

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1914.

THE PENNY BANKS.

Reports recently submitted by the School Board of Toronto, where the system of school savings banks is in effect, show a remarkable growth of thrift among children as the result of their installation. The system in St. John has also been successful but, of course, on a smaller scale. It is most encouraging that the principles of thrift are being inculcated into the children by the force of concrete example. They are learning by doing.

While there will be general acquiescence in the contention that it is most unwise in Canada to seek to build up a nation of misers, of men and women who care more for money than other things of greater and more abiding worth, at the same time it will be generally recognized that a wilful waste is as much to be deplored as the tendency to hoard money. There is a difference between saving and hoarding. How many men are there who can not look back to some period in their lives when a sum of ready money, be it ever so trifling, might have given them the chance to become independent of the daily grind for a mere living, and when failure to possess that golden key at the moment of opportunity robbed them for ever of the prospect of their lives.

To secure sufficient of this world's goods to place one and one's dependants in circumstances where the need for daily labor is not so pressing, is a motive altogether praiseworthy. Money for itself is not to be worshipped, but as a means to leisure, to the opening and exploration of unknown paths, it is altogether desirable. Thrift makes comfortable age is as true now as it ever was, and, consequently, any and all methods tending in this direction are to be commended.

The penny savings bank has passed the experimental stage and the city of Toronto unhesitatingly approves it. The fact that through its agency the child is enabled to put aside pennies that might otherwise be expended for childish pleasures, in itself, is unimportant. That there is behind it the deeper purpose of wholesome life lessons practically taught furnishes abundant justification for any additional trouble or effort its operation may involve.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S AMBITION

The delegation from Charlotte county which on Wednesday of this week waited upon the authorities at Ottawa and asked for assistance in the scheme of harbor development along the St. Croix returned to their homes satisfied with the reception they received and the prospect of realization of their desire. St. John should join in congratulations.

Much has been said and written regarding possibilities of a port on the St. Croix. It was claimed by the delegates to Ottawa that such a port would mean that mails and passengers coming to it could be landed in Montreal and other Canadian centres hours ahead of those landed either at St. John or Halifax. It is not necessary to state whether the claim is good as concerns St. John, but that fact is not material to the sound foundation of the claims for, as one of the Charlotte county men expressed it in Ottawa: "We do not wish to interfere with St. John, but we do want the overflow." These men are looking ahead. They see the time, not so very far distant when all the harbor works St. John can provide will be inadequate for the great volume of business which will pass through this port. And like wise business men they wish now to equip their port to be ready against the arrival of that time.

Decidedly it is good business on the part of the St. Croix advocates. They are to be congratulated upon their foresight and energy as well as the fact that they found at Ottawa a representative who is ever ready and desirous of advancing the interests of his constituency. Thomas A. Hart, who in the last election was chosen to represent the people of Charlotte in the Dominion Parliament believes in his constituency. And he loses no opportunity to enforce his belief upon others. Also they were happy in meeting a sympathetic ministry. Hon. J. D. Hagen as Minister of Marine and New Brunswick's representative in the Dominion cabinet is a firm believer in the policy of Canadian trade for Canadian ports and Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, and to whose department falls the duty of providing facilities for the care of such trade is willing that expenditures shall be made to bring about this much desired end. St. John will benefit from the advancing business but at the same time this city needs harbor no less than any other city needs a general disposition to extend a hearty welcome to St. Croix as the newest Canadian Atlantic port coupled with the hope that the realization of their

desires may mean the advent of an era of prosperity as great as even they have hoped for.

A BIG MAN GONE.

The death last week of Benjamin Franklin Keith hardly received from Canadian newspapers the attention it merited, possibly through a press of matter believed to be of more momentary interest to the people of this young country. Yet by his passing a figure is removed from the life of this continent that was in its way notable, a man whose achievements are to be chronicled with loving hand by all those who enjoy pure clean amusement and who find in the theatre of today a means of chasing care and business worries and an agreeable temporary surcease from the cares of every day life.

Benjamin Franklin Keith was the man who cleaned up vaudeville and who more than any other in the amusement world elevated this branch of the theatrical profession to the eminent position it now occupies. Thirty years ago when he had his beginnings in Boston the word vaudeville was confined almost entirely to the French amusement houses where it sufficed to describe a form of entertainment corresponding to that offered by the better class of the English music halls. In America there was no vaudeville. Certain theatres in the larger cities offered a variety entertainment but the name varieties was in bad odor; it was almost regarded as typical of a form of amusement offering unclean and vulgar, a theatre where men might go on occasion but which had not yet been accepted as a proper place for women patrons. Keith, as he grew and prospered changed all this. He was the originator of the idea of continuous performances and the first to apply the disconcertant to the variety theatres. Coincident with the change of quality he adopted a change of name. Variety show was in disrepute. The French term Vaudeville was a more polite and high sounding word serving to a greater degree to emphasize the higher standard of quality adopted in the amusement houses bearing his name.

And he was a success. The thousands of Maritime Province people who on their annual visits to Boston or New York have spent pleasant hours in innocent amusement in the Keith theatres have learned to appreciate the genius and ability of the man who made them possible. Also, locally we have an instance of the quality of the Keith ventures in the handsome Imperial Theatre, while many other cities all over the continent have their standing monuments to the man who was but is no more. When a noted statesman or warrior is summoned to the beyond it is often the pleasure of his grateful countrymen to commemorate in stone or marble his life and work. Benjamin Franklin Keith in the splendid amusement palaces he has built in many cities has his marbles of remembrance. But does he require them? Will not his name be kept in memory for years, shined by thoughts of clean innocent pleasure, tended and nurtured by the wholesome laughter of happy children to achieve fame in the field or the legislative forum is great and noble. But is such fame more enduring in popular favor than that of the man whose life presents a consistent record of purveying clean amusement, of supplanting grief with laughter, care and dull sordid worry with merriment and pleasure? It is well to leave such a record.

EXIT THE SAILING SHIP.

Lloyd's Register giving the tonnage of the vessels added to or removed from the records of the United Kingdom during the year 1913 supplies figures which hold rather a pathetic interest for the people of St. John, once the home of the wooden ship but which now is ranking among the shipping ports of the world under a new and changed condition. Referring to the conditions shown by Lloyd's Register, the Montreal Gazette says:

"In 1892 sailing craft formed 30 per cent. of the tonnage on Lloyd's register; last year it was only 0.87 per cent. During 1913 the net removals from the U. K. register of sailing ships numbered 162 of 59,854 tons. The gain in the total shipping register was due to the steamship builders and buyers, whose activity added 813 vessels of 1,495,082 tons to the list. There were removed, to be broken up, or as having been sold to other countries, however, 575 vessels of 997,091 tons. The result of all the changes was an increase in the number of ships registered of 76 of 433,147 tons. It takes much building, it will be noted, to maintain the strength of the British merchant marine, to say nothing of additions. The additions are made, however, the 20,968 vessels of 19,617,334 tons gross register being greater by the above figures at the close of 1913 than at the beginning. It is to be noted in the connection also that the

substitution of steam for sailing tonnage greatly adds to the capacity for service of the whole, a steamship making many more voyages in the course of a year than a sailing ship. The romance of the ship goes but its usefulness increases."

Instead of the power of the Toronto censors of the drama being curtailed, says the Ottawa Journal, the censors may now peremptorily stop any play they deem unfit to be presented. Toronto certainly is making a strenuous effort to earn the title of "The Good."

The consumption of beef per capita in the United States is the lowest in the history of the market. Vegetarianism is being forced upon the public by the short supply.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

On this date in 1885 the first column of the army dispatched to the west to suppress the Riel rebellion left Qu'Appelle for Batoche, the headquarters of the rebels. Only eleven days had elapsed since the firing of the first shot of the war at Duck Lake, and the little army was now starting on the final march of 210 miles to the place where Riel was playing his game of treason. Major-General F. D. Middleton, the commander-in-chief of all three columns, personally headed the first column, which was composed of the A. Battalion, Quebec, the Ninetieth Battalion, Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Field Battery, Boulton's and French's Scouts, the Royal Grenadiers, a part of the Middlesex Battalion and the Intelligence Corps. The total for the column was a little over a thousand men. The column reached the South Saskatchewan on April 23rd, where at Clark's Crossing it was divided, part of the troops marching on one side of the river and part on the other. The division accompanied by Gen. Middleton came up with the enemy on the banks of the stretchy wooded Fish Creek. Riel's men occupied deep pits, and were in charge of Dupont, a rebel leader of considerable military skill. The whole column attacked the entrenched rebels, but they held their own, and could not be dislodged. The engagement lasted all day and ten Canadians were killed and over two score wounded, while the rebel loss was thirteen killed and twenty wounded. During the night the rebels left their trenches and retreated to Batoche. Gen. Middleton remained at Fish Creek about two weeks before advancing on the headquarters of the rebels, and began shelling Batoche on May 9th. The rebels held out until the 12th, when the Canadian volunteers made a valiant charge and carried the trenches and captured the town.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

DR. BAYARD HALE.

Dr. William Bayard Hale, biographer and literary assistant to President Woodrow Wilson, is of the Hoosier school of literature, having been born in Richmond, Ind., forty-five years ago today. Dr. Hale was an American citizen, and rector of churches at Middleborough, Mass., and Ardmore, Pa., before he entered journalism as managing editor of the "Commonwealth" Magazine in 1909. Since then he has been editor of Current Literature, special correspondent of the New York World, editor of the New York Times Book Review, Paris correspondent of the Times, and a member of the editorial staff of World's Work. A few months ago he served as President Wilson's confidential agent in Arizona, to report on the Mexican situation. Dr. Hale's close association with President Wilson is not his first experience of presidents, for he is the author of a book entitled "A Week in the White House with Theodore Roosevelt." Dr. Hale was educated at Boston and Harvard universities, where Merriam held the chair of English. Dr. Hale is a member of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge.

FIRST THINGS

KOHINOOR

The first owner of the famous Kohinoor, or "Diamond of India," was, according to legend, the hero Karna, whose deeds are celebrated in the Mahabharata, and who is said to have carried the great stone some 5,000 years ago. The Kohinoor, which was brought to England from India sixty-four years ago today, April 6, 1850, and presented to Queen Victoria the following July, made its first authentic appearance in history in the fourth century, when Alexander carried it to Delhi. At that time it was said to have weighed 793 carats. It appeared in the great diamond market of Colcanda in 1550. The lack of skill of a Venetian lapidary, Hortensio Gorghe, reduced its weight to 273 carats. After the sack of Delhi in 1739 the diamond went to Afghanistan, and it belonged in turn to several Afghan rulers. Thence it came into the possession of the Sikh chief, Runjeet Singh. Upon the abdication of the last ruler of the Punjab, and the annexation of his dominions to the British empire, in 1849, the great stone became the property of the East India Company, and was by them presented to Queen Victoria. It weighs 102 1/4 carats. It is beyond price, although \$10,000,000 has been given as a fair valuation.

Little Boat Building

St. John, once the greatest ship building port in Canada, is gradually ceasing to even build small boats. Only a few boat builders are left, and they are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with boat building centres in Nova Scotia. At the present time prices for boat building materials in St. John are practically prohibitive, and lumber dealers will hardly all orders for such material at any price. With the appearance of the motor boat, there has been an increased demand for small boats by fishermen and pleasure seekers, but there does not appear to be much likelihood of this industry attaining any importance in St. John, as it has got no encouragement from the lumber people.

Little Benny's Note Book

By Lee Papa.

The fellos was talking about wat to do this afternoon and awl of a suddin, Puds Simkins sed, G fellos, thar's a lady looking erround, may be she lost sumthin'. With thase war, being a littel old lady awl dressed in black looking eround awn the payment, and we wawked up to her, Sid Hunt saying, did you lose anythin', lady.

Yes I did, I sertyn did, sed the lady, I lost sum munny. And she kepp awn looking eround awn the payment throo her glassis, us fellos starting to look, to, but not seeing anythin awn the payment except bricks. Did you see ware it rolled to, lady, said Reddy Merly.

Wat do you think id be looking for if I noo ware it rolled to, sed the lady. And she kepp awn looking and so did we, and after a while she sed, Its mitey strange ware it cood of got to, a thing cant disapper: awt the fass of the erth jek because a boddly drops it, are you boys sure sun of you picked it up with I want looking.

Which we awl sed we dident, and she sed, Well, ill give the boy that finds it a luvly present, so look hard.

Which we kepp awn doing, going erround looking with our heds down as if we was playing leap frog and ipecked sumbody to jump ovir our back any mmit, and after a while Reddy Merly kwiek reatched down and picked sumthin up, sayins, Heers a sent, may be thats part of it. Lets see, sed the lady. And she calm ovir and took it away from him and looked at it. Reddy saying, Is that part of it.

Thats awl of it, sed the lady. And she opened her satchil and put the sent in and took a peece of chewing gum out, saying, Now Im going to give you the present, for I awlways do wat I promise. And Reddy Merly held out his hand for the chewing gum, and the lady sed, Wate a mmit, and she broak a littel bit of a peece awf of the end of it and handid it to him and closed the satchil and wawked away.

And now, if yure not afrayed to get Reddy Merly mad, awl you haff to do is to say to him, Hay, Reddy, give me a littel peece of chewing gum.

Her Preference.

Mr. Piper—Why are you so set against marriage?
Miss Tyler—Because I would sooner manipulate a keyboard than a washboard any day.

A Distinction.

Husband—Did you have luncheon downtown after your shopping this morning?
Wife—No, dear, only lunch. I'd spent all I had except fifteen cents.

Will Have Many Reminders.

He (in their new home)—Do you know, I can hardly believe that we are really and truly married.
She—Glad to see these bills, dear, and you'll have no doubt whatever.

Little Kids Have Large Ears.

Mrs. Kowler (to hostess's child)—Are you glad to see me again, Edith?
Edith—Yes'm, and mamma's glad, too.

Still in Doubt.

"Why don't you marry, old chap?"
"Do you think a man could procure all the necessities of life on \$1,800 a year?"
"Of course, but not the luxuries."
"Well, I haven't decided yet whether a wife is a necessity or a luxury."

The Easiest Way.

"How did Callins get the right to stick that 'I'm' in front of his name? He never was in Congress, was he?"
"No, but he once impersonated a member of Congress over the telephone."—B. Malo Express.

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Regarding the Child.

Competent authorities state that fully seventy-five per cent. of the so-called backward or stupid children in our public schools are in that class because of defective vision. In these days of early education it is important that you should know the condition of your child's eyes. If the child apparently has good sight but is backward in his school work, or if there seems to be any strain in his efforts to read or study, and he has an excessive squint, examine his eyes at once. Neglect of this important duty may result in a lifetime of eye troubles, while in some cases the wearing of glasses for a few years in childhood will obviate the necessity for wearing them in later years.

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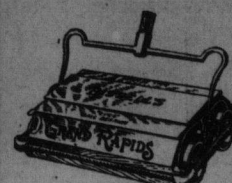
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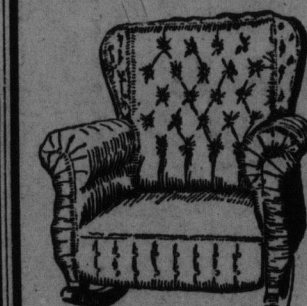
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