

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1920

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IRISH AFFAIRS.

Premier Lloyd George has made it clear that self-determination for the United Kingdom must not be overlooked in the discussion of Irish affairs. The government refuses to regard the self-styled Irish republic as an independent belligerent power. The prime minister explained yesterday that the government was ready to negotiate with all who desired peace without separation, but that martial law would be the answer to those who attempted by terrorism to accomplish the disruption of the United Kingdom. Recent cables indicate a growing desire in Ireland for peace, and this feeling found expression in the communication sent by the county council of Galway, asking for a joint discussion of the whole question. Mr. Lloyd George is entirely agreeable to such a conference, so long as the government is not asked to negotiate with persons who assert that there is already an Irish republic. If his speech of yesterday is favorably received by the moderates in Ireland, the way is open for such conferences as may bring peace, for the moderates can deal with the extremists whenever it is necessary after an agreement with the government has been made.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The Commercial Club does well to consider the question of a community programme. If the Club is to do something different from the routine of a mere commercial organization, and really desires to make St. John a better place to live in, there can be no place in its deliberations for personal, class or sectional interests apart from the welfare of the whole community; and only the intrusion of such considerations could prevent the earnest promotion of a community programme. Last evening's discussion on a civic budget was a school in civics for the members, a number of whom frankly confessed a lack of knowledge of the civic system. Members of the city council gave much valuable information, and the whole question was fairly opened up. It will no doubt be taken up again, not in the spirit of criticism of the city council, but with a desire to learn, and if it be possible, to improve the budget system. But the budget is only one item of a community programme, and the club cannot most profitably direct its winter activities than along lines of free discussion of all the items of such a programme.

CONFIDENCE NECESSARY.

Discussing the genesis of the present state of the business world, Mr. Willis H. Booth, vice-president of the Guaranty Trust Company, New York, pointed out that "business men had been absolutely spoiled by the relative ease of commercial operation, until conditions resulting from the world war plunged the business of the country into abnormal conditions." The resultant inflation, he said, followed three distinct cycles, which were the inflation of credit, the inflation of nominal commodity values, and the inflation of costs, including labor. Of course this could not go on and deflation had to come. Mr. Booth goes on:—"We are coming in our efforts at deflation, over the same road we went up. As we inflated credit, commodity and costs, we are now engaged in the process of deflating credit, commodity and costs. The first of these movements is well under way, and the second and third, which are vitally associated with it, have started on their way. When the task will have been completed, what we choose to call stabilization will be the result."

Another authority, in the New York Evening Post, summarizing the outlook says:—"The country must face the fact that its buying power will be less in 1921 than it was in 1920, and this in spite of the probable improvement of business conditions in the spring. Wages will be lower and unemployment will be greater; corporate earnings will be less; farmers and the merchants and bankers who deal with them will feel poorer; business failures will increase; foreign countries will be too impoverished to buy heavily from us. This is the situation at its worst, but it is better to face it squarely than to imitate the tactics of the ostrich. Nevertheless, the future also offers much promise. Easier money is in sight, railway congestion is eliminated, and the service is improving; banking facilities have stood the test well under the great strain; a resumption of building activities is confidently predicted; Europe is becoming more stabilized. There is already a change for the better in the mental state of the business world. Confidence is increasing, and there is a growing belief that the worst of the road is behind. The reasons for the improved state of mind may be hard to explain, but its effect on business will be none the less potent."

The mental state is undoubtedly a most important factor in the process of getting back to normal. It is necessary to settle down to work—to go after and get business—to stimulate industry—to practise thrift—to visualize the better days to come and not lose heart. In Canada conditions are better than in the United States, and recovery should not be attended by as much of loss and failure as in that country. Legitimate business must be supported, production encouraged, and co-operation practised. The banks can assist very materially in the work to be done, both by encouraging sound enterprises and discouraging those of a speculative character. The buying public can help by buying as usual, to meet ordinary needs, and so keeping up the demand that will keep industries in operation. Careless spending, however, is as much to be criticised as failure to spend at all. We have quoted the words of the vice-president of the Guaranty Trust Company, and may add a quotation from a speech by the president, Mr. Charles H. Sabin, as follows:—"This is a time for clear thinking and courageous action and in the proportion that such factors are brought to bear will rewards follow when this spell of reaction has run its course."

The announcement that some local industries are laying off some of their men or going on a four-day week makes it clear that outsiders should be discouraged from coming here seeking work, and that the whole question of unemployment must continue to receive the serious joint consideration of civic authorities and business men. The spring season should bring greater general activity, but the winter problem must be dealt with at this moment and hardships prevented to as large an extent as possible.

The Mason Contractors' Association of the United States and Canada expresses the view that shortage of skilled workers in the building trades promises to hold building costs at about their present level notwithstanding declines in the price of lumber. It will be hoped their views are not well-founded, for the housing problem is everywhere acute, and building activity is greatly needed, under conditions that would not discourage the home-maker.

The appeal in behalf of Jewish orphans in Europe cannot but awaken universal sympathy. The sufferings of Jewish families in the war zone in Eastern Europe have been and are of the most terrible description. A movement to find homes for little ones whose parents have been killed or died of hunger and disease is one that must appeal to all hearts.

Hon. T. A. Cresser tells the maritime provinces their claim for an equity in the public domain in the west coast of Canada is momentary. The farmers of these provinces will not endorse this plank in the Cresser platform.

Nova Scotia appears to have a highway scandal of some magnitude. The Highway Board has been dismissed, and it is charged that under-measurement by inspectors gave contractors a great advantage.

The Canadian Amateur Athletic Union, meeting in Winnipeg, appears to be determined that the professionals or semi-professionals shall not break in and destroy the organization. This is a wise decision.

The United States congress has been asked for an appropriation of one million dollars to be used in co-operation with the states in forestry work during the next fiscal year.

With martial law proclaimed in four counties in Ireland the importance of conferences looking toward peace becomes more urgent.

A reduction of freight and passenger rates by the railways after New Year's will be very welcome.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

SUNSET OF LIFE.

I'm waxing old, I've reached the gloaming, the coming night; its shadow flings; and here I sit, my whiskers combed, and musing on all things. The young go by, the dancers, laughers, the singers of life's morning hymns; and I'm unlike some other gaffers; for envy looks life's morning dim. Some graybeards watch the young in sorrow, and long to tread their shining ways, and sigh, "Youth always has tomorrow, but ages has only yesterday." The wintry dusk seems rather tragic, but I would cry, "Nay, nay, my dear," if some kind fairy, with her magic, would take me back to yesterday. I once was young and full of trouble, in trackless wilds I went astray, and every bright hope proved a bubble, my idols all had feet of clay. I had no tranquil eves or mornings, all day a weary load I bore. The road was marked with solemn warnings, left there by failures gone before. Oh, youth was full of fire and fever, and love was false and vows askew, and every hope was a deceiver, and only bitter dreams came true. And now I sit, with a weary magic, would take me back to yesterday. The closing hours are calm and peaceful, and slumber comes at eventide.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST.

Domestic Happenings of Other Days.

INDIAN RELICS.

Although many years have passed since the red man roamed the continent as monarch of all he surveyed, there are still in many parts of the dominion many evidences of the former occupants. Along the shores of the streams in certain areas where the Indian population lived, farmers and tourists still find the Indian arrow heads and tomahawk heads that the braves used in peace and in war.

This is especially true of the district around the Georgian Bay—a famous stamping ground of the mighty Hurons until they were wiped off the land by the Iroquois in the days of Champlain. In that section there are still many mounds where the skeletons of the Indian dead were buried at regular intervals. It was the habit of the people to bury their dead for several years in a temporary grave. Then the bones would be removed at one time by all the families who had members dead and they would be re-buried in a great pit of which a mound would be raised. Some of these contained the remains of hundreds of Indians of both sexes and all ages. Within the mounds would be placed pots, kettles, axes and all the instruments thought essential for the well being of the survivors. The Hurons, a Hunting Ground. The Indian thought of his dead as living in a great forest where he would have a new life and where the hunting and other sport would be perfect. So they gave him his weapons of the chase to his new home.

These mounds have been opened in later years and have revealed very clearly many habits of the old owners of the American continent.

LIGHTER VEIN.

There are too many men in the world who are not content with wasting their own time.

Continuous Performances.

Nervetw—Well, I suppose you have found music a little direct its winter Benedic!—Ah, yes! A soprano solo.

Just to Know.

Shopkeeper: What can I do for you, my boy? Boy: Please, I've called about your advertisement for a man to retail canaries! Yes, and do you think you could do the work? Oh, no sir, but I only want to know how the canaries lost their tails—Boys' life.

Famous Words of Famous Women.

"I love me about as much as I love her."

Mrs. Biffkins met Mary Smith, whom she had recommended to a neighbor for a situation. "Good morning, Mary!" she said. "Good morning, ma'am!" answered Mary. "How are you getting on at your new place?" asked Mrs. Biffkins. "Very well, thank you," was the reply. "I am glad to hear it," remarked Mrs. Biffkins. "Your employer is a very nice lady and you cannot do too much for her."

"I don't mean to, ma'am," replied Mary.

A lady deeply interested in health matters and who adopted every new health system and took up every fresh health theory as soon as it was mooted, during a dinner conversation the other evening engaged in a hygienic debate with a friend.

"Please tell me, I have heard so many different opinions about it. On what side do you lie, do you think, on the right side?" She imagined that he was a doctor. But he was a lawyer. He replied blandly:—"If one is on the right side, madam, it should not be necessary to lie at all."

I know it is to my colleagues on the Canadian General Council to find how many cases here are in which courage and promptitude, resourcefulness and devotion—in fact all that Scouting means and stands for—have been shown.

If we all steadily adhere to the true principles and ideals of scouting we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we are contributing still further to the success and efficiency of a movement which is already firmly established in our national life. (Signed) DEVONSHIRE, Chief Scout.

3rd Troop (St. Andrews). A record meeting was held and a good Scout program carried out, after the regular meeting special instruction was given to the boy leaders in the First Class Tests.

7th Troop (Stone). A good meeting was held and the Scout Law reviewed after which a little drill was given to smarten the boys up in Scout movements. A scratch game of basketball was played after which the meeting closed.

15th Troop (St. Luke's). During the meeting a debate was held on the following subject: Resolved that it is better to go to a Public School than to a Private School. The affirmative side was supported by Ronald Morrisey (Capt.) George Green and Fred Brennan. The negative by Wm. Seely (Capt.) Ed. Belver and Edgar Adams. Very good arguments were put up on both sides. In giving judgment the honors were awarded to the Negative side by the judges, Rev. Edwin P. Wright and

When We Wound Up The Watch On The Rhine

Narrative of Canadian Participation In The Occupation of Germany After The Armistice

XIV.

(Continued from Friday.)

The evening sun was just disappearing behind the horizon behind them when the Canadian troops, two years ago today, first set eyes on the gem of Germany's waterways—the beautiful Rhine. From the hills overlooking the little town of Mehlern, some seven kilometers south of the university town of Bonn, they looked down upon the river that was to form the western boundary of the occupied country.

The march from Friesenheim and Ramersheim, commenced in the early morning, was without incident and it was without a very great deal of regret that the soldiers realized that their long march was at last almost at an end. The day's march led through Mackenheimer and Villip, and a little before four o'clock the column moved into the streets of Mehlern. Several of the units of the Second Division were billeted in the town for two days, preparatory to the crossing the river, which took place on December 18.

Thought Canadiana Redskins.

The inhabitants of Mehlern received the Canadians with apparent fear and trembling. Anything that was asked for was quickly brought forth and the soldiers' actions were watched with great concern on the part of the residents. So different was the reception given the men here from what was extended in other places along the line of march that one of the officers started out in quest of the reason. He soon learned it.

It appeared that the British cavalry, which had preceded the main army of occupation as an advance guard, had told the people of Mehlern that the Canadians were cowards and were asked what kind of men these Canadians were. The Germans were told that the men from across the Atlantic were descendants of the red Indian, only partially civilized and very, very wild, and that the Germans must humor their every wish or there might be serious consequences. As a result the way was made easy for the Canadian troops, but it took some time to instill into the minds of these simple people that the Canadians were actually white.

Watch on the Rhine.

So today is the second anniversary of the arrival of Canadian troops on the Rhine. Soon after they had reached the river it was announced that, while the river would be the boundary of the occupied country, outposts were to be established some five or six kilometers to the eastward, and the units which would form this advanced line were ordered to be in readiness to cross the river on December 18. The units of the Second Division were included amongst this number.

(Continued on Monday.)

Ralph Brennan. A very busy meeting of the Court of Honor was held at close of the meeting.

The Troop was inspected last evening by the District Commissioner Guy L. Short and the District Secretary. The



THE BOY SCOUT.

Scouts made a very good showing under Troop Leader Gordon Adams. There are at present three Kings Scouts in the Troop and will soon be a fourth when he learns to swim. Scoutmasters and Cubmasters are requested to send in a report of the work being done in the Troop or Pack for this column before 4 o'clock Friday.

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FORMER MEMBERS OF CONSTABULARY GIVE TESTIMONY

Washington, Dec. 11.—Three former members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, each of whom said he had resigned as a "protest against British misrule" and later died in fear of attack by former comrades, presented today to the "commission of the Committee of One Hundred" investigating the Irish question, their accounts of the alleged operations of the British military forces in the Emerald Isle.

Each of the three, John J. Cadden, John Tanguay and Daniel F. Crowley, told of raids in which they said they had been forced to participate as members of the constabulary and of the alleged receipt from British commander or orders to destroy life and property.

The commission also heard details of the killing of Lord Mayor Mac Curtain of Cork, from Miss Mary MacSwiney, sister of Terence MacSwiney. The commission adjourned until next Wednesday.

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LT. COL BECCLES WILSON GOES TO WEST AFRICA

Montreal, Dec. 11.—In connection with the publicity campaign which the governor of West Africa is inaugurating England to West Africa.

with a view to promote trade, it is learned that Lieut. Col. Beccles Wilson, a Nova Scotia writer, has taken charge of the campaign and he has sailed from



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