

The Evening Times-Star

The Evening Times-Star printed at 23-27 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments. Main 2377.

Subscription Price—By mail per year, in Canada, \$5.00; United States, \$6.00; by carrier per year, \$6.00.

The Evening Times-Star has the largest circulation of any evening paper in the Maritime Provinces.

Advertising Representatives—New York, Frank R. Northrup, 350 Madison Ave.; Chicago, E. J. Powers, 19 South La Salle Street.

The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times-Star.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 20, 1924

THE WINTER PORT.

The first winter port steamer, the Canadian Leader, of the C. G. M., is expected to dock early this evening, and so we may say the winter port season has begun.

During the first few months of the season the volume of traffic, and the number of sailings, will be scrutinized very closely, because the city has made certain concessions with respect to wharfage charges, and because there is more than an unofficial understanding that between now and the middle of April next the number of sailings will be considerably augmented, and the volume of total traffic as well.

There was, as will be remembered, some dispute as to the wisdom of the Common Council's action in adopting the rates advised by the Port Committee. This newspaper pointed out, at the time new rates were established, that they would not go into effect until the steamship companies bound themselves to carry out their original schedules of sailings for this season, and that if they did not keep faith the rates of 1923 would become again effective, automatically.

The value of that comment is now to be tested by events—the only test worth while. It has been intimated by some of the steamship companies, including the C. G. M., that their usual number of sailings will be considerably increased. That intimation is a most welcome one under the circumstances, and, after it was recorded, many interested in the port trade, and the proposed expansion of port facilities, regarded the outlook for the winter traffic with no little degree of satisfaction.

Unofficially it is said that St. John this year will get a respective quantity of wheat via the National Railways. We shall soon know as to that. It is manifestly clear that even that there must be a show-down very soon between the Government, the C. N. R. and the people of St. John, as to the use to be made of Portland on the one hand and of the port of St. John on the other. As we have pointed out frequently, the leaders of both of the old political parties have pledged themselves repeatedly to carry out a policy under which, so far as is reasonably possible, Canadian traffic shall be kept in Canadian channels. It is not expected, except by extremists, that Portland will get no Canadian traffic whatever; but it is expected by reasonable St. John people that a rapidly increasing proportion of traffic carried by the Canadian Government Railways will pass inward or outward through the natural winter port of Canada.

If this reform, which is a sound one and clearly in the national interests, is not instituted within a short time, there is going to be a row. Sir Henry Thornton is coming to St. John within a few days. He will have a conference with the Mayor and Commissioners, to which conference the Port Committee may be invited, and at which conference Mr. Matthew Lodge, New Brunswick's representative on the Board of Directors of the C. N. R., should certainly be present. The Times-Star is not proposing any particular policy to the Mayor and the Commissioners, but the common interest we all have in the expansion of harbor traffic, and harbor facilities, makes it natural to suggest that Mr. Lodge be here on the occasion in question.

Mr. Lodge is particularly well informed as to New Brunswick's rights and expectations with respect to all-Canadian traffic, and it is known that he takes a broad view with respect to the Maritime Provinces, that he is anxious that justice shall be done both to St. John and Halifax, and that he has all of the requisite facts at his finger's ends in connection with these matters. Obviously, therefore, Mr. Lodge, whose chief desire is to serve the interests of St. John, of New Brunswick, of Halifax, and of Nova Scotia, should be called into council in order that St. John may take full advantage of the striking opportunity presented by Sir Henry Thornton's visit.

After Sir Henry has come and gone we shall know more, no doubt, as to the volume of traffic we may naturally expect via the C. N. R. this winter; and it should be probable that our citizens will then have some real information as to the early construction of new piers and a new grain elevator in the Courtenay Bay area.

Soon, also, we should know a great deal more as to the general outlook for the expansion of this winter port, as to traffic and new facilities, it being recognized that the port should play a very great part in any sound scheme of all-Canadian transportation.

Ninety-eight fire alarms in one day in the city of New York is a pretty big sign of winter. It is also an excessive sign, for the fire loss amounted to \$1,200,000.

"THE COLONIES."

The High Commissioners of the Dominions residing in London were invited by the British Government, through the Prime Minister, to discuss foreign relations with him before a Cabinet meeting. This certainly is raising the status of Dominion representatives in Great Britain, and will no doubt establish closer relations between the Imperial Government and the overseas Dominions.

The invitation is regarded as an indication that the new British Government desires to take an early opportunity of showing its wish to keep in the closest touch with the Dominions. These round table conferences between Great Britain and overseas representatives must have a beneficial effect.

Heretofore, too frequently, Colonial Ministers have advised the Government to take certain action that did not entirely meet with the approval of the Dominions. It was sometimes necessary for somebody to retreat and such a step is never regarded with pleasure by either the Imperial or any "Colonial" Government. It is far better to be advised in advance, and thereby avoid mistakes. The word "colony" is no longer applied to the self-governing Dominions by up to date statesmen, but the London editors, or some of them, evidently forget the new practice most of the time.

AN ENGLISH VIEW

The London Daily Mail took a very energetic part in the recent elections in Great Britain, voicing the opinion of millions of people that the struggle was Socialism and Communism versus all the other parties in the country. It was not a fight between Conservatives, Liberals and Labor. According to The Mail, the issue was clearly defined. Its comment a day or two after the result was known indicates how much importance was placed upon the verdict in Great Britain. "Broad," says The Mail, "the effect of the election will be seen, we trust, in a firmer policy where the Empire is confronted with sedition. Its moral, and the lesson which the electors have driven to drive home, is that our statesmen must make no terms with Socialism and Communism. For years there has been a section of politicians in our midst who doubted whether, if the clear choice were presented to the British people—for Socialism or against it—they would choose right. The clear choice has been presented. By an enormous majority the people have chosen right. The darkest cloud has been lifted from the future.

"Happier days are before us after the stormy times through which we have passed. Socialism with its offspring Nationalization is a paralyzing influence on a nation's energy and progress. It is wholly alien to our British character. It has about it nothing English, borrowed as it has been from dull and malicious Prussian pedants of the type of Karl Marx. It is the creed of the unfit, of the people who have neither the courage nor the will power to face that struggle for life which the human race never has been and never will be able to escape. The British nation knows that.

"As a practical system, Socialism never can exist and never has existed in a civilized people. This condemnation of it in England will have far-reaching effects. We of this generation have watched its trial in Russia, where it has been forced upon a passive people by the frenzy of alien madmen and criminals. And there, after untold horrors have been worked to assure its success, it is bankrupt. The British election is the certain prognosis that its fall is at hand."

The Province of Alberta is to have a large sugar beet factory, at some point in its southern section, which will cost about a million and a half of dollars. This expenditure, of course, will not be made until there is a sufficient guarantee of beet acreage to meet the factory's demands. If it is successful, the refining organization, which is called the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, proposes that it be the first of a chain of refineries for the extraction of sugar from beets. This looks like an important business development.

Peter Smith, the former Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, when on his way to the penitentiary, indulged in a somewhat bitter joke. He said: "I wanted to get down to the penitentiary as quickly as possible, so that I could get one of the soft jobs before the directors of the Home Bank could get their pick." Poor Ontario!

Supplious.

Haze Lynn—"Guess St. John's bank is 'bout ter bust."

Mitt Mullen—"How so?"

Haze Lynn—"Well, I seen a check Bill Hoves wrote for \$2. It was returned marked 'no funds.' Now, a bank that ain't able ter cash a check for \$2 must be pretty much busted."

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

The cottage at Saranac Lake, N. Y., in which Robert Louis Stevenson lived for nearly a year, has just been acquired by the Stevenson Society of America, to be kept as a permanent memorial. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Baker, who took Stevenson in as a lodger, had had for many years an arrangement with the society for keeping the room he occupied open to visitors. Now the whole house is to be made the centre for the collection of all kinds of relics connected with his life. Quite a number of mementoes are now in the United States chapters of them, including the original manuscript of all but the last three chapters of "Kidnapped" and a first edition of "A Child's Garden of Verses," figuring this week in a sale at one of the galleries. The degree of interest was shown in the fact that the manuscript of "Kidnapped" sold for \$10,000.

Preference.

(Auckland News, New Zealand.) Preference, in its broadest sense, is suited to be the great Imperial watchword—a Preference of British folk to dwell on British soil, of British capitalists for British investments, and of British buyers and sellers to deal with each other. To give this whole-some sentiment practical shape, translating it into the terms of migration and finance and commerce, is an urgent task for Imperial statesmen and a dominating interest for every Britisher who realizes what he owes to the empire.

Protection in India.

(The Englishman, Calcutta.) The Government of India protect in shocked tones that it is not right for Burma to deny protection for Indian steel while claiming it for Burma oil. Of course it is right. Business men in Burma are but members of that very large family—Calcutta is full of them—who are free traders in principle, but protectionists for their own particular industry. The men of Rangoon, moreover, point out that, while Burma, owing to distance and high freight charges, never expects to be a large consumer of Indian steel, India on the other hand is "overwhelmingly the predominant consumer of Burma's production." It thus behooves India to refrain from imposing extra taxation on the soil industry; requirements in pipes because by so doing the cost of petrol production is kept down. The further development of protection in India can not, it seems, but lead to growth of separatist feeling in Burma.

And That's That.

A Chinese truck driver recently presented the following bill: ten goes, ten comes, at 60 cents a went, \$5.

Where Are the Trees?

(The Australasian.) The landscapes of half a century ago or less are becoming valuable as historic documents. They show country of great natural charm; but this charm has vanished from many of the scenes. In a young country many changes are expected and towns must be built, but the stripping of mountains and the burning of forests are nowhere really necessary. The destruction is profitable and that has been the cause of this wickedness.

Agriculture in Schools.

(Cape Argus.) It is clearly recognized that school agriculture cannot take the place of a definite apprenticeship on a farm, or of a more technical training at college; but it can and does give a boy an idea of what farming demands, and definite experience to guide him in deciding before it is too late, whether he is fitted or not for the life of a farmer. In all those schools in which agricultural work has been organized as part of the curriculum, the effects on character have been found to be wholly favorable; as one headmaster puts it, the subject can be the moral and educational salvation of many boys.

Jumbo Remembers.

(Weekly Dispatch.) Jumbo, the big elephant attached to Rostock and Wombwell's menagerie, has a long memory. On his arrival at Nottingham Goose Fair it was noticed that he was shirking his task of pulling wagons.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S MESSAGE.

(Rhoda Walker Edwards, in N. Y. Times.) You have honored the bones of the Unknown Dead, You have hung a wreath on his marble tomb— "Without stone whereon to rest his head" Is many a living hero's doom. Have you heard the voice of the Unknown Dead, When you knelt with others beside his grave? "Where are my brothers, who live?" he said, "All that I offered, they also gave. You called them heroes and spoke the truth. When you led them out of the sun to fight For you they squandered their splendid youth. They were stalwart lads when they heard your call, When they offered their bodies to be your shield. You asked for their strength—they left it all With their shell-torn limbs on the battlefield. You have used them up and thrown them away. You have drained the sap of their life in a day. On guard at the tomb of the Unknown Dead Are the ghosts of the living who also bleed."

An Animal Without a Voice.

"The giraffe is especially suspicious of water-holes. He will drink only from those that are level with the ground, and offer up a willing place in the vicinity for lions or leopards. He knows that, once he gets his front legs astraddle and his head bent to the sur-

face of the water, a quick get-away is out of question. There is a great tragedy in the life of the giraffe: nature has put it into one of the noisiest countries unequipped with vocal cords, it cannot utter a sound," says Martin Johnson, who has taken some notable pictures of wild animal life in Africa. He "came suddenly across a herd of giraffes nibbling the tops of thorn trees, like taking a trip into a prehistoric age," says Mr. Johnson. "A giraffe's diet is very simple—the pricklier the better, and like the camel he can go for a long time without a drink, so he lives by choice in the semi-arid plateau of British East Africa. In spite of his ungainly appearance, he can cover ground rapidly; his two short legs come forward almost simultaneously outside the front legs, and it takes a good horse indeed to come up with him. He never looks for trouble and beyond inadvertently pulling down a telegraph line that hangs too low, he does no harm to anybody.

The "Dyle" Myle.

From Election Report in The Observer (London.) The prime minister (Ramsay MacDonald) had a cordial reception when he delivered yesterday the opening speeches of his election campaign in Aberavon—his own battlefield, as he called it.

He began by saying to his political friends: "I hope if you do go to my opponent's meetings you will go to listen. (A voice: 'On one condition, that they propound their policy and don't fling mud.') (Cheers.)

"Oh, don't mind that," said Mr. MacDonald. "The mud always sticks to the man who flings it. This is an election in which I would call little battle is going to play a great part, and the trouble is that without a great widely read press we are going to be in the crowd that met me last night. (Cheers.)

"Now, I suppose some of you were present in the crowd that met me last night. (Cheers.) I am a firm believer in the intervention of Providence on rare and special occasions. Sir Herbert Barker. I look on theatricals as a game, and I find it the all-time and most delightful and prettiest game in the whole world. —Gordon Craig.

The International Finance.

The European financier goes forth equipped with resources taken from our stores on a career of conquest and exploitation protected by our flag and backed by our prestige. —H. N. Brailsford.

Sounds Like Free Trade.

Private enterprise, given fair play, spells efficiency, and cheapness; under national ownership competition ceases, and when competition ceases whatever happens cheapness ceases also. —Premier Baldwin.

France Prefers Employment.

It is eminently desirable that in order to provide for the restoration and development of the national industries of France the stabilization of the franc should be undertaken as soon as possible on a basis consistent with the undoubted fundamental economic wealth of that country. —R. J. Hose (Anglo-South American Bank).

FORGOTTEN THINGS.

(Sally M. Thomas in N. Y. Times.) There is a pity in forgotten things. Banished the heart they can no longer fill. Since restless Fancy, spreading swallow wings, Must seek new pleasure still.

There is a patience, too, in things forgot.

They wait—they find the portal long unused; And, knocking there, it shall refuse them not— Nor ought shall be refused.

Ah, yes. Though we, unheeding years on years,

In alien pledges spend the heart's estate, They bide some blessed moment of quick tears— Some moment without date—

Some gleam or flower, or leaf, or bead—

Some tremble at the ear of memoried clue The old loves gather round!

When that which lured us once now lureth not,

But the tired hands that gathered dross let fall, The triumph of the things forgot— To hear the tried heart call!

And they are with us at Life's farthest reach,

A light when into shadow all else dips, As, in the stranger's land, their native speech Returns to dying lips!

A Good Night-Cap

A teaspoonful of Bovril in a cup of hot water induces sleep —It makes an ideal Night-Cap and often prevents insomnia.

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OPENS SEASON THIS EVENING

The new season of the St. John Art Club will open with the annual conversation to be held this evening in the Church of England Institute. Several of the very fine paintings which belong to the society and which have been stored for some time have been hung in the auditorium of the Institute and will be exhibited and described by members of the Club. There will also be a programme with musical selections and a number of interesting lantern slides will be shown. Short speeches will be given and at the close of the evening refreshments will be served. Invitations to attend the conversation have been freely extended to all who are interested in Art, irrespective of whether they are members of the Club or not. For the coming season the Club has arranged a very pleasing programme of illustrated lectures to be held once a month. The December lecture will be by Dr. H. L. Spangler, the subject being Painting as seen in the work of Canadian Artists. In January, Ven. Archdeacon A. H. Crowfoot, president, will give a lecture on architecture with special reference to Liverpool Cathedral. In February, James F. Browne will lecture on Music and in March, C. S. Kirby will give an illustrated address on Engineering. The subjects for the April and May meetings are still to be announced.

Don't Let the Fire Burn Thru to the Oven

What a pleasure it is to do things yourself and to know they are well done. FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRE CLAY enables you to put the most durable of all linings in your own stove. Get a sheet of directions from the Hardware or Stove Dealer when you buy your Clay. The above does not apply to those who burn wood exclusively. For them iron linings give good service.

A British View of Audit.

An auditor is a watchdog, and not a blood-hound.—The Master of the Rolls.

Shaw at Church Meetings.

If I had my way we should yet have George Bernard Shaw at meetings of the Congregational Union.—Dr. Berry.

Somebody to Blame.

I am a firm believer in the intervention of Providence on rare and special occasions.—Sir Herbert Barker.

Lend it to Germany and—?

Throw thirty millions into Russia and knives will spring from the ground to tear the flesh of humanity. —Lloyd George.

No More "Scraps of Paper"?

If capital is to flow into and fructify foreign countries we must have the certainty that obligations will be discharged.—Sir Philip Lloyd-George.

Theatricals.

I look on theatricals as a game, and I find it the all-time and most delightful and prettiest game in the whole world. —Gordon Craig.

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OFFICERS ELECTED IN BEACONSFIELD

At an enthusiastic meeting of members of the local Opposition party held in Beaconsfield last night organization was effected and delegates were appointed to attend the Opposition convention. Harold Mayes was the chairman last night and stirring addresses were given by Hon. Dr. J. B. M. Baxter, M. P., and G. Earl Logan. The officers elected were as follows: Chairman, Harold G. Crouse; vice-chairman, Charles O. Morris; secretary, Neil MacKellar; delegates to convention, Harold Mayes, Charles O. Morris, Harold G. Crouse, Neil MacKellar, G. E. Logan, Dr. R. M. Penning, E. H. Johnson, William Nilsson, James Russell, Walter Dougherty, Charles Driscoll, George H.

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