

### The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 12, 1919

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#### AN OBJECT LESSON.

The failure of the Boston policemen's strike, the steel strike and the coal strike, along with similar happenings in England, will doubtless be a warning to radical labor leaders that the third factor in all disputes—the public, as represented by the government of the country—must hereafter be taken more seriously into consideration. The labor organizations may also be moved to see to it that the leaders chosen are not remarkable for their radical tendencies. Organized labor is not the majority in any community or country. In its compact organization it possesses a very powerful weapon, which may be used with great effect, but when the pressure seems too great, and there is a suspicion that the overthrow of ordered government and the unleashing of anarchy is the actuating motive of any leader or leaders, the unorganized public closes up its ranks and asserts its rights and its convictions. But if labor has learned a lesson the like is true of capital. Nothing is to be gained by standing aloof. The two must get together, and the public must see that they do so. Unless industrial strife can be reduced to a negligible quantity the danger of an increase in the number of those who aim at the overthrow of all government will not be removed. Bolshevism is a real danger, to be faced most effectively by harmonious relations between employer and employed, based on the square deal on both sides.

#### SEVERING PARTY TIES.

One of the unpleasant results of an intense devotion to a political party is the wrench that is given to his feelings when a member finds himself no longer able to follow his party leaders. All his past thinking, the ties of comradeship and the force of habit combine to keep him in line; while a long-standing prejudice makes him hesitate to join the opposing party. His first impulse is perhaps to assert that they are all alike and that he is done with politics. A little clear thinking, however, leads him to change his mind. The affairs of government must go on, affecting his interests and those of his fellow-citizens. He must as a citizen exercise his franchise, and he has no faith in his own party leaders there is no reasonable course other than to assist in their defeat. If he fails to do so in the party convention there is the obligation to himself as a good citizen to aid in doing it at the polls.

A great many members of the provincial opposition are in this position to-day. They have come to the parting of the ways. They know that their present leaders were rejected by the people at the last provincial elections, when only a portion of the black record had been revealed. The reason it was not fully revealed was that investigation was refused; and it was not until the other party assumed the reins of power and made a thorough investigation that the people were shown how shamefully their affairs had been administered. If the people defeated the old government when they knew only in part what will they do to Mr. Murray and his supporters when they vote again, in the light of fuller knowledge? The members of the rank and file of the opposition party, as well as a number of their present representatives in this question, and realize where their thinking will lead them. Disastrous as it may be, they must reject the old leaders and pin their faith for the time at least to those of another party, which can at least claim fairly that it is making an honest effort to do better than its opponents did when entrusted with power.

#### SCHOOL AGE.

A correspondent writing from Sussex to the Times-Star relative to keeping children at school until eighteen years of age remarks that at this age children should be helping their parents; and refers also to the case of a girl of sixteen who has left school and is about to be married.

So far as this paper knows, there is no proposal anywhere to keep boys and girls in school until they are eighteen years of age, and under any system special consideration would be given in cases where parents needed their children's help. What is urged, and in the interests of society should be carried out in every country, is that all children be compelled to attend school; and, whether they leave at the age of fourteen or fifteen or sixteen, that they attend continuation classes until they are eighteen. These might be day or evening classes, so many hours per week; but their effect would be to give every boy and girl a fairly good school training.

This method has been adopted in England and Scotland, and there can be no doubt of the beneficial results, both to the individual and the nation. In every province in Canada the problem of illiteracy should be grappled with by the governments, and school attendance made compulsory.

Evidently the machinery must be put in operation to prevent the importation of liquor into this province. That is made necessary by the cowardice of parliament, which has passed the buck once more.

The Globe is not impressed by the Standard's explanation of Mr. Baxter's speech. It says:—"If Hon. Mr. Baxter was not referring to the resolution condemning Hon. James Murray when he accused his three St. John colleagues of disloyalty it follows as a matter of course that the party has another skeleton of even more serious proportions. Let us have all the facts. What is the official explanation of the ex-Attorney-General's characterization of his St. John colleagues as traitors, hypocrites, etc., etc.?"

Last night's meeting at the Imperial emphasized the fact that unless the working people subscribe to this Victory Loan as they did to the last one the objective will not be reached, and St. John—instead of having a German gun as a trophy will wear the badge of failure. The response should be such as to remove all doubts about the interest of the people in the success of the loan. Applications for bonds should pour in for the balance of the week.

The playground movement received another impetus yesterday at meetings of the Playgrounds Association and the South End Improvement League. The campaign for organization of clubs and organizations under the A. A. U. of C. is also progressing. The Atlantic Recreations Club with five hundred members, and the active part taken by cotton mill employees in sport during the past season are unmistakable signs of a great coming revival in amateur sport in St. John.

The Prince of Wales received a hearty welcome in Washington yesterday, and it goes without saying that the American people will be charmed by his open and frank nature and democratic spirit. They have learned since the late war began that England is a true democracy, and that the old notions about kings and autocrat government in that country must be discarded. The Prince's visit will further cement Anglo-American unity.

Would you believe it? The Chatham World says of the recent assembly of political bear-cats: "It was the liveliest convention, with the largest percentage of strong men of independent views, ever held in New Brunswick." There were three independents, anyhow, and the Globe says seven—all members of the legislature.

The farmers give notice that there are now three parties in parliament at Ottawa, and that the third will have a leader and a policy. This will add to the worries of the government during the recess.

The situation in regard to Russia is such as to keep everybody at this distance guessing. It can hardly be believed, however, that the allies would negotiate with Lenin and Trotsky.

St. John people should buy Victory bonds for the soldiers' sake. The latter did their duty, 100 per cent. The people at home should do no less.

Have you bought as large a Victory bond as you can afford? Every purchase helps the country and will benefit St. John.

Moncton is mentioned as a station on one of the proposed aerial service routes in Canada. Enterprising Moncton will soon be a great city.

A Victory bond should be very attractive to every small investor who can afford to buy.

If you did not buy a Victory bond last night, do it today.

#### LEST WE FORGET.

Moved in the legislature by Dr. Campbell, St. John, seconded by Dr. Crockett: Strike out the words after the second recital (in the government resolution) and substitute therefor the following:

And whereas, the house has heard the statement of the said Hon. James A. Murray in respect of the findings in said report that the purchase and disposal of the potatoes was attended with neglect of duty or incapacity on the part of the minister of the department of agriculture.

And whereas, the house has also heard the statements of George B. Jones and J. B. M. Baxter as to their connection with the matter contained in said report:

And whereas, the house is assured that there was no intentional wrong done on the part of the minister of said department, or said George B. Jones, or the said J. B. M. Baxter, and that no monetary benefit accrued to any of them therefrom;

Therefore resolved, that this house records its sense of regret that greater care was not exercised in the purchase of the potatoes, and deprecates the effort made to suppress the facts and circumstances surrounding the matter instead of the making of a full and candid statement in relation thereto.

The Premier of Italy has laid down the fundamentals for reconstruction in Italy in these words: "Maintain order at every cost; work more intensely; consume less; produce more. No other choice is open."



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

#### THE FROSTY MORNING.

The world outdoors is white with frost, at morning, when I leave the hay, and I, regardless of the cost, put up a glad and brave hooray. The frost is gleaming on the hills, and glittering along the vales; the dov should put it up in pills, the druggist weigh it on his scales. I praise it in the highest terms; it is more precious than our rolls; for it is the stuff that kills the germs, and makes the microbes hunt their holes. A mortal loses all his pep when blistered by a summer sun; he toils along with weary step, and feels as though he weighed a ton. A slight exertion makes him groan, he's always in a grouchy mood; in every sinew, every bone, he feels a heasty lassitude. But when the autumn frost appears, and eager winds his whiskers nip, he rolls his shirt-tails over his ears, and looks for some one he may whip. The languor of the summer time, no more oppresses him when he'd climb around the town on busy feet. In August I am beastly old, as old as graybeards ever are; but when the frost lies on the world, I'm younger than a movie star.

#### CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

#### THE MIGHTY ST. LAWRENCE

Navigation on the St. Lawrence for the season of 1919 is rapidly nearing its end and the big ships that have crowded its wide waters will go to the Atlantic ports for the winter. The province of Quebec has more than 2,500 miles of coast line on the Gulf and river and the ocean tide is felt as far as Three Rivers—400 miles from Belle Isle. The river is estimated to pour 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water into the salt ocean every minute, yet the river water is salt to within thirty miles of Quebec City. Below Quebec the St. Lawrence is from ten to thirty-five miles in width and very deep. It is skirted on the north shore by the Laurentian Mountains rising in some places near the river to a height of 3,500 feet. On the south shore the river is bordered by the high and rugged hills of the Laurentians. After passing Quebec the stream narrows much and becomes shallower. In fact it has been necessary to dredge a deep water channel from that point to Montreal—986 miles from Belle Isle—in order to bring to that city the huge ocean liners now plying in both passenger and freight trade.

The season of navigation on the river varies with the year. Ocean vessels have come up from the sea as early as March 20, but it is usually about the first of May before they appear. After Nov. 25 the task of removing the spurs and bays with their navigation lights is begun, but vessels usually make their last voyages from Montreal about the first of December. Above Quebec the stream freezes thickly every winter. The roads are made on the ice; below that point it seldom is ice covered, but navigation is prevented by the great masses of ice that are carried down the river. Each spring there is much delay and there is no little danger to shipping in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The icebergs that float in the Gulf are the result of ice that has broken off from the icebergs that float in the Gulf.

#### ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

(Written for the Montreal Herald.) Singer whose songs are inspired by the life of our common humanity. Tuned to all chords of our being, brightened with laughter and love; Artless and instant as sunlight, simple and sweet in their melody. Such as have power on the earth, to help, and make wise, and improve.

Thine was the calling to banish despair from thy dusky dominion Over the joy of the world, the hope and the faith of mankind; To lift the lowly sovereign, to sing the song of the Lening and Trotsky.

Now art thou one with the voices whose music is ever abiding, Who sweeten the wine of our gladness, and bedew with the tears of our grief. The dust and the death of our journey, inspiring, uplifting, and guiding. Who strengthen the knees that are feeble, and make tender the souls that are strong.

—J. C. M. Duncan.

#### LIGHTER VEIN

Less Painful Wife—Richard, if you would take care of baby for an hour or two, I am going to have a tooth pulled. Husband—Look here, dear, you mind the baby and I'll get a couple of teeth pulled.—Answers. London.

Sure Silences "Then you never kick about household expenses?" "Nope."

"How's that?" "My wife would tell me to run the house."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Some Show Howson—How was the lecture? Lottis—Fine. Great success. Nearly everybody fell asleep and when they nodded their heads the lecturer thought they were nodding in approval of his speech.

The Reason "That supposed burglar-proof safe I bought for a bargain is a joke." "Maybe that is why the crook cracked it."—Baltimore American.

Sacrificing a Tip. "I am in a great hurry," said the bald-headed man as he climbed into the barber's chair. "Can you cut my hair if I leave my collar on?"

"Sure," replied the barber, as he glanced at the shiny dome, "even if you leave your hat on."—Portland Evening Express.

The fashionable physician had been giving instructions to the young man who was acting for him during a vacation. "I hope everything will be all right," stammered the nervous understudy. "Only I've had so little experience."

"You don't need experience with my patients," said the great man as he grabbed his hat. "They're as simple as A B C. Ask them what they're eating—and stop it. Ask them where they're going for a vacation—and send them somewhere else."

"We'll have to economize this Christmas, my dear." "Yes, but how?" "I've an idea. Let's give your relatives the same kind of cheap gifts we always give my folks."

#### THE FARMER-LABOR ALLIANCE

(Toronto Star.)

Those who have a greater desire to understand than to misrepresent the new forces that have arisen in provincial politics, and which have united in the formation of a government, ought to perceive that the U. F. O. in the country and the Labor party in the cities form the right and left wings of a general movement.

Town and country are both dissatisfied with the politics and politicians they have had. The causes of dissatisfaction have been varied, some of them recent and some dating away back.

If one makes an honest examination of the purposes of the U. F. O. and Labor uprisings, he will find that the two new parties have a great deal in common, in both their constructive and destructive plans.

The main demand of both agriculture and labor is a clear-cut one. They demand that the people shall recover control of public affairs. Both the new parties advocate direct legislation through initiative, referendum, and recall.

What they want is that the elected member shall actually represent the people who elect him, and not become a mere pawn which a party leader can use as he chooses in the game of politics.

They want to see the legislature and parliament restored to that power and authority which they have almost entirely lost—which they lost first to the party caucus, which the caucus lost to the cabinet, and which the cabinet lost to the one-man-leader and the influence and interests with which he might consort.

It is probable that we shall not see much legislation enacted by the initiative and referendum, not many members recalled by their constituents for failure to rightly represent the people who elected them. If the system is right there is no need of the initiative and referendum.

Both the U. F. O. and Labor party advocate proportional representation, another measure which the supremacy of the people in the conduct of public affairs may be ensured. It means that the elector shall have a transferable vote.

Both the U. F. O. and Labor party have long advocated the principle of the single vote for the man who is his first choice, and the men who are his second choice stands no chance of election, he has at least expressed his preference without utterly losing his vote in doing so. His choice among the other candidates is of value, and as many candidates as there are running over larger areas than are used at present the result would be that while majorities would rule in all cases, yet minorities would not be entirely ignored.

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Both farmers and industrial workers feel that their concerns have been subordinated to those of the organized interests. The laborer knows that he is both a producer and a consumer, and the farmer knows that he has interests both as a producer and as a consumer. The coming together therefore of these two forces is the right and left wings of a general movement.

#### WHAT'S SWAT!

(The Nation New York.)

Since mention in the Nation recently of the Island of Yap and allusion to the Akond of Swat, several persons have protested that it was George T. Lanigan who found in this potentate so irresistible a target for humor. They are right, but so is the Nation. (We refrain from adding "as usual.") The truth is that both Lear and Lanigan took a shot at Swat—indeed Lanigan took several. Whenever Swat got into the news he could no more resist another poem than a small boy can resist another dish of ice cream. (If nobody knows it) at a church. Undoubtedly, probably Lanigan's best known effort is "The Akond of Swat," which begins:

What, what what, What's the news from Swat? Sad news, Bad news,

Come by the cable led, Through the Indian Ocean's bed, Through the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and the Med.

The Akond is dead! Thus for several verses through to the succinct and sufficient concluding couplet:

The great Akond of Swat Is not!

Lear called his verses: "The Akond of Swat!" and began in this wise: "Who, or why, or which, or what is the Akond of Swat?"

Is he tall or short, or dark, or fair? Does he sit on a stool or a sofa or chair, or squat?

The Akond of Swat After asking a score more questions, frank and direct as those attributed to Wu Ting-fang, when he was Chinese

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(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The special committee of the Board of Education appointed to decide upon a business manager to supervise the administrative departments of the board met yesterday afternoon, and after about two hours deliberation unanimously chose City Architect William W. Pearce to fill the position. The salary of the new business manager will be \$8,000 a year.

It is the intention to allow the new business manager to select his own chiefs of departments, though the names will have to be secured by the endorsement of the board before the appointments are made. The business manager, himself, will assume direct control of the building department, but he will also supervise all other departments except those directly concerned with the tutorial work. In order to properly supervise some years studying architecture in this city he went to New York. There he perfected himself in steel structural

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