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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1912

The Evening Times and Star

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AUTOS AND ROADS

The New Brunswick Automobile Association seeks to have the money which it pays into the provincial revenue expended to improve the roads. On this point the Toronto Globe says:

"Britain appears to be solving the hitherto perplexing problem of keeping her good roads in repair, and at the same time encouraging the use of automobiles. Two years ago Mr. Lloyd-George had legislation passed by which the money paid for automobile licenses, no matter where issued, and a special duty on petrol or any other motive power used for autos, were set aside for road improvements, the construction of new roads, new bridges, straightening and widening of highways wherever the central board, which manages the funds raised should in consultation with the municipal authorities, decide. During the past year the sum of almost \$8,000,000 has been available from the Road Board, in addition to the moneys paid by the municipalities, and the result is that everywhere good roads are made better and bad roads are rapidly disappearing in the British Isles. Wherever a municipality desires to improve a purely local roadway the service of the Road Board's experts are freely placed at the disposal of the local authorities, and if the road is meant to assist farmers, fruit-growers, poultrymen, or other industry to have a good road to the railway or market, grant is always made to help in the necessary work. Many old country farmers are sanguine enough to believe that in the course of a few years, when the license fees on all vehicles are payable to the Road Board, the total expense of the roadway system of Britain will be borne by the central funds, and road rates disappear altogether."

To make such a system effective in Canada or in this province it would be necessary to have a central authority. This could be provided, and money expended in such a manner as to ensure a constant increase in the mileage of permanent roads, so greatly needed not only by motorists, but the farmers of the country.

SOME DIFFICULTIES

Before Mr. Borden launches a scheme to change the system of government of the Empire he must answer some questions put by Sir George Reid of Australia, who, by the way, is the man who was moved by Tory hostilities to observe ironically that the Canadians were great talkers but not so vigorous in action. Referring to the question of imperial government, and especially to an imperial parliament, Sir George pointed out that there are 300,000,000 British subjects who are not of the white race. Then he said:

"When you would recast parliament in an Imperial mould is there to be no account taken of these 300,000,000 Asiatic subjects? Would we sit happily in an Imperial parliament hearing our actions with regard to the emigration of these inhabitants of India discussed? In such a case what harmony would there be?"

Again, assuming that all these people were left out of the count, Sir George said: "Remove the representation of these myriads altogether and deal for a moment with the 60,000,000 white Britishers. Suppose that the new parliament consisted of one member for every million of population. How happy would Australia with her five members or you with your six or seven be should forty-five from the mother country decide upon and carry some methods of taxation to us or otherwise? Not local parliaments in the different dominions are the safety-valves of Empire, while an Imperial parliament might result in a calamity such as caused your neighbors across the border to be known as the 'United States at the present day.'"

Those Canadians who have lately discovered that they have a mission to save the Empire will discover in the end that the task is not one to be settled off-hand at a party caucus or in an after-dinner speech. Changes must be gradual, and made with exceeding care.

A POSER FOR BORDEN

Those Conservatives who derived the naval policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and sneered at the "tin pot navy," are answered by no less a personage than Sir Richard McBride, the Conservative premier of British Columbia. Sir Richard declares that his province expects Mr. Borden to execute a strong and adequate naval policy on the lines laid down by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Richard is quite ready to endorse an emergency contribution to almost any extent if it is shown to be necessary, but he sees no immediate danger. Here are his words—

"I regard this German war scare as an exceedingly unfortunate, ill-advised exploitation."

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier remarked in Ottawa recently that there was no serious German peril he was denounced by the Conservative press with some vigor. Will they now denounce Sir Richard McBride? And how will Mr. Borden bring his Quebec supporters into harmony with those of British Columbia on the naval question?

It grows more and more apparent that the Laurier naval policy is the policy for Canada. Neither Liberals nor Conservatives will object for one moment to an emergency contribution when it is needed, but since Mr. Winston Churchill has declared in parliament that the British government has the situation well in hand, and since Mr. Borden does not appear to be in any hurry to announce a naval pol-

icy or to call parliament together, we may assume that the need for such a contribution is still somewhat remote. But there is immediate and urgent need for the adoption of a Canadian naval policy, in order that this country may be able to do something toward the protection of its own coasts and commerce.

MANNERS AND SPEECH

Do parents and teachers pay enough attention to the training of boys and girls in good manners and correct speech? The question is raised by the Maritime Merchant in some observations relative to the Nova Scotia teachers' convention. The article is worthy of general attention, for when one thinks about it the defects to which the Merchant refers are far too prevalent. We quote:

"We think the occasion opportune to say something regarding the deficiencies of too many boys—we will not include the girls—in two points that are very important and essential to their best success in life. One of these is an ability to speak correctly; the other to be polite. Not less than seventy-five per cent. of the youths with whom one comes in contact these days seem to have forgotten that propositions govern the objective case and that the noun complement of the verb 'to be' is always in the same case as the subject. It seems to us that much of the time that is given to storing the mind of the average child in the public schools with a knowledge of subjects which will not be directly useful in after life, might better be given to impressing him with the correct use of the King's English. Of course, we realize that this instruction should come from the home. But if it doesn't—and apparently it doesn't—then it devolves upon the school teachers to correct the defects in speech with which they find children growing up."

The same thing obtains with respect to ordinary manners. In nineteen cases out of twenty, boys speaking to their elders omit the polite "Sir" in their address. They seem to think that if they make use of it they sacrifice their sense of independence. This sort of thing may not be very much of a handicap in the community in which the boy lives, but it certainly is when he goes away from home. There is nothing that the public appreciates more than politeness and we can think of very few things that we would rather have said of the youth of Nova Scotia than that they are the most polite of all youths of America."

Two notable speakers from abroad will be heard in St. John tomorrow, Mrs. Deborah Knox Livingston on temperance and Mr. John Bradford on the responsibility of the community towards its coming citizens.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Toronto Globe says:—"Toronto and Winnipeg men to the number of a score or so have signed a memorial for presentation to Hon. R. L. Borden, praying that he take the Canadian naval question out of politics. Doubtless the signers of the memorial are perfectly sincere, but who ever drew it up had a sense of humor, for they know that if Mr. Borden accedes to their request he must take up the Laurier naval policy, which the premier when in opposition supported until he found that he could gain votes by opposing it. The memorialists no doubt see the humor of the request they have made to Mr. Borden."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

No one will claim that Dr. Grenfell with personal knowledge and consent to the misuse of funds or vessels provided for the Labrador mission. The most and the worst that may be said about him is that he has placed too much confidence in the honesty of others, and is perhaps not as keen a business man as he is a missionary. The story as told does not present any new features. There never yet was an ardent worker for the welfare of others who was not deceived in some of those who were his associates. To a certain class of mind it makes no difference whether funds are provided for a charitable or other purpose, so long as they can divert a portion to their own use. Dr. Grenfell has spent serious and lonely years on the bleak coasts of Labrador. He has given the best years of his life to the people of that region. His name will always be held in honor as that of an unselfish man who believed in human brotherhood and devoted himself with splendid courage to a task from which most men shrink.

WAS ST. JOHN MAN.

The body of the man found in the Mitchell home near Fredericton on Wednesday last has been identified as being that of Peter Conacher, formerly of this city, aged sixty. Mrs. L. E. Carmall, of Boston, a daughter of the deceased, identified the body. The man was subject to epileptic fits and it is feared fell in the river when seized with one. The body is being brought here today for burial.

Instead of lining the drawers in the bedroom with newspaper give them a coat of good white paint. This is much nicer than paper, and when cleaning is necessary all that is required is to wipe them out with a damp cloth.

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SEPTEMBER IN THE LAURENTIAN HILLS

Already Winter, in his sombre round
Before his time, hath touched these hills
With lonely flame. Last night, without a sound,
The ghostly frost walked out by wood and mere,
And now the smother curls his front of fire.
The aspen-tree reluctantly drops his gold,
And down the gullies the North's wild, ribant lye,
Rouses the bitter armies of the cold.

O'er this short afternoon the night draws down,
With ominous chill, across these regions bleak;
Wind-beaten gold, the sunset fades around
The purple loneliness of crag and peak,
Leaving the world as from house whereat
No love nor life nor hope hath ever been.

LIGHTER VEIN

WE HAVE SEEN THEM.
Tom—"Nothing but women at the beach where I am stopping."
Jack—"Summer girls, eh?"
Tom—"Yes; some are girls, but most of them are too old even to pretend to be."
—Boston Transcript.

HIS TIME LIMIT.

"Your beau," remarked the first summer girl, "doesn't seem to care to spoon in secluded nooks."
"No," responded the second summer girl, "the poor gink only has four days in which to acquire a coat of tan."
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HIS BILL.

Traveler (at a crowded hotel): "How much do I owe you? What's my bill?"
Landlord: "Let me see; your room was—"
Traveler: "But I didn't have any room!"
Landlord: "Ah, well; fifty cents an hour."

HER TERMS.

"Can't you sell this shawl cheaper?"
"No madam. Fifty marks is really the lowest possible price."
"Well, I'll take it. But make out two bills, one at twenty marks to show my husband, and one at two hundred to show my friends!"
—Piguet Blatter.

BROKE THE MONOTONY.

"Yesterday," complained the Sunday school superintendent, "you boys sat through a twelve-minute game and you showed no signs of uneasiness. Yet here you cannot listen to me for thirty minutes without becoming restless. I can't understand the reason, but the game receives more serious attention."

RATHER THIN.

Two men, one of them very short, were passing through a station toward the train gates, when the bigger one was heard to say:
"I've took a half ticket yet, George. You're a little thin all right."
"But," protested George, "how about my beard and the twiddle in his thin beard?"
"Oh," rejoined the other, "tell 'em it's a mole."

MISALLOCATION.

Well, it's always this way with me when the harvest starts to wane
With the coming of September I've a grief to entertain.
In the gladsome, gleeful springtime, when my summer suit was done,
With tan shoes and shiny straw hat I paraded the sun.

Sneered at winter clothes discarded, proudly spurned them where they lay,
Told my helpmate she would better give the whole outfit away.

I thought when the dews of autumn came in heavy, dank and chill,
When the leaves came drifting gently from the trees upon the hill.

When the frost was on the punkin and the fodder in the shock
I'd have saved a little of money that would buy a city clock.

Now the autumn days are nearing and the harvest moon is near,
I might search my summer garments and not find a sou' winder.

That is why impending autumn fills my spirit with dismay,
What on earth could have impelled me to give those old clothes away?

How could I have thought the ice trust and the meat trust would permit Me to pile up golden ducats, and the fuel trust would sit idly by while I bought garments to defy the cold and snow?

Now my wife's sole words of comfort are just these—"I told you so!"

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