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The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 9, 1912.

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THE CITY'S DISGRACE

How much longer will the people of St. John tolerate a condition of affairs under which advanced cases of tuberculosis cannot be treated in a local sanitarium? There is at this moment in this city a woman in a poor home who is suffering from tuberculosis, and who has a number of children, the whole family living in quarters too small for a like number of even healthy people. The condition of this unfortunate woman was found to be such that it was necessary to render substantial assistance. Aside altogether from the cruelty which consigns her to such conditions, the home is a centre from which the disease may spread, and the children around her are in constant danger of contracting the disease.

St. John cannot congratulate itself on the result of a comparison between its record and that of other cities. The death rate from tuberculosis in this city is much higher than in cities in the United States, with the exception of some in the south. Here are some figures which should be studied by the people. In the year 1910, 113 people died in this city of tuberculosis. Let us compare this with some cities in the United States. The population of St. John in 1910 was estimated to be about 43,000. The following table gives the names of some American cities, their population and the number of deaths from tuberculosis in the year 1910, compared with St. John:—

	Population.	Deaths
St. John, N. B.	43,000	113
Portland, Me.,	58,759	64
Bangor, Me.,	24,000	40
Manchester, N. H.,	70,339	82
Concord, N. H.,	21,000	32
Burlington, Vt.,	20,506	22
Brockton, Mass.,	57,261	50
Haverhill, Mass.,	47,379	63
Holyoke, Mass.	58,053	75
Malden, Mass	44,671	41
Somerville, Mass	77,571	76
Salem, Mass	43,953	65
New Britain, Conn	43,916	42
Waterbury, Conn.,	73,605	93
Hartford, Conn.,	99,317	153
New Haven, Conn.,	134,145	197
Bridgeport, Conn.,	102,700	183
Pawtucket, R. I.,	51,974	72
Woonsocket, R. I.,	38,378	68
Atlantic City, N. J.,	46,150	55
Bayonne, N. J.,	55,545	65
Passaic, N. J.,	55,497	58
Allentown, Pa.,	52,213	65
Altoona, Pa.,	52,327	33
Lancaster, Pa.,	47,348	48
York, Pa.,	44,750	72
Saginaw, Mich	50,848	43
Duluth, Minn.,	78,466	82
Lincoln, Neb.,	44,053	30

If we omit the southern states, where the death rate among negroes is high, there is apparently no important city south of the border which does not make a better showing than St. John. In the Masachusetts towns, even in the factory towns where there is a considerable foreign element, the showing is much better than in St. John.

Are the people of St. John content to have it said that they permit persons to die of tuberculosis and make no effort to provide a sanitarium where the advanced cases may be taken care of and the number of centres of infection reduced? Are the professing Christians of St. John content to permit certain unfortunates in their midst to die miserably, and to permit disease centres to exist, from which Death may stalk forth to claim other victims? How can the apathy of the people in this matter be explained? Can we call ourselves Christian people and yet refuse to lift a hand to stay this plague?

The municipal council will meet next week. The members know that there are one hundred or more places in this city which are centres of infection, and from which tuberculosis may spread. They know that other communities in ever increasing number are providing the means, through the establishment of local sanitoria, to check the ravages of the disease. Not so very long ago, a very large number of influential citizens attended a city council meeting because they desired to have the council take such action as would provide a better system of city government. It would not only be proper, but it seems to be necessary for such a demonstration to be made in order to induce the municipal council to take definite action in regard to a sanitarium. If this question is shelved for another year, it will not only be a lasting disgrace to the members of the municipal council, but to the citizens of St. John.

WEARY OF TORYISM

The people of New Brunswick have discovered that there is a wide difference between tory professions and tory policy. Many things have happened to enlighten them. They remember that immediately after the federal elections last September there was first a wild outbreak of enthusiasm and then a hasty organization of tory clubs and patronage committees. These clubs and committees were not formed to keep a watchful eye upon the government and see that it pursued a policy in the best interests of the country. They had other aims. They wanted patronage and the distribution of patronage. Groups of persons who had not hitherto attained fame suddenly blossomed out as dispensers of patronage. Gentlemen who had not been at all suspected of a desire to take part in great constructive works organized companies for that purpose. There was, in fact, a shameless scramble for the loaves and fishes.

With regard to provincial politics, the years of Hazen-Flemming rule have proved first that pledges made by Conservatives to Liberals were utterly valueless, and second, that pledges made to the people of the province were not regarded as binding upon those who made them. The provincial government is largely a machine for the distribution of petty graft. Take as an illuminating example the fish and game wardens. One reads with amazement the names of men who received from $100 to $200 or more last year for their services as game and fishery wardens. Their neighbors never dreamed that these persons were giving up so many days to the service of the province at $2 per day. They were never missed from their farms or the scene of their ordinary avocation; yet they received their pay. A very large amount of money which might have been spent to some advantage was in this way presented to persons who certainly did not earn it. Not only is that true with regard to these game and fishery wardens, but in connection with every department of the government this petty graft has prevailed. It is not surprising that the people, knowing the facts and remembering the fervent pledges of Mr. Flemming and his friends before they came into power, are now disposed to look to the Liberals for a policy better calculated to discourage graft and advance the interests of the province.

MOTHER'S DAY

A communication from the Canadian Home Journal requests the Times to call public attention to the fact that the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day, and that its observance is becoming more general from year to year in the United States and finding favor also in Canada. The Mothers' Day movement, we are informed, was started by Anna Jarvis, in Philadelphia in 1908, and has since spread through the republic and into Canada, having been celebrated for the first time in this country in London, Ontario, last May. Among the suggestions as to the manner of observance, the Canadian Home Journal says:—

"Send mother a box of flowers or a letter. Wear a white flower in her memory. Remember with flowers the sick or unfortunate in hospitals. Mothers' Day may be observed through special sermons, exercises or addresses in honor of our mothers. Generous provision should be made to get to the services the aged or other shut-ins. Children should send flowers to the aged and those prevented from attending church on that day. While any flower may be worn, the white carnation is the Mothers' Day special flower."

The people of Prince Edward Island are still afraid of the automobile. The fear will pass.

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The attitude of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation gives additional interest to the political situation in St. John.

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Before the White Star liner Oceanic sailed from Southampton yesterday, every lifeboat was tested. For some time to come we may expect greater care for the safety of passengers, but even great disasters are soon forgotten.

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The Fredericton city council has decided to enforce a curfew law. The problem of what to do with young persons whose parents do not appear to care what becomes of them is in every city a very serious one, and it may be that in the smaller centres a curfew law will work out well.

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The Liberals all over the province are actively preparing for the provincial struggle. The Liberals of Moncton will meet next week. The Fredericton Gleaner suggests September as the proper month in which to hold the elections, but the Gleaner may merely be trying to catch the Liberals off their guard. Since the tories are themselves active in organization the Liberals are right to pursue a similar policy.

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It is pleasing to note that since the Conservatives came into power and the Hon. Frank Cochrane, who arrived in St. John today, became Minister of Railways, the Intercolonial Railway is a valuable asset, and has been rapidly increasing its earning capacity for a number of years past. It is true that those years were years of Liberal rule, but until the Conservatives came in there were many members of their party who had their doubts about the Intercolonial. It is really astonishing what a change in sentiment follows a change of government.

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Two matters which were before the Associated Charities yesterday ought to be considered very seriously by the citizens generally. One was the necessity that exists in this city for a Children's Aid Society and the other the need of an institution to which drunkards and hopelessly idle persons could be sent and compelled at least to earn their living. There is another matter which concerns one portion of the community. When it is necessary to look after the children in a Roman Catholic family, there is an institution to which they may be sent. There is no such institution at present for Protestant children, the existing Asylum being always full. The question of a detention home for delinquent children and children whose parents will not or cannot take care of them ought to be taken up seriously and settled. There is a tendency to discuss matters of this kind with considerable vigor without taking definite action. If the bigger St. John is to be a better St. John, there are certain matters effecting social welfare which must receive prompt attention.

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COMPENSATION

The rain that's falling nowadays
On ball parks, fields and "medders,"
In time a splendid crop will raise
Of good old double-headers.

HAD NOT.

Blobbs—"I don't believe you have any music in your soul."

Slobbs—"I don't think I have; every time I attend the opera my foot goes to sleep."

INDIRECT CHARITY.

"I believe I'll give that poor stray cat a piece of meat."

"What, and pauperize the cat! Always help the poor to help themselves. Scatter some crumbs on the sidewalk. They may attract a bird for the cat to grab."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

IT IS.

"This thing of getting married,' said the girl who was busy with her trousseau, "is certainly a trial."

"A trial, yes," agreed the cynical bachelor, "but it isn't half so bad as working out the sentence."

PASSING THE BUCK.

"O butcher, butcher, tell me pray,
Why is my steak so high?"
The butch mild,
He only smiled,
And looked me in the eye.
"The fault's not mine, kind sir," said he;
"The rise, it gives me woes,
But listen, do—
A tip for you:
The bad wholesaler knows!"

I asked the great wholesaler then:
"Wholesaler, tell me, pray,
Why chops are high
As is the sky!"
And he gave forth a sigh.
"'Tis not my fault, kind sir," he said;
I'm fair, you know that well,
But here's a tip,
That sad old rip,
The packer, he can tell!"

"O packer, packer, tell me, please,
Why all the meats are high?"
The packer's tears
O'erflowed his ears,
And sad he made reply:
"O sir," said he, "I wouldn't raise
The price a single groat.
The farmer lad,
'Tis he who's bad.
Whose actions get your goat!"

I asked the horrid farmer then;
He laid it to the corn,
The corn, again,
It blamed the rain;
The rain, it blamed the morn;
The morn, it blamed the time of year,
And so I found it go,
Till how to name
The thing to blame
I simply do not know.
But this I do know, hear me say;
"The price is going up today!"

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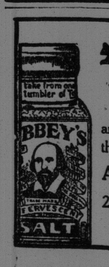

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MR. ADVERTISER

The circulation of The Evening Times for each day of last week was as follows:—

April 29	Monday	12,169
" 30	Tuesday	11,995
May 1	Wednesday	11,904
" 2	Thursday	11,796
" 3	Friday	11,988
" 4	Saturday	12,013
Week's Total		71,865
Average Daily		11,977

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