

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 13, 1922.

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A TOWN AND ITS TAXES.

The Woodstock Press, which is a Conservative newspaper, gives the following as one reason why the town rate of taxation has been slightly increased this year:

"The Dominion Tanneries, Ltd., which purchased the Dickinson tannery plant in existence here for nearly a century, sold out to a company (which flourishes better in Canada than in any spot on this green earth) which closed the big tannery; and the plant has decreased in value."

This is a very frank explanation, and it may be added that the Woodstock tannery is not the only maritime industry that has suffered from the interest in its welfare manifested by corporations which desired to lessen competition in this field. Between the gobbling process and the freight rates our industries have had an uncertain struggle for existence, and those that have survived are very far from having a fair field in the Canadian market.

But there is another reason given by the Press for the rise in taxes. It says many citizens have converted taxable Victory Bonds into non-assessable bonds. This is not a habit peculiar to Woodstock, but of course those who pursue such a course would take previous offence if they were classed with the ordinary wretches who fail to pay their taxes.

One other reason given by the Press does discredit to nobody. It is that there has been a large increase in the expenditure on the public schools. We quote:

"We have before us a tax bill of 1890 (the rate being ninety cents on the \$100) and the school assessment that year was \$3,900; this year with comparatively the same number of pupils, if the census is reliable, and if we believe our older residents, the cost of the public schools is \$23,000, not taking into consideration our share of the up-keep of the vocational school, which is probably giving better results than any other institution in our midst."

From 1890 the school expenditure went along with very little variation until 1910, when it was \$10,000; the next three years it was \$11,000; the following two years it was \$11,500. Now watch it climb! In 1916 it was \$12,500; in 1917, \$12,500; in 1918, \$16,500; in 1919, \$15,250; in 1920, \$17,750; in 1921, \$21,500; in 1922, \$23,000."

The Woodstock folk have no cause to reproach themselves for this growth in expenditure. It proves that they are alive to the best interests of the town. Citizens of St. John should ponder on the remark that the vocational school in Woodstock, this in the province, "is probably giving better results than any other institution in our midst."

The town of Woodstock also has to pay a portion of the expenditure in Carleton county, and this includes the cost of the administration of justice, which last year was large, and the Press mildly suggests that it would be a good thing if the people of the towns and county were more law-abiding. Woodstock's share of county expenditure last year was increased by \$9,357.14, which is quite an item. But the showing of Woodstock is not at all discouraging, for the Press says that as far as it has observed the tax-rate which last year was \$1.62 on the \$100, and this year \$1.72, is the lowest of any city or town in the maritime provinces. This condition is in no small measure due to the town-manager plan of government and the fine ability of Town Manager Armstrong, a son of Secretary R. E. Armstrong of the St. John Board of Trade.

THE YOUNG NATIONS.

The western world, which reads most about Russia and Germany and the disputes between the great powers, is apt to overlook the great benefit which hitherto had been in a very real sense under the heel of the oppressor. The present state of Czechoslovakia under the Hapsburgs had enjoyed no liberties. Today it is marching forward to an administrative system which will give local autonomy and promote harmony between the racial divisions of its people. A correspondent of the New York Evening Post says the now pending reform is second only to the distribution of the old feudal estates among the peasantry. The old administration was wholly unsuited to a democratic state, and one of the first steps after the creation of the new state was the passage of an act providing for a new system to be worked out in detail by Dr. Derer, the minister for unification. This system would have to be alike satisfactory to Czechs and Slovaks, who were alike jealous of their rights. Dr. Derer made a study of the merits and defects of systems in Europe and the United States, and says the product of his research is indebted in some particulars to the American federal system, in others to the county system in England; but superficially, at least, it seems most to resemble the departmental administration of France. The Post correspondent says:

"The basic unit of the Czechoslovak administration is to be the 'jupe,' a Slavic word meaning a district of neigh-

borhood. Of the twenty 'jupes' into which the state is divided, nine are in Bohemia, five in Moravia and Silesia, and six in Slovakia. Each is subdivided into smaller districts, which elect delegates to the 'jupe' assembly. Jurisdiction in all matters affecting police, schools, roads, and local charities is in the hands of this assembly, besides the control of the public buildings of the locality. Furthermore, and this is very important—it enjoys the right of levying taxes for purposes of local government. The presiding officer of the assembly, an appointee of the central government forms with three councillors chosen by the assembly from its own membership a steering committee, which, like the judiciary, is non-political and permanent. To deal with matters affecting more than one locality there are to be instituted three unions of 'jupes.' Disputes regarding questions of general concern, such as navigation on important rivers and the building of nation-wide roads, will be brought up in the periodical congresses of these unions. To prevent the unions from arrogating to themselves rights belonging to individual 'jupes' and to decide disputes regarding their powers as distinguished from the powers of the national parliament a special administrative court will be set up in Prague. Here the individual 'jupe' may lodge complaints in its corporate capacity and here the law will be interpreted."

Dr. Derer is himself a Slovak, and would naturally seek to meet the views of the Slovaks autonomists as far as might be in the interests of the whole state. We are told that "the division of the whole state into comparatively small units, each with powers of local taxation, resembles the habit of government in Slovakia more than that in Bohemia, which always used to constitute a single administrative entity by itself;" and that the new system if adopted, as seems certain, "will accord each locality a deciding voice in its affairs; provide for the different localities to work together harmoniously, and make sure that the central government, while retaining its own prerogatives, will always be in touch with the desires of its people all through the country."

Thus, while the great powers seek to adjust great issues affecting all, the young new nations that have risen from the ruins of the old empires are realizing the benefits of the democratic state and moving forward along lines of peaceful and prosperous development. They, at least, have been great gainers by the war.

New York Herald—"No nation is more ready to congratulate Canada and wish her prosperity than the United States. She has been the best of neighbors and is, with the exception of Great Britain alone, the best customer of this country. The emergency tariff which interfered with this trade, has caused a greater loss to the United States than to Canada. But it has harmed the commerce of both nations and represents a policy to avoid."

Montreal is threatened with a strike of civil employes which would include police and firemen. If the men of these two classes desert their post not one of them should ever be given employment by the city again. They are the guardians of life and property upon whom it should be safe to depend in any emergency.

The province of Quebec last year received a net revenue of over \$4,000,000 from liquor. This does not make the Quebec liquor set any more respected, but it provides those in other provinces who would like to see their taxes reduced with a mercenary illustration which they are not slow to use.

With some of the best of the world's swimmers, the champion ring exponent of the day and a baseball team from the United States all in St. John this week, the city is evidently receiving general recognition of its claim as a good sport centre.

Apparently Russia has not yet learned her lesson. The Soviet delegates at The Hague will not meet the views of the other powers, and there seems to be no present prospect of agreement.

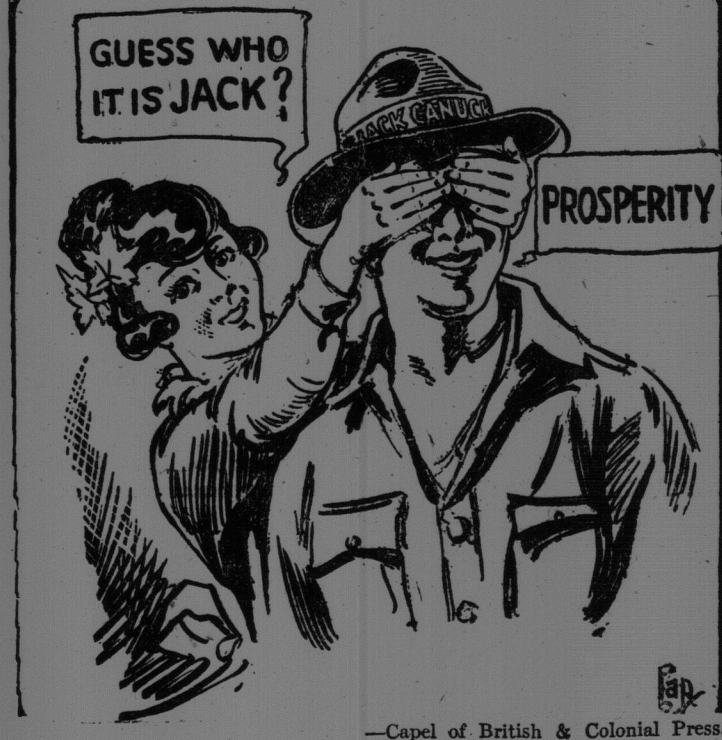
"The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" cheers a worried financial world again today. The Bank of England rate is reduced to three per cent.

DOCTORS' WRITING PUZZLES OFFICIALS

Brockville, Ont., July 13—Every physician in the province is to be circumscribed and asked to write more legibly the cause of death in certificates presented to registrars of births, marriages and deaths. J. Manchester, director of vital statistics, told the Leeds and Grenville Municipal Association.

"I don't know how you can read some of them at all," added the speaker, who said that greater care than before was being made of the registrar-general's department in providing certificates of birth for insurance companies, athletic associations, employers of labor, and the immigration authorities.

HOME AGAIN



—Capel of British & Colonial Press.

FAR-REACHING.

This is the strike that Jack called! This is the landlord who waits for rent. These are the townspeople, discontent. Dealers here groan for supplies delayed. Rerully note, too, accounts unpaid. This is a mother, with hopeless eyes, Soothing a half-nourished babe who cries.

These are the children who tattered grow— Daddy lacks money for clothes, you know! Here are the youth; in an idle time They fall into habits of vice and crime. Shabby the girls, who no more have work.

Prey of the fies who through strike months lurk. This is the village, once neat and fair— Dooryards are showing much need of care! Windows are broken and gates unhinged; Walks are all littered and grass plots singed.

'Round shop and mill weeds unchecked grow tall; Wheels are long rusting, no whistles call. Blight and decay here have settled down, Strangers deride the inactive town. Hunger and Want, unheeded, now stalk Where Thrift and Comfort were wont to walk.

Men, once so proud, tramp from town to town. Meeting refusals, deep scorn, a frown. Bearing it all for the ones at home, Hoping for luck as, soul-sick, they roam. Patience and tact and a little wait Would have averted this woeful state. Labor and Capital know that now; Burn to retract—but, oh, when and how?

Tired of the muds thus brought about, Taught sobering facts since the men walked out. Young and old, high and low, rich and poor, owners, employes, merchants, Farmers, home folks and strangers, Bothered and injured and suffering loss, Hate between shopmates, old help and their hire— All due to the strike that Jack called! —Ella A. Fanning in New York Times.

LIGHTER VEIN.

So Shyl! They were having a botany lesson, and the children were asked by their teacher if they knew what made the leaves turn red in the autumn. Up popped one hand—and only one. "Well, Johnny?" asked the teacher. "Please, miss," replied Tommy, "they blush to think how green they have been all the summer."

House Cleaning Diet.

"I'll be glad when house cleaning time is over." "What's the trouble?" "Two weeks of boiled ham and canned salmon for meals is about all I can stand."

Asfamed Quite.

Mistress (indignantly)—Jane, whatever did you mean by wearing my new evening dress at the dance last night? Really, you ought to have been ashamed of yourself. Jane (meekly)—I was, madam; you never heard such remarks as they made.

A Pattern for Husbands.

"Young women nowadays," remarked an ornithologist in the employ of the government, "take too light a view of marriage. While in the west last summer I was induced to lecture to a summer school. During the course of this lecture I chanced to remark:

TO CULTIVATE MARKETS FOR CANADA'S MINERALS

Deputy Minister of Mines Visits Europe in Behalf of the Mineral Industry.

Dr. C. Cammell, deputy minister of mines, has been named by the Hon. Charles Stewart, minister of mines and minister of the interior, as delegate to represent Canada at the International Geological Congress, to be held in Brussels, Belgium, in August next.

This congress, at which all the leading mining countries of the world will be represented, is held triennially. The last session, however, was that held in Canada in 1913, the war having made subsequent sessions until the present impossible. Eight Canadian geologists, most of them representing Canadian universities, will attend the congress.

ENGLAND'S PUREST LYRIC POET

(New York Evening Post.)

Shelley's six years of poetical productiveness—for he did not find his voice until he published "Alastor" in 1810—ended a century ago today when the squall blotted out his boat off Leghorn. This quick bright flash in English poetry remains like the five years of Keats, one of the great marvels of human genius. He reached the top of Parnassus at a bound. We can see that Keats was steadily growing in power when he died, but it is difficult to say that the Shelley who wrote "Adonais" in 1821 had a more sustained inspiration than the Shelley who wrote "The Cenci" in 1819; or that the author of the final chorus in "Hellas" had a purer lyric inspiration than the author of "Ozymandias" written in 1817.

Of the stern view of Shelley's defects of character we have had more in America than in England. One distinguished American writer has written with the utmost severity of Shelley making love to Mary over the grave of her mother, as of Shelley unabashed by the suicide of Harriet. Since Dowden's life appeared in the eighties all the facts have been before the reader. They proved to the mind of a sober critic like R. H. Hutton that Shelley was directly responsible for the death of Harriet, sharing the blame only with Godwin's eccentric doctrines regarding the relations between the sexes. But Matthew Arnold, regretting the publication of Dowden's volumes, refused to be shaken in his belief that Shelley, after all, was an "ineffectual angel," and the world is likely to accept Arnold's view of the poet, cheerful, and one of the most passionately sincere, of all its poets.

A character more full of paradoxes does not exist in the history of English literature; a character, with more unworldliness, idealism, caprice, and lack of humor. How, for example, can we reconcile Shelley the abolitionist with the reverence often manifest in Shelley the poet? It is fortunate that Shelley's defenders that two writers intimate with him and gifted in revealing anecdotes, Hogg and Trelawny, have done so much to show his childlike simplicity, his impracticality, his courage, and his loveliness. Shelley questioning his ideas regarding the world, whence they came, Shelley fearlessly outraging the Oxford authorities—all this helps us understand the Shelley who resented Southey's words of blame for his most serious lapses.

Even those who regard Shelley as the first of our lyric poets would admit that he is inferior in general appeal to other poets of equal stature. He is the poet of the ideal, not the real; of the ethereal and not the actual. He was endowed in reaction with the quality of intensity, kindling with a rapidity and completeness impossible to a more commonplace genius. While Keats's mind was a prism which threw a rainbow medley of colors, Shelley's was a crystal with little power of refracting color or imagery. Of warm human emotion Shelley has little emotion is ideal and intellectual, and the common theme is unsatisfied aspiration, the desire of the moth for the star.

But the artistic perfection of his lyrics is his best challenge. Even "The Cenci" and "Adonais" are in a sense lyrics, for a single thrill or emotion dominates both the tragedy and elegy. Poems like "To a Skylark," "The Cloud," and "Stanzas Written in Dejection" are as near flawless as human work can be. In this domain he stands unrivalled.

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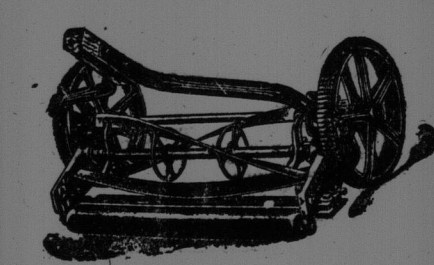
This congress, at which all the leading mining countries of the world will be represented, is held triennially. The last session, however, was that held in Canada in 1913, the war having made subsequent sessions until the present impossible. Eight Canadian geologists, most of them representing Canadian universities, will attend the congress.

Dr. Cammell has already left for England, his intention being to make a close study of the market possibilities there for Canadian minerals. In view of the impending enactment of high tariff legislation in the United States tending to restrict the market for our minerals in that country, it is of great importance to the mineral industry that new markets be cultivated. This subject will be fully canvassed with the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, who have already shown a keen interest in the development of a market for Canadian products.

Among other minerals to be considered in this regard are graphite, tar sands, feldspar and bentonite. The last mentioned is a clay used in the manufacture of textiles, very high grade deposits of which have recently been discovered in Alberta and British Columbia.

The terms of peace have divested Germany of some of her best mineral territory, notably in Alsace-Lorraine and Poland, and there is a possibility of developing a market for certain of our minerals in that country. It is understood that German interests have already made tentative enquiries respecting the

Cutting the Lawn

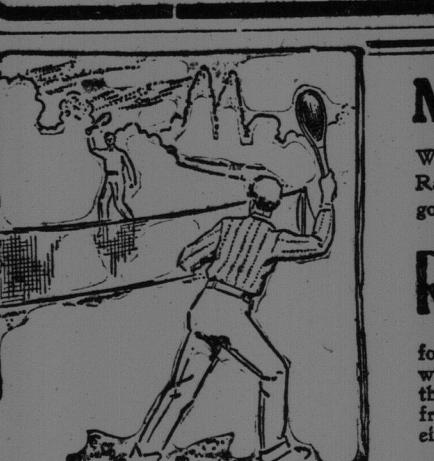


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possibility of obtaining iron ore from Newfoundland. While in Germany Dr. Cammell also hopes to investigate methods perfected there for the briquetting of coal, a subject which is of vital importance to the prairie provinces. He will also give special attention to phosphates and other mineral fertilizers.

A N. S. PROFESSOR.

(Amherst News.)

Donald MacGregor, a Dalhousie graduate and Rhodes scholar, has been appointed professor of physics at Mount Allison to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Prof. Randolph. Mr. MacGregor, who is an Amherst boy, and a brother of Mrs. C. L. Goss, of Sackville, was an honor student at Dalhousie University in 1915-16. Not being accepted for overseas service, Mr. MacGregor was given a position with the munitions department, where he assisted with special war research work. He received his

DEADLY FIREWORKS.

(Bangor Commercial.)

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Higgins, of Bar Harbor, will learn with regret of the death of their twelve-year-old son, Ralph W. Higgins, of injuries received on the Fourth of July. Death came Sunday evening from tetanus, which set in after an injury received from fireworks.

Chester, the eight-year-old son and only child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Bonville of Brewer, Me., died at a hospital in Bangor Monday forenoon of lockjaw, caused by infection resulting from the discharge of a Fourth of July revolver which burned his abdomen when discharged the day before the Fourth.

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