

# The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 17, 1917.

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## PUBLIC UTILITIES.

The city of Toronto may take over the franchise of the Street Railway Company in that city. The Toronto News, in an article commenting on a paper by Mr. A. G. Christie of Johns Hopkins University on Public Ownership, recently said:

"His conclusions are of particular use at a time when the city of Toronto approaches the problem of taking over its street railway system. The franchise of the Toronto Railway Company has over three years to run, but it is time that we began to consider ways and means of acquiring and operating the plant. It is clear that the citizens can secure a much better service than that which they now enjoy if they follow the advice laid down by Mr. Christie. It is essential that there be an absolute separation of the management from politics, that the soundest financial and accounting methods be adopted, and that an enlightened public opinion give the project control and constant support. One man competent state commission has been recommended as the most effective working principle."

Commenting on Mr. Christie's article and the significant attitude of the Toronto News, the Canadian Municipal Journal makes this observation:

"That public ownership of all public utilities is bound to come in this northern continent is realized by the interests themselves, who in the east are making all the while the making is good."

If what Mr. Christie and the Toronto News says about the tendency of the times is correct, and the recent history of many American as well as western Canadian municipalities certainly confirms it, then St. John will soon have to face the problem of assuming the control and operation of its public utilities. Public ownership of utilities has proved a great success in England, and there should be a careful study of the English method.

## WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Women voters were early at the polls this morning and the stream continued throughout the day. Undoubtedly a large women's vote will be recorded. This is as it should be, and as it will be to an increasing extent hereafter. Women suffrage on the same basis as the suffrage for men is coming as surely as tomorrow's sun. Only an unreasonable prejudice on the part of the men, who usurped for themselves the franchise, stands in the way. If the union government is returned to power it is pledged to women suffrage, and no government can long withhold the right. The legislature of this province should at the next session reverse its action of last year and give the ballot to the women. Whoever saw them at the polling booths today, voting with intelligence and being treated with the utmost courtesy, must have got rid of any preconceived notions about the inappropriateness of women going to the polls. We have got away from the old days of drunkenness and disorder around the voting place. The people are realizing more fully that the ballot is as sacred as a right, and that what is settled at the ballot box is of intimate personal concern to every citizen. Politics will be cleaner when all the women have the right to vote.

## ONE IN TWENTY.

Whatever the result of today's elections the fact that Canada has not done her share in strengthening the manhood of the Allies stands out so clearly that it cannot be denied or explained away. The Toronto Star puts the case thus:

"People who say that Canada has already 'done enough' and that she cannot spare more men without disorganizing the country, cannot maintain such an argument in the face of comparisons with her Allies. Canada has recruited 440,000 men—recruits, that is, the figures are gross, and include tens of thousands of men afterwards rejected. The men sent overseas or available to go number less than 400,000. Taking that number, however, as Canada's quota to date, it amounts to only about 1 in 20 of the Dominion's population. Comparing this with last summer's figures from other countries, the following statistics are available:

Country	One Soldier Out of
France	7 pop.
Britain	8 pop.
New Zealand	13 pop.
Australia	14 pop.
Canada	20 pop.

The city of Halifax does well to seek the counsel of Mr. Thomas Adams, the town planning expert, and to take such steps as will ensure the rebuilding of the devastated area in accordance with plans looking to the future health and convenience of the dwellers therein. So far as this area is concerned there is a clear field for town-planning along the most modern lines, and the builders should look to the future.

## A HALIFAX APPEAL.

However today's election may result, the following article from the Halifax Chronicle, written under the shadow of an appalling disaster, must appeal to every Canadian:

"It is a primal duty to draw rational instruction from misfortune. Surely, surely the outstanding lesson of this terrible catastrophe will not be overlooked or misapprehended! Has it not been the most convincing of possible object lessons on the horrors of war? Does it not almost seem to have been specially sent to stir all Canada, and Nova Scotia in particular, to the urgent, the all-important duty of doing the utmost in their power to end the appalling conflict which is constantly drawing nearer to ourselves, while daily and hourly inflicting on hundreds of other peaceful communities even worse disasters and sorrows than those which fell to our lot a week ago?"

"Here have we been squabbling like idle boys over petty political questions, over the spites and ambitions of selfish individuals, niggling while our fate is at stake, instead of having, as God knows we should have, but one thought in our minds and one desire in our souls—to do our utmost by any and every means to help to bring about the end of the war, through victory, and thus ensure the future safety of ourselves and humanity. Is it possible, is it conceivable, that we shall continue to be possessed by the demon of partisanship, or allow ourselves longer to be obsessed by the vanities of politicians while the world is torn and quivering with horrors such as Halifax, in a comparatively small way, has at last experienced? Shall we go on dancing to the piping of selfish partisans heedless of all but their own small interests, while our sons, our British brothers and our allies struggle and sweat and bleed and all but despair for their aid and our salvation? God forbid!"

"So that the people may know," the city council has appointed an expert chartered accountant and requested that he be given full opportunity to examine the books of the New Brunswick Power Company. This examination will be of the greatest value. The company possesses extremely valuable franchises, which were granted by the city, and the citizens are therefore deeply interested in the manner in which the public utilities are conducted, and the services rendered. With the information secured by a thorough audit, comparisons may be made which will throw much needed light on the whole subject."

Hon. F. B. Carvell lost no time in getting down to business in the matter of erecting the destroyed public works in Halifax. He told the country very bluntly that he had no money for any but the most necessary public works until the war is over; but the Halifax disaster is a war loss, and the work of restoration a national necessity. Hence Mr. Carvell cancelled his political meetings, went to Halifax, and set the machinery in motion. The railway and marine departments heartily co-operated, and the work will be pushed forward with all possible speed.

At a convention of the Anti-Saloon League of America, held last week in Washington, we are told, prominent prohibition advocates from "dry" states told of the good effect prohibition has had in their communities. Former Governor Harris of Georgia cited many benefits in his state, and concluded by saying he wanted to be a part of the campaign to make the nation dry. Senator Jones of Washington told of a lessening of crimes and other evils in his state, and said the jails were losing their occupants and the asylums were more sparsely occupied.

The Bolsheviks have been so successful in Russia that the Allied governments are apparently disposed to recognize the new administration. Wonders will never cease. Russia, however, is out of the war, and as to the internal affairs of the country the Bolshevik foreign minister hints at the use of the guillotine to reduce the number of his active opponents.

Col. House, head of the American mission to London and Paris, has returned home and says the morale of soldiers and people is splendid, and that "their determination to win without thought of the cost is admirable."

The month of December thus far this year has been far more wintry than the average for many years. The coal bin as well as the thermometer tells the story.

"We have either got to win, or we have got to lose all, and in this matter, of course, there is no east and there is no west; but there is one united Canada, which is going to stand for right and for freedom."—Prof. Day.

As long as the war lasts there will be danger of damage to Canadian ports and cities. Therefore Canada should throw her whole energy into the war.

## HERZOG AND PRATT TO FIGURE IN TRADES

### Former Wants to Get Away From Giants—Yankees After Pratt

New York, Dec. 14.—Charles Herzog, second baseman of the New York Giants, sought out Humpstead after the National League meeting and informed him he did not want to play next season with the Giants. He expressed a preference for Cincinnati, Boston or Chicago, and some deal for him probably will be made.

There is a possibility that Del. Pratt, second baseman with the St. Louis Americans, may be traded to New York before the end of the week. Col. Rupert of the Yankees, said that he was prepared to offer cash or players for him. Pratt has a \$100,000 suit, alleging libel, pending against President Ball of the St. Louis club, and is known to be anxious to play elsewhere.

## NEWS OF OUR SOLDIERS

### Major "Jack" Mackenzie Declines Headquarters Position—St. John Men Mentioned in Despatches

Word has been received in the city to the effect that Major John A. Mackenzie, D. S. O., of the 26th battalion, had been offered a position on the military headquarters staff in England but declined, preferring to remain at the front. Lieut. David Roderick Eccles of the 62nd Squadron Royal Plying Corps Canadian forces, eldest son of the late Samuel G. and Margaret Eccles of Westfield, died in England recently as the result of an airplane accident. He was only eighteen years old and since the death of his parents had made his home with his uncle, H. W. Crook of Brooklyn. Two St. John men are mentioned in Field Marshal Haig's despatches—Col. C. W. McLean, twice winner of the D. S. O., and Brigadier-General H. Barker, both serving in the Imperial army.

## OPERA HOUSE CROWDED FOR SUNDAY SACRED CONCERT BUT COLLECTION NOT LARGE ENOUGH

The Opera House was crowded to capacity last evening at a sacred concert given in aid of the Halifax sufferers. The programme was prepared by Mrs. A. C. D. Wilson and included some of the city's best talent. Some of those participating were: Mrs. Murray Long, Miss Louise Anderson, DeWitt Calens, Miss Kathryn Gulliver, Miss Gladys Grant, T. Guy, Dr. (Captain) Wilkes and C. A. Munroe, vocal selections; Miss Gladys Gibson, reading; Miss Rhona Lloyd, violin solo; M. Cortwright Ewing and Mrs. Kent Scovill, piano duet; selection by the Opera House orchestra. Two hundred and forty dollars was realized from the collection taken up.

A feature of the evening was an explanation on the part of Commissioner H. R. McLaughlin as to why the sale of tickets had been stopped by the Lord's Day Alliance. He read the communications between those whose names the matter passed, including a telegram sent by Chief Simpson in response to one from the head of the Lord's Day Alliance in Toronto.

Hundreds of people were unable to gain admittance to the Opera House and it was decided to repeat the concert on next Friday evening.



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## LOCAL NEWS

Hon. F. B. Carvell arrived in the city yesterday morning from Halifax, where he has been active in relief work. This morning 2,000 men were to be set to work in Halifax harbor and the work of providing homes for 4,000 people is being rushed.

The annual Christmas exercises were carried out yesterday by the scholars of the Canterbury Memorial church Sunday school. They brought their annual "white gifts for the King." An address was given by the pastor, Rev. H. A. Goodwin. A collection amounting to \$28.45 was taken up for foreign missions and the home department gave \$29.80 to buy meat to send with the Christmas exercise. Miss Vivian Colpitts, Miss Mary Sealy, Rev. J. C. Berrie and Boy Scouts took part in the exercises.

A meeting of the Junior Audubon Society was held in the Natural History rooms on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. J. V. Ellis presided. Miss Grace W. Leavitt presented a paper on the birds of the island who wrote the best essay on bird life, based on their observation last summer. The first prize was won by Elizabeth Whalley, aged eleven years and the second by Edna McElean. Miss Hilda Galley sang, accompanied by Miss Dorothy Waterbury, and Mrs. Minnie Lawrence gave a talk on birds.

A mass meeting of Hebrews of the city was held in the Hazen avenue synagogue yesterday afternoon to organize relief for Halifax sufferers. Rev. Dr. E. Weiner spoke on the need of assistance. A collection amounting to \$400 was taken up and it is expected that this amount will be greatly increased.

## LARGE LOSS IN SUNDAY NIGHT FIRE

Flames seething throughout all four stories of a large brick building on the corner of Mill and Union streets, owned by Messrs. N. W. of St. John and S. H. White of Sussex, and occupied by F. A. Johnston, dry goods, made a spectacular fire scene on Sunday night. Upon the arrival of the fire department it was found that the building was absolutely ablaze and soon afterwards flames began leaping through the roof and front windows. The loss is figured at \$100,000. Fortunately the wind was from the north and the smoke and sparks and flaming particles were blown across the street to the harbor.

The first alarm was rung in by Ronald Smith, a clerk in the store of J. Benson Mahoney. At one time it was thought that Y. W. A. rooms, situated next door, would also take fire, and the girls and women there were ordered out. Some were very lightly clad and took refuge in Mahoney's drug store.

The insurance on the building was estimated at about \$25,000, and \$11,000 of this amount was carried by the Insurance Company of North America, \$5,000; Queen Insurance Company, \$5,000; The stock of F. A. Johnston & Company was valued at \$100,000, and about fifty per cent of this is covered by insurance.

## SEARCHING FOR AEROPLANE WOODS

The extensive utilization of British Columbia spruce for the manufacture of aeroplanes has called into the service of the Imperial Munitions Board a special staff of technical foresters, among whom are H. R. MacMillan and Roland D. Craig, the latter being "loaned" by the Commission of Conservation for an indefinite period.

The president of the Canadian Aeroplane Company, virtually a British government creation, when at the coast recently made a thorough investigation of the possibilities. He said that there were great tracts of spruce in the interior which would exactly meet the required conditions for aeroplane construction. The supply of spruce in eastern Canada was very limited and the manufacturers were compelled to look to the Pacific Coast. Considerable of the material now used comes from Washington, but the preliminary reports as to the suitability of the shipments already made were causing all aeroplane manufacturers to look toward British Columbia. Greater length and greater diameter than is now being supplied is what is sought in spruce for aeroplanes. One British Columbia district from which good reports as to a field of supply had been received, was in the northern section in the Queen Charlotte's and around Swanton Bay.

The Italian government is proposing to use fir as a substitute for spruce in aeroplane manufacture owing to the difficulty of securing spruce of proper size and quality. It is reported that a contract for 25,000,000 feet has been made with Washington lumbermen.

Charles Proffit.

Sincere sympathy is being extended to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Proffit, of 77 Exmouth street, whose five-year-old son Charles died yesterday morning in the St. John Infirmary. He had been placed under chloroform in order that a piece of needle could be removed from one of his hands, and while under the anaesthetic passed away. The funeral will take place on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Proffit.

A choral commemoration of the first seven divisions of the British army which saved the day for the Allies at Mons was held in Albert Hall, London, on Saturday afternoon. Their majesties were present as were several hundred of the original men at Mons.

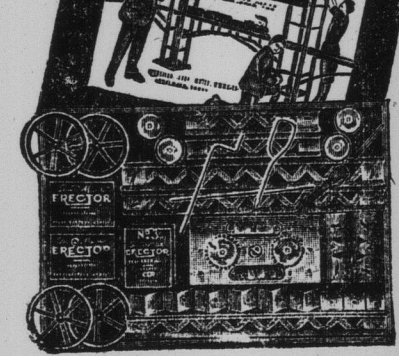
That there was "something erratic going on" aboard the "Imo" was the belief of Pilot Francis McKay stated at the court of inquiry into the collision in Halifax harbor which resulted in the ex-

## Christmas Dainties in Cake and Pastry

Fruit Cake—Pound Cake—Patties—Colonial Cakes—Mince Pies—Washington Pies—Tarts  
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Ivory Handles..... 75c. to \$1.50  
Buckhorn Handles..... 75c. to \$2.50  
Pearl Handles (pen and pocket)..... 45c. to \$7.00  
Scissors (in case)..... \$2.75 to \$5.50  
Manicure Sets..... \$1.50 to \$8.00

**OVAL SERVING TRAYS**  
SPECIAL Oak and Mahogany..... \$1.69 SPECIAL

**PEARL AND CELLULOID TABLE CUTLERY**

English (Celluloid) Dessert and Table Knives, \$4.00 to \$8.50 per doz.  
English (Stainless) Dessert and Table Knives, \$10.50 to \$12.00 per doz.  
Pearl Knives and Forks (in cases)..... \$2.75 to \$8.00  
Celluloid and Pearl Butter Spreaders (in cases)..... \$5.50 to \$6.25  
Rogers Bros.' "1847" Dessert and Table Knives and Forks..... \$6.00 to \$11.00 per doz.

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## BANNER BILL AGAIN AT THE OPERA HOUSE

Vaudeville of High Standard and Gray Ghost Chapter Makes Strong Picture

The programme at the Opera House this week is of the usual high standard and every number is a feature. One of the hits is being made by M. E. Morlin, who is a gifted accordion player. His many selections on this instrument reveal extraordinary talent and he plays with good effect.

Another feature is a dancing number by Jewette and Pendleton. Both wear very pretty costumes and their many steps are captivating. They are graceful and give demonstrations of old-time as well as modern dances. They made a decided hit Saturday and received well merited applause.

Moore and West also gave a pleasing entertainment. In addition to a short sketch brimful of comedy they sang several songs, which evoked hearty applause.

Ward and Francis made a hit with their ragtime songs and their "clever nonsense." An opera medley converted into a ragtime selection made a hit.

The episode of the Gray Ghost was one of the most interesting yet thrown on the screen. It is full of intensely interesting action and the serial is becoming more popular every week.

Rev. Frederick Ellis, rector of St. Martin's Anglican church, Shediac, has resigned. He was formerly stationed at Musquash and St. John.

## PROFITABLE

## SWEET CIDER

Keep your eye on this space, ladies. We use it to keep you posted on our special offerings.

In making up the following list we have carefully studied your needs for the holiday season!

Shelled Walnuts, per lb.....	55	Red Salmon, 1-2 lb.....	20
Shelled Almonds, per lb.....	55	Tuna Fish, 1-2 lb.....	36
Shelled Filberts, per lb.....	55	Spices in shaker top tins.....	10
Shelled Brazil, per lb.....	1.00	1 lb. Block Shortening.....	27
Shelled Pecans, per lb.....	1.10	1 lb. Block Pure Lard.....	32
New Mixed Nuts, per lb.....	25	1 lb. tin Crisco.....	32
New Seed Raisins, per lb.....	25	Hunt's Peaches, 1's.....	20
Seedless Sultan Raisins.....	25	Canadian Peaches, 2's.....	20
Seedless Sultan Raisins.....	25	10 Canadian Peaches, 2's.....	20
Very Fine Home-made Apple Jelly, etc.....	25	4 lbs. Oatmeal.....	36
3 lbs. Gra. Flour.....	25	3 lbs. Gra. Flour.....	25
Cape Cod Cranberries, per qt.....	15	3 lbs. Gra. Cornmeal.....	25
3 pks. Jelly Powder.....	25	60c. Bulk Teas.....	50
2 pks. Lipton Jelly Tablet.....	25	"Special" Fresh Grd. Coffee.....	35
Bulk Cocoa, per lb.....	32	"Crescent" Fresh Grd. Coffee.....	50
Bulk Peanut Butter.....	30	24-1-2 lb. bag Regal Flour.....	1.75
Bulk Thread Coconut.....	35	See our display of fine Chocolates and	
2 pks. Baker's Cocoa.....	25	Creams, hard mixtures, etc.; also stock	
Yacht Club Mayonnaise.....	25	ings from 5c. to \$2.00 each. Crackers	
Red Salmon, 1 lb.....	35	from 25c. to \$1.50 box.	

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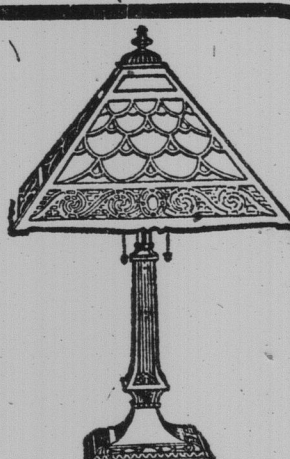
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