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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1910

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 17, 1910.

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THE LOYALISTS

There are many children in St. John schools today who are not descendants of the Loyalists, and to whom the story of the hardships of the pioneers is not familiar reading. The eighteenth of May is annually recognized and designated as Loyalist Day, and the children of the city schools enjoy a holiday. Doubtless all the teachers take pains to teach them a lesson in local history in connection with the observance of the day. There is a disposition in the United States today to credit the men and women who came to Canada in 1783 with higher motives and to regard them with a higher respect than in former years. A less prejudiced and more exact scrutiny of the history of the Revolutionary period has led to the admission that the Loyalists were actuated by the highest motives, and it is indisputable that they were men of an high character as those against whom they fought, and at whose instance their fortunes were despoiled at the close of the war.

Champions of the Loyalists will not, however, strengthen their case by any feigning upon the character or motives of the leaders of the Revolution. If all the descendants of the Loyalists today were asked to express their views, the vast majority would say that while they honored the loyalty of those who fought for King George, their sympathies could not be at together withheld from those who resented the treatment they received from the British government of that day, and rebelled against it. It is a just source of complaint in Canada that United States historians have been very one-sided. We should not follow that bad example; and while we honor the Loyalists we can respect the motives of the Revolutionaries. English historians do not overlook the fatal folly of the government of that day, nor should we.

But when this has been said the splendid record of Loyalist heroism and devotion remains to us, a source of pride, and an inspiration to the patriotism of the people—not only their descendants, but the new-comers who are now citizens of this country. There is still no adequate memorial to the founders of this city. Doubtless when the city grows and its wealth becomes greater, the citizens will see to it that among the reminders of the past the greatest will be a memorial in honor of the Loyalists. This city is more interesting from the historical viewpoint than any other in Canada, with the single exception of Quebec. Some day the story will be told in marble and bronze and granite. For the present, let us keep alive the memory of the heroic men and women who upheld the flag they loved amid the privations of the wilderness.

THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

There is much food for thought in the following article from the Victoria Colvost, dealing with the increase of poverty in the world:

The International Secretary of the Salvation Army, who says that he works in his almost every where in the world expresses the disturbing opinion that "extreme poverty is increasing." Indeed, he asserts this more as an unquestioned matter of fact than as a matter of opinion. He discloses an alarming state of things. With all that has been accomplished in the way of religious teaching with all that has been achieved in the way of industrial development, with the undeniable fact that the accumulated wealth of the world is vastly greater than it ever was before, we have this extraordinary fact that the very poor are increasing in numbers. At the same time we think it is true that the average degree of comfort enjoyed by those of the population who are not of the pauper class, is greater than ever. Where shall we look for the compelling cause of the increase of grinding poverty? We suppose one explanation is that the birth rate among the very poor exceeds the death rate. There are instances where persons born in abject poverty have raised themselves above it, but they are few, and the tendency of all the influences of the slums is depressing. Children are born every year by the thousands almost without the instinct of improvement, and even if they have a spark of it, their physical condition is such that they are incapable of

sustained effort, and their surroundings are a perpetual discouragement. It is often said that if people are in dire poverty it is their own fault; but it is not. There may be little excuse for the son or daughter of a family above the pauper class who descends into it; but those who are born in the lowest social stratum are not culpable because they remain there. As well reproach a fly, caught in pitch, for not flying as blame one of the submerged Tenth because he does not by his own unaided efforts arise out of it. In nine cases out of ten he looks upon the position in which he was born as the only position he can hope to occupy. It must be awful to live without hope, but hundreds of thousands of our fellow creatures in the great cities do so from the cradle to the grave. The higher strata of society seem to them as unattainable as the stars.

How long such conditions can continue without widespread disaster being the result we shall not pretend to say. Society is sitting on the safety valve. Our police and military forces are strong enough to keep these unhappy creatures in subjection. But this may not always be the case. It was not the case in France in the days of the revolution, nor yet nearly a century later in the days of the commune. In the end in both instances what we called law and order triumphed. The forces of destruction spent themselves in an explosion. We may not be too certain that this will always happen. If, as the Salvation Army officer says, extreme poverty is increasing, the danger that the next explosion will be cataclysmal is growing greater. The duty of those who have to provide for the needs of those who have not is becoming more and more imperative every day.

Of course, extreme poverty is not as much in evidence in Canada as in Europe, for the reason that this country is growing and gives its millions elbow room; but this country will nevertheless be affected, and is even now being affected in some degree. Among the immigrants who come here are some of those children born "almost without the instinct of improvement," and some who were criminals before they came, and whose tendency is criminal. Others bring with them a sense of wrong done them by society, and their Socialists, spreading the spirit of social unrest. There must come, sooner or later, a leveling up and a leveling down, to make the distance between the extremes of social position. The problem is the greatest of all that press for solution in the world today.

ENORMOUS GROWTH OF TRADE

The Ottawa Journal observes that "in all the wonderful story of Canada's recent growth as indicated in ever-expanding commercial quantities and values there is no set of statistics showing a more impressive record than that dealing with the foreign trade." Here are the figures quoted from the official records:—

1890	.....	\$289,025,269
1898	.....	304,475,798
1900	.....	381,317,220
1902	.....	423,939,444
1904	.....	472,733,038
1906	.....	509,872,845
1908	.....	650,733,131
1910	.....	677,142,189

(Estimated)..... \$90,000,000

The Journal remarks that in European countries an annual increase from two to five per cent is regarded as an indication of national well-being, but in Canada the increase is nearer fifteen to twenty per cent. Canada's foreign trade has doubled in ten years and trebled in fifteen years. Hence, as the Journal says:—"That Canada, after using generously the product of her manufactures, farms, forests and mines can annually sell a surplus of eight hundred million to the rest of the world is the surest sign of commercial health that can well be offered."

TO THE OPTIMIST

The Ottawa Citizen calls upon the optimist to declare himself. Some people are afraid of Halley's comet. Some see chaos in the strife between labor and capital. Some see moral rain forebodingly in the crimes in high life, and corruption following the death of Edward the Peacemaker.

What, then is the optimist's opportunity? "Why," says the Citizen, "simply to talk good common sense into the public ear, and to refuse to entertain any thought of ill, or to pass on to others any tincture of error that may come from some quaking coward or superstitious imager. When others are swaying off their balance, there is need for the optimist to keep his poise. When others fuss about the superficial externals, the optimist must needs dig to the verities and declare the deeper and fundamental fact. Nothing is more fatal to superstitious speculations and fears than a hearty laugh. No myth will consent to stay to be made fun of. You can smile a superstition out of sight. Fear will never sing a daisy with faith, and when optimism takes the platform, pessimism skulls through the door. Let every optimist become aggressively optimistic. Let him thrust his candle into the darkness, and fling his cheery note into the labbling discord. Let him declare the realities of life and draw the minds of men away from its uncertainty. Only the superficial man can retain his pessimism. A knowledge of the great facts of the world and humanity ever betrays op-

timism. Let us therefore declare them, and utilize to the full as good citizens this splendid opportunity of the optimist."

New Brunswick is sending a lot of pulp wood to Maine this year. A few years ago scarcely any was exported. The Maine pulp and paper mills get most of the benefit.

If the C. P. R. should fail them, the people of Halifax, if President Johnson of the Board of Trade represents their feelings, will be plunged into inconsolable sorrow. But perhaps Mr. Johnson is an exception.

The story of the St. Stephen Bank appears to emphasize the relative value of home and some foreign securities. "A very large proportion of the loans is of such a nature as to make their quick liquidation impossible. Serious losses have been made, and large amounts must be written off now and in the future," says the curator.

CLOSING THE DOOR

(Irene P. McKeehan, in the Century Magazine.)

I have closed the door on Doubt; I will go by what light I can find. And hold up my hands, and reach them out. We were to break forth and reappear.

To the glimmer of God in the dark and call: "If I am Thine, though I grope and stumble and fall, I serve; and Thy service is kind."

I have closed the door on Fear. He has lived with me far too long. If he were to break forth and reappear I should lift my eyes and look at the sky.

And sing aloud, and run lightly by: He will never follow a song.

I have closed the door on Gloom. His house has too narrow a view. I must seek for a larger and wider room, With windows to open and let in the sun.

And radiant lamps when the day is done, And the breeze of the world blowing through.

ROOSEVELT

To the triumphant progress of Mr. Roosevelt in his gradual home-coming an analogy may be found in the tour of Grant, and a noble comment in the words of Whitman:

"To U. S. G. Returned from His World's Tour."
"What best I see in thee, Is not where thou most'st down history's great highways, Ever undim'd by time shoots warlike Or that thou sat'st where Washington sat, ruling the land in peace."

Or thou the man whom feudal Europe fabled, venerable Asia swam'd upon, Who walked with kings with even pace the round world's promenade; But that in foreign lands, in all thy walks with kings, Those prairie sovereigns of the West, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio's, Indiana's millions, comrades, farmers, soldiers, all to the front, Invisibly with thee walking with kings who pace the world's round promenade, Were all so justified."

At home or abroad, Theodore Roosevelt remains himself, and always will remain. —Editorial in Collier's for May 7.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

THE FIRST FLY.
The first fly of spring On a hilarious wing Flew about in a manner quite devious, When a sudden chill wind Knocked him silly and blind— He was punished for being too precocious. —New York Telegram.

GETTING EVEN.
He—"Why not give me your reply now? It is not fair to keep me in suspense." She—"But that's for being too precocious. —M. A. P.

AN EFFECTUAL DISGUISE.
Customer—"I'm going to a masked ball, and I want something that will completely disguise me." Assistant—"Certainly, sir. I will give you something nice."—Pole Mele.

DANGEROUS.
Convalescent Patient—"I owe my life to my physician and when come I am going to tell him so." Friend—"Better wait until some other day." "Yes." "Well, then, he is out collecting all that is owing him today and he might take it." —M. A. P.

HIS CHOICE.
"Well, Johnnie, I hear you go to school now." "What part of it do you like best?" "Comin' home."

OVERLOOKED.
Keen—"I had a great surprise last evening." Parker—"How was that?" Keen—"My wife introduced me to a fellow who never was any of her old admirers."

HIS ALTERNATIVE.
Even at the tender age of four little Bennie was considering his future occupation. "Mamma," he said, "when I'm a man, I'm going to have a wagon and drive around collecting ashes."

"Why, Bennie," exclaimed his mother in horror, "mamma doesn't want her little boy to be an ashman." "Well, then," replied Bennie with a very self-satisfying air, "I suppose I could collect swill." —The Delinquent.

A FELLOW FEELING.
From the city's roar and riot, In the waning light I steal, To a place where all is quiet, Where sweet silence comes to hush All the pain that noise and bustle Left within my aching brain— Where birds sing and breezes rustle Through the long and leafy lane.

In my boyhood here I wandered, Here where first I sought in scores, As I drew them in I pondered, Whether Jimmy'd do the chores, Long upon the shore I staid, Where the little whirlpools spin; Up and down the shore I sailed, And I drew the suckers in.

By the river now I listen, As the bell at eve rings out, But no baited hook shall gladden By the water lily's cup, I'm not yearning now for any Spoon the waters dark conceal; I've been taken in by many— I know how the suckers feel!

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