

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1935

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN AND GRAIN

Fewer promises and more grain from the Canadian National Railways at this port would be welcome—and advisable.

Let us see how this matter stands as revealed by the figures at March 1. The story is instructive and significant.

From the time the St. Lawrence closed up to March 1 the grain hauled to this port amounted to 11,540,464 bushels, or nearly 4,000,000 bushels more than we had last season up to this time.

Of this total the C. P. R. brought 9,888,550 bushels, as compared with 5,681,384 bushels for the same period last year.

But the C. N. R. brought only 1,022,916 bushels, as compared with 3,017,216 for the same months last year—a falling off of nearly 85,000 bushels.

Yet the wheat available for export was enormously greater in quantity than in the year, for the 1935 crop was about double that of 1934.

There was no trouble about elevator capacity or tonnage, for the elevators could have handled a great deal more grain to date, and most of the grain the C. N. R. did bring went through the West Side elevators, little being done through the National system's own elevators on the East Side.

As at Vancouver, tonnage would be merely moved back a bit and set down on their tails, waiting hopefully, and licking their chops. Then he set fire to his sweater, waved it in the wind, and threw it into the vicious circle.

That did the trick. The wolves went away. On reading this over carefully one discovers what is missing. In an earlier word story, after the men had been tried for two or three hours without showing any signs of dropping from their perches, the wolves held a consultation and sent two of their number away. These scouts returned in a short time with six beaver skins, and set to work immediately to cut down the tree. There the story stopped, and an indignant citizen wrote to the Toronto Star—in which it was published—stopping his paper, not because he did not believe that the story was true, but because the writer did not say what happened after the beavers finished their work.

Mr. Henry Thornton, speaking at Hamilton last evening, made a plea for national unity, "undivided by sectional interest, and having as its basis the development of Canada along broad Dominion lines."

In freight rates he wants a happy medium, and he said that he was not arguing for increasing rates, having in mind that in any talk about the long haul and the difficulty of contracting, the lowest rates possible are necessary. But he wants the railways to have a chance to earn a living, and says the facilities necessary to meet the increasing demands of business must be provided. So they must. As to national unity, Mr. Henry is in a position to make a very great contribution to that, and so in Parliament—provided they both remember that the Maritimes are still partners in this great Confederation.

Note that while the C. P. R. brought to Saint John about four and one-half bushels for every one brought here by the C. N. R. this season, these railways hauled to Vancouver practically bushel for bushel.

Here is another instructive set of figures, showing the amount of grain available to both railways from August 1, 1934, to January 31, 1935. The grain received at the Port William and Port Arthur elevators by rail was: via C. P. R., 146,884,550 bushels; via C. N. R., 127,508,026. During the season of navigation for 1935 the Montreal elevators received of all grain 18,851,728 bushels, in which—as is not the case with the other figures quoted—American grain is included.

Ever since the close of navigation Canadian grain has been exported in large quantities through American ports. The published figures show that every week this quantity has varied from 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 bushels. In other words, during every fortnight approximately as much grain has gone through American ports as has come to Saint John during several months.

From August 1 to December 15, 1935, 191,787,898 bushels of American wheat, and many millions of bushels of other grains, went through United States channels, mainly Buffalo. That was up to the close of navigation, and ever since that time Canadian grain in great quantities has been passing through American ports.

Let it be repeated that if the C. N. R. were to bring to this port during the present season even as much grain as the C. P. R. now appears likely to bring, we should be handling nearly 80,000,000 bushels, and the record of the traffic in itself would go far to dispose of most of the arguments set up by opponents of all-Canadian transportation.

The facts here presented must appeal strongly to our civic authorities, to the

What System Of Civic Government Do You Think Best?

(The Times-Star publishes today the third of a series of articles on differing systems of civic administration. The fourth will appear in an early issue.)

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

If anyone undertakes to make a comparison between European and American systems of municipal government, the first thing he discovers is that there is no American system. That is to say, no general system with national characteristics. Each state in the Union has its own system of municipal government, and even within the several states there is only a few exceptions, there is no uniform legislation with regard to city government, but from the state by means of a separately enacted charter.

Within recent years, however, some of the states have passed general laws defining the measure of self-government granted to cities of different classes, according to population, while other states have made it possible for cities to prepare their own charters within certain limitations and subject to approval of the state legislature. If any general all-pervading idea has influenced the organization of civic government in the United States, it seems to have been the thought of copying in miniature the constitution of the Federal Government and creating in the Mayor an executive responsible to the people, and in the council an elected legislative body independent of the executive, thus completely separating the administrative and legislative functions in the civic as in the federal government. If this has been the controlling idea, however, it has been departed from so widely and in so many different ways as to create every conceivable variety in the admixture of the legislative and administrative functions of city government.

The Mayor in an American city is an independent though co-ordinate authority; he does not, as a rule, preside over the council or even sit with it as a member, but has a good deal of his own authority. He has the power of appointing and dismissing the members of the council, and it usually requires a two-thirds vote, sometimes a four-fifths vote of the council to overcome the Mayor's veto. Following the idea of the Federal Cabinet, city officials and heads of departments are usually appointed by the Mayor, though sometimes subject to the approval of the council. Even where the Mayor has the sole power of appointment, he is not always the right of dismissal. The original intention seems to have been to concentrate responsibility in the hands of the Mayor, but, finding this did not always produce satisfactory results, a system of so-called checks and balances was introduced, creating, in varying degrees, a division of authority and responsibility as between Mayor and council.

The Council—While the ward system of electing councils generally prevails, it is subject to many variations. Usually a councillor must be a resident of the ward he represents, but the city of New York follows the English plan of allowing the ward to elect a councillor of any part of its city as its representative. Although the rule is to elect councillors by ward, the ward which they represent, several cities have departed from this rule, as Saint John did some years ago, by attempting to elect ward representatives by vote of the city at large. In some of the larger cities a portion of the council is elected by vote of the city at large and the remainder by wards.

The base of American city government has been the intimate admixture of federal and state politics in municipal elections and appointments. Not only are—or were—civic elections run upon strictly federal party lines, but has been the recognized rule that to the victors belong the spoils, with the result that nearly all the appointments to civic offices were made as a reward for party services, often with flagrant disregard of the qualifications of the appointees. As an inevitable consequence, inefficiency, extravagance and corruption were loudly complained of in many American cities.

The Board of Control, variously called Board of Estimate, Board of Finance, Board of Public Service, etc., is an institution of American city government designed to control expenditure and overcome some of the more mentioned evils. This and other more recent reforms in municipal government on this continent will be referred to in another article.

Dinner Stories

THE hired man on a New England farm went on his first trip to the city. He returned wearing a scarf pin with at least four carats bulk of radiance. The jewelry dazzled the rural belles, and excited the envy of the other young men. His employer bluntly asked if it was a real diamond.

"If it ain't," was the answer, "I was skum out o' half a dollar."

THE foreman of a Southern mill, who was much troubled by the shiftlessness of his colored workers, called sharply to two of the men slouching past him.

"Hi, you! where are you going?" "Well, sah, boss," one of them answered, "we is goin' to de mill wid dis-beeh plank."

"Plank? What plank? Where's the plank?" the foreman demanded.

The colored spokesman looked inquiringly and somewhat surprised at his own empty hands and those of his

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A Slam From Argentine



The United States wants to lead the rest of America but is having a hard time trying to manage so many. From the Atlantida, Buenos Aires.

Poems That Live

MY GARDEN.

A garden is a loveliness thing, God wot!
Rose plot,
Fringed pool,
Fern'd grove—
The veriest school
Of peace; and yet the fool
Contents that God is not.
Not God! In gardens! when the eve is cool?
Nay, but I have a sign;
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.
—Thomas Edward Brown.

The Best of Advice

BY CLARK KINNAIRD

THE OLD AND THE EXPERIENCED

IT IS TRUE enough that experience is the mother of wisdom. But it isn't true that older individuals are always wiser than young ones. Some persons never learn their lessons, and others learn them easily, while they're young.

WISDOM is usually associated with age. We hear such phrases as "The wisdom of our ancestors," "Venerable antiquity," "The wisdom of the ages," over and over.

A wise man is invariably represented as an aged man with flowing beard, and the old have, of course, more experience than the young. There is no doubt of it. The question is who are the old? and who are the young?

Sydney Smith has said this question in mind when he observed that of INDIVIDUALS living at the same period, the oldest has, of course, the greatest experience, but among GENERATIONS of men the reverse of this is true.

Thus those who come first—our ancestors—are the young people, and have the least experience. We of today have added to our experience of many years or of many centuries; and therefore, as far as experience goes, are wiser.

IT SEEMED to Smith that the real feeling should be, NOT can we be so presumptuous as to put our opinion

companion, whom he addressed good-naturedly: "Now, if that don't beat all, George! If we hadn't gone 'n' clean forgotten that plank!"

AT A BANQUET of churchmen a certain bishop had as his left-hand companion a clergyman who was completely bald. During dessert the bald-headed vicar dropped his napkin and stooped to pick it up. At this moment the bishop, who was talking to his right-hand neighbor, felt a slight touch on his left arm. He turned and, beholding the vicar's pate on a level with his elbow, said: "No, thank you; no melon."

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The Very Idea!

By Matt Cochran

INSPIRATION.

SOMETIMES a fellow can't get down to work. His mind's full of cobwebs; his pep full of shirk. The going, at best, rather strikes him as rough and he sidetracks his toil, 'cause he'd much rather "shirk."

It may be that something has kinda gone wrong, and hindered the smoothness of plugger along. His normal ambition has met with reverse through some little thing that, of course, might be worse.

But when a man's aimin' to hit on all-four, and fate sticks its nose in and gums up his score, he often gives in to the easiest way and work thoughts are carelessly stopped for a day.

It all goes to prove that he's human, I guess, an' just a bit weak, if he'd really confess. The get-up-and-pep-up is easy to lack. The thing that he needs is a slap on the back.

How often does man give the credit to fate, when he's really stopped for a day. In that's due to someone, when needed, who always comes through? He'll swing back in form, full of grit, full of life, through real inspiration that comes from his wife.

NOW, HONESTLY—'Stimmy how people go into a restaurant, read over the menu, and complain 'cause nothing looks good. We just don't stop to think that maybe it's our fault—instead of the restaurant's.

It's pretty darn difficult to give folks what they want, when they don't know what it is. And then the position an eating place is in some of the time. When you can't make up your mind as to what will please the palate, you can't expect the menu card to have it scheduled.

Anybody tastes good—if you're in a good frame of mind.

FABRICS IN FACT ONCE THERE WAS A FELLOW WHO WAS PINCHED FOR HOUSEBREAKING PERIOD HE HIRED A LAWYER TO DEFEND HIM COMMA AND ASKED COMMA AS A SPECIAL FAVOR THAT SAID LAWYER CLEAN THE CASE UP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE PERIOD NOW THE LAW-

EXPECTATION OF LIFE INCREASING YEAR BY YEAR

Interesting Facts Revealed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

One of the most interesting facts that has come to light recently is the news that over five years has been added to the expectation of life of the average citizen. That is to say, increased knowledge of how to prevent five years more in which to live. In the case of Metropolitan Life policyholders the expectation of life has been increased nine years through the welfare work that organization has been conducting on a large scale for many years past. It is further indicated that the death toll from tuberculosis has decreased over 50% in the last ten years, while diphtheria, typhoid and

Mr. A. F. C. FISK, Third Vice-President and Manager for Canada, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

similar ailments are gradually being eliminated by the progress of science. Over \$4,000,000 was spent by Metropolitan Life in 1935 through various offices on this continent in health, welfare work among its policyholders. If Canada no less than 242,361 visits were paid by Metropolitan nurses to 45,574 patients among their industrial and group policyholders. Over two and three quarter million pamphlets were distributed in Canada, some two hundred and thirty thousand being used by Health Departments, Social Agencies, Doctors and Teachers, who were very appreciative of them.

In addition to its direct work the Company has co-operated effectively with others similarly engaged. Substantial financial aid has been given to the Canadian Social Hygiene Council, the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, the Province of Quebec Safety League and to McGill University a special contribution of \$25,000 was made to assist in Industrial Hygiene research work, while a generous subscription was sent to the University of Montreal in aid of a school of Public Health Nursing that institution inaugurated.

Metropolitan representatives aided in the control of twenty-five epidemics throughout the country, participated in forty-five health campaigns, arranged thirteen clean-up campaigns and seventeen health exhibits. Notable activity in Montreal was their action in supplying the children of some three hundred families with free immunization against diphtheria, the object of giving the city health authorities a practical demonstration of the value of such prevention work. The direct result was that the City Council voted money to supply the poor with sera and vaccines free of cost.

The total insurance in force amounts to \$12,097,246,792, on 35,222,356 policies, representing a gain in 1935 of \$1,574,762,023.

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YER WAS A VERY AGREEABLE SORT O' FGUY COMMA SO HE WORKED HARD AND HAD THE CASE OFF HIS HANDS IN JUST A WEEK PERIOD YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WAS SPEED

DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT TOOK THE HOUSEBREAKER A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO GET HIS SIDE OF IT CLEANED UP PERIOD (Copyright, 1926, NEA Service, Inc.)

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