

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1921

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscriptions—Private—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$5.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Mortrup, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Fewer, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE TARIFF TALK.

The Monetary Times, an influential financial journal, has no fear that Canada would suffer from tariff revision. Under existing tariff provisions, the Monetary Times said in a recent editorial, the primary industries of the country have been retarded and the loss to Canada in this way is greater than the gain resulting from forced expansion of manufacturing. Continuing, it urged that "a moderate reduction in the tariff" would relieve the present depression in many branches of business and industry, and then went on to say: "Such a gradual reduction is necessary if Canada is to get back to a more solid position. The practical policy for the present is the adoption of this principle, though its immediate application should be only slight." Hon. Mackenzie King has pledged that a Liberal revision of the tariff would injure no legitimate industry. In this pledge he is joined by such leaders as Hon. W. S. Fielding and Sir Lower Gouin. The Liberal policy is practically the same as that which the Monetary Times advocates, and it is one that commands itself to the people. When Mr. Meighen goes about endeavoring to throw the people into a panic through fear of free trade and idle factories he is not fairly representing the case. So far as the maritime provinces are concerned, a high tariff is distasteful to their interests, since they cannot develop industries because protective freight rates deprive them of a market. Hence they are not moved by the tariff talk. They want tariff revision.

On this subject the Montreal Witness says:— "There has to be a tariff for revenue. The protective element cannot be suddenly removed. The aim must be the revision downward of the protective elements of the tariff, with a special view to the encouragement of the basic industries of the country. Mr. Meighen has been perfectly right when he has kept saying that Mr. King's policy was the same as Mr. Crea's, but altogether wrong—we shall not say, dishonest—when he said that both proposed to make a clean sweep of protection, seeing that neither of them so proposes. Mr. Meighen, who accuses his opponents of lack of definiteness, has not distinctly said that the revision he proposes means more protection, neither has he denied when it has been said that the issue before the country is between more protection and less protection, revision upwards or revision downwards." What is Mr. Meighen's tariff policy? Is it revision upwards? He gives no indication on that subject. If Mr. King is a "trimmer," so also is Mr. Meighen. But the people have had experience of a Liberal tariff, that made the country prosperous. They will give the Liberals the opportunity to do the like after 1921 as they did after 1906.

TORIES AND THE BENCH.

The unflinching assertion of Hon. Mr. Bristol in Toronto that he would resign if three vacant judgeships were given to Conservatives is freely quoted as an indication of the qualities of the Tory mind. It would, as the Toronto Globe says, "drag the ermine (or anything else) in the mire of the spoils system." None of Mr. Bristol's colleagues has rebuked him, although, as the Globe says, "every one of them should have resented it as a personal insult and a public scandal." We quote further:—"If there were a sound public opinion Mr. Bristol's elimination would be swift and final. The Globe ventures the assertion that public opinion has been cut-garled. There has been widespread newspaper criticism of Mr. Bristol's affront to the bench, but doubtless he feels secure in the prime minister's favor. Far from giving any sign of disapproval, Mr. Meighen has chosen him to be one of his platform companions in his present Ontario tour. This new minister's declaration violates the tradition of the independence of the bench which all political parties in the past have respected and guarded. Appointments to judgeships have been exempted from the ordinary operation of the patronage system, even in its palmy days. It may be true that, as a rule, members of the bar chosen for judicial positions have belonged to the party in power, but under every government there have been exceptions. Even Sir John Macdonald, who was always zealous to reward supporters, expressly declared that merit alone must govern elevations to the judiciary. Mr. Bristol has signalled his promotion to the ministry by enunciating a doctrine from which hitherto even the most seasoned spokesmen have recoiled. He has made no denial and no apology. The prime minister and minister of justice share responsibility for his utterance if they fail to repudiate it. Members of the bench and the bar have a special grievance, but they have no redress if the government refuses to protect their professional honor."

The Griffenhagen outfit, which was imported from the United States to reform the civil service system of Canada has been sent home. In the Tory view there were two things wrong with it. In the first place it was Yankee, and in the second place it interfered with the working of the spoils system.

WAKING THEM UP.

With regard to the customs marking act to which reference was made in this paper yesterday, the Montreal Gazette comments on the action of the minister of customs, and gives the late minister a parting kick, but goes on to intimate that ministers in general are none too mindful of their duty to the public. We quote:—"The new minister of customs, Mr. Baxter, is beginning his administration with more regard to business interests than was exhibited by his predecessor. He announces his intention to recommend to his colleagues the suspension of the marking act until parliament gives more informed consideration to the legislation than it received last session, a course which, unless we are much mistaken, means its repeal. No one appears to know the origin of the law, and certainly no convincing reason to support it has ever been offered. When its provisions came to be understood, there was a rising tide of protest from importers, and a scarcely less vigorous outcry by British Chambers of Commerce. The consequences of applying the law could not be otherwise than harmful to business without benefit to any one, neither importer, Canadian manufacturer, nor ultimate consumer. The Gazette long since urged that the customs department should attempt the operation of the act, even though disregard of a statute was involved in such proceeding, and it is satisfactory to learn that this advice has not fallen upon deaf ears. The incident will not be without value if it teaches ministers of the crown to feel the mercantile pulse before disturbing business with irksome and irritating legislation." It is the testimony of business men having to do with the customs department that never under Conservative rule did they receive as sympathetic and prompt consideration of grievances as when the Liberals were in power. Yesterday's despatches told of amendments to the obnoxious measure which the Montreal Gazette, Conservative, says should be repealed. It may be left for a Liberal government to give justice to the business interests of the country in this as in other matters.

THE WAGE QUESTION.

A table showing the increase in weekly wages in factories in New York state since 1916 has been prepared by Mr. Henry D. Sayer of the state department of labor. The average for each year is as follows:

1916	\$14.43
1917	16.38
1918	20.35
1919	23.50
1920	28.15

In the present year there has been a general decline from an average of \$27.61 in January to \$26.07 in September. Commenting on the conditions, Bradstreet's says:—"While wages have tended to recede, reports as to operations have improved. It may be recalled that the state department of labor last week reported the most pronounced gain in manufacturing activities in New York state since the close of September, 1919. Commissioner Sayer then reported that, notwithstanding the fact that substantial reductions in employment were still reported by a number of factories, the total number of factory workers employed last month was approximately 8 1/2 per cent greater than in August."

The average wage paid is still very much higher than in 1916, and is still a very important factor in keeping up the price of manufactured goods. There is, however, some increase of industrial activity, and the situation is more hopeful than it was a few months ago. It is obvious that improvement will be slow and this is confirmed by the statements of financial and industrial operators throughout the country.

Being a member of the postal service is almost as exciting as riding a bucking broncho. Now you're on—now you're off. Those eight clerks and carriers in St. John who were off yesterday are on again today. The government at Ottawa appears to make a virtue of changing its mind at irregular but frequent intervals, just to keep the people guessing. Those affected by the changes never know when they are safe.

Only a few days ago Sir Edward Kemp was protesting against the mere suggestion that he should leave the political battle-field for the senatorial hospital. He was hereby determined to carry the government banner to victory in East Toronto. Well, Sir Edward has gone to the senate, to strengthen the arms of Foster, Calder, etc., etc.

The Brantford (Ont.) Relief Association has started a campaign to raise \$25,000 for relief for the unemployed, and the city council has pledged itself to provide whatever is necessary over and above what the Association raises to care for the unemployed during the winter. The council also voted to spend \$31,000 on public works to provide employment.

In Chatham, Ont., a woman is a candidate for a seat in the city council, and another for the Board of Education.

The news concerning the Irish situation is more reassuring.

A CITY DAWN.

I see the molten flood of morning-gold Surge o'er the slumbering city roofs; I hear The voice of the steam sirens, shrill and clear Up from the reaches of the river rolled, In numerous bell-notes of clarion mould Resound, and on a sudden reappear With faces smiling, eager or astounded The early flocks—a vast human fold I go with them in spirit breathe their hopes, Taste of their joys and drink of their despair From out the chalice want and woe have made! Hold him not less who trade life's on-ward slopes And bravely on his hand and forehead wears The furrowing sign of Toil as accolade!—Clinton Scollard in New York Herald.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Answers the Purpose. Gouty Grandparent—What was all yon noise about? Girl—Oh, I was only singing to kill time. Gouty Grandparent—Well, ye hae a verra gude weapon for the purpose.—Funch.

Relieving Her Anxiety.

Old Lady—Conductor, please stop the train. I dropped my wig out the window. Conductor—Never mind, madam, there is a switch just this side of the next station.—Octopus.

No Chance.

"Judge," cried the prisoner in the dock, "have I got to be tried by a woman jury?" "Be quiet," whispered his counsel. "I won't be quiet! Judge, I can't even feel my own neck, let alone twelve strange women. I'm guilty."—Houston Post.

LOCAL NEWS.

Do all your shopping and save money at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte. 11-5

NOTICE.

No lady can afford to miss the big sale of Dominion waterproof garments that are practically given away by the Ralston Co. at 45 Princess street.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

Regular meeting of Loyalist Temple No. 18 Pythian Sisters, Monday, 7th, Temple of Honor Building, North East Conventions for the fair please send their reports. 11-8

Get your ladies' and men's winter outfits for less money at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte. 11-5

HERE!

You chaps who are in need of tires. Your chance to fill your wants at a greatly reduced price. 80% "milk" tread, 8 1/4" tires are away down in price, too. Get these quick. Only a limited number.—G. A. Stackhouse & Co., Ltd., 281 Main street, Ford cars. 11-5

Mill end shaker in stripes, and white, for less money at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte St. 11-5

Woodmen intermediate class, 4th.—Call 2012.

PAY PARADE.

Fourth Siege Battery parade for 1921 drill season pay, Carleton Army, 8 o'clock tonight (Friday). All uniforms must be turned in.—N. E. McLeod, Major. 1406—11-5

Pantry sale, Ladies' Aid Queen Square church, the Carleton Hotel (Office), Saturday, 11 o'clock. 1406—11-5

Come and get your men's and boys' suits and overcoats for less costs at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte St. 11-5

NOTICE.

This is to notify my customers and other those there is at present but one Benefit Store in the city, situated on Haymarket Square, and that the undersigned is the sole proprietor. I will be responsible for no groceries, farm produce or other goods shipped or delivered to "Benefit Stores" unless order for same has been personally signed by me. This notice also includes any transactions whatever in connection with above mentioned business. (Signed) WM. M. STEEVES.

THE "FUGITIVES."

(Halifax Chronicle.) The more one learns about the census the more disappointing its figures become. The increase in population is far from satisfactory. It is, in fact, less than the number of immigrants recorded as coming into the country during the last ten years. Making due allowance for the losses from the war and the "flee," there is still a discrepancy that is quite disquieting. One of two solutions suggests itself to the thoughtful Canadian. Neither is satisfactory. First there is the feeling that perhaps the great hordes of census enumerators appointed less for their qualifications than for their political support, did not count in all the inhabitants of this great dominion of ours. Though a costly error, this could not be called irreparable. A recount might show better results.

But the second possibility is much more alarming than this could possibly be. It is, briefly, that Canada has been used as a sort of last clearing station for the neighboring republic. There is very little use in inducing immigrants to come to Canada if living conditions here do not attract them to remain. Naturally there is every inducement for settlers to make Canada their home. If they do not stay, it is reasonable to charge that government regulations are not conducive to comfort and prosperity.

In his diatribes against free trade regulations Mr. Meighen is fond of saying that Britain's free trade policy has driven her people like "fugitives" from her shores. He admits that they are found in the forests of the Empire doing good work and being good citizens. He makes no allowance for the old Viking blood which flows in British veins and has always driven them forth to conquer new lands. He does not, however, attempt to explain how, with all the "advantages of protection," in a new and sparsely settled country, with abundant natural wealth, so many immigrants have apparently declined to remain with us. It would be quite in order for him to make clear what has become of the "fugitives" from our own land. This would interest a great many people in Canada, and would be a matter worthy the attention of Canada's premier.

USE The Want Ad Way

RUSSIA STRUGGLES BACK TO NORMAL.

Trading Revives as Soviets Relax Repression.

Little Basis as Yet for Foreign Commerce With Government Control and Few Goods.

(By a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

Moscow, Sept. 21.—Russia's struggle to recover economic normality overshadows all political considerations and is the one subject which is commanding the attention of Russians of all parties and sects.

The contention of the Bolsheviks that food and manufactured articles had been hoarded has been justified to a certain extent by the sudden appearance upon the markets of nearly all kinds of food-stuffs and notions. Market stalls and small shops opened speedily after the declaration of free trade in domestic commerce. Needles, pins, thread, nails, toilet articles, cloth shoes, tinied milk, Australian corned beef, English bottled pickles, pressed caviar, sugar, cheese, tea, coffee, biscuits, and various household articles and furniture made their appearance suddenly.

Prices are so high that only the wealthy, as wealth goes in Russia today, can buy extensively, but the market folks do such a lively business that the Bolshevik claim about extensive hoarding of money, foreign as well as Russian, is also supported to a considerable extent. Larger shops have not opened extensively in the centre of Moscow, and the small hatters, shoe dealers and clothiers have chiefly confined their activities to various street markets and bazaars. As the weeks of free trade drag on merchants are becoming more secure in their position and have apparently lost all fear that the Soviet government threw open the markets for the purpose of drawing goods out of hiding and confiscating them.

Starve in Sight of Food.

In one of the worst famine centres on the Volga the Associated Press correspondent saw hungry refugees starving within sight of markets where bread, meat and all sorts of foods were displayed in great quantities for sale at prices entirely beyond the reach of the average Russian people. "Why don't you seize the food and feed these people?" the correspondent asked provincial governors, who were not able to obtain enough food to give 40,000 orphans a scanty ration. "That would only make food scarcer," the governor replied. "It would drive all the supplies back under cover, and the people would not be able to buy. Consequently, they would have to depend on the government rations and bring their supplies into the markets and the burden which the government has in collecting food is lessened."

Work For Food, Not Rubles. Russians who are in the worst plight are the formerly well-to-do who have not found employment under the Soviet government. Employees of the government all at once found themselves unemployed and all departments are greatly overstaffed and the clamor for positions is deafening. Sales are small and the scale is so varied that it is impossible to learn what the standard is. But employees work for food, not rubles. One woman clerk in the foreign office told the correspondent that she received 7,000 rubles a month. A soldier employed as guard at a government guest house says his wage is only 1,000 rubles a month, with an allowance of one pound of black bread, two lumps of sugar, and a limited amount of rice and cassia, or rough meal from millet and used by the Russians as a sort of breakfast food. With bread selling at prices ranging from 3,000 to 7,000 rubles a pound, according to quality, these salaries are ridiculous. Workmen in some of the automobile factories are reported to receive from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 rubles a month. Others are paid less paper money and receive perquisites in the way of manufactured products, food, rent, etc. So in all the maze of figures it is impossible to reach any average wage or salary.

Under the revised economic plan fares must be paid on railways and street cars. Charges are also to be made for light, telephone, telegraph and postage. Free rent is also disappearing and renters are to be required to keep up repairs at their own expense, under the direction of house committees.

These changes are increasing the difficulties of persons without incomes and forcing gentleness into the street markets with their remaining fur, jewelry, silverware, china, linen and clothing. Ex-Aristocrats in Trade. Most of the old-time aristocracy has long ago learned the ways of trade, and it is not the hardship it once was to stand in the streets and barter away personal effects. Many of the former members of leisure classes have taken very naturally to changed conditions and gone in for trading on a strictly commercial basis. The only two restaurants in Moscow where satisfactory meals are served are staffed by cultured women who speak German and French as fluently as Russian and receive diners with all the courtesy found in better class dining rooms. The manager of one of these restaurants is the wife of an officer high in the Bolshevik Red army, who was formerly a colonel in the imperial army. Her husband's salary is wholly inadequate to support her two children and aged parents so she worked for the government until the new economic policy made it possible for her to enter business of a more remunerative sort.

Krassin and other economic experts who are working out the new trade policy make it plain that both retailers and wholesalers are free to engage in domestic trade without government interference. However, all exporting and importing are to be through government channels and as the government is not inclined to spend large sums of money for purchases abroad, it is difficult to see where Russian merchants are to get foreign articles under the small stocks which have been uncovered are exhausted.

Krassin hopes to get foreign credits through a consortium which will enable Russia to buy on long time or to exchange raw materials for manufactured articles. But such negotiations are slow and uncertain and the broken-down railways make it impossible to assemble raw materials speedily. When the correspond-

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dent asked Krassin if he thought that Russia's repudiation of foreign debts and confiscation of the property of foreigners in Russia would be much encouragement to capitalists or foreign governments to make loans to the Soviet government, he replied:—"That's what always happens in revolutions." "It didn't happen in Germany." "But Germany didn't really have a revolution," Krassin retorted.

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