

The Evening Times-Star

The Evening Times-Star, printed at 23-25, Gaither street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by the New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., 10 Telephone. Private branch exchange connecting all departments. Mail subscription price—By mail per year, in Canada, \$5.00; United States, \$6.00; by carrier per year, \$4.00. The Evening Times-Star has the largest circulation of any evening paper in the Maritime Provinces. Advertising Representatives—New York, Frank R. Northrup, 320 Madison Ave., Chicago, E. J. Powers, 19 South La Salle Street. The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times-Star.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 20, 1924

MR. BARNJUM QUILTS

Mr. F. J. D. Barnjum, a retired lumberman whose letters favoring an embargo on the export of Canadian pulpwood, from private as well as public land, have been frequent and broadcast for a year or two past, is now going to sell out and quit Canada. He says he feels that after spending the best part of three years, "together with a very considerable fortune, in trying to arouse Canadians to their duty in connection with our fast-vanishing resources," he has come to the conclusion that the cause of forest conservation in Canada might as well be abandoned. If the people do not want conservation, he argues, why should he? He is not a person who should continue to exhaust his strength, etc. So he is going to offer for sale his land, pulp mills, farms, houses and whatever other property he owns in Nova Scotia "and join the crowd to another country."

Let us note that the case is not hopeless. Mr. Barnjum has not gone yet. Moreover, while he will offer his lands and mills for sale, it is yet to be seen at what price. Also, he says he believes timberlands will double in value in two years. Mr. Barnjum may reconsider; but if he goes his lands and his timber will remain. Nor is that all. He is too suddenly and too greatly despairing. The people who do not agree with him in thinking the country is going to the dogs are very much nearer right than he is. He ought to stay a while and see. Events will cheer him and revive his faith. He is not the first man with whom people and governments have disagreed. He has piped extensively and Canada has not yet dashed to his tune; but to quit the country on that account only punishes himself, not the other eleven jurors, so to speak. The exodus of which he speaks should be viewed in the light of official figures telling of the great stream of returning exiles. Mr. Barnjum is wholly wrong in thinking Canadians do not want conservation, and he is wrong in thinking the government in this matter is derelict or indifferent. The simple fact is that at this time the government and a majority of the people think Mr. Barnjum is too headlong in the application of his theories; and that is the case. As a prophet of disaster he has overdone it. If he should remain in Canada he will see his predictions refuted by events. Of Mr. Barnjum, it may be said, in the slang of an earlier day, "He means well, but he sleeps over."

POLICIES AFFECTING CANADA

Britain is shy of food taxes. Mr. Baldwin, leader of the Conservatives, has made it clear that while he favors protection and a policy of preferences, he would not propose, in any circumstances, to tax wheat, flour, oats, meat, cheese, butter or eggs. Canada, in selling these products in the British market, must in future, as in the past, meet all competitors on even terms. No British party proposes to give us any advantage which we do not now enjoy in the sale of these articles. With them definitely excluded from any proposed "tariff reform" scheme, the benefit to our trade would look rather slim.

But that we may be very directly affected by changing political policies in Britain is decidedly clear from an examination of the platform of all three parties, but those of the Conservatives and Labor particularly. It is surprising to learn, for example, that Mr. Baldwin has endorsed the principle of "state organization in the purchase and sale of foodstuffs." The Labor party would nationalize the import trade in food supplies, introducing a patent much like that followed during the war. As an emergency measure it is accepted without much dissent, but Canada might be sharply affected if any such plan were made permanent. The Toronto Globe, in explaining the nature and scope of this proposal, says:

"This proposal to revive State control is not a sudden one; it has been urged for months by the organs of the Independent Labor party, and has been approved by that party's Agricultural Committee. There would be a fixed fee for wheat, based on several factors, including the economic position of British growers and the average values of preceding years. Home supplies would first be absorbed by the home market, after which overseas supplies would be admitted, the Dominion and colonies being given preference over foreign countries. Estimates of the volume of imported wheat referred would be made annually by ports, and contracts would be made accordingly."

Such is the offer which the British Labor party makes to the Dominion. It is a tariff preference, and to the fish farmers in lieu of the bonus every acre of tilled land proposed by the Baldwin Government last year, advocates contend that a stabilized price, which would enable the British growers to estimate profits and plan for the future, would arrest the decline of fish agriculture and put new demands on the public. Values would be depressed in years of plenty and increased in years of scarcity, thus insuring British production, while in seasons of scarcity farmers would be protected against

high prices, the stored wheat being released to equalize supply and demand. For the Dominion grows the wheat sold in Great Britain, the chief market. The amount of this price would be a matter of vital concern to Canadian agriculture if the system were in effect, and the inauguration of such a policy would be viewed with great apprehensions, which might not be justified by results. The experiment would be dangerously localistic, but, paradoxically enough, the purchase and sale of foodstuffs has already been approved by the Prime Minister of Australia and the leader of the British Unionist party. The former advocated it at the Imperial Economic Conference last year as a substitute for tariff preferences, and the latter, after his resignation as Prime Minister, gave it his endorsement in a House of Commons speech which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Snowden, cordially welcomed.

This surprising plan, as the Globe observes, "will therefore be by no means outside the scope of practical policy, even if the British Government is defeated." The return of the Laborites to power is regarded by the Globe as unlikely. "That party in conference," it says, "has just put a number of frankly socialistic planks into its platform. In addition to State control of imported foodstuffs, it demands Government control of the transport of commodities required by Great Britain and of the prices of building materials, and declares for the nationalization of the mines, railways and the Bank of England. Such a platform will tend to drive the older parties into co-operation and to make two broad divisions, Socialist and anti-Socialist, in the electorate."

HEALTH INVESTMENTS

"The day may come when men will treat their bodies almost as wisely as they do their motor cars," says George R. Vincent, President of the Rockefeller Foundation. Many St. John people heard him speak here, and many more know of his work and that of the wonderful organization he commands. A man's body is worth more to him than any motor car, yet, as Dr. Vincent intimates, too many men give the car constant, strict and often expensive care while neglecting the most common precautions regarding their health. And no investment pays like the investment in health.

Just now a report of the Health Committee of the London County Council asserts that Londoners are living twenty years longer than their grandfathers did, or to put it in other words, the average expectation of life by male Londoners is greater by 19.3 years than eighty years ago, and women by 20.9 years. The average male Londoner, says this report, today lives to 83.8 years, and the average woman to 80.1. The death rate in 1923 was 11.4 per 1,000, the lowest on record, and infant mortality was 61 per 1,000, also a record.

London, which has much poverty, drink, unemployment, and under-feeding among a large proportion of its population, is one of the healthiest cities in the world in spite of these handicaps. Its good sanitation and its efficient equipment to prevent disease and to care for the sick combine to win for it the admirable standard reflected in the statistics quoted.

Yes, health investments pay, in London or in New Brunswick. In these matters New Brunswick has made great strides of late years, and the improvement will be more rapid as organization is perfected and extended, and as more of the people become enlisted directly or indirectly in the cause. Co-operation will be greater from month to month as the people more and more understand that health conditions are not something imposed upon them by officious authority, but represent one branch of the activities of their own public department which deals constantly with the most important of all questions—health.

Dr. Vincent, by the way, has been saying a word about the family doctor and the general practitioner. Is he to be crowded out by the specialists and the multiplying hospitals, which are admittedly necessary? No, says Dr. Vincent. This is his view:

"The well-trained, properly-equipped, experienced, general practitioner of ability, character, personality is a fundamentally valuable person. He is a good diagnostician. He sees his patient as a whole. He knows his peculiarities and circumstances. He can decide when to refer him to a specialist and when to protect him against the very real danger which is threatened by a narrowly specialist point of view."

But conditions are greatly changed nevertheless. The general practitioner, he says, may hope to survive only if he will "submit to a measure of organization and team-play in the co-operative use of laboratories and other resources," and especially if he will become a "practitioner of preventive medicine." To this end he will need a different sort of training and must assume a different attitude. He must give more attention to diet, exercise, mental attitudes, recreation, family and social life. His chief function will be that of

trying to keep his patients in health and of knowing where to send them in case of accident or illness. This, of course, will require a change in the people also, for they must come to think of keeping their physical and mental machines in order, instead of awaiting break-downs and blow-outs and then making belated and expensive repairs."

His Worship the Mayor is quoted as saying "It looks as though the vocational school would be erected in spite of the expressed will of the members of the Council, the duly elected representatives of the people." The Mayor overlooks, or ignores, the fact that the people who elected him and the commissioners did something more. They—majority of them—voted to build the vocational school. Here was the mandate direct—old reliable Vox Populi. Does His Worship, by any chance, believe that he is greater than the electorate V. P. P. We trust not. To ask the people what they want and then refuse to give it to them is a perilous form of political activity. Also, St. John needs that school.

Press Comment

THE CHILDREN'S COURT.

It was twenty-two years ago this month that the first children's court was established in the bounds of Greater New York. But these early courts were not distinct courts, but rather a department of the juvenile court, and were little more than separate rooms or buildings, in which the cases of children could be heard apart from those of hardened criminals. Later on, what is called "a real children's court" was instituted. It is incumbent upon the court to see that the provision left the child in the category of the criminal. The amendment of the constitution of the state now makes it possible for the court to treat the case of children as civil instead of criminal actions. It is incumbent upon the court to see that the case must be "enforced" in the child's interest. The court may appoint guardians and grant orders for adoption. Parents may be tried for delinquencies and orders enforced for the support of children, whether relatives or others interested in their care.

It is a notable achievement and to no one is more credit due for this great reform in the interest of children and the home than Justice Franklin Chase Hoyt, who when a Justice in the Court of Special Sessions became interested in the cause of children brought before the court as criminals, and had an influential part in the organization of the "real children's court" in 1918. His name will be forever associated with this particular court. He was appointed the first presiding justice and has been in continuous service since that time. The Mayor of the city, to his great credit, has reappointed Mr. Hoyt, a Republican, presiding justice of the court as reorganized for a period of ten years. Four of his colleagues have also been reappointed. Altogether it is one of the fairest pages in the history of New York City. And one gratifying sequence is that similar courts are being established in other counties of the state.

WEMBLEY'S FUTURE.

(Daily Express, London.) We are all in favor of Wembley as a permanent Empire Exhibition, but if the Dominions will not play their part in the use of continuing it? The exhibition has so far served a valuable purpose in stirring the world for the first time what the British Empire really is. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the world to see the contact by visits to each and every Dominion and dependency, and its results come. Many a future resident of Australia, Africa, and Canada will have experienced the beginning of enthusiasm and ambition to go out into the world from a first visit to Wembley. The exhibition has done its work well, and in spite of Mr. H. G. Wells' crabbing gibes, we are all proud of the picture of Empire that has thus been presented.

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ST. JOHN, N. B. FOLEY CANADA

OCTOBER CHANT.

(Kathryn Worth in New York Times.) Spring's a slim green lady Fathered in the town, Autumn is a farmer's lassie With her hair down! Scarlet is her homespun, Bare her brown young feet, And her lips are stained with berries Red as huckleberries.

She has golden eyes to lure you, Sleepy, slow and warm, And her briar-tattered jacket Bares a white soft arm.

Blue smoke from the leaf fires Dims the frosty air— If you crush her close and kiss her She will never care.

She's no prim and proper Lady of the town, Autumn is a farmer's lassie With her hair down!

IN LIGHTER VEIN

A Waste of Providence. Brown—"I guess I gave that ignorant some food for thought just now." Black—"Little use, I'm afraid; his brain is on a perpetual fast."—Boston Transcript.

Bobby's Bad Break. Kloeaman (out calling)—"Why do you look at me so intently, little man?" Bobby—"I was looking to see if you were black."

Kloeaman—"Black? Why should you think I was black?" Bobby—"Cause I heard pa say you were awful niggardly."

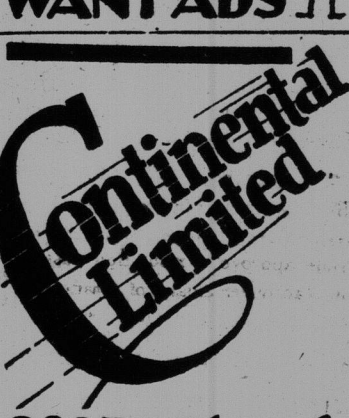
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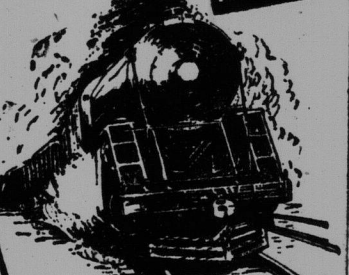
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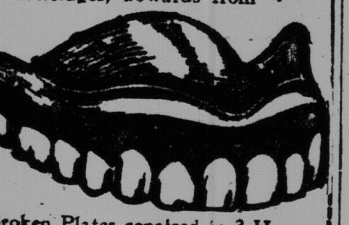
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SAY COOLIDGE WILL BE VICTOR

Observers Predict Re-election as President—Situation is Discussed.

Washington, Oct. 20.—(By Canadian Press).—With but a short time left until the election, President Coolidge is apparently destined to be chosen at the polls on November 4 as his own successor. Outwardly, his opponents have not made such progress lately as to insure them enough electoral votes to block his selection. The view of most observers here continues to be, as it has been for some days, that the President will win.

Administration leaders are freely predicting that Coolidge will win by a heavy margin. When talking among themselves, however, they present a considerably different view of it. Their private opinion is that Coolidge will win, but that the situation in several states is too close and doubtful for comfort.

The La Follette campaign remains as it has been from the outset, something which cannot be judged with any great accuracy. Senator La Follette is directly contrary to the theory of the law when it was passed. It was then argued that by use of the flexible tariff the public could be given such relief as was justified from rates which were shown to be unduly high.

The high tariff men fear that if Davis were made President he would proceed to apply the flexible tariff in the way the public wants it applied and the way Congress originally intended it should be applied. That is one of the chief reasons for the strength of the opposition to Davis. It is recognized that Davis is a low tariff man and that he would, if elected, lose no opportunity of pressing his views.

Letters To The Editor

A STATEMENT BY THE N. B. POWER CO.

To the Editor of The Times-Star: Sir,—The report of the Board of Public Utilities on the question of gas rates which appeared in your issue of October 18 contains a statement which is incorrect and liable to seriously injure this company in the minds of the people. The part of this report to which we refer is as follows:

"A minute's calculation will show that this discrimination, just or unjust, is a discrimination not of 15 per cent. against the other users but an actual discrimination of over 17 1/2 per cent. since under the new schedule the gas

customers of the company who purchase their electricity from a rival company, or do not have electric light at all must pay over seventeen and one-half per cent. more for their gas than the users of the combined service."

The dual service discount offered by this company was a reduction from \$2.25 to \$2.10 per 1,000 ft. of gas, which is a reduction of 15 cents per 1,000 ft. or 6.8 per cent., and not over 17 1/2 per cent. as stated in the report of the Board of Public Utilities.

We felt that this was a just discrimination and one which the users of our combined service were fairly entitled to. The statements which have been issued by this company since April, 1923, when the Federal Light & Traction Co. of New York acquired control, have been to the effect that in its dealings with the public the company would always act fairly, and it is the intention of the present Board of Directors to carry out this policy. At a recent conference the local directors of the Power Company with the directors of the Federal Light & Traction Company in New York, the acts of the local board and its recommendations as to the future policy of the company were unanimously endorsed by the directors of the Federal Company.

Yours very truly,
NEW BRUNSWICK POWER COMPANY.
M. A. FOLEY, General Manager.
St. John, Oct. 18, 1924.

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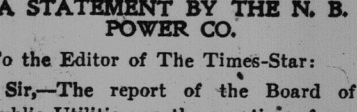
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flexible tariff features of the existing tariff law are being used to bolster up high tariff rates. This, of course, is directly contrary to the theory of the law when it was passed. It was then argued that by use of the flexible tariff the public could be given such relief as was justified from rates which were shown to be unduly high.

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