

# The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 5, 1925.

## SAINT JOHN AND MONTREAL

In discussing the programme submitted to the parliamentary leaders of both parties by delegates representing the Winnipeg conference, the Montreal Gazette makes some observations regarding the Maritime Provinces, saying, among other things:

"The Dominion has already spent many millions on harbor improvements on the Atlantic seaboard, and further expenditures have been planned, but the provision of better facilities will not, alone, create business for Maritime Province ports. The difficulties, so far as relations with the rest of the Dominion are concerned, are geographical, and no one has yet been able to show how they can be overcome by other parts of Canada."

Such language, however, unintentionally, misrepresents the case, and we are compelled to think that if traffic for Montreal were in question, the Gazette would speak in a very different key. Is the Gazette opposing the provision of better facilities here and at Halifax? Evidently it is not advocating such provision. And it should not ignore the fact that because of the lack of additional facilities here business which would naturally flow through Maritime ports is going elsewhere, at a loss to the Maritimes and with injury to the country at large. Facilities alone do not create business, but business is offered from year to year in excess of the capacity of the facilities in existence.

Montreal stoutly backs the Quebec Government's contention that the upper St. Lawrence shall not be developed for power and traffic purposes, to permit the passage of ocean-going vessels to the Great Lakes, because that project is thought to threaten Montreal's prestige as a port, but the Gazette evidently believes that the Maritimes should keep on contributing to all the canal and railway expenditures which particularly benefit Montreal, without asking that provision be made for carrying through Maritime ports the proportion of national export traffic which would come this way if the Maritimes received from Parliament the same degree of development that is given other parts of the country.

It is utterly absurd to seek to quiet the Maritimes by discussing geography. If geography is to be used as an excuse for continuing the diversion of traffic to foreign harbors, then geography should be held to excuse the Maritimes from continuing their contributions to the general expenditure on railways and canals and on immigration and expectations will have no discouraging effect upon Maritime activity in continuing the fight for justice, and fortunately, too, the Gazette's attitude is not representative of Canadian opinion, which, in a very marked degree, during the last few months has shown valuable interest in and support of the Maritime case.

Canadians, east and west, are opposed to federal policies which encourage the diversion of Canadian traffic to alien ports at the expense of Canadian interests, and, furthermore, Canadian sentiment will resent any further lack of effective federal action to equip Maritime ports, to promote Maritime immigration and to give the Maritimes just as much benefit from federal activities as is enjoyed by the people in the other provinces.

## ROME AND CAESAR

How large was the Roman Empire at its greatest? Recently the Vancouver Sun, in comparing the domain of ancient Rome with the United States, said that the Roman Empire never extended over a territory greater than New England and a few other seaboard states, and that its total population never exceeded 10,000,000. One of the students of Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" comes to the rescue of accuracy by recalling that Gibbon, who traced minutely the life and influence of the Romans for 1,200 years, said that at the period of Rome's greatest glory 120,000,000 souls were under the sway of the Caesars, and that the land area controlled was much larger than the present United States. The reader adds:

"The homogeneity under which this Empire was knit and remained fast for many centuries is one of the outstanding political facts of the world, and during the two hundred years traced by Gibbon may be found a trial and success or failure which duplicates every political economic effort that has ever taken place in any other nation at any other time in the world's history."

Among readers of serious literature there is a deep and abiding interest in ancient Rome. A short time ago a series of short stories dealing with

Julius Caesar and some of his contemporaries appeared in an American publication. While Caesar was given credit for military ability of a high order, personal courage, and statesmanship, he was represented as cruel, cunning and shockingly immoral. This estimate elicited a remarkable number of letters, many of which displayed considerable research, and nearly all of which indignantly defended Caesar. The controversy concerning his moral character is still going on. The number of references to Caesar brought to light by the fiction in question indicates how great hold he exercises upon the imagination of even the present generation.

The decision to expand the Maritime Board of Trade, widening its scope and making it truly representative of the smaller towns as well as the cities in the Maritimes, is a practical step forward in the movement to better conditions in these provinces. It is particularly desirable to secure the active cooperation and support of the agricultural interests, and to promote unity between them and the commercial organizations in the larger centres of population. The Maritime Board of Trade is taking effective action to follow up the good work done at Charlottetown and at Winnipeg.

Rev. Dr. Moore, President of King's University, has said that the prayer books should contain a petition for the divine guidance of newspaper men. "Dr. Moore," says the Toronto Star, "has overlooked the fact that for one or two of our contemporaries, which we could name, there is in the prayer book a prayer, namely that one—'For those at sea.'"

## Odds and Ends

### The Business Man at Home

(P. B. M. in Ottawa Citizen.) Mrs. Fletcher: "Did you have a hard day at the office, dear?" Mr. F.: "In my question as to my day at the office, will say that business matters were very pressing and that I am tired of same." Mrs. F.: "Well, dear, dinner is ready." Mr. F.: "Your statement re dinner duly noted and your suggestion will be acted upon as soon as possible. In spite of all I can do it will be five minutes before I can act upon this, owing to the fact that I have just lighted a cigar. Trusting that this delay will not inconvenience you and hoping that—"

Mrs. F.: "Your complaint has been placed in my hands by the head of the department. This will be acted upon at once. Feeling that this arrangement—"

Mrs. F.: "Well, let's get on with it. Won't you have some potatoes, dear?" Mr. F.: "I will go into conference with the various heads of my digestive system and trust that we will arrive at an early decision."

Mrs. F.: "Please hurry, dear."

Mrs. F.: "After a conference, we are pleased to notify you that we will be highly pleased if this matter re the passing of the potatoes can be pushed through at once. Also not the memorandum re grey, which should accompany the order for potatoes. Thanking you for this favor, we remain, J. H. Fletcher."

Old Tanks and New. (Manitoba Free Press.) An inquiry is going on in England to decide on who discovered the first tank. It is a big question because there have been tanks in England since before the Conquest, when the national lubricant was mud.

When Babylon Was Young. (The Gleaner.) "A paving block from the city of Babylon, thought to be more than three thousand years old, has been presented to the museum."

A Long Wait. When Smith arrived at the seaside hotel he immediately asked if there was a telegram for him, and when answered in the negative appeared much disappointed.

## Just Fun

WHAT most of us men folks need is a letter that won't forget to be mailed.

ALL compliments received are the property of the person giving them, and should be returned.

"CULTIVATING old acquaintances," said the farmer as he drove the harrow over the abandoned graveyard.

LIVING from hand to mouth is all right until your hand slips.

THE trouble with so many of the youngest in our families is that they think the world is going to keep on saying, "Oh, let him have it."

LADY: "Why have they let all the monkeys out of their cages?" Zoo Attendant: "Holiday, mum. This is Darwin's birthday."

A KISS. A kiss is such a little thing, A dash, a flash of joy, A brush of lips, of finger tips, Pray whom does it annoy? If occlusion is a crime, It'd be a criminal all the time, A dainty Miss, a woman's bliss, Pray what's the harm in just a kiss?

WHEN the groom advises the bride to buy her stockings and lingerie at a mail order house the honeymoon is over for good.

NOW and then you read about a movie star who hasn't been married again yet.

AN enterprising furniture dealer in Reno, Nevada—where the divorces come from—announces: "We furnish a lizard with every lounge."

NAPOLEON, 1925. CUPID fights on the side of the lads with the heaviest pocketbooks.

"MY," said the husband, "that was a good sleep. I slept like a log." "Yes," answered the wife, "with a saw going through it."

Another goof. He Dumber. He never knows. When he's had his fill.

A FARMER discovered a hen not long ago, "setting" on six small apples. Trying to hatch out apple dumplings, perhaps.

LITTLE WALTER—Did our new baby come right down from heaven, Mamma?

Mother—Yes, dear, right straight down.

Walter—I guess he must have lit on his feet and that's what makes him so bow-legged.

NO, dear, there is no connection between a canoe trip and a waterfall.

OUR own weather notes: The next change will be for the better.

TWO's company, Three's a witness.

THESE red-hot mammae they sing about didn't get that way leaning over a cook stove.

IT doesn't take an expert to prove that radio is in its infancy; anyone who listens to it can tell that.

HE: But listen, dear, that gown shows your figure almost as plain as if you had nothing on.

Sher: Well, there's nothing wrong with my figure, is there?

Ye Gods! "May I take you to the theatre?" I once asked pretty Lizzie.

"No, kind sir?" she promptly said, "High places make me dizzy."

I popped the self-same question To a charming dame, Flo. "Indeed you can't," the maid replied, "Such places are so low."

From Laurence Binyon's Song. They went with songs to the battle; They were young; Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against Odds uncounted; They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.

Where our desires are and our hopes profound, Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight, To the innermost heart of their own land they are known; As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust, Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain; As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness, To the end, to the end, they remain.

The Democracy of Youth. (Tit Bits.) A lady drove up to the entrance to a school football grounds in a magnificent car. Alighting she addressed one of the boys nearby.

"Will you tell the Hon. Algernon de Montmorency," she said, "that his mother, Lady Fitzarthur, wishes to see him?"

Promptly the boy dashed off towards another and bawled: "Nobblie, your mother's landed!"

## Dance To Anything



Mother: "You know, Colonel, any excuse does them for dancing. They're dancing now to a chat on microbes by Professor Muggles!" From The Humorist, London.

## The Best of Advice

BY CLARK KINNAIRD AS TO KNOWLEDGE.

EVERY young person, seeking some short cut to wisdom, wants to know what knowledge is of most worth.

There is but one answer—SCIENCE. In Gustave Flaubert's "The Temptation of St. Anthony," there is a passage:

"My kingdom is as large as the world, and my desire knows no bounds. 'I am always marching forward, freeing minds and weighing words, without fear, without pity, without love and without God.'"

"They call me Science."

SCIENCE is nothing but trained and organized "common sense." ("Common sense" is most uncommon you know.)

The vast results obtained by Science are won by no mystical faculties, by no mental processes other than those which can be practiced by EVERY ONE of us, in the humblest and meanest affairs of life.

The method of scientific investigation is nothing but the expression of the necessary mode of working of the human mind. It is simply the mode in which all phenomena are reasoned about, rendered precise and exact.

The man of science has learned to believe in justification, not by faith, but by VERIFICATION.

THE development of exact natural knowledge in all its vast range, from physics to history and criticism, is the consequence of the working out in this province, of the Huxleyian resolution to "take nothing but the truth without clear knowledge that it is such; to consider all beliefs open to criticism; to regard all the value of authority as neither greater nor less than as much as it can prove itself to be worth."

Huxley, one of the greatest of English scientists, observed, "The improvement of natural knowledge absolutely refuses to acknowledge authority, as such. For strong blind faith is the one unpardonable sin."

IT IS readily apparent that we live in a world full of ignorance, and the plain duty of all of us is to try to make the little corner we can influence somewhat less ignorant than it was before we entered it.

We can perform this task if we are trained in Science, remembering that its virtue is that it accepts nothing by blind faith.

## Poems That Live

### A PROPHECY.

There is a mighty dawning on the earth Of human glory; dreams unknown before Fill the mind's boundless world, and wondrous birth Is given to great thoughts; the deep-drawn river, But late a hidden fount at which a few Quaffed and were glad, is now a flowing river, Which the parched and weary may approach and view, Kneel down and drink, or float in it forever; The bonds of spirit are sundered broken And misad makes a very sport of distance. On every side appears a silent token Of what will be hereafter, when existence Shall even become a pure and equal thing, And earth sweep high as heaven, on solemn wing.

—Thomas Wade.

## Other Views

### A GLORIOUS PLACE

(Correspondence in Belfast Telegraph) Western Canada in harvest is a glorious place, and at once a reminder of the promise of old, that while the earth remaineth seed time and harvest shall never fail. To travel the prairies in August and September is an education and an experience that fill one with content and hope in a world that is so unsettled an indolent thankless for its mercies. Statistics are wearying and instead of a bare record of bushels and dollars the recording of the fact that this year's crop is the third largest in history will suffice, for it has only been eclipsed in 1915 and 1923.

### POETRY RESTORED

Let poetry once more be restored to her ancient truth and purity; let her license ascend thither; let her exchange her low, venal trifling subjects for such as are fair, useful and magnificent; and let her excite these so as at once to please, instruct, surprise and astonish; and then, of necessity, the most inveterate ignorance and prejudice shall be struck dumb, and poets yet become the delight and wonder of mankind.—James Thomson.

### AN ENGLISH WORLD

(Pierre van Passen in "World's Window.") "The whole world is talking English," writes Dr. Van Rossem in The Hague Post after a tour through the five continents. "You land in the French colonies in Cochinchina and instead of 'bonjour' you hear 'good morning.' You are introduced in a French club in Madagascar and instead of 'enchanté' you are welcomed with the words, 'How do you do?' I found that only one clerk spoke French in the French

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## Pekingese Dog Is Descended From Royal Line

DOGS and men have been friends for 5,000 years. The Egyptians worshipped them, and dog statues have been dug up in the most ancient of tombs.

Both the Chow and the Pekingese have come to us from China. The Chow in China is the common village dog, according to A. Sloan and A. Farquhar, in their book, "Dog and Man." The little Pekingese, however, is of royal line. Five of them were found left behind in a palace when Peking was sacked many years ago.

One was sent to Queen Victoria, the others to the Dukes of Wellington and Richmond. It is from this little group that most of the Pekes are descended.

Legend has it that the first Peking dog was really a lion that, by means of wizardry, reduced himself in size to suit the whim of a lady-love. There is a legend, too, that relates how lapdogs went to Ireland. In the beginning, Britain seems to have had a monopoly on tiny dogs, while Ireland was without them. And it was forbidden to give or sell a tiny dog to an Irishman.

But, as it happened, an English law decreed that a criminal should be given to the man he had wronged, so a clever Irishman succeeded in getting a tiny lapdog to "injure" him.

The ruse succeeded, and the dog was taken to Ireland, where all the kings fought among themselves for possession of her—until she brought about peace by producing a large litter of puppies.

A most extraordinary law concerning dogs was current in England in the day of Edward I. Only those people living a considerable distance from the forest were allowed to keep large dogs, for fear they might form into hunting packs.

A dog-gauge was used, and only dogs that could squeeze through this wire were allowed within a ten-mile radius.

In those days dogs were so valuable that fines were often paid on them. An astonishing law was passed in the reign of Edward III, when it was decreed that only "gentlemanly dogs" were allowed to wander London's streets alone or at night. Others were liable to a fine.

## Dinner Stories

AT A dinner given by the Prime Minister of a little kingdom on the Balkan Peninsula, a distinguished diplomat complained to his host that the Minister of Justice, who had been sitting on his left, had stolen his watch.

"Ah, he shouldn't have done that," said the Prime Minister, in tones of annoyance. "I will get it back for you."

Sure enough, toward the end of the evening the watch was returned to its owner.

"Si-h," exclaimed the host, glancing anxiously about him. "He doesn't know that I have got it back?"

A JUDGE'S little daughter, who had attended her father's court for the first time, was very much interested in the proceedings. After her return home she told her mother: "Papa made a speech, and several other men made speeches to twelve men who sat all together, and then these twelve men were put in a dark room to be developed."

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