

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 30, 1919

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THE JUVENILE COURT.

The municipal council will have before it again in the new year the request for funds to establish a juvenile court. What the Rotary Club did last evening has been done by the directors of the Y. M. C. A. various benevolent organizations and most of the women's societies and clubs in the city. It is favored by the council of the board of trade and members of the school board. A Catholic clergyman who visited the city during the past year expressed surprise and regret that St. John was without a properly constituted juvenile court. Rev. David Lang, who knows Judge Ben Lindsay of Denver, told the Rotarians last night that every city should have a juvenile court. That is also the testimony of all visitors from western Canada. Our juvenile delinquency, Halifax, has a juvenile court. Mr. J. J. Kelso, superintendent of neglected and dependent children in Ontario, in a recent letter said he was more and more convinced that we should take high ground in matters relating to child-welfare, and remember that what we do not spend to benefit child-life must be spent in the upkeep of reformatories and institutions for inefficient citizens and criminals. The juvenile court judge and probation officer are really of more value than a police court. We begin wrong if we neglect the child and then punish the adult who is the result of our own folly, our lack of sympathy, and our dread of a little more taxation.

IN THE FAR NORTH.

Far within the Arctic circle, twenty-five hundred miles from the nearest rail-head, are vast deposits of copper. The Eskimos use it for spear heads and for other purposes. Other minerals, doubtless also abound there. The wealth of that vast region in fish and reindeer is also enormous. It is part of Canada. Some time in the future the needed facilities for transportation will be provided, and following the missionary and the trader will go the men of vision and of means to add these riches to the available wealth of Canada. It is a tale of absorbing interest which the Anglican missionary, Rev. H. Girling, has been telling to St. John audiences. We are already speaking of the last west, but the last north will not be exploited for many a year to come. Its white silence has deterred all but the boldest spirits in past years, but gradually we are made more familiar with its vast resources and learn more about the few scattered tribes of primitive people who roam over its lonely stretches. There is a degree of fascination for the imaginative and the adventurous in this grim north country, with its challenge to endurance and to the power of those who would conquer in bending Nature to their will and purpose. It requires will and purpose to journey for hundreds upon hundreds of miles through a winter land, where day after day and week after week no friendly campfire sends its glow across the waste to greet the plodding traveler and his train of dogs. Some day the railway will penetrate the region and the struggles of the pioneers will pass into history.

GERMANY'S FUTURE.

The New York Evening Post does not fear that Germany will soon become a competitor in the world's business. It bases its views on a report issued by the German Economic Council, which certainly is far from being a rosy document. The summary given by the Evening Post presents the case very clearly, as follows:— "According to the census of 1910 the population of Germany was 69,925,993. By the terms of the Treaty she loses 8,250,000 inhabitants. During the war she lost an effective working population of 3,750,000, of whom 2,000,000 were in the most productive age. "Germany is to furnish the Allies 40,000,000 tons of coal annually. The Saar Basin, lost to her for at least fifteen years, yielded 1,600,000 tons, or 9 per cent of the entire anthracite production annually. Upper Silesia yielded in 1918 about 48,000,000 tons, or 24 per cent of the entire output. In the last year of the war Germany's total coal production was 191,000,000 tons. Germany loses, therefore, about one-half of all the coal she produced. The general outlook for raw materials is not a cheerful one. In 1918 the output of the Alsace-Lorraine mines was 20,000,000 tons in Alsace-Lorraine, Upper Silesia, the Saar Basin and part of Luxembourg Germany loses 92 per cent of her raw iron, 46 per cent of her steel, and 48 per cent of her rolled iron. Her production of zinc in Upper Silesia, 220,000 tons before the war, and of lead 85,000 tons, is reduced to 5,181 and 4,618 tons, respectively. Her monopoly in potash is gone; also 42 per cent of her crude oil production. From her colonies she derived annually about 16,000 tons of rubber, or about one-fourth of her entire consumption. "The German merchant marine is gone. Consisting of 5,000,000 tons in 1918, it is now reduced to a few fishing boats. During the next few years Germany is to deliver new ships, not to exceed 200,000 tons annually, to the Allies. Imports will have to be carried in foreign bottoms. In 1912 she had 80,000 river boats, representing 1,400,000 tons. Four-fifths of these are to be handed over to the Allies, together with 5,000 locomotives and 180,000 cars. Before the war Germany's imports amounted to 10,000,000,000 marks, her exports to 9,000,000,000 marks. But while only 15 per cent of her imports were finished goods, 65 per cent of her exports were manufactures. "Before the war Germany imported 30 per cent of her foodstuffs and exported

80 per cent of her produce. Her resources for producing artificial fertilizers are now working on a basis of about 70 per cent efficiency. As a result of the introduction of the eight-hour day 30 per cent of the potatoes, 60 per cent of the sugar beets, and 80 per cent of fodder root or freeze in the ground. The redistribution of the estates among small landholders, intended to make it easier to feed the large cities, is making it more difficult. And on top of all this bankrupt agriculture lies a national debt of about 200,000,000,000 marks, exclusive of the indemnity."

A study of the figures given in this summary leaves little ground for present fear of German competition on a large scale. The German people are, however, very resourceful, and after some years will have sufficiently recovered to be an important factor in world-production and world-trade. For the next few years the advantage will be, as it should continue to be, with their competitors.

At a time when Canadians were hoping the expectation of Attorney-General Palmer of the United States, that the price of food would decline in that country in the next three months, would prove true and extend to Canada, word is received that the price of flour in St. John has gone up two dollars and a quarter per barrel. This is not cheering news in a country which is a large exporter of wheat. The public would like to know more about the cause of this increase, which falls heaviest upon those least able to bear the burden. Perhaps some one can tell us what would have happened if the price had not been increased—would have suffered and to what extent—and their relative ability to endure it when compared with the poor people who must buy the highest priced flour. There is, of course, a world-shortage of food. High prices are justified by that shortage—but what about higher prices? Are they justified to the extent of two dollars and a quarter on a barrel of flour?

The death of Sir William Oeler removes one of the outstanding Canadians of his time, and a man whose fame as a scientist had spread through the Empire and the world. He was a member of a brilliant family, of which became the most distinguished member. His contributions to medical science were of great value, and thousands of students received from him an inspiration which will remain with them through life. An untiring preacher of the gospel of work, he labored himself to the end, and during the war his great knowledge and his organizing ability were zealously placed at the service of humanity. Canada mourns an honored son who had become an imperial figure, bringing honor to the land of his birth.

Christian Science Monitor: The opening words of King George's speech in bending Nature to their will and purpose. It requires will and purpose to journey for hundreds upon hundreds of miles through a winter land, where day after day and week after week no friendly campfire sends its glow across the waste to greet the plodding traveler and his train of dogs. Some day the railway will penetrate the region and the struggles of the pioneers will pass into history.

Mr. H. B. Thomson says Canada has a great opportunity to secure a permanent market for special lines in England. Sir George Bury says there are great opportunities for Canadian trade in China and Japan, and adds that other countries are making great efforts to capture those markets while Canada is "asleep at the switch."

The St. Stephen Board of Trade has recommended to the city council a new form of town government. It proposes an additional ward, with one councillor from each of the four wards, to be elected therein, and four councillors to be elected at large, the latter to serve for two years.

Quebec is said to be ready to pour liquor by the carload into Ontario after New Year's. Also, no doubt, into New Brunswick. We are in for another wet spell—but it will not last any longer than the time required to get the vote of the people on the question of booze importation.

Dr. Margaret Parks is admirably qualified to be an examining inspector of immigrants, and her appointment to the staff gives universal satisfaction.

Why is so much poisonous liquor drunk in St. John at present? Are the authorities not as clever as the bootleggers? The latest figures indicate that prohibition has been defeated in New Zealand and by a very narrow majority.

BEER CLEAN UP. A great movement will be launched soon to clean up the beer business in Nova Scotia, said Rev. H. R. Grant at Grace Bay the other day. "The inspectors all over the province have received their orders from the inspector in chief to clean up the liquor out of Nova Scotia, and I for one am going to do the best I can."



Rippling Rhymes by Walt Mason

"Industry we thrive," our fathers used to say; all day they looked alive, and put up tons of hay. They went at it with full tilt, and seldom paused to rest; and thus our fathers built the country we inhabit. "By close sequence we thrive," this is our watchword now; no longer do we strive to earn in sweat of brow. The country's bowed with care, the care that sears our backs, and we hand out hot air, and make a few remarks. The whistles do not toot to call men to their tasks, for all men elude, on platforms, kegs and casks. The country's needling coal that children may not freeze, and gets a rignado, a protest and a wheeze. The country's needling peace, and harmony and zeal, and it would have success from fuses and frenzied spite; but we like eight day clocks are to the limit, and we are Ciceros, every fellow university and arts, and paws the ground. We all are Ciceros, we all have silver tongues, and laughily we pose, and labor with our lungs. The sound of factory bell can only chafe and irritate; we're blinding with a spell, and haven't time to work. Together let us get, let all our rows be thinned; let's try to earn with sweat what we can't earn with wind.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

THE HON. JAMES MCGILL. To the Hon. James McGill, who died in Montreal on Dec. 18, 1818, the city of Montreal in particular and the Dominion of Canada as a whole owes much for the foundation of McGill University. It was a small institution that he thought of, and started but it has grown into a wonderful educational centre. He was a native of Glasgow, born on Oct. 6, 1846. He died three years ago, but he is still honored as Founder's Day—but he came to Canada while yet a youth and entered into business life. So successful was he that he amassed a great fortune. Then he entered the parliament of the day as a representative of Montreal. He became, too, a member of the executive and legislative councils. In the militia he rose to the rank of brigadier-general in the war of 1812. Mr. McGill was distinguished for his charity, his practical judgment and his kindness of heart. "By his will, which was made two years before he died, he bequeathed his property of forty-six acres and his residence with \$50,000 to found a college in a provincial university, and it was not until 1828 that work was begun in the faculties of arts and medicine. The record of the first thirty years of the institution is a record of growth and progress. In 1853 a better day dawned for the institution and it has made great progress since. Its poorer home of the early days has been replaced by a series of magnificent structures adequately fitted for educational purposes in later days. Wealth has poured in to meet the needs of the tasks while its endowment fund has been increased by many bequests. In 1911 the city of Montreal in a four day campaign raised for it more than \$1,500,000.

LIGHTER VEIN. The engine of a passenger train broke down between stations and as an express was due and it was not certain that it could stop before reaching the spot, the passengers were ordered to leave the train immediately. They all did so with the exception of one old man, who kept his seat. The passengers thought he must be a fool, but he put his hand into his pocket and pulled out an insurance ticket. "Ha, ha," he said, "I thought I was alone when I bought it. A nice thing for the company to sell me an insurance ticket when I was before me at the first sign of danger. Not here I am and here I shall stay, and if the company has to pay up it is their lookout and not mine."

He Didn't Agree. The visitor to the lawyer's office stood in amazement. "I say, old man," he exclaimed. "What ever has happened to you? Had a motor smash, or what?" The lawyer shook his head wearily as he gingerly touched his bruised and bandaged face. "No, you remember that case the other day when I defended a man charged with assault? Well, I made a strong plea for him on the ground that he was a fool rather than a criminal." "Yes, but—" "I did it so well that he was acquitted, but he was sent outside the court."—London Answers.

No Swap for Him. A detail of Florida Guard troops were standing before a company kitchen at Camp Wheeler when a Georgia convict was passed, hauling clay. "Hey, Sam," yelled an army-slick rookie to the striped-leaved driver, "I'll swap uniforms with you." "Not a chance," white boy laughed the convict. "Ah knows when Ah'll get out."—American Legion.

Victor—"No, but the days seem about sixty-seven hours long now." Judge— "Yes, sir." "What seems to trouble you most?" "The teacher, sir!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Victor—"I am now convinced that the use of liquor shortened my days." Alfred—"What?" Turned prohibitionist. "Victor—"No, but the days seem about sixty-seven hours long now." Judge— "Yes, sir." "What seems to trouble you most?" "The teacher, sir!"—Yonkers Statesman.

LITTLE TEMPEST OVER PATRONAGE HAS SUBSIDED

Toronto, Dec. 30.—Peace has been proclaimed at the parliament buildings here. The government is still firmly in the saddle. Harold Currie, organizer of the United Farmers of Ontario, of Stratford, says he is satisfied with the explanations given by the ministers as to the recent appointment of a registrar for Middlesex county, and Miss Minnie V. Waller remains registrar of Middlesex. It is understood that Premier Durno made it clear that members of the legislature, even if United Farmers members, will not have the handling of patronage.

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A WONDERFUL TELEPHONE IS ANNOUNCED. (New York Times.)

As it has been found necessary to use the words "wired wireless" in describing the new kind of telephonic communication invented or discovered by Major-General George O. Squier, it is evident that common folk for the present, at least, must not expect to understand his achievement any better than they do the theory of general relativity enunciated by Dr. Einstein and accepted by the Wise Ones so fit and few. The two words are, however, not so far apart as what the chief signal officer has done that by his new device he can transmit not a single human voice, but as many as ten at once, along a single wire. The transmitting agency, however, is not the sort of electric current, sent over or through a wire in ordinary telephony and telegraphy, but the same sort of ethereal vibration that is utilized by the "radio."

The wireless man hitherto has been unable to direct their messages, but he has had to fill a huge sphere with waves, and so have wasted energy and lost secrecy. General Squier, it seems, sends a real "wired wireless" message, but he makes it use a wire for its core and so gains both limitation and direction.

How he does this is as yet undisclosed, but there is great interest in the fact that his invention is to be given to the government, and public interest in the scheme will take thirty-three years to complete, and that the reclaimed land, which will be the property of the government, will field a yearly net return in rents of at least \$500,000.

The country, however, would have been spared several unpleasant controversies if it were the law that the inventions made by a servant of the government belong to the government.

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MEN, WOMEN AND MONEY

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Of vital theme, handled skilfully in spite of its many difficulties, rich in treatment, the lead interpreted with grace and beauty by an actress of keen sensibilities, the sum of values in "Men, Women and Money" is very high. It holds close attention through the difficulties of developing a motive so intricate and thoroughly modern were not entirely overcome. The author has chosen to make his heroine a mere drifter, and a selfish one at that. Completely at the mercy of circumstances, the heroine barely recognizing the noble sacrifices made by her parents that she may enjoy what they never had, in the end she shows how the innate purity of a truly fine woman may work wonders for herself and all within the sphere of her influence. That Miss Clayton assumed this role was fortunate for the story. It is largely through the refinement of her impersonation, her expression of womanliness in character that the Paramount production carries conviction.

Added to this good picture, there are two other subjects that command attention. Elmo the mighty and Charles Chaplin in "Some Nerve." Its a good program. Go and see it.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE FINANCES AT WASHINGTON

Washington, Dec. 30.—Improvement in the governmental financial situation to such an extent that "an important part of the March tax payment" will be available for current use, was forecast by Secretary Glass, in announcing last night the issuance of a new series of tax certificates, dated Jan. 2 and maturing Dec. 15, 1920.

Outstanding treasury certificates of indebtedness, including tax certificates, were reduced by \$28,703,800 during the month ended Dec. 24. The treasury's hopeful view was based on figures showing that provision had been made for more than half of the \$1,897,568,000 of treasury certificates yet outstanding.

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QUEBEC PROVINCE HAS 128 CASES OF SMALLOX

Montreal, Dec. 30.—At a meeting, the provincial board of health yesterday it was reported that there were 128 cases of smallpox in twenty-one municipalities. The provincial council adopted a resolution asking that a close watch be kept on the Ontario boundary, by the vaccination of everyone from Ontario wishing to enter Quebec province. A few cases of "sleeping sickness" have been reported from Quebec and Montreal, but the conclusion of the board was that the real sleeping sickness could not exist here as the germ could not live in so northerly a climate.

FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS READY

Its Motto of Preparedness Should Be Applied to Protection of Public Health.

"There hasn't been a fire in the city for months," said a citizen the other day. It seems a waste of money to keep a fire department that does nothing.

"We don't disband the fire department because we have a run of luck," replied a ratepayer. "It pays to have those fire men ready, whether they are doing anything or not." And the ratepayer spoke wisely.

A fire department is an illustration of the principle of preparedness. It's protection, pure and simple—something modern city or town can do without. Just as firemen stand ready to protect your property, so Grip Fix stands ready to protect your health. For over 25 years it has been an unexcelled treatment for colds. A box in the house means protection against the common cold, the influenza, the headache and the attack of the flu. It is a combination of drugs such as your physician would use, and contains nothing harmful or dangerous. In capsule form it is something which gives relief to a cold in a night and works quickly in a case of Grippe.

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