commissioner in London and eight district commissioners of housing, all men of practical experience, will administer the scheme throughout England and Wales. They will have technical staffs. A manual to be issued by the Local Government Board will guide local authorities and others on how to proceed with building schemes. It will give plans of several approved types of houses. Generally only twelve houses should be erected to the acre in urban areas, and eight in rural areas. Many houses, in addition to a kitchen, larder, scullery, three bedrooms, washhouse and bathroom or bath, should, in the opinion of the Local Government Board, have a comfortable living-room or parlor and a garden. Practically all essential fittings, such as doors, windows, kitchen ranges, baths, bolts, locks, door-handles, and the like, are being standardized and arrangements are being made for some existing munition factories and workers to be employed on the production of these fittings. In conjunction with the London County Council the Local Government Board is arranging for building in London a village of model houses. Each house will be a complete model for the guidance of local authorities, both as regards architectural style and internal arrangements, and standard fittings will be used in their construction." The Dominion government's plan to assist municipalities in the provinces to grapple with their housing problem will soon be known in detail, and will doubtless safeguard all interests. One of the great difficulties at present is the cost of building materials. Lumber is abnormally high and likely to remain so; and enquiries are being made regarding possible substitutes. The whole question will no doubt be discussed at a public meeting or meetings in this city. Houses are needed, but we must first ascertain at what rental they can be purchased at the price made necessary by the cost of construction. The problem presents many grave difficulties, and the speculative builder is not encouraged to erect houses under present conditions. Those who do invest money must be content with a moderate return on their investment.

DR. GODFREY'S BILL.

A bill providing for the medical examination of all candidates for matrimony is before the Ontario legislature. Its author, Dr. Godfrey, says there are between seven and eight thousand epileptics in Ontario and in twenty years there might be twenty thousand, unless the marriage of defectives and those suffering from hereditary diseases is prevented. Such a law as he proposes has been adopted in some states south of the border. The rapid increase in the number of feeble-minded children renders action of some sort necessary. Dr. Clarence Hincks has declared that there are in the city of Toronto alone five thousand cases of mental abnormality. It is from this class the vicious and criminals chiefly come, yet there is no adequate provision for the care of feeble-minded children. Dr. Godfrey proposes a drastic measure, and yet it is one which before many years have passed may be generally approved. Certain it is that some action must be taken to guard society from the deadly results of its own excesses. To provide homes for feeble-minded children is not really dealing with causes, but effects. Dr. Godfrey proposes to deal with causes.

Toronto Star: "The Toronto Street Railway Company decided many years ago to fight the city on every point and concede nothing but what it had to. Having followed that choice all through and having decided that public good-will was something the company could not afford to care or bother its head about, it is idle now for the directors to nurse any delusion that there will be any 'reaction' in their favor. They have played the game in their own way—the city has had to grow and expand, not with the aid of the company, but in spite of it, and when the franchise expires the people will have had more than enough of the company."

Now that the war is over we read with interest the following despatch from Ottawa: "Statistics compiled by the labor department show that the cost of the weekly family budget of staple goods last month was greater than in the previous month. The average cost last month was \$13.81 as compared with \$13.65 in December, 1918, \$12.42 in January, 1919, and \$7.78 in January, 1914."

Rev. G. A. Simons, for many years head of the Methodist Episcopal church in Russia, says that most of the Bolshevik leaders in the United States are Jews from the east side of New York, and that they had set aside large sums of money for the spread of their doctrine. This is their notion of gratitude to the nation which gave them freedom, and the opportunity to make money.

The activity of the various women's organizations in this city and the province, and the intelligence and public spirit shown by them, may eventually convince the gentlemen of the legislature that the members of these organizations could cast an intelligent vote.

There is a rumor that the South End Improvement League will invite all the school principals and the superintendent to a carnival on its free skating rink, those gentlemen to appear in medieval costume and robes of state.

That conference of representatives of Russian governments may be held, after all. It is now said that four factions are willing to meet and discuss their differences and the future of Russia. That would be a good beginning.

The visiting editors next week will no doubt be shown the sacred school-houses and their high priests. With solemn pride it may be pointed out that these temples are still unprofaned by the feet of the great unwashed.

If Sir Robert Borden goes to Washington as British ambassador it will make a notable change in the political situation in Canada.

The councillor who protested against putting any more insurance on the court house will be rather sorry he spoke.

NEW DIRECTOR OF REPATRIATION WORK.

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—On the expiration of the three months which he agreed to devote to the work of repatriation, the director, H. J. Daly, has requested the committee of the cabinet that he be relieved of the work as the preliminary organization has been completed. It is understood that his services will still be available in an advisory capacity.

DID NOT KNOW OF THE KAISER'S FLIGHT.

Geneva, Feb. 13.—A train load of German officers being brought back from Palestine arrived yesterday. All were ignorant of recent events in Germany and did not know of the revolution or the former emperor's flight into Holland.

ONLY MEDICINE
MADE FROM FRUIT

Extraordinary Success Which "Fruit-a-tives" Has Achieved

One reason why "Fruit-a-tives" is so extraordinarily successful in giving relief to those suffering with Constipation, Torpid Liver, Indigestion, Chronic Headaches, Neuralgia, Kidney and Bladder Troubles, Rheumatism, Pain in the Back, Eczema and other Skin Affections, is because it is the only medicine in the world made from fruit juices. It is composed of the medicinal principles found in apples, oranges, figs and prunes, together with the nerve tonics and antiseptics of proven repute. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

LIGHTER VEIN.

"Our constituents want an explanation of those latest remarks of yours," said the faithful secretary. "Fix 'em up an explanation that they won't understand," replied Senator Sorghum; "then explain that in the same way and keep on explaining. I don't believe in ever refusing my constituents anything."—Washington Star.

"Don't you hate to think of Lent coming so soon?" "My dear, what are forty days of Lent after twelve months of Hoover?"—Life.

"What is this terrific combat?" "A bargain struggle for marked down millinery." "I get you. Fighting at the drop of a hat."—Kansas City Journal.

"Did the cook leave?" "No," replied Mrs. Crossroads. "She didn't take the trouble to leave. She simply notified us by telephone that she was going to stay away."—Washington Star.

"You boys have been using that same deck of cards for months." "Yes," replied Three Finger Sam. "It's for the perfection of home industry. We know all the bent corners and finger-marks by heart, and you extra cards that a tenderfoot tries to ring in is detected immediately."—Washington Star.

Paw Knows Everything. Willie—Paw, what is the breath of suspicion? Paw—The one that has cloves on it, my son.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

SMOKE MACDONALD'S INDEX

No Old Stock
All Up-to-Date
Styles Selling in
Our
February Sale

Men's and Boys'

Footwear from the factories making the best. Ladies' High Cut Laced Boots, Dress Pumps and Oxfords in the styles and shades that are correct.

RUBBERS to fit every style of shoe.

On all these goods you get a substantial reduction.

Winter goods at Bargain prices.

Odd lots and broken sizes at Bargain prices.

Second grade rubbers in men's, boys', misses and children's at Bargain prices.

Sales Goods Cash.

No Appropriation.

FRANCIS & VAUGHAN

19 KING STREET

You Can Line Your Own Stove With

FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRECLAY

To be had of W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd., Market St.; T. McArthur & Sons, Ltd., King St.; J. E. Wilson, Ltd., Sydney St.; Emerson & Fisher, Ltd., Germain St.; Geo. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq.; J. M. Logan, Haymarket Sq.; C. H. Ritchie, 820 Main St.; Quinn & Co., 415 Main St.

Tools for the Handy-man-about-the-house

Almost every man has some mechanical ability and we all like to see the result of our own skill. Nearly every home can use and really needs tools of some kind. Drop in and tell us what kind of work you intend doing and we will suggest the particular tool suitable for the work.

T. McAvity & Sons
ESTABLISHED 1834

Where Quality Counts

When selecting your Alarm Clock, you should always be sure you are buying one that you can depend on. Our line includes all the better makes. Good Morning, Surprise, Ironclad, Sleep Meter and Big Ben. A Large Assortment of Mantel Clocks, Watches and Wrist Watches Always in Stock. War Savings and Thrift Stamps For Sale Here.

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.

FACT THAT ALL AGREE PLEASING TO CONFERENCE

Allies of One Mind on the New German Terms

FINAL ACTION TODAY

Marshal Foch Will Then Leave for Trevel to Announce Conditions to German Commission—New Berlin Government to Demand Recognition

MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN WORKERS IN QUEBEC PROVINCE

Bill Introduced in Legislature by Minister of Public Works—House Servants Not Included

A bill to provide for a minimum wage for women workers in the province of Quebec was introduced in the Legislative Assembly this week by Hon. J. A. Taschereau, minister of public works and labor, and was given first reading. Details of the bill are not given, but it was learned from Mr. Taschereau that the government aims to protect women workers in factories, shops, and those who work generally in public buildings. It is not clear yet whether stenographers will come under the provisions of the new measure, details not yet being decided. Domestic servants are not included. The measure will not fix standard minimum wages for the various classes, but will certainly provide that in cases

of complaints by girls in a certain line of work, the minister is to appoint a commission, which will investigate conditions and fix a minimum wage, which will become effective. The bill will affect many thousands of female workers. Mr. Taschereau stated the other day in answer to Mr. Sauve that the government had under consideration a request from organized labor that a general minimum wage be fixed for all workers in the province. So far no bill of this nature is in sight.

Another important bill which the same minister introduced was that to provide for the construction of workmen's dwellings and for advances to municipalities. This, it is explained, is to provide the necessary machinery to dispose of the \$6,500,000 which the province will get from the federal government as its share of the federal loan of \$25,000,000 for the construction of workmen's dwellings in all provinces.

The federal government loans this money to the provinces for municipalities at a stated rate of interest. What rate of interest the government of Quebec will charge the municipalities is not yet stated.

The London Life Insurance Company

Head Office, London, Ontario

The Annual Report for 1918

Shows: The highest record in New Business. The lowest in Expense Ratio in both Branches. An increased Rate of Interest Earned—6.82%. 90% of total Business on 3% Reserve Basis.

Progress Table

	1908	1913	1918
Insurance in Force	\$12,152,949	\$27,118,375	\$59,804,430
Insurance Issued	3,654,272	8,828,189	16,433,580
Total Assets	2,663,994	4,645,695	9,189,658
Policy Reserves	2,424,777	4,226,152	8,448,469
Income	652,732	1,295,840	2,782,540

The Policy Reserve, Investment Reserve and Reserve for accruing profits are maintained on the Company's usual high standard, notwithstanding payment of \$330,000 War and Epidemic Claims.

All Military Service restrictions in pre-war policies were voluntarily waived by the Company.

The surplus on the Government basis exceeds \$1,000,000, inclusive of the paid-up Capital of \$50,000.

Increased five-year dividend distributions are authorized for 1919.

F. W. HEWITSON, Superintendent, C. P. R. Building, King and Germain Sts.

QUESTIONS OF AVIATION

Important Phases of Matter Being Considered in Paris

Paris, Feb. 13.—(By the Associated Press)—The Paris conference commission on the control of ports, waterways and railways is considering a proposed assertion of jurisdiction over aerial international flights. The British air ministry has already prepared an elaborate convention to be submitted to the peace conference.

The international aviation conference soon to meet in Paris will also take up questions of great importance, such as how far national control of the air may go, customs, reciprocal landing facilities, aerial police and the settlement of damages.

Civilian flights between nations are now impossible because of the absence of essential regulations. Many enterprises such as that of preparing a Paris to London air service, have been delayed in consequence.



AT BASSEN'S Might and Thrifty Clearance Sale

You Can Get Bargains Worth of the Name Bargains

A Few Ladies' Coats to Clear \$5.00 each

75 Children's Plush and Corduroy Coats... \$2.98-\$6.91

35 Ladies' Wool, Serge, Cashmere and Corduroy Dresses—Worth all kinds of money \$4.98-\$7.9

100 Ladies' Dress Skirts—Black and Blue, \$2.48-\$3.9

50 Only Ladies' House Dress—Made of Gingham, \$1.00-\$1.25 each

25 doz. Ladies' Shirts, Waists, Voile... 98c.-\$1.9

Silk Waists in Black, \$2.00-\$2.9

Colors: White, Pink, Maize, \$2.50-\$3.9

With the New Square Neck or Collarless Effect, 89c. each

15 doz. Special Voile Waists—White and fine stripes, 25c. p

25 doz. Ladies' Black and White Hose... 25c. p

1,000 yards White Cotton, 22c. yd

5 yards for \$1.

1,000 yards Factory Cotton, 18c. yd

6 yards for \$1.

1,000 yards White Shaker Flannel... 29c. yd

50 lbs. of Black Yarn, \$1.50

Allover Aprons... 89c. ea

Dress Aprons with elastic in waist... \$1.35 ea

SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR MEN

25 doz. Men's Dress Shirts, 69c.-85c. ea

25 doz. Men's Fleece Underwear... 79c.-9

300 pairs Men's Working Pants—Slightly seconds, \$1.98

100 pairs Boys' Bloomer Pants—Slightly seconds, \$1.15-\$1.25

NOW, WHAT ABOUT O BOOTS AND SHOES?

Regular Old-time Bargain

1,000 pairs Ladies' Boots: Oxfords—Mostly small sizes. Worth double the money. For \$1.69-\$2..

1,000 pairs Men's Boots of all kinds—Laid out in boxes ready for picking bargains.

COME AND COME QUICK!

It is a paying proposition for you and everybody to have your money at our MIGHTY Thrifty Clearing Sale.

BASSEN'S

The People's Dry Goods Store

14-16-18 Charlotte St.