

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 21, 1906.

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MONDAY	6,573
TUESDAY	6,575
WEDNESDAY	6,605
THURSDAY	6,588
FRIDAY	6,582
SATURDAY	6,673

TOTAL 39,596

Daily Average 6,599

Average Daily Sworn Circulation First Three Months, 1906, 6,741

SUPERVISED PLAYGROUNDS

The Times believes that with the sympathetic cooperation of the school board one supervised playground can be conducted in the city during the coming vacation season, and fully demonstrate to the citizens the value of such an institution.

The grounds of the Centennial school on Brunswick street are not large, but large enough for the purpose of an illustration playground, if the school board would consent to the use of the basement rooms and perhaps a room on the first floor.

These grounds have two great advantages. They are in a district where the need of supervised playgrounds is very great, and they are shut in on all sides from the open street.

The school board could not reasonably be asked to the extent to do more than grant the use of the premises, but they would no doubt be willing to aid to the extent of the understanding that the supervision would be satisfactory to them.

The Times last year devoted considerable space to a discussion of this subject of playgrounds, and has more recently directed attention to what is being done elsewhere. In Halifax the Women's Council took up the question, Miss Marshall Saunders, especially, throwing herself into the work with well-directed energy and enthusiasm. Through communications in the press and talks to people who in turn talked to others, a general interest was aroused. The supervisor of schools was found to be in heavy sympathy, and once the question reached the stage where contributions could be asked for, the ladies were surprised at the generous response. They will have at least one model playground, under the care of a teacher brought from the states, where the supervised playground is already well established.

Miss Saunders writes that it is intended to provide games, swings, parallel bars, teeters, and hoops, basket work, clay modelling and other means of entertaining and teaching the little ones. It must be remembered that this work is not intended for the large children who are able to seek the fields and shores and other playgrounds, but for the little ones whose parents cannot or do not look after them, and who are therefore at large in the streets and alleys. To many of these vacation time is a long training in mischief, and the world is learning that it is necessary to have supervised play as supervised intellectual work. Children in a model playground would not only be kept out of mischief but would be taught many useful lessons. It was found in Detroit that children who came with a disposition to be rough and unruly soon became so interested that they were a source of help instead of hindrance. After each a playground has been in operation for a time everything falls into orderly shape and there is no difficulty in conducting it successfully.

It would be necessary to have two teachers, or one teacher and an assistant. In Detroit the Women's Club arranged so that two ladies would visit the grounds every day for a time after the experiment was started, to aid and encourage the teachers.

This paper has frequently pointed out the need of something more than is being done for the welfare of the children of this city. A supervised playground during the coming vacation season would be a forward step in a branch of work that is of the greatest importance. As usual it will be necessary to overcome some prejudice and apathy, but business men understand the situation and should be willing to respond. The police magistrate has many times been moved to denounce present conditions of child-life. The mayor has declared his sympathy with the proposed effort. The Women's Council has discussed the question and recognized its importance. The aldermen will no doubt be found ready to give their individual support and encouragement. St. John, therefore, should not be behind Halifax in taking up the question of supervised playgrounds in a practical manner, and providing at least one for the coming vacation season.

THE LOST CHILDREN

The fate of the two missing children of the Creamer family is still unknown, though the whole neighborhood has been searched by scores of men eager to solve the mystery. With such evidence as has been given, all theories fail to give a satisfactory account of the disappearance of the little ones, who seem to be as completely gone as if the earth had swallowed them up. In their efforts to explain the affair, some cast suspicion upon young Trenholm, and some upon one or both parents of the children, while there are

also suggestions of kidnapping. It certainly seems incredible that two such young children could wander far away, or so utterly lose themselves as to battle the efforts of a whole countryside to find any trace of them.

But the search will be continued. The responsibility for their disappearance and the manner of it must be discovered, if within the power of human ingenuity. The affair is a most extraordinary one; and has profoundly stirred the hearts of the people wherever the story has been read or told.

AN ABLE ADVOCATE

The statement of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy that under existing conditions there is not another possible winter port than St. John on the Atlantic coast of Canada will perhaps not be without its effect on those dependent souls who are always discovering evidence that the Canadian Pacific Railway is preparing to get away from this port. His statement will also possess significance for the federal government, which is now being asked to do some additional dredging in order that a steamship berth capable of accommodating the big Express steamers may be provided before next winter. Those vessels do not go to Montreal because the St. Lawrence channel is not deep and straight enough. They will not come to St. John unless there is wharf and warehouse accommodation.

The speech of Sir Thomas, which will be quoted all over the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe, will be of vast benefit to this port, directing attention to its development and the possibilities of its future. The board of trade would do well to use its channels of communication with great commercial centres to aid in bringing to public attention the views of the President of the Canadian Pacific relative to this port. His address marks a distinct forward step in the development of the winter port, which for ten years has been making its way in the teeth of competition, prejudice, and the discouraging influence of some local false prophets.

DANGEROUS DOGS

A dog went mad on the street in this city yesterday and had to be killed. Fortunately for the public the owner was at hand and promptly seized and held the animal. But the town is over-run with dogs whose owners are never visible, and there are a constant menace, and a constant source of fear for women and children. The Times once more directs the attention of the civic authorities, including the police, to the prevalence of the dog nuisance and the danger it involves. "If necessary a war of extermination should be waged. Otherwise citizens should be permitted to carry arms and shoot vagrant dogs on sight. The citizens of St. John are entirely too apathetic regarding several matters that affect the good name of the city and the welfare of its people.

At the meeting of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, held in Washington last week, Dr. Moore, of Boston, said it was practically agreed that hereditary tuberculosis was almost unknown, but a child should be taken from a tubercular parent at the earliest possible moment so as to prevent natural contagion. Alleged patent medicine cures for consumption were roundly denounced. Dr. Lawrence F. Fildes, of Philadelphia, the vice president of the association, in his annual address, outlined the fearful ravages of tuberculosis and pleaded for the adoption of all possible measures to check it. The financial loss to the public by the disease, he said, is not less, in the United States, than \$50,000,000 annually. Dr. Fildes urged the establishment of an information and press bureau to disseminate data bearing on the cause and prevention of the disease.

Railway travel in Great Britain is much safer than in America. A comparison of accidents shows as follows:—In Great Britain during 1904, six railway passengers were killed, or one out of every 194,738,000 carried, and 394 were injured, or one out of every 2,344,472 carried. In the United States, 262 passengers were killed, or one out of every 2,730,000 carried, and 4,798 were injured, or one out of every 140,107 carried. With regard to the railway employees, the net result is that in America one in every 337 was killed and one in every nineteen was injured, while in Great Britain one in every 825 was killed and one in every eighty-six was injured.

The following item is from the London Globe:—"In 1902 the amount of raw cotton exported from the whole of our Colonies to the United Kingdom was no more than 827 bales; in 1904, the total sent here was 9188 bales. In both years there was a similar expansion in the quantities forwarded to foreign markets, which displayed great eagerness to 'corner' this new supply. In regard both to price and quality it already compares favorably with the American article, but the great gain to Lancashire is that there is the less danger of her industrial population being thrown out of employment by the operations of American speculators."

LEAVING A GREAT VOID.

Scott—"At first, he was crazy about her, but now he forgets her shamefully." Mott—"I see—at first he went out of his mind, and then she went out of his mind."

Heaven is not far from him who smiles in cloudy weather.

Stores open till 8 o'clock.

St. John, N. B., May 21, 1906.

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Men's Suits at \$3.95, 5, 6, 7, \$8.75, 10 to \$20.
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Big Furniture Sale

Commencing, Tuesday May 1st

Which will be continued throughout the month, BARGAINS IN EVERY line. Persons going housekeeping would do well to select their goods during this sale. Goods stored until required. Ask to see our \$200 BRASS BED. Regular Price, \$40.00. Sale will Commence Tuesday, May 1st.

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THE BOARD OF HEALTH

advise boiling the water. Drink Butter-milk instead. Recommended by the Medical Profession everywhere. You can have it delivered to your address by telephoning the St. John Creamery, 92 King St. Made fresh every day. Telephone 1432.

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INFANTS:—28c, 48c, 58c, 68c, 78c, 88c. Sizes 1 to 7.
CHILDREN'S:—88c, 98c, \$1.08, 1.18, 1.28. Sizes 8 to 10 1-2.
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Women's Patent Leather Oxfords, Goodyear welt, nice heel, Gibson tie. A stylish durable shoe, - - - \$2.80

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Summer Underwear, Summer Socks, Summer Ties that will wash. White Shirts and Regatta Shirts.

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ELECTORAL REFORM

(Toronto Globe)

Disfranchising for a term of years those who fail to vote would greatly lessen the evil effect of at least one of the bad influences in public life. Indifference is the besetting sin in political affairs, and its results are quite as unfortunate as those which follow positive dishonesty. In fact it is a species of dishonesty, for every citizen is under a moral obligation to bear his part in the management of the public life whose benefits he enjoys. The indifferent voter must be told where he is to vote. It is his duty to find out for himself. He must be industriously canvassed, coaxed and driven to the poll. It is his duty to find out the policy and principles of the candidates or their lack of such adjuncts, and to go to the poll himself. He requires to be moved by his gregarious instinct, and this necessitates the brass band, the procession, the monster meeting, and all the show which makes him feel that the crowd is with a certain party or candidate. It is his duty to move without the impetus and attention of the crowd, and to stand alone, if necessary, in supporting the principles in which he believes. As a result of this indifference the necessity arises for organizations, managers, clerks, canvassers, grand rallies, carriages, torchlight processions, the buying of tone-arms, and all the tricks and devices necessary to move the politically indolent. These things necessitate funds in abundance, and that necessarily means the transfer of power to the hands of the men who supply the money. With power go the public favours and franchises that are available in a new and growing country. The man who waits until he is canvassed or driven to the polls does almost as much to undermine the integrity of public life as the man who holds out his hand for the market price of his vote. Our representative institutions presuppose an active interest, a public spirit, and a personal initiative in public life which unfortunately do not exist in the average constituency. A large element in the electorate is still in this condition in which a doped man in the natural and normal form of government. The governing power has not been won by these means, but thrust upon them. As a consequence they bow to one of the worst forms of despotism, the form described by the poet of Democracy as "the new-emerging autocracy of elected persons." This campaign worker becomes a power in the land because there are so many voters waiting to be worked. The elected representative knows that many of those who elected him know little and care less about his course on all but the spectacular side of the campaign. He knows that the vast majority of the indifferent. The benefit of the proposed law will be found, not in forcing the indifferent to vote, but in removing them from the political life in which they are a deleterious element.

COBALT'S DAMAGES

Cobalt, Ont., May 20—(Special)—When seven and a half tons of dynamite exploded in a town surrounded by hills the result and concussion are apt to have the effect of a small sized earthquake.

Such was the case here late yesterday when 213 cases, stored by Taylor & Co. on a hillside, on the outskirts of the place, went up in smoke.

When the flames which had started in a building further down the hill reached the powder magazine there were a few minutes of smouldering embers, a momentary luminous glare, followed the next instant by a terrific impact that shook the entire town to its foundations. The effect of the shock in the town itself was simply stupendous for a moment. The pulsing heart of the community stood still. Then everything was concentered verging on panic. The explosion left very few of those who were standing on their feet. Not only was every considerable pane of glass in the entire town shattered to atoms, but fully seventy-five houses, and no end of out-buildings, most of them in the French section, were wrecked beyond possibility of repair.

Fully sixty large structures, to say nothing of many of the outbuildings to which reference is made, were subsequently consumed by fire. The largest individual loss outside of Taylor & Co. will be that of the general store, which was first to topple over and burned to cinders. All the stumps around about were uprooted, while beneath the spot occupied by the magazine itself the solid rocks had been dislodged as though they were so much fallow land yielding to the plow.

For several acres of land the flames had carried everything before them and communicating themselves to the adjacent forests, burned for fully a mile and a half to the north of the town.

As a further indication how fearful was the concussion pressing this disaster it may be mentioned that every candle in the shaft and drifts of the Buffalo mine situated a mile distant, was instantly extinguished and no inconsiderable amount of rock was dislodged from its place, fortunately without mishap to the miners. The loss is estimated at \$40,000 and the only insurance was on one building. All the rest are a total loss. For the future the law will be enforced, and dynamite storerooms must be outside the town limits. The exploded dynamite was valued at \$2,000.

RUBBER PLANTATIONS

MEXICO CITY, Mexico, May 19—It is claimed by owners of rubber plantations in southeastern Mexico that that industry has passed the experimental stage and that some of the plantations are now producing the rubber for market in considerable commercial quantity. It is stated that in the States of Tabasco and Chiapas there are a number of rubber plantations which are now on a paying basis. As an evidence of the growth of the industry it is stated in an official report received by the government of the State of Tabasco from its expert appointed to investigate the situation that the total annual output of the rubber plantations of that state is now about 500,000 pounds. Of this 500,000 pounds more than 300,000 pounds are marketed in San Juan Bautista, the capital of the state. Practically all of the successful rubber plantations are owned and controlled by the Mexicans. There are a number of American companies operating rubber plantations in Mexico. Some of them have bright prospects.

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