

# The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 3, 1919

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## MR. SKELTON'S LETTER.

The letter of Mr. A. C. Skelton, on the subject of an athletic field, which appears in today's Times-Star, is not by any means the first appeal he has made in this regard. He was one of a delegation which appeared before the city council last spring, when it really appeared that something would be done this year toward making such a field at the entrance to Rockwood Park.

Those who attended Saturday's football game and saw the boys ploughing and rolling in the mud and water, coming out soaked and coated, felt a keen sense of shame that the city has not provided a field fit for such games. It should not be necessary to call upon old high school boys or the alumni to aid in securing such a field. It is a civic responsibility and should be pressed home until action is secured. There is another way, however, in which old high school boys and the alumni and the high school authorities can help. The boys who carry the high school colors need funds, to enable them to carry on, and to provide some entertainment for visiting teams. The boys are doing remarkably well when we consider the heavy handicap under which they play, with no suitable field for practice games. The last summer has produced three good neighborhood playgrounds, but none quite suitable for a game of Rugby. The big athletic field is yet to come. It cannot come too soon.

## EDUCATION.

The emphasis that is everywhere being placed upon the need of universal education is one of the results of revelations made by the war. Both in Canada and the United States the discovery that so large a percentage of men were illiterate amazed and shocked the people, who had not previously given the subject of general education the attention it deserved. As soon as the war ended the duty of bringing about the adoption of a system which impressed itself upon governing bodies and all intelligent citizens. Hence ever today we find leaders of thought urging that the means of education be made available, not only for every child, but for those past the ordinary school age who desire to train themselves for a more useful and a fuller life.

Some extracts from an address delivered by Dr. A. O. Thomas, state superintendent of schools, at a teachers' convention in Portland, Maine, last week, are strikingly applicable to the situation in Canada as well as in the United States. In opening his remarks Dr. Thomas said:

"The strength of our democracy lies in the ability of each individual citizen to function properly in the civic and economic life of the nation. Our nation cannot exist half strong and half weak. Our nation's chief business must be the preparation of its incoming citizens and the efficiency of a country of free peoples is in direct ratio of its educational privileges. Ignorance is the parent of superstition and fear; ignorance, superstition and fear breed violence. To become 100 per cent efficient a government of the people must provide its entire citizenry with the fundamentals of an education. Simply to be able to read laboriously a little and to sign a name in an emergency which is now the standard of intelligence is not sufficient, and yet the first selective draft found 700,000 of these between the ages of 21 and 31. Basing our test upon a working knowledge such as will enable the individual to read the daily press and gather the drift of the times and to write a letter our percentage of literacy would be far greater. From experiments made in cantonnements during the war approximately 25 per cent would fail in such a test. Any nation of free peoples cannot become efficient without an adequate school system; no system of education can become efficient which does not provide adequate educational facilities for all of the children of all of the people. As a matter of self-preservation and perpetuation a nation's chief business must be the training of its incoming citizenry. To neglect a child is to place a faulty stone in the foundation; to neglect a community is to foster a breeding place for the foes of our national life."

Dr. Thomas pointed out that only 60 per cent of those who enter school in the United States, and many do not enter at all, complete even the elementary course of study. Less than 40 per cent of those who complete the elementary course enter the high school, and only five per cent of these ever finish. Only one out of one hundred of those who finish go on into the university.

Dr. Thomas, "getting a sufficient quantity through the mill." But he makes another remark which deserves attention, and which is receiving more from educators everywhere. We quote: "There is no reason for confining the school age and the responsibilities of state and nation to the age of 21. The school should be open to every individual who finds a need of greater educational achievement. Men and women who are already employed in business and in profession and can increase their efficiency

by additional knowledge, should have an opportunity to enter either day, part-time or evening schools established in our centres of population."

At the same conference President Alecy of the University of Maine said:

"Today as never before education occupies the centre of the state. The public realizes as it has not realized before that the accomplishments of education are of untold value to the nation. It is now realized that if we are to cope with the problems of reconstruction we must support our schools better than in the past. We must see to it that the schools have the facilities of buildings and equipment; and better than that, of teachers that will teach men and women to think straight, to think through to the end, and thereby make them safe citizens."

Whether it be a district, a city, a province, or the whole Dominion of Canada, the problem of raising funds for educational purposes should not be regarded as insoluble; since it concerns the development of the most valuable asset of the state.

Word has been received that the Canadian National Committee on Mental Hygiene, of which Hon. Dr. Roberts is a member, is preparing to make a survey of this province as it did of Manitoba and British Columbia. There can be no doubt that the provincial government will formally extend the invitation, and that the department of public health which has initiated this movement here will be enabled to do infinitely more efficient work in the advancement of social welfare in New Brunswick. The problem of the feeble-minded is one that has caused deep concern to all who are interested in social welfare; and such a survey, with the recommendations accompanying it, will clear the way for intelligent action. Hon. Dr. Roberts has given the subject much attention here and on his visits to Ottawa in his official capacity, and public sentiment will heartily approve of a movement in which several other provinces are already far ahead of New Brunswick.

The policemen's strike in Boston will be an element in the state of Massachusetts tomorrow. Governor Coolidge, who stands for re-election as the Republican candidate, asserts that the policemen are deserters and should not be reinstated. Mr. Long, the Democratic candidate, takes the opposite view. A large vote is expected to be polled.

Canada is interested in the extent to which the coal strike in the United States may affect the miners in this country. An Ottawa despatch says it is hoped the trouble will not extend to Canadian mines. But even the stoppage of imports of soft coal into some provinces would be a serious matter.

Recent developments in Ireland indicate the necessity of action by the British parliament to end a situation that grows steadily worse.

The success of the Victory Loan is essential to the continued prosperity of Canada, and to a proper recognition of the soldiers and their dependents.

Labor scored heavily in the municipal elections in England yesterday. The like will doubtless be true of the next general election for the House of Commons.

Have you secured your Victory Bond?

## CANNOT COLLECT FOR WORKER'S DEATH WHEN DOING UNASSIGNED WORK

(Montreal Herald.)

The manner in which workmen should conduct themselves while at work, the necessity of their fulfilling their task to the letter, not to occupy themselves with useless and dangerous tasks not immediately imposed upon them was the subject of a long dissertation by the Court of Review this morning in reversing the judgment of the Superior Court according \$2,000 to the estate of a workman who had been killed while at the works of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company. The Court of Review, for whom Mr. Justice de Lorimier rendered judgment, held that there was inexcusable fault upon the part of the workman in that he had occupied himself with a dangerous task, that of working on a machine, which he had not been asked to do, which was not necessary, and which was not his work, instead of staying near the engine which he had been hired to tend, and which it was his duty to attend to. If he had been asked to do these circumstances, no fault could be imputed to the company. It would have been different as the judge, citing a supreme court case, if he had been asked or had dangerous work been his ordinary duty. The court therefore refused the \$2,000 awarded by the superior court.

## Sells Locomotives to Egypt.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works is reported to have sold fifty locomotives to Egypt on a cash basis. The total value is said to be in the market for sixty-five additional engines, for which the American Locomotive Company has submitted estimates. The total value of the contemplated Egyptian purchases is estimated at \$4,000,000. The pending exportation of railway equipment to Belgium is held up by the delay in the negotiation of the Belgian loan. A large sale of railway equipment to Poland is also said to be under consideration.



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## PROPHECY.

The prophets affecting are always predicting that evils are coming to pass; the oil we are pumping is billed for a slumping, and soon we won't have any gas. The prophets are warning that coal mines are failing and soon we'll have nothing to burn; we'll sit up and shiver from exhaustion and wish that old times might return. Our lands are wishbone to liver, and wish that old times might return. Our lands are exhausted and husbandry's frosted, and soon we'll have nothing to eat; there's not enough leather to make a good tether, and there'll be no shoes for our feet. The sheep are not bearing the wool for our wear; our hens are all roosters, our milk cows won't get down to tacks. The gods are against us, they've herded and fenced us preparing to hang. And the future's alarming, so let us be arming, for anarchy, riot, revolt. And we're joking and playing while doing our haying, and yipping and wagging our ears. The talk of disaster, it seems, cannot alter the natural pep of the soul; we ought to be drooping, but joyfully we're whooping while laying in cordwood and coal.

## CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

### THE FIRST MARKET.

On Nov. 3rd, 1868, by a proclamation issued in the City of Toronto, the first public market in Upper Canada was established. Today almost every small town has one or two days each week when the produce of the locality is brought in from the country and offered for sale, either to the local residents or to representatives of the big produce companies operating through the large cities.

The establishment of the one in Toronto in 1868 marked the beginning of development of the new colonies in Upper Canada. The population of the capital of the district was growing larger each year and, in spite of the fact that land was cheap, plentiful and fertile, there was a constant increase in the number of persons whose food must be grown by others.

### THE COCKATOO.

Green and yellow cockatoo, Won't you let me know to you? Or if you would kinder be, Won't you come and talk to me? Tell me all about the places Where the children have black faces, Armbands, anklets, copper rings! Where the cannibals are kings! Ever met you with a smile? Have you taken many a trip In a rickety pirate ship? Cockatoo, cockatoo, How I'd like to talk to you! But as you can guess, I'd be Gladder if you'd talk to me! —Mary Carolyn Davies in "A Little Freckled Face"

### LIGHTER VEIN.

Postlude-Largo. Mrs. Brown was the back of the church waiting to have her baby christened. Baby was getting restless so she beckoned the vergor. "No, mum," replied the vergor, "another half hour of it yet. He'll only be 'But,' said Mrs. Brown, 'will it take him half an hour to get through his 'lastly?' mum," was the demure reply, "but there's the 'one word more and I'm done' and the 'in conclusion' to come yet. Don't be impatient."

### Thrust and Parry.

Fangs of jealousy were in Miss Coldfoot's heart when she heard that her late admirer had been accepted by Miss Lovebird, and when she happened to run across her in the bargain rush could not resist trying a thrust. "I hear you've accepted Jack," she gushed. "I suppose he never told you he once proposed to me?" "He once told me that there were a lot of things in his life he was ashamed of, but I didn't ask him what they were," Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph.

### Johnson—I say, Jeems, dat chile o' yours' mighty slow larin'!

Jeems—Yes, that's 'cause de school an' seben miles from heah, an' de chile for gets all de teacher say afo' he gith half-way home.

### Willing to Oblige.

The sour-faced man looked at his seat companion on the train who was littering the floor with shells, and said sneeringly:

"Down where I come from they use peanuts to fatten hogs."

"That so?" said the other. "Herehave some." —Boston Transcript.

### "Great heavens!" roared the policeman.

springing upstairs three steps at a time and dashing with uplifted truncheon into the photographer's studio. "What are you fighting about up here? Have you all gone mad?"

### Pa and ma, Uncle Bill, Aunt Jane.

Cousin Gertrude and young Mr. Switzer, her young man; the two cousins from Birmingham and Uncle Cuthbert looked very sheepish and attempted lame explanations. But the photographer waved the energetic constable aside. "O, that's all right, old man! We're just trying to keep the baby quiet while we take his picture, bless it. Now bang those cymbals again, sir, please! Louder—louder! And you, madam, please make that funny face again! Now, miss, blow that trumpet! Get behind him, sir, and tickle him! Bready. That's it! Got him!"

## FINE SPEECH ON TREATY OF PEACE

Lord Robert Cecil Deals With Points in Masterly Fashion—Suggestions as to Course.

(From Speech by Lord Robert Cecil.)

The dissatisfaction with the peace treaty ignores the fact that, like all international documents, it is a compromise, and it is the nature of compromise to satisfy nobody. The thing to realize is that such feelings exist, and that they are the product of what is the greatest of all evils, anarchy. Men are no longer content with the old order of things. They will no longer accept pre-war axioms of social and political organization on any authority, however venerable. They say, surely with truth, the old system is an admitted failure. It had brought us within measureless distance of wholesale anarchy. Something fresh must be tried, since nothing but destruction and disaster await us on our present course. That, unquestionably, was the genesis of the League of Nations. Shocked beyond measure by the unequal horrors of the late war, the peoples of the world demanded the erection of some safeguard against its renewal.

### Chief Cause of War.

It began on the almost spontaneous expression of the passionate desire for peace of those who had experience of the horrors of war. Gradually, as the idea developed, it was recognized that the chief cause of wars in general, and this war in particular, was unbridled rivalry and competition between nations, which in the case of unscrupulous peoples or their rulers, like Germany and Prussia, became a desire for world supremacy. But if the spirit of competition is strong, the spirit of co-operation is its equal. Without it German unity would have been impossible, and it was by its means that Germany sought to enslave the world. Since the disruption of Christendom no attempt has been made to utilize this for the pacification of the world. That is, the central conception of the covenant. As those who were responsible for framing it examined the problem before them they became more and more convinced that the existing international relations were based upon a fallacy.

### A Complete Delusion.

They proceeded on the assumption that every nation was a potent enemy of every other nation. Hence came the whole paraphernalia of the old diplomacy—competitive armaments, secret alliances, the balance of power and all the rest of it. But as a matter of fact, the common interests of the nations of the world are largely common. The more important than national antagonism. The idea that the prosperity of our nation is an injury to the others is a complete delusion. The success of the League of Nations depends on the men who have been elected. Of the twenty-eight candidates that Labor supported in the elections, seventeen were elected. If there is distress on the continent of Europe, it means that we shall have fewer customers. If as a consequence of distress the standard of living fall in foreign countries, our standard of living will be threatened. If Eastern Europe is devastated by an epidemic we must take precautions to keep it from spreading. In finance the interdependence of modern nations is clearer still. Indeed, the close co-operation of the financial interests of the world has led to the creation of a largely mythical figure which is supposed to dominate world politics. Whenever I have met anyone who could be called an international financier I have not been struck so much by his want of scruple as by his extreme timidity. But whether you regard international finance as a sinister force of world-wide power, or as a group of men timorously speculating on the uncontrollable movements of public opinion, its importance to the prosperity of the world has been shown by the terrible difficulties in which Europe has been placed by its partial breakdown.

### To Curb Lawless Competition.

The covenant, then, proceeds upon the theory that the only hope of curbing the lawless exuberance of international competition is by fostering international co-operation. How that idea is worked out in the League of Nations is the subject of the covenant itself to explain more fully. I will only here say that if we really believe the plan is worth a trial, and if we are ready to subordinate our own interests to the welfare of the world, we must carry it out in spirit as well as in letter. Our whole foreign policy must be based on the League of Nations. We must regard the misfortunes of other nations as a matter of national concern to ourselves. If foreign babies are starving for the want of milk we must go to their assistance diplomatically as well as pecuniarily. If we make an agreement with a semi-civilized country to help it in putting its affairs in order we must be ready to subordinate our own interests to the welfare of the world. Until a general arrangement for the limit of argument has been arrived at we should seek to regulate our naval and military policy in consultation with other gov-

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**SILK SUITS FOR MEN.**  
London, Nov. 3.—"Nuclioth" is the name of a silk fabric just produced by a Pudsey manufacturer from the short ends of silk after the combers have extracted the long lengths. It is intended to meet the present demand for economical clothing. It is claimed for this cloth that it is untearable, equal in appearance and wear to worsted, yet can be sold at the price of shoddy. It is estimated that a boy's suit can be made for \$8.75 and a man's suit for \$15.75.

**SIX LEGGED CHICKEN.**  
London, Nov. 3.—A prize-bred game hen belonging to R. H. Dolphin recently hatched a freak chicken with six legs, two heads and four wings.

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**MIXED METAPHORS USED IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT.**  
(Tit-Bits.)  
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