

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 3, 1924

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., D. McKenna, President.
Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.
The Times has the largest circulation of any paper in the Maritime Provinces.
Special Advertising Representative—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 35 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association bldg.
The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

A PLEASANT WINTER

The winter now drawing to a close has been one of the most agreeable in the matter of weather conditions this province has enjoyed for very many years. It has been in such striking contrast to the preceding winter, with its long and constant severity and heavy storms, that the difference has been a continual source of surprise and satisfaction. The month of February was quite unlike the same month in former years, so few were the storms and so agreeable the winter temperature. While it is true that there must always be a large consumption of fuel in our winters, yet in the season now closing there was much less difficulty in keeping up the temperature of the home and the office. Never have the young people had more enjoyment of outdoor activities. The farmers have had enough snow to enable them to do their winter cutting and hauling without being disturbed by huge drifts of snow, or alternating snow and rain. The lumbermen have been enabled to carry on their operations with exceptional ease, in a season when there was a great quantity of trees to be cut as a result of the ravages of fire and the spruce bud-worm. Altogether the winter of 1923-24 has been one to be fixed in memory as quite exceptional in its lack of extremes in temperature and of the storms that block traffic. Now March has come in with a delightful mildness; and, while the period of storm cannot yet be regarded as quite past, the thoughts of all are turned toward spring and its activities.

THE FIGURES SPEAK

A study of the vital statistics compiled by the New Brunswick Department of Health reveals some very interesting facts. The most interesting is the contrast between the birth-rates of English and French speaking counties. In Gloucester County, for example, there were 223 births in November and December last, compared with only 208 in the five counties of Albert, Charlotte, Kings, Queens and Sunbury. There were 62 births more in Gloucester County in those two months than in the City and County of St. John. It is worth while to quote from Prevention, the bulletin issued by the Health Department, the number of births, marriages and deaths in each county for the two months under review:

	B.	M.	D.
Albert	25	4	8
Charlotte	71	33	27
Charlotte	64	39	33
Gloucester	223	19	81
Kent	121	22	45
Madawaska	111	12	34
Northumberland	166	40	66
Queens	44	11	17
Restigouche	131	40	47
St. John	162	72	140
Sunbury	22	4	9
Victoria	60	48	20
Westmorland	219	74	84
York	91	9	40

Taking the towns separately, we find the number of births for the two months as follows:—St. John, 141; Moncton, 94; Campbellton, 38; Fredericton, 36; Chatham, 24; Edmundston, 20; St. Stephen, 16; Sackville, 15; Marysville, 14; Woodstock and Newcastle, 13 each; Bathurst, 12; Sussex, 8; Devon, 7; Dalhousie, Grand Falls and Shediac, 6 each; Milltown, 5; St. George, 3; Hartland and Sunny Brae, 2 each; St. Andrews, none. Not only were there no births in St. Andrews in the two months, but only one marriage and only four deaths. Milltown had five births, two marriages and three deaths; St. George, three births, seven marriages and no deaths; Hartland, two births, three marriages and no deaths; Dalhousie, six births, no marriages and one death; Sunny Brae, two births, three marriages and one death.

Taking the gross returns for the whole province for the two months we find by the figures presented in the bulletin that the number of births, marriages and deaths was below the average for four years past. Thus:—

	B.	M.	D.
Totals, Nov. 1923	762	269	851
Average, 4 years	804	304	405
Totals, Dec. 1923	825	220	304
Average, 4 years	804	230	418

That the number of deaths recorded in November and December last was 168 less than in the corresponding two months in 1922 is a source of gratification, and may be attributed to greater attention to public health and better control of epidemics by the Health Department. It is not gratifying, however, to see a falling off in the number of marriages and births. Not only has the province lost many people by migration, but the natural increase appears to be declining.

It is well that the province has a system of vital statistics, which is recognised at Ottawa as the most carefully compiled in Canada, for it enables the people to take stock of the human resources of New Brunswick and note the tendency of growth or the reverse. Of course the figures given would not be expected to be accurate to the last

figure, but they are so nearly so that they give the people a clear knowledge regarding the matters with which they deal. Dr. Melvin's work in this department is therefore of the very highest value. If the showing is such as to impress upon the public mind the vital need of such improvement in material conditions as will enable the province to hold its natural increase in population and bring in others to help bear the burden of taxation and develop our resources it will have served a great purpose.

PARLIAMENT

The contents of the Speech from the Throne at Ottawa has given rise to interesting speculation. It shows a distinct movement on the part of the Government toward the Progressive policy, without, however, indicating the extent of the departure from its attitude of last session. The Progressive leader, Hon. Robert Forke, has declared that, if the Government lives up to the programme indicated in the Speech his party will lend its support, in which case there would be no reason to talk about the probability of an appeal to the people this year. The Conservatives appear to have been taken somewhat by surprise by the contents of the Speech and the comment of Mr. Forke, which bid fair to falsify their predictions of an early general election; but they will join issue on the tariff question, and are described as being in a militant mood, greatly fortified by the triumph of their party in Ontario and the result of the Halifax and Kent by-elections. No doubt an amendment to the address will be moved, and it is said an attack may be made on the Solicitor General and Minister of Labor, in connection with Home Bank affairs. The Liberals are said to be more confident than they were before the House met, and the Speech from the Throne is described from their standpoint as good tactics, because it promises a balanced budget and some other things its opponents have been demanding in their public addresses through the country. The debate which is resumed today will give the country a clearer knowledge of the attitude of all the party leaders, and will undoubtedly be of a very lively nature.

The published correspondence between Premiers MacDonald and Poirer is refreshing in its frankness and apparent good-will. The British Premier sets forth the British viewpoint in clear language, and makes no attempt at diplomatic concealment. The Premier of France expresses his appreciation of the message and in behalf of France disclaims what some people in Great Britain have feared. Both Premiers express a desire for an amicable discussion as soon as the report of the reparations experts is submitted, and if the United States would not manifest an interest in the affair the clouds that hang low over Europe would soon be dispelled. The British Premier has borne himself well thus far in his treatment of foreign affairs.

Attorney General Daugherty having refused to resign, and challenged the Senate at Washington to investigate his department, that body has appointed a committee to do so, and a lively time is promised. It is evident that President Coolidge believes the Attorney General can show a clear sheet in the matter of his administration.

The total value of fur pelts taken in Canada last year was \$16,761,567. The prices ran from seven cents for a rabbit skin to \$112.90 cents for that of a silver fox. Muskrat led all others in the number of pelts taken and the total value. The number was \$3,461,611 and the value \$5,077,886. The white fox came next in value, at \$3,015,848.

MEDICAL COOKERY.

(New York Times.)
The University of Paris has set up an Institute of Alimentary Hygiene, and in it professors from the Pasteur Institute lecture to students who have already taken medical degrees.
The courses are not in the least theoretical. The laboratory method is followed. One reads that sauces are compounded "with scientific accuracy," and all sorts of dishes are prepared with such seriousness and thoroughness as one would expect from a learned profession. The whole seems to be a hopeful new departure from weighing out calories and working out the proper percentage of vitamins and so on. For most people ordered to "go on a diet" medical cookery has been a rather depressing affair. It has seemed to consist too much in trying to make people eat brim without knowing it. But there would be cheer for the weakest stomach if this new French theory of making food attractive as well as nourishing were to be widely applied. One can imagine the gusto with which a patient would sit down to a full-course French dinner and meet all manner of delicious temptations by the assurance, "Doctor's orders, my dear fellow."

Press Comment

A SELF-CONTAINED EMPIRE

(Auckland, N. Z., Weekly News.)
When Mr. Baldwin contends that the Empire should be independent of outside sources for raw cotton, sugar and tobacco, he enters a phase of contemplation where all the Empire can join hands in enthusiastic advocacy. The Empire may never become entirely self-contained, but that is no reason why intelligent efforts should not be devoted to making it as nearly so as possible.

WHERE ECONOMY SHOULD BEGIN

(La Presse.)
"It is, of course, an excellent thing to preach strict economy at Ottawa. The need is manifest. But it is the boundless knowledge that, in the matter of economy, the most urgent need lies in the provinces of the West. The first economy to be exercised seems to us to directly concern the governments of those provinces, for there the taxpayers are suffering more than others under a burden of provincial taxation."

THE ARTFUL DODGER

(Brandon Sun.)
The late Sir William Mackenzie used to tell a story of the method he and his partner devised to stay an epidemic of expenses for damages to cows on their railroads. The farmers caused the two railroad builders much annoyance by actions when their cows were killed. Mackenzie and Mann started suit first the next time a cow was killed, claiming damages for a broken cow-catcher, and they won the case. The farmers thereafter were more careful with their cattle.

THRIFT AND PLEASURE

(Thrifty Magazine.)
The practice of consistent thrift does not mean the elimination of all pleasure. This would indeed be a dreary world if it were necessary to forego all pleasure in order to go ahead. However, to those who have their own best interest at heart there can be no genuine pleasure in any practices that are harmful. It is also to be borne in mind that there is pleasure in the performance of daily duties, in the knowledge that we are doing our share of the world's work, that we are filling our own place in the plan of destiny.

To make progress, to get ahead in the world is perhaps the greatest pleasure to those who are truly thrifty. But even the frivolous and the pleasure-loving to those who are fond of them, although in many instances such pleasures will be paid for in future unhappiness.

A study of pleasure should bring us to the conclusion that real pleasure is that which brings no harmful effect or reaction.

COOLIDGE ENDORSED

(New York Herald.)
The Senate resolution demanding that Secretary Denby be ousted met at the White House the quick and severe chastisement its impertinence deserved. President Coolidge's statement on the subject, flung instantly back, leaves the resolution as flat as a pancake. Some of the "Washing-ton" reporters refer to it as "denfance" of word. There is no defiance in the act of a man who repels a trespasser. The Senate, or a majority of it, having been caught in the act of trespassing upon the powers and responsibilities of the Executive, Mr. Coolidge put the intruders off the premises.

The resolution had two sides to be considered. One was the justice of it, the other was the propriety of it. As for the first, there was no justice in the document. It was in effect the condemnation of a public officer without trial. It used the phrase "fraud and corruption," but no evidence has been shown of either "fraud or corruption" that is known of Denby's connection with the oil scandal is that he transferred the oil reserves to the Interior Department and consented to the sale of the oil. Whether there was moral turpitude on his part remains to be seen; the President's inquiry will determine. The Senators behind the Denby resolution may have believed that the President would play politics—as they themselves were playing politics—and that Denby would be a weak man, but it was not a weak man to whom the Senate resolution addressed itself.

HEALTH INSURANCE

(Vancouver Sun.)
Vancouver medical men are taking considerable interest in the question of public health insurance. There is no doubt, such a measure should be brought into existence without delay because it conforms with the principle that prevention of disease is infinitely preferable to the curing of disease. The fact that it is better for them to employ legal advice to keep them out of law, than to employ legal advice to get them out of law. Similarly the public will have to learn that it is better to employ advice that will teach people how to live than to employ advice that will drag them back from the jaws of death once they are sick.

The medical profession is not wholly to blame because its resources have been employed for curing rather than for preventing. The public has always shown an extreme reluctance to seek medical advice except in cases of dire necessity. But where the medical profession is to blame is in its failure to recognize that its business concerns the science of living rather than the science of curing. Had medical men been alive to their opportunities and developed their business the same as other lines of business have been developed, they would have shown an ability to avail themselves of the great power of publicity with the idea of rendering the maximum good to the maximum number.

Why should a nerve specialist, for instance, not be able to advertise his ability to keep people's nerves adjusted instead of waiting until those nerves are frayed and ragged to the point where people have to come to him? The same principle applies to all branches of health preservation.

Health insurance will be of high importance to the public, because as a matter of financial necessity it will place upon some organized body the responsibility of maintaining the health of the community. It will make prevention of disease an economic necessity.

DROWNED LIGHTS

(Edith M. Thomas.)
Night—and the rain—and the emptied street!
Another city there was—how strange That I know it best in an hour like this:
Night—and the rain—and the emptied street!
No light in my room, at the window I stand;
I look on the scene below,
Yet note how each watchful lamp in the line
Drops a long luster of wavering gold
That neverward sinks in the rain black pave—

Night—and the rain—and the emptied street!
But now is the emptied streets as a stream.
Deep—Acheronian—buried from Time,
Where eddies a bark with a feral torn,
And, within myself, I harken a call:
Let one go down on that sunken stream
And visit the years that are gone—
That are lost.
Years of the good gay city I knew,
When the feet of my friends rang out
On the pave,
Hope-gold from feasts that were crowned
Of the laurel wreath for one who sang,
With many a jest in tribute was paid;
And all stepped forth from the lighted door.

While merrily dropped the midnight chimera,
Night—and the rain—and the emptied street!
Yet was it so strange that their voices I heard
Come up from the tide of the buried years?
("See you tomorrow"—"Take care of yourself!")
And was it so strange that their faces
Paces that in another dissolved,
Yet were (as I loved them) the lights
That were drowned?
Night—and the rain—and the emptied street!

LIGHTER VEIN

Golden Wedding
Ephraim had put on a clean collar and his best coat, and was walking majestically up and down the street.
"Aren't you working today, Ephraim?" asked one of his acquaintances.
"No, suh. 'Iae celebratin' my golden weddin', suh."
"You were married 50 years ago today?"
"Yes, suh."
"Well, you isn't your wife helping you to celebrate it?"
"My celebratin' wife, suh," replied Ephraim, with dignity. "Ain't got nothin' to do with it. She's de do' to."

FOUND VULTURE WHICH BARKS

Many Curious Animals and Fish Discovered in Brazil.

A vulture that barks like a dog, a flat fish something like the plaice but equipped with a nasty poison spike, and vampire bats galore are among the attractions reported by Captain S. C. Bullock, M. C., in a paper which he read before the Royal Geographical Society in London, as having been encountered in his expedition last year to the Tocantins and Araguaya River regions of Northern Brazil.

One of the members of the expedition, which traveled in a twenty-five-foot steam yacht taken out from England, was bitten by one of the vampire bats and difficulty was experienced in stopping the bleeding. The bat is said to frequently attack humans and animals and is found in considerable numbers in the region.
The arara, as the flat plaice-like fish is called, lives in still waters and any one bathing or walking in the water is very apt to have a foot pierced by the sharp spike with which it is equipped. The tail of the fish averages about six inches in length, and half-way along this tail is the spike, which contains a kind of poison. Natives of the district were ready with tales of many having died from the poisoned wound of an arara. The fish raises the spike perpendicularly when he senses danger.
"At one camp in this district," said Captain Bullock, "a large bird, quite new to us, was encountered, like a vulture, having five talons on each foot and one talon or spike on the middle joint of the wings, which measure nearly six feet from tip to tip. The bird is black, except for the breast and under side of the wings.
"Locally it is called 'juma' and it makes a noise very much like a dog barking. It is generally found near a lake and when frightened it takes refuge in a tree."

Captain Bullock told of an incident at one place where some waterhogs were encountered at a lagoon a short distance from the river. Two of them were shot and one fell into the water. The water was too shallow to cover the animal, and before the party could get to it, the piranha fish began to eat it, jumping right out of the water and onto the waterhog's back in their haste to do so. Northern Brazil abounds in curious birds, beasts and fish, according to Captain Bullock.

THE BRITISH SAILOR

No. 247 St. George St.,
West St. John, N. B.,
Feb. 20, 1924.
To the Editor of The Times-Star:
Sir,—Recently I saw in your paper some comment on the sailors who were in the city, and to my regret, it was not of the best nature, so if you will publish this small item taken from the paper which is known all over the British Empire, "The Sailors and Firemen," it may enlighten a few of the landlubbers. I take the following from a San Francisco paper:

"The Sailor and the Cop."
"On the evening of Jan. 20, 1922, a child fell in a fit in Market street, at a time when the street was crowded with traffic. (Some of my readers will know what this means). The traffic officer went to render assistance, so did a smart young petty officer from the British cruiser 'Raleigh,' the sailor offered to take the child to the hospital. 'No,' said the cop, 'I'll take her.' 'Right,' said the sailor, 'I'll keep your job for you till you come back,' and he walked over to the wooden block between the car lines and took control of the traffic. He did it well too. A great crowd gathered and watched, but the sailor never batted an eyelash, it was all in a day's work. The admiring crowd stood amazed, soon a mounted traffic officer turned up. He touched the sailor on the shoulder, 'Who detailed you here,' he snapped. The sailor explained. 'Well,' said the cop, 'you make yourself conspicuous by your absence.' The local paper concluded by saying, 'The sailor who had tried to do what he conceived to be his duty and a courtesy to the city in which he was a guest, got out, courteously and well.'"

That is a British sailor all over, he will always do his duty, whether he is appreciated or not is no concern of his. I wish to draw to the attention of the landlubbers that some of these sailors who have been up against hard times are the very men who in 1914-1918 helped to escort the Canadian troops over to the Old Country for the sum of 2-1 per day to \$6c, so you cannot put a stop to misfortune. "Live and let live."
P. S. The H. M. S. "Raleigh" was off the coast of Labrador last year.

S. J. BAILEY.

MRS. AURACHER WINS DIVORCE

Wife of Composer Charges Desertion in Chicago Court.
Chicago, Mar. 3.—On the ground that her husband, Harry R. Auracher, New York Impresario and musical composer, placed her at home above her, Mrs. Auracher, a leader in Evanston society, was granted a divorce by Judge Wilson. The couple were married in 1913 and lived in Evanston for some years, when Auracher left for New York, promising, his wife said, to send for her later. The decree was granted on a charge of desertion.
Mrs. Auracher testified that her husband wrote her he dreamed a renewal of "married life routine."

THIS LADY SAYS

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Mrs. David Thompson, West River St., Paris, Ont., writes: "I cannot speak too highly of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.
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Also for myself, and the other children, I can find nothing to equal it, in fact, it was only a short time ago that I gave it to my ten months old baby, and could immediately see the difference it made in her. Now, I always keep Norway Pine Syrup in the house as I feel there is nothing to equal it."
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N. S. WOMAN DIES FROM GAS BURNS

New Glasgow, N. S., March 2—Mrs. H. M. Andrews died at her home in Stellarton early this morning as the result of burns sustained last night, when she attempted to pour some gasoline on the furnace fire, which was low. There was a sharp explosion and the unfortunate woman was horribly burned, surviving the accident but a few hours.

TINIEST OF FOUR BIGGEST GAINER

Little Edith May, the smallest of the Mahoney quadruplet babies made

each of the four acquired some more weight, even if it did take careful measurements to calculate just how much. John Douglas, the only boy, is having a strenuous time keeping pace with his biggest sister Lydia Christine, but he just managed to equal her weight on Saturday. He had gained three-quarters of an ounce and she had gained half an ounce, and they both tipped the scales at seven pounds

by far the largest gain last week, and 1-4 ounces. Edna Louise gained three quarters of an ounce and had four pounds, 14 ounces to her credit. Edith May once more entered the four pound class and pulled down a weight of four pounds 1-12 ounces. She had gained 2-14 ounces. The babies have been put on a new diet and appear to like it. They were all reported thriving well yesterday.

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