

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 7, 1913.

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 \$2.00 per year, by mail \$2.50 per year in advance.

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

Special Representatives—Frank E. Northrup, Brunswick Building, New York; Advertising Building, Chicago.

British and European representatives—The Clougher Publishing Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar Square, England, where copies of this journal may be seen and to which subscribers intending to visit England may have their mail addressed.

Authorized Agents—The following agents are authorized to canvass and collect for The Evening Times: H. Cecil Robinson, Miss J. L. Barter, Miss Helen W. Hallett.

ST. JOHN'S PROSPECTS

While the whole country is complaining about the tightness of money, and while this stringency has undoubtedly checked or delayed some local enterprises, St. John has little reason to be discouraged over the outlook. Indeed, so many important projects are now well under way here, and so great an amount of money will be placed in circulation during the next year or two, this city is almost certain to experience better times than at any previous period of its history.

Let us make a comparison. Tight money, if it lasts more than a few months, will certainly affect British Columbia quite as much if not more than New Brunswick. Yet Victoria, which not long ago was one of the quietest not to say "deadest" communities in Canada, is now getting into its stride, and is confidently anticipating continued rapid growth and prosperity. Certain federal improvements to be made in Victoria are so similar to those already begun in St. John that it is worth while to examine the reasons given by the Victoria Colonist for the optimism now prevalent in the British Columbia capital. The Colonist of that city says:

"During the last fourteen months projects for the development of Greater Victoria have been inaugurated by the Dominion which will involve the expenditure during the next four years of at least \$12,000,000 for which appropriations to the amount of \$2,000,000 have been voted and are now available for expenditure. But it is not only the amount of money that is a subject for congratulation. It is what these projects signify. Again we may state the case in a sentence. They signify that Greater Victoria is to be fitted to become a great commercial city, a great ship-building centre, a greater naval headquarters than it ever has been. The people of Victoria have a broad vision of the fitness of this city and have pressed upon the government claims in keeping therewith, and we are able to record the remarkable fact that every one of these claims has been met promptly and liberally. These are things for which Victoria is deeply grateful. They have inspired the people with a new and well-founded spirit of optimism; they form a basis upon which we can safely construct an edifice of prosperity."

These reasons for optimism appear to be sound, and, if they are, it is well for us to remember that St. John is to benefit by quite as large an expenditure of federal money as Victoria, and that we are much better situated with relation to the world's markets and to the highways of commerce than the British Columbia city. This is the winter gateway of the country, and we are on the ocean highway to Europe, which maintains the greatest purchasing population in the world, while Victoria faces Asia and is remote from the populous parts of Canada and the United States, having a long rail haul more costly than water carriage from St. John to Liverpool, France or Germany.

There is a reason to anticipate any serious check to St. John's progress. With the coming of the direct mail ships, with the completion of new railways now almost finished, and with the completion of our harbor facilities and the growth of manufactures giving employment to additional population, this city has every reason to face the future with high hope.

THE COST

Great Britain spent last year \$189,000,000 on its army and \$220,427,000 on its navy.

The United States spent last year on its army, which is a very small one, \$90,000,000, and \$4,000,000 on fortifications, not to speak of \$123,000,000 on its navy. Many clever American politicians have attempted to explain to the peaceful people of that country just why the United States finds it necessary to spend almost \$220,000,000 a year on military and naval preparation and maintenance, but no one of the explanations has ever been any more satisfactory than the late General Homer Lea's book, "The Valor of Ignorance" in which he asserted that Japan could whip the United States before breakfast, or at all events before dinner time.

National pride is one of the reasons for this expenditure, and the unfortunate possession of the Philippines is another, but more powerful than either of these causes has been the profit made by the men who build battleships, who make guns and ammunition, and who maintain at Washington a lobby which talks continually of foreign complications and is for ever advocating a big-

ger army and a bigger navy and the erection of forts at supposed points of danger on either sea coast. With wealth that can scarcely be estimated, with a country furnishing almost every form of resources needed by human beings, with Mexico on the South and Canada on the North, and an ocean on either side, the United States, above all countries, could afford to set the world an example of peace and sanity. Its population is so large and its national revenue so great that even \$200,000,000 a year does not strike the popular mind as much of a burden. This is unfortunate, because it renders more difficult the work of keeping national policies within reasonable bounds.

And yet, even in the United States, where politicians exercise a peculiar fascination upon the average elector, signs are not wanting that the public mind is beginning to turn against wasteful expenditure in preparation for wars that will never come, or in anticipation of policies of imperialism which will never take practical form.

Now that the United States has begun definitely to turn its back upon greater influence in the national legislature. The reign of President Wilson and of Secretary of State Bryan will tend strongly to check the movement toward increasing expenditure on the army and navy. It is Mr. Bryan's ambition to gain reputation as the leading advocate of universal peace, and certainly President Wilson, a far more powerful figure, will throw his influence in that praiseworthy direction. It is to be expected that within the next few years both the United States and Canada will give the world a strong impetus toward the discouragement not only of war, but of ruinous competition in the matter of armaments. Fortunately, recent events in Europe indicate that good work along this line will not lack for seconds in Britain, in Germany, and in France.

Canadians who are still affected by "war-scars" should read our special London cable of this morning and its analysis of British Liberal opinion on the naval situation as it now stands.

The St. John school board will be congratulated upon its decision to introduce medical inspection in the schools next year. This is a reform which has long been needed and which, when it is understood, will receive warm public support. Medical inspection is all the more necessary where there is compulsory attendance.

"It is a thousand pities that the minister of marine did not accept the tender of Cammell Laird & Co. If he had ratified the contract which we left ready for his signature, ships of the Canadian fleet would now be under construction in St. John." Hon. William Pugsley in the House of Commons yesterday.

"If the people of Canada were in favor of the contribution the government could easily arrange to have it sent. All that the government has to do is to appeal to the people. If they are returned they can introduce this bill and it will be carried without opposition in either house. The whole thing could be done and the money placed in the hands of the British admiralty within six weeks, long before Mr. Churchill could arrange to lay down the keels of the three ships in England." — From Dr. Pugsley's closing speech.

But Mr. Borden will not go to the people. He fears their decision. Yet what excuse can he give for refusing to consult them. In that way only can he avoid delay. By his own plan he is inviting delay. His anxiety to avoid an election is the most conspicuous point in his position today.

The Academic Recorder says that the batch of senators appointed by Mr. Borden since 1911 are by no means ready to be abolished. It adds:

"The Senate cannot be reformed, deformed, maimed, gagged or throttled by Canadian legislation. Neither is there the slightest chance of the Imperial parliament amending the North America Act without first being assured of a consensus of opinion in Canada. Our Tory friends are merely excited. They are sore, distressed, disappointed, and in bitterness of soul they 'rage and imagine a vain thing.' Too many of Mr. Borden's hard worked and overburdened friends, followers, parasites, and hangers on are now enjoying or looking forward to enjoying the 'chimney neck of ease' in the Upper Chamber, to permit of institution being interfered with to any serious extent. The 'heroes triumphant' will not do so, and 'heroes expectant' will not destroy their Valhalla beforehand. It is all amusing, nothing more."

Bridgetown Notes

Bridgetown, N. S., June 7.—The college students are at their homes enjoying the vacation. Miss Jessie Hartt, formerly of St. John, now of this town, was successful in leading her class, and secured first prize in the normal course of the Baptist church on the 10th inst.

The marriage of Miss Muriel Lochett and H. A. Whitman of Saskatchewan, a prominent lawyer, will take place in the Baptist church on the 10th inst. G. E. Hartt has removed his stock to Digby and will conduct a mink clothing business there.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SATURDAY, JUNE SEVENTH

This is the natal day of the Hon. George H. Murray, premier of Nova Scotia, who is fifty-two years of age today. He was born at Grand Narrows, N. S., and is a barrister by profession. He entered the legislature as a legislative councillor in 1889 and on two occasions attempted unsuccessfully to enter the House of Commons. Since 1896 he has been premier of the province, succeeding the Hon. W. S. Fielding.

SUNDAY, JUNE EIGHTH

His Honor Douglas Colin Cameron, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, celebrates his fifty-ninth birthday today. He was born in Hawkesbury, Ont., and went to Manitoba in 1880, and entered into the lumber business. He has many financial interests in the west and is rated a millionaire. He has been lieutenant-governor since July, 1911.

LIGHTER VEIN

NOT IN CHURCH

It is the custom of a well-known minister to point his sermons with either "Dear beloved brethren" or "Now, my brothers." One day a lady member of his congregation took exception to this. "Why do you always preach to the gentlemen and never to the ladies?" she asked. "My dear lady," said the beaming vicar, "one embraces the other." "But not in church," was the instant reply.

A country vicar is telling a funny story of an incident that happened in his church the other Sunday. During a sermon a baby began to cry, and its mother immediately picked it up and began to carry it toward the door. "Stop," the vicar exclaimed. "Don't go away. The baby is not disturbing me."

The mother continued her way to the door with the very audible remark: "O! 'e ain't, ain't 'e? But you're a disturbin' of 'im!"

A small boy was sitting on his father's knee watching his mother as she painfully went through the very delicate operation of doing her hair in that most becoming way.

"No waves for you, pa," said the infant philosopher as he fondly polished this parent's hair with his little hands. "You're a beach." — National Food Magazine.

An old German farmer entered the office of a wholesale druggist one morning and addressed the proprietors: "Mister Becker, I haf der schmal-pox."

"Merciful heavens, Mr. Jacobs," exclaimed Becker, "as the office force scrambled over each other in their hurry to get out, 'don't come any nearer.'"

"Vol's der madder mit you fellows, anyhow?" quietly replied Jacobs. "I say I haf der schmal-pox of butter out in mine wagon, vot der Mrs. Becker, or ted last week already." — National Food Magazine.

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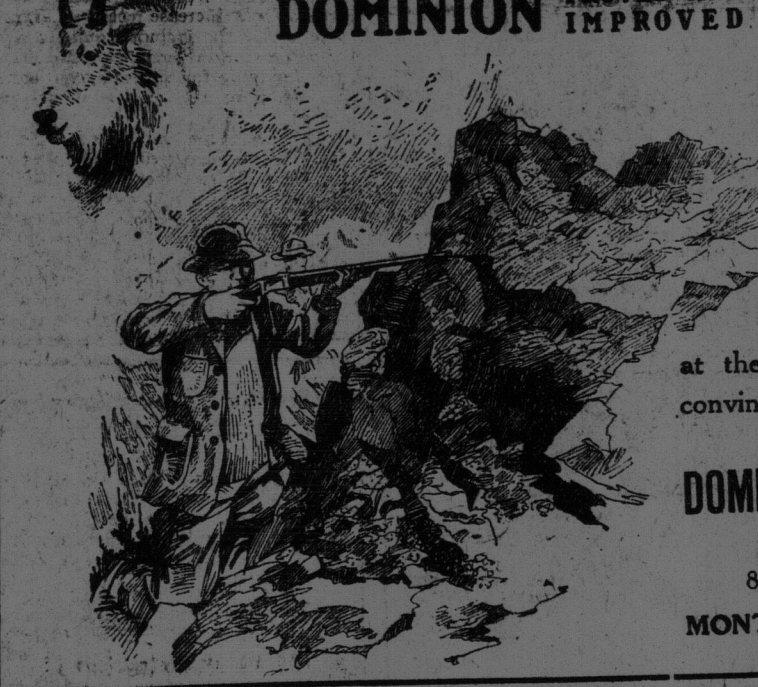
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