

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1919

The Evening Times and Star

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A PROGRAMME FOR 1919.

The war with autocracy is over. The war against evils which affect social conditions and the general welfare of the people must still be carried on, and with increasing vigor. It is fitting, at the beginning of a new year, that we consider some of the matters which call for action, and resolve that so far as we are concerned, individually and collectively, they will not be overlooked or neglected.

Consider first the public health. We are beginning to realize more fully that a child should be the subject of intelligent care before it is born, and that pre-natal conditions may very seriously affect its physical or mental state. Even if we do not as yet consider the physical or mental state of those who marry, the welfare of their offspring calls for some training for many mothers, with provision for proper nursing, and in large centres maternity hospitals available for those whose means are limited. There should be, for example, a free maternity hospital in connection with the General Public Hospital in this city and such an outside nursing service associated therewith as would be adequate for the needs of the patients. In many cities there are free centres where mothers may take their infants at regular intervals for examination and for advice, and where this is done there is a marked decline in infant mortality. Medical inspection in the schools is the next necessary step, in order that physical defects may be discovered and, if possible, removed, thus overcoming what too often proves a handicap not only in school but through life. The present year should see the system of medical inspection which has been adopted in St. John made compulsory throughout the province, and if the work ought to be enlarged in this city the funds should be regarded as a necessary first charge upon the educational treasury. A census of mentally defective children and the provision of separate small classes for their instruction, with an institution for those of very feeble mind, are also essential in the interests of social welfare. The proper physical and mental development of boys and girls also calls for proper playgrounds, and in large centres for play instructors. What forward steps in regard to these various matters will this city and province take during the year that has just begun?

There is also the matter of housing which has so vital a bearing upon child life and the public health and morals. The Associated Charities, the women whose war-work took them into the poorer tenements, the nurses who were called there by the epidemic of influenza, and all who are engaged in social welfare work in connection with the churches or other organizations, know that in St. John the housing conditions are far from satisfactory. In the United States it is believed that as soon as wages and the cost of building materials are stabilized there will be a building boom. No doubt here also there will be a renewal of building activity, possibly with government co-operation in financing the business. Whether there is or no, there is great need in St. John of a better building code, to enable the authorities not only to regulate new building projects but to enforce the improvement of many houses in which families are now compelled to live. The present year should witness the adoption of a definite and constructive policy in this regard.

Vocational training offers another inviting field of activity. The city council has verbally assured a committee of business men that it will grant the money needed to make a start in St. John. It remains for the school board to appoint a vocational training board and get the approval of the new provincial board for its programme, which will be given as a matter of course. Then an expert can be engaged and a practical beginning made with various evening classes in existing school buildings. Eventually the city must have a measure of vocational training in its public schools, under a revised course of instruction, and a vocational high school for the advanced classes of those who intend to engage in industry when they go out of school. The development of the system will take several years, but a practical beginning can be made before the present winter is over.

If those who have worked so nobly during the war in the various local fields of war work will now direct some of their energy into these other channels, the year 1919 will be notable for the improved social and educational conditions accomplished.

St. John welcomes the visit to this city of Mr. F. A. MacKenzie, the distinguished journalist and war correspondent, whose writings on Canada's part in the war have been read with such deep interest, and whose broad grasp of Imperial affairs has won him recognition in the highest circles. As a correspondent he has had experience in several wars, and as a working journalist in London and a writer on Imperial questions from many viewpoints he has won high rank. Moreover, he is a Canadian, who has seen the Canadian soldier at his great task.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

The political situation in New Brunswick is extremely interesting. In view of revelations made it would be improper for the legislature to go on doing business with all of the present members in their seats. This must be obvious to those members whose conduct in certain matters that have been under investigation was so improper as to render them unfit to go on making laws for this province. The way to clean house is to use the broom. If these members remain in the house and there is no tenure of their acts by their fellow members, then the whole house should be emptied. If there is to be no penalty at all attached to political wrongdoing, there will be no reform, and men of high purpose will have no part in politics. The poster government has applied the probe, and it is now for the legislature to act. Will the colleagues of Messrs. Murray, Jones, Smith, Baxter and Currie condone their acts and assert that they ought to remain in the house? Will they go on record to that effect? The issue cannot be dodged by saying that other members would do the same under like conditions. The answer to that is that after a few have paid a proper penalty the thing will stop; or, if it does not, that the penalty must be imposed again and again until the desired change has been brought about. There is too much partisanship. This province wants a clean administration. That is of infinitely more importance than a party triumph. The provincial revenue is small, the needs are great, and only a strictly business-like administration should be tolerated by the people. It is perfectly clear that there must be a house-cleaning at Fredericton, and since those who should resign their seats show no disposition to do so, the situation becomes extremely interesting. Their inaction throws the responsibility for action upon their colleagues and upon the government. We may be sure the government will not hesitate to do its full duty if and when the necessity arises.

A HINT FOR US ALL.

Now that we are entering upon a new year and are to have a reorganized police force the common everyday citizen might do well to take to heart the observations by a public official of Boston:

"Many persons are far more willing to air their opinions and shout their complaints into the ears of their next-door neighbors, than to take a few minutes' time in taking them to those authorities who have the power to deal with them. The negligence of a public official, the discourtesy of a street car conductor, the lawlessness of gangs of young men, the boisterous shouts and inconsiderate actions of boys and girls, are allowed to pass, perhaps with some contention, but in nearly every case without action. National and state legislatures have enacted numerous laws for the benefit of the people and for the preservation of peace and harmony, but these laws become so much wasted paper if individuals recklessly disregard them, and in a degree become anarchists and Bolsheviks. And these disturbers of the peace will grow in numbers if the individual does not recognize his own responsibility, and point out infractions to the attention of the officials delegated to enforce the laws."

Is there not a sting in these remarks for about ninety-nine out of a hundred of our people? For example, how many of those who know boot-leggers tell the inspectors about those law-breakers? And the same rule applies to gambling dens and to a great number of infractions of the laws. If there is a general desire to improve conditions in the city there must also be sincere and general co-operation. Can we have it in St. John in 1919?

The two new city commissioners will not be long in getting into harness. It will necessarily take some time to familiarize themselves with the details of departmental work. The presence of two new men at the council board will of course lend a new interest to civic affairs, the more so that these two represent in an unusual degree the labor organizations of the city. We have entered upon a new phase of city government, in which the members of these organizations may be expected to take a keen interest. That will not be at all a bad thing for the city, for in the past there has been too much apathy all round.

Maximilian Harden in his newspaper is telling some blunt facts to the German people. They may be disagreeable but they are the facts that Germany must face.

The problem of Russia is one that is not easy of solution. The Allies do not wish to send armies into the country, but can the Bolsheviks be otherwise subdued?

Mayor Church of Toronto has been re-elected, despite very vigorous opposition by several of the city newspapers. This is his fifth year in office.

LAUDER GIVEN OVATION HERE

Noted Entertainer Packs The Big Imperial
AN EXCELLENT PROGRAMME

Famous Scott's Work Crows Evening of Rare Pleasure at New Year's Entertainment—A Fine Company—New and Old Numbers by Mr. Lauder

Ay, mon! But it's quite to see and hear Harry Lauder again.

Whether rendered with a burr or without it that was the verdict of the audiences which packed the Imperial at two appearances yesterday. Even without the great Scottish entertainer the programme was one of rare excellence; but with Lauder to crown it all, with song and story, old favorites and new production, and the appeal to the heart in his allusions to the war, the peace pact and the task of reconstruction, it was altogether delightful. The music suited the entertainment, as did the varied and striking stage settings. Eye and ear were alike charmed. His personal war experiences have added a touch of pathos to Lauder's stage work which is particularly appealing at this time for he strikes a responsive chord in every heart.

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To be had of W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd., T. McAvity & Sons, Ltd., Emerson & Fisher, Ltd., C. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq., or at the Pottery.

Thought It Was Suicide

A prominent merchant was discovered a few days ago brandishing a razor at midnight. His wife called for assistance, but found her hubby was only paring his corns. Far better not to risk blood poisoning—use Putnam's Corn Extractor, 25c. at all dealers.

In his songs and talks, however, he is the same rollicking Scot, whose facial expression is in itself provocative of laughter, without being grotesque or foolish. There is a naturalness, even in his fooling, that is the proof of his art. His songs are fetching and he soon had his audience singing the refrain of two of the new ones last evening. His appeal in behalf of the Lauder fund for maimed Scotch soldiers was a bit of rugged eloquence.

On his first and every appearance he was greeted with a hearty applause that showed how much he is appreciated by St. John auditors. His songs included "Back to Where the Heather Grows, There is Somebody Waiting for Me, When I Was Twenty-one, I Love a Lassie, A Wee Hoose Among the Heather and Let Us Talk of War No More But Let Us Sing of Love. In a reference to peace and reconstruction, he said:

"The peace pact must be built on a solid foundation; it must be built on the rock of justice and truth. It must be built high, up and until it reaches the sky, eye, and higher than that, it must reach to God. And Canada must build, too. She must build and be careful in building. We all know what German Kultur has proved to be, but it has now crumbled to dust—and we must be careful that none of that dust sweeps into Canada and finds a lodgment in crevices here."

Japanese balancing artists, Chinese dancers, Jalla Curtis in flute and bird imitations and impersonation of several singers, Bert Melrose in a funny act that had half-rising finale, all contributed very clever parts; while the living statuary, showing haunting groups of man, woman, horse and dog in various poses, with a war-like touch added and Joan of Arc at the end was perhaps the most artistic ever shown on a St. John stage. The posing by the dogs and the horse was a really remarkable result of careful training.

The music by the orchestra, directed by Daniel Dore, included an overture arranged by him and a medley of Scottish selections. The Scottish Highlanders' Band played stirring airs at the close of the general programme.

An entertaining interlude was Lauder's auctioning of a copy of his book

Prevent Accidents to Your Horse

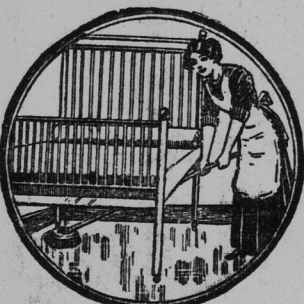
and eliminate annoyance due to delays by equipping him with

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They hold firm, stay sharp a long time and when they wear out can be replaced with a complete set of new ones in fifteen minutes.

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The only polish mop that can be successfully washed, cleaned and renewed.

O-Cedar Polish Mops..... \$1.50 each

O-Cedar Polish—Every ingredient of this polish is a pure vegetable substance, positively will not ignite.

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.

and a Yorkshire terrier contributed by a St. John man for the disabled Scottish soldiers' fund.

Was Electrocuted.

Henry McKay, chief engineer of the power house of the Pictou County Electric Co. Ltd., was electrocuted on Dec. 31. He was attempting to cut out a regulator when he slipped and got the full current of 2,800 volts. Death was instantaneous. Mr. McKay was a native of New Glasgow. He leaves his wife and three children.

In Northern Russia.

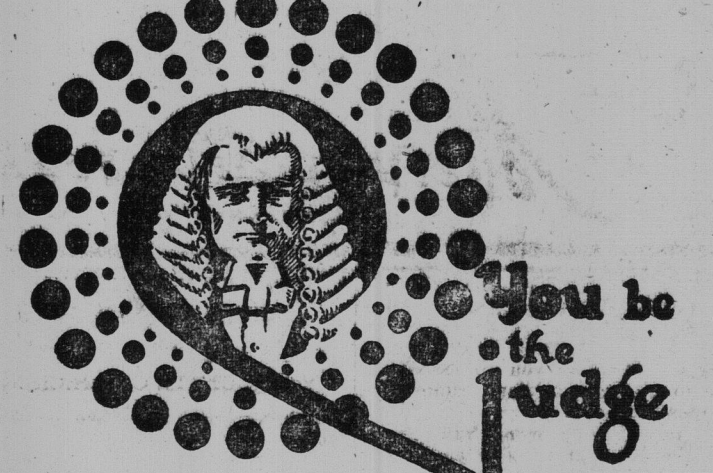
An Allied force composed of Americans, Russians and Poles advanced fourteen miles along the road bordering the Omega river on Dec. 30. They met with considerable resistance from the Bolsheviks, but captured more than a dozen villages.

BRITISH CROWN

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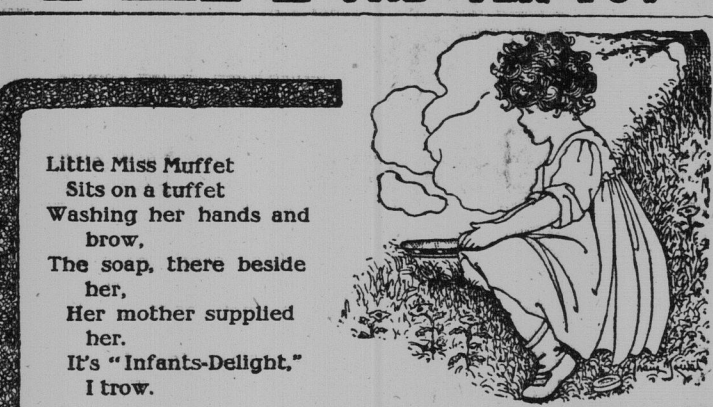
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