

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1919

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WILSON AND ITALY.

Popular feeling in Italy runs high, and Premier Orlando will be the central figure of a great public demonstration. This is not at all surprising, but after the outbreak there must come grave consideration of the whole situation. Italy cannot stand alone. To attempt to make any sort of compact with her late enemies would be folly. No one knows this better than the premier, who is extremely cautious in his allusions to the United States and offers no criticism as yet of Britain or France.

9.—In Manitoba there has been an abnormal increase in some centres, but only where the sale of liquor was allowed. 10.—In Nova Scotia the number of juvenile delinquents has steadily increased—109 cases in 1914; 194 in 1915; 233 in 1916; 286 in 1917. 11.—In the city of Montreal the cases dealt with in 1918 showed an increase of 17 per cent. over those in 1917, which latter exceeded the 1916 cases by 45 per cent; that is, 1918 showed some 62 per cent. of an increase over 1916.

12.—In the Dominion of Canada the criminal statistics of 1918 showed an increase of 18.5 per cent. in juvenile offenders, and the report just issued reports 14 per cent. of an increase over the preceding year. Of special interest in a discussion of this subject is a recent remark by Judge Charles Langelle of Quebec, where there has lately been something like an epidemic of crime. In sentencing a youth in his teens to three years in the penitentiary for robbery, the judge said:—

"If only the parents would send their children to school and watch them better when they start going out into the world, we should not have this wave of criminality that is causing anxiety to society and degradation to a class of youngsters."

There are two ways in which parents can protect their children. One is to give them good home influences, keep them at school and Sunday school, and link them up with some healthy boys or girls' organization, and watch what they read. The other is to see that the community provides them with playgrounds properly conducted. Until parents get together for community work for the good of the boys and girls delinquency will continue. From one school in St. John quite recently three boys of twelve to fourteen years set out to see the world. They were tired of school and of home. They soon came back, as did two other boys from the same school not very long before. These five boys had no special interest in their home and school life. No doubt they were readers of the cheap literature so widely distributed. Was it their fault?

There is another consideration. In the province of Ontario they have found that they must change the course of study in the public schools, to make it more practical, and more interesting for the boys and girls of whom not more than ten per cent go on to the high school. In St. John we are wedded to a classical course which does not meet the real needs of the majority of the pupils. The school as well as the home and the playground must be made more interesting for the young people. When the wave of juvenile crime will subside.

Speakers at the Y. M. C. I. banquet to visiting bowlers last evening emphasized two points in particular—the fine sportsmanship shown by winners and losers and the crying need for an athletic field in St. John. That the bowling journey was fought out on so high a sporting plane was a matter for congratulatory words to the players and on the subject of grounds there was expression of opinion that there should be united action to secure better conditions in this city of 80,000 people or more in the interests of our youths. It would be a good course to pursue.

THE BOY AND GIRL PROBLEM

A correspondent of the Toronto Globe submits a series of striking statements to show the effects of the war in the increase of juvenile delinquency. We quote:—

1.—The whole world has seen a most alarming increase in the prevalence of juvenile delinquency during the war, due in no small measure to the unrest, discontent, disorganization and high nervous and adventurous tension at which so many have been living. 2.—In England the increase in three months alone was from 2,686 to 8,596 cases, in only seventeen of the largest towns. 3.—In France the increase was so clear that in 1916 "everyone was thinking of it with great disquiet," especially in the problem of prostitution.

4.—In Germany, Judge Hellwig of Berlin, in Die Grausboten of March 15, 1916, states that "the figures for the juveniles brought before the courts in the last months reached a height never known before." 5.—In Italy, though the reports of the Procurators-General do not give actual statistics, they indicate a general increase. In fact, so conscious has the nation become of this tendency that in July, 1917, it passed the Was Orphan Law, adopting those whose legal guardians had been killed in the war, "that they might be removed from the danger of juvenile delinquency."

6.—In Russia, the report of the Washington Bureau in 1918 stated: "Asylums for delinquents are flooded with children; judges and officers of children's courts are overworked, and a startling increase in delinquency is uniformly admitted by judges and social workers, whose statements have come over to us." 7.—In Alberta during the close of 1918 the tide of juvenile delinquency for the province reached its maximum (an increase of 35 per cent.), from which up to 1918 it "had not receded to any appreciable extent."

8.—In Saskatchewan an increase is indicated, especially among the girls.

Germany now wants to have a league of nations, a general disarmament, and no more wars to settle international disputes. This is excellent. It was not necessary, however, for Germany to draft a scheme. It is in safer hands, and Germany will be given an opportunity to accede to the proposals.

Moving day is almost upon us. The trouble with a good many people is that they cannot get a desirable flat at a rental within their means. St. John needs more houses. So does Moncton, and the difference appears to be that Moncton proposes to build them.

The policy of requiring abutters to pay a portion of the cost of street paving is the correct one and the city council should decline to consider any other. That policy should never have been abandoned.

Last night's banquet of surviving members of the First Contingent was a notable affair, and the tribute paid by the women of the city both gracious and deserved.

With two such visitors within a week as Coun. Peter Wright and Sir Robert Baden-Powell, St. John cannot regard itself as an isolated community.

People who spend part of the summer along the river above the Nerepis are asking if there is to be a Valley Railway train service this year—say a suburban service to Brown's Flat.

The present year should see the establishment in St. John of a juvenile court, with probation officer.

The boys want to play baseball and athletic games—but where? The Bolsheviks continue to be in ground, both in Russia and Hungary.

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LOCAL NEWS

Edith Storey at the Star tonight.

Miss Sherwood invites all present and former class-members and their friends to attend Easter service, Monday 28th, 10 o'clock, old time, 68 Simonds street. 4-22-24-26

Ruth Roland at the Star tonight.

Brunswick Chapter, I. O. D. E., rummage sale, Saturday morning, April 26, 10 o'clock, old time, 68 Simonds street. 4-26

Ruth Roland at the Star tonight.

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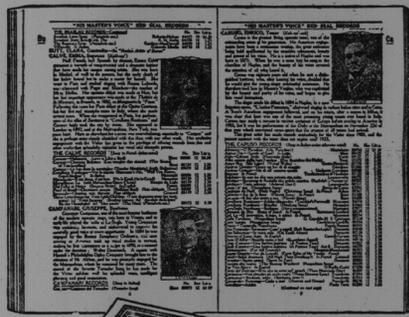
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