

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1919

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THE CANADIAN CLUB.

The Canadian Club has just ended what was perhaps the most successful year in its history, and with Sir Douglas Haasen as its new president enters upon another year that is full of promise. Judge McInerney, the retiring president, can look back with satisfaction upon a year of growth, during which the duties of his office were admirably performed. His tribute to the secretary, Mr. C. W. Romans, was well deserved, for if a celebrity turns up anywhere this side of China or Patagonia he usually finds in his mail a polite assurance of regard and a request that he address the Canadian Club of St. John. It is no secret to say that Mr. Romans now has his eye on the Prince of Wales and Cardinal Mercier, and hopes to see them in St. John this year.

In his acknowledgment of his election to the presidency last evening Sir Douglas Haasen made one remark that is of special interest when he alluded to the need of a community building in St. John, with facilities for banquets at which room could be found for all who desired to attend. If half the members of the Canadian Club desired to attend a luncheon together there is at present no place large enough to accommodate them. Sir Douglas expressed the hope that the present year would witness a change, and he was sure the Canadian Club would assist in a movement to provide such a place of meeting for itself and other organizations. Let us hope the suggestion will be taken up seriously and the problem solved this year.

PETER WRIGHT

A great preacher, a man with the vision of a seer and the voice of a prophet, has been addressing meetings in St. John. Peter Wright, in his plain garb and with his blunt directness of speech, has made a profound impression upon the minds of those who heard his burning words. Perhaps they did not agree with everything he said, but his message as a whole struck home. What he said to the Canadian Club last evening on the subject of honest dealing, social betterment, child welfare and the kind of citizenship that does not "sublet its responsibility," will not soon be forgotten by his hearers. He asserts that they are spiritual forces which are moving the great masses of the people to better their living conditions, and he would have those more fortunately situated give of their time and energy to improve industrial and social conditions for the masses, to the end that every child may have an equal opportunity to develop the potentialities of its being. This rugged man of wide experience and wide knowledge of the world is no pessimist; but he points with unerring finger to the weak places in our economic and social systems, and demands that those best able to strengthen them assume their full responsibility. His spear penetrates every sham and every pretence and excuse, and goes straight to the heart of things. He warns us that no nation can live upon its past, but must justify its continued existence by the nature of its ideals and the manner of its life. His ringing challenge to the manhood and womanhood of Canada cannot but have a good effect, and if he is a better man for having seen Canada he has also given Canadians an inspiration of exceeding worth.

BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS

Every social service worker will welcome this plea of Bishop Richardson for co-operative Christian work. "I can see no reason why the same spirit of harmony that proved so effective in meeting the demands of the world in time of war should not prove equally effective in time of peace. I do not know why Anglicans and Presbyterians, and Methodists, and Baptists, and Roman Catholics, and all the other religious bodies should not find a common platform of united action in seeking to solve the social problems that are pressing so hard upon our minds and hearts. For these problems are not local in their character, nor sectional in scope. They belong, rather, to the entire body corporate of the world's social life, and their solution will only be found in an effort that represents the entire body corporate of the world's Christian life. Only by such united effort can success be attained in the task of improving social conditions. The things concerning which all the people agree, as affecting human life and destiny, are more important than those concerning which they differ. Too much emphasis has been placed on points of difference. The barriers must be broken down, as they were in war-time. That lesson, as his lordship so clearly points out, should not be lost upon the people. The new era will not be tolerant of class and creed distinctions that hinder the advancement of human welfare."

Arrangements for the all-New Brunswick convention in St. John, June 3 and 4, are being perfected by a strong committee. It will be a notable get-together demonstration for the good of the province.

Senator Lodge is still gunning for Wilson—with an eye on the Italian vote in the United States.

PLAY AND EFFICIENCY.

In a note to the Times-Star from Rev. E. P. Smith, agent of the Social Service Council of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, who attended the meeting of the South End Improvement League on Monday evening, and heard the discussion on playgrounds, he says: "There was a day in the story of the Empire, about one hundred years ago, when it seemed as if the end had come. It looked as if it all depended on the issue of one battle. Not merely England but the whole of Europe was in the balance. That battle was fought. Europe and England were saved; but men said afterwards that the battle was won on the playgrounds of one of the great English schools. It was while they were at play the officers learned the coolness, the readiness, the quickness of sight, that made all the difference between defeat and victory."

A clergyman discussing, a few days ago, the tendency in play that is not supervised—and very little is supervised—lamented that the chief object of boys seemed to be to win at any cost. They would do things to win that the properly trained boy would scorn to do. The latter learns to be a good loser as well as a modest winner. There is developed in him a fine sense of honor. He becomes what is termed a clean sport. And what he learns in play he carries into his life work. Not only has he better physical fitness but a finer fibre, that wins respect and confidence. The athletic field, properly conducted, is a great school. It teaches lasting lessons while it develops brain and brawn. Surely the people of St. John can be aroused to a sense of what is due to the boys and girls in this field of activity. All that is required is for the men and women who got recruits for the army and organized and carried out the great war-time activities to get together and put St. John on the playground map.

Objection is taken that the term playgrounds suggests little children and the kindergarten. If it carries only that suggestion to anybody there is something wrong with them—not with the name. Play is the thing, for child and adult, and where they play is a playground. If the athlete works on the field it is work disguised as play, and that is part of its attraction for him. In days gone by St. John had playgrounds and athletic and great meets were held at which competitors from other cities came to strive in clean amateur sport. Let us have a revival of that experience by developing neighborhood playgrounds and at least one large field for events on a large scale.

KEMP TO LEAVE BORDEN CABINET?

Ottawa Paper Speaks of Probable General Re-organization on Return of Borden

Ottawa, April 29—The Journal says: Sir Edward Kemp, who according to cable despatches, has left England for Canada and will be in Ottawa within ten days, will not, it is understood, return overseas. The reason advanced is that his work in London, where he has been overseas minister of militia, is completed.

There are rumors that Sir Edward's return will soon be followed by his resignation from the ministry, but this lacks confirmation. There is reason for believing, however, that when Sir Robert Borden returns from Paris there will be a general reorganization of the cabinet and that Sir Edward, who has had four years of strenuous work, may be one of those affected by the changes.

PROMOTIONS AT HEADQUARTERS.

Promotions in recognition of efficient services have been made among the members of the sub-staff of the military headquarters as follows: Quartermaster-Sergeant George Stegmann to be chief clerk and warrant officer, Class I, with the rank of warrant officer; Staff Sergeant S. C. Wright, N. C. O., to be in charge of the central registry with the rank of W. O. Next in promotion comes Staff Sergeant J. F. Kemper and Rossier, to be quartermaster-sergeants. Sergeant Rivington in consequence is promoted to O. C. of returns, to be staff sergeant, and Sergeants J. Glover and E. F. Biddiscombe as staff sergeants.

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As Hiram Sees It

When Mr. Hiram Hornbeam appeared on the scene this morning the whole Times staff rose up and bade him welcome. "Glad to see you, boys," said Hiram. "I sold a dozen eggs and a pound of butter yesterday, and the old woman sent me in to buy an ottomobed. Yes, sir, that's what been talkin' about it all winter. Silly Jones sold two pounds of butter last week and got a tourin' car. Well, he kin hev it. I jist want a little runabout, so's I kin come in an' see you fellers. The war's over an' I want a little recreation."

"What time is it?" suddenly asked the police reporter. For some moments Hiram appeared to be going into a convulsion of some sort, but he rallied and turned on the police reporter. "Look-a-here, young man, you're too ding smart. You city fellers think you're rarin' for the hull police system. Well—you ain't. You kin hev all the daylight time you want—but out to the settlement we set our clocks ahead, or we set 'em back, or we stop 'em, to suit ourselves."

"That's what we're all doing," said the police reporter. "Standard time, daylight time, rooster time, time and a half and double time. Can you beat it?"

Hiram confessed he couldn't and didn't want to. He had brought his lunch with him. "I got all the time there is," he said, "an' I don't b'lieve I'll waste any more of it on you fellers. You'll see me agin, though. I'm jist moseyin' round a bit today lookin' at the town. Same dirty old streets—same dirty old houses—same everything. I wonder what the soldiers think about it. I heard one of 'em say up in the market that it looked as if this here reconstruction couldn't start too soon. I guess he's right. Sige, I seen a bootlegger this mornin'. I guess he knowed I sold that pound of butter. What he didn't know was that the old man had more kick than his booze. He knows it now—By Hen. Oh, I'm hev'in' a great time. Well—so long, boys—see you tomorrow."

"Is he clever?" "Very. He can look wise in situations that would make most of us look foolish."—Detroit Free Press.

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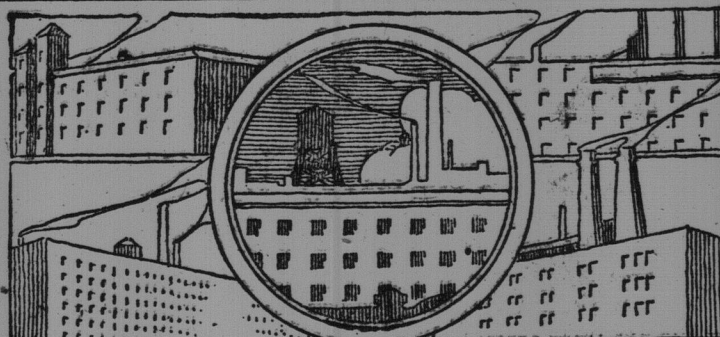
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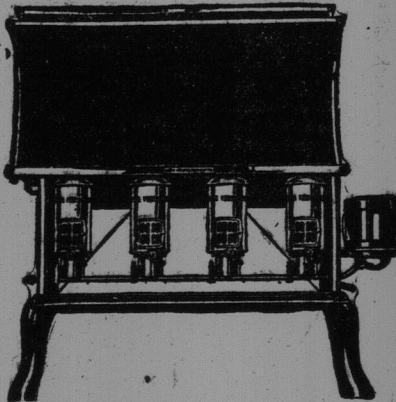
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