

MC2035 POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1911

The Evening Times and Star

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the laws of the Province of New Brunswick. Telephone Nos. 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

THE EVENING TIMES THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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ENCOURAGING CRIME

The steady increase in the number of persons tried for indictable offences in England has forced careful students to conclude that it is due to an undue leniency on the part of the authorities and a mistaken public sentiment concerning those guilty of criminal offences. The latest English blue book shows that for the five years 1904-1908 the annual average of arrests was 22,208 persons; for 1899-1903 it was 28,018, for 1904-1908 it was 22,000, and for 1909, the year which is treated in the present blue book, it was 27,149.

How is this increase to be explained? H. B. Simpson, C. B., of the Home Office, concludes that because of an increase of exaggerated sentimentality the reputation of crime and recidivism against the criminal have declined, and there has been a development of misplaced sympathy which tends to make the criminal regard himself as an ill-used person, and the victim rather than the enemy of society. We quote from the Montreal Gazette, from a review in which the foregoing facts are stated, the following striking testimony from another authority:

"Outstanding with the main points of Mr. Simpson's conclusions, Mr. Robert Wallace, K. C., who, as chairman of the London Sessions, has become renowned for his humane sentences, expresses some views of his own in an interview in the London Standard. The bias of publicity which centres around one who figures in a notorious case is in itself, he agrees, an inducement for others to follow the example of the person whose illegal act has made him notorious. But of no less importance as factors in the increase of criminality are, he claims, the short sentences and the comfortable prisons of today. An offender should either be let go with a warning, or he should be given a sentence adequate to the crime. It was shown over a jail the other day," remarks Mr. Wallace, and was forced to remark: "You must not let people outside know what a comfortable establishment this is or more persons will desire to come in. If you are going to send a person to prison for a short time, you must make the place so disagreeable that he will loathe it."

We may add some very proper comments which the Gazette itself makes, as follows:

"Apparently the reform movement which wiped out the loathsome features of prison life as depicted by writers early in the last century may be proceeding too far in the other direction. The view expressed by Mr. Wallace is not the first warning of its kind. With humane conditions in prison life and with systems that mitigate punishment for such as are deserving of clemency there may be just sympathy. It is none the less desirable that during the period of imprisonment the offender should be made to feel that he is there to pay a penalty, not to enjoy a rest cure under pleasant circumstances."

More important than even the conditions of prison life is the attitude of the courts toward the criminal. Where too great leniency is shown authority breaks down and crimes increase. That is the lesson to be learned, and there is need of it, even in St. John.

TAXATION
Mayor Fitzgerald of Boston is carrying on a campaign for the taxation of the "earned increment" and has appealed to Governor Foss for assistance. In this appeal he says:

"In many cases farms and uncultivated areas of comparatively valueless land have increased in value a thousand fold during the last fifty years and the former owners or their descendants have become immensely wealthy without any exertion on their part. I do not allude to land speculation where not infrequently it happens that great stretches of land are opened by such speculation and the promoter must be admitted to have contributed greatly toward the rise in value, but in the cases I have in mind, the great rise in value of land, especially in cities, is not brought about by the owner and is quite unearned by him. It is society which brings it about through its activity and at its cost, whereas the existing land system causes the gain to inure entirely to the owners and not the community. Not only would the taxation of this unearned increment add considerably to the revenue of our growing cities and towns, but it would be a step toward the attainment of justice in taxation. Almost everyone admits the justice and desirability of so taxing this unearned increment that a portion, at least, of

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Diapepsin is a natural stomachic, and it is the only one that not only feeds and cleans your stomach, but also cleanses your system of all poisons.

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GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION

The following editorial from the Toronto World will be read with interest in St. John, the more so that in Toronto they have the much-vaunted board of control: "Port Arthur has been wrestling with the problem of government by commission. The Trades and Labor Council has endorsed the plan for a three-man commission which the people sanctioned by vote. A bill is to be submitted to the legislature embodying the wishes of the Port Arthur citizens. Just what fate is in store for it need not be anticipated in detail. The government is conservative in such matters until the pressure becomes strong enough to enforce a progressive policy. And this is the way of English politics with its compromise. But Port Arthur is by no means the only place concerned with the question and we trust the government will take it under consideration, and prepare for the demand that is sure to become more general. It is perhaps desirable that, if commission government or government by permanent heads of departments is to be adopted to any general extent in Ontario there should be some uniformity observed as to the methods. Many of the municipalities would be gratified should the government see its way to pass a general measure enabling those which desire to do so, on vote of the electorate, to adopt commission government. If any municipality feels that it can get its business better done and make more progress under one form of government than another, the province should not stand in its way, especially in other provinces are rendering every possible advantage to their cities as the case of Vancouver, for example, sufficiently indicates."

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They say eet was hees job for joke, An' poka fun at sempia folk. I don't undrestand no more, I weas read w'at's een hees book: I only see da way hee look— I only know da math. An' evra time hee pass by He show to me so kinda eye He say hees day dere fra a sour, out-of-order stomach and Diapepsin are generally relieved in five minutes after taking a little Diapepsin.

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