

The Evening Times-Star

The Evening Times-Star printed at 25-27 Canterbury street every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.
Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments. Main 2417.
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, Ingham-Powers, Inc., 230 Madison Ave., Chicago, Ingham-Powers, Inc., 15 South La Salle Street.
The Audit Bureau of Circulation and the circulation of The Evening Times-Star.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JULY 6, 1926.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMY.

The historic dictator and patriot-premier of Italy, Mussolini, has presented the world with an idea which ought to gladden the hearts of the taxpayers, however unpopular it may prove amongst office holders with joy-riding proclivities. He has cancelled his visits and voyages, designating them as "luxuries which cannot be afforded at present." Beyond that it is expected that five per cent. of the Italian civil service will be dismissed, followed by another five per cent. within a few months. Picture the flutter in our Dominion and Provincial bureaucratic dovecots if such were mooted; listen in imagination to the frantic explanations of essential and urgent national business which carries ministers to the pleasant places at the right time. One is inclined to wonder if Mussolini has discovered that one of the main duties of the permanent official is, not only to get his departmental chief out of any morass into which he may be blundered, but also to provide him with excuses for enjoying himself at public expense.

This is nothing new. It exists more or less in all countries where democracy rules—the autocrat sees that it does not and that may account for Mussolini's attitude. The party which will come to the country with a definite and detailed programme of retrenchment and reconstruction—not vague promises of investigation and qualified pledges of economy—should secure a good following.

Canada is not such an impoverished nation that she would see her ministers reduced to undignified shifts, nor to supplement penurious allowances for the proper conduct of business from private resources. There is a general feeling that the theory of personal inspection has been carried to unjustifiable lengths and extended to cover privileges beyond all bounds of necessity. It would be equally bad if personal investigations were diluted entirely. It is the mean at which we should aim.

Any attempt to reduce the number of civil servants is one predestined to bitter and obstinate opposition as all know who have tried to cut down a government office, as all who control private offices can imagine. The civil service clerk is, by the very nature of his work, an adept at raising points and precedents and disguising others by cautious veiling. It is his daily occupation to discover words which cloak facts. He is a theatrical dresser producing for the star an effect from complacency to emaciation, according to exigencies of the part. When he turns his abilities to the defence of himself, his best efforts may be expected, and even when he has to retreat and agree to a certain number of dismissals, it is wonderful how large a proportion of charwomen can be spared and how few deputy ministers.

It is appropriate that as we approach an election we should give consideration to the acts of Mussolini who has admittedly brought his country from chaos and bankruptcy to order and solvency. We could appreciate a few less joy-rides and civil servants, with a premier strong enough to enforce the performance of election pledges. And as for these pledges, let us make very sure about them; let us remember that "revenue is the weight of undigested meals eat yesterday" and sometimes "promises were, as he was then, mighty; but his performance, as he is now, nothing." On that we have to take a chance, but we can do a great deal to minimize the hazard by choosing honorable men as candidates for election.

AN INDIAN MISSION.

Three Red Indian chiefs from British Columbia tribes are in London, seeking an interview with His Majesty to lay at the foot of the Throne certain grievances which they claim to have suffered. They are accompanied by the daughter of one of them, a woman who is possessed of a good education and who appears to be their spokeswoman. The grievance, so we are informed by London dispatches, concerns a tract of land near Kamloops and the chiefs on behalf of their followers annexed some of their land without consulting the Indians. It is understood that judgments adverse to their claims were handed down by our courts, but they refuse to accept them and insist on going direct to the King without any of the preliminary steps which ordinary individuals must follow in seeking justice.

These same Indians went to England on a similar mission last year and very nearly obtained the audience they sought because it was believed they surely must have had some official sanction of their mission. It is highly probable that the society around them on this occasion and it is unfortunate for the Indians themselves and for Canada that such an embarrassing situation should have arisen.

A much wiser procedure from the Indian standpoint, if they feel that

they have not received justice, would have been to have utilized the money they have squandered on giving their chiefs a European tour by taking their case in the conventional manner to the Privy Council, where they would have received the King's final decision. Doubtless if they have any legal claim they would have followed this course. It may be picturesque to have true Indians trailing around England trying to gain His Majesty's ear, but it can hardly be a very delightful prospect for the King to look forward to this annual pilgrimage and if the Federal authorities had to do anything to prevent a recurrence of this it should be done.

SELLING EXPLOSIVE SCARVES.

An interesting point has been raised in a French court. Recently a scarf worn by a youth in Paris exploded and burst into flames as he was leaving a theatre. Three weeks later he died from burns and the Paris courts are seeking to place the responsibility for his death. It was found by experts that the scarf was made from a mixture of cotton and artificial silk, the latter consisting of trinitric cotton powder, or cellulose, which is a powerful explosive, until properly treated. The manufacturer, who is being tried for manslaughter, according to the evidence adduced, went against the counsel of the firm which supplied the raw material and wove the silk with cotton instead of wool, selling the scarves without warning purchasers of their inflammability.

It is very likely that were customers warned that they were about to place about their necks something of an inflammable nature, very few articles of this kind would be sold. Substitutes for this recent fatality. Substitutes may be all right but, then again, they may be all wrong, particularly when unscrupulous persons undertake their manufacture into finished articles. The bootlegger who peddles poisonous liquor of his own filthy distilling is bad enough, but the quality of his product is or should be known, whereas few people would be aware of any danger in a harmless looking garment like a scarf. Such a manufacturer should get the limit that the law allows.

For the third time we hear that the disabilities to enquire into Maritime disabilities will shortly begin its investigations.

Odds and Ends

Where Money Will Not Square Crime

(San Francisco Chronicle.)
Arrested in Detroit on a charge of having stolen \$10,000 from a railroad in Canada, the man was advised to see whether he could raise the money to make restitution and so escape extradition. This would be in line with a rather frequent custom in the United States.

But the advice brought no lifting of the prisoner's gloom. "I guess I will have to take my medicine," he said. "After a warrant has been issued in Canada you can't fix it by making restitution."

Probably this is one of the reasons we do not hear about crime waves in Canada, where they manage to discourage crime, even though they cannot suppress it entirely.

Proof of Divine Guidance

(Motion Picture Magazine.)
DeMille is probably the one director in all the movies who consciously or unconsciously believes in an outside inspiration force that works in some mystic fashion, with his own brain. When he acknowledged Divine Guidance in filming The Ten Commandments, there was considerable laughter over it. The scoffers didn't laugh so loud when The Ten Commandments made more money than any other picture ever filmed.

Be Something

(Judge Payne.)
Do what you can, being what you are; Shine like a glow-worm if you cannot be a star;

Work like a pulley if you cannot be a crane;

Some Puzzle

(Columbia State.)
The Encyclopedia Britannica offers a prize of fifty dollars for the best international game, puzzle or intellectual test. We hereby enter the League of Nations.

Authorize Four Squares Daily.

(St. Paul Pioneer Press.)
If Congress really wishes to do something for the farmer, why not forbid distilling.

REFINING INFLUENCE

(Winnipeg Liberator.)
Her field of activity is not bounded by the school. In our rural district, school teachers easily set the tone of the society around them. No one is engaged upon a nobler mission. Their task is with the fresh souls which take to them. It is they who, with the mothers, molded society as it will be tomorrow, and in our parishes their influence may be beneficial beyond measure.

Just Fun

GOOD roads die young also.

APPEARANCE counts little. The man who seems a sheik may take his pay envelope home unopened.

THE old gentleman was a trifle bewildered at the elaborate wedding. "Are you the groom?" he asked a melancholy young man. "No, sir," the young man replied, "I was eliminated in the preliminary try-outs."

DAUGHTER—"Oh, papa, what is your birthstone?" Father of Edward—"My dear, I'm not sure, but I think it's a grindstone."

THE hardest job in the world is carrying a set-up radio aerial on a crowded street car.

THE OFFICE CAT COMMANDMENTS.

CONTRIBS must NOT write on both sides of the paper. It is against the rules to clip stuff from Whizz Bang, College Humor, Judge or Life and send it in as your own. Where typewriters are used, double space between the lines. Don't kid us about the rotten ones we pull. It makes the boss look omniscient.

Do not let your contrib run over a typewritten page. Make it shorter than that if possible. Don't be discouraged. Some of The Office Cat stars submit duds. Don't ever come into the office and insist on reading your stuff to the Office Cat.

Get on Brevity. He's a sure winner. A word battle between contribs is seldom welcomed.

If your offering has merit it will appear in The Office Cat eventually. We get dozens of letters every day.

THE man who is under his wife's thumb has a sense of freedom from responsibility, anyhow.

"DON'T be dumb, Bello. The lower end of Piss don't take anti-funk make it lean."

ONE company advertises "Honey made by expert bees." These amateur bees don't turn out such good stuff, you know.

THE first kiss always brings a lump in a man's throat—but it's the last kiss that leaves a lump in a woman's throat.

EVERY BOY'S SWEET DREAM He asked his Dad for fifty cents to buy himself some dollars; His father, busy talking, said: "Here lad, take this five dollars!"

I READ an account of a man who slept past the time for his wedding. "That's nothing. Lots of men don't wake up till after marriage."

Other Views

GREAT GERMAN COMBINE.

Hamburg Fremdenblatt.
The much-talked-of Ruhr mining trust has, after overcoming great difficulties, taken its final form and one of the great stages in the era of German trust formation has been completed. The headquarters of the Vereinigten Stahlwerke (the holding company) is in Dusseldorf, but the entire administration of the coal mines takes place from Essen. The constituent companies hand over all their work—plant and premises, as well as all suitable subsidiary departments, in exchange for shares in the Vereinigten Stahlwerke, but continue to exist themselves in unaltered form and administer their own capital. The trust appears to have a very firm basis as regards capital, a very important point in view of the extensive proportions of the Vereinigten Stahlwerke and the immense importance of such a trust, not only for the heavy industry, but for what you have to say and say it quickly. My time is worth a dollar a minute.

"And so is mine. Here is a wallet you lost yesterday, less pay for an hour's time which I used waiting to see you," the young man replied as he extracted sixty dollars from the wallet.

THERE is a young man in the official set in Washington who is wise beyond his years, as was evidenced when he paused before answering a widow who had asked him to guess her age.

"You must have some idea about the 'CLARK'?"

Let the "CLARK" Kitchen help you

CLARK'S SOUPS 13 KINDS

Delicious—Wholesome—Economical—Each tin provides three or four servings.

CLARK'S VEGETABLE SOUP

Made by the picture of the woman on the label—Port & Beans

Two-Burner Hotplates Only \$8.50

Just right for Summer Camp or light housekeeping.

"Electrically at Your Service."

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The "Bogey Man"



The Italian Shadow on the Wall—From Lachen Links, Berlin, Germany.

POEMS I LOVE

"Who Loves the Rain," by Frances Shaw.

PERHAPS it is because I like the rain so much myself, that these lines appeal to me tremendously. The sentiment is one I could loudly echo; and Miss Shaw has said what has long been in my heart. Feeling that way, one brings to her poem almost as much as she gives. She does not say too much—exactly enough. Restraint in this poem's finest characteristic.

Who loves the rain
And loves his home,
And looks on life with quiet eyes
Him will I follow through the storm;
And at his hearth-fire keep me warm;
Nor hell nor heaven shall that soul surprise,
Who loves the rain,
And loves his home,
And looks on life with quiet eyes.

Queer Quirks of Nature

A JEWEL THAT IS DISCOVERED IN THE MUD.

BY ARTHUR N. PACK

BY THE muddy margin of pond or brook, or in the rich soil of the shadowed woodland, grows the jewel weed, with its smooth notched leaves or the most delicate turquoise, yellow or orange blossoms.

Drops of dew or rain stand in rounded globules on its leaves, and some think that this feature has given the plant its name.

But we prefer to believe that it is the seeds that are responsible for this. Hidden away beneath a greenish or brownish coating are the smooth oval nutlets of most delicate turquoise, jewels well worthy to be so-called.

THE JEWEL CASKET.

These are contained in a sort of capsule which springs open at the slightest touch, scattering the seeds in all directions with a force and suddenness that is startling.

This attribute is well known, and has given to the plant the name of snapweed, and also its general name nutlets of most delicate turquoise, jewels well worthy to be so-called.

THE PECULIAR STRUCTURE OF THE FLOWER.

It is said, with what was intended for an arch sideways glance, "I have several ideas," said the wise young man, with a smile. "The only trouble is that I hesitate whether to make you ten years younger on account of your looks or ten years older on account of your brains."

Then, while the widow smiled and blushed, he took a graceful but speedy leave.

THE opinion of generations which have disliked written speeches is reflected in a story told by an Atlanta man of an old colored woman who sat under a youthful minister who always read his sermons.

"How is dat new minister, you's a gittin' on?" some one asked the old woman.

"Jaw's he a gittin' on?" she repeated. "Just like a crow in a tater field—two dabs an a crow-up."

THROUGH SLEEPER SERVICE TO BOSTON SATURDAYS.

Commencing Saturday, July 8, a new service will be inaugurated between Maritime Provinces points and Boston.

Through Pullman and Coaches will be attached to train No. 101, leaving Saint John at 7.50 a. m. daylight on Saturdays, which will run through to Boston.

For information as to service, reservations, etc., apply to Ticket Agents.

Close Fri. 10 p. m. Sat. 1 p. m.

NEW WEEK END SERVICE MARITIME PROVINCES TO BOSTON

Effective Saturday, July 3

Through Pullman and Coaches will be attached to Train No. 101, leaving Saint John, N. B., at 7.50 a. m. daylight on Saturdays.

For information as to Service, Reservations, etc. apply to Ticket Agents.

The Very Idea!

By Mary Cockburn

OLD STUFF.

VACATION time is drawin' nigh—the time, of course, when you and I are plannin' on a rest. We pick the weeks that fit our plan and then a flock of pamphlets scan to find the place that's best.

We press our outing clothes and such and pack a trunk with much too much. And then we set it to go. A bell-line train's the one we take to chug up to some far off lake, where summer breezes blow.

Right on the bank, a cottage fit, is just the place to loaf a bit. What more could one desire? Of course of home there's not a trace. Just dampness all around the place. We have to build a fire.

The "running water" doesn't run. The oil stove's anything but fun. The mattress is hard. The front door has a busted lock. The lights go out at ten o'clock. All bolt'rouness is barred.

Vacation comes but once a year an' every time the spell is here we meet the same old fate. With every trace of comfort shv, it always makes me wonder why we call vacation "great."

The hardy-gurdy man's job is a daily grind, in which one good turn deserves another.

Mother told sonny not to go up in the attic to play—but he did. And that's why she called him down.

A married man may lean democratic, or republican, but the party he really belongs to is his wife.

"How do you know the earth is round?" Said teacher, "tell me that." But Johnny said, "I know 'cause I've seen the flat."

She was a sweet little dumb bride who wanted her hubby to bring her another mouse trap, because the one he bought her a couple of nights ago had a mouse in it.

FABLES IN FACT.

ONCE THERE WAS A TRAMP WHO WAS VERY HUNGRY DASH DASH SO HUNGRY COMMA IN FACT COMMA THAT HE HAD BEEN EATING GRASS PERIOD.

FINALLY HE WENT UP TO THE DOOR OF A NICE LOOKING HOME AND TOLD THE LADY OF THE HOUSE OF HIS PREDICAMENT PERIOD QUOTATION MARK SO YOUNG BEEN EATING GRASS COMMA QUOTATION MARK SAID SHE PERIOD QUOTATION MARK WELK WELL THAT CERTAINLY IS TOO BAD COMMA AND I'M GLAD TO HELP YOU OUT PERIOD QUOTATION MARK SO SHE SUGGESTED THAT HE GO ROUND TO THE BACK YARD DASH DASH WHERE THE GRASS WAS LONGER PERIOD.

PLENTY OF TEACHERS.

Kincaid Review-Reporter.

Up to Tuesday morning the secretary of the board of education had received no less than 106 applications for the various staff vacancies of the public and high schools, coming from every point in Ontario. They are divided as follows: Fifty-six for principal of the high school; six for principal of the high school; 16 for teacher of mathematics; two for science teachers, and 27 for the two senior high school teachers' positions.

The secretary states the number will probably reach the 200 mark before the time for consideration closes. Some of the applications bore testimonials of every description. One man even stated he plays the saxophone. His application should be turned down forthwith.

REPRODUCTION.

Both humming birds and bees aid in fertilizing the showy flowers, but the plant is not dependent on these for its reproduction, for its produce also quantities of inconspicuous blossoms which of themselves produce seeds in abundance.

Safety first seems to be the motto of many members of the plant world, even some of those showy flowers seem to have been produced mainly as an attraction to insect visitors.

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EVERY WOMAN LIKES BEAUTIFUL

TABLE LINENS

And she takes pardonable pride in the appearance of the table, especially when guests are coming.

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Prices Range \$2.65 to \$13.50.

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Out-of-town visitors are especially invited to inspect our wonderful assortment of Gift Linens—Main Floor.

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SAFETY—Double Track all the way.

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