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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1919

The Evening Times and Star

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MR. McMASTER'S REMEDIES.

Mr. A. R. McMaster, in his criticism of the budget, offered two remedies, apart from tariff reduction, for the conditions that exist in Canada today. He said:

"It is a very difficult thing to remedy the high cost of living, which is due first of all to real scarcity, and that scarcity can only be met by real production. But you cannot have real production unless you get labor and capital to pull together, and I do not think that this government has done all it should do to do this in connection. What Great Britain did in this respect is worthy of notice. They called together in conference the leaders of the employers and the leaders of the employed, and they with representatives of the government, sat down and discussed the whole situation. To such a conference in this country we would have to call representatives of the provincial governments. I am sure that upon the ordinary workman who is suffering today from the high cost of living a shifting of responsibility as between the federal government and the government of Ontario must have a bad effect. Let us have such a conference as I have suggested. That is the way the people of England were able to avoid trouble, and I am sure that our work-folk are just as reasonable and just as ready to listen to the other man's side of the question as are the people of Great Britain.

"Then, I make another suggestion. I agree most thoroughly with the member for Kingston (Mr. Nickle) who said the other day that to fix prices in the ordinary way might shut off production. But if the high cost of living keeps up, I would ask the government to consider the advisability of buying up, at prices which will encourage production, such great staples necessities of life as flour, bacon, oatmeal, perhaps milk, and seeing that they are distributed among the people at reasonable prices. There will be a loss, and that loss will have to be borne by the State. That is what Great Britain did during the course of the war. About 94 per cent, if I mistake not, of the commodities used by Great Britain during the war came through the government in that fashion. While I dislike paternalism as much as any one does, yet as between paternalism and having people hungry in this country, I prefer to have paternalism.

Mr. McMaster presented a strong argument in favor of tariff reduction, and in conclusion warned the manufacturers that "the tariff is coming down and the day when special privileges will be patiently borne has gone." He therefore urged them to co-operate in devising what downward steps would least dislocate their business, and lead to the least hardship.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

The State of Michigan not only believes in vocational training but proposes that boys and girls who have left school shall have an opportunity to secure the training. This is what is proposed in St. John, although it is not provided here that attendance must be compulsory as in Michigan, or that the classes must be held in the daytime. In St. John evening classes are proposed for those who desire to attend. The Michigan plan involves the employer as well as the working boy or girl.

A Lansing despatch thus describes it: "After 1920 all school districts in Michigan will be required to maintain part-time vocational or continuation schools for children less than eighteen years old who are not in school, according to the provisions of a law just passed in the state legislature. Children coming within the terms of the law must attend such schools eight hours each week, the attendance to be between the hours of 8 a. m. and 5 p. m., on working days except on Saturday afternoons. It further provides that time spent in these continuation schools must be considered as part of the number of hours minors are permitted to work."

This matter of vocational training is attracting universal attention, and Canada, though late in starting, may accomplish much by at once adopting a progressive and generous policy.

Montreal Herald: "If the cost of living investigation at Ottawa is being delayed because they cannot ascertain from the mayors of the various cities in Canada what are the retail prices prevailing in each community, that delay should be very short. The government have an official in every centre in Canada who is supposed to keep constantly familiar with just such facts as the commission of enquiry profess to want to know. The reports of these officials, purporting to be correct, and upon which official calculations are made, are put out in an official publication every month. Are the resources of the outside staff of the department of labor so heavily taxed that duplication of the work of these officials has to be asked for from the mayors throughout Canada, or are the records of the department of labor at Ottawa too precious to have copies of them permitted as a basis of investigation into the high cost of living?"

THE SEA SCOUTS.

A recent account of the Sea Scout movement, which has made such headway in England, says: "The Sea Scout movement was a natural outgrowth of the Boy Scout Association. The first Sea Scout troops were organized in 1911, and by 1912 the movement was well on its way, and local branches were springing up, not only in the coastal districts, but in most of the chief industrial cities, where the great waterways provided ample opportunity for the practice of its craft. In the organization of the Sea Scouts, the chief characteristics of the parent movement are retained and the training in swimming, rescuing, signalling, and meteorological and astronomical observation are all specially valuable. Upon this foundation is built a superstructure of special lore. The boys are taught boat-handling, knots and splices, sail-making, engine construction, and other details of seafaring life. They learn how to use their eyes and fingers, and, still more important, how to use their wits."

A port like St. John would be a most suitable place to organize a strong body of Sea Scouts.

Christian Science Monitor: "When Michigan went dry the liquor men painted gloomy pictures of the prospective failure of the hotels without liquor. But what really has happened? After a period of prohibition it has been announced that the demand for accommodations is so great that a new \$10,000,000 hotel, with 1,000 rooms, is to be erected at once. On the heels of this comes a statement from the management of the 'Top' concert given at this season by members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, that patronage at these concerts is better without intoxicants being served. The wonder is that even a fast decreasing few still cling to the false economic argument of loss of business without liquor when experience is constantly proving that business improves with the elimination of drink."

The revival of the maritime board of trade would provide a good medium for the expression of views on matters of mutual interest, and these lower provinces need to draw closer the bonds of sympathy and co-operation.

It seems clear that the budget debate at Ottawa will not result in a vote adverse to the government's proposals. It will, however, place the issues more clearly before the country.

The sympathetic strike does not commend itself to the more moderate men of the western labor unions. This does not please the radicals, but the latter are in a minority.

The peace terms are likely to be made public next week. Germany must agree to sign or submit to a new invasion of her territory.

The weekly reports of the provincial agricultural department regarding the crops are very satisfactory. The outlook is bright.

SMOKE-MACDONALD'S INDEX

THE SWANS OF YPRES.

Ypres was once a weaving town. Where swans were fostered up and down And merry shuttles used to ply; On the looms the fleeces were Brought from the mart at Winchester And silver flax from Burgundy.

Who is weaving there tonight? Only the moon, whose shuttle white Makes silver warp on dike and pond; Her hands fling veils of lily-wool On riven spire and open roof And on the laggard marsh beyond.

No happy ghosts or fairies haunt The ancient city, huddling gaunt, Where wagons crawl with anxious wheel And o'er the marshland desolate Win slowly to the battered gate That Flemings call the Gate of Lille.

Yet by some wonder it befalls That where the lonely outer walls Brood in the silent pool below, Among the sedges of the moat, Like lilies furled, the two swans float: 'The Swans of Ypres' men call them now.

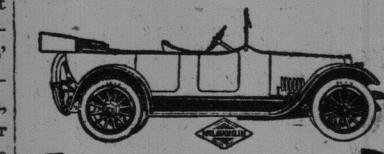
They have heard guns and many men Come and depart and come again, They have seen strange disastrous things, When fire and fume rolled o'er their nest; But changeless and aloof they rest, The Swans of Ypres, with folded wings. —Punch.

Insect-Carriers of Disease

The lessons of war have confirmed the serious part that insects play as carriers of disease. It is common knowledge that each species acts as a carrier of a particular disease. For instance, it is proven that the common house fly carries typhoid and enteric, the mosquito is a source of malaria, and the bed bug of "black water fever," while it is pretty certain that others of these pests, such as the common black beetle, or cockroach, which taints our food, are also disease carriers. An unrelenting warfare on all such insects is the duty of everyone, and the simplest and safest way to kill these insects is by the one preparation which has stood every test of scientific investigation and that is

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