

# The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 14, 1924

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## IS THIS CREDITABLE?

Ninety-nine children between seven and sixteen years of age were arrested in St. John last year—ninety-one boys and eight girls. Twenty-two were arrested for breaking and entering. Sixty-nine were for theft. Thirteen were for habitual truancy. There were in all one hundred and thirty offences charged against these ninety-nine children, of whom seventy-four were under fifteen years of age.

It was necessary to send twenty of the boys to the Industrial Home, some, though so young, were old offenders. Thirty-six were let out on suspended sentence, and twenty-eight were let go with a warning. That is to say, sixty-four boys who were convicted of offences were set at liberty because the magistrate felt it would not be for the good of the child to send them to the Industrial Home, although there was no probation system to follow them up and endeavor to save them from further bad deeds.

Does it pay to have to send twenty boys to the Industrial Home in a year? Does it pay to send sixty-four boys back to the same surroundings without any follow-up system, after they have been found guilty of a serious offence? Remember also that four girls were sent to the Maritime Home for Girls, and two to the home of the Good Shepherd. Does that pay?

But this is not all. Besides those arrested, forty-five boys and four girls were brought to the police court by summons for offences committed. Of these cases only two were dismissed. Forty-two of the delinquents were allowed to go with a warning. Add them to the sixty-four and you have one hundred and sixty-two children, of whom some were before the court more than once.

Are the citizens content with this record of juvenile delinquency and the present taxation and future trouble it involves?

## A RAY OF HOPE

Great hopes are entertained that the meeting of the committee of British, French, American, Belgian and Italian experts in Paris to investigate German currency, will bear good fruit. The enquiry opened this morning, with Gen. Dawes, representing the United States, in the chair. The cables tell us that the motto of the delegates is "strictly business and no politics," and that the meeting was entirely devoid of any display. The delegates are leading business and financial men of the five countries. They will seek a means of balancing the German budget and the German currency. Their deliberations will be confined to the business aspect of the problem, and no political bias will influence their judgment. Being business men they know how desirable it is to get at the facts, to bring about harmony and to discover a way out of a situation which imperils the very solvency of Europe itself. European credit must be restored and business resumed on a safe basis. The reparations committee has given the experts a free hand, and their trained minds will explore every avenue to bring out the facts upon which their conclusions will be based. It is a source of great satisfaction that in this enquiry the United States is represented. Gen. Dawes is not empowered to speak for the American Government or people, but what he does will undoubtedly have a powerful influence upon public opinion. He has been chosen, as all the delegates have been, because of his fitness for the task. Germany will be wise if she assumes an attitude of open frankness and lends every assistance possible to the committee.

The west is still demanding the completion of the Hudson Bay railway. That venture has already cost a great deal of money, although its value is completed is by no means established by what is known of the conditions of navigation in Hudson Bay. Meanwhile Maritime Province ports are without necessary facilities to handle traffic.

## Press Comment

ROOM FOR SETTLERS.  
 (Toronto Globe.)

The Maritime Provinces are the most thickly settled in Canada, yet there is plenty of room for more farmers. Major Barnett, chairman of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, estimates that land can be found there for 40,000 new settlers, by simply utilizing unused portions of existing farms.

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The eccentricities of which the human mind is capable are seldom so amusingly revealed as they have been in the life of George Washington Gilbert, the Connecticut hermit who was killed in the recent cold wave. He had never married, he often boasted, because he did not want petticoat government. Equipped with so much more knowledge than most of us ever attain, Gilbert might have been expected to contribute something great to the world's store of knowledge. What he actually did was to initiate a vegetable as nearly as possible. He lived for the people, going 30 miles from the site of his birth, he had never done a day's work, and had never seen a motion picture, a trolley car or a steamship. "Petticoat government" could never have done so much harm to Gilbert as he did to himself.

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 (Calgary Herald.)

President Richardson will have the support of the sports-loving public of the west in punishing rowdiness in hockey. The public has been tired of hockey, not exhibitions of brutality. If players prefer jabbing, stick-swinging and fighting while playing the game, let them play it elsewhere. If they do not want to play hockey, they should not play it. This does not apply to the outside teams alone. It applies to the players too. Players frequently make the mistake of fancying that it is popular to indulge in brawling. The most useful man on a team is not the one that spends most time in the penalty box. The player who is the most useful man on a team is the one that spends most time in the penalty box. The player who is the most useful man on a team is the one that spends most time in the penalty box.

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Another phase of the situation is pointed out by the National Retail Clothing of Chicago, which says that sixty-eight important retail commodities can now be obtained for so much down and so much more. Automobiles and musical instruments come first, with radio sets, washing machines, stocks, bonds and houses high on the list. The merit of the installment plan depends upon what is bought. If, for example, it enables a man to buy a house, it obviously is advantageous both to the purchaser and to the community. But The National Retail Clothing declares that the vast majority of the wage-earners have mortgaged their future for many years in order to buy luxuries as well as necessities.

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 (Toronto Globe.)

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Another phase of the situation is pointed out by the National Retail Clothing of Chicago, which says that sixty-eight important retail commodities can now be obtained for so much down and so much more. Automobiles and musical instruments come first, with radio sets, washing machines, stocks, bonds and houses high on the list. The merit of the installment plan depends upon what is bought. If, for example, it enables a man to buy a house, it obviously is advantageous both to the purchaser and to the community. But The National Retail Clothing declares that the vast majority of the wage-earners have mortgaged their future for many years in order to buy luxuries as well as necessities.

PUBLICITY IN CIVIC AFFAIRS

A member of the newly elected Toronto board of trustees, Powell, has, according to the Toronto Star, just issued an anti-publicity ultimatum to the board of trustees as a condition for the year which is of general