

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 30, 1921.

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, 1884, and registered in the office of the Registrar of Companies, Main 2417. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—Chicago, E. J. Fowler, Manager, Associated Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

A NOTABLE DINNER.

In measured sentences, Mr. F. W. Stewart of Montreal, addressed the St. John Branch of the Retail Merchants' Association last evening, counselling its members to exercise caution in buying, and expressed the view that, while in some lines of goods prices had reached bottom, in others there would be further recession. He added, however, that he believed the worst was over, so far as Canadian trade is concerned, and regarded the outlook on the whole as encouraging. The inflation here was never as great as in the United States, and not having gone so high we would not have as far to fall. Referring to the United States, he said his observation recently of conditions there indicated that the business men do not yet know just where they are, and though hopeful are a bit uncertain as to the revival of business. Mr. Stewart believes that it will take a period longer than that of the war to effect a complete readjustment of business conditions. Out of that process, however, he sees arising sane and more satisfactory methods of doing business. He urges very strongly that wholesale and retail, get into closer touch with each other, to the end that there may be a better understanding and more confidence. There is force in his remark that what is good for the retailer is good for the manufacturer, and that the latter would be very unwise to do anything to injure the business interests of the former. The question of transportation was also discussed, and the speaker declared that the government should lose no time in making such changes as would reduce the burden of heavy charges, and also make easier the traffic east and west rather than north and south. There was much food for thought in Mr. Stewart's clear cut address, and it is gratifying that he was able to sound a note of optimism in regard to the future.

The annual dinner of the Retail Merchants' Association has become an event of much interest and importance. President McLean and the members are to be congratulated on the success of last evening. The addresses delivered were keyed to a lofty conception of business ethics, and suggestive of the co-operation and good fellowship which are essential to the right conduct of the business. It was not difficult for speakers to present striking contrasts between the old system of individual competition, often bitter and heartless, and the new conception of the square deal as between merchants in the same line of trade. Nor was it hard to show the all round benefits to the consumer as well as the merchant of an organization such as the Retail Merchants' Association. The speeches of Mr. R. A. Macaulay and other members showed not only a wide grasp of business problems but a desire to solve them in the interest of the public as well as the commercial houses. Mayor Schofield, in the course of his remarks referred to some very interesting matters, especially that of distribution of hydro-electric power, which may well receive the serious consideration of the association.

The provincial organizer was able to say that the association is flourishing throughout the province, and it is not difficult to see how potent a force it may become in promoting good feeling and advancing the interests of the province as a whole.

THE CITY FINANCES.

The city's financial statement is a tribute to the proved ability and thoroughness of Chamberlain Lefebvre and Comptroller Macdonald. It presents in the clearest light the city's financial position, and at a time when some western towns are defaulting on their bonds it must be a source of the greatest satisfaction to the citizens of St. John that expenditures are kept so nearly within the estimates, and the city's assets show so substantial a surplus over its liabilities. At the dinner of retail merchants last night Mayor Schofield showed that the cost of government per capita is less in St. John than in any other city of anything like equal population in Canada, and very much less than that in western cities. We have therefore no need to complain, and the mayor's intimation that if times were normal he would like to see larger expenditures to provide needed improvements will be favorably regarded; for the city needs much in the way of improvement. So long as the heads of departments pursue a careful policy, and the officials in charge of the finances are as watchful and prudent as the statement now submitted proves them to be, the city's credit will remain sound. Indeed it is only the question of time that stands in the way of a much larger city debt incurred for the benefit of the city; its financial position is exceptionally good.

St. John people will be interested in the despatch from Portland, Me., today, which credits officials of the Grand Trunk Railway with saying that half a million will be spent to improve its terminals at that port, and that provision will be made for an immigration and detention building to handle a thousand passengers per day. Portland is fortunate. What about increased terminal facilities at St. John?

THE HOME LANE.

I know a lane where pine-trees sway, and tall and mossy steep,
The path is lined with velvet moss, there twining lichens creep—
There robins sing quaint even songs, and stars old vigils keep.

The moonlight's kiss falls tenderly upon that peaceful lane,
Love greets me at the open door, like sunshine after rain,
For when I see her shining eyes, I know I'm home again.

The home-lane, the love-lane, the children by the fire,
The eager feet that run to me, when of the world I tire,
Their childish tales of innocence—these fill my heart's desire.

The world has paths that lead to power, and ways that stretch to fame,
And many crossroads point to wealth,
But the lane in Love's own heart—
I sing the waiting arms of her, when sunset's banners flame.

Of all the lanes in all the world, praised high in speech or song,
That men may walk in Youth's fresh prime, or in Life's twilight-gloom,
Give me the lane in Love's own heart—
—J. Corson Miller, in Shadowland.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Reassuring.
"Well, my boy, any college debts?"
"Nothing, sir, but what with diligence, economy, and stern self-denial you will be able to pay."

Not Up to Sample.
"It was a case of love at first sight when I met Billy?"
"Then why didn't you marry him?"
"I met him again so often."

Only One Lemon.
Ottawa Journal: Representing himself to be the owner of an orange grove in California, a stranger asked an Illinois woman to marry him, borrowed \$7,000 from her, and then disappeared. For as large a sum she could have bought a whole train load of lemons, and all she got was the one he handed her.

No Gama.
"Pop!"
"Yes, my son."
"Did they play baseball in Noah's time?"
"No, my son, I believe not."
"Why didn't they, Pop?"
"Well, Gama, I guess, Harold."—Yonkers Statesman.

At the Party.
She—What a color Miss Fair has to-day.
He—(Observing Miss Fair surrounded by an admiring circle)—I don't know. She certainly draws well.

The New Geography.
Teacher—Willie, name two of the New Zealanders.
Willie—Sahara and the United States.—University of Washington.

Santa's Slip.
Mother—Who ever taught you to use that dreadful word?
Tommy—Santa Claus, mamma.
Mother—Santa Claus?
Tommy—Yes, mamma, when he fell over a chair in my bedroom on Christmas eve—LIFE.

ABANDONS HER LEG TO ESCAPE MUD.
Girl Caught in Mire Unstraps Artificial Limb and Hops Away.

Hamilton, March 30.—Proof of the impossible is being furnished in Back Hamilton, where a hand when the crew of a Belt Line car discovered a little crippled girl mired in the mud on a north-west avenue and appealing for help. The brave little child in an effort to extricate herself had removed her artificial limb, and the street car motorman thought that the girl had been bitten severely.

"No, I'm all right; it's only this old leg of mine that always gets stuck if there's any mud around," replied the little girl.

She was lifted aboard the car and taken to within one block of her home, where, with her artificial limb strapped on again, she left the car.

\$1,000 GIRL REJECTS WOOERS.
Dorothy Miller Hasn't Yet Found Man She Is Willing to Marry.

Trenton, N. J., March 30.—Dorothy Miller, the sixteen-year-old Trenton girl who has offered to marry any well-educated man who will give her mother \$1,000 for a vital important operation, rejected a Philadelphia young man to whom she was engaged.

"He was too tough," she said, "and I turned him down. He was impossible."

The young man told her that he owned a garage and had an income of \$600 a month.

Miss Miller has received a letter from a Spanish instructor, but his expressions of love were so passionate and extravagant that she said she did not want to meet him.

SICK ELEPHANT PARKED TO NEAR LIQUOR CACHE.
Milwaukee, March 30.—The sickness of an elephant belonging to a vaudeville troupe led to a raid by the police in which 180 cases of liquor, worth \$60,000, were seized and sent to a local veterinary hospital for treatment. The animal broke down a partition, disclosing the liquor. The raid followed.

GETS IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT.
Miss Mary Boulter, formerly of Currieham, York county, who has been reading in Houlton, Me., for some time, has recently been appointed special messenger to the speaker of the Maine house of representatives. The Kennebec Journal in speaking of the appointment, says: "Miss Boulter has the distinction of being the first woman appointed as a special messenger in Maine and also the first woman to have held a similar position in the country."

COBURG ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH REVIVAL.
Douglas avenue Christian church members attended in a body and occupied the seats of honor at the Coburg street Christian church revival last evening. The visiting choir led in the music, and the McEachern male quartette sang two special numbers. Rev. J. C. Appel assisted in the service. Evangelist Cole preached a powerful sermon on "The Unpardonable Sin." Three persons accepted the invitation, making thirty-seven who have accepted Christ during the meetings. Mrs. Cole directed a double choir.

ONE PIECE OF GOOD WORK WON BIG JOB.

James Stillman, upholder of the largest national bank in America, one day telephoned a firm of accountants and asked one of the partners to come and see him. Mr. Stillman explained that fifteen years previously this firm audited the books of a certain company. He wanted to locate the young man who did the work. The partner couldn't, of course, recall such an everyday incident, but he dug the information out of the records and forwarded it to Mr. Stillman. Mr. Stillman then wrote the man he was after.

"I want you to come with the City Bank," Mr. Stillman told him. "Why, I couldn't think of it; I am very well off where I am, and besides, I'm not a banker," was the reply. "I tell you you are coming with this bank," Mr. Stillman replied, with that decisiveness for which he was noted. The accountant, a man of successful affairs, declined the offer, but he said that he couldn't consider it for a moment. Mr. Stillman reiterated that he had made up his mind that he wanted him and that he meant to have him. Then he outlined the magnitude of the position he wanted the accountant to fill, and said very plainly that no matter how much money the accountant was earning from his business, the City Bank would pay him a great deal more. To make a long story short, the man was engaged and is now a notable figure in the financial community.

And it came about through a piece of superior auditing done fifteen years before when the accountant was totally unknown and receiving little better than a clerk's salary.—Forbes Magazine (N. Y.)

THE BERGOLD CASE.

(Bangor Commercial).
We surely hope that the request of the American Legion to the war department in the Bergold case will be fruitful. The situation as now presented is a very unpleasant one for loyal Americans to contemplate. Most will remember the unsavory facts surrounding the Bergold matter. The young man, a wealthy Philadelphia, of German connections, dodged the draft and remained for a long period in a foreign country during the war. He was at last apprehended and sentenced, but made his escape from custody, due either to the stupidity or worse of his guards. He got away to Germany where he has been enjoying himself.

Recently a couple of young American sergeants, who have been engaged in apprehending American fugitives from justice, attempted to arrest Bergold, but made the mistake of making the effort on German soil and so aroused the anger of the German authorities. The sergeants are now being tried while Bergold, the deserter, remains at liberty.

We consider the situation as one demanding a remedy and heartily sympathize with the attitude of the American Legion which calls upon the war department to demand from Germany the surrender of Bergold and to make efforts to secure the release from jail of the two American sergeants.

SHIPPING'S SLUMP.

Among the various industries of the world which have slumped badly in the past six months, there is, perhaps, none more striking than the case of shipping. From a condition of congestion, high freight rates and enormous earnings, shipping has come to a point of comparative loss and low earnings and reduced rates, which few could have expected. Over-building, following the heavy losses from submarines and from an exaggerated idea of the available freight, brought about the present condition from which, of course, recovery will come, but probably slowly. It is said that 30 per cent of the world's tonnage is now out of employment or on a lay-up. The gross tonnage of the 56,000,000 tons afloat at the first of the present year. It is estimated that at the beginning of 1921 there were, approximately, 18,700,000 gross tons of shipping than in 1913, and since the amount of cargo moving was only about two-thirds that of 1913, the potential surplus was even greater. It is largely tramp steamers that are idle, but the regular lines through conference agreements are said to be able to maintain rates to a certain extent. Cuts in freight rates have been remarkably severe in some cases. The coal rates from Hampton Roads to Rotterdam have dropped 64 per cent in little over a year, and at present is around \$3.75 a ton. Coal from Cardiff to Genoa moves today for 18s. a ton, against a high of 18s. in 1914 and 14s. 6d. in 1913. Grain from Buenos Aires to the United Kingdom is now carried for 28s. 6d. as compared with a high of 10s. in 1920, and a high of 30s. 6d. in 1913.

BRITISH CATTLE FAMINE?

W. Phene Neale, quoted in the London Times, says that Britain's home supply of cattle is decreasing at such a alarming extent that it may reach the point of extermination. For the year ending January last there has been a decline in cows and heifers in milk of 10 per cent. In cows and heifers in milk or in calf the falling off had been 200,000. For cattle of all ages the loss had been 200,000, or 24.6 per cent. Many thousands of young cattle from twelve to fifteen months old, which should be retained, were being sold to the butcher. "The ultimate result," he added, "would be that the scarcity of good home-killed beef would be so great as to approach almost a famine." Lord Lee himself in the Times has confirmed this by stating that there has been "an almost sensational decrease in the herds, caused very largely by the abnormal slaughter of calves," and that if this continued the demand for the importation of stock cattle from abroad "would become irresistible."

ALARM TRAPS YOUTH BREAKING COIN BOX.

A special alarm device used by the New York Telephone Company on its coin-box telephones led to the arrest of William Ross, twenty years old, while attempting to break open an instrument in a drug store. After his arrest he is alleged to have confessed to robbing more than 100 machines in the last three months, with average gains of \$20 from each coin box.

Ross said, according to the police, that he usually selected apartment house telephone booths and put the wires leading to the alarm bell. He failed to do so in the drug store last night, however, when the bell rang it summoned Detectives Meagher, Armstrong and Haslett of the Simpson street station, who were standing on the street corner. They found upon Ross a jimmy, wire cutters and scissors, together with \$10 in cash. The detectives said they had been looking for the coin-box pilferer for weeks.

FIND BODIES OF SEVEN.

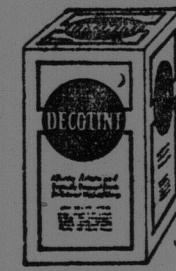
Dowell, Ill., March 29.—The bodies of seven men, entombed in the Kathleen mine here when fire broke out Feb. 23, were recovered today.

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CANADA MERCHANT MARINE SURPLUS IS OVER \$700,000

(Canadian Press Despatch)
Ottawa, March 29.—The gross revenue from closed voyages of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine fleet during the year 1920 was \$1,027,442.77 and operating expenses \$3,738,917.22, leaving an operating profit on closed voyages during the year of \$1,239,525.55. This was the statement made to the house this afternoon, by Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, minister of marine, in his account of the year's operations of the government-owned steamers.

CLASH OVER GIFT COWS.
Legionaries and Farmers Conflict Over Shipment to Germany.

Scotland, S. D., March 25.—A clash between several hundred men, said to be members of the American Legion post, and a large body of farmers, all armed, over the collection of cows for shipment to Germany was narrowly averted last night at Kaylor near here.

Wednesday night 900 cows held at Scotland for shipment to Germany were released from a pen. After scattering they were rounded up by farmers, who had given them, and returned to a corral. The sheriff, fearing trouble, ordered the cattle taken to Kaylor.

STEAMSHIP CUTS OFF BOW OF FIVE MASTER.
Norfolk, Va., March 30.—Ripping through a fog off the Delaware coast, the tank steamer Eugene V. R. Taylor, of the Sinclair Navigation Co., yesterday cut off the bow of the five master schooner Jennie Flood Kruger.

So far as was learned no life was lost.

TELEPHONE STAFF DANCE.
A programme of music, and a social dance was greatly enjoyed by about 120 members of the New Brunswick Telephone company staff in their hall on Chipman Hill last night. L. Merseure was the chairman and the other members of the committee in charge were Miss Mary Reid, Miss Daye, Miss Helen Driscoll, J. Rundle and E. Till. Solo were sung by Miss Gladys Scribner, Miss Katherine Breen and E. Till. Miss Hatfield was the pianist for the evening. Plans were made for a masquerade next month as the grand event to close the season of fortnightly gatherings.

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Quinn and Co., 415 Main Street.
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