

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 27, 1920.

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 Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscriptions—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—Chicago, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

WHERE WE FALL SHORT.

The interprovincial conference on technical education, meeting at Ottawa, has adopted a resolution urging the federal and provincial governments to provide a central institution to train teachers for vocational schools.

One of the most serious problems of New Brunswick Vocational Board has had to meet is that of trained teachers. This was foreseen by the committee on whose report the vocational training law of the province is based, and they suggested that for evening classes the teachers should be chosen from among efficient journeymen in the trades to be taught, while special provision should also be made for the training of both pre-vocational and vocational teachers. Of course the law has been but a short time in operation in this province, and the teacher problem is not solved. As a result of experience in all the provinces it is now urged that the federal authorities join with those of the provinces and provide a central training school.

Aside from what may be done by the federal and provincial authorities there is an obligation resting upon each community, and St. John has not been making the most of its opportunity in this regard. Apparently, because of limited funds, the local vocational board cannot do all that it desires in relation to evening classes this winter, and there is still no move on the part of the city to provide a vocational high school, which could be utilized for both day and evening classes.

Let us consider in this connection what the city of Milwaukee has done, as described in the following paragraph: "A splendid illustration of what should be done is furnished by the city of Milwaukee. That city has appropriated \$1,000,000 per annum for the education and vocational training of the youth of the city. It has built a seven-story building in the heart of the industrial district, it requires every boy and girl of between fourteen and eighteen years of age employed in industry to attend that school for vocational training one half day each week, and it has over 11,000 students in attendance."

How many boys and girls between fourteen and eighteen are there in St. John, and what are we doing for them along the line of vocational training? In the city of Winnipeg, according to Canadian Finance, there are 6,000 boys and girls between these ages who are employed in industrial establishments, many of them in "blind alley" occupations, and none of them getting the benefit of the special training which should be provided for them. What the Winnipeg Journal says of conditions in the west applies equally, if not even more emphatically in the east. It says:

"It is an admitted fact that too many of our boys and girls leave school too early. Thousands of our youth in this western country have said good-bye to what should be the greatest character-building institution in the country—the school—at the age of fourteen, just at the time when their characters are in the early stages of formation. Many of them go out to face the world, either by choice or necessity, at this early age—all equipped to fight the forces with which they have to grapple. What is the result? A few, a very few, are successful, but many are failures for the time being. Some of these failures lose many valuable years in finding themselves, whilst others never overcome the great initial handicap and make excellent material out of which to build up a body of discontented and reactionaries."

Emphasizing the last clause of the last sentence quoted, Canadian Finance pointedly declares that "the dissatisfied youth of today will be the disgruntled citizen of tomorrow," and adds by way of contrast that "a capable workman makes a good citizen." Here is another pointed paragraph:

"The boy that steals is simply taking what he wants in the very best way he knows how to get it. He follows the line of least resistance. He has not learned that honesty is the only policy. He is innocent of criminal intent, in all probability. He knows no better way to get that which he wants—he lacks character. You have a direct interest in the boys of this country, for they will carry on when you are through—are you studying the boy problem?"

Are we effectively studying this problem in St. John? What are we doing in regard either to pre-vocational or vocational training that should prompt any degree of self-satisfaction? We have only made the merest beginning, in a half-hearted way, and the boys and girls who form the great majority of those now at school or out of school and at work, are lacking that which is the plain duty of the community to provide.

Press comments agree that the vote in the four provinces on Monday points to a bone-dry Canada within a reasonable period. There is no doubt at all about what the people want. A Dominion-wide prohibition referendum thoroughly enforced would result in the referendum in those provinces on Monday. Even if Quebec went wet it would be overwhelmed by the rest of the country as Halifax or Winnipeg was by the province at large.

THE AMERICAN OUTLOOK.

The New York Evening Post thus summarizes the industrial situation in the United States:

"Numerous cotton mills in New England and in the south are shut down or operating on part time. The silk trade has been stagnant since April. The American Woolen Company is now operating only on a small scale. Hosiery and knitting factories are working on a restricted schedule. The shoe trade has been inactive for several months, with some factories closed and others producing at less than 50 per cent. of their capacity, though at the present time there is some tendency towards increased production. The story has been much the same in the automobile industry. Iron and steel works generally maintained their normal rate of output during the summer, but depression in other industries is beginning to cause a restriction of production in a few steel mills. Because of the instability of prices of wheat and flour, the Minneapolis flour mills have been reported this month to be operating at only 50 per cent. of their capacity."

This widespread curtailment of production is described as a result of the strained credit and a reaction against inflated prices, and can only be remedied by the process of liquidation and the absorption of existing stocks of merchandise. The last would be accelerated by reduced prices, and only when demand again becomes active will industry revive. The outlook is not by any means hopeless. Indeed Mr. Gary, the steel king, asserts that "business skies are practically without clouds," if the people exercise courage, composure and caution.

The Retail Merchants Association of Canada takes the ground that if the government should come to the rescue of the sugar refiners it should do so much for other branches of trade and manufacture. The contention is not without a degree of force which the government will not be slow to recognize. Take, for example, the article of butter. There is no export demand, we are told, and stocks are large, and prices in the Montreal market have been steadily slipping down. If sugar is to be helped, why not butter—or lumber?

Ottawa's welcome to General Booth yesterday was expressive of the feelings of the Canadian people toward the Salvation Army and its distinguished leader.

It is intimated that the hunger strike as a weapon to ensure the release of prisoners may now be abandoned. It is a weapon that should have been destroyed when first introduced.

The recount in Charlotte gives a seat to Mr. Flewelling, but it does not unseat Mr. Scovill.

LEAP FROM LADDER FOILS HOLDUP MAN

Cigar Store Clerk Jumps on Masked Intruder and Holds Him for the Police.

An attempt to hold up the United Cigar Store in New York with a club failed when John M. Holmes, the clerk, leaped from a ladder upon the masked intruder, subdued him and held him until the arrival of the police. Elias D. Ashby, a former clerk in the store, was arrested.

"Ashby came into the store in the morning," said Holmes, describing the encounter, "and after a few minutes went away. Half an hour later, while I was on a ladder, I heard some one come into the store. As I turned round I received a glancing blow on my left temple. Without thinking, I leaped from the ladder onto the man who had white handkerchief over his face. We fell on the floor. I am a wrestler and got the better of him. I shouted for help and pulled the mask from his face. When I saw who the man was I let him intruder, subdued him and held him until the arrival of the police. Elias D. Ashby, a former clerk in the store, was arrested."

"By this time a crowd had collected, and Patrolman James Kane entered the store. Ashby then admitted he had come to rob the place to get even with the proprietors. He had stolen the police club when employed here, and his plan was to knock me out, put me in the back room and rob the safe, of which he knew the combination."

A GREAT DAY FOR BOYS

"If it be your will, let us, therefore, endeavor to develop among our boys such comradeship through the worldwide Scout spirit of brotherhood that peace and good will may henceforth reign among men."

"Are you willing to join in this high enterprise?"

With one voice the 12,000 Boy Scouts at the great Boy Scout jamboree in England responded, "We will." "Then fare you well," was the parting word of the Chief Boy Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, and the Boy Scouts from forty nations filed out from the thanksgiving service of prayer and praise, where the Archbishop of York had just preached to them from the text: "Keep that which is committed to your trust."

The Boy Scout movement, the Girl Guide movement and similar movements are of the highest value in the education of our boys and girls. At present Canadian schools are not touching the fringe of the possibilities of these organizations. One main reason for this is the lack of any connection between their governing bodies and the teachers. Some day wise leadership may establish a satisfactory working arrangement and these movements will come into their own.



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THE CORSAIRS.

"The moaned interests all combine to get these hard earned plunks of mine; the Wall street barons plot and plot to soak me in a tender spot; the components of unearned gold would give their heads to knock me cold." This is the way that James P. Jones declaims to me in trumpet tones, when evening shadows softly fall, and he leans on the garden wall. And if the barons climbed on him, they'd find the pickings mighty slim; for James P. Jones is always broke, his credit is a ghastly joke. And I have always found it thus; the man who makes the biggest fuss about the photographic camera, who lost up in the early days is one who never had a roll, some chap who's always in the hole. I find that if I work and save, and like a thrifty gent behave, I have the plunks to put in brine, and none disputes that they are mine. No Wall street barons are abroad to touch me for my humble wad; no malefactors of great wealth secure that wad by force or stealth. But still I hear this James P. Jones: "I cannot have a store of ones, because the grasping, soulless plunks will rob a poor man of his boots."

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

THE OOD FISHERIES.

One of the great sources of wealth for the Atlantic provinces and Newfoundland is the cod fisheries. Two hundred and fifty years ago from 200 to 250 vessels with a crew of about fifteen men each, used to cross the ocean each year from Brittany to seek the Newfoundland cod. At first this industry was prosecuted as an off-shore fishery entirely. Later it was discovered that every creek and inlet was just as full of fine fish as the ocean farther out, so many of the ships, instead of remaining on the Banks where they were subject to the fury of the Atlantic, sought some sheltered harbor where they moored for the time while carrying on their work near at hand. The crews lived on shore in temporary shacks as the catch was being dried on platforms in the sun.

After the end of the war, between France and England in 1760, and the subsequent establishment of better conditions to the trade, but this increased the shore fishing more than that on the Banks. At the present time the in-shore business is larger than that of the far away Banks.

Of all the cod eaters perhaps the most prolific are the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the waters around the Magdalen Islands, the north and east coasts of Prince Edward Island, the north coast of Cape Breton and in the Baie de Chaleur. Annually a sea crop valued at many millions of dollars is harvested there and at the present time it is a staple industry of the Dominion.

AUTUMNAL.

I look about me on the faded hillsides
And brown fields, lately swept of
golden grain—
I hear the soft-winged partridge sweetly
calling
From out the leafless border of the
lane.
Beyond the earth a touch of sunlight
lingers
Tinting the skies like dainty buds in
May.
Beyond the little world that knows not
yearning
Alone I watch the passing of the
day.
Ah, it is sweet—where Autumn leaves
have fallen
Whilst radiant sunbeams light the distant
West—
To cast one down in Nature's sweet
scclusion
To spend an hour in solitude and rest.
Yet as I linger, wrapped in wonder,
dreaming
Forgetful that the hours have longer
grown,
The chilling twilight creeps along the
meadow
And far away I see the lights of home
—Anna S. Hartman, in the New York Times.

LIGHTER VEIN.

The Joys of Tragedy.
Stall—That depends. Comedy, if the actors are up to their parts; otherwise, tragedy. There is so much solid comfort in seeing them kill each other off.

Friendly Advice.

The Young Thing.—What kind of husband would you advise me to look for? Well, training Friday. You get husbands alone, my dear—it's asking for trouble—you get a single man—Passing Show.

Her First Thought.

A woman from the middle west spent a few weeks in Gloucester last summer and in conversation with a new acquaintance she made known the fact that it was her very first glimpse of the ocean.

PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST.

During the month of May the Department of Education of New York State, through its physical education staff, conducted a state-wide physical ability test, which was probably the largest and most comprehensive ever attempted. Though not the originator of the idea, it may safely be said that the Empire state has taken the lead in carrying out a physical ability test on a statewide basis, including students of all seventh and eighth grades and high schools, both boys and girls. In number of contestants and in closeness of competition it stands as a record of achievement highly satisfactory to all concerned. The test was conducted in a state-wide manner, including students of all seventh and eighth grades and high schools, both boys and girls. In number of contestants and in closeness of competition it stands as a record of achievement highly satisfactory to all concerned. The test was conducted in a state-wide manner, including students of all seventh and eighth grades and high schools, both boys and girls. In number of contestants and in closeness of competition it stands as a record of achievement highly satisfactory to all concerned.

PRINTING THE MESSAGE

In the old time printers were rather more in touch with the world outside of the journalistic lines than most of our fellow-villagers, but otherwise they were as remote as any of them, and the weekly issue of the paper had not often anything tumultuously exciting for us. The greatest event of our year was the publication of the president's message, which was a thrill in my childhood long before I had any conception of its meaning. I fancy that the patent inside, now so universally used by the country papers, originated in the custom which the printers within easy reach of a large city had of supplying themselves with an edition of the president's message, to be folded into their own sheet, when they did not print their outside on the back of it. There was always a hot rivalry between the local papers in getting out the message, whether it was set up in the office and printed in the body of the paper.

We had no local rival but all the same the message made haste when it was a question of the message. The printers filled their cases with type, ready for the early copy of the message, which the editor used every device to secure, when it was once in hand they worked day and night till it was all up, and then the paper was put to press at once, without regard to the usual publication day, and the community was as nearly as electrified as could be with our journalistic enterprise, which was more important in our eyes than the matters the message treated of.

There is no longer the eager popular expectation of the president's message that there once seemed to be, and I think it is something of a loss that egg of the high tide of political feeling which began with the era of our immense material prosperity. It was a feeling that formed a solidarity of all the citizens, and if it was not always, or often, the highest interest which can unite men, it was at least that deadly and self-cult of business which centers each of us in his own affairs and kills even our curiosity about others. Very likely people were bent the pursuit of wealth in those days, because there was less chance to grow rich, but the fact remains that they were bent in that direction and that they gave their minds to other things more than they do now. I think those other things were larger things and that our civic type was once nobler than it is. It was before the period of corruption, when it was not yet fully known that dollars can do more work of votes, when the vote as yet ranked on the dotted line, and more of us had the one than the other. The great statesman, not the great millionaire, then ruled the American ideal, and all about the villages and on the farms the people were eager to know what the president had said to Congress. From "Impressions and Experiences," by William Dean Howells.

DEFILATION IN THE THEATRE.

(N. Y. Times.)

In the theatre, as elsewhere, business men have long been aware that a recession was due from the boom times of recent seasons and have prepared for it. Those who are wise will welcome it. Too many play-houses have been built, too many productions launched. Competition has become on a basis of unfortunateness for both the art and the business of the theatre. When there is a reasonable certainty that mediocrity will flourish, the tendency is toward mediocrity. And when standards are lowered the more regular and discerning element in the public is alienated. From now on there will be a resolute tightening of belts and a hardy training down in the competitive struggle.

The most serious element in the situation, from the commercial point of view, or what is called "the road," is the refusal of the public to accept of a production of Shakespeare. If the rule of sanity prevails there will be an abatement also in the price of tickets for musical comedy. In a word, the question is no longer where one can get in, but what one really wants to see. The mere killing of time in the theatre has become far too expensive. Henceforth the burden of proof will be shifted; an "attraction" will have to attract, an "amusement" will have to amuse. Even prohibition has lost its power to drive men into theatre—any theatre.

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On the road, as in New York, the urgent need is for quality as opposed to quantity production. We shall have fewer "shows" and more reputations solidly grounded.

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HUNTING RATS IN EVENING DRESS, NEW PARIS SPORT

Paris, France, Oct. 27.—Rat hunting has been taken up wholeheartedly in Paris, and it is not uncommon to see British and American visitors, in immaculate evening dress, join in the sport late at night. The main boulevards and the opera quarter are favorite haunts of the rat hunters.

BOYCOTTS DINING CARS

Maplewood, N. J., Oct. 27.—Charles W. Taylor thinks so little of railroad dining car fare that he stocked a Pullman compartment with provisions for a trip to St. Petersburg, Fla. With him are his son and daughter. "I'm not going to put up with any more trouble waiting for a place in dining cars," he said.

TWO TOMATOES COST \$1.70

Boston, Mass., Oct. 27.—Two whole tomatoes "with skins removed" cost \$1.70 at one Boston hotel, according to U. S. Attorney Gallagher, investigating hotel and restaurant profiteering. Another hotel, he said, charged 20 cents for one boiled potato and the same for an egg.

SIXTY YEARS' ROMANCE

Hull, Eng., Oct. 27.—A sequel to a romance of 60 years ago took place near here when John Barnard, 77, a widower, was married to Jane Haldenby, 73, a widow. They carried on a boy and girl friendship sixty years ago, but lost sight of each other until three months ago.

SCHOOL FOR FATHERS.

London, Eng., Oct. 27.—In Bethnal Green some children are sending their fathers to school. To advertise the Institute children were sent home with leaflets. They gave father pleasant descriptions of night school and now dad can be seen in the school nightly.

TOO BIG FOR COFFIN.

Solumbus, Ohio, Oct. 27.—When Mrs. Mary Ann died in a hospital here, none of the city's undertaking establishments could find a coffin that would accommodate the body, so a special one had to be built. She weighed 350 pounds.

HER 228TH CONVICTION.

London, Eng., Oct. 27.—Ethel Larkin, forty-eight, who has passed three terms in an inmate's home, registered her 228th conviction when the Bow street magistrate sent her to jail for a month for drunkenness.

\$575 FOR A STAMP.

London, Eng., Oct. 27.—A rare twenty shilling provisional stamp of the Niger coast, issued in 1893, was sold for \$575 at auction.

\$4,500 FOR A SHAKESPEARE.

Newcastle, Eng., Oct. 27.—When Lord Ravensworth's library was sold at auction here a first issue Shakespeare, dated 1623, was sold for \$4,500.