

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1924

The Evening Times-Star

The Evening Times-Star is printed at 23-27 Centre-street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.
Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments. Main 8417.
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, 350 Madison Ave., Chicago, J. J. Powers, 19 South La Salle Street.
The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times-Star.

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THE CANADIAN CLUBS.

St. John extends a very cordial welcome to the Association of Canadian Clubs. The city has both men's and women's Canadian Clubs of large membership, and these have provided a forum for the discussion of national, imperial and international questions, the published reports of which tended to broaden the outlook of those not members, as well as of those who belong to the clubs. This is a service these clubs may render, and they have done well. The fact that similar clubs are scattered over the country is a guarantee that the development of a national spirit is in the minds of many from coast to coast, who realize that the vast area, the varied interests and racial differences put obstacles in the way of the national unity which should exist. There have been murmurings in the extreme east and in the west, and they have been loud enough to be heard throughout the country. There are grievances to adjust, and while they exist there is discontent, which is very poor soil for the cultivation of a truly national spirit. The Dominion is still young. It has great problems to solve. Its national expenditures are on a colossal scale in proportion to its population. Its war burden is heavy. It lives beside a rich neighbor with tempting opportunities to offer ambitious youth. All this must be remembered in discussing Canadian affairs. The Canadian Clubs can do much to create a desire for wider understanding and more cordial co-operation. The visitors to St. John will find much to interest them at this national port, which is one of the front doors of Canada. They will be interested in the story of the Loyalist founders of the city, the growth of New Brunswick, its part in the formation of the Dominion, and its hopes and aspirations for the future. The desire of every citizen is that the visitors may find enjoyment as well as inspiration during their visit and in the sessions of the convention.

TO CONTROL TAXATION.

The Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, which has done much excellent work in calling attention to the different rates and kinds of taxation imposed in many sections of the country, has called a convention of the Committee in Montreal early this month at which it is proposed to discuss how public expenditures can be controlled by controlling the individual services on which the money is spent. An additional field of economy is in the purchasing of material, supplies and equipment. This is particularly calling the convention it is said that such government expenditures touch not only our national economy, but our national honor. "We still have patronage and its parasites with us in Canada, and, as it was said long ago, 'If had men combine, good men must organize'."

Principal W. L. Grant, in urging action along these lines, asks the question will constitutional government endure in Canada? It has been swept away in some countries, given into the hands of military dictators, and is very audibly creaking in others. In each case the results were due to the failure to establish reasonably honest and reasonably efficient administration. What about Canada? Is our administration, federal, provincial, municipal, as honest, as efficient, and as economical as you would like? In at least one Canadian province and in one British Dominion a corner has recently been lifted of the veil which usually shrouds the detail of administration, and it is fairly obvious that in both cases an improvement in the system and in the personnel of the Civil Service is imperative. Are there any provinces, or indeed any modern governments which are not in great need of improvement in civil service administration?

Everyone is shouting for a reduction in taxation. Everyone recognizes that there can be no such reduction unless there is a reduction in expenditure. Probably our governments spend more money in salaries and wages than for any other single object. It is by no means exceptional for a Canadian city to spend over 85 per cent. of its total income in salaries and wages. It stands to reason that if any serious cut is to be made in total expenditure, and therefore in total taxation, radical economies will have to be effected in the Civil Service of municipalities, provinces and the nation.

Can this be done? The Institute believes that no adequate machinery exists for control of personnel and expenditure thereon, and that there is gross avoidable waste in salaries and wages in various public services. This does not necessarily mean that public servants are overpaid; in many cases they are underpaid. It may only mean that there are on the public payroll more people than are necessary to perform the work of government. It does

Press Comment

RETRIBUTION.

Bloody Herlin stands before the country an object lesson. It is a pitiable study in self ruin. After the first massacre, growing out of the miners' strike, the community, instead of clearing itself of the blood guiltiness that hung over it, proceeded to glorify in its wickedness. It callously and blatantly defied all law, order and decency. It refused to remove its reproach and punish the guilty. It did its best to protect its evil deeds against justice in the hands of the state authorities, and so its people become en masse accessories after the fact. Herlin jeered authoritatively and flaunted its crime triumphantly and boastfully in the face of the entire world.

Later, as a result of the festering sore it cherished, came the Klan and anti-Klan war to plague the community, and this produced a second intervention, by the state authorities. But the intervention, though it forced outward quiet, had no effect on the temper of the people. There was no repentance nor turning away from evil. On the contrary, the old hatreds smouldered and intensified, and the recent outbreak with its toll of death, was an inevitable and easily foreseeable development.

So Nemesis stalks through Herlin and has its way. The town is steeping in its own juice. Human justice has failed to extend its arm and bring the people in it to the bar for proper punishment; but the law of retribution is at work. The Furies lurk in the dark corners by night, and the punishment the place is bringing upon itself for hugging crime and violence to its bosom is more severe and richer in its power to inflict suffering than the punishment the courts could inflict, would be.

SPIRITUAL HUNGER.

(The Wesleyan.)
The public press is so wide awake that any special features it may adopt are a fair indication of some great demand on the part of its constituency. The "funny page" for instance only appears from day to day because of a popular demand for such a feature. One of the very encouraging signs of the times is the large amount of space which many newspapers and other periodicals give to religious matters. Of course there is much to be found in the press which is not very uplifting but it is there because of a demand for it and that fact emphasizes the significance of the other fact that as never before the newspapers of the land are printing news which is purely religious. These papers print only what is of value to its readers and therefore the conclusion must be reached that despite the seeming irration of our times there is a real hunger for something other than the story of sport, murder or scandal. When one shuts himself up to a personal of maritime journals only he must note that church news is given quite a large proportion of space. For a long time one of our provincial daily papers carried a church page on Saturday upon which there was spread the record of the life and work of each of the denominations. On Saturday and Monday a great many of the maritime papers contain articles of special interest to persons interested in the work of God upon earth. But when one makes a wider survey of the press this fact is forced to the front and confirms the impression that such features are a clear indication of a real soul hunger on the part of a reading public. Perhaps the press is wiser in its day than some Christian teachers and judges more correctly of that for which the world craves.

ENJOY CORN BOLL.

The Jessie Chipman Mission Circle of the Portland Methodist church held its September meeting yesterday evening at the home of Miss Mary Kirk, Millidge avenue, when the members enjoyed a corn boll. The committee in charge consisted of Miss Rita Bell, Miss Edith Brown and Miss Muriel Panjoy. The arrangements met with the entire approval of the members and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. Fred Smiley, president, was in the chair for the entertainment business session at which plans were made for the new season's work.

A link with the past was dropped the other day, when William Trant died in Victoria, B. C. He was a journalist of international fame. A review of his career says: "He gained fame for going through the Paris Commune with George Edgar and being sentenced to be shot as a spy. He was the journalist who met Disraeli on his return from the congress of Berlin and gave the world the 'peace with honor' message. His six speeches on financial reform which he delivered in the 70s were published in book form by the Financial Reform Association in Britain, and were used as text books in succeeding congresses. His book, 'Trades Unions, Their Origin, and Objects,' published in 1884, is still the authoritative text book on trades unionism up to that period."

Prof. Pay, of Toronto University, formerly of Cambridge University, who is a keen observer and a careful student of Canada, says that St. John and other eastern ports must keep an eye on Vancouver. Mr. E. G. F. Walker, of Bristol, England, has been impressed by the same thought as a result of his journeys and observations. Vancouver is reducing its port charges to attract business. St. John has spent money lavishly to provide facilities for traffic. Of what value will that expenditure be if other ports get the traffic as a result of greater enterprise and lower port charges?

Ask them of this lake of jade and quicksilver; of snow-white ridges and hanging glaciers; of fairy forests with a Chateau fit for a fairy Princess. Ask them if everything wasn't just right—the company, the comfort, the food. Then forget every other place.

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She bath her own mediterranean seas;
Prairies more vast, where now no hearthstone quivers,
Where yet shall rise the song of vintages.

Forests she hath, where great pines wave their tassels
High o'er the green leaves of ten thousand trees,
Waiting to build men cottage-homes or castles;
These sing the music of the far-off seas.

Great, rough and strong this land is,
Like some Viking,
Whose sons all feel they are of kingly line.

When will some hard, the silent harp
rough-striking,
Praise to all times the Land of Shaken Pine!
William P. McKenzie, in "Songs of the Human."

LIGHTER VEIN.

Squelched
He—"My views on bringing up a family are—"
She—"Never mind your views. I'll bring up the family. You go and bring up the coal."

Easy to Please

He came down to breakfast quite early on his first morning at the new boarding-house. The proprietress was all smiles.
"Will you take tea, coffee, or cocoa?" she asked.
But he knew boarding-houses.
"Whichever you call it," said he.

Evidence Hidden.

In the garden was an apple tree, and father had forbidden Betty to touch the apples until they were ripe.
One day father came into the nursery looking very stern.
"Somebody has been at the apple tree. I have found three cores on the grass."

Betty tried her best to look as if she had never seen an apple.
At last she blurted out: "Well, it wasn't me, 'cause I ate my cores."

ON FISHERIES WORK.

Harry A. Lynch, assistant engineer of the fisheries branch of the Marine and Fisheries Department, Ottawa, arrived in the city yesterday from Halifax, where he was engaged in engineering work in connection with the hatcheries there. He left yesterday afternoon for Grand Falls after spending a day at his old home here.



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Canadian Pacific

HERE FROM B. C. FOR CONVENTION

Miss Jeannette A. Cann, B.L., a graduate of Dalhousie University, Halifax, and a native of Yarmouth, N. S., is in the city at the Royal Hotel, coming here from Victoria, B. C., to represent her Women's Canadian Club. Miss Cann is first vice-president of her club. She has made a name for herself in the west through her culture and literary attainments. She is assistant professor of English literature and philosophy in Victoria University, which is affiliated with the University of British Columbia. Miss Cann has been in the west for twenty years and is thoroughly imbued with the western spirit, while happy to own her allegiance to her native Maritimes. Miss Cann's half-sister, Miss Emily Ray, of Yarmouth, is here with Miss Cann to enjoy a little visit with her while she is in the east. Miss Raymond will return home on Thursday. The ladies were the motor guests of Mrs. John E. Moore yesterday, who showed them the beautiful scenery along the Kennebecasis.

FOUR GUESS CORRECTLY.

Four of the answers given in the guessing contest conducted by the Standard Coal Company at the St. John Fair were found to be exactly correct, and the four successful guessers, Loretto Phillips, 89 Lansdowne avenue; E. M. Emma, 247 Douglas street; C. J. Murphy, 9 Chubb street, and Mrs. A. A. Short, 211 Metcalf street, can secure their prize, a ton of coal, by communicating with the Standard Coal Company, 101 Prince William street. The prize was to have been one ton of coal, but as there were four correct answers the company decided to give each of the successful guessers the full amount of the prize. The contest was to guess the number of lumps of coal in a glass jar which was shown at the company's booth at the exhibition. The correct number was 283. F. I. McCafferty, J. W. L. Hennigar and H. McLod, of The Telegraph-Journal-Times-Star staff, were the judges.

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