

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 19, 1919.

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AN UNANSWERED QUESTION.

In a half column of space devoted to discussion of a point raised by The Evening Times, the Globe entirely neglects to answer the simple question asked by this paper. The Times asked if the Globe believed that the tax concession granted to a local industry would not have been asked for if the tax rate were lower. The Globe has taken the stand that such an application is proof positive that the tax rate in St. John is higher than it should be and that an unfair share of the assessment has been placed on real estate. If this is correct why was it not suspected in other years when so many similar concessions were made? Many industries have sought and obtained concessions in St. John and no one even suggested that the exemptions granted were proof of the fairness of the assessment system.

If the city has established the practice of granting concessions to industries it is necessary to look further than this precedent for the reason for fresh applications? If it is necessary to look further in the case under consideration, it is possible that arguments could be advanced by the company in the form of competitive offers from other communities. Perhaps the distance from St. John to the chief markets for the product of the factory or higher freight rates which make it more expensive for the concern to do business from St. John than it would be if the plant were located in, say Ontario, have as much to do with the matter.

The Times holds no brief for the company concerned now for the policy of granting concessions to industries. There is much that may be said on both sides on the subject of tax exemptions, and doubtless, also, the new assessment act may be open to criticism; but it has not been established that one has anything to do with the other and an attempt to connect them will serve only to confuse both issues.

MINISTERS' SALARIES.

A dramatic strike would be one by clergymen. It is an actuality but is put forward by a prominent New York Baptist layman as something he would advocate were he a minister. He is Charles A. McAlpine, a member of the National Committee of Northern Baptist Laymen. Mr. McAlpine sets out that \$800 a year is the amount received by the average clergyman of the denomination and he predicts a shortage of clergymen soon unless there is better compensation for ministers of the gospel than is given "tailorers, window cleaners or day laborers."

Mr. McAlpine has given voice to words that should meet with a sympathetic reception. The Times dealt with this subject recently at length and repeats that church membership is not doing the right thing by the clergymen when it fails to place them above the worries attendant upon possession of the necessities of life and fails to provide for their living in a way commensurate with their calling.

Of course the clergymen will not strike, but Mr. McAlpine's spectacular way of presenting the matter should have an effect that such a strike would have, and make the people of the churches see their duty more clearly and, realizing their obligations, live up to them.

IN RUSSIA.

The fate of Russia upon which may depend the future peace and safety of Europe and a large portion of the rest of the world, never seemed more uncertain than it does today. Under the imperial regime beneath the surface if not making itself felt in open eruptions, gave rise to sufficient uncertainty. In the earlier days of the war the apparent unity of the people gave grounds for hope that better days were dawning for Russia. Then came the successful revolution which, while bringing changes of tremendous magnitude, still seemed to point in the direction of progress. The success of the Bolsheviks in gaining control of the government, which soon followed, plunged the great country into absolute chaos.

Since then counter revolutions directed against the Bolsheviks have been regarded by the outside world as a possible means of salvation. The successes gained by Admiral Kolchak made him appear to be the man who would bring about a more permanent state of affairs and establish a stable government. Meanwhile, by abandoning the principles of self-government and substituting for them a system of iron discipline, the Bolshevik leaders have built up a strong army, capable of meeting Kolchak's forces. Intervention by the Allies was expected to lead to the defeat of the Bolsheviks and the restoration of the old Russian government. For various reasons, this effort has not proved successful on a large scale and now the Allied forces are being withdrawn, leaving the Russians to settle their own fate among themselves.

Recent despatches announced that some 45,000 men of Kolchak's army had been captured and his force practically wiped out. Almost at the same time word was received from Omsk that Kolchak was advancing and making steady

headway. Reports received today tell of Polish successes against the Bolsheviks on the northern bank of the Dvina River, of the Bolsheviks driving back General Petlura on the Ukrainian front, of advances by General Denekine, steady progress by Kalchak's Siberian army, the retirement of the southern forces, a Bolshevik defeat in the trans-Caucasian region and successful operations by the north Russian troops in the Archangel region. What the net result of all this fighting is and what effect it will have on the ultimate success or defeat of the contending forces it is impossible even to guess at this distance.

The situation is further complicated by the presence in eastern Russia of large numbers of German soldiers. It has been reported that General Goltz has declared himself a Russian, assumed the style of a Cossack leader and seized Riga. He is said to be at the head of 40,000 troops and some 60,000 more in that region are acting with him. The German Iron division has refused to return from Russia and Herr Noske, the German minister of defence, in explaining to the Allies why he does not comply with the terms of the peace treaty and withdraw all German troops from non-German territory, has said that it is impossible to send troops into Russia to compel their return. It is possible that such a course would add to the existing confusion, but it is probable also that the German government is not unwilling to allow these men to remain as an outpost of German power in a country which she still hopes to control.

Not only because of the debt which the Allies owe to Russia for her efforts in the early days of the war, but also because of more pressing reasons, reasons involving their own peace and safety, it appears unreasonable to expect that the Allies will be able to leave Russia to her own devices. The world is too small to permit a state of affairs in which Russia exists in Russia to continue without affecting the rest of the world. It was expected that some new light on the situation and some idea of the policy of the British government might be given in the speech delivered on Wednesday by Premier Lloyd George, but in response to a question the only answer given, according to the cable committee of the speech, was "We must have fair play on both sides," an utterance which does not do much to clarify the situation.

Bulgaria today learned what she must pay for linking up with the Central Empires in the war. It was a poor choice that was made when right was brushed aside and alliance made with what seemed a night. Now the penalty must be faced. Loss of territory, an indemnity of two and a quarter billions of francs in reparation, reduction of army and other parts of the Allies' sentence show the Bulgars how misguidedly they were led and how foolishly they followed.

They are many in St. John and New Brunswick who will regret the passing from this life of Lieut. Colonel John D. Chipman, who died in Toronto early today. A resident of St. Stephen until a few years ago, he filled a large place in the life of the border community and was prominent, as well, in larger affairs of the province. A man who made friends readily, he was happy in enjoyment of their good will and respect.

TRADE COMMISSIONER



V. J. Egan, Canadian trade commissioner for South Africa, who is now in Canada interviewing manufacturers and exporters.

STILL PRO-GERMAN.

Swedish Workmen May Boycott Labor Congress.

Stockholm, Sept. 19.—(By the Associated Press).—Hermann Lindquist, chairman of the general organization of labor and president of the lower house of parliament, asserts that the Swedish workmen will not be officially represented at the coming labor congress in Washington unless Germany and German Austria are officially invited to send delegates.

A wireless despatch received from Berlin says the Vorwaerts, referring to the Lindquist announcement, declares the Norwegian and Danish workers have reached the same decision, and comments on this fact as new proof of the weakening of the idea of solidarity of the international workers.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

KEEP YOUR DATES.

If you promise you will meet me at the dump at half-past two, and at that hour fail to greet me—if so flagrantly you treat me, I am done, my friend, with you. You may meet me with excuses, telling why you were not there; but on such I call some truces; they're not worth as many deuces; explanations are hot air. Keep engagements to the minute, is the burden of my song, as I swat my lyre and spinnet, singing like a loosed linnet, caroling the whole day long. If you say you'll pay the baker for his pies, on Monday noon, do not prove yourself a faker, or a taradiddle maker—be there with the large doubloon. Keep your promises lightly spoken, be of faith the sign and token, and you'll have a high renown. Keep your word, from A to Z, never overlook a date, though you walk through sleet or blizzard till you freeze your cherished gizzard—be the man who's never late.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

French Troops Leave Quebec.

After the surrender of Quebec had been agreed upon on Sept. 17, 1759, by the British under General Townshend and Admiral Saunders, the terms secured by the French commander, General Ramsay, were severely criticized by Vaudeville. But as he had not come to the aid of his beleaguered colleague, Ramsay replied that he had done the best he could under the circumstances. On the afternoon of the 18th of September at 4 o'clock the Union Jack was hoisted over the city after the Tricolor had been hauled down. It has never been lowered an enemy since that time. The French troops marched out of the city with all the honors of war the British could pay them—for they had fought a great fight against terrible difficulties—and four days later they were sent out of the country in British ships on their way back to their beloved France.

England was a land of great joy when the news of the victory at Quebec reached it. Bonfires blazed and bells rang everywhere in all corners of the island except in the village of Greenwich where the widowed mother still lived. The body of the victor was removed to England, arriving at Portsmouth on Nov. 2. Two days later it was interred in the family plot at Greenwich. Now on the battlefield stands a tall stone shaft. On one side is graven Montcalm and the other Wolfe, and on the pedestal: "Mortem Virtus Commune Famen Historiam Monumentum Posteritas Debit Quebec Taken By the British."

THE WAYSIDE POOL.

Oh, I was dusty with the road And very tired my feet, For I had come a long, long way And missed things that were sweet. The long day had been to me As lessons learned in school. But I found my youth again one day In the depths of a wayside pool. The waters were so pure, so sweet, They stirred at once my heart; I felt a little green, I felt A bud begin to start. I smelt some mint, I heard a bird, And laughter of a child— Then I returned the long, long way To music sweet and wild. The wisdom of life's school was gone, And I found in its place The least of a child I used to know— The spell of the wildwood's grace. All hope and joy were mine once more, All banished doubt and pain, By the pool I knew in my childhood's days. The pool down the wayside lane. —New York Times.

LIGHTER VEIN.

"Herbert, you weren't listening to what I said." Mrs. Peck's voice was suddenly acid. "But what makes you think that, darling?" asked Herbert in quick alarm. "I asked you if you could let me have \$10 and you smiled and said, 'Yes, dear.'"

"Well, how do you like our bathing conveniences?" said the proprietor of the bathing beach. "I am afraid I cannot give you a flattering answer, in fact, our bathing suit was too large and kept coming off," replied Dobbs.

"Very sorry. Everything else all right?"

"No; the room into which you sent me to dress was very dark and wet; the mirror was cracked and I was greatly annoyed by rats."

"Is that so, Mr. Dobbs?" I hope you found no other vexations.

"Well, no, only your towel was wet, your comb contained only two teeth, standing apart in isolated seclusion at each end, and the man in the next room reached over and stole my watch."

"I am sorry, indeed. But is there nothing connected with my establishment worthy of praise?"

"O yes, Mr. James. You have a very fine ocean attached to your bathing establishment. Indeed, sir, you can complement yourself on having one of the best oceans in this vicinity."

While two men were fishing together one fell in and the other, after great effort, succeeded in hauling him out insensible. Scratching his head he muttered: "There are sixteen rules for the treatment of drowned people, but I'm hanged if I can remember one of them!"

"Is there one about whiskey?" asked the half-drowned man, quietly.

"Yes."

"Then don't worry about the other fifteen."

The Burmese Girl.

The women of Burma have unlimited freedom in comparison to the women of other eastern lands. Unlike the women of India, China, or Egypt, they may choose their own husbands and indulge in a period of courtship such as we of the western world so thoroughly understand.

From the time of the first great event in a young girl's life, the betrothal of her parents, which announces to the world that she is no longer a child, but a woman, until her betrothal, the Burmese girl chooses forward to the search for a husband as the one aim and ambition of her life.

Until her ears are bored she is a child and compares to the boys of her country, which announces to the world that she is no longer a child, but a woman, until her betrothal, the Burmese girl chooses forward to the search for a husband as the one aim and ambition of her life.

Her cries are drowned by the music and the talk and laughter that surround her, but the pain is soon over, and she herself will make the hole larger by every means in her power, because until the hole is large enough to receive the great round tube, nearly half an inch in diameter, she does not feel that she is indeed a woman.

This initiation of the girl into womanhood compares to the entrance of her brother into the monastery or the tattooing of his legs, the sign that he is no longer a boy, but may sit with men and clerics and a poet laureate. After the ear boring ceremony, each man our maiden sees may be a possible husband, and she copies the courtship of the swayed of the hips that is so effective in her older sister as she walks down the street with her mother, aunt or married friends, who carefully guard her from all improprieties, now that she has arrived at marriageable age.

Poet Laureate.

From what Housatonic tells the House of Commons it appears that Dr. Robert Bridges' post is well-nigh a sinecure. Such was by no means the case in Persia—the only country besides England where a poet laureate has been maintained of recent years. Narce Persin, a French traveler, who spent some years in Persia at the beginning of the last century, relates that whenever the Shah traveled outside the capital his suite included a dwarf, a giant, a jester, a historian, a poet laureate and a poet laureate. The last two were kept busy, for, while the historiographer had to record for posterity all the doings and sayings of the king, the laureate was expected to celebrate a large proportion of these in verse. Persin highly commends this custom, which he found rigidly followed, "for the Shah, knowing that many of his utterances and deeds would be crystallized in an ode, felt bound on these royal progresses to speak and behave majestically."

Free Meals.

In the old days when every saloon set a free lunch there was a man who worked in a railroad yard in Cincinnati and saved money, says the Enquirer of that city. A saloon near the yard served plain lunch free if you bought two beers or spent ten cents over the bar. The man did not drink. So he would go to the saloon every day at noon and spend his ten cents on two packs of tobacco. Then they would serve him a lunch. The man did not chew, so when he got back to the yard he would sell the two packs of tobacco for a dime. He used the dime next day to buy two more packs and get lunch. Then he would sell the tobacco again. In this way he ate lunch for 800 days for nothing and still had his original dime. This is a true story.

Extend the List.

Montreal Herald: British manufacturers of motor cars are threatening to compile a "black list" of agents who are charging excessive retail prices for their cars. Why not extend this mode of action to the sale of hosiery and shoes, for example?

An Asset.

Stratford Herald: A really good newspaper is a country's best asset. No other agency strives more generously or to better purpose for the promotion of the best interests of the community than the newspaper.

A Distinction.

Utica Observer: A fourteen-year-old girl, Martha Brissette of Butte, Mont., has established herself as the best bread-maker in her home city and she is attracting much attention at the Montana state fair than she would by wearing summer furs, extremely tight skirts and powdering her face.

Halsey Flint of Cushing, Me., has a pet gull which he hatched under a hen. It will fly to his shoulder and perch there, and occasionally flies to the shore and mingles with the other gulls for a short time, but not for long, because they pick at it and scream. At night it returns to the henhouse to its perch.

H. A. Lowther of Connellsville, Penn., who has been employed for nineteen years as fire boss by the H. C. Frick Coke Company, at the Standard works, estimates that he has walked 65,000 miles. He has kept a record of the mileage covered throughout his years of service.

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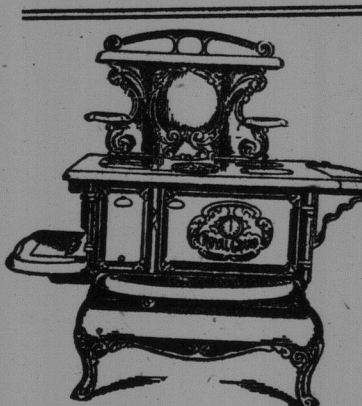
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THE SOLDIERS AND THE GRATUITY

To the Editor of the Times:—

Sir:—While the present session of the house at Ottawa was called, according to government reports, for the purpose of discussing the peace treaty and its ratification, greater interest throughout Canada has probably centered in the outcome of the agitation of returned soldiers for additional gratuities. It is generally conceded that no matter what action the Canadian house takes upon the peace treaty it will not affect the document and it is an opinion generally shared that the main purpose of the session is to enable the members to draw an additional indemnity of \$2,000 each for their presence during the greater part of thirty-one days.

Many people seem to have a misconception of the demand made by returned soldiers in the Great War Veterans' Association. For instance, quite a few citizens seem to think that they went to Ottawa and demanded \$2,000. Such is not the case. Furthermore they as a body in national convention last June in Vancouver voted against this action. Delegates from all parts of Canada except a few branches were instructed by the bodies they represented to turn down this proposition. Resolutions have been passed at different meetings of different branches calling upon the dominion executive to take up certain matters of Ottawa respecting gratuities, bonuses or other items concerning re-establishment, but none has been passed by the local branch asking for \$2,000 or

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ROBBERIES IN COUNTY.

To the Editor of the Times:—Sir:—In this evening's issue of the Times I find a reply from Cyril Moore to an article published over my name in the Telegraph. On Friday evening last Mr. Moore called me up on the phone and he said if I did not retract my statement and apologize before the following night that he would take action against me for defamation of character. I told him not to wait till night, but to get right at it early in the morning, as I had nothing to withdraw and no apology to offer, and I venture to say that his letter in the Times is the only action he will take.

But some one should take action against me. Mr. Moore, Magistrate Adams or J. King Kelly should not let the matter rest. It is time that something was done. Every week one or more robberies are committed and what are the authorities doing to stop them? Nothing. Why? Because they have no ability for that business. They are indifferent to the rights of the people in the county.

I have told Magistrate Adams that if he would put a man on to look after it that I would give him a clue to work on and full information but I will not give any information to Mr. Moore. I feel that he is not the right man for that business, and if he or Magistrate Adams does not take action against those thieves or against me, then I will take some action against them. They should get down to business and find out who robbed all those hen houses, who stole a season's crop of oats; who stole the blanket off the horse; who stole the carpenter's tools; who robbed the post office and other stores; who held up a man at Courtenay Bay and robbed him of \$80; who held up a man at K. Corner last week and stole his money; who stole the beef from the slaughter house. These are only a part of the robberies committed, and if the authorities don't get after the thieves I will get after the authorities.

W. BUTTERFIELD, Opinion.

St. John, N. B., Sept. 18, 1919.

In "Dear" Of Luncheon.

"Do you mean to say you think this room is fit to live in?"

"Oh, no! But I thought you only wanted to pay four guineas a week!"—London

Opinion.