

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 25, 1917

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments. Main 2417. Subscriptions—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$5.00 per year, in advance. The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank P. Northrup, Brunswick Bldg.; BOSTON, J. C. Ross, Board of Trade Bldg.; MONTRÉAL, J. C. Ross, Board of Trade Bldg.; BRITISH and FOREIGN—Frederick A. Smith, 25 Ludgate Hill, LONDON, E. C. England. The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

RUM FOR THE TRENCHES

The following facetious paragraph appears in the Halifax Herald:

"At one of the piers in Halifax, for transshipment to Europe, there are a number of hogheads of Jamaica rum. It is understood that this is to form part of the winter ration of stimulants that is served out to the boys in the trenches. A local mathematician who visited the pier yesterday and saw the shipment, was figuring out how many gallons were in the lot and how many 'jags' a gallon would produce. He figured out that if the rum of hogheads were placed on the parade and straws provided, there would be enough in the shipment to place 68,473 men in condition for the lockup provided the police themselves did not get hold of the straws."

It will be interesting news to people who are being asked to economize and especially not to read "The Fiddlers" that hogheads of Jamaica rum are being exported to be served out to Canadian soldiers. That they do not need it is proved by the testimony of soldiers who have served in the trenches and are still there, but who have never permitted a drop of liquor to pass their lips. We have been told also that the wet canteen has proved a curse to some men who drank before they left Canada, and also to some who acquired the habit after they went to England. By whose authority is Jamaica rum shipped to our soldiers at the front? Instead of encouraging the drink habit in the army and preaching economy at home it would be far more patriotic to stop the manufacture of liquor in Canada and release for food purposes the raw material thus wasted. The Borden government will not even provide legislation to protect dry provinces from the liquor interests entrenched in Quebec province. And now, it appears that Sir Robert and his colleagues are not averse to sending rum to the trenches, for if they refused their consent it would not be done. And yet, no doubt, this government will ask for and expect to get the support of temperance people, and the votes of members whose sons are subjected to temptation even while they are fighting the Hun. If steamship space for food products is very scarce, why fill any of it with hogheads of Jamaica rum?

IT IS UP TO MR. HANNA

Note this announcement made by Lord Rhonda, the British food controller:

"I now am able to limit the profits derived by those engaged in the food industry of the United Kingdom. We examine the books, and apply a system of cost and expense. I expect to hear that Mr. Hoover and Mr. Hanna have taken similar steps, so that we will be able to assure the people that the existing high prices of imported food do not represent profiteering. In this connection I am anxiously watching the price and the available supply across the water of foodstuffs for cattle, upon which depends largely the price of meat and bacon. Unless the existing high levels are reduced, the poorer classes in the United Kingdom, France and Italy are faced with many privations."

What has the Canadian food controller, who has been more aptly described as an "appetite controller," to say to this? What is he doing to limit profits by examining books and applying a system of cost and expense? On what articles has he fixed a price for the consumer to pay? What is Canada doing to back up Lord Rhonda in preventing the profiteers from getting rich at the expense of the poor people of Britain, France and Italy? The Toronto Globe goes to the root of the matter when it says:

"Is Canada fighting this war for great principles or for Big Interests? This is the question which, with an increasing volume of indignation, the public is asking day after day. If Mr. Hanna cannot, for some reason not known to the public, regulate and control the profits on foodstuffs, then it is his bounden duty to let the public know what difficulties stand in the way. As at present constituted the office of food controller is a sham. What is the food controller controlling? Has anything been done to meet the outrageous demands made by the profiteers on the slender earnings of the masses of the people of Canada? If Lord Rhonda's department can apply a system of cost and expense to firms engaged in food industries in a country of forty-five million people, what insuperable obstacles in Canada prevent Mr. Hanna from protecting in similar manner the eight million consumers of Canada? Is it easier and more advantageous for the government at Ottawa to protect the profiteers than to do the right thing by the nation and the Empire? Unless Mr. Hanna is impervious to criticism he must know that public opinion will not long tolerate the present policy of masterly inactivity that enables the Big Interests to lay heavy burdens on the backs of the people who

already bear the burdens and the sacrifices of a terrible war.

"There will be no peace for Mr. Hanna until he makes peace with the consumer. The profiteer must be forced to give up his ungodly calling. The food controller of Canada is remiss in his duties if he lays this country open to the charge brought against it by Lord Rhonda, of harboring and protecting land sharks that prey not only upon the citizens of the Dominion, but who force Britain to pay famine prices at a time when the German submarine makes it imperative that Canada should lend all the aid in her power to the British people. Profiteering under the war conditions that now prevail in Canada and the United States means lending aid and comfort to the enemy. The patience of the public is almost exhausted. Who does Mr. Hanna propose to begin in earnest the task of food controller?"

Last night's and today's despatches from Ottawa indicate that Mr. Hanna is at last giving some thought to the subject of price control. We are now well into the fourth year of the war. If anything is to be done in the interests of the consumer before the war ends it is high time to begin. But even yet Mr. Hanna is only talking. When will he act?

THE WAR SITUATION

Earl Derby told the Canadian Club at Folkestone last night that the enemy was not demoralized and there was likelihood of much more fighting and sorrow and misery before this war ended. Though the Germans are fighting well, however, the Allies are fighting better. The region around Verdun, which has made such a terrible drain upon the German armies, was the scene of another violent attack by the army of the Crown Prince yesterday, and the French gallantly held their ground.

On the Riga front the Russians are continuing their efforts to drive the Germans back, and are meeting with some success. The internal political situation in Russia has not developed any new feature of a discouraging nature during the last week.

A French naval authority declares that the danger in the Baltic has been averted every day by new systems of defence, and the smaller number of losses for the last two weeks appears to uphold that view. There has been another air raid on England, as a further illustration of Hun savagery. Much interest is felt in possible developments in Sweden, following the elections, but the pro-German influence still appears to be paramount, despite the fact that the Socialists have a large majority in the lower house. In Argentina the navy is being mobilized and there are rumors from Buenos Aires that war will be declared and two army divisions sent to France. The United States is pouring out its treasure to strengthen the finances of the Allies, and war preparations are going on at a rapid rate. The German and Austrian replies to the Pope's peace note have provoked resentment in the Allied countries.

Guelph Mercury: It is just this eternal shoving up, cent after cent, of the prices of the things we must have that is fast driving the people to a point where they will no longer tolerate it. The solution, or at least the possible solution, is to have a representative of the most interested party, the consumer, present at all these deliberations, and also see to it that he is clothed with the authority to act, and act promptly.

Colonel Roosevelt hits the mark when he says:—"If we take heed of any peace utterance Germany prepares, we will back up Lord Rhonda in preventing the profiteers from getting rich at the expense of the poor people of Britain, France and Italy? The Toronto Globe goes to the root of the matter when it says:

"Is Canada fighting this war for great principles or for Big Interests? This is the question which, with an increasing volume of indignation, the public is asking day after day. If Mr. Hanna cannot, for some reason not known to the public, regulate and control the profits on foodstuffs, then it is his bounden duty to let the public know what difficulties stand in the way. As at present constituted the office of food controller is a sham. What is the food controller controlling? Has anything been done to meet the outrageous demands made by the profiteers on the slender earnings of the masses of the people of Canada? If Lord Rhonda's department can apply a system of cost and expense to firms engaged in food industries in a country of forty-five million people, what insuperable obstacles in Canada prevent Mr. Hanna from protecting in similar manner the eight million consumers of Canada? Is it easier and more advantageous for the government at Ottawa to protect the profiteers than to do the right thing by the nation and the Empire? Unless Mr. Hanna is impervious to criticism he must know that public opinion will not long tolerate the present policy of masterly inactivity that enables the Big Interests to lay heavy burdens on the backs of the people who

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Too Well Remembered.

"Did your late uncle remember you when he made his will?"

"I guess so—for he left me out."

Two Points of View.

Mr. Godleigh—"Her age really surprised me; she doesn't look twenty-eight, does she?"

Miss Snapple—"Not now, but I suppose she did once."

A Bad Precedent.

"Why do you want a divorce from your husband?" asked a friend of the family.

"Because he isn't the man I thought he was when I married him," sobbed the young wife.

"My dear child, a general application of that principle would break up nearly every home in the country."

Passing a Station.

The stranger was waiting for the local "fast" train which stopped at every other station. To his surprise, the train dashed through when it should have stopped. The stranger turned to the porter and asked:

"How is it that that train didn't stop here? I'll report this to the directors. The time table distinctly states—'I'm very sorry, but I broke in the porter.' 'It usually stops, but just now the engine driver's had a row with the station master.'"

That Good Old Joke.

They were discussing that joke about getting down off an elephant.

"How do you get down?" asked the jester for the fourth time.

"You climb down."

"You grease his sides and slide down."

"Wrong!"

"You take a ladder and get down."

"Wrong!"

"Well, you take the trunk line down."

"No, not quite. You get off the elephant, you get it off a goose."

—Indianapolis News.

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THE WET CANTEN

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To the Editor of the Toronto Globe:

Sir,—I notice with satisfaction that organizations are being formed to fight venereal diseases, but discussion on the direct cause of the evil is apparently dead. No doubt, as the Toronto Globe says, "the venereal disease is a social evil." It is a social evil because it is a disease that is spread by social contact. It is a social evil because it is a disease that is spread by social contact. It is a social evil because it is a disease that is spread by social contact.

housewife would fill in the space with the words: "When our government prohibit the waste of food in the manufacture of liquor," they might be able to awaken the members of our government to the actual facts of the case. If our honorable premier is man enough to bring in a measure to protect the members of our government from the evils that beset them away from home. Our men in England are on short rations, but in Canada they are on long rations. Our men in England are on short rations, but in Canada they are on long rations. Our men in England are on short rations, but in Canada they are on long rations.

She Went Days Without Food

When Hospital Treatment Failed an Operation Was Advised—But Cure Was Effected Without the Use of the Knife.

Glance Bay, N. S., Sept. 24.—Here is a case which sorely puzzled the hospital doctors. It was evident that the great sufferer, a woman, had thought of it in the shoulder-blade was due to torpidity of the liver, but no medical treatment seemed to do any good.

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ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Storey of Moncton announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Muriel, to Capt. John Nelson Gibson, Canadian Ordnance Corps. The wedding to take place in St. George's church, Moncton, on October 2.

Mr. and Mrs. James Doyle of Moncton announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Florence, to Robert Lawson Steeves, of that city.