

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 27, 1921.

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A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

The latest word from Ottawa is that the Progressives will not be represented in the new cabinet, but that the party will co-operate in a friendly way with the Liberals. Apparently it has been found that there is too much divergence of opinion between some Progressives and some Liberals in regard to matters of policy to make a fusion possible at the present time. Hon. Mr. Cregar and his supporters, however, will give an independent support without committing themselves to endorsement of all government measures. Just what the effect of this will be upon Liberal policy it is impossible to say. The Progressives favor a revenue tariff and an effort to secure reciprocity. They stand for continued government ownership of the national railways. They will want a vigorous immigration policy. The only difference between their policy and that of the Liberals is that they would go a little farther along radical lines, but they will see the advantage of even a moderate movement in that direction and will have so much more in common with Liberals than with Conservatives that they are not at all likely to jeopardize the life of the government. The new cabinet will no doubt be named this week. When the country learns of whom it is to be composed, the people will be better able to judge the strength of the King government. He has the whole country from which to choose.

COUNT THE CANADIANS.

Several times during the past year St. John audiences have listened to vigorous protests from public speakers against the lack of any provision in the census for the listing of Canadians. People are set down as English, French, Irish, Scotch, or what not, even if the families have lived in the country for several generations. The Montreal Gazette makes some pointed remarks on the subject, as follows:

"Professor D. C. Harvey, of the University of Manitoba, speaking before a Port Arthur audience the other day, complained that though his family represented the fifth generation born in Canada, he could not under the census regulations describe his children as Canadians. The matter has been brought up practically every time a census has been taken, and always without effect. The conception of the population of Canada as a collection of European immigrants, each national group living in its own little water-tight compartment, and keeping aloof from all others, holds on in spite of the passage of years, the development of new conditions and the logic of events. Its stronghold is in the official and the parliamentary mind. To others its meaningless and even its misleading character is plain. People in their business, social and religious relations give no heed to such distinctions and other family representatives intermarry, but the regulations do not recognize the children as what they are—Canadians, in whose veins the blood of many nationalities mingles. The census enumerator must go back to some unknown ancestor, perhaps must guess, to find a national classification for the man who knows no other home land than that in which his father, his father's father, and even his forebears farther back, were born. The situation is a hold-over from the day of small things and small men. It should not last much longer."

Prof. Harvey and the Gazette are right. The new government should put an end to a condition that makes Canada ridiculous.

Chicago Journal: "Canada is one of the first British dominions to clean house, politically, now that war is over and peace problems press for solution. Great Britain's hold-over coalition government has been more than once on the verge of dissolution since the war. It owes its continuance to special issues of transcendent importance, notably the Irish settlement. But it, too, will run its course, and the ancient camps of Tories and Liberals will go back to party strife and government. Coalition, at the best, only temporarily interrupts government by responsible political parties."

After the editor of the Standard had devoted nearly a column to the "subject surrender" of Mr. King to the Progressives and had searched the dictionary and Holy Writ for words with which he might fittingly give expression to his feelings of horror and loathing, he was home to rise up this morning and read in the Ottawa despatches to his own paper that there has been no surrender, and that the cabinet will be composed of Liberals.

Unemployment in the building trades industry in Toronto is reduced to a minimum this winter. The announcement is made by the secretary of the building trades union. If they can build in Toronto, why not in St. John? Would a conference of builders and workers bring any result?

The announcement that Mr. Lloyd George will not come to the Washington conference is the cause of universal regret on this side of the Atlantic.

AND NOW THE WORK.

The Christmas spirit prevailed in quite a wonderful way Sunday and yesterday. A sincere effort was made to see that none went without food, and the gifts distributed must have brought at least two days of relief and pleasure to many destitute families. Now that Christmas is over, however, the need of help in hundreds of homes is as insistent as ever, and it should take the form of work for the wage-earners, so that they may retain their independence and self-respect. The next three months will be a severe test of the staying qualities of many people, who are without resources and must depend upon what work is made available. Opinions appear to differ as to the actual number of unemployed, and as to the number who would accept work if it were offered. The meeting in Pythian Hall tonight should shed much light on the situation, and any citizens who have practical suggestions to make should endeavor to be present. The city should grapple with the problem in an adequate way. The new year should see practical steps already taken to meet the need that the unemployment registration has partially revealed.

Italy and Russia have signed a trade agreement. The British and French premiers will consult with representatives of the Soviet government early in the new year in London. Russia has come to an arrangement with the United States to get a large quantity of grain. The Russian government has learned that it must do business with "capitalist" nations.

For a long time it has been urged that women should be represented on the Municipal Home Board of commissioners. Now that a committee from the board urges it there can be no further objection and the municipal council should act.

Today's cables express the view that sentiment throughout southern Ireland is overwhelmingly in favor of the peace agreement. The adjournment of the Dail Eireann has afforded the country an opportunity to express its feelings to the members.

The Washington conference draws toward a close, but there is talk of a world-conference a few years hence. It should not be too long delayed, as such conferences are the best safeguard against war.

CRIMINAL CASES IN MONTREAL.

(Canadian Press Despatch). Montreal, Dec. 26.—During the year 1921 more people were brought to trial before the criminal courts in Montreal than in 1920, but the court records show that the sentences imposed were lighter. Up to Dec. 24, 1,282 cases were heard in the court of special sessions, compared with 1,119 cases for the whole year of 1920.

There were fewer major crimes during 1921 than the preceding year. A great number of criminals were sentenced for automobile theft. Up to Dec. 24, 4,846 complaints were sworn before the magistrates in the lower courts. This compares with 4,722 cases for the whole of 1920. No less than 6,910 automobile cases were tried this year for infractions of the speed regulations, license law and other offences.

TAKEN FROM JAIL; KILLED BY MOB

Key West, Fla., Dec. 27.—Manuel Head, owner of a coffee shop, who, after he had been beaten by a band of masked men on Sunday, shot and killed Wm. H. Decker, a prominent Key West resident, was taken from the county jail by a mob early yesterday and lynched. He was shot twice before being removed from the jail, then placed in an automobile and taken out on a country road and strung to a telephone pole, where he was killed with bullets. Head, on Sunday night, stood off an armed mob until captured by the authorities and taken to the county jail. Marines from the navy yard stood guard outside the jail until the mob had disbanded. But at two o'clock in the morning, when the marines were relieved by deputies, the mob gathered again and demanded the prisoner of Sheriff Curry. When the latter opened the door in reply to demands for a conference, a dozen armed men forced their way in, overpowered the jailer and seized the keys to Head's cell.

NOTED JESUIT DEAD.

London, Dec. 26.—Father Lala, the noted Jesuit director of the Osservatore Romano, official organ of the Vatican, died today in Rome, according to a dispatch from that city to the Central News Agency.

Commandant Sheard of the Salvation Army, Peoples Palace on St. James street, has announced that plans have been made for serving a dinner to poor men at the Palace on Wednesday from 12 o'clock until 2 o'clock and that the Salvation army contemplates opening a soup kitchen to be operated throughout the winter months, as long as the funds are available. The soup kitchen is to be opened on Thursday and will be open regularly from 7 to 9 o'clock in the morning and from 6 to 7.30 o'clock in the evening. The soup kitchen is intended for men only and only men will be served on the premises, but women in needy circumstances will be permitted to take away soup in pails or dishes.

Swiss Franc-Tireurs Make Frontier Raids

They Are Bloodless, and the Franc Itself Is the Weapon, But at the Exchange Rates It's Rough on Germans and Austrians.

THE HERO.

My hero is no decked out gowd, He has no glittering state; Renowned upon a field of blood In war he heeds not fate. He has meek smiles in his pouch, Nae menials at his call; The proud of earth free him would turn, And bid him stand awail.

His coat is hampersun hoddie-gray, His shoes are clouted sae; His garments, meek unhero-like, Are a' the war o' wear; His limbs are strong — his shoulder broad, A stout heart to the brae; He's rough without, but sound within; His heart is laggy true.

He tells at e'en, he tells at morn, His work is never through; A coming life o' weary toil Is ever in his view. But on he trudges, keeping aye A stout heart to the brae, And proud to be an honest man Until his dying day.

His name is hame o' happiness And kindly love may be; And morn a nameless dwelling-place Like his we still may see. His happy altar-hearth so bright Is ever in his view; And cheerfa' faces round it set Are an unending prayer.

The poor man in his humble haue, Like God, who dwells above, Makes happy hearts around him there, See joyfu' life and soon. His toil is sair, his toll is lang; But weary nights and days, Hame—happiness akin to his— A hundred-fold repays.

Go, mock at conquerors and kings! What happiness give they? Go, tell the painted butterflies To kneel down to the sun; Go, stand erect in manhood's pride, Be what a man should be, Then come, and to my hero bend Your heads in homage true. —Robert Nicoll in "My Magazine."

LIGHTER VEIN.

A. Webster. Mrs. Newballot—Are you going to give me the money for the hat I won from you on the election? Her husband—Gwan. You won a hat, not the price of one. I'll pick it out for you today.

Condensed to Save Space. Mr. Hoyle—I hear that you are using condensed milk in your recipe for reading. Mr. Doyle—Yes, we have to do it, in order to have room in the recipe for other stuff.

Teacher—Hiram Snodgrass, did you write "Teacher is an idiot" on the blackboard? Hiram (shakily)—Yes, sir. Teacher—I'm glad that for once you have spoken the truth.

Rather Startling. Veterinary (as his telephone rings)—Hello! Hello! Who's this talking? Voice (from afar)—It's a cow that's got the cramps.

Girl He Was Addressing. "How'd the young lady you were addressing? Married yet?" "No; she eloped with a tailor."

"Oh! Guess he must have suited her better than you."

LOCAL NEWS

CONCERT, ST. PATRICK'S HALL. Concert, by City Cornet Band, assisted by local soloists, St. Patrick's Hall, West St. John, this evening at 8 o'clock.

Victoria Ring Band and skating tonight. Skating every afternoon.

CORRECTION

The following were contributors of \$5 each to the Protestant Orphans Home fund: Mrs. B. Haines, Junior Philanthropy Club, Hartland Baptist Church, Rev. R. H. C. Codrington (Bloomfield), C. Harold Scott, "Friend," Scott Bros., Dr. Fred Johnston, J. Cecil Mitchell, S. Allison, Walter C. Allison, Geo. Corbet, Women's Institute (Chance Harbor), Dr. I. Fred Johnston (additional), St. Stephen W. C. T. U. Received today from an annual giver, \$60.00.

SALE OF TOYS. Get that neglected gift of toy, game, or book, etc., at McArthur's sale all this week at half price, 84 King Street.

Have your Christmas tree photographed. Call Main 4690. S. S. Kennedy. 1747-12-29

CANTATA WILL BE REPEATED. The famous sacred cantata, Bethlehem, which was so artistically rendered on Xmas night by the choir of St. David's Church will be repeated by special request on Friday evening next at 8 o'clock. One of the special attractions of the cantata is that at the close of each of the three parts the congregation joins in the singing of the hymn introduced. Mrs. T. J. Gunn will play a violin selection. The Christmas Pastoral on Silent Night, by Harker. There will be a silver collection at the door of the church.

BONUS COVERS WAGES CUT AND TIME REDUCED

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 27.—On Dec. 1, 1920, the Rochester International Can Co. reduced its employees' wages 25 per cent and cut their working hours five and a half hours a week. Yesterday, by the distribution of \$26,000, the company returned to its employees all that they would have earned if the wages and cuts had not been made. The promise was made that to those employees who a year from now could show the bonus money received yesterday as a savings a similar bonus would be given. The year just closed was said to be one of the heaviest in business in the company's history.

(Julian Grande in New York Evening Post.)

Geneva, Dec. 1. — One minor phenomenon of the period immediately following the great war, which the Gibbous, Greens, and Grotes of the future will conscientiously note, will assuredly be what are known as "frontier raids"—raids peacefully carried out, sometimes to get cheap clothing, sometimes to get cheap food, but generally merely to profit by the misfortunes of others. It is only in a country such as this, surrounded by four former belligerents, all of them with an abominably depreciated currency, that the extent to which frontier raiding is carried on can be realized.

For one Swiss franc 400 kronen can be bought, and for 800 kronen, or two francs, a day a friend of mine is at present living during his holiday in a first-class hotel in Innsbruck. For three Swiss francs 100 German marks can be bought, and such a hotel would give pension for fifty marks a day. French money is worth much less than half what it should be worth here and Italian money less than one-quarter.

The Swiss living within easy reach of the frontiers, especially those of Austria and Germany, have been for some time past carrying on week-end frontier raids until these have become not merely a nuisance but a scandal. Recently, after a week-end, the people of Basel, which has a population of about 150,000, have often eaten out of house and home the inhabitants of the small frontier town of Lorsch and all the frontier villages in the Grand Duchy of Baden so that the unfortunate people, especially the housewives, appealed for mercy to the Basel people, imploring them not to raid all the country stores and shops to such an extent that on Monday mornings there was literally nothing to be had. It is estimated that something like 35,000 excursionists have visited Lorsch in a single Sunday recently—that is, more than twice the population of the town, which has only about 15,000 people. Naturally, when a Swiss can buy 100 marks for about three francs, he can order whatever he wants in a restaurant and buy everything he may fancy in a shop or on a market.

The Germans do not object to having the Swiss come over and buy aluminum cooking utensils, for example, or furniture, or even books and shoes, or paper; but it is the army of people to feed which they do not like, and the food raiding. However, the Swiss are not living on the German and Austrian frontiers have suffered so much purchasing over the border. A working man goes across with a handcart and for a few francs he buys bedding or furniture. A chair or a table would pay 5 francs in his own country costs him about 20 marks in Germany. The opportunity is too tempting.

The Swiss and the German frontier authorities have been holding a special conference on the subject of these frontier raids, and it has been decided that only a limited number of permits should be issued in Basel for week-end excursions to other nations do likewise. When these permits are issued, there is such a race for them that only about 100 permits out of a hundred can obtain them. The German frontier guards do not allow provisions or foodstuffs to be taken indiscriminately out of the country.

On the Austrian frontier conditions are different, but no better. Not only do the Swiss living on the frontier help themselves cheaply to the goods within their reach, but protesters of other nations do likewise. Everyone seems to be buying everything, every carrying bundles of 1000 German marks worth of goods, and prices are rising in a fantastic fashion. But what is extraordinary is that the Austrians themselves are apparently smitten with a mania for buying. Every one will at once say: "Where do they get money? These purchasing Austrians are just profiteers, and yet they seem to have money, and money for luxuries."

When I sought an explanation of so much buying and selling the answer was somewhat as follows: "Sometimes leaders of that affair were arrested in their last possessions, even furniture, always acting in utter desperation. They are the sort of 'let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die' possessed as they are with the idea that any day the krona may come crashing down on the country go bankrupt!" If any one has 20,000 kronen, for instance, he will buy a fur coat, or something else with which he could very well dispense.

In this case it may be that to know all is to forgive all, though at the best it times the Austrians had not great reputation of forthrightness. It is only across their frontier, however, that the desperate aspect of frontier raiding appears; elsewhere it is rather the profiteering aspect of it which is noticeable. And it is not the Swiss alone, nor even chiefly the Swiss, who are frontier raiding in Austria, for the Italians, Swedes, French and even the Dutch are doing likewise, and in no case is it to put it mildly, the flower of the nation which is thus engaged.

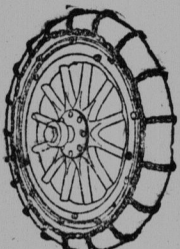
CHRISTMAS MAILS ARE HEAVIER THAN USUAL

Ottawa Journal. Christmas mails despatched to Europe this year, though not so heavy as in war years, exceeded the quantity that used to go in the years before the war. The Metagama, sailing as early as December 15, carried 1,860 bags of parcels and 979 letters. The Megantic on the 11th took 621 letter-bags and 660 parcel containers. On the 18th the Empress of France carried 1,082 bags of parcels and 510 bags of letters. In addition, the Canada, sailing December 15, carried a large amount of Christmas mail, of which a report has not yet been received here.

The bulk of the incoming mail has not arrived from Europe, though a heavy English mail came from the Scandinavian, which had 846 bags of parcels. The Melita brought 2,127 bags of parcels and 921 bags of letters; the Canada, 1,229 bags of parcels and 201 bags of letters. The Pretorian, now on its way across, is carrying 872 bags of parcels and 506 bags of letters and newspapers.

On the whole, Canada is receiving

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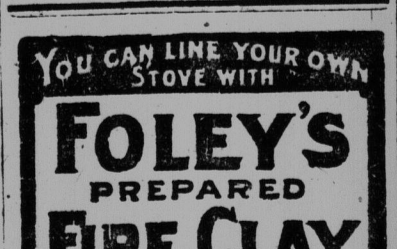
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ANOTHER FAST ONE FOR NATIONAL MEET

E. Stevenson, of Toronto, one of the best of the speed skaters in the country has written to the Y. M. C. I. requesting to be entered in all the events in the Canadian national outdoor skating championships which are to be held here under the auspices of the Y. M. C. I. next month.



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