

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1914.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

Great interest is being shown in the National Conference on Unemployment which will be held in New York on February 27 and 28, and recent news has put an edge on the purpose of this meeting. A wave of depression seems to have struck with particular force upon the Pacific Coast, and in such cities as Los Angeles and Vancouver conditions have been serious enough. In Regina and Winnipeg there are also evidences of hard times, though opinions differ greatly as to the actual number out of work. The Maritime Provinces have suffered less of all in this respect, though in St. John the question has been vividly brought to our attention by the burning of the Salvation Army shelter.

The problem of the unemployed is usually complicated by the presence of another class—the unemployable. Of these we hear but little when there is a fair measure of prosperity, because the community is ready to carry them without complaint. But when depression comes and provision must be made for those who wish to work and cannot, then the problem of the other class becomes acute. They want both food and shelter, and the difficulty is to provide it without degrading them.

Since the Metropole has been burned the charitable resources of the city have been drawn upon for over one hundred dollars to provide the necessities for these unfortunate, and the end is not yet in sight. It is not a question of the amount which is spent but rather the good accomplished thereby. A municipal or charitable lodging house such as the Salvation Army has been running in this city, where the "work test" can be applied, seems to be the best remedy for the difficulty. Ten years ago the authorities in Massachusetts gave up lodging these people in the almshouses and adopted the municipal lodging house, with the result that there was a decrease of 60 per cent. of the numbers of this class in the country, and 90 per cent. in the towns. A little later a municipal lodging house was established in Chicago and this fact, together with the prohibition of the police station as a lodging place, resulted in the reduction of free lodgings from 92,000 to less than 12,000. This lodging house was able to employ about 30 per cent. of its lodgers.

Experience has taught that these men can be employed as a class by themselves. A few weeks ago the authorities in Toronto undertook to distribute their casual laborers throughout the city, but the results were not very satisfactory. A good number were discharged for loafing on duty, while others were so incapable they were found to be a distinct menace to the safety of other workmen. Evidently the chief stumbling block in the way of the city's new policy was the dislike of many of the men themselves to any sort of continuous work.

It is a hard problem, but not a hopeless one. The irregularities of employment are being gradually overcome. An enlightened charity which refuses to do for a man the things he can do for himself is also a large factor in the case, and above all a sincere attempt to apply the golden rule will do much towards helping those who have lost their riches in the industrial machine to find it once again.

SAFETY AT SEA.

That all evil brings some good in its train is a common axiom the truth of which, though often doubted, is also often proven. Some months ago the whole world was shocked at the tragedy in mid-Atlantic when the noble Titanic, at her time the last word in commercial marine architecture, went to ocean's depths and took an awful toll of lives. At that time it was difficult to see how the loss of such a noble ship and the greater sacrifice of so many lives could be by any possibility be attended with a result which might eventually be of great benefit to mankind. Such, however, is the case, the regrettable tragedy has served as the unfortunate means to a most desirable end.

The life saving conference which has recently concluded its sittings in London, and upon which practically all civilized nations of the world having any extensive shipping were represented, may be directly attributed to the loss of the Titanic.

While the final outcome of the negotiations has not yet been given out, says the Ottawa Journal, published summaries of the principal provisions give evidence that the safety of the public travelling on ocean going vessels and ships crews will be made as nearly complete as is possible. An international ice and derelict patrol service is to be established by the nations chiefly interested in the North Atlantic service; the question of wireless compartments and bulkheads—one of the most difficult questions the conference had to solve—has been

adequately dealt with, though it is pointed out in this connection that, even with the greatest attention to safety construction, a ship is shakable, and that constant vigilance is highly necessary. Wireless telegraphy is practically rendered obligatory on all vessels; and what amounts to continuous wireless watches must be kept, day and night. Sufficient life-boat and life-raft accommodation must be provided, and a safe number of the crew must be capable of handling life-boats. An organized system of patrols for fighting fire is also required.

The convention signed by the countries represented will likely be tabled in the Dominion House of Commons sometime during the present month, and a bill will be introduced to amend the Canadian Shipping Act to make its provisions regarding safety at sea conform with the international regulations established by the conference.

DOING THINGS.

An object lesson on the value of doing things, of achieving, comes from the city of Edmonton, Alberta, which may be of much interest to the energetic men who are trying to do things for the benefit and advancement of the city of St. John. Out in Edmonton they had an organization known as the Edmonton Industrial Association, and it is an organization of which that enterprising city may well feel proud. A few days ago its members, in their search for the sort of activity that counts toward the well being of a city decided to raise enough money to bore three wells near the city on the off chance that gas would be found in quantities sufficient to pay for the cost of operation, and possibly, give to Edmonton a very valuable lever with which to attract manufacturers. If their hopes were realized Edmonton would be placed on the industrial map as a natural gas city.

It is understood when they started on their search for assistance that subscribers to the fund were not to expect any dividends even if the venture proved a success. They would get their money back, and in addition would have the knowledge and the satisfaction of having done something for the well being of their city. In case of failure they were to lose, and no liability attached to the men who started the venture. In this case their only return would be the consolation that they had shown that tangible sort of civic patriotism, that is not as common now as it should be.

Nearly every business man visited by the canvassers became enthusiastic at once, and readily subscribed the amount asked for. As a result they have already raised the money they started after, and have secured well drilled. Possibly by this time boring is already under way. The business men of Edmonton, both those who asked for the money, and those who gave it, are to be congratulated. If the venture is successful, and gas is found in quantities as large as hoped for, the city of Edmonton will reap a very real benefit from the patriotism of her citizens. If the search fails it will not be for the lack of enterprise on the part of the men concerned in it. The Canadian West has many assets; her wheat fields, her mines, and her forests, all add to her rapidly growing wealth, but above and beyond all these, when taking stock of her possessions must be numbered the energetic optimism of her citizens.

All honor to the men who do things, and Edmonton affords a concrete example of their value to any community.

The Kaiser has always been an enthusiast for everything German and lately he seems to have had his eye upon the bill of fare which is such a conspicuous feature of every German restaurant. Surely any Englishman who has been terrorized by the sight of a German waiter bearing down upon him with this formidable document will be relieved at this attempt on the part of the Kaiser to make things plain. Still there are difficulties in the way. A menu is sometimes harder to translate than Latin verse and some one suggesting a concrete example asks what for instance would be the French for sauerkraut.

The metric system seems to spread among all save the English-speaking nations. In the last four years it is reported, in Denmark, China, Japan, the five republics of Central America, Bulgaria, Chile, Uruguay and Siam. Although advocates of the system have been tireless in Great Britain and the United States, little headway has been made against the foot rule and the yardstick, the pound and stone, the pint and quart.

The Minnesota crop statistics seem to fully corroborate the story that boys in Minnesota are being taught how to sow.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Witold Laurier's address to the people caused in reply to the manifesto of Sir John Macdonald, was issued twenty-three years ago today. Sir John, in appealing to the country, had denounced the opposition program of free trade with the United States as discrimination against England and a step toward annexation. "The old man, the old flag, and the old policy" became the Conservative battle-cry. In his reply Mr. Laurier, the Liberal leader, declared that the "premature dissolution" of Parliament and the appeal to the country was a political trick calculated to stampede the public into a hasty verdict; denounced the government policy as harmful to the agricultural interests, and of no avail in stopping emigration to the States; asserted that the existing franchise system worked injustice, and was a measure of calculated insincerity; defended "absolute reciprocal freedom of trade between Canada and the United States," and expressed the belief that under such a reform direct taxation would be unnecessary and an assimilation of tariffs not inevitable. In the vital question of alleged discrimination against Great Britain he submitted a denial, but added that the time must come when "there must be a clashing of interests" and "in any such case, much as I would regret the necessity, I would stand by my native land."

MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN

Today is the anniversary of the death of Frederick Temple Hamilton-Blackwood, Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Governor of Canada from 1872 to 1878.

EDWIN WILLIAM THOMSON

February 12 is the birthday of Edward William Thomson, famous as journalist and author in both Canada and the States, at Toronto, 1849.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

William Alfred Paversham, one of the most eminent of latter-day Shakespearean actors, was born in London forty-six years ago today. Although he has scored his greatest successes on this side of the Atlantic, and is generally known as an American actor, he remains at heart an Englishman, and spends as much time as possible at his beautiful country estate in Surrey. Mr. Paversham was twice married. Mrs. Marian Paversham, who was a widow when she married the actor in 1892, secured an absolute divorce ten years later, and the theatregoer Mr. Paversham married Julie Opp, an actress. They have two children, sturdy boys, William and Philip.

The actor was a thirteenth child, but that "hoodoo" has not affected his career. He was a mere boy when he went on the English stage. At nineteen he made his American debut in New York. He soon became homesick and returned to England, but the following year found him back in Gotham, playing Leo in H. Rider Haggard's "She," and afterward in Minnie Maddern Fiske's company.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID
NAME OF A PIG—I AM RUINED
I MUST GET MONEY!



AND HE DID
A Game of Chance.



There is nothing more uncertain

than a horse race," exclaimed the man with a tendency to talk loud. And the melancholy friend responded— "You never worked in a meterologist's office, did you?"—Pearson's Weekly.

A Combination Husband.

"I see this medicine is good for man and beast." "Yes," said the druggist. "Gimme a bottle. I believe that's the right combination to help my husband."—Kansas City Journal.

Solitary Glory.

First Critic—I understand you saw Scribner's new comedy last night. Who played the hero? Second Critic—I did. I sat through the whole thing.—Tid-Bits.

In Detroit.

"And you want to marry my daughter? Have you any steady occupation?" "Sure." "What is it?" "Waiting for a job at Ford's."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Guess.

Six—Wonder why they call the game "poker"? Dix—Can't say, unless that you are apt to burn your fingers when you get the wrong end of it.

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INTEREST

LIQUOR UP

Joseph Amb with Stealing from C.P.R. Witnesses B

In the police court noon evidence was of Joseph Amb, ing a case of white R. steamer Lake played with the co-sandler. Amb Monday at Welsfneas some few we of George Campbell stealing a bottle of C. P. R. boat, an which intervened ed sufficient evide berg with stealing E. C. Weyman interest of the C. Ritchie acted for leral witnesses we admitting that the produced in court in the shed, there dence submitted whiskey in questio from the boat. 2 Chas. Ewert, ed five o'clock was then made un hearing will be c with the C. P. R. noon in questio Lake Michigan at that he saw noth as McKay. He w Ambey. He state something buling Thomas McCrea played as a "long some of the evide witness, and stas whiskey come up the vessel instead John Leeman w he had been work of the vessel with his boss. At the working down the port and three on He saw hard bel not see any whis the hold. Hugh McGill, v to testify swore th on the Tuesday at in the lower end again at No. 6 s George Campbell. Ambey said: "G Campbell gave th he gave it back a nip. Witness was m carpenter at look after general Called to testifi longshoreman re of whiskey in co which he had rec He had received f five and six o'cl afternoon in que ing the fact that the stand, in the swore that he di the bottle. Witne he did, and sai passed in the pre The C. P. R. the charge, was c the bottle as the stolen from the b Called to give r repeated previous ments. The case was day morning.

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THEIR MAJESTY MR. AND MRS.

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