

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 15, 1920.

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IMMIGRATION.

It was perhaps news to most members of the Canadian Club that we have in Rev. LaTouche Thompson, the unobtrusive Anglican chaplain at this port in winter, one of the real authorities on the subject of immigration. His address before the Club last evening was at once the most illuminating and authoritative that has been delivered before a St. John audience. It was the message of a man who for ten years in Quebec in summer and at St. John in winter has watched the incoming tide, studied the whole subject, and formed an accurate judgment regarding the duty of government and people in relation to the immigrant. Not only so, but Mr. Thompson lived and labored for some years among immigrants in the west. The nervous breakdown which caused his retirement from parish work gave to the service of immigration a trained and intelligent observer as well as a sympathetic and understanding friend of the newcomers to Canada. He has been debared from public speaking for a number of years, and the Canadian Club was fortunate in persuading him to deliver the address of last evening, which reviewed the whole subject of immigration, pointed out past blunders, explained clearly the present system, and pointed out the further change necessary, which will have all immigrants examined at the port of embarkation instead of on this side. There is no reply to the contention of Mr. Thompson that an immigrant should not be permitted to incur the expense of coming to Canada, and to cherish hopes of success and in some cases months in anxious suspense and then to be deported. Mr. Thompson pays a high tribute to the present system, apart from this needed change, and to the ability and faithfulness of the examining staff. He points out that there has been a complete change from the old days when the transportation companies had a practically free hand and thousands of undesirable were given free entry into the country. Some figures he quoted in this connection were very impressive, not to say startling, and it was not pleasant to learn that in this respect Canada in those years was far less vigilant as to the character of immigrants admitted than was the United States. Turning, however, from the darker side of the picture he was able to testify to the fine quality of the great mass of the newcomers, so many of whom went back to Europe to fight beside the native sons of Canada in the great war.

Mr. Thompson traced the development of welfare work in the interest of immigrants from the days when they came in the crowded steerage under most objectionable conditions to the present time when, in the case of women especially, they are under the care of trained workers from the time they board ship until they arrive at their destination. There is, however, a laxity on the part of the Canadian people, who could do a great deal toward making successful and good Canadian citizens out of even those who are not disposed to change. There is, he pointed out, an English society which sends out teachers and pays them, to live among these people and teach them and their children. The speaker felt that this was a task for Canada, which ought not to be shirked. The example of the young Canadian who went into a foreign settlement, taught both old and young, stood with them as a ministering angel through the influenza epidemic, and then fell himself a victim, declaring with his last breath that the foreign problem could be solved, was cited as one that should inspire all Canadians.

Mr. Thompson has no fear that the foreign-born element will ever outnumber those of British stock, and declares with confidence that Canada will remain by a very large percentage British in population. His faith is founded on statistics which show that the newcomers of alien birth have a far greater tendency than the British to pass into the United States or after a time return to their own country. And now that there is a five immigration department, which declares mental defectives and other undesirable, and calls upon the transportation companies to fulfill their obligations, the whole aspect of the immigration question has changed for the better. There is still needed the change which will provide for the examination of intending immigrants on the other side of the Atlantic, but that is only a question of time, as it was under consideration before the war interrupted the flow of immigrants to this country. Now that the department has time and opportunity to deal with the matter, the force of public opinion will undoubtedly make itself felt and the system will be rounded out by this important measure of reform.

It is announced that revision of the United States tariff will be one of the first things sought at the extra session of congress which President-elect Harding is expected to call immediately after his inauguration. Before that takes place there will be hearings before the Republican ways and means committee. These will begin on Jan. 6 and end on Feb. 16, and it is planned to begin the drafting of the new tariff as soon as the special session of congress is called in March, so that the revised tariff may be brought into effect early in the summer if not in the late spring.

REV. W. R. ROBINSON.

Many people in St. John this morning, when they heard of the wholly unexpected death of Rev. W. R. Robinson, felt as a soldier must have felt when he turned to see his comrade fallen by his side. Mr. Robinson was so intensely active, and his activities covered so wide a range in relation to the religious, moral and social welfare of the people that he had comrades among all creeds and classes. His passing is mourned most by those who in time of extreme distress found in him a practical and helpful friend, who regarded no personal sacrifice of time or effort when there was need of a helping hand. When the influenza hit the lumber camps in a remote section three years ago, Rev. Mr. Robinson and a devoted priest of the Catholic church went there at great personal hardship and no small risk and nursed the men, many of whom must otherwise have died, until all were well again. This was typical of the man. If a record had been kept of the nights in past years when he was called and went to the police court at late hours in the interest of little children taken in raids on disorderly houses, it would be a story whose pathos would touch every heart. Many a prisoner paroled to him because of his influence helped to a better life. Many a wayward or erring girl so paroled found her way to a good home and happiness beyond the temptations of the city. His religion was of the intensely practical sort that finds expression in social service without regard to creed. Even those who disagreed with him in regard to any matter recognized his devotion to what he felt to be the right course, and respected him none the less because they differed from him. All his life he was a pronounced advocate of prohibition and labored for the cause, impelled the more earnestly to do so in the years of his active ministry because of his experience at the police court and in the homes of the victims of drink. In no work was he so active in recent years as that relating to the care of neglected and dependent children. He was the first secretary of the Children's Aid Society, and every one of its members will testify to the splendid and self-sacrificing work which eventually broke his health and compelled him for a time to rest. He could not remain indifferent or idle, however, and he was one of the most energetic and active of those who founded the Wright Street Memorial Home. Truly in his death the children have lost a friend. He was ever ready to go to any part of the province to speak for a cause dear to his heart, and everywhere and always to make a plan for the children. It is because he was so intense in his devotion to work that the end has come so soon. Those intimate with him knew how the work, the worry and the long hours sapped his vitality, but it was not in his nature to rest. Mr. Robinson was beloved by the people of his own church, and his death is a great loss to the community in which he lived and labored. His interest in child welfare especially should remain an inspiration to all his fellow citizens.

THE CONSUMER'S TURN.

The ultimate consumer has become a person of note. He is no longer compelled to scramble for things and pay any price asked. He is now respected and sought after. He is no longer "the goat." It is a new and dazzling experience, and has perhaps aroused in him a certain degree of suspicion. The danger is, of course, that he may be too suspicious and ofish, and stay out of the market too long, with the result that legitimate business will suffer, and himself along with it. For if lack of demand causes industries to close, and fills the country with unemployed, it will not be a condition satisfactory to anybody. It is nevertheless well that the ultimate consumer has come to realize his power. The consumers collectively can keep prices at a reasonable level all the time by simply doing what they have been doing lately in the United States and to some extent in Canada. They have at this moment the whip hand, but they will be acting in their own interest to use it with discretion. They can regulate business and prices, but they would be very foolish to force prices too low and create a worse business and industrial depression. By united action they can eliminate the profiteer, and in the same way they can prevent deflation from degenerating into a panic. The one course is as essential as the other. Having realized their power the consumers must next consider the wisest use of that power.

Bradstreet's approximate index number of commodity prices in the United States as of December 1 was \$18.6263, which marks a decrease of 18 per cent. from the November 1 level of \$4.6 per cent. from the high level reached on February 1, and was the lowest monthly index number reported since November 1, 1914.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

ALL MEN ARE LIARS.

We sit around at eventime, and tranquilly we lie, and tell of how our cars can climb stupendous hills on high. We used to be a truthful lot before the auto came; we used to ween and wist and wot that falsehood was a shame. And when from fishing trips returned we stretched the truth a yard, our consciences like a bonfire burned, and scorched us pretty hard. But that was in a time gone by, a time that's vague, remote; and now we sit around and lie, each of his old tin boat. And when we to our beds repair some alto snoring to spring, does conscience while we're lying there, make night a solemn thing? Does she point out that falsehood's wrong? She tries that stunt no more; we've lied so much, we've lied so long, that conscience is a bore. Our old tin cars are red with rust, they're long since out of style, and something's always sure to bust before they go a mile. We're always tinkering with tools, o'er motors broken down, and hiring farmers with their mules, to haul us back to town. But when we smoke our evening pipes the fiction graft prevails, and Ananias has the gripes if he can hear our tales. And so we sit beside the sea, and tranquilly we lie, of how our autos climbed a tree, and did the trick on high.

LIGHTER YEN.

His Real Need. Canvasser—This book will teach you how to economize. Victim—That's no good to me. What I want is a book that will teach me how to live without economizing.—Boston Transcript.

Life's Little Enigmas. Foreman in glue factory to clerk—Where is that infernal odor coming from? Clerk—From the tannery, sir, across the lake. Foreman—I don't see how those fellows stand it. Foreman in tannery across the lake to clerk—Pshaw! Where is that awful smell from? Clerk—From the glue factory, sir, across the lake. Foreman—I don't see how those fellows stand it.—Texas Scalper.

Kindred Spirits. "I guess here's one you can't answer," said Johnny to his little brother. "If nuts grow on trees, what tree does doughnut grow on?" "Pantry," answered the little end man.—Forecast.

An Oversight. Old Mr. Bookworm—And so you want to be my son-in-law? Young Sultor—Great Scott, I didn't think of that when I proposed to your daughter.—Philadelphia Press.

ENJOYED GREATLY AT OPERA HOUSE.

New Mid-Week Programme Bright and Snappy and Well Varied.

The new mid-week programme in the Opera House is one of the brightest yet for many weeks. It was enjoyed yesterday afternoon and evening by large audiences. The acts are all good and all have new features. As usual the programme started with an episode of the new popular motion picture serial "The Flying Mystery," which is featuring Antonio Moreno, after which the Mitchell Brothers appeared in a bright and highly entertaining band offering. They are brilliant players and their renditions were thoroughly enjoyed. One of the members gave the Swanee River as it used to be played, and then a present day version. It made a decided hit. Brian Russell followed with amusing songs, after which she gave some dance numbers, which evoked rounds of applause. Her step dancing and sand ferrings were well executed and she merited the applause which greeted her performance. George Damerall and Myrtle Vail, assisted by Opal Elliott, then presented a snappy musical satire, "The School Teacher," which was a decided success. The version was quite out of the ordinary and the success achieved was well merited. The male member is an actor of ability, who has won fame on the stage in some of the leading musical comedy productions, notably "The Merry Widow," and his excellent performance was equally appreciated. Miss Vail scored a hit in her characterization. She is a clever actress with a striking personality and her dancing was a feature. Cliff Clark won his audience at his first appearance and during his entire performance held undivided attention. His comic songs and his clever acting combined in making his offering popular and rounds of applause rewarded his efforts. The "Flying Mystery" brought the programme to a close with a thrilling aerial offering. Some of their feats on the trapeze were of sensational nature. They received prolonged applause. The various acts were all well staged and the programme is expected to continue to attract capacity houses tonight and again on Thursday.

IRISH RESOLUTION FOR U. S. CONGRESS.

Withdrawal of Troops From Ireland and Recognition of Government.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Congress, under a resolution introduced yesterday by Representative Burke, Republican of Pennsylvania, would go on record as appealing to the British government to withdraw its armed forces from Ireland and to "give recognition to the government established by the majority will of the Irish people."

Mr. Burke's resolution states that "Congress, in the name of humanity, and in vindication of the principles for which the United States entered the war, offers protest to the government of Great Britain against the looting of the city of Cork and the reign of terror now existing in Ireland under British rule."

PRAIRIE FIRE SWEEPS PART OF SASKATCHEWAN.

Moose Jaw, Sask., Dec. 15.—According to a message received yesterday from Morthlach, from a rancher of that district, a bad prairie fire was sweeping through the prairie country west of that town.

When We Wound Up The Watch On The Rhine

Narrative of Canadian Participation in The Occupation of Germany After The Armistice

(Continued from Monday.)

From December 19 to the latter part of January the Canadians retained their watch on the Rhine. While the field artillery and infantry were in position of battle, the heavy and siege guns were placed along the western banks of the river and were a source of considerable interest to the inhabitants of Bonn.

Beethoven's Birthplace. Bonn, which is a town of some 45,000 people, is located on the Rhine about 20 miles from the city of Cologne. It is one of the centres of learning in Prussia and is particularly noted as being the birthplace of Beethoven, whose sonatas are world property. Even today the modest home where the great musician first saw the light of day stands as it was in the height of his career. The attic room in which most of his compositions were produced is still untouched; a bust of the famous composer and a wreath of bay leaves are the only articles in an otherwise empty room.

A Town of Universities. Scattered through different parts of the town are various buildings in which the German students—and indeed those from many of the other European countries—acquire the learning for which the town has become famous. These buildings were to a great extent untouched on the arrival of the British troops, and they were used for the purpose of housing many of the Canadian officers.

As in other towns where there were any great number of students, Bonn possessed a superabundance of beer gardens, in which the scholars were wont to spend much of their spare time and incidentally carve up the furnishings.

The German civil population complied with the regulations laid down by their masters so strictly that it became almost an ordeal for a British officer to appear on the streets of Bonn. Naturally he expected to return every salute whether it was given by a British soldier or a German civilian, and the result was that he gave an excellent imitation of a windmill in full operation. After it was seen that the inhabitants of the town were obedient, the order calling for the acknowledgment of the British officers by male civilians was abolished, though they still retained the right to uncover for the colors.

(Continued on Saturday.)

PRESBYTERY MEETING.

At the afternoon session of the St. John presbytery, held in St. Andrew's church yesterday, a request was read from Fort Kent asking that they be disjoined from St. Francis and a minister be called. Rev. F. R. Fox was appointed moderator for the call. Rev. Mr. Sutherland, Rev. Mr. MacKeigan, Judge Forbes, Colonel MacLaren and Rev. Mr. Legate were appointed as a committee to report at the next meeting on matters submitted to the maritime synod by the various presbyteries. Rev. F. S. Dowling read the report of the home making committee and the recommendations of the report were all agreed to, among which the appropriations of several amounts of money and that a social worker be provided for Edmundston. Rev. Mr. Dowling also read the report of the committee on cooperation with the Methodist denomination. Rev. D. N. MacLachlan, secretary of the committee for social service and home missions, addressed the meeting. Rev. D. MacKeigan moved that the sum of \$100 be appropriated to the ministers for horse and rig, and this motion carried. The synod budget was read, and it provided for the raising of the sum of \$100,000, with several additional amounts. Rev. W. M. Townsend read the allocations of the Presbyterian fund for the coming year. The meeting was closed by the benediction, pronounced by Rev. J. A. MacKeigan.

CHURCH CLOSING DOORS.

Kitchener, Ont., Dec. 15.—Grace Congregational church of this city has given up the struggle against adverse circumstances and has officially closed its doors. Owing to many removals and the death of many of its prominent members, Grace church has had financial difficulties for some time. Rev. F. G. Purnell, who became pastor in October, resigned a month later and has left for England.

A Sled for the Boy or Girl



You'll not go wrong if you give one of these for Christmas. The Safety—the lightest and strongest steering sled on the market, \$2.75 to \$6.25. Framers—Plain and Bow Runner. Well made and attractively finished \$2.10 to \$5.30.

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FOR CHRISTMAS

---A Few Suggestions

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Gillette SAFETY RAZORS

\$5.00 the Set

3 Doz. Blades at \$3.00 Make a Welcome Gift

WE SELL THEM!

Specials for the Thrifty Early Shopper

SERVING TRAYS

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COFFEE PERCOLATOR

Nickel-plated Copper

Regular \$6.00 Value

Special at \$5.00

CASSEROLES

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No gift can yield more hours of pleasure than a pair of

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Any girl will feel proud to possess a pair. Their graceful lines captivate. Their lightness and strength make lasting friends.

The gift of a pair of "Automobile" Skates indicates rare good taste.

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Helpful Hints From Dykeman's

The Xmas Gift Shop Where Prices Are Less

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Separate Skirts

of Silk or Wool are very practical. Nothing is more popular for present year. We are showing really astonishing values, as for instance:

Navy Blue Accordion Plaid, \$8.50 up.

Fancy Plaid Skirts, \$10.90 and up.

She Would Like a New Evening Frock

The very latest styles in lovely colorings. Gorgeous combination of silk, net and silver lace. Regular value to \$168.00. Xmas Sale Price \$29.90.

A Fur Coat—The Gift Supreme

and not near as costly as might be expected. We are showing coats at before the war prices, simply astonishing values, and the styles are superb.

A lovely black Pony trimmed with Skunk that was \$195.00, for \$145.00.

A Hudson Seal that was \$300, for \$225.

And others in proportion.

All Wool Serge Frocks

In navy blue, with fashionable accordeon plaid skirt, short jackets finished with silk sash. Regular values to \$42.50. Special Xmas Price \$22.90.

Buy Her Something She Can Wear

Beaded Net Evening Scarfs in many pretty colors. Regular \$3.50 value.

Special Xmas Price \$1.89

Baby Wants a Present, Too

And Santa never forgets the little ones.

Crib Blankets Warm Coats Pullovers Bonnets Robes, Kimono Carriage Cover Booties, Caps. 3rd Floor.

New Bags and Purses

It seems that every smart style in these charming accessories is included in this special holiday gift group. Besides any number of Leather Bags and purses are Velvet Bags and Bags of Suede, Moire, Silk and Plush. Fancy frames have silver and oxidized finish, while others are of celluloid. Exceptionally moderate prices prevail.

WHAT TO GET FOR HIM?

Military Brushes, Ties, Suspenders, Hold All Toilet Sets, Writing Pads, Silk or Linen Handkerchiefs, Motor Robes, etc.

F. A. DYKEMAN CO.

CLOSE OF FORTY HOURS.

The forty hours devotion was brought to a close in St. Peter's church last evening with a very impressive ceremony, following the recitation of the rosary.

selemn vespers was sung, after which

procession in honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament took place, altar boys, children of the parish and members of the Married Men's Holy Family taking part.

The services were brought to a close

with solemn benediction. Rev. William Hogan, C. S. R. officiated and was assisted by Rev. Edward Scully, C. S. R., Rev. James Woods, C. S. R. and Rev. Dennis Coll, C. S. R.