

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1926

# The Evening Times-Star

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## THE MAYOR AND TAXATION.

His Worship Mayor White, in issuing the second of a series of statements regarding assessment and taxation, through which, presumably, he is preparing the public mind for correct action as may be designed to correct the impossible situation, deals with several angles of the whole question. While it is perilous to make comparisons unless one compares like with like rather than like with unlike, Doctor White contrasts effectively certain taxation practices in Saint John and in other cities, notably Toronto and Vancouver. He contrasts the taxation of a married man, with a further allowance for children, in Calgary the exemption is \$1,500 for the married taxpayer, while Vancouver gets along without either a personal or an income tax. This does not mean, of course, that the taxpayer, dependent upon income, or upon the revenue from personal property either entirely escapes taxation or falls to pay approximately his just proportion of the civic levy. While we pay directly here, he pays indirectly, and while a dollar is always a dollar, the indirect form of payment more nearly approaches painless taxation than our own plan.

The Mayor, once more, directs attention to the amount of money which our taxpayers devote to school and county purposes. If we add interest and other practically fixed departmental expenses, the revenue at the disposal of the Council is exceedingly limited, and leaves no margin for projects of civic betterment, grating as these are needed. There is nothing for beautification, tree planting (so desirable from many standpoints) no funds to promote many forms of improvement which some excessively material citizens decry, but which, nevertheless, very greatly need undertake garbage disposal although we have been talking about it for thirty years, and although we know that it is properly undertaken it would not be a source of financial loss and that, except a slight loss were incurred in money, the benefits, the protection, the convenience, the access of ordinary decency attending the enterprise would justify the expenditure many times over. The dividends in health alone would justify a small bond issue to cover the early stages, if that were necessary, or to quiet the minds of the economical alarmists who have stood in the way of this project so long.

As to installment payments, the Mayor is apparently doubtful or, at least, open to conviction; but it must be said that the considerations he advances with respect to this matter are at least worthy of careful examination. Perhaps the most hopeful and welcome feature of his second message on taxation is to be found in the obvious certainty of its tone and the impression it conveys that he is not only willing to engage the expert advice necessary for a proper analysis of our taxation and assessment situation, so that we may reorganize and go forward along sound lines, but that he is about to proceed along that safe and wise avenue of enquiry, and bound not to stop short of the degree of reform that the investigation may indicate.

Taxation reform, of course, is not to be hurriedly or unduly undertaken without complete information, nevertheless the circumstances as we know them are such that undue delay would be most unwise. There is a feature of the situation upon which His Worship has not yet touched, but with which it may be well supposed he will deal when he next addresses the public. This has to do with the manifold and clearly manifest injustices resulting from the working out of the present system.

Doctor White, if he were to examine with care, as doubtless he has already done, a list of some hundreds of taxpayers taken at random, would detect therein many instances either clearly proving evasion of taxation of the most glaring order, due to the elastic consciences of those making sworn statements, or, if not that, due then to the impossible character of the plan under which we are working or the machinery which we apply to assessment and collection. The present plan, if pursued unchanged, is bound steadily to increase the list of defaulters, and just as steadily to increase the sense of irritation, injustice and futility which now oppresses a very great proportion of the body of taxpayers in Saint John.

## GUNS OR AIR TORPEDOES.

No arm of the service has undergone more changes and has been the subject of more scientific applications than the Artillery. In the days of Creedy men, manufactured tubes of metal, crammed them with powder and any old projectile according to fancy and in the present day, the development of death

to apply a torch to the vent of a weapon which was almost more dangerous to friend than foe. Within the memory of many still serving in the Artillery, a considerable number of less important coast defence armaments consisted of rifled muzzle loader guns which had to be sponged out carefully before a shattering bag of powder was rammed home from the business end of the piece followed by the shell and the whole thing manhandled into position after each recoil.

Twenty years make a tremendous difference when, compared with Big Berthas, Grandmothers and Archies, the 47, naval miracle of the South African war, was as out of date as the rifled muzzle loader. In other lines the Gunners have gone ahead also. The rank of driver has been abolished because with "dragon" tractors there is no place for the gallant little person who used to swing "his horses" and some when it came to Action Front! Now it looks as though the whole arm might follow him into oblivion.

The French have invented a pilotless radio-controlled air ram. As reported, this is designed to break up close-fisted enemy air squadrons. As such it is but a beginning and presumably can only be operated within the range of visibility. The next step will be a wireless Brennan torpedo with wings. No guns needed, just let go a slight plow, lethal gas or anything else you prefer, guide them by map, chronometer and compass until they are over the target—the enemy's capital, say, a hundred, five hundred or a thousand miles away—and then, on a signal from observing planes, cut off the power and let them drop and do their most devilish. Why bother with guns when this becomes possible? Why bother to live?

## THE SUPER EGOTIST.

George Bernard Shaw at seventy seems to be a kind of Peter Pan whose mental growth was arrested at the age of maximum mischief. If there be one thing above all others that G. B. S. loves, it is to make one's self conspicuous. He inclines one to think that Dickens made an error of characterization when the novelist depicted an obese infant with these proclivities. The modern egotist, however, is an elongated septuagenarian with a straggling beard.

There was a time, when Englishmen took G. B. S. seriously and got very angry with him. The Irish probably all the while recognized him for what he is, the leopards of themselves, for the cheerful, cost-trailing, swing-the-shillalah-and-let's-have-a-drink type. Now Alton grins and shrugs her shoulders when G. B. S. perpetrates one of his re-repeating atrocities and refuses to be intimidated. Anybody who would be a Liberal supporter of the King Government could have gone further than he did in its defence. He stated that he was not making any apology for the Customs revelations, but went on to say that "nothing happened" in regard to the Customs which might not have been going on for ten or fifteen years or perhaps thirty years. Surely an argument of this kind can carry no weight. What might have happened in the last thirty years? Surely there has been no change in the law, and it is of no present interest to the electors. But they are greatly concerned over what has happened in the past and not likely to overlook it because of the suggestion that, in years gone by, similar offences may have been committed. Let us suppose an individual were accused of wrong doing and in his defence were stated that, while he was guilty, it was quite conceivable that someone else had been similarly guilty. Would such a plea give any consideration?

## Odds and Ends

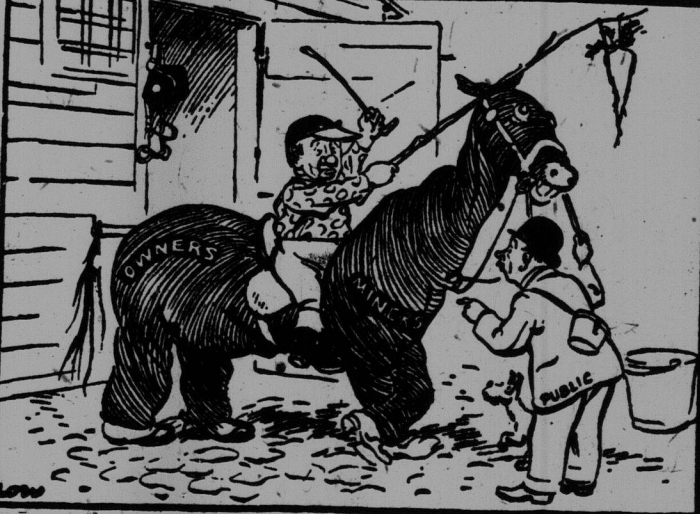
### Naming the Immortals

Rudyard Kipling started something when he suggested that "quite a dozen writers have achieved immortality in the past 2,500 years." The New York Times, querying 16 distinguished authors of America and Europe, finds these the favorites: Shakespeare, Dante, Homer, Virgil, Balzac, Cervantes, Goethe, Moliere, Plato, Dickens, Voltaire and Milton. Walt Whitman and Poe, the only Americans voted for, each received one vote short of the qualifying number. It would be interesting to know whether the judges were familiar with the works of all the men they suggested as immortals and how recently they had read extensively. Dante, Virgil and Milton, three great poets who are more talked about than read. What would your list be?

### Life's Roses

You love not me and all the world is gray.  
You still still approves the way:  
For had you laid life's roses in my lap  
I would never have known the world was gray.

## Baldwin and Coal Strike



"Why not give the backend a smack, Stanley?"  
—From The Star, London.

## Queer Quirks of Nature

CAN'T SWIM, BUT LIVES ON THE WATER

By ARTHUR N. PAGE

ONE of the most curious of our waters is the black-necked stilt. All his upper surface is black, and all below is white. Not by accident is he named the stilt for he stands on such long slender legs that it is difficult to think that they are all his own. But like all long-legged creatures he makes good use of them, for he is able to wade in water so deep that any bird built on the common plan would either have to swim or go ashore.

It is a sort of unwritten law in the bird world that if one has long legs one must also have a long neck and bill, else starve within sight of its dinner, and here the stilt has no exception. Our black-necked stilt finds his greatest delight about the alkaline, marsh-bordered lakes of the Great Basin. The range includes also the marshes of the lower Mississippi. The bird is never far from wet ground, and here he builds his nest of grass and other herbage, quite an elaborate nest, to keep the precious eggs of the damp ground.

And besides the nest he has other means of keeping the treasures dry. He must also have a long neck and bill, else starve within sight of its dinner, and here the stilt has no exception. Our black-necked stilt finds his greatest delight about the alkaline, marsh-bordered lakes of the Great Basin. The range includes also the marshes of the lower Mississippi. The bird is never far from wet ground, and here he builds his nest of grass and other herbage, quite an elaborate nest, to keep the precious eggs of the damp ground.

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## Just Fun

BY THE WAY, whatever became of Red Grange?

### RADIO TROUBLES.

THE man, home from a night at the club, who tried to get Los Angeles by tuning in on the door-knob, probably got a station much farther away when his wife was aroused.

ROUGE is like romance—it rubs off on close acquaintance.  
WHY doesn't the criminal who wishes to conceal himself become some famous woman's husband?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
QUESTION—What is full of holes and yet holds water? Answer—A sponge.  
Q—What grows larger the more you take from it? A—A hole.  
Q—Why is the letter E like death? A—It is the end of life.  
Q—What word with five letters when two are taken away leaves one? A—None.

Q—Why does a railroad engineer wear a cap? A—To cover his head.  
Q—What is the name of some fish that can be pronounced without moving your lips? A—Herring.  
Q—What belongs to you, yet is used more often by others? A—Your name.  
Q—What is a reformer? A—One who never enjoys seeing that others do not have any fun.

POEMS I LOVE  
BY ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

"A Denial," by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

THE finest poem of renunciation that I know is this gorgeous poem of Mrs. Browning's. It is magnificent in final space permits me to quote only a portion of it.

We have met late—it is too late to meet,  
O friend, not more than friend!  
Death's forenoon shadow is tangled round my feet,  
And if I step or stir, I touch the end.  
In this last jeopardy  
Can I approach thee, I, who cannot  
Look in my face and see—  
I might have loved thee in some former day,  
Oh, then, my spirit had leapt  
As now they sink, at hearing thy love-phrase!  
Before these faded cheeks were over-  
cast,  
Had this been asked of me,  
To love thee with my whole strong heart and head—  
I should have said yes, yes, but  
smiled, and said,  
"Look in my face and see!"  
But now—God sees me, God, who took my heart  
And drowned it in life's surge.  
In all your wide warm earth I have no part—  
A light song overcomes me like a dipper.  
Could love's great harmony  
The saints keep step to when their hands are loose,  
Not weigh me down, and am I a wife to choose!  
Look in my face and see—  
While I behold, as plain as any who dreams,  
Some voice of full worth,  
Whose vision, as cadenced as a silver stream,  
Shall prove the fountain-soul which sends it forth,  
One younger, more thought-free  
And fairer, than I, thou must forget.  
With brighter eyes than these . . .  
Which are not as yet—  
Look in my face and see!  
So farewell thou, whom I have known too late  
To let thee come so near.  
Be contented happy when men call thee great,  
And one beloved woman feels thee great.  
Not I—that cannot be,  
I am lost, I am changed—I must go farther where  
The change shall take me worse, and no one dare  
Look in my face and see.

Only human beings and certain kinds of apes have flat nails on their fingers and toes.

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Sold By Hardware Dealers

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SUMMER FROCKS OF RAYON CREPE, BEADED VOILE AND FRENCH CREPES

A great variety of printed designs and plain colors together with a price that is less than half make this a splendid time to select one or more frocks for the summer wardrobe. All the newest style features are represented in straight lines, pleats, flares and two-piece effects. On Friday at . . . \$4.95

TAILORED SUITS OF TWEED OR TWILLED FABRICS \$15, \$17, \$19

Very important for late Summer are such Suits as these. The simplicity of the styles, the perfection of the tailoring are certain to appeal. Regular values to \$30.

KNITTED SUITS ARE VERY POPULAR JUST NOW

Here you will find all the newest knitted effects and most popular colors at prices which are less than half.

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\$4.59 up to \$14.95

A great variety of styles, showing new collars, pleats, leather belts, all the favored colors for fall wear.

## Timely Views On World Topics

ENGLISH PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO PAY THEIR DEBT TO U. S.

By LADY ASTOR

Member of British Parliament in an Interview in Boston

THERE is no bad feeling in England about the American debt. The masses of the people are expecting to pay. That little flurry of ill feeling recently was stirred up by Lord Rothermere, but it died because the people would not respond.

England is going to pay, just as honest people expect to pay their debts. As for the general theory of the cancellation of war debts, I only know that the best economists of the world seem to be agreed that if all the debts of nations could be canceled it would be the best solution for everybody.

As for prohibition in the United States, it was a step in the right direction and all right-thinking people in England are in favor of helping America to enforce it. You say there are more arrests in America since it came in? Well, maybe you've just started making arrests for drunkenness. Anyway, I believe the general level of the people in the United States is higher than it was before prohibition. It isn't fair to judge the whole people by those arrested.

Things in England are terribly depressing, and I don't know the way out. Still, it isn't as bad as some newspapers pretend. The debt situation, for example, has been terribly exaggerated. I know men who have spent every dollar of their savings and then gone hungry rather than accept it, but what can you do in the end? You can't allow people to starve. It's worst with the young men. They never had any jobs, and can't get any now. That is pitiful.

Then they say the solution is immigration, but where shall the people go? Why is it that over here there are more immigrants from the Irish Free State than from all over England, Scotland and Wales?

The one thing I feel most keenly about, people in all countries must be very careful about saying things that cause prejudice in other countries. Peace societies are not the ones to make peace in the world. It's the sentiment of the masses of the people, and they do the world an ill service who carelessly arouse prejudices.

A PROMINENT figure at the Institute of Politics, now in session at Williamstown, Mass., is M. Nicholas Politis, formerly minister of foreign affairs of Greece, and at present Greek minister to Paris.