

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 16, 1915.

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 branch exchange connecting all departments. Main 2417.

Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier \$9.00 per year, by mail \$12.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Representatives—Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Building, New York; Association Building, Chicago.

British and European representatives—The Clougher Publishing Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar Square, England.

CIVIC TAXATION.

There is no occasion for hickering at City Hall over the personnel of the Mayor's proposed assessment commission, or about the work such a commission ought to do.

It will be remembered that some years ago another assessment commission labored for many weeks in an effort to rescue this city from the present aged and unjust method of levying and collecting taxes. The report of that commission was submitted to the Common Council of that day. The Common Council, with obvious reluctance, took up the consideration of the report in committee, and slumbered over it for several sessions. The public was invited to attend these drowsy meetings, but the public displayed little interest, and after a while the aldermen quietly dropped the report and buried the incident. About the only thing accomplished at that time was to demonstrate to the satisfaction of nearly everybody—or to their dissatisfaction—that the aldermen of that day were either unsympathetic to taxation reform, or were unequal to grappling with a subject which is admittedly most difficult and concerning which there is such widespread difference of opinion.

If the Mayor's commissioners are confirmed by his colleagues—as they should be—their report would be subject to review and amendment here and in the Legislature, and there would be no likelihood that any dangerous or too radical plan could be rushed through until it had received the attention of all of the taxpayers and miners and submarine and torpedo experts who lie in wait for any enterprise designed to change the old and evil law under which St. John now raises the money needed for its civic housekeeping.

It is most desirable that this body of citizens should set to work at once in an effort to secure, in the most broad-minded and unprejudiced fashion, such information as would enable them to prepare an equitable basis for a new system of taxation. They will not satisfy all interests. They cannot expect to do so. No system of taxation gives universal satisfaction. From the very nature of the subject that is impossible. But any competent body of men, if they secure information from other communities, and acquaint themselves fully with the faults and evils of the present system, will agree that the present law is impossible. No board of assessors can carry out the present law to the letter. It is inherently bad. We have been told frequently that because St. John is an old city, and because it had many leaseholds, private and civic, that certain lines of reform are out of the question. This is not the case, and progressive tax reformers will recognize that it is not. There are no conditions which cannot be met by reasonable arrangements which will enable owners of property and those who lease such property to bear their fair share of the civic burden. It probably will be found that under present conditions income taxes and personal property taxes are unworkable, whatever might be said of their justice. Good citizens should advise the commissioners not to attempt to judge of the Mayor's commission in advance of its work, and to waste no time in attributing sinister motives to it. The thing to do is to arrive as rapidly as possible at some fair basis for a new law. There will be obstruction enough later on, and no obstruction at City Hall at this stage of the proceedings is either warranted or excusable. Taxation is one of the matters in which there should be no playing of politics.

THE WAR TODAY.

The Germans apparently continue to maintain their advantage in the eastern theatre of the war and until pressure of the Allies in the west becomes greater may be expected to keep up their driving operations against the Russians. But it must not be forgotten that Russia has shown remarkable qualities of recuperation and will do so again. And she yet has some millions of soldiers to draw upon. Meanwhile the enemy's campaign in Poland is costing Germany and Austria heavy losses, and thus gradually weakening the giant of militarism and bringing nearer the day of exhaustion, though that probably is still far away.

The west shows no important change; the fighting continues heavy but there has been no great movement recently. There, as in the east, however, every engagement is another drain on the Teutonic allies, a drain felt more severely than by the gathering forces of the Allies.

General Sir Ian Hamilton confirms reports of successes against the Turks on Gallipoli peninsula. The predictions of enthusiastic correspondents some weeks ago, that the Dardanelles would be forced within a short time, have not been borne out; the land resistance has been stubborn as the naval operations difficult. Nevertheless we are not standing still. Little by little our forces are pressing on and the day of annihilation of one of the most stupendous feats in military or naval history approaches.

The appeal of Soldier Hanshaw of the 26th Battalion to Canadians to rally more freely to the colors is well worth reading.

China again suffers from floods. Thousands of natives are reported to have been drowned. These are days of heavy drain upon the world's population.

One lone delegate in the Conservative convention in Manitoba opposed granting the vote to woman. For the sake of his peace at home, let us hope they kept his name a secret.

Captain the Rev. E. B. Hooper, chaplain of the 26th, confirms a report that the New Brunswick Battalion may be sent to France next month. That will give St. John a keener interest in the war than ever.

IDENTIFY DEAD BY PHOTOGRAPHS

Pictures of Lusitania Victims on View in New York—Touching Scenes as Relatives Recognize Missing

New York, July 16—Photographs of the Lusitania dead who were not identified prior to burial in Arlington, have been sent to the Cunard Line offices in this city in the hope that an inspection by relatives of Lusitania victims in this country will lead to positive identification. Thirteen bodies have been identified by the photographs. Among the list of those identified from the photographs in the Cunard office is Mrs. F. Groves, of Toronto, a second cabin passenger.

The number of photographs sent to the Cunard Company in New York is 120, and of these 107 are of victims as yet unidentified. They are those of old and young men and women and several little children.

Among the children are two tots, whose bodies are shown covered with lilies draped in their coffins by sympathetic people in Queenstown. There is also among the photographs one of a woman, who looks to have been about seventy-five years old. Any person who had known her in life would have little difficulty in identifying her by the photograph.

The exhibit is a pathetic one. With the exception of two or three babies, the look on every face is one of mingled horror and the deepest agony. A photograph of one of the little girls shows the victim hugging a "teddy bear," which was found tightly clasped to her bosom when the body was taken from the water. Another shows a mother holding her infant in her arms.

When relatives or friends of the unidentified Lusitania dead call to look over the photographs, they are given a table in the far corner of the main office, where they can search through the pictures unwatched. Some of the scenes that have attended an inspection of the photographs by those who lost relatives when the Lusitania went down have been touching in the extreme. An old man, who he identified the body of a woman relative, broke down and wept, while his clenched fists indicated better than any words what he thought of people who could calmly send to her doom a great ship laden with defenceless men, women and children.

It was considered rather a strange fact that among the thirteen identifications made in New York from photographs, two were of English women whose names were in that country, Mrs. Loyne and Mrs. Hopkins. The photograph of the Ferguson baby was identified by an aunt whose home was in this city.

RECENT DEATHS

The death of Mrs. Phoebe A. Marr, aged eighty-two years, occurred on Sunday, July 11, at Belle Isle Station, Kings County, N. B. Three sons and five daughters survive.

The death of Miss Myrtle V. MacFarlane occurred at Sussex on Wednesday, July 14, at Belle Isle Station, Kings County, N. B. Three sons and five daughters survive.

Mrs. Fanny L. Smith died on Wednesday at her home at Hampton Station, N. B., aged seventy-five years.

A FROZEN TREAT

When you're overheated, tired, and perhaps a trifle cross, nothing touches the spot like a cone or dish of STANDARD PURITY ICE CREAM, which is free from disease germs, being MADE FROM PASTEURIZED CREAM and the best of natural flavors. You'll like it and want some more.

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"You don't mean to imply that he is a spendthrift?"

"Not at all. But he puts his money away and doesn't appear to have any appreciation of all the things he might buy with it."

Wrathful Pa—Freddie, didn't you promise me not to play marbles again?

Freddie—Yes, sir.

Wrathful Pa—And didn't I promise to whip you if you did?

Freddie—Well, I don't think I should go as mad as that!

Wife (sentimental)—Egbert, what would you do if I should die?

Egbert—I should go mad, my dear.

Wife—Would you marry again?

Egbert—Well, I don't think I should go as mad as that!

Pietro had drifted down to Florida and was working with a gang at railroad construction. He had been told to be wary of rattlesnakes, but assured that they would always give the warning rattle before striking.

One hot day he was eating his noon luncheon on a pine log when he saw a big rattler coiled a few feet in front of him. He eyed the rattler and began to lift his legs over the log. He had barely got them out of the way when the snake's fangs hit the back of his head. "Sun of a gunna!" yelled Pietro why you no ring da bell!

Lawyer—On what grounds do you wish a divorce?

Lady—Cruel and inhuman treatment. Every time I start to jaw he opens all the windows so the neighbors can listen.

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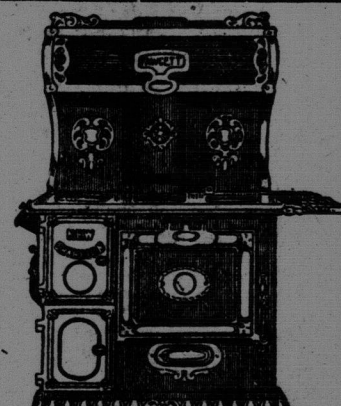
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ORGANIZING IMPERIAL AIRCRAFT FLOTILLA

London, June 28—(Correspondence)—An imperial aircraft flotilla is being formed by the Admiralty, consisting of aeroplanes presented to the Royal Flying Corps by various sections of the empire. Six aeroplanes have already been presented, coming from Hongkong, British West Indies, Gibraltar and South Africa. Additional machines have been promised by Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and New Zealand. Hongkong has provided three at a cost of \$22,500, one aeroplane being paid for by the Chinese partners of the Tai Yan Bank.

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Second Canadian Division Completed by Arrival of 26th Battalion

London, June 24—(Montreal Gazette Correspondence)—The statement which appeared in Canadian papers under date June 11, to the effect that every battalion of the second Canadian division had safely arrived in France, conflicts strongly with facts derived from actual observations. The Montreal Gazette correspondent visited Shorncliffe camp two days ago and saw several units which are included in the second contingent, and moreover conversed with officers with whom the subject of the transfer to France within the next few weeks was discussed.

From all that can be gathered it is highly probable that the second contingent will not cross the channel until late in August. As a matter of fact the contingent has only just been completed by the arrival of the 26th Battalion, with various details. The administrative staff of the training depot is now engaged not only in attending to all the duties connected with the reserve battalions.

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Simply moisten your hair with water and rub it in. One or two teaspoonfuls will make an abundance of rich, creamy lather, and cleanses the hair and scalp thoroughly. The lather rinses out easily, and removes every particle of dust, dirt, dandruff and excessive oil. The hair dries quickly and evenly, and it leaves it fine and silky, bright, fluffy and easy to manage.

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Fifty nurses from New Zealand have arrived in London in addition to a party who have proceeded to France for work at a base hospital.

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