

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1919

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TWO NOTABLE DAYS.

Empire Day receives no special attention in this portion of the Empire because it is immediately followed by Victoria Day, so long observed as the greatest holiday of the season that verges on early summer. While Queen Victoria lived the day was honored for her sake, and the custom of observing it has become a habit no one desires to break, because it is an admirable time for a holiday; and sentiment still holds strongly enough to prevent a change of even a day. Hence Empire Day is marked by the special exercises in the schools, but the following day is observed as a holiday.

The older folk cherish kindly memories of Queen Victoria, who reigned so long and was so greatly beloved for her virtues, both in public and in private life. The period of her life as queen will always be known as the Victorian Age, and associated with great names in English statesmanship, science, literature and art.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Northampton, England, is a great boot and shoe manufacturing centre. Technical education has greatly contributed to its success. A recent article concerning its progress says:—

"In technical education Northampton is making tremendous strides. Only war has prevented the provision of a new building for the Northampton school, but the fact of the war did not stay one of the most revolutionary educational steps taken in the recent past. This was the inauguration of the scheme for day-time education of the young people engaged in industry in the town. Another matter of supreme interest and importance is the establishment of a research department for prosecuting scientific research, mainly into matters connected with the shoe and leather and allied industries. In the evolution of boot and shoe production from a pure handicraft to a highly specialized industry, Northampton has taken a proud share, and it may be anticipated with assurance that its part in the future of the industry will be no less honorable."

One of the great essentials to the growth of a manufacturing centre is technical education. St. John must realize this fact and take action without delay to introduce vocational training in this city. The meeting called by Mayor Hayes to discuss the subject should be attended by all who are at all interested in the effort to make better provision for the training of boys and girls.

BRITISH COMPETITION COMING.

Recent English journals relating to the shoe and leather trade present interesting facts which explain the continued high price of footwear. For example, Paris correspondent, describing conditions in Germany, where he found in the stores of Cologne only boots with wooden soles and canvas uppers, wrote: "At the beginning of February a certain quantity of boots made of leather came on to the market at long prices, as a result of the German government releasing most of the stocks they were holding, and I was told that these conditions applied throughout the Central Powers. One thing must happen. As soon as peace is signed the Central Powers will badly need huge quantities of hides in order to provide footwear for the public. Now, from where are these hides to come? It seems to me that the United States and Great Britain will be sources of supply for the greater part, and, this being so, how can one reasonably expect a fall in the market this year? Remember, also, that Russia and Roumania will be drawing on us for supplies."

A recent enquiry in the British parliament as to stocks of leather held by the government brought this reply:—"The government hold in this country stocks of certain classes of leather, mainly of a quality suitable for army requirements and war-time boots. They are now purchasing in the United States, in agreement with the leather trade, a limited quantity of those qualities of high-grade upper leather, of which supplies are very short, and which are essential for the revival of the boot manufacturing industry."

In order to facilitate business the government has removed all restrictions on the importation of raw material, but will not allow the free import of upper leather (with the exception of waxed splits) from foreign countries, until the purchases made in the United States by Sir Percy Daniels, on behalf of the government, have been received. These purchases must be delivered before June 30. Meanwhile British manufacturers are preparing to go after overseas trade as soon as they can get raw material, and transportation for the manufactured product. The Shoe and Leather Record says:—

"British firms are perhaps keener today than ever on cultivating trade with over-

seas buyers. If they cannot at the moment accept all the business that is forthcoming they hope to do so before the year is much older, and they are anxious to link up once more with their old connections and also to establish new ones. It has been said in the past that they were too conservative in their attitude and methods. They offered in overseas markets it was alleged, goods which, while possessing intrinsic merit, were not precisely adapted to the requirements of those to whom they were submitted. Whatever ground there may have been in the past for such a charge, it will be found that the progressive firms whose announcements appear in this publication are quite ready to modify their styles and patterns in accordance with the wishes of overseas buyers, and also to produce any classes of goods which they have not previously made. A new spirit animates the business community generally as a result of the war, for it is felt that in the competition for the world's trade the supremacy of British productions must be maintained by all legitimate means."

In the past Canadian merchants have always complained that British manufacturers in practically all lines refused to turn out goods adapted to the special requirements of this market. They will be glad to know that hereafter more attention will be paid to this feature of business. The British journals at hand emphasize the fact that it is only the scarcity of material and labor and lack of transportation that have prevented them from going after overseas trade. Material will continue to be short, but as conditions improve we may anticipate British competition in the Canadian boot and shoe market.

THE BOLSHIEVIK.

The attention of defenders of Bolshevism is directed to the following London cable just received:—

"The quarterly meeting of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation practically unanimously rejected a resolution submitted by one of its branches in favor of the declaration of a general strike on the first of July to enforce the withdrawal of British troops from Russia."

Also to the following statement by Mayor Gray of Winnipeg, who was largely elected by the labor vote:—"The constituted authorities are determined to stamp out the Bolsheviki or red element in Winnipeg. The town is open; all business may go ahead as in the past. No one section of the public has any right to dictate food terms to any other section of the public."

In a city like St. John, where the children have neither front yards nor back yards in which to play, they must play in the streets; and so from time to time we have such tragedies as that of last evening, which cost the life of a little child. Death comes in many forms, but it is most pitiful when it comes to a little child at play, and the parents of this little one have universal sympathy in their great sorrow.

A bill is to be introduced in the British parliament by the secretary for India providing for a gradual transference of power from the bureaucracy to the people. In other words, it is aimed to introduce democratic government as rapidly as the peculiar conditions of life in India will permit. That is the British way, and if slow it is sure.

If there is to be a rush of immigration to Canada after the war there should be a rigid sorting out of undesirables, no matter what country sends them. Canada has given a welcome to far too many of that class. This country can better afford to develop slowly than to import the seeds of future trouble.

With Estonians advancing on Petrograd and the main Bolsheviki position in the north turned by the Allies, the situation in Russia steadily improves.

More than forty per cent of the people of western Canada, it is claimed, are not British born. That is a partial explanation of the present unrest.

The whole of western Canada is passing through a period of unrest. Much depends on the outcome of the strike in Winnipeg.

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MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' CONCERT

A concert of unusual excellence was given last evening in Centenary hall by students of Mount Allison University. Talent developed by careful training was evident in the performance of those who took part and the recital was greatly enjoyed by a large audience.

The programme consisted of piano solos by Miss Emily Oulton and Miss M. E. Bell; songs, Miss Kathryn Thompson; violin solos, Miss Minnie Miller; recitation and air, Miss Kathleen March.

Instrumental ensembles, Miss Miller, Miss Oulton, Mr. Hetherington and Mr. Wood. Miss Oulton and Mrs. Frank Archibald acted as accompanists.

W. B. Tennant was chairman. The proceeds will go to the university funds and the amount was swelled by the sale of candy by Miss Helen Hayes and Miss Pauline Dickinson.

WOULD CALL IT CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Montreal, May 23.—At a meeting today of the Montreal branch of the Canada Manufacturers' Association a resolution protesting against the persecutions and massacres of Jews by the Poles and Roumanians was adopted.

Mayor Hayes, Rev. W. R. Robinson and Dr. H. A. Powell all spoke, sympathizing with the object of the meeting and eloquently denouncing the Poles and Roumanians for their inhuman treatment of the Jews.

Rabbi Amdur acted as chairman of the meeting and the resolution, moved by William Webber and seconded by A. Poyas, was unanimously adopted. It was suggested by the mayor that the city councillors should make a protest on behalf of all the citizens of St. John and in the name of the great cause for which the Allies had fought.



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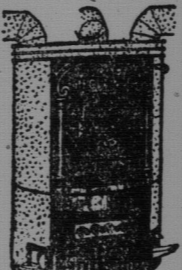
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PROTEST AGAINST THE MASSACRE OF JEWS.

At a largely attended meeting in the synagogue last evening a resolution protesting against the persecutions and massacres of Jews by the Poles and Roumanians was adopted.

Mayor Hayes, Rev. W. R. Robinson and Dr. H. A. Powell all spoke, sympathizing with the object of the meeting and eloquently denouncing the Poles and Roumanians for their inhuman treatment of the Jews.

Rabbi Amdur acted as chairman of the meeting and the resolution, moved by William Webber and seconded by A. Poyas, was unanimously adopted. It was suggested by the mayor that the city councillors should make a protest on behalf of all the citizens of St. John and in the name of the great cause for which the Allies had fought.



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