

POOR DOCUMENT MAY 23 1920

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1920

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RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS.

The American National Committee on European Finance, which for some months has been studying the problem of getting raw materials to Europe, as essential to reconstruction there, has submitted an interesting report. It points out that bankers and business men are favorable to practical effort on a large scale, but holds that government action is also necessary. It calls for a revision of excess profits and income taxes, so that large investors can afford to put their funds in other than tax-free securities; and the sanction and co-operation of the government in plans for supplying reconstruction credits to Europe. Or, as the report puts it:

"Your committee believes that it is the duty of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to advocate such a modification and reduction in the excess profits tax and income tax as will enable those with large incomes to invest at least a part of their surplus in the securities of corporations organized for internal development or to promote foreign trade, and thus increase the supply of free funds in America for investment purposes."

Of course there is the small investor also, but he is not an important factor and will not be until increased thrift and more careful consumption enlarge his available funds. That is not the present situation, for the report already quoted says:

"The small investor is not saving money. He has been influenced by the tendencies toward extravagance which have swept over the entire civilized world since the armistice. Closely related to this is the almost universal speculative tendency of the time, which is an insupportable obstacle to the substantial sale of investment securities among small investors. It is a national misfortune that the American people are not producing more and saving more, so as to be in a position to be of greater aid to Europe in her hour of need. But the fact is that they are not saving in proportion to their present scale of income. And even if substantial thrift were being practiced among investors of small means, the resulting funds would not be large enough to meet the present situation without the support of the large investor."

Thus there is the dual problem of making available a larger amount of capital for investment, and the establishment of credits in European countries. It is not doubted, however, that security can be found in Europe if the needed capital can be secured at home, and in this the government is to be asked to assist.

THE PERSONAL ASPECT.

The individual and personal aspect of the problem of the high cost of living is a very important one, and one that is too much overlooked. How many persons really ask themselves from day to day what they are doing to increase production, avoid waste, and add to the aggregate of savings by the practice of daily thrift? And thrift does not mean parsimony or harmful self-denial. It may be expressed in many little ways without hardship or discomfort. In matters relating to food, clothing, and pleasures which are expensive, it is easy to spend more than is essential to comfort and happiness. It is also possible by carelessness or lack of energy to slow up the work of production, which alone can bring prices down. It is too easy to lay the blame for existing conditions on someone else, and to overlook the fact of personal responsibility. We have only to consider what the effect of a general resolve to do or refrain from doing a particular thing would be, to realize the possibilities in the way of thrift and greater production, and the healthier conditions they would bring about. The task is not for one but for all.

Of the beneficent use that may be made of moving pictures Canadian Finance says: "The moving picture house of today is a splendid medium for peaceful penetration. The class of films exhibited determines the class of thoughts engendered in the minds of the people who witness the exhibition. The moving picture is an educational institution, the work of which may be constructive or destructive. The very pronounced movement to secure good films for our theatres is a healthy sign of the times. Give our people films which point to the better side of life; give us films which will enlighten the people of Canada—give us British and Canadian films which will educate Canadians—young and old—and demonstrate to them the mighty power and resourcefulness of that grand old Mother Country of which we know too little, and the wonderful resources of our own Canada. We are building a nation. The moving picture may be used in the building process. Let us be sure that it is used to the best advantage."

The Standard says that the principal object of the public health act "seems to be to make positions for some favored supporters of the party at pretty good salaries." The Standard knows perfectly well that the highest salaried officer of the department, the chief medical health officer for the province was always a strong conservative. Merit, not politics, governed his appointment.

The Bangor Commercial says: "Reports from the various summer resorts and watering places predict that the coming season will be one of the greatest ever. The tide of summer travel to Europe in its before-the-war magnitude has not yet returned. Conditions in Europe are not yet sufficiently restored to normal conditions to be especially attractive to the tourist. And so another summer will be spent in seeing America first and Maine will be among the states that will profit most thereby." The maritime provinces may fairly hope also for a large tourist travel this season. The coming of the American newspaper men in June should result in a larger influx in July and August.

The announcement that School Inspector W. M. McLean has tendered his resignation, after fifty-two years' service in the teaching profession, brings to many people of middle age memories of their school days. If all the pupils who attended classes conducted by Mr. McLean were gathered together they would make a goodly company, and included in the list would be many who have since earned distinction in various walks of life. Every one of them now living will wish for him the enjoyable rest from labor which he has so well earned in over half a century of faithful service.

The Trades and Labor Council of Montreal will have a demonstration on May Day, and asked the civic authorities to assist thereto. The latter have done so, but have thrown upon the Trades and Labor Council responsibility for good order and strict observance of municipal by-laws. In other words, they want to see free speech and demonstrations within the law. The Trades and Labor Council has not yet decided whether to accept the responsibility and take measures to ensure observance of the law. They did so on a somewhat similar occasion last year.

The revolutionary movement in Mexico is spreading. An American exchange, noting the fact that in state after state the revolutionists are gaining fresh adherents, says: "The revolutionists are beginning to look as if Carranza would soon be deposed, and it believes that would be bad for Mexico. Opinions will differ on this point, but the United States cannot be indifferent to what is going on in the adjoining republic."

The big hotel project, which was one of the things the Commercial Club set out to promote, appears to be progressing favorably. That of getting St. John into the New England Baseball League was well in hand, but for some reason which has not been explained the League has never met, and therefore this plan fell through. There may be better luck next year.

The value of building permits issued since the first of April in St. John makes an unexpectedly good showing. There will be considerable activity in the building trade after all, and it may even reach large proportions before many months elapse.

A lecturer who proposes to talk on "How to Live When Asleep" is reminded by the Kingston Whig that he would be better employed in telling folk how to be truthful when awake.

The chief of the Bureau of Good Roads in Washington reports that the sum of \$938,000,000 will be available from the various states for road work in 1920.

Toronto Globe: The price on some of the spring hats in the shop windows suggest to the Providence Journal the desirability of a reduction in overhead charges.

The quantity of grain in Canada on April 16 was as follows: Wheat, 31,875,851 bushels; oats, 15,524,985 bushels; barley, 4,297,882 bushels; rye, 796,844 bushels.

COLONIZATION

BOOM IN QUEBEC IS LOOKED FOR

(Canadian Press.)

Quebec, April 30.—Speaking on the colonization outlook in this province, Rev. I. Caron, colonization missionary, yesterday expressed his belief that the province would see another colonization boom this year, especially in the Abitibi, Lake St. John, Matapedia and Gaspé regions. He added that the number of applications was much over last year, mainly from the province and from the New England states. Very few settlers were expected from France and Belgium. The Canadian Pacific Railway states that by next fall the lines will be completed from Ville Marie to Ottawa on the Temiscan Colonization Railway and that one of the most wonderful sections in the country will then be opened. The Quebec government is also completing its good roads scheme in the Labelle region.

WARNING TO DEMOCRATIC SENATORS, SAYS BRYAN

Pittsburg, April 30.—Wm. Jennings Bryan last night declared that the recent primaries were a warning that Democratic senators should lose no time in voting for the ratification of the peace treaty.

A Masonic directory of the Ohio State University, now in press, shows that there are 560 Masons in the student body of the university.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

FREE AIR.

The air we breathe is cheaper than anything there is; custodian or keeper, can't say. "The price has risen?" We hear no far fetched wheezes from profiteering gents, explaining that the breezes have gone up fifty cents. "The stock of wind's exhausted," no doubt they'd promptly say, if they should be accosted, to fix the price today. Grown tired of endless railing at things that cost me dear, I stand outdoors inhaling a lot of atmosphere. I work my ancient bellows in ecstasy and glee; no greedy, swinish fellows can charge it up to me. Oh, for the love of Peter, let's breathe it and enthrall! No corporation's meter will measure what we breathe. Some day they'll learn to cinch us, and tax us for the air, and cops will come and pinch us if we exceed our share; but in the balmy present they hardly dare to try; the breezes, sweet and pleasant, are free to all, not as the care-free heifer that gambols in the grass. Some day a grim collector will climb your creaking stairs, will come, a grisly spectre to tax you for the air.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

TADOUSSAC.

Every summer some thousands of tourists from all parts of Canada and the United States enjoy the marvelous beauties of Tadoussac. It was one of the early places established by the French fur traders. Champlain made it a centre of trade during his administration of the new world. For instance on June 3, 1608, he neared the place with an expedition from France. He anchored and then rowed into the port only to find a Basque fur trader already living behind the rocky entrance. A few days earlier Pontgrave, who had preceded Champlain from France, had encountered the trader and fought a battle with the Basque. It ended in Pontgrave being wounded and one of his men being killed while several were injured in the skirmish. Champlain was in no condition to fight so a treaty of peace was agreed upon, all difference being referred to the French courts.

The port of Tadoussac was long the centre of the French fur trade. In those days it was a bleak place. "A desolation of barren mountains closes round it; centuries of civilization have not tamed the wilderness of the place." Near the wharf the French collected the furs of the winter's catch of the outlets. A wooden barrack built eight years earlier. About 1800 the British took over the place. The Indians, too, brought furs far north—they were in fact the only traders who collected furs to the North and brought it to the French for sale and transportation overseas. When Champlain had settled the troubles of the day and seen the injuries of Pontgrave attended to properly he left on the St. Lawrence for Quebec.

I SHALL BE BEAUTIFUL.

I shall be beautiful some far-off day. And eyes will look and find me fair; For in my soul, flower-sweet and angel-pure,

Will blossom every secret, silent prayer for beauty, which I may not yet attain. But only love and seek with longing pain.

Love graciously will grant my heart's desire, Upon my brows will bind hope's immortal tresses;

And I shall be at one with bud and bloom. That grace the sunny hills and dewy dells

On your far shore where all the year is spring. And singing birds are ever on the wing.

O heart of mine! Though storms beat fierce and wild, Turn thee not back. Thou shalt win safely through.

For love immortal leads thee by the hand. Some sweet spring dawn thou shalt be all made new;

And out of mists and clouds that gloom the night Shall pass to regions of undreamed delight.

—Lillian Leveridge.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Back to Normal. "Look pleasant, please," said the photographer to the (more or less) fair sitter.

"Click!" "It's all over, ma'am; you may resume your natural expression."—Stray Stories.

Accommodating.

Her Father—"The fact is that I cannot give my daughter a dowry just at present."

Sister—"That's all right. I can love her for herself in the meantime.—Boston Transcript."

Well Done.

Walter—"Steak medium or well done, sir?"

Absent-minded Parson—"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Professional Courtesy.

"The trouble with this tooth," said the dentist, probing it with a long, slender instrument, "is that the nerve is dying."

"It seems to me, doctor," groaned the victim, "that you ought to treat the dying with a little more respect."

Changed Meaning.

"Jewel" is a term no longer applied to precious stones, which are now called rocks. Jewel has a term applied only to cooks and maids who stay a month or longer.

Unavailing.

Dobbin—"I hear that your daughter's married a struggling young man."

Jobbin—"Well, yes, he did struggle, but he couldn't get away."

His Modest Request.

The great pianist at a drawing-room function was clearly annoyed. "I do not ask," he said, "that you moderate your conversation to the point where you can hear me play. That, perhaps, would be too much. But in order to do myself justice I must request that you allow me to hear myself."

He resumed his playing amid deep silence.

TOM MOORE ON WAGE-BOOSTING AND PROFITS.

(Montreal Herald.)

Tom Moore, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, gave voice to a growing conviction among the people at large in his address in Ottawa when he said that higher wages and less working hours are not the remedy for the high cost of living. As he remarked, every increase which employers grant is immediately taken up by the increase of cost of commodities, whose price is boosted in order to give the workers the wage.

But that is not the worst of the situation. The ever-increasing wages paid to workers in the city are having a widespread effect in decreasing the production of foodstuffs. It is draining the rural districts of labor. Men are not so potent to work on the farm for moderate wages, when they have before them the constant lure of fabulously high wages in the city, combined with the attraction of sixteen hours of idleness out of every twenty-four, with production of the eight hours of work slowed down. The migration from country to city has now reached such proportions that the rural districts are being drained of labor supply is sufficient, and there are innumerable instances in every county where the labor supply is actually confining production to what he himself can handle, without any hired help. The effect is to increase the production in the factories, as labor organizations are succeeding in doing, under the impression that it increases demand, and stabilizes occupation, unions are draining the country districts of labor, quite apart from the effect of the additional attraction of high wages. They are thus creating an artificial shortage of food which is rapidly becoming serious. If things go on as they are going actual hunger will stalk like a grim spectre through the rural districts. The inadequate supplies of food will soar in price far beyond the present extravagant levels.

THE POET OF ETERNAL APRIL

April, 1920, was within two hours of breaking when Peter McArthur of Ekfrid, Ont., rose in Convention Hall, in Toronto to talk about the Canadian prophet of April, Bliss Carman. The occasion was a benefit to the famous Canadian poet who later months at Saratoga, Lake bathing with consumption is now convalescing in California. The next day he was in Toronto to receive the editor of the Toronto Globe pulled from his pocket a letter written to him by Carman on April 23, 1910, in reply to an enquiry about the poet's work. The letter was published in the Globe of that date. It is reprinted here. Note the allusions of the exiled poet to his native New Brunswick.

New Canada, Conn., April 23, 1910. Your letter of inquiry as to my work is very gratifying, but I confess I feel a good deal of diffidence in responding. April seems to come a little sooner, and to be a little more luxuriant in southern New England than it used to be in New Brunswick. But her traits are very little changed. The frogs pipe, the maples and wild cherries break in bloom, the golden-wing calls from the hardwood ridges, the blood-root is white along the roadside, and the red-shouldered hawk bird flutes on his rustic whistle, just as they did in the golden age beside the St. John.

Trilliums, too, and anemones, and spring-beauties, and dog-toothed violets, and other ravishing children of the woods, all lovely as of old—and all within an hour and a quarter of 42nd street if you know where that is! Then there are blue-birds, too, and soon there will be orioles, both adorable new acquaintances, with incomparably happy voices which we never heard in New Brunswick, and whom I have come to love very dearly.

But when May comes, I shall go out from under roofs and set up my khaki tent again in a clearing beside a chestnut grove. The thrushes will come there and sing in the twilight, the violets will blow along the spring-rims, and the grey squirrels play over the old stone fences, and I shall walk over Canal Hill in the heavenly weather, when the first breath of summer comes greeting all the woodlands, and look out over the rolling country to the blue line of the Mounts sparkling and Homeric in the sun, and put away regretful thoughts. Sincerely,

BLISS CARMAN. Bliss Carman, who has been recuperating in California, is reported improved in health and expects to start for his home in Connecticut early in May. He intends to take a few years' rest at Battle Creek, Mich., and on his way through Canada will pay a visit to Peter McArthur of Ekfrid, Middlesex county, Ont., an old friend.

COURTESY.

"The difference between courtesy and the lack of it is often a small thing," says a writer in the current issue of Forbes Magazine, N. Y. "Once upon a time as I sat in a restaurant a waiter from another table came up and, without a word, yanked the sugar-bowl from my table in order that he might serve a customer across the room. In another restaurant another waiter wanted a bowl of sugar and came to the table at which I was sitting. With a bow that would have done credit to Lord Chesterfield, he picked up the sugar-bowl, offered it to me with, 'Have you

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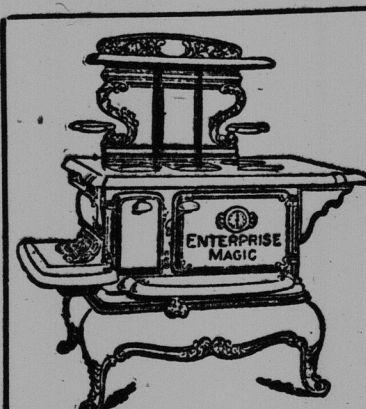
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STRANGE PROCESSION.

In China there is a very strange procession for women. It is carried on by elderly ladies, who go the round of the best houses, announcing their coming by beating a drum, and offering their services to amuse the lady of the house. This offer accepted, they sit down and tell the latest scandals and the newest stories and bits of gossip, and are rewarded at the rate of a few pennies an hour.

TWO MONTHS' THEATRE BILL \$15,000,000 IN NEW YORK.

New York, April 30.—Fifteen million dollars were spent by the tired business man and his wife for the theatre in January and February, according to figures made public today by Collector of Internal Revenue Edwards. The taxes amounted to \$78,691.42 for January and \$695,626.20 for February. As the tax on theatre tickets is 10 per cent, it indicates clearly the amount people are spending for theatres.

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