

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1919

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COLD STORAGE ABUSES.

"Cold storage is a legitimate business, and within bounds is desirable, but it ought not to be used for speculative purposes, nor made the medium for raising prices beyond the point of fair and reasonable profit."

This is the concluding sentence of a striking article in the Montreal Gazette dealing with abuse of the cold storage privilege. The article was based on the following statement:

"A local court judgment in a cold storage case, rendered on Monday last, serves to point a moral and to illuminate, if not adorn, a tale. The matter can be thus concisely stated. On November 23rd, 1916, a quantity of dead poultry was placed in a Montreal cold storage warehouse, and when, fourteen months later, the goods were examined, they were found to have been 'damaged and eaten by vermin.'"

Of course this is not an isolated case. St. John has not been without its instances of the destruction of food products that spoiled in cold storage. The Montreal Gazette well says:

"The story suffices to arouse indignation that in a period of high prices and limited supply, poultry should be carried in cold storage awaiting, since we can imagine no other reason, a favorable turn in the market. This is the sort of thing that has excited hostility to cold storage as a means of manipulating prices, causing perishable food stuffs to be dear in the season of relative scarcity, dearer in the season of relative abundance. Cold storage has its usefulness and can be made beneficial to the people if the opportunity for speculation is withdrawn. Merchants who place perishable products in cold storage in order to equalize supply over a lengthy period are entitled to a reasonable profit on the business, after allowance for rent, insurance, interest on money investment, and, perhaps, depreciation. But they are not entitled to exorbitant profits at the expense of the consumer flinched by 'cornering' the market. We have already urged that there be government inspection and regulation of this business. It should be made impossible to carry foodstuffs in cold storage upwards of a year. The utmost limit it should be from one season of production to another; and there should be such inspection of the goods as will prevent their retention until decay has made them unfit for consumption."

One of the matters the government should deal with, and without delay, is the iniquitous speculation made possible by cold storage facilities. It is a crime against the consumers in the cities and towns of Canada. A rigid system of inspection would prevent such use of cold storage facilities. So long as there are sharks to take advantage of public need there must be measures to deal with them and protect the public.

Today the interesting announcement is made that Sir Robert Borden is a stockholder in a cold storage plant in Manitoba, which made fifty per cent profit last year, and which is now holding large quantities of foodstuffs for export. Sir Robert will not be blamed for having an investment in a cold storage plant, and he has been quite too busy with national and imperial affairs to give it any of his personal attention. Now, however, that it is found that the Manitoba plant has been getting too much profit and hoarding foodstuffs for that purpose, the prime minister cannot ignore the situation.

A DESERVED TRIBUTE.

The presentation of a name plate to the Mabel Peters kindergarten yesterday was a tribute to the memory of one who did much for the children of St. John and whose sympathy and labors embraced the welfare of all the children of Canada. One of her cherished aims was to see organized a national Playgrounds Association. Another was to see the public school buildings opened as social centres. She advocated special schools for playground supervisors, and legislation to promote child-welfare in every way. In one of her messages to the St. John Playgrounds Association she said:

"We desire to surround children with conditions which prevent their being robbed of their childhood, and to give young people and even adults opportunity for social enjoyment, and we welcome to membership all who believe in the playground idea as an agency for dealing with causes and not with consequences."

Surely these are worthy aims. It was when Miss Peters was president of the Association, in 1912, that H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught turned the first sod of the Rockwood recreation field, which still lies there unused and undeveloped.

TRAINING THE CHILDREN.

Mrs. T. N. Vincent and those associated with her in the work of the five free kindergartens, and especially the young ladies who conduct the classes, are to be congratulated very heartily on the work they are doing. More than one hundred children, from three and a half to six years, from various parts of the city, took part in the closing exercises in the Women's Institute yesterday, and all who saw them were delighted with their appearance, their intelligence, and the fine discipline which prevailed. The sample of their work

were really wonderful, and their singing and circle games gave great pleasure to those who heard them. It is to be regretted that the business men of St. John are so absorbed in other matters that only two or three of them thought it worth while to be present. These little ones receive training that will be of benefit to them when they enter school. They are accustomed to mingling freely with other children under a supervision which calls out what is best in their natures, and their eyes and hands and voices receive valuable training. If all the citizens really knew what the kindergarten is doing they would insist that it be placed where it belongs, in the public school buildings, and paid for as other schools are paid for by the citizens at large.

In the Women's Institute rooms, Union street, yesterday afternoon the closing of the five united kindergartens, Brunel street, Union street, North End, Mabel Peters and South End branches took place with a pleasing programme. There was also a fine display of the work done by the pupils, consisting of baskets, paper ornaments, etc.

A presentation was made by A. M. Bolding, of a brass tablet inscribed "Mabel Peters Kindergarten," to Miss McKim, supervisor of the Mabel Peters branch in behalf of friends of the Playground Association.

Choruses were given by the children, in addition to which there were solos by Dolly Leslie and Willie Tremaine. A book was presented to the youngsters from each school having the highest attendance, as follows:—

When the International Kindergarten Union met recently in Baltimore the following inspiring message was received from Cardinal Gibbons:

"May I not remind those present how precious is that portion of the Lord's vineyard which they have undertaken to cultivate? What more noble than the task of directing the pliant and susceptible minds of children. What more lofty than the task of planting in the tender hearts of children the seeds of heavenly knowledge. In the name of your country that requires you to rear up not scoundrels of society, but law-abiding members, in the name of God, whose representatives you are, I exhort each and all present to give of their very best to the Kindergarten Union. And may the children for whose welfare you are assembled be the joy and the comfort of our common country, the inheritors of your virtues, and in eternity 'rise up and call you blessed.'"

The president of Johns Hopkins University told the Union that the foundation of all education, no matter how high or advanced, must be laid in the period of childhood belonging to the kindergarten, which filled a most important need in popular education. The president of the Baltimore board of school commissioners said that though a mother's love is as strong as bands of steel, too many times her mind is in the clouds, and she knows not how to care for them in their threefold nature—body, mind and soul. Right here, suggested the speaker, is the kindergarten's opportunity. With trained teachers who have the habit of looking at early education in a serious manner it can lead, guide and direct little children, training them to live together, which is no mean thing. In closing his words of welcome to the visiting kindergartners, he said: "Some say war was brought on by people not knowing how to live together. Take ye care of the temples committed to your keeping."

Toronto Globe: "It is seldom that the principles involved in taking for the community some of the land value created by the community is stated more clearly and succinctly than by W. M. Southern of the Ottawa Citizen before the Industrial Relations Commission. 'By the taxing of rent,' he said, 'wages tend to go higher, production increased, opportunities were freer and wealth was multiplied, and by forcing idle land into use employment increased, and so conditions were made more congenial.'"

The Soldiers' Settlement Board has been prompt to act in the matter to which the Times-Star drew attention some days ago. Hereafter no farms will be purchased for soldiers through the agency of real estate dealers.

The disclosures regarding Bolshevik money from Chicago in Winnipeg puts the quietus on the One Big Union. An early settlement of the strike is looked for.

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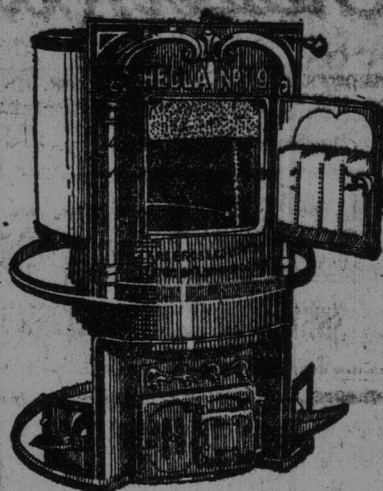
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LT. COL. POWELL WAS IN COMMAND OF TROOPS ON RETURN FROM SIBERIA

Vancouver, B. C., June 21.—After swinging anchor for the night in the harbor, the C. P. O. S. troopship Montague, carrying 747 returned Canadian soldiers of the Siberian expeditionary forces, docked here early yesterday morning. A distinguished passenger was Major

General Elmsley, who commanded the Canadian Siberian forces. There were sixty-eight officers in the party. The men report a very pleasant voyage. There is one more contingent of Canadians in Siberia. This party will be brought across on one of the Empress boats now in the Orient. Lieut.-Colonel A. H. Powell was in command of the troops.

It is planned to hold a social service congress in this city in October. One of the visiting speakers will be Raymond Robbins of Chicago.

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An endeavor is being made to form a branch of the G. W. V. A. in Charlottetown. At a meeting last evening when Peter O'Rourke presided with Frank Colwell as secretary, the preliminary steps were taken.

Miss Irene Morrison and a lad named Rowley were injured in an automobile accident yesterday afternoon in Westfield. They were in the car when it started and, being inexperienced, ran it into a ditch, where it was overturned and the occupants caught under it. Dr. Alling-

SMOKE MACDONALD'S INDEX



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