

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 1, 1919

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AFFAIRS IN EUROPE

Conditions in Germany appear to be growing worse. While disorders continue the country cannot organize to meet the needs of the time. There is said to be a growing scarcity of food, which will breed further discontent. The Spartacists have not been subdued. There is fear of a spread of Bolshevism. We would be disposed to doubt any assertions the Germans themselves might make, but Allied observers who have been studying the situation declare that it is very serious. At the same time all who come out of Russia tell of terrible conditions in that country, where food is at famine prices, clothing scarce, and murder rampant. The Bolsheviks continue to commit atrocious crimes and to revel in the butchery of those who fall under their displeasure. With such conditions prevailing in Germany and Russia, and chaos also in Austria-Hungary, it becomes the duty of the Allied representatives in Paris to compose their differences, if any exist, and get on with the business that has brought them together. Much is being made of the dissatisfaction in France over the terms relating to Germany, and we can well understand why the French people insist that they be freed forever from the German menace. There is an element in the United States which would make trouble if it could, and President Wilson himself is being harshly criticized by this element. He proposes, however, to have the whole issue placed squarely before the people. In the fact of many rumors and reports of a disturbing nature it is reassuring to note that Lord Reading, who arrived in New York yesterday from London, declares that those who relied upon a breach between the Allied powers are doomed to disappointment.

PROTESTANT CHILDREN'S HOME

The movement to secure a home for Protestant orphan children, which could also be used as a temporary home for little ones bereft of one parent or for other reasons in need of a shelter for a time, should not be permitted to end in mere discussion. The existing Protestant Orphan's Home is always filled and unable to meet the demands upon it. The Children's Aid Society, which exists for a specific purpose, is constantly being urged to take in children temporarily and cannot do so. For example, a man loses his wife, by death or desertion, and is left with little children. He would willingly pay something for their board for a time while making other arrangements. Or a mother is left with little children and cannot go out to work and care for them at the same time. Such cases as these are constantly coming up, and there is no institution to meet the need. In this respect the Roman Catholic citizens are far better organized than the Protestants. It has been suggested that a large building might be rented and furnished, but that would not be worth while. If the directors of the existing Protestant Orphan's Home could see their way clear to enlarge the scope of their work, and the money were provided to erect a much larger building, it would seem to be an excellent solution of the problem. But, as already pointed out, an institution is needed that will do much more than take care of orphans, since provision should be made to give a home to those in temporary distress and with no other available roof except that of the Municipal Home to shelter them. A number of societies have expressed a desire to help, and a general appeal to the Protestant churches would doubtless meet with a fine response. What is needed is that some organization take the lead in the matter. Why not the existing Protestant Orphan's Home? If the board called a general meeting, that would be a good beginning. It has been suggested that a new orphan's home might be erected in a place close to the car line in the suburbs, with ample room to expand. The first step, however, is to get a meeting of those organizations most deeply interested, to head up the movement.

STREET RAILWAY OWNERSHIP

Here is an interesting paragraph from the speech from the throne at the opening of the Nova Scotia legislature:—"The necessity of securing for the public more satisfactory service than being given under existing conditions by public utilities, particularly street railways, is becoming of increasing importance and urgency. A bill will be submitted for your consideration designed to give improved service under provincial direction, and to facilitate the public ownership of street railways, where this is desired, upon such conditions as will best serve the public, and upon terms which will be just to the present owners. It is believed that the result of such legislation will be to give the desired impetus to the development of the water-power resources of the province, and assist in furnishing the public with light and power under favorable economic conditions." This particular bill should be of special interest to New Brunswick as well as Nova Scotia. It is very evident that St. John is not at the end of its troubles in regard to the street railway. There is a stiff fight ahead, and no time should be

lost, after a careful study of the Currier report, in taking the necessary steps to secure satisfactory legislative action. If the city fails to assert itself it will deserve just what it gets, however expensive a luxury it may prove to be.

SOCIAL RELATIONS

"It is gratifying to note," says the Nova Scotia speech from the throne, "that in certain important industries of this province capital and labor have recently conferred, with a view to the development of more harmonious relations, thereby assisting to solve problems that are of world-wide concern." The Toronto Mail and Empire sees no reason why there should not be a league of classes as well as a league of nations, and adds: "Something must be done to close the fissure that is widening between labor and capital, between producers of the soil and other producers, between the several economic groups that are organizing their forces as if preparing to impose on one another their will as to prices, wages, immunity from taxation and other matters."

The Toronto Star agrees with the Mail and Empire, and says: "The Bolsheviks are the jingoes of social relations. Their talk of bullets, not ballots, is the voice of militarism transferred from the international to the social field. They are wrong. There is no necessary conflict between classes. Society needs farmers, urban workers, teachers, physicians, managers of industry. There are of course parasites who are not needed at all, and they should be set at work by means founded upon justice. Justice must be the basis of industrial peace as of international peace. But there is no necessary conflict between those who are doing any kind of useful service to the community. The true interests, the right ideals, of different kinds of workers by hand or brain do not conflict. There is plenty for all—plenty of land, plenty of resources, plenty of labor. The war, with all its evils, has shown us what can be done by all classes of the community working together. Carry that spirit into peace and you have the solution of the social problem." In other words, make service, not self, the motto and all will be well. It is selfishness that lies at the root of social ills. Those who encourage what is termed class-consciousness, to the prejudice and exclusion of other classes from consideration are enemies of the commonwealth.

The citizens of Moncton are taking the lead in a very vigorous agitation to hold the Canadian National Railway offices, so far as they relate to the Intercolonial, in the maritime provinces and to prevent the transfer of Canadian trade to American ports. Halifax and St. John feel the same way about it. The action of Moncton last evening sets the ball rolling.

Halifax Recorder: "Adequate housing means better morals, better health, and a stronger and more contented population, and neither 'vested rights,' nor the claim 'to do what I like with my own' must be allowed to interfere with the accomplishment of this much desired consummation."

Public health, highways and housing will be the subject of important legislation in Nova Scotia at the present session of the legislature.

Both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will have legislation this year relating to the development of water powers.

The women of Canada will have something to say about letting down the bars in the matter of prohibition.

The Times today prints the Currier report. It will be read with very keen interest by the citizens.

The ex-Kaiser is said to be in financial difficulties. Why not sell a few of his uniforms?

St. John has had no fog this winter. The fog has been along the American coast.

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LIGHTER VEIN

"Has he any record as an athlete?" "Well, he can jump the highest board bill that ever confronts him."

What's the doctor treating you for?" "Various things. Seems to think he's treating me for a swollen fortune."

How They Love Each Other. Miss Stoutlight—Gentlemen are still very polite. Why, three of them rose and offered me a seat in the Elevated today.

Miss Boney—And you took all three, I suppose.

No, She Didn't Tell.

(Till-Bits.) With a stormy look on his face, the master of the house waylaid the servant in the kitchen.

"Look here," he began angrily, "how dare you tell my wife what time I came home this morning after I told you not to?"

The Irish girl eyed him steadily. "Shure an' Oi didn't," she replied calmly. "She asked me what time the yes came in, and Oi only told her that Oi was too busy gettin' the breakfast ready to look at the clock."

THE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME AT OTTAWA

(Halifax Chronicle.)

The parliamentary programme as outlined in the speech from the throne must commend itself to all Canadians, irrespective of party. The amendment of the franchise and the removal of all disabilities affecting women voters is a matter that will meet with general approval.

It is a good sign when the Federal government so realizes the completeness of the whole country that it shall undertake to provide for improved housing conditions throughout the Dominion, and for assisting in the construction of highways. Good roads are essential

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to the development of any country. It should never be forgotten that but for the roads of France, the British and French troops could not have arrived in time to have been of any service to the greatly outnumbered Belgian army. The German army made its rapid assault almost upon the very doors of Paris, because it had an excellent system of transportation, both highways and railways. The necessity for one main highway from Halifax to Vancouver, with innumerable branches constructed according to the needs of the different provinces, cannot fail to appeal to any man who has imagination enough to conceive of Canada as one country and one people, rather than a collection of hostile or indifferent groups. With the awakening of the Federal government to the importance of this matter, local governments that have been trying to grapple with the question will receive a fresh impetus and an inspiration for still greater endeavors.

For years to come Canada will be at least as much an agricultural as a manufacturing country, and in all probability very much more so. Any scheme that is economically sound which shall help to settle vast tracts of unoccupied country, must inevitably meet with public approval. The public too, will watch with the greatest interest the government's plans for settling returned soldiers on the land. In the mere proposal of these two great possibilities, one is the establishment of permanent peace and satisfaction, the other the wrecking of the prosperity of this country. A wise policy of settling these returned men will be the greatest blessing that could be devised. A policy that would lead to injustice and dissatisfaction may

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LADYSMITH DAY. This is the anniversary of that memorable day, nineteen years ago, when the British troops, under Field Marshal Buller, entered Ladysmith, which had been besieged by the Boers for 120 days. The local celebration of the event is one which will linger long in the memories of those who were in St. John on that occasion.

SMOKE MACDONALD'S INDEX

What the American People Think of a League of Nations

"Had the League been in existence in 1914, Europe would have escaped the bloodiest of all wars," declares the Birmingham Age-Herald. While the majority of the newspapers of the United States regard the experiment of a League of Nations as tremendously worth trying, some are as dubious as the New York Sun, which says: "If the present project means the elimination of the Monroe Doctrine; if it means the restriction of our independence; if it means we are tying our hands as concerns the independent action of a free people and a free nation; if it means that the United States shall carry the load and pay in large measure the bills of maintaining peace in all the little countries of Europe and throughout the world—the little tribal nations and the big nations as well; if it means the hampering of this nation in its economic relations to and with the other nations of the world, is it good enough for this free people, this free nation—is it the thing we want?" Read THE LITERARY DIGEST this week for public opinion on the League of Nations.

Other articles of immediate interest to all thoughtful readers are:

Jews From America in the Bolshevik Oligarchy

Jewish and Non-Jewish Editorial Opinion Regarding the Testimony of Dr. George A. Simons Before the Senate Committee That is Investigating Bolshevism in the United States

Meaning of the Western Strikes
"No Beer, No Work"
How Our Allies Regard the Peace-League Plan

An Ex-German Colony for India
How the Hand Spreads Influenza
\$2,000,000 in "Saving the Pieces"
A Fourteenth-Century Miracle on the East Side

Japan to Cast Out German "Kultur"
Red-Cross Work After the War
Lax Justice in Belgium
Best of the Current Poetry

Lithuania
Skimming the Melting-Pot
American Troops to Leave Russia
German Intrigues to Split the Allies
"Seventeen-Year Locusts" Due in 1919
English and Accidents
Dubious Benefits of Science
The Doughboy's Shakespeare
What Kind of a Memorial?
A Village of Disabled Soldiers.
English Doubts of Prohibition
News of Finance and Commerce
Personal Glimpses of Men and Events

Many Striking Illustrations, Including Cartoons

Why the Literary Digest is So Popular in the "Movies"

The average audience in a first-class motion-picture house is typically representative of the American spirit; while it is good-natured, it demands the best. When thrilling dramas of love, war, and adventure are unfolded before it, in which famous million-dollar stars perform prodigies of agility and valor, it is more than generous in the matter of applause. When the "Pictorial Weeklies" transport it in a twinkling to the four corners of the earth it is not at all backward about sounding its appreciation. But when the scene changes and THE LIT-

ERARY DIGEST Topics of the Day are flashed on the screen the enthusiasm which greets this novel and attractive feature is unbounded. The audience rocks with laughter and applause over each one in the series of punch paragraphs with their lively humor, keen satire, and other foibles of the day. The "movies" are but the mirror of the world and the popularity of the Topics of the Day is but the echo of the ever increasing chorus of acclaim that greets each weekly reappearance of THE LITERARY DIGEST.

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