POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times and Star.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 22, 1922.

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NO REDUCTION SAYS STANDARD

Lest its previous day's statement should not have been sufficiently clear the Standard returns to the subject today, to impress upon the minds of the people of St. John that there can be no reduction in rates to consumers of light and power, because it will cost as much to distribute the hydro as the steam developed current. We quote:—

"The company's average price to consumers of current is 8 1-2 cents—8.54 to be exact—which makes the cost of distribution 7 cents. The only estimate the city has so far as the cost of distribution is that of Mr. R. A. Ross, who says that the cost of the Musquash current delivered will be 7.99—practically 8 cents. Of course we are well aware that the Ross report is poohpoohed by the hydro enthusiasts, but they only do this because it does not take the line they wanted it to take. The cost of the current at the switchboard at Fairville it to be 1.2; deducting this from the 8 cents, leaves the cost of distribution 6.8 cents, as against 7 cents charged by the Power Company."

Again the Standard says:—

"What evidence is there that light and power from the Musquash plant will be available to citizens at less cost than is the case at the present time? Not a particle."

There is evidence enough to show that the cost can be reduced one half. The Mitchell estimate is four cents as contrasted with the eight cents of Ross and the Standard and its friend the power company. The city council has had since last November to find out the cost of a civic distribution system, but has delayed and is still delaying. It has acted throughout as if it were convinced that it must do business with the power company. The civic elections are at hand. The candidates must declare themselves for or against civic distribution and be judged accordingly.

THE RUSSIAN PROBLEM

Discussing the rehabilitation of Russia, a Polish writer says:—

The rehabilitation of Russia now heads the agenda of world problems. The approach of the Genoa Conference has brought the Russian problem into great prominence at this moment, but this problem is not new to those who have studied the situation on the spot. Of one thing in particular these students and observers are convinced, namely, that Russia must be built up from within. They have no sympathy with the plans of statesmen and promoters who would reestablish Russia with one grand gesture—with a wave of a wand. Work, not talk is needed. The mere expenditure of capital is not the remedy recommended. Hard, patient, shirt-sleeve labor and application is prescribed as the only road to Russia's reconstruction. What has been so completely destroyed cannot be rebuilt by conferences between statesmen, nor yet by directors' meetings in financial centres."

The Moscow correspondent of the German newspaper, Frankfurter Zeitung, expresses his views, founded on his observation in Russia, as follows:—

"One has throughout the impression that the work here must be undertaken little by little. This, in fact, has already been done to a modest extent. Patient work on a small scale does not, in this connection, mean small scale commerce, but actual work which attacks all phases of the problem with limited or extensive expenditure of energy and capital. There are instances, in which it is, as Goethe said, the highest duty to do that which lies nearest at hand. To overhaul Russia today by means of a far-reaching system of concessions is analogous to giving a paralyzed man a pair of the most wonderful modern crutches. First the paralysis must be cured. Only then will crutches be of use. A concession today can be of value to foreign capital, only if it can be exploited. Moreover we shall have to count on very patient capital which can wait for the payment of interest and principal. Exploitation, however, is conditioned by the assumption that the Russian industrial body will again come to life and regain the full use of all its organs. What can be realized should be realized as soon as possible. But it will come off best if it is regarded as a business by itself, and not as part of some magnificent scheme which could be thought out in all details at once and then realized in its entirity with one stroke. What is most needed in the first place is even more initiative than gigantic supplies of capital. And initiative is most effective when it is individual; when it flows freely out of a thousand individual and small efforts, into one big stream."

Russia's chief difficulty is still the Bolshevist regime. It has been found necessary for Lenin to make concessions to capitalism, put efficient managers in the place of Communist misfits, and afford greater freedom for individual effort; but Lenin now asserts that this has gone far enough. Neither the Genoa conference nor any other agency can help Russia until she does a good deal more to help herself.

A GREAT EXPERIMENT.

Reference was made in the Times on Monday to the people's school at Antigonish. A correspondent of the Halifax Chronicle tells the story of this, the second year's experiment, which closed on March 11, after a successful eight weeks course. He says that no tuition fees are charged by the school as its main expenses have been met by a generous and public spirited citizen of Nova Scotia, and the provincial department of agriculture has also assisted in defraying expenses. He says further:—

"This unique effort on the part of its promoters to extend to the large class of young and middle aged men who have, through force of circumstances, been deprived of the advantages of higher education an opportunity of acquiring a more advanced scholarship has met with the most unqualified success. At its inception it attracted the attention of educationalists of note through Canada, the United States and Great Britain and has, it is quite safe to say, marked a distinct advance in the work of bringing university training and scholarship within reach of the masses of the people."

As two thirds of the seventy men in attendance were farmers, a prominent place was given to agriculture, and we are told:—

"Besides the regular classes in this most important subject, which were conducted by Rev. Hugh McPherson, D. D., and Rev. Miles W. Tompkins, B. Sc., both agriculturists of note, the Federal Department of Agriculture at Ottawa furnished the services of a large crops of specialists in certain particular lines such as Plant Diseases, Farm Management, Poultry, etc., etc. These men remained for periods varying from two days to two weeks and their various lectures were largely attended, not only by those enrolled in the school, but by the public generally."

But these seventy students, whose early education was neglected, were not confined to one or two subjects. A glance at the cirriculum shows that in the eight weeks they were given such opportunities to gain knowledge, enlarge their outlook and pave the way for further valuable study at home as must have been of incalculable benefit. Note these subjects:—

English Literature, conducted by E. J. O'Brien and Prof. Bucknell.

Economics, by Rev. D. J. Macdonald, Ph. D.

Ethics, by Rev. D. C. Gillis, Ph. D.

Social Science, by Henry Somerville, M. A.

Grammar, Composition and Letter Writing, by Rev. J. R. Macdonald and Rev. H. J. Macdonald.

Arithmetic, by Rev. M. M. Coady, D. D.

Business and Finance, by W. P. Reynolds.

Public Speaking and Debate, by Rev. T. O'R. Boyle, D. D.

French, by Prof. Gantheron.

Greek Art, by Prof. Smith.

Physics, by D. MacLellan.

Chemistry, by Rev. M. N. Tompkins, B. Sc.

When it is stated that English Literature was taught by Mr. E. J. O'Brien, author and literary critic, from Oxford; and Social Science and Labor Problems by Mr. Henry Somerville, M. A., also of Oxford; and Business and Finance by Mr. W. P. Reynolds, a banker; and every other subject by a most competent teacher, we can understand what a privilege these students enjoyed, and what an inspiration the course must have been. Rev. Father Tompkins says that it has been clearly demonstrated that these students, even men of middle age, are not only eager to learn but have showed their ability to learn. Not only do they learn about agriculture, business and other practical subjects, but they get sound views on social problems and lay the foundation for a love of good literature. To help them in their reading and study at home, a circulating library has been established in connection with the school. It already comprises some five hundred volumes and the books are distributed amongst the people generally, the only cost to the reader being the postage. It is not surprising that this experiment has attracted widespread attention, or that Dr. M. Cumming, secretary for agriculture is strong in his advocacy of the continuance and extension to other parts of the province of Nova Scotia.

ROBBERS, 18, GET 10 YEARS.

Women Relatives Parted From Prisoners by Force.

Supreme Court Justice Charles H. Brown of Allegany County, New York State, sentenced Carlo Perino and Frank Guinta to not less than ten nor more than twenty years in prison for the robbery of Andrew Pensa, an aged restaurant owner, who was held up in Greene street in December, 1920.

The prisoners, who are each 18 years old, protested their innocence and after they had been sentenced their women relatives created such a disturbance in holding them farewell and clung to them so desperately that the deputy sheriffs were compelled to separate them by force and to clear a pathway from the courthouse of the crowd drawn by the noise.

MARCH

(Rev. George Scott)

Fleecy clouds of pearly whiteness,
Broidered with a darker hue,
Clouds of opalescent brightness,
Floating in the azure blue.

These the times of preparation
For the glories that shall come,
When with gladsome jubilation
All the birds are flying home.

And a hush of expectation
Of the days of waiting bliss,
When upon the wide creation
God shall set His sealing kiss.

So the time goes drifting, drifting,
Till the days shall be fulfilled,
And the restless wind is shifting.
Till its restlessness be stilled.

And the sun grows strong and stronger,
Brighter his reviving rays,
Wait my heart a little longer,
Soon shall come the perfect days.

Now the woodland folks are waking
From their slumber warm and deep,
Now their busy feet are making
Trails around the mountain steep.

Fleecy clouds of pearly whiteness,
Tossed by every wanton breeze,
Days of shade and days of brightness
Brooding on the bare old trees.

Gentle days and hours of wildness,
Genial days more genial grow,
Till in the ethereal mildness
Joyfully the brooklets flow.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Professional Interest.

The class listened with breathless interest to the teacher's account of her encounter with a tramp.

With dramatic gesture she reached the climax of her story, and then concluded by saying: "And then I fainted."

Little Bobbie gazed with awe and admiration at his teacher, and was the first to break the silence.

"With your left or with yer right, miss?" he asked.

Rollo—Why do they call one of those men the star boarder and the other the porter?

His Father—From two nautical terms, starboard and port, meaning right and left. In the matter of diet the star boarder is in right with the landlady, while the porter takes what is left.

Who Was the Victim?

Young Tommy had been rather unruly, and as his father was a somewhat hefty person, it was with fear and trembling that Tommy followed him to the study.

Pa was not long in commencing hostilities, but, to his great surprise, no sooner did he begin to ply the slipper, than Tommy started to laugh.

The harder his father smote, the louder laughed the victim; until at last father demanded the cause of it.

"Why," said his son, "you say it hurts you more than it hurts me, and I'm just thinking how you're going through it!"

Fit.

"I play golf because it keeps me fit."

"Yes, but fit for what?"

"Oh, more golf!"——Kansas City Star.

Poor Fish.

The regular customer—I think I'll have some fish.

The French waitress—Pardon, Monsieur, the fish—he is not well today.—London Opinion.

MORNING NEWS OVER THE WIRES

O. Rudolphe Ouimet, Liberal, was yesterday declared elected by acclamation to represent the constituency of Vaudreuil-Soulanges in the House of Commons. The vacancy was caused by the elevation of Gustave Boyer to the senate.

A number of formal denials of the alleged British-American undertsanding in connection with the four-power treaty were received by the senate and the excitement in the senate died out yesterday. Among the denials was one from the White House.

Several thousand dollars' damage resulted from a fire in Edmundston in the garage and bowling alley of Joseph David.

The announcement of the re-appointment of Hon. McCallum Grant to be lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia for another period of five years was given yesterday by the acting premier, Hon. W. S. Fielding, at Ottawa.

Rev. Adelard Delorme was committed for voluntary statement on March 27, yesterday, in the enquete court at Montreal. It is expected that he will then be committed for trial to appear before the court of the king's bench in June. He is charged with the murder of his half-brother, Raoul.

A strike of cotton mill workers affecting about 20,000 operatives has been declared in Lawrence, Mass., on orders from Thomas McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America.

C. W. Tuttle, a native of Cumberland county, N. S., and five members of his family are dead in Cambridge, Mass., as a result of eating canned greens that had developed "botudism," a fatal poisoning. The canned goods were eaten last Thursday at dinner, and the first victim died Monday evening, the others following in rapid succession. Four physicians worked night and day in an effort to save their lives.

HOW NOT TO BE SEASICK.

Chinese Acrobat, Swinging by His Toes, Offsets Roll of Liner.

(New York Times.)

One of the circus performers who arrived yesterday from Germany on the Holland-American liner Nieuw Amsterdam was Goo-Gu, the human pendulum, from the region of the Yangtze, who entertained the passengers during the stormy weather with his novel remedy for seasickness. When the ship was rolling her gunwales under the chops of the Channel, Goo-Gun staggered out on to the upper deck and suspended himself by his toes to one of the iron battens athwartships, where he swung rhythmically to and fro for fifteen minutes. Then he felt so much better that he was able to eat pea soup, fat bacon and greens for lunch. Goo-Gu repeated the treatment at intervals until he had no more fear of seasickness.

Besides Chinese and German jugglers and trapeze artists aboard there was a troupe of Algerian acrobats from Azi-Zoo-Za. The Chinese could only speak German, having been taken to Germany and trained as small children.

The infant born to Mrs. H. H. Ritchie, of Frazeburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, just before her arrival on the Metagama, and who was buried yesterday afternoon, also died in the hospital yesterday and was buried with its mother in Cedar Hill. Mr. Ritchie and a small daughter, left this morning on the remainder of their journey to Ontario.

RECOLLECTIONS OF JOSEPH JEFFERSON

("Solace" in Montreal Gazette.)

At a fashionable resort on the Maine coast, some twenty years ago, an American short-story writer entered his name on the hotel register as follows: "Richard Harding Davis and Valet."

The next arrival, an elderly gentleman, picked up the hotel pen and with quizzical expression write, "Joseph Jefferson and valise."

If today one was to ask an American citizen what great men were born in this month of February, each and every one from the oldest inhabitant to the newest immigrant would answer, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and a few might add—and Joseph Jefferson, dean of the American drama, was born in Philadelphia on February 20, 1829. For there are people who recalled him not only as an actor, but as an artist and a clubman and a fisherman as well as a friend; and to three generations he was known, in fact he had a world-wide reputation, as Rip Van Winkle, the man whom all the children and all the dogs loved; the man who took a long, long nap of twenty years and when he awoke the children had all grown up and strange dogs barked at his heels, his gun fell to bits and he murmured to himself: "Are we so soon forgot when we are gone?"

Joseph Jefferson's grandfather was an English actor who went to America in 1801, and Joseph Jefferson's father was also an actor and an artist, and he himself, when but four years of age, tumbled into popularity in Washington, D. C., when a black-faced comedian carried him on to the stage in a bag, and after singing and dancing for a stanza or two would introduce little Jefferson with: "Ladies and gentlemen, I'd have you know I've got a little darky here who jumps Jim Crow." And then the little lad would be shaken out of the bag and would dance too. He was a marvellous mimic, and his escort was six feet tall. Jefferson would sing the alternate stanzas in his high treble and nimbly pick up the pennies and dimes that were showered upon the stage.

In his autobiography, published in 1889, Joseph Jefferson gives a dramatic pen picture of his father's early struggle in the crude American west, when, in 1828, a company of young actors, with the elder Jefferson as manager, traveled from Chicago to Galena in open wagons over the prairie, seated upon their luggage that contained their wardrobes. "Those smooth hair trunks, with geometrical problems in brass tacks ornamenting their surface, made slippery seats as we jolted on."

Another journey to Dubuque, Iowa, is described as it was made on the frozen river in sleighs, where a warm spell made the ice unsafe. The passengers arrived unharmed, but the sleigh with the scenery and baggage went through the ice and rested upon a sandbar, so the opening of the theatre had to be delayed until the properties were dried out. "The halls of the hotel were strung with clothes-line and the costumes of all nations were hung thereon, while the pasteboard gilded helmets succumbed altogether after their bath in the Mississippi."

After a good season in Dubuque, they moved on to the towns just springing up in the Far West of that day. What a lesson in geography for a boy of nine years.

It was not until Joseph Jefferson was thirty-six years old that he, after a long tour in Australia and South America, visited England for the first time; and it was there that Dion Boucicault re-wrote for him Washington Irving's famous legend of the Catskill Mountains; and in London, at the Adelphi Theatre, Joseph Jefferson made his first appearance as Rip Van Winkle.

This drama was given with huch entire success that it ran for one hundred and seventy nights, and when he came to his own land his name and fame were made forever after. During the forty years which followed, that play was presented ten thousand times; through it he became very wealthy, the owner of several beautiful homes, and had at one time the finest private collection of paintings in the new world; was given an LL.D. by Harvard University. But with it all he remained the same quiet, simple gentleman, who in his leisure hours loved to paint pictures himself; he had a studio in a barn down on Cape Cod. Here, too, he spent long summer days deep-sea fishing with President Cleveland, whose summer home was nearby.

Once, when Jefferson was playing a week's engagement at the Academy of Music in Montreal, someone took him up on Mount Royal, and he beheld for the first time that beautiful view on an autumn day. Returning to the Windsor Hotel for his palette and brushes, he telegraphed to his wife, who was then in their Louisiana home, "Join me here at once, and see the greatest panorama in the world."

It was in 1870, when Joseph Jefferson was playing in New York city, that an old actor named George Holland died, and the minister of the church that Mrs. Holland attended refused to have the funeral from there, on the ground that her husband had been an actor. Holland's son appealed to Jefferson, who was now a popular favorite. The latter remonstrated with the minister, saying at last: "Well, sir! Is there no church to which you could direct me?" The reply was: "There is a little church around the corner where you might get it done." "Then," cried Jefferson, "God bless the little church around the corner."

By this name the Church of the Transfiguration on Twenty-ninth street, in New York city, is known to this day. From it Wallack, Edwin Booth and Dion Boucicault were buried; in it the Players' Club erected a memorial window to Booth in 1898. Here, too, a memorial service was held for Joseph Jefferson, when the news came that he had died at Palm Beach in 1905, a service which thousands of persons attended. The windows placed in this edifice were designed by LaFarge in his finest manner, and hundreds of tourists find their way thither every year. It has the charm of a place dwelt in lovingly, embellished beautifully.

Joseph Jefferson improved the status of the actor all over the land. He did not attempt to manage theatres nor to produce new plays, he did the thing that he could do best, and did it to such perfection that the art of acting became in his day as high as that of the musician, the artist, the sculptor.

"Are we so soon forgot when we are gone?" Remembrance of these lines, as they were said in wonder by Rip Van Winkle, can never be forgotten. But the world does easily forget. Very much that we do now, that seems at this hour so vital, will presently be swept into oblivion; but, to quote from William Winter, the famous dramatic critic: "The name of Jefferson will be remembered as long as gentle humor is prized, as long as kindness and pity remain upon the earth, for such a name as his is written with smiles and tears upon the human heart."

Edward J. McLaughlin, charged with having bread for sale without its being properly wrapped, was yesterday found guilty of a technical violation of the by-law and the minimum fine of $10 allowed to stand.

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