

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1924

The Evening Times-Star

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ONLY ONE MORE.

In Chicago last year 237 murders were committed, but of all the murderers arrested only one was convicted and executed. One might wonder, therefore, why one murderer more or less could produce the crop of editorials and sermons which has followed the latest Chicago homicide. More than usual attention has been devoted to it by students of crime because the guilty young men are college graduates, sons of millionaire families, and, in spite of the advantages they enjoyed, are apparently moral idiots. It was inevitable that there should be an unusual amount of publicity in such a case, and many have attempted, with no great degree of success, to find some useful lesson in an exceedingly degrading crime perpetrated in a centre where murder is necessarily an everyday topic. The Toronto Star says of the case:

"The crime was premeditated and cold-blooded. Yet the two criminals are the sons of wealthy Chicago families, accustomed to all the comforts of life, and have been intent in their pursuit of higher education. Since childhood they have been attending schools and colleges. They have been reared under the full beams of worldly prosperity. Education has had full play to do for them all it is capable of doing. Yet here they are ripe for the scaffold, their hands red with innocent blood."

"In seeking the motive for this crime it may be necessary to discard the idea that it was done for money. The hope of gain could only be a faint possibility. When the youthful criminals saw the adventure of the deed appealed to them, they may be indicating in a poor way the motive that moved them—an insane desire for the thrill of doing an capital crime and remaining undetected. The desire to mystify is common enough. It has often led youthful persons to commit misdeeds that were less than crimes, and at times arson. Here two youths, with minds and morals askew, and with all Chicago to mystify, went to more desperate lengths."

"They probably set out to show how clever they could be, by doing the most unlawful of all things and evading suspicion. No doubt they scoffed at the sanctity of human life here and future existence elsewhere."

Probably these twisted brains had some idea that even if they were detected they might escape punishment, having noted that in their country wealthy criminals have frequently, in one fashion or another, contrived to cheat justice. This is one more case in which the administration of the criminal law in the United States will be tested. Hitherto the results in dealing with crimes of a similar character have been such as to bring continual reproach upon that country.

UN SOUND LEGISLATION.

Canadians who have been watching the progress of some extraordinary legislation at Washington will observe that this Congress, which has taken a hostile attitude toward Canadian products, has on the eve of adjournment neglected at least one opportunity to strike another blow at this country. Among the bills abandoned during the closing hours of the session was the so-called McNary measure, which represented one more attempt to persuade the American farmer that his life could be cured by domestic legislation disregarding world market conditions. Tariff changes at Washington affecting Canadian products have somewhat limited the Canadian farmers' market, but have not resulted in raising the price on farm products in the United States as many American politicians said they would do. The McNary bill dealt with wheat, as well as some other farm products. The underlying idea was to fix the home price of American wheat, for example, at \$1.60 or \$1.70 per bushel, and then sell any surplus in foreign markets, under competition, for any price it would bring. Under this arrangement the tariff against Canadian wheat would have been raised even higher than it now is, and our wheat would have met the American export crop under unfair conditions in the Liverpool market. The distribution would have violated sound economic laws, but probably would not have lasted long. It was pointed out in Congress that to establish high and artificial prices in the domestic market would produce an immense increase in the wheat acreage at home. The crop would be so far in excess of home consumption that the exportable surplus would have been very great, and this would likely be sold at a loss. The flat price at home would bring demands for similar government action affecting many other classes of products, and there would have been no end to the loss and confusion resulting until the consuming public rebelled against artificial prices and the plan broke under its own weight.

The radical interests in Congress were willing to disregard all the dangers attached to the McNary enterprise, but they were unable to persuade a majority of the Congressmen to embark upon so wild an enterprise. The Americans will have to grow wheat under conditions which will enable them to meet world competition, or they will have to be content with producing enough for their own needs. Increasing domestic competition and the effect of competition from Canada, the Argentine, Russia and other large wheat-producing countries are proving yearly a greater handicap to the American wheat farmer, and many American economists believe the day is at hand when their country will cease to export wheat. It is rather extraordinary that such legislation should have received so much consideration as it did at Washington. But this is a presidential year, and perhaps that accounts for it.

THE CHAIN LETTER AGAIN.

Not the desire to do good, so much as human fear or weakness, makes a continuation of the "chain letter" nuisance possible. This view, which is probably correct, is expressed by several reviewers in discussing a new campaign against the chain letter folly which has begun in Pittsburgh. A business man there believes the matter important enough to warrant an anti-chain warfare carried on by means of statistics and publicity. Recently he received one of the chain letters, containing the usual promise that good luck would come to him if he sent it on to nine more persons within twenty-four hours, and that bad luck would be his if he declined to do so. He not only declined to risk the bad luck, but to do a little more than that. He set about figuring and estimated that if any recipient took the chain letter seriously, the eighth round would mean well over 4,000,000 letters dumped into the mail, costing over \$95,000 in postage and a vast amount of labor.

His view of the matter has received considerable endorsement. Many individuals who would resent being called superstitious, says one writer, "falls for the chain letter through thoughtlessness or unrecognized fear." Fortunately not every recipient of a chain letter experiences this weakness. A good many realize that the letter is a waste of time and money, an embarrassment to postal facilities, a stumbling block to false sentiment or superstition, and a thoroughly useless thing. "Through the official publication of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the business man referred to challenges his fellow-citizens to check the pernicious chain letter. More publicity of this sort and more public denouncement by persons with the courage and the good sense to throw up such communications into the waste basket would help to lessen the nuisance."

SUMMARIZING SOME FEATURES OF THE NEW AMERICAN TAXATION MEASURE WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO CANADIANS, THE MONTREAL GAZETTE SAYS:

The income tax in force up to the present provides for a normal tax of four per cent. on the first \$4,000 of net income and eight per cent. on the remainder. The rates established by the new act are two per cent. on the first \$4,000 of income, four per cent. on the next \$4,000 and six per cent. on the amounts in excess of \$8,000. The surtax rates, which apply only to the few who begin at one per cent. on the income in excess of \$10,000, and reach a maximum of 40 per cent. in income in excess of \$200,000. The estate (or inheritance) tax is retained, and its rates are made to apply to gifts during life to individuals. The tax is 12½ per cent. on the net income of corporations is retained. The taxes on telephone and telegraph messages, on beverages, on candy, knives, literary hunting garments and jackets, on carpets, trunks, valises, purses, lighting fixtures and the like, are retained. The tax on each \$100 on drafts, checks and promissory notes are repealed. Some of these measures, some are annoying. Their disappearance will be welcomed.

Some Canadian newspapers are jealously moving the national capital from place to place. Having read that Henry Ford says the climate at Washington is enervating and the legislators would do better work if they were removed to some central point in the West, the Manitoba Free Press thinks there might be something in it, and says Canada's legislators would be more energetic and would pass wiser measures if the capital were moved to Winnipeg. The Victoria Colonist would not like to have Parliament make its home in the centre of the Progressive movement, and says Victoria is the right spot. Doubtless there will be other applications—equally disinterested.

MINISTER FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED

A Charlottetown despatch last night gave further particulars of the death of Rev. J. F. Denny, 42, pastor of Summerside Methodist church, prominent missionary, journalist and engineer, who recently returned from British Guiana. He was found dead in his bed yesterday morning, having succumbed in his sleep.

Press Comment

THE PAPERMAKERS' TREK.

(Toronto Globe.) The retiring president of the International Paper Company, the principal manufacturer of newsprint in the United States, announces that the erection of a new plant in Canada will be begun shortly, and that ultimately the company, on the exhaustion of its timber tracts in the United States, will be forced to transfer its operations to this country. Without a protective tariff, Mr. Dodge says, the making of paper in the United States cannot be carried on profitably in competition with the cheap labor of foreign countries.

The truth is, of course, that paper mills in the United States, situated, as many are, remote from the sources of pulpwood supply and on power sites that give a flow of water varying from the torrential volume of the spring freshet to the trickle of midsummer, cannot compete with the virgin spruce forests adjacent to ample water powers still to be had in this country.

Paper has been coming into the United States market of late from Finland, Sweden, Norway and other countries in which wages are much lower than on this continent, and where, except in Sweden, a gold-standard country to depreciated currency accentuates this difference. But these conditions are not likely to continue. As Europe emerges from the economic pit in which her people have been floundering for the past ten years the demand for newsprint in the importing European countries will keep the Baltic mills busy and leave but little of a surplus for export to the United States.

Looking the long view of the situation, Canadian paper mills have little to fear from the cheap labor of foreign countries to which Mr. Dodge ascribes the decline of paper manufacturing in the Atlantic Coast region of the United States. Nor have the mills of Ontario and Quebec reason to be alarmed concerning possible competition from the Pacific Coast, where there are still great forests of spruce. Paper is a bulky, low-cost commodity that is not transported across the continent profitably by rail. The mills on the Pacific Coast may be able to ship their product to Atlantic ports through the Panama, but the newspapers of the Lake region, in cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and St. Paul, must depend for the major part of their paper supply in years to come on the mills of Ontario and Quebec. The United States paper industry may try for a time to bar out our wheat and meat by high tariffs, but our paper they can no longer do without.

PLAYING TAG WITH THE HANGMAN.

(Vancouver Sun.)

While the people of British Columbia, who pay the bills, might have hoped that four trials were sufficient to establish the guilt of the killer, Chong Sam Bow, and that enough money had been already spent to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion in regard to the justice of the death penalty imposed upon him, they will be relieved to know that since further appeal is deemed necessary, the appeal is to be taken on points of law rather than points of fact.

In short, the good sense of the defense counsel and the good sense of the Appeal Court itself seem inclined to avoid legal operations under the recent amendments to the criminal code that give such wide powers to Courts of Appeal, even permitting such courts to find on points of fact as well as law.

The people of British Columbia are quite content to have their judges administer their law for them, even though, as in the case of Chong Sam Bow, that administration seems to be eating up an enormous amount of money.

But, in criminal cases, they are extremely reluctant to detract from the sovereignty of the jury so far as points of fact are concerned.

Until these vicious amendments to the criminal code, which have been that sort of thing are repealed, they will have to rely upon the kind of good sense and judgment that seem to be lacking in this case.

If Chong Sam Bow must play this expensive game of tag with the hangman, the legal operations under the recent amendments to the criminal code that give such wide powers to Courts of Appeal, even permitting such courts to find on points of fact as well as law.

LINCOLN'S FOLKS

(From Contemporary Verse.)

Grey lies the sky above Virginia's hills, Sombre, brooding, and low. Grey is the land Where trees, branchless, distorted, silent stand In toneless ranks. Grey winds the run which spills Across a broken dam. Grey the old mill With riven roof, deserted. Grey the field. Grey the abandoned plow whose mate was appeal. 'Tightens the heart. Grey the garden, and still. All, all is grey. Even the road, the way. Where arteries Virginia's blood, winds, / gaunt, And tenantless, and distance-lonely, haunt Or memory, rutted, and seamed, and grey. And these grim, tattered men of mine, who stand Waiting, they too, are grey—grey, like the land.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Purely Pro Tem. (American Legion Weekly.)

Lily—"So you've mortgaged our life home?"

Mose—"Jes' (temporarily) honey, till de mortgage am 'foclosed."

Nothing on Her. (Pathfinder.)

Mrs. Johnson—"Go along wiv you, Mandy Tolliver. You can't be grand lady wiv me. My ancestors come ovr in the Mayflower, An want you tuh knuv."

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An Old One Still Going. (Chicago News.)

In Arkansas a man and his wife were sitting outside their house when a funeral procession passed. The man was comfortably seated in a chair that was tilted back toward the street, his feet on the sill of an open window.

"I think that's the funeral of ol' man Williams," he remarked. "Reckon it's the biggest seen in these parts for a while, ain't it, Caroline?"

"A purty good-sized one, Bud," his wife replied.

"I sure would like to see it," said Bud. "What a pity I ain't facin' that way!"

One of Lamb's Daily Half Dozen. (Manchester Guardian.)

One of Lamb's jobs on the Morning Post was to supply half a dozen jokes a day for which Dan Stuart paid him a penny each, and told him well paid.

The fashion of fresh-colored stockings for the women proved a terrible help in time of trouble, and Lamb boasts justifiably of his masterpiece, inspired by pink stockings. He wrote that "Modesty, taking her final leave of mortals, her last blush was visible in her ascent to the heavens by the tract of the glowing instep."

His Mistake. (Tit-Bits, London.)

A man went home in a lubricated state at 2 a. m.

To avoid waking his wife he removed his boots. This didn't seem to help matters much, so he took his socks off, and finally most of his clothes.

He stepped up the stairs gingerly in this state, and when he reached the top found himself in Waterloo station.

Minard's Lament, the Athlete's Remedy.

IS HONORED BY NEWSPAPER MEN

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"The special position of honorary president of the Canadian Press was created by the newspaper gathering here for E. H. Macklin, veteran newspaper man and president of the Manitoba Free Press. This distinction has been conferred upon him by the members of the Canadian Press in recognition of his sterling work in building up the organization."

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AN ODD FIND. (Toronto Globe.)

We always think of Algoma as a new country, with inhabitants first entering it from the west, so to speak.

Now comes a story from Sault Ste. Marie of a hunter being abroad there so long that when he left his gun standing beside a birch tree and forgot to go back for it—or was killed by wolves, mayhap—the tree just grew around the gun until it was found when the tree was cut down the other day. The story is thus told in the Sault Daily Star.

The section of a birch tree with the barrel of an old shotgun embedded in the heart of it, which is on display in the window of The Daily Star office, has been attracting considerable attention. A large percentage of the people who pass The Star office stop to have a look at this unique curio.

The interest that it has occasioned may be judged from the fact that one man offered to buy it for \$100. It is not, however, for sale.

Experts estimate that the gun has been embedded in the tree for fifty or perhaps sixty years. This would mean that it was left standing against the birch tree in the day when very few white men were to be found in the country around Mile 232 on the Algoma Central, where it was found recently.

Fifty years would carry one back to the days before the building of the main line of the C. P. R. through that section, to a day when probably none but Indians or fur traders roamed that territory.

There is, perhaps, an interesting and romantic history connected with this old weapon. Or again it may merely be that it was left lying against the tree by a hunter who went on to do something else and then was unable to find the tree again.

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