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THE STAR, ST JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1907

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 30, 1907.

LITTLE POVERTY

In every community and at all times there are to be found a certain proportion of persons who by reason of misfortune or weakness are not as favorably situated as they might desire. St. John is no exception to this rule. There are in this city a number of

men and women dependent on the charity of others; there will always be such, and indeed only a miracle could effect any material change. And as a rule it will be found that every community suffers from the presence of ne'er-do-weels, fakers, who impose upon the charity of others, and manage to live without working. But at the present time St. John is probably better off than at any period in its history. There is less poverty, less suffering, than has been observed in the memory of the oldest men now living, and what is also gratifying, there are no unemployed beggars. This satisfactory state is due to several causes. The first and most important of these is the prevailing general prosperity, by reason of which not only are men and women in demand as workers, but employers, who realize the success attending their affairs, are looking about for opportunities to assist their less fortunate fellows. No one needs to be without work; no one who is able and willing to work is now idle. There is an insistent demand from employers in all lines, and the supply is not sufficient. This condition however is general throughout America, and its results are felt no more in St. John than in other cities and towns. But this community is especially favored in the fact that the task of looking after the needy and destitute has been reduced to an exact science, and that the most gratifying success has attended the efforts of those who assume the task of helping others to help themselves. Charitable organizations have always existed, and in a more or less desultory fashion have performed the duties for which they were created. In the past there has been a lot of overlapping, and promiscuous giving of alms, which, however well-intentioned it may have been, could scarcely be regarded as improving upon the conditions of those receiving aid. Too often, it is feared, it has induced men and women to depend wholly on charity, who might by the exercise of greater prudence, have learned to do for themselves. But in recent years all the charitable organizations in the city have banded together under one central association, and while each still retains all its former freedom and independence, this general executive has led to a marked change in the manner of distributing alms. The needy are assisted as much as before, but better than this they are put in the way of helping themselves, are made to realize that it is their duty to do their best, and to trust to friends for whatever is wanting. There is no attempt to keep back from the deserving all that they are, in common humanity, entitled to. But there certainly is and has been a decided and successful effort towards freeing the charitable from the demands of underserving applicants. Those citizens who are not in close touch with the work of the Associated Charities and the organizations of which that body is composed, can scarcely realize how effective has been the policy pursued. The members of the various societies in churches and under independent management, find their work clearly laid out. They know to whom aid should be given; whether or not doubtful families are attempting to impose on two or three organizations; and whether cases which arise are worthy of aid. By means of this uniform method of administration St. John is so well covered that every needy person in the city is known, and is in receipt of the proper kind of assistance. There are none neglected, none suffering because their wants are not presented and there are few who are not trying to help themselves. In addition to all this, citizens generally are learning that men, women, and children who beg from door to door are not always—in fact not often—deserving of alms. When this knowledge becomes more widespread and sinks a little deeper, the time of the Associated Charities will have been attained. Meanwhile that organization has, in the past few years fully justified its existence.

DR. PUGSEY TAKES ACTION.

That Hon. Mr. Pugsley is in earnest in his efforts to bring before the courts for final investigation the charges of corruption made by Mr. B. L. Borden and others, is evidenced by the fact that he is now instituting action against the Toronto World. In his address a few days ago in Fairville and St. John Dr. Pugsley made certain direct charges against the Conservative party and challenged Mr. Borden to meet them. The leader of the opposition has not deemed it wise to do so, but has contented himself with letting

his lieutenant continue the hypocritical campaign of criticism which he commenced. Under such circumstances statements regarding corrupt practices might be kept up indefinitely, but now that a particular reference to a particular individual has been made, Hon. Mr. Pugsley has shown no hesitation in seizing the opportunity. The Toronto World intimates that he was connected with the much-talked-of Bial-Russell deal, the conspiracy which failed. Dr. Pugsley has entered action for libel, and from his own statement, he desires not only to clear himself of the charge made, but to bring into court all available evidence concerning the distribution of corruption funds. It will be more difficult for Mr. Borden to evade this action than it was for him to dodge Mr. Pugsley's charges, and the public may look forward to an exposure of the methods by which the half million dollar fund was raised and spent.

The British government has agreed to the terms of the Hague resolution passed in 1889 condemning the use of expanding bullets and projectiles which diffuse noxious gases. Since this resolution was passed Britain has had time to judge in actual warfare, of the value of such bullets and shells, and has found that they are not particularly effective. The advantages arising from their use are not sufficient to counteract the disgrace of employing such missiles against an enemy. The soft-tipped and dum-dum bullets do not always travel straight to the mark; lyddite is effective only in certain soils and under particular atmospheric conditions.

Frederick has had the first snow of the season.

"AFTER DEATH."

(Sir Edwin Arnold.)
He who died at Azan sends
This to comfort faithful friends—
Faithful friends! I lie, I know,
Pale and white and cold as snow;
And ye say, "Abdullah's dead!"
Weeping at my feet and head,
I can see your cries and prayers,
Yet I smile and whisper this:
"I am not that thing you fear;
Cease your tears and let it lie;
It was mine, it is not I."

Sweet friends! what the women have
For its last bed in the grave
Is a tent which I am quitting,
Is a garment no more fitting,
Is a cage from which at last
Like a hawk my soul hath passed.
Love the inmate, not the room;
The weaver, not the garb, the plume
Of the falcon, not the bars
Which kept him from the splendid stars.

Loving friends, be wise, and dry
Straightaway every weeping eye.
What ye lift upon the bier
Is not worth a wistful tear.
'Tis an empty sea-shell, one
Out of which the pearl is gone.

The shell is broken, it lies there:
The pearl, the all, the soul, is here.
'Tis an earthen jar whose lid
Allah sealed, the while it hid
That treasure of his treasury.
A mind which loved him; let it lie!
Let the shard be earth's one more,
Since the gold shines in his store!
Allah Mu'hi, Allah most good!
Now thy grace is understood.

Now the long, long darkness ends,
Yet ye wail, my faithful friends,
While the man who lies in the tomb
In unbroken bliss instead
Lives, and loves you; let 'tis true
By any light that shines for you;
But in light ye cannot see
Of unfilled felicity,
And enlarging Paradise,
Lives the life that never dies.

Farewell, friends! Yet not farewell;
Where I am ye, too, shall dwell,
I am here before you, in the face
A heart-beat's time, a gray an's pace.
When ye come where I have stepped,
Ye will marvel why ye wept;
Ye will know, by true love taught,
That there is all, and there is naught.

Weep awhile, if ye are fain—
Sunshine still must follow rain!
Only not a death, for death—
Now I see—is that first breath
Which our souls draw when we enter
Life, that is of all life center.

Know ye Allah's law is love,
Viewed from Allah's throne above;
Be ye firm of trust, and come
Faithful onward to your home!
'La Allah illa Allah! Yes,
Mu'hi! Restorer! Sovereign! Say!

He who died at Azan gave
This to those who made his grave.

A prominent novelist spoke recently at a Boston club about the wonders of modern invention. He said:
"There was an old fisherman roving in his boat one day when an automobile canoe sprang a leak near him and immediately sank."
"To the indignation of the canoe's occupants, the old man paid no heed to them, but rowed calmly on his way, puffing an old clay pipe."

"However, the wrecked canoeists managed to swim to him, and as they clambered into his boat on sputtered angrily:

"Confound you, why didn't you lend us a hand? Didn't you see we were sinking?"

"The old man took his pipe out of his mouth, and stared at them in astonishment."

"Blessed if I didn't think ye was one of them new-fangled submarines," he said.

On a railway journey Mrs. —, the dean's meekly answered the M. P.: "It must still be in the train."

"In the train?" snorted the lady. "And to think that the affairs of the nation are entrusted to a man who doesn't know enough to take care of a woman's umbrella!"

FIREMEN WERE KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE SMASH

Visitors to the Pittsburgh Convention Victims of an Accident This Morning.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 30.—George E. Cooper, chief of the Fire Bureau of Harrisburg, Pa., was instantly killed, and John Chilly, of Harrisburg, and James A. Clarke, of Pittsburgh, a commissioner of Allegheny county, were badly injured early today in an automobile accident which occurred on the Great Boulevard near Jones' avenue. Chief Cooper and Mr. Chilly were here to attend the convention of the Pennsylvania Firemen's Convention, which convenes tomorrow.

Frank Blessing, of Harrisburg, was also injured. John Schall, the driver of the machine was looked up in the Central Police Station. The Harrisburg firemen were the guests of County Commissioner Clark. While coming towards town along the Boulevard at a good rate of speed, one of the wheels on the car broke. All the occupants, except Schall, were caught beneath the automobile. Cooper was killed outright. The injured were taken to a hospital nearby.

PEACE.

To the Editor of the Star:
Sir,—A few Sundays ago I listened to a sermon by a visiting clergyman from the old story of Jesus selling his birthright—a sermon which went to his hearers' hearts and made them use their reason at the same time—a somewhat unusual thing. The analogy between individuals and nations is close. If individuals have birthrights, so have nations. Canada's birthright is a new, free, land. But if we adopt the proposed measure outlined in the Sun of Friday, 5th inst., of military drill in our public schools we are negotiating for the sale of our birthright. Sir Wm. Mulock said a few months ago: "This Canada of ours is the only country in the world worth living in, the only country that is not burdened with great military debts handed down by previous generations. Keep it on these lines, watch carefully every tendency toward militarism, for we know that preparation for war leads to war. Remember this is the last spot of refuge on God's green earth where men can come and not pay for the sins of their ancestors." If there were any reasonableness in this, we might consider it as a necessary evil, the stock phrase of its advocates. But it is a survival of savagery and a complete rejection of all the ethical teaching received in the schools. Our teachers are, I believe, conscientious women and men. They do their duty—and more—in the schoolroom and out of it, they are faithful and thorough, but as a body they lack in alertness and initiative, patiently do the duty assigned by superiors and ask no questions, so apt to fall into line, they laid out for them, such as the proposed measure, and not having thought out the question of real patriotism, they are quite ready to follow up the sham patriotism that their forefathers believed and which we are asked today to apply to our children. Is it then, I wonder, of any use to aver that Canada needs only a police force, no army of defense, much less warrior children, and we know that the working man bears the largest load; that if we cannot afford free text books and trade schools and new methods of education and large school accommodation, then neither can we afford to support drill sergeants, pay for rifles and ammunition; that if there is not time enough now for preparation of lessons and also proper exercise and play, neither is there time for military drill.

But this is not the most important argument. It is a question of morals, not of expediency. Whatever may have been necessary in centuries past as a military duty there is now no excuse for war. When a question between countries arises threatening a quarrel, there is a court ready to take it up and decide it. The Hague Tribunal is an accomplished fact. It has already settled international disputes and at least ten countries have signed arbitration treaties since the first Hague conference, the first being Great Britain and France. This being the case, why do we need an army of defense, much less warrior children, and we know that the working man bears the largest load; that if we cannot afford free text books and trade schools and new methods of education and large school accommodation, then neither can we afford to support drill sergeants, pay for rifles and ammunition; that if there is not time enough now for preparation of lessons and also proper exercise and play, neither is there time for military drill.

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