

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1919

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THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

At the great meeting in the Imperial

on Sunday, Lord-Lieut. Phipps referred

to the fact that New Brunswick was the

first province or state on this continent to

have a minister of health. Dr. Porter of

Toronto paid the province a very high

compliment for its advanced public health

legislation, which is an example for

other provinces. Lieut.-Col. Murray

MacLaren expressed his great satisfaction

that while he was overseas the province

had been making such progress along

health lines, and heartily commended

the department of public health. It is

worth while to note these utterances,

because the health department is

sometimes subjected to unwarranted

criticism. Hon. Dr. Roberts has not al-

ways met with sympathy or hearty sup-

port, and the personal references by

speakers to his capable administration

were well merited. It is never easy to

introduce a radical reform, and to do

it and keep on going requires courage

and enthusiasm. A few years hence, when

the province is well organized in every

district for effective health work, the

people will wonder how they ever toler-

ated the old conditions.

Hon. Dr. Roberts is now promoting

the cottage hospital plan for various

provincial centres, and in this New Brun-

swick will not lead Canada, since the plan

has already been adopted with great

success in British Columbia. It will be

no less successful here when properly es-

tablished. A group of such hospitals

would be of the highest value.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

If St. John is to be linked up with the

New England Baseball League the Com-

mmercial Club must act promptly. The

matter must be settled next month, and

if a company is to be formed, stock sub-

scribed and a diamond secured there-

must be a quick and effective campaign.

Such a campaign, successfully conducted,

would put the New Commercial Club on

the map as well as put St. John into the

league.

With more than two hundred and

fifty members at the end of its third

meeting the club is certainly off to a

good start. It has already referred sev-

eral important matters to committees,

and prompt action on these and others

which can be dealt with at the same

time by live committees from so large a

membership will at once command pub-

lic confidence and ensure more general

support. The club has a wide field and

a great opportunity. There are still

many citizens who are not fully con-

vinced that the club will be a success,

and the sooner it chucks up two or three

large achievements to its credit the

sooner the doubters will cast doubt aside

and join the organization. The winter

evenings afford time for discussion of

plans and projects for the city's good,

and it may be hoped that among other

things the club will throw every atom

of its power into an agitation to bond

the city to the extent necessary for a

real street programme, a municipal build-

ing and other needed improvements. To

be silent on that subject would be to

show a sad lack of faith in the future of

St. John.

VACCINATION AND SMALLPOX.

Montreal has found it necessary to

take steps to protect itself against the

entry of smallpox from the city of Tor-

onto. No passenger from Toronto may

enter Montreal without showing a cer-

tificate of vaccination or a scar that is

evidence of vaccination within the last

seven years. The state of New York

is also taking precautions. The disease

is epidemic in thirty counties in On-

tario. The people of Toronto are pay-

ing for the folly of those who are carry-

ing on a vigorous agitation against vac-

cination. They might learn something

from New Brunswick. Not long since a

number of cases of smallpox developed

in one section of Westmorland county.

By prompt action on the part of the

provincial health department and hearty

co-operation on the part of the local

health authorities and the people the

spread of the disease was prevented.

There is also a lesson in the experi-

ence of Halifax not many months ago

when indifference to the spread of small-

pox developed a situation such that pas-

sengers coming from that city were

asked to give proof of vaccination before

coming to St. John or going to the

United States. Not until strict meas-

ures were taken by the Halifax health

authorities was the situation relieved. If

Toronto or other Ontario cities do not

wish to be isolated the remedy is simple.

Quarantine and vaccination will soon

give them a clean bill of health. In Tor-

onto, on Friday, last, persons were un-

der quarantine, but there were still many

who opposed vaccination. A compulsory

vaccination law was adopted last month

and was repealed, then re-enacted, and

there is an agitation to have it repealed

again. The action of other provinces and states

will eventually bring the people to their

senses.

Germany must sign the protocol or

Allied armies will move. That is the

decision of the supreme council. Germany

will doubtless sign. Her bluff has been

called.

QUOTING ROOSEVELT.

Senators Lodge and Johnson have

been very busy putting up the Japanese

bogey in the United States, in connec-

tion with their denunciation of the peace

treaty. The New York Evening Post

applies to them the words of Theodor

Roosevelt, written last year out only

recently published. He said:

"There are blatant Americans who

... have played the game to the

limit by striving to make trouble be-

tween Japan and the United States

... There are in this country cer-

tain demagogic politicians ... will-

ing to obtain preferment for themselves

by any appeal to distrust and suspicion,

no matter what trouble it does the

country. These sordid creatures have

worked ... to provoke an ill

that might eventually produce war be-

tween the United States and Japan."

The Evening Post charges that the two

senators, for party and personal reasons,

are ready to repudiate the position taken

by the leader whom they professed to

honor and adore; and it sums up Col.

Roosevelt's convictions as follows:

"There is not the slightest real or nec-

essary conflict of interest between the

United States and Japan in the Pacific

her interest is in Asia, ours in America;

neither has any desire or excuse for ac-

quiring territory in the other continent.

Japan is playing a great part in the

civilized world, a good understanding be-

tween her and the United States is es-

sential to international progress, and it

is a grave offence against the United

States for any man by word or deed to

jeopardize this good understanding."

Lodge and Johnson will have some dif-

ficulty in persuading Republicans gen-

erally that they are wiser than their for-

mer great leader.

That which the Commercial Club

desires was done in one instance yester-

day. The Commercial Club. When a large

group of citizens give up a day to go to

a neighboring town to promote a move-

ment for community welfare there are

showing the very spirit the Commercial

Club holds in esteem. The St. John and

Halifax Rotarians who went to St.

Stephen yesterday did not go merely for

pleasure. They know what a live Rotar-

ian Club means to a city and they went

to give cheer and encouragement to their

citizens in St. Stephen. Make that spirit

province-wide in its operation and an

immense good will have been accom-

plished.

If the report that Mexican radicals

planned a revolution and the seizure of

American border states has any founda-

tion in fact it will still further incense

the American people. At such a time

as the present there is always a crop of

rumors, but President Wilson may be

relied on to sift them out before taking

any action.

Hon. T. A. Cresser passed through Ot-

tawa yesterday for New Brunswick.

Have any steps been taken to have this

prominent western statesman, who some

people believe will one day be premier

of Canada, and who certainly is a force

in Canadian politics, visit St. John and

get his knowledge of this winter port at

first hand?

It is clear from the Ottawa despatches

that Sir Robert Borden is having great

difficulty in reorganizing his cabinet.

Some amazing rumors regarding possible

New Brunswick representation have been

afforded. Ottawa appears to think it pos-

sible also that Sir Robert himself may

be long retired from the turmoil of active

politics.

German industries are almost back to

a pre-war basis. That is why Germany

does not wish to be cramped in regard to

shipping. She is looking for markets

and means of transportation. Her dream

of industrial domination of the world

has not passed.

The appeal of the Local Council of

Women in behalf of the Children's Aid

Society was responded to so generously

that more than \$2,500 was received. A

worthy cause has been worthily aided by

the citizens.

D'Annunzio is said to be short of

funds. There is no fun in being a dic-

tator after the money is gone, and the

mad poet is much less belligerent.

JUDGE LEAPS TO DEATH

FROM COURT HOUSE WILLOW

Budapest, Dec. 9.—M. Kovacs, a judge

who has been investigating the murder

of Count Tisza, former Hungarian pre-

mier, committed suicide on Sunday by

jumping from the third story window of

the court house. Judge Kovacs had been

accused by the extreme Socialists of sup-

pressing evidence which showed that for-

mer Premier Tisza had knowledge that

the murder of Count Tisza was in-

tended.

IN BRUSSELS STREET CHURCH.

A large gathering attended the ser-

vice in Brussels street Baptist church

last night when Dr. C. A. Inglis of Lon-

don, Eng., preached on "Scenes I have

witnessed in the condemned cells of the

world." He gave a most interesting dis-

course. Many were present yesterday

afternoon at the meeting on Bible study

over which he presided.



Rippling Rhymes
Walt Mason

(Copyright by Geo. W. Matthews Adams)

THE MAGAZINES.

I went to buy some magazines, as any sane man would; the merchant

showed a can of beans, and said 'twas just as good. "There are no mag-

azines," he said, "a strike made them suspend; but here's a loaf of Graham

bread will do as well, my friend. You're not enough of a picnic to buy

a single mag; but we have codfish, cheese and prunes and onions in a bag."

Alas, there are no substitutes for magazines, indeed; I would not give a

standee's appeal to my purse, I saw them o'er with idle hands, and say

they're getting worse. But when there are no magazines my nights are hat

and gray; I yawn and think of soup tureens until I seek the day. I miss

the gripping, vital tale that used to freeze my blood; and checkers are of

no avail, and life's one ghastly thud. I miss the high, uplifting screed,

which tells how one may rise, though down and out, and go to seed, and

gain a gorgeous prize. An evening without reading means an evening

grim and blue; and so I've missed the magazines—no substitutes would

do.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN.

When the rebellion of 1837 was crushed

by the British, at Montgomery's Tavern

on Dec. 7 the place which had been the

headquarters of the rebels for the week

of open hostilities was given to the

flames with all ceremony. It had been

wrecked by two round shots fired