

POOR COMMENT

MAY 20 1921

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1921

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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 2437. Subscriptions—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year by mail, \$3.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—Chicago, E. J. Cowie, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE JUNE CENSUS AND AFTER.

In an article on the Canadian census to be taken in June the Ottawa Journal says:

"The census of 1891 revealed a population for the Dominion of 4,833,230. In 1901 it had risen to 5,871,915, and ten years later to 7,200,000. There is considerable speculation as to what will be the figures for 1921, and they have been conservatively placed at 8,700,000. They are roughly assumed to be 9,000,000 for the purposes of many official statistical calculations, and that total may be sustained by the actual count in June. It must be remembered, however, that the long interlude of the war was adverse to growth in population. Immigration from Europe was wholly stopped for several years, and a check was also placed on the influx from the United States. The sales of land by the Canadian Pacific during 1920 rather indicated, however, that the movement from across the border had been resumed. An inspiring feature of recent census takings has been the showing with respect to production and resources in money. No farther back than 1891 the capital invested in manufacturing plants was valued at \$308,213,000. By 1915 it had grown to \$1,094,108,272. This year it will undoubtedly exceed \$2,500,000,000; for our industries have been moving ahead very rapidly during the past six years. In available money, it is encouraging to remember that since 1891 the deposits in our banks have grown from \$148,896,908 to well over \$2,000,000,000, or by approximately 1,250 per cent. In a word, we have developed our national potentialities very materially, and our reasons for a courageous looking into the future are genuine and substantial."

The most important consideration in regard to the coming census is that it be accurate. So far as St. John is concerned the citizens do not believe an accurate census was taken in 1911. Many people were living out of town, and were not enumerated as citizens of St. John. The civic authorities should interest themselves in the matter. The enumerators should be competent persons, and their work should be thoroughly done. There has been a substantial increase in population in the last ten years, and the city should get full credit for the same. Just how much the province may have increased is another question. In rural sections there has been a decline, for the trend cityward has been constant. These provinces, however, are not alone in that respect. The New England states have gained very little in population in the last ten years. Last month Mr. W. S. Rossiter, who is described as the ablest American student of population movements, made an analysis of conditions in Vermont, and urged that a state commission be appointed to consider the situation. A summary of his statement says: "Vermont's population is now 552,421, about 8,500 less than in 1910. The absolute increase in the ninety years 1830-1920 was approximately that of the ten years 1790-1800. If the nation had grown no faster than Vermont, it would now have 16,000,000 people. The rural communities are the ones that are dying. In 1850 one-third of the townships had less than 1,000 inhabitants, and now the fraction is one-half. Mr. Rossiter finds there are about 160,000 native Vermonters living outside the state."

But neither does Vermont stand alone. We quote again: "Other New England states have found in the census figures a decided shock. In the last decade New Hampshire's population increased less than 1 per cent and Maine's but 3.5 per cent. Mr. Rossiter deplors a decrease of 11 per cent in the number of Vermont's farms. But it was much greater in Maine—almost 20 per cent. He states that Vermont had fewer horses, sheep, and less poultry last year than in 1910. In Maine there were one-eighth fewer horses and one-fifth fewer sheep. In Connecticut and Massachusetts rural population continues steadily to fall."

Gov. Hartness of Vermont believes there is a remedy for this condition of affairs. "He believes that agriculture can be made more attractive by state interest in marketing, transportation and warehousing; that the state's employments should be called upon to find openings for young Vermonters; that a campaign should be conducted to stimulate Vermont manufacturing, and that systematic effort should be made to attract immigrants, especially rural."

On a Connecticut state building at a national exhibition once appeared this inscription:—"Connecticut's best crop is her sons and daughters." The problem now is to keep the sons and daughters at home to build up their own state. We have that problem in the maritime provinces. Whether a provincial commission such as is urged in New England states would find a solution is an open question; but our statesmen could approach no problem that is of greater importance to the provinces.

Halifax Chronicle:—"Officials of the Ontario Safety League express great satisfaction in the reduction of automobile fatalities on the streets of Toronto for the first three months of 1921, compared with the same period in 1919 and 1920. The result shown is attributed to general safety education and to the work of the Vigilance Committee of the League in curbing reckless driving."

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT

The minister of justice introduced in the House of Commons at Ottawa last week a bill to authorize ratification of the constitution of a permanent court of international justice. We quote from the Montreal Herald an interesting article explanatory of the bill and what it means:

"This is a very important matter, regarded by some as a more effective means to preserve the peace of the world than the League of Nations. It has, moreover, received the unanimous approval of the League, the first steps having been taken by the Council of the League. Early last year the Council summoned a committee of ten of the leading jurists of the world at Brussels, where they were in conference for six weeks. They agreed with unanimity upon a proposal for a permanent court of international justice, and their conclusions were endorsed, with a few amendments, by both the Council and the Assembly of the League and referred for ratification to the member States of the League. If they approve of it and ratify it, a permanent court is called into existence, consisting of eleven judges nominated for a period of nine years, which sits continuously, with power to take into account and settle disputes between the nations of the earth. The United States, though not a member of the League, approves of such a court. If Canada ratifies the statute constituting the court it will make the twenty-fourth member of the League that has done so, and there is little doubt that the remaining members of the forty-seven comprising the League will also validate the court. In this one way alone the League of Nations has brought about a revision from the method of brute force for the settlement of international disputes to a method of settlement by a permanent tribunal of the first judges of the world."

The people of Ontario today will decide whether the importation of liquor into that province is to continue, or whether it is to be prohibited by law. The campaign has been very bitter throughout, and it is fair to assume that a large vote will be polled. The Liberty League, which opposes prohibition, has been very active, but did a great deal of injury to its own cause by its intolerant methods, and especially by using as one of its spokesmen the anti-British editor of a Chicago paper whose articles on England roused the resentment of every loyal citizen of Canada. It would not be surprising if the prohibitionists won by a very large majority."

The state of affairs in Monaghan, Ireland, is revealed by the cold blooded murder of a woman by the republican party, and the fact that neighbors dare not remove her body because of the terror inspired by the Sinn Féin. Such incidents will not bring peace to that distracted country, no matter by whom they are practised."

Ottawa Journal:—"When Sir George Foster goes on the temperance platform now he must feel that it is a many old lion he is fighting compared with the old days. When whiskey was five cents a glass and beer five cents a pail obtainable at every street corner and cross roads the path to a drunkard's grave was both cheap and easy."

Archbishop Bruchet of Montreal describes the Y. M. C. A. as "a special danger," apparently more to be feared than feminine fashions, the dance, and the movies, to which he also refers. Utterances of this sort do not make for harmony in Canada."

The agitation in Austria in favor of a union with Germany continues, but such a development will not be tolerated by the Allies. A larger Germany would be an increased menace to the peace of Europe and of the world."

Greece rushed jauntily into war with the Turk, but the result has not been at all according to her expectations. The Turk is still formidable and not to be lightly regarded."

Secretary of State Hughes has again declared that trade relations between the United States and Russia cannot be resumed while the present Soviet system rules in the latter country."

WOMAN BLIND FROM BIRTH DIES AT AGE OF 114. London, April 18.—Ellen Shanahan, aged 114, who was blind from birth, has just died in the Lisowal Workhouse infirmary. Twenty years ago, when she was ninety-four, she entered the infirmary because of a fractured limb. This is believed to be a record of old age. The woman missed the battle of Trafalgar by a couple of years and was old enough to remember the battle of Waterloo in 1815. She passed a slight life without a complaint.

89 YEARS OLD, 21 BIRTHDAYS. London, April 18.—Although he lived to be eighty-nine, William Cook celebrated only twenty-one birthdays. He was born in a leap year on February 29. He died soon after celebrating his twenty-first birthday.

MAID'S 70-YEAR SERVICE. Paris, April 18.—Marguerite Encoquerre has just died at Montmartre at the age of ninety-six. For seventy years she served as maid in the family of M. Dralls.

LIGHTER VEIN

High Finance. First Bricklayer—What made Jack fall off the scaffold yesterday? Second Bricklayer—He was figuring out the amount of coin he was going to make this season, and it made him dizzy. —Houston Post.

Worth More. An impossible person approached the secretary of his club. "I want your advice, sir," he said. "I have been deliberately insulted by one of the members. I was sitting in the smoking room, when Colonel came up to me and said, without preamble: 'Sir, I will give you one hundred dollars if you will resign your membership in this club.' Now, what ought I to do in the matter?" "It is perfectly obvious, sir," said the relieved secretary with alacrity. "Hold on for a better offer." —London Tatler.

Mistaken. A farmer's daughter started to practise singing in private. One day her father came from the fields unexpectedly. "What's that extraordinary noise?" he inquired. "That, dear," replied his wife proudly, "is Jane cultivating her voice."

Cultivating! Huh! ejaculated the farmer. "That ain't cultivating—that's harrowing!"

A Poser. "Father, what is it?" "It says here, 'A man is known by the company he keeps.' Is that so, father?" "Yes, yes, yes!"

"Well, father, if a good man keeps company with a bad man, is the good man bad because he keeps company with the bad man, or is the bad man good because he keeps company with the good man?"

The One That Interested Him. Teacher—"Now, children, what hymn shall we sing this morning?" Six-year-old—"The one where the boy pinched the old fellow's watch!" Pause. Further questions. Child turns over pages of hymn-book and triumphantly points half way through the second verse of "Hushed Was the Evening Hymn."

The old man, meek and mild, The priest of Israel slept; His watch the Temple child, The little Levite, kept."

A Barre Story. A well known actor finding suddenly ill, his understudy was requisitioned to play his part in one of Barre's plays. The understudy was immensely elated at the idea and sent telegrams to all the leading dramatic critics and to others interested in the stage notifying them of the fact. Barre happened to be at the club one afternoon when some one asked him if he had received a telegram from the gentleman in question.

"Yes," answered Barre, "I did."

"And did you read it?" "Yes," said the famous playwright, "I wired—Thanka for the warning!"

PRESERVE HISTORIC SITES.

Sackville Board of Trade has adopted the following resolution:—"Whereas, the old military works at Forts Cumberland and Monckton, have for many years been going to decay without any effectual effort on the part of the authorities to keep them in repair, the said barracks at Port Cumberland have been allowed to fall down, the guns to be moved, and the powder magazine to be taken down; and at Fort Monckton the sea has washed out the eastern end of the earth works, and; Whereas, said forts are amongst the most important historic sites of Canada and ought to be preserved, for future generations, as historic monuments. Resolved, that the government be requested this present session to restore the said forts, to replace the guns so far as they may be found, to erect such fence as may be necessary, to protect the English entrenchments, and further, to extend the present sea wall at Fort Elgin Light House to protect the Eastern face of Fort Monckton from the sea."

WHAT KIPLING IS DOING.

"Rudyard Kipling is on the eve of completing a work to which he has devoted much of his time for many months past and which has just returned after a visit to Leipzig fair, where he was writing a history of the Irish Guards, the famous regiment in which he lost his life in the war. It is said that Kipling will soon be paying a visit to France. It is a pathetic circumstance in this connection that the grave of his own boy has never been located. "I am told, by the way, and I believe I am the first to make the interesting fact public, that since about the middle of the war, Kipling always has gone about with a fetish or mascot—a volume of his own novel, 'Kim,' in a special leather case. It was sent to him by a French soldier who was carrying it in action in a pocket over his heart. A bullet knocked the soldier down and when he regained consciousness he found that it had driven his Croix de Guerre into the book, which acting as an armor plate, had saved his life. So he sent it gratefully to the author."

A VISIT TO GERMANY.

A delegation representative of the Birmingham section of the British Industries Fair, which has just returned after a visit to Leipzig fair and Lyons fair, has issued a report in which they express the conviction that the German people are better clothed, better shod, and more plentifully fed than many of the allied peoples. During a long journey from Cologne to Leipzig, they reached the conclusion that not an inch of soil remained uncultivated, not a single sign of war was to be seen, but only an industrious and apparently prosperous people. In the towns through which the delegation passed there was much more activity in house building and decorating than in England. The impression the delegation got was that Germany was industrially strong, and economically sound, notwithstanding the purely political reasons. During the journey the members of the delegation were frequently forced to remark that the only doubt they had was as to the adequacy of the indemnity.

LIVINGSTONE ACCEPTED BY INTERNATIONAL AS ELECTED IN CAPE BRETON. Sydney, N. S. W., April 18.—Dan Livingstone of Westville has just received his commission as district board member of the United Mine Workers from International President John L. Lewis of Indianapolis. This is taken to mean that the international executive regards Livingstone as elected, and that the protest of some locals in favor of Silby Barrett will not result in a new election.

APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT

(New York Times.) A Sinn Féiner who interrupted a speaker at the all-American mass meeting in Philadelphia was not put out of the hall. He was simply held in his place and compelled to listen to some straight American talk. "I want this man," said the speaker, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, "to hear what my brother had to say on 'Sinn Féinism.' Then she read out the right Rooseveltian remarks about the Sinn Féiner who acts against America because he hates England. It was an unusual punishment, but it was appropriate and just. If Colonel Roosevelt himself could have been present to put his personal emphasis into his language, the disturber might have been tempted to cry out, with one of old. 'My punishment is greater than I can bear.'"

The method is capable of wider application. On the anniversary of our going to war with Germany, an Irish-American member of the Rhode Island Legislature introduced a set of resolutions. They first assured President Harding of the state's continued loyalty to American principles. This was the way to remove any doubts on the subject which the president would have felt. Then they went on to assert that the General Assembly of Rhode Island demanded the liberation of Ireland "from alien rule." The heroic Irish member went down on a point of order. But wouldn't it have been better to order him to keep his seat while the speaker and to him the Constitution of the United States, Washington's Farewell Address, and what President Harding himself has said about not thrusting our diplomatic fingers into the hot Irish stew?

BACK TO JOURNALISM.

(Toronto Globe.) John Lewis, who has rejoined the staff of the Globe, entered its service in 1883 as a reporter, and for two years, between 1890 and 1892, was one of its editorial writers. He was engaged in similar work on other Canadian journals until about a year ago, when he became editor of Liberal publications in connection with the National Liberal committee at Ottawa. His relations with the latter body were friendly and respectful, and his reason for terminating them was the stronger attraction of his old calling as a newspaper man. His first editorial work was done as assistant to E. W. Thomson, now of Ottawa, and the late Edward Farrer. During the greater part of the time the chief was Sir John S. Willmer, and his colleagues were John A. Ewan and T. S. Wood, two old and valued friends, who have since passed away. Mr. Lewis is the author of the Life of George Brown, in Morag's Makers of Canada, and of the political history of Canada from confederation to recent years, in the Glasgow series, "Canada and Its Provinces." He is contributing regularly to the editorial columns of the Globe.

A GRUESOME PARADISE.

(London Daily Telegraph.) After a life spent in the three years of Soviet rule Russia lies dying before the eyes of a helpless world. What was to have been the triumph of Marxian Socialism has become a disaster, which has involved in mental and physical suffering many millions of human beings, besides sweeping away all the foundations upon which their prosperity rested. When Lenin, Trotsky and Chicherin seized the reins of power towards the close of 1917, they proclaimed a communistic government with a constant assembly, which has never assembled from that day to this—in which the last word as well as the first word would lie with the people. At the last the great masses of Russia, whether living in the towns or engaged in various agricultural pursuits in the countryside, were to come into their own. What has been the sequel?

WILL COST \$700,000.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) Plans for the new branch technical school in Riverview were approved at yesterday's meeting of the advisory industrial committee of the board of education. Specifications will be immediately prepared with, and it is expected that tenders will be called for by the second week in May.

The new building, which will be situated on the west side of Greenwood avenue, about a block north of Danforth avenue, will be a two-and-a-half storey structure, finished in cream colored brick. The estimated cost is between \$600,000 and \$700,000. As shown by the preliminary plans it will be close to the third of the site of the present Central Technical School, and will follow that building in general lay-out. There will be a large assembly hall, seating 800, and the building will be provided with a gymnasium in the basement. Although the plans have yet to be approved by the government, and finally passed by the board of education, it is not expected that there will be any material alteration.

A GREAT SURGEON.

(The N. Y. Times.) According to the books, Dr. Robert Abbe is 70 today. He was born and educated in New York. He is one of the great lights of surgery. He has been surgeon to St. Luke's Hospital for more than a generation, to the New York Cancer Hospital for nearly a generation. He is consulting surgeon at a number of other hospitals and he has been a lecturer on or professor of surgery at two or three of our great medical schools. He was the pioneer in the use of radium in the United States. He completed not long ago a work on Mice. Curie and her monumental discovery. His life has been totus tere atque reclusus, a brilliant and beneficent record of devotion to science and the relief of human suffering. Amid the procession of louder names the quiet generals of the unending war against disease are too often forgotten. The more reason for some expression of public gratitude to "him who wears today the glory of his 'seventy years.'"

LONG LIVED FAMILIES.

Cyril Maude's mother, who just died at her home in South Kensington, London, formed an interesting link with the past. Her father-in-law, Captain Francis Maude, R. N., was born in 1798 and survived until 1888. Captain Maude's father, the first Lord Hawarden, was born in 1729, and his grandfather, Sir Robert Maude, in 1673, the three generations thus covered 215 years. Lord Hawarden, at the age of fifty-two, married a bride (his third wife) still in her teens, who survived until 1851. Thus, 122 years elapsed between the birth of the husband and the death of his widow. The record of the Cokes for longevity is even more remarkable than that of the Maudes. The present Lord Leicester's grandfather, Coke of Norfolk, was born in 1703, whilst his father died so recently as 1909, the two generations extending over a period of 127 years.

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