

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1924

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OUR PUBLIC HEALTH.

Recent contributions to the budget debate have included forceful and striking addresses by Dr. L. R. Curran and Hon. Mr. Magee, speeches of wide interest, and these are followed in turn by a contribution from Hon. Dr. Roberts, Minister of Health, which shows a thoughtful examination of every branch of provincial affairs, which contains many constructive suggestions, and which is a well considered vindication of his own particular department. The Minister of Health, while recognizing that business conditions in this province have not of late been all that one could wish, is rightly optimistic rather than discouraged. He dwells upon our solid resources, and holds that with cheap power and the new capital our resources should attract New Brunswick should become one of the most progressive sections of the Dominion from the standpoint of industry, agriculture and commerce. He feels that with our favorable seaboard position we should turn more strongly to the overseas markets within the Empire. Among our great needs he emphasizes an immigration policy and a definite understanding with the Dominion as to whether or not it proposes to recognize and meet our just requirements. The provinces, he suggests, should have in Great Britain, representative of forceful personality, well equipped to secure immigrants, to enlist capital, to make public speeches—to put New Brunswick on the map. He would be a big enough man to "sell" New Brunswick on its merits, to capital and to settlers, and Dr. Roberts believes that even if such a man cannot be a sound and productive investment. Dr. Roberts wants carefully selected immigrants, and he says a forceful word about keeping our own people at home.

As to our relations with the rest of Canada the Minister speaks pointedly of the rights and compensations which have been denied us of the broken pledges of Confederation, and of the need for justice to the port of St. John in the matter of additional traffic and facilities. If the Canadians west of us do not think these Maritime Provinces necessary to the Dominion, Dr. Roberts says it is high time that they said so, in order that we may turn the tide and take in hand the direction of our own destinies. If these provinces are necessary, then their population must be kept up and increased, and this region must enjoy a reasonable degree of prosperity. Dr. Roberts proposes that our case be pressed at Ottawa by a committee of three—one from each Maritime Legislature—to meet at Ottawa, confer with our Maritime representatives and organize a non-partisan union of these and so promote a better understanding of our claims among the men in the House and the Senate from all over Canada. The Minister of Health favors enforcement of the prohibition law to the extent that is possible, and suggests the creation of a still stronger public sentiment through renewed activity on the part of temperance organizations. He stresses the need for the better observance of all laws. As to the Health Department, Dr. Roberts spoke of its great value and manifold activities with the province, and of one who has seen a beneficent enterprise of the utmost importance grow up under his own guidance. After all the outcry about excessive cost the cost is a trifle over ten cents a head. The benefits—direct and far-reaching—of the Health Department are better appreciated every year. The pioneer stage is over, and the public realizes much more clearly today than in the infancy of the enterprise what it means to prevent or quickly stamp out diseases which reach the epidemic stage and which constantly and rapidly decreases the risk to every man, woman and child in the province. The progress made up to date warrants Dr. Roberts' impressive statement that in the course of less than a generation, providing the system of medical inspection in the schools and the following up of public health nursing and clinics is continued on the right scale, a reduction of fully seventy-five per cent. will be made in the populations of the general hospitals, the Provincial Hospital for Nervous Diseases and the municipal homes. There were but fifteen cases of smallpox in New Brunswick last year. Under the old system of neglect there might well have been an epidemic costing more than all the present health expenditures, not to speak of the loss of lives not to be measured in money. Dr. Roberts reviewed and explained the extent and value of the many activities of his department, and those who heard his speech and who read it cannot but feel that the work already done has been of immense value, and the cost must seem small to all who will honestly acknowledge the fact with what is being done and who are fair enough, and modern enough to recognize the gain in conservation of life and improvement of public health and social conditions which will come

with each additional year of the department's work.

Properly speaking public health is too important to be discussed on a dollars-and-cents basis, but even if it is looked at purely from the material standpoint there is no better investment.

FRANCE KEEPS IT UP

There is evidence and to spare that France is determined not to permit Great Britain to match her in fighting airplanes. During 1922 France built 3,900 battleplanes which, with the serviceable machines already on hand, gave her 140 service squadrons. Britain in the same time had built only 200 battleplanes, giving her in all thirty-five service squadrons—thirty-five to 140.

There was a strong agitation for equality with France in air power, and the British Government laid down a five-year programme which would gradually bring the number of service squadrons up to eighty-two. That was not even a determined bid for equality, but France quickly served notice that its tremendously long lead in air power was not even to be diminished substantially. As soon as the new British air programme was published the French Government successfully appealed to the Chamber of Deputies for authority to construct sixty-eight more squadrons, so that by the time the British would have eighty-two squadrons the French would have 208.

Britain's new Air Minister is going on with the Baldwin Government's air programme, "for the present" as he says, intimating that there may be a curtailment of expenditure later on. This intimation is probably due to the hope that the Premier may succeed in persuading France that it would be an evil policy to drive Britain into any new form of armament race and that persistence in the French air plans can only result in compelling the British to construct aircraft on a scale hitherto unparalleled. The coming British naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean are being discussed by alarmists in France as indicating a coming combination of Britain, Spain and Italy for the purpose of counteracting French military and naval expansion. The maneuvers have no such significance, but although they represent merely the usual annual fleet drill in the customary waters, they are seized upon by mischief-makers who are not content with Britain's acceptance of a single naval power standard.

It seems all too easy for some people to forget what the British navy did in the great war, and at the same time to ignore France's extraordinary exhibition of its determination to outclass in air power all of its Allies combined.

OUR OWN RESOURCES

The development of Canada's water powers and a greater use of its own coal are shown by the fact that we actually imported less American bituminous coal in 1922 than in 1913, although the country's population increased by some two millions in the interval and there was, in those nine years, a very great expansion of our industries.

Pulp and paper manufacturing and mining continue to demand more and more power, and the harnessing of the country's streams will go on at an increasing pace to meet their requirements. The Department of the Interior in a recent report shows that the energy produced by water was \$228,000 H. P. at the end of 1923, while in 1912 it was only 1,446,000. The increase in 1923 alone was 255,000 H. P., and it is estimated that during the present year more than 900,000 H. P. will be added, more than half of it in Northern Quebec.

A pleasing feature of this is the extent to which Canada year by year becomes less dependent upon imported soft coal. In developing our own resources we are keeping a vastly increased amount of our money at home. This makes for Canadian prosperity. To patronize our own local shops and industries is another great means of building up our communities. To keep the greatest possible amount of our money in circulation where we live—and we can get good value by doing so—tends to prevent the native sons from going elsewhere to seek employment, and when we build up a prosperous community we serve ourselves and Canada at the same time.

Mr. W. E. Scully is quite right in his contention that the Valley railway should be extended from Westfield to East St. John. Mr. Scully, when he was in the Common Council, succeeded in getting civic, provincial, and even federal support for a bridge across the harbor. That was at a time when costs were low. Completion of the project would have been of great benefit. He is right in saying the Valley line should enter St. John on its own rails. He advocates a prison farm for the Maritime Provinces. That is a useful

and constructive proposal, and it is much needed.

The good results which follow when employees become stock holders in the enterprises in which they are employed are set forth in a pamphlet issued by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers:

"When a wage-earner invests some of his earnings in the business enterprise in which he himself is employed, he becomes a better workman; he takes a new interest in the business; he feels that he has a stake in it which is more important than the weekly pay envelope. And when a man gets this feeling he becomes dependable. For he comes to feel that he also has a part in the prosperity and progress of the country which places upon him the obligation of industry, of thrift, and of good citizenship."

The work of supplying free milk for the many babies that need it sorely is a cause well worth generous support.

Press Comment

"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN." (Vancouver Sun.)

Robert Wilson Stevenson, cousin of the immortal Robert Louis Stevenson, is being deported from the United States.

He went to California two years ago, set himself up as a poet and expected immediate recognition as a genius equal to his famous cousin. He was unwise. While his verse might have earned him a decent living on its own merits, he deliberately chafed and abused the good will of a comparison with that of the great R. L. S.

Had Stevenson arrived in America under an assumed name and never mentioned his relationship to his cousin he probably would have succeeded moderately. Instead, he brought himself to starvation by insisting upon public obeisance to his name.

California has another just such case in the person of Charles Stuart, lineal descendant of the Stuart kings and claimant to the throne of England. The man makes himself miserable by brooding over his family traditions and what have been. The curse of family tradition lies heavily upon 25 per cent. of the human race. Until each individual learns he must stand solely upon his own feet, there is going to be much unhappiness and wasted yearnings in this world.

HUNTING LICENSE FEES. (Toronto Globe.)

There is no suggestion that The St. John Daily Star is of the "wild" in the republication of its call for careful consideration of the proposal to increase the license fee exacted from moose and deer hunters. The Star, which announces proudly that its policy is "Algonia first and last," believes that Toronto in this matter is going off at half-cock.

"The Old Ontario sportsman has no moose in his backyard and few deer. He depends on New Ontario pretty much. His scheme, therefore, of making the American visitor pay a \$100 license to kill a moose and \$50 for a deer is designed solely to keep New Ontario game preserves for himself. He represents merely the usual annual deer hunt in the customary waters, they are seized upon by mischief-makers who are not content with Britain's acceptance of a single naval power standard.

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type of foreigner who will kill everything he sees."

The problem is not so simple as The Star makes it out to be. American sportsmen, who contribute nothing to the cost of preserving Ontario's forests and Ontario's game, should assuredly be required to pay a reasonable fee for the privilege of hunting in the public domain. It is probable that \$50 is a prohibitive rate, and that Algonia and all other parts of the province would have few American visitors during the hunting season were the fee to be placed so high. But The Star indicates a very real danger when it states that ten times as many American sportsmen entered the woods of Algonia when the fee was lowered to \$25 as when it was placed at \$50. A license fee that is too low to keep out sportsmen in mobs may soon result in the destruction alike of the deer and the revenue, and give the Algonia Star a permanent grievance.

The preservation of the deer in the woods of Ontario is of interest to many citizens who never shoot at them with anything more deadly than a camera. They seek that happy medium between license fees so high as to injure the interests of the regions to which the deer-hunting season brings much extra business and fees so low as to endanger the continuance of the deer as a delightful feature of woodland life.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME— (London Morning Post.)

While America lays upon us the burden of finding some thirty millions a year as the interest of her debt, she has raised a tariff calculated to prevent us from trading with her. . . . If we are to remain solvent we must either get a more free trade with America, or go bankrupt. . . . A large part of the problem is to reduce our imports from the United States and transfer that import trade either to home production or to our dominions. As there are said to be several ways of killing a cat, so there may be several ways of reducing or transferring our imports. If our old friend, the Voice of the People, will not permit us to take the obvious and sensible course of doing it by protective duties, we might do it by a system of licenses.

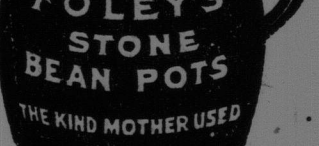
If the United States were to object to this system, Mr. MacDonald could reply quite reasonably, that the reduction of the Fordney tariff in our favor might induce him to alter his mind. He might add, with equal reason, that he could see no other way of meeting the burden of our indebtedness to the United States.

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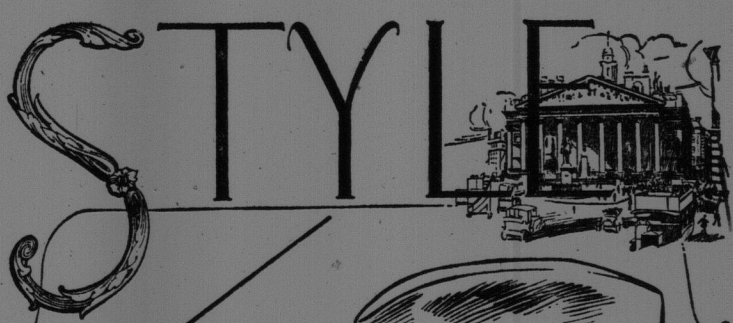
Mr. Chas. A. Ayland, Franklin, Ont., writes: "I used to be awfully bothered with floating specks before my eyes, headaches and sickness to my stomach. I took just half a vial of your Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills and ever since I have felt as well as I ever did. Now I always keep them on hand."

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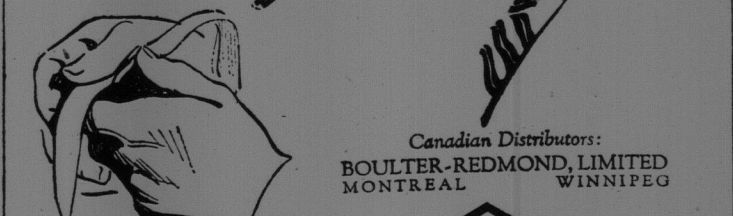
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(From essay by W. Y. Tust on the Bible.)

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I am a true friend, a wise counsellor, and a faithful guide. I am silent as gravitation, plant and powerful as the electric current, and enduring as the everlasting hills. I am the Book.

Corns



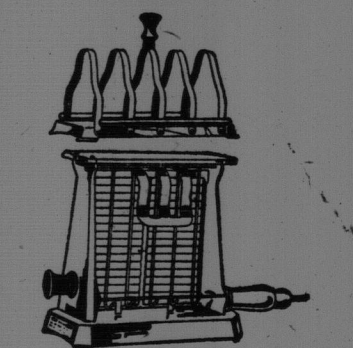
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Blue-jay

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for

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