

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1924

The Evening Times-Star

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PORT DEVELOPMENT.

Port development is just now receiving a good deal of attention in Quebec. The Telegraph of that city had an interview with Hon. Dr. Bland this week in which he said that lack of funds would not prevent the work which must be executed in Quebec harbor from being carried on. Continuing, the Minister threw out a challenge to Montreal and Vancouver when he said:

"Before five years Quebec will be the greatest port of Canada. Large quantities of wheat, asbestos, and products of all varieties will be shipped from this point. As far as the harbor work is concerned there will not be a delay of a single day. The amount of \$300,000 which has been voted will only be utilized to arrange the programme under which the rest of the work will be carried on."

Hon. Mr. Bland further said that the farmers from the west were very much interested in the development of the harbor of Quebec as it was through that port they expected to find more facilities to ship their cattle abroad. There was no truth, he said, in the report that Quebec was being attacked in the west.

The Telegraph gives another interesting bit of information, as follows: "By cutting the freight rate between Glasgow and Quebec sixty cents per ton, and thus placing Quebec on the same rate basis as Montreal, the Anchor-Donaldson Steamship Line has initiated a movement of considerable importance to this city. To the untold it might seem incredible that the ocean freight rate is higher to Quebec than to Montreal, but business men have long since realized this handicap and have fought against it in vain. There is no question of coercion involved in this reduction, for though local bodies have advocated such a step for a considerable time the announcement of the reduction came freely and unaffected from the shipping company officials."

The Telegraph adds that other steamship lines are discussing the question of giving Quebec the same rate as Montreal, and it expects that a uniform rate as between Quebec and Montreal will soon be established. Continuing, the Telegraph says the action of the Anchor-Donaldson line is "an argument, and an entirely undesired one at that, in support of the general contention that Quebec is about to loom very much larger than hitherto on the horizon of the shipping world."

The Telegraph concludes: "The speed with which this new condition may be brought about depends just as much upon the local business men as upon the shipping fraternity. Persistence is one of the greatest factors in trade development today, and its application to this question cannot fail to bring about satisfactory results, especially in view of the weighty encouragement, given first by the Federal Government in the shape of a half million dollar grant for harbor improvements preliminary to a grant of millions to complete the work; and second, by the unsolicited action of the Anchor-Donaldson line in equalizing the freight rate as between Quebec and Montreal."

There has always been a degree of sympathy between St. John and Quebec because in each city the feeling existed that due recognition was not given to its advantages as an ocean port. St. John will not envy Quebec any development it may secure, but will hope that national recognition may not be denied the winter ports of Canada.

IMPERIAL RELATIONS.

There is much interested speculation regarding the conference to be held in London next fall to clear up matters regarding the relations between the Mother Country and the Dominions, and adds that it is possible the Prime Minister will be one of the two from Canada. This does not agree with the announcement that Premier King will make an extended tour of the west next fall, but he may find time to do both. The Citizen further discussed the subject as follows: "The Government in London is concerned over the present system and the inadequacy of its operation. The main question to be determined is how best—between Imperial Conferences—the Dominions can be consulted on questions of policy without avoiding delays which in matters of great urgency, might be fatal. Another objective is the working out of a plan whereby decisions of the Imperial Conference can be carried out with some assurance of continuity rather than being liable to reversal whenever a change of government occurs in Great Britain or the Dominions. A preference policy, adopted at last autumn's conference, went by the board in sequence to the British general elec-

Press Comment

THE CHICAGO HORROR.

(Detroit Free Press.)

Only an expert psychologist with a first-hand working knowledge of the individuals can be competent to attempt any exact detailed explanation of the mental and moral states of Nathan Leopold, Jr., and Richard Loeb, self-confessed murderers of fourteen-year-old Robert Franks, of Chicago.

The admissions made by the nineteen-year-old criminals, however, indicate in a general way a startling condition of ethical and moral degeneracy and decadence which has transformed two human beings into unspeakable monsters.

Unquestionably environment, training and natural predisposition have all contributed to the production of the hideous finished product; and the case of these noxious flowers of precocity and research into, and worship of the perverse, demands careful thought and study. For there is a warning to be gathered through such study which may be valuable to parents, to educators and to society in general.

Leopold and Loeb are exaggerated specimens of a class that is becoming deplorably common in the United States, particularly among a coterie of persons who consider themselves "advanced intellectuals." Those in this type insist that the marks of their superiority are non-adherence to all ordinary rules of human relationship and conduct, and repudiation of recognized ethical, political, moral or artistic standards.

Such people are not all predatory; some of them are merely weak and silly. But if driven by greed, passion or lust for excitement, they attempt to live actively up to their theories, they then immediately become social evils, and work more or less harm. How to handle this bohemian decadence (we use the word "bohemian" in a general rather than a specific sense) is still an unsolved puzzle, but there is no doubt about what must be done when such products of it as Leopold and Loeb appear. They must be expeditiously and completely eliminated as factors in society.

TRAGEDIES OF THE HIGHWAY

(Bangor Commercial.)

Two horrible motor car tragedies were added to Maine's list on Sunday. Three women were killed at South Portland and three men on the state highway near Calais and in neither case does it appear from the reports that the fatalities were unavoidable but quite the contrary. In the South Portland affair a car left the highway and crashed into a group of people who were walking near their homes. The driver was locked up on charges of manslaughter and driving while under the influence of liquor.

In the Calais accident one car crashed into another while the former is said to have driven at a dangerous rate and was unable to take a curve properly. If the reports of the tragedies are correct six lives have been taken by reckless drivers. If this is the established fact the punishment should be drastic but punishment will not restore the lives sacrificed to carelessness and disregard of the rights of others. It is a steady recurrence of such terrible accidents that causes many to fear to use the highways on Sundays when the traffic is heavy. And for every accident that occurs many are narrowly avoided.

PENALTY FITTED TO CRIME.

(Quebec Telegraph.)

It has been well remarked that while the law courts often make mistakes in criminal matters there are times when they come pretty near to making the punishment fit the crime. As for instance when a fine of \$200 and thirty days in jail was imposed upon a chauffeur, in addition to a six months' suspension of his license to drive a motor car. This was a commendable decision handed down by Magistrate Campbell of St. Catherine's. Five men, all more or less under the influence of liquor, were driving aimlessly about in a Ford roadster that Henry Ford designed and built to carry two people. Near the Black Horse the overlander (in two senses) Lizzie came into collision with a car driven by Neil Chrysler. Mr. Chrysler's two little children were thrown through the windshield. The sentence disposes of one fool for a time at least and should also give warning to other fools. At that, the man sentenced was lucky. Had any one of the children happened to die of injuries, the sentence would have at least have been for manslaughter, if not murder.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHERS.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

The proper use of spare time is one of the most important lessons for the young people to learn. It is in moments of leisure that our greatest progress, or the reverse, moral and physical, is made. If these hours are to be wasted and idled away, the loss will be incalculable. Still worse will it be if they are spent in wrongdoing. The school teacher is right, the value and use of leisure time should be taught all boys and girls; but this they can find out for themselves, if they will only take the trouble to think.

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COSTING NATION MILLIONS A YEAR

Report on Defective Eyesight in Schools of U. S. is Presented.

New York, July 26.—Defective eyesight in the public schools is costing the taxpayers of the U. S. at least \$100,000,000 annually, it is asserted by the Eye Sight Conservation Council of America, which, in a statement sent to the directors of summer schools throughout the country, urges organized conservation of vision as a social and economic need.

The council points out that poor eyesight is responsible for much of the retardation in schools, and makes public the result of investigations showing that a large proportion of backward children have visual defects.

Accompanying the statement is a report revealing that heavy moral and financial losses arise from this evil. Approximately 25 per cent. of all school children in the United States, the council finds, are retarded in their studies and fully one-third of this retardation is conservatively estimated as due to defective vision.

If this is a correct estimate, there are at least 2,000,000 school children in the United States or more years behind in their studies because of defective vision, says the council's report. Leads to Other Troubles.

John J. Tigert, United States commissioner of education and a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Eye Sight Council, is quoted as asserting, after a careful review of the situation, that "one of the greatest disturbing factors in measuring the effects of defective vision upon retardation is the fact that faulty eyesight invariably leads to other troubles and the effect of these is not attributed to defective vision."

The council's statement to summer school directors, signed by Guy A. Henry, general director, says that "a large percentage of the pupils attending summer schools are obliged to do so merely because they have not kept up with their classes; no doubt a number have been retarded in their studies due to defective vision."

In the report disclosing waste the relation between sound vision and school progress is indicated. "Defective vision is responsible for much of the retardation in school progress which exists in the educational institutions of the country," says the report.

"Investigations of 28,667 public school children with defective vision show that of this group an average of 67 per cent. were retarded in their studies one or more years. This is almost three times as high as the retardation of groups when not classified according to eyesight. In another group 82,060 pupils of which retardation investigations were made without segregating or giving consideration to condition of eyes, the proportion of those retarded in their studies averaged 24 per cent."

Defective vision in the public school eye clinic of one of our large cities, 72 per cent. were backward in their studies. An examination of 1,240 school children in a mid-western state disclosed that of those retarded nearly 60 per cent. had visual defects, according to the council.

Correction Marks Improvement.

The correction of visual defects results in a marked improvement in school progress," the report continues. The records of 20,000 cases sent to a public school eye clinic for correction

of refractive errors show that from 60 to 70 per cent. of the children were classified as backward, mentally deficient, stupid or habitually left back. The careful follow-up system proved that after their defective vision had been corrected, 70 to 80 per cent. of these children progressed and took their place in the class with the normal average child. The reason the remaining 20 to 30 per cent. did not progress was because their retardation was due to causes other than defective vision. "The proportion of retardation in another group, all with visual defects, was found to be 85.4 per cent. One year later, after the defective eyes had been corrected by glasses, only 17 per cent. of those corrected continued to be backward in their studies.

"Furthermore it has been found that the proportion of retardation increases with an increase in the degree of visual defect. Pupils who have less than one-half normal vision are much more retarded than those with lowered vision of a lesser degree."

CANADIAN LADY HONORED.

News has reached Toronto of marked honors being conferred upon a Canadian lady by the Emperor and the Government of Japan.

These honors were showered upon Miss Caroline Macdonald, now living in Tokyo, whose name has become widely known in Japan because of her remarkable work among prisoners. Word of the distinction gained by Miss Macdonald of Toronto in a letter from Mrs. E. H. Fisher, who has been visiting in the Orient. It is announced that Miss Macdonald was decorated by the Emperor of Japan with the "Sixth Order of the Sacred Treasure," and was presented by the Department of Justice with a gold cup in appreciation of her labors. Accompanying the gold cup was a certificate bearing the Imperial crest, a gold chrysanthemum, at the top, while at the lower left hand corner were the signature and seal of the Minister of Justice. The document mentioned in appreciative terms her work in the prisons, in the juvenile courts, and then stated it was also in recognition of her work in "spreading

the Gospel of God." It is said to be probably the first time such a strictly Christian phrase has been used in such a document in Japan.

SERVICE AND TURNOVER.

Years ago F. W. Woolworth observed: "Business is Mutual. Our net service must be economical to each Community. Turnover is our greatest means of giving the public economy. Turnover cannot be had unless good service is given. Service is, therefore, the back bone of turnover."

A ton-tit which made a home in a pillar-box at Caterham, Lancashire, used parts of letters to build its nest.

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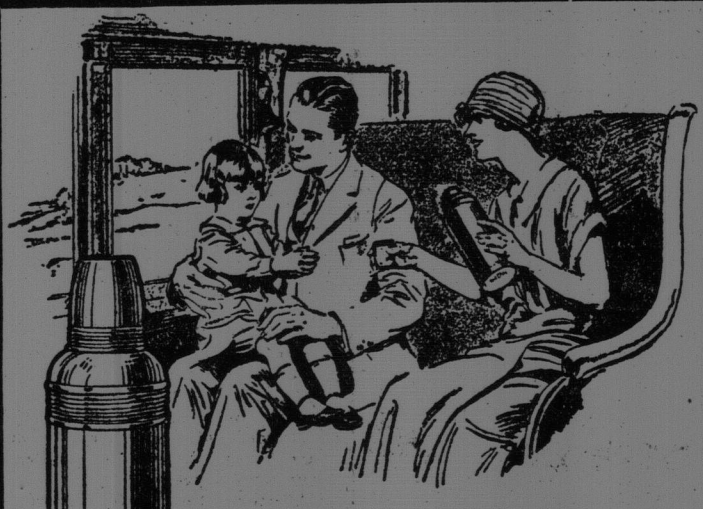
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