

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1925

## The Evening Times-Star

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### PRISONERS' DEPENDENTS.

Hon. W. F. Nickle, Attorney-General of Ontario, says the state should give financial assistance to the families of individuals serving prison sentences. "In my opinion," he says, "it is the height of brutality to send a man to prison for several years and leave his wife and the children to starve. It is not British justice; it is punishing the mother and the children."

It was proposed recently at the Child Welfare Conference in Ottawa that prisoners should be kept at work and paid a reasonable wage, which wage would be turned over to their dependents, if they had any, or placed at their disposal at the end of their sentence. The Montreal Gazette, in supporting Mr. Nickle's position, says that "upon humanitarian and economic grounds the working out of a plan whereby the productive efforts of a prisoner should be made to benefit his wife, children or other dependent relatives is a needed addition to the penal system."

The scheme can be worked out without subjecting free labor to anything like harmful competition from those in prison. The plan is not born of any mere maudlin sentimentality. Those who break the country's laws must suffer. Too many escape as it is. Society must protect itself as best it can from the criminal—but its purpose in imprisoning him is not revenge. It is to prevent him from harming society any longer, and to set an example to others who are real or potential criminals.

But why punish the criminal's wife and children? If they can be helped through turning over the prisoner's earnings to them, what legitimate interest will suffer through that course? That the prisoner is better off if engaged in useful work is not to be disputed. If he was unwilling to contribute to the support of his family when at liberty, compulsion in that respect will be good for him—and for them. To those in prison who can be reformed and some can—the knowledge that they are doing useful work, and that their dependents are thus being helped over the rough places, would undoubtedly be of benefit. Again, there is the fact that having been taught to earn money in prison, the man at the end of his sentence is better able to face the world and less likely to fall again into evil ways. But the chief merit of the plan proposed is that it will help the wife and children of the criminal, whom, surely, there is no desire to make war upon. Their burden is already heavy enough.

### THE NELSON.

The new British battleship Nelson, which was launched on September 8, and which has been called "the mystery ship" because many facts concerning it have not yet been disclosed, is regarded by naval reviewers as the most powerful fighting machine afloat. The British Admiralty has not yet revealed the speed, but it is known that the Nelson carries the heaviest armament ever given a battleship, the main battery mounting nine 16-inch guns.

This is one of two battleships which Great Britain is permitted to build under the terms of the Washington arms treaty, and a duplicate, the Rodney, will be launched next year. Japan has two new battleships of similar class, each carrying eight 16-inch guns. Their speed is twenty-three knots an hour, as compared with twenty-one for the latest American ships of the Maryland class.

The New York Times, in speaking of the main battery of the Nelson, says "as one extra 16-inch gun might decide a sea fight the two new ships which the British Admiralty will have in commission in 1927 must be considered more powerful than the best of Japan and the United States." Archibald Hurd, a prominent British naval writer, has intimated that the Nelson and the Rodney will have little to fear from submarines or from airplanes because of greatly increased protection from both torpedoes and air bombs. It is assumed that these ships will be faster than the Japanese battleships, which in turn are somewhat more speedy than the American vessels of the Maryland class. The British Hood, a battle cruiser, still leads all the big fighting ships in the world in the matter of speed, being capable of thirty-one knots an hour under forced draft.

Under the naval agreement the United States will not be able to lay down new capital ships before 1931, when it will begin the construction of two, and from that time forward until 1933 the treaty permits the United States and Great Britain to replace all of their battleships which may have become obsolete.

Had there been no arms conference at Washington it is probable that all the great nations would have built a great many more battleships by this day, and that Britain, Japan and the United States would now be engaged in another armament race. If the Security Pact is signed, as it is now expected to be, there will be another conference on disarmament at which

naval construction is likely to be further limited. Indeed, it may be that the principal nations which depend upon sea power will agree to stop battleship construction and confine themselves to a limited number of cruisers not exceeding ten thousand tons.

Saint John may expect to have during the coming winter the greatest skating meet in its history. It is announced to-day that Thunburg, the Finn, whose skating was the sensation of 1924, has accepted an invitation to be present at the international meet here. He is himself, will be a great attraction, and the knowledge that he is coming will make it all the more certain that other leading figures in the skating world will be on hand.

Which is the most civilized nation in the world to-day? William Lyon Phillips, writing in Scribner's, gives the palm to Sweden. He says that Sweden manages its national and municipal affairs, education, and hygiene, better than other countries, and that she has not had a war for a hundred years. He thinks her greatest achievement was in parting from Norway without bloodshed, thus setting an example to the world in statesmanship and wisdom. "Sweden," he says, "set the world an example of the peaceful adjustment of something that even most conciliatory statesmen think is beyond the possibility of arbitration—national honor. She gained honor by concession."

### Odds and Ends

#### The Sphinx's Breaking Back

(Boston Transcript.)  
The back of the Sphinx of Giza, the ancient symbol of the power of mystery, is cracking under the weight of her secret. An Associated Press dispatch from Cairo records the fact that there are signs of a growing seam in the Sphinx's stony dorsal substance, and that the Antiquities Department of the Egyptian Government is taking steps to hold her together. Of course we might have known that it would be some time before she broke her back. It never came out, so she burst. Everybody admits that she had the secret. Was it the joint secret of generation and of death? Somehow it was there. The awful brow, the full gaze, so massed with meaning, prove that. But one poet says that she forgot the secret herself.

She saw the Pharaohs and the Shepherd Kings,  
Charlotts and horsemen in their dread array,  
Cambyses, Alexander, Antony,  
The hosts of standards and the eagle wings,  
Whom, to her ruinous sorrow, Egypt drew;  
She saw, and she forgot.

Very likely she did, but the secret weighed nevertheless—and at last, confronting this modern world, which approaches nearer to the secret which ever moves farther away, the mysterious burden, whether known or forgotten, has weighed her down as if to death, and after six thousand years she undergoes the fatal humiliation of having to be propped up and held together by puny human hands!

It is an awful warning. Cato held it as his greatest sorrow in life that he had once trusted a secret to a woman. The profound philosophers of a millennium ago who fashioned this mighty memorial of a mystery infathomable by all else were more fortunate than Cato, for the repository of their secret has never divulged it. But the human moral in the case is obvious—if she cannot divulge it, she must go to pieces, even if it takes another six thousand years to complete the process. It was a vain thing—never to be tried again.

#### Stirring Up the Animals.

(Manitoba Free Press.)  
A motor-bus in Ceylon has been chased by a herd of infuriated elephants. It was a passenger bus. One of the passengers had a gun. Observing the elephants the passenger took a pot at them and hit an old bull in the back, irritating it excessively. The elephants charged after the bus in high indignation, and for a time things looked lumpy. The bus, however, got away. The answer is plain. Next time you drive past a herd of wild elephants leave the innocent animals alone.

### Letters to The Editor

#### MR. TAYLOR'S OBSERVATIONS.

To the Editor of The Times-Star:  
Sir,—I am a believer that constructive criticism may produce good results to all concerned; therefore I will appreciate it if you will publish this letter in your valuable paper.  
Owing to the cold snap in the early part of the week, combined with the fact that there was no fuel of any kind in the basement of the school building at East Saint John, mostly all the children attending that school were sent home, because the building was not fit for them to stay in and do their studies.  
According to the total assessment on this school district it cost the ratepayers about \$35 per school day to run our schools; consequently this amount will be collected from the taxpayers, and owing to the lack of foresight, or neglect, of some one, full value will not be received. Perhaps our school trustees will be able to offer some satisfactory explanation, which I know the ratepayers will appreciate.  
Yours very truly,  
RUFERT TAYLOR.  
East Saint John, Oct. 14.

### Just Fun

Gladys, dear girl, threw her fellow over because, although he was a lino-typist, she had no liking for his type of line.

One good sign Mont Jones notes is that mothers have quit naming their daughters after Pullman cars and gone back to Mary and Jane.

#### LITTLE GIRL.

Little girl of mine, I love you so.  
And I watch and pray that you may grow.

Each day like unto a flower fair,  
Sweet and fragrant blossom rare.  
With your merry smile you bring to me,  
A message from the butterfly and bee.

Busy, happy, growing, always knowing,  
Little girl—I love you so.

She—But it's against my principle to neck!  
He—Forget your principle, and show a little interest.

The girl of West Broadway is of the opinion that the man who lives in a house by the side of the road has a house full of dust.

"Say, you can't smoke in this building!"  
"Who's smoking?"  
"Well, you've got a cigar in your hand!"  
"Yes, well, you've got your pants on too, but you ain't panting."

#### CRYPTIC.

From a Chicago paper—"John Jones looked up the shaft to see if the elevator was coming down. It was. Aged forty-five years."

The pessimist—Nuffin but 'ard luck all me life—that's me. Why, the only time I ever took up burglary, I found I'd broken into an empty house.

During a recent prohibition campaign a prominent shoe dealer who is an ardent dry supporter, was surprised by a visit at his office from his small, bare-legged son.  
"Hello, young man," the father said, "what brought you to town?"  
"I was in the parade," the little boy said proudly.  
"What parade?"  
"I don't know, but I carried a big sign."

"What was on the sign?" asked the man, and almost collapsed when his son replied:  
"MY FATHER'S A DRUNKARD!"  
I've got no shoes."

Habitue—I say, Charlie, how much did I spend on drink last night?  
Waiter—Two pounds ten, sir.  
"Oh, good, I thought I had lost it!"  
Passing Show.

Parent (anxiously)—Nurse, is it a "him" or a "her"?  
The Nurse—It's a them!—Answers.

"That old Dogsboddy just came out of the telephone booth—he's turned 92."  
"Lord! How old was he when he went in?"—Sydney Bulletin.

Clocks are responsible for a great deal of matrimonial infelicity. What this country needs is a clock that will go.

We can remember when we used to say to the young men: "Don't go anywhere you wouldn't take your sister, except to the barber shop."

The rumour race would be a lot better off if folks with colds lost their sense of hearing instead of their sense of taste and smell.

There is no excuse for snoring when twelve clothes-pins can be bought for one cent.

HANDICAPPED.  
"Poor ole Bill! He's so shortsighted 'e's workin' 'imself to death."

"Wot's 'is short-sight got to do with it?"  
"Well, 'e can't see when the boss ain't lookin', so 'e 'as to keep on shovellin' all the time."

If your conduct's mean and grouchy  
At times you kick and growl,  
Ten to one you're over-eating,  
Swap your beef for fish or fowl.

Sign in Park row restaurant: "Don't upset the waiters by tipping them."

The nation and their arms,  
but the divine will never give up their legs.

IN MODERN APARTMENTS  
THE KITCHEN IS NOW CALLED  
THE CANNERY.

## SUNSHINE SPELLETS

By DR. W. F. THOMSON.

There's simply no telling  
What a boozer will choose  
When it comes to the matter  
Of choosing his booze.

When we sneeze in church we raise the devil.

Too often the motive behind the tragedy is the locomotive.

We sit and crunch two tons of lunch then wonder why we're "bilious."

The influential days have come.  
The saddest of the season;  
We sit and sip hot lemonade  
And spend our time a sneezin'.

Cannibalism in Canada! The other day I saw a father roasting his stewed son.

Many a man who knows that you can't get blood out of a turnip, expects a cure out of a bottle.

Fresh milk for the school lunch makes a fresh mind for the school-room.

Curse the guy in the picture show who hath a cold and a nose to blow! He careth not for the consequence, scattering his bugs through the audience.

Common sense sanitation has made health resorts out of tropical pest holes.

## The Laughing Stock



A British view of the mandate for Mesopotamia.  
From the Daily Express, London.

## The Best of Advice

—BY CLARK KINNAIRD.

### LYING SILENCE.

AMONG the sayings that have a wide currency in spite of being wholly false, one of the grossest conveys the proposition that it is easy to tell the truth and hard to tell a lie.

Most of us know this is idealism. The truth always is the hardest to tell.

ALL of us tell many little lies every day, most of them unspoken. The cruelest lies often are told in silence.

Stevenson observes that a man may have eaten in a room for hours and not opened his teeth, and yet come out of that room a disloyal friend or a vile calumniator.

"A lie may be told by the truth, or a truth conveyed through a lie," he says.

"Truth to facts is not always

truth to sentiment; and part of the truth, as often happens in answer to a question, may be the foulest calumny."

A FACT may be an exception; but the feeling is the law, and it is that which must neither be garbled nor belied.

The whole tenor of a conversation is part of the meaning of each separate statement; the beginning and the end define and travesty the intermediate conversation.

To tell the truth, rightly understood, is not to state the true facts, but to convey a true impression; "truth in spirit, not truth to letter," is the true veracity.

"IT TAKES two to speak truth—one to speak and another to hear," rightly opines Thoreau.

## Poems That Live

### ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKET.

The poetry of earth is never dead;  
When all the birds are faint with the hot sun  
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run  
From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead.  
That is the grasshopper—he takes the lead  
In summer luxury—he has never done  
With his delight; for, when tired out with fun,  
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.  
The poetry of earth is ceasing never:  
On a lone winter evening, when the frost  
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills  
The cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,  
And seems, to one in drowsiness half lost,  
The grasshopper's among some grassy hills.  
—John Keats.

### Dinner Stories

In a certain town of southwestern Iowa, practical jokers abound.

The undertaker's private consultation room is headquarters—possibly because it's just outside the limelight.

One evening Bill Tallcorn got more refreshment than was good for him—in fact the "corn" put Bill to sleep.

So the boys hoisted Bill, bodily, to the upper story, and disposed him neatly into one of the coffins—then waited to see what happened.

After several hours Bill awoke, sat up, took in the surroundings with a judicial eye, and ejaculated:

"Jesh like I told 'em, by heck! Resurrection Day—an' I'm the first guy out!"

The darky in question had simmered in the heat of St. Augustine all his life, and was decoyed by the report that colored men could make as much as \$7 a day in Duluth.

He headed North in a seersucker suit and into a hard winter. At Chicago, while waiting for a train, he sat in an engine room, and on the way to Duluth sped by miles of snow fields.

On arriving he found the mercury at 18 below zero promptly lost the use of his hands. Then his feet stiffened and he lost all sensation.

They picked him up and took him to a cemetery for unknown dead. After he had been in the oven for awhile somebody opened the door for inspection. Rustus came to and shouted:

"Shut dat do' and close dat draft!"

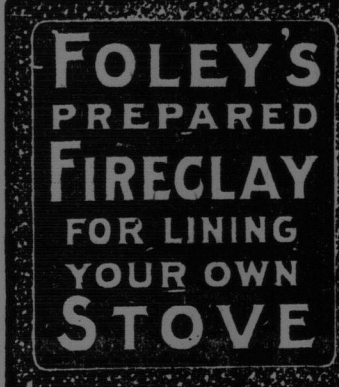
### FOREIGNERS AT WAR.

(St. Catharines Standard.)

The foreigners of Port Weller had a battle royal the other day. Nothing definite is known concerning the row, but from the little that can be learned, it must have been quite a shooting affair. Bullets were flying around in every direction and knives were brandished.

The miniature war started in the afternoon and lasted far into the night. From what can be learned no one interfered with the foreigners at attempted to learn anything about the row.

Notwithstanding the fact that several dozen shots were fired, the police heard nothing of the matter until a reporter informed them.



Sold by Hardware Dealers.

### Who's Who

IN THE DAY'S NEWS.

THE wedding of Princess Ileana of Rumania to Principe Amedeo Duca di Puglia, eldest son of Duca d'Aosta, a cousin of the King of Italy, will take place on December 23. For several years Princess Ileana has been reported as about to be engaged to several European princes.

She is almost as tall as her mother, slender and graceful. Although Russian and Portuguese blood as well as English and Rumanian flows in her veins, the princess is very fond of her mother's country, England, and has spent considerable time there. She has an English governess and speaks English perfectly.

She will not wear a crown as do her sisters, ex-Queen Elizabeth of Greece and Queen Marie of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Her fiancé was born in Turin in 1895. He is a senator and a major in the artillery.

Princess Ileana is seventeen years of age.

### Other Views

#### STATSMEN EMERGING.

(Outlook, London.)

An unwritten law of the British Constitution provides that politicians talk continuously eleven months out of the twelve. In the odd month they are presumed, by a convenient fiction, to think; it is therefore called the dead season. These alleged cogitations being concluded, there are signs that our statesmen are now beginning to stir.

In their slumbers, and getting ready to describe visions they have seen and the dreams they have dreamed, to a tolerant public, which responds with some little lack of alacrity.

### BRITAIN'S OVERSEAS TRADE.

(Round Table.)

The second cardinal point is that Great Britain is not getting a smaller share of international commerce than before the war. It was recently stated by the president of the Board of Trade and confirmed by the report of the several European princes.

The Balfour Committee that so far we have held our own in competition for overseas markets. The belief that lower wages and longer hours on the Continent are cutting out British goods is not justified by the facts to any substantial degree, though an international standardization of the working week would be a valuable guarantee against unfair competition.

### THE MOSUL PROBLEM.

Recourse to the permanent Court of International Justice allows some time to be gained, some months, which will no doubt be profitably employed in an attempt to prepare a direct arrangement between London and Ankara. This saves the situation for the moment, but the question of Mosul returns once more in its entirety, for ground has evidently been lost from the position which appeared to have been gained last year, when Fethi Bey was at Geneva as the accredited representative of the Ankara Government.

Ivory has become so precious that approximately 20,000 elephants are killed annually for their tusks.

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