

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1923

The Evening Times and Star

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BRIGHTENING PROSPECTS.

"Given normal weather during July, a crop above the average is probable." This is the view expressed in its July letter by the Canadian Bank of Commerce, relating to the crop situation in Canada, as a whole. We quote:—

"In all parts of the Dominion weather conditions have been favourable to the growth of the crops. Those districts in Western Canada which have for some years suffered from lack of rain in June have had, up to the present time, an abundance of moisture, with the result that at the end of June the crops generally looked healthy and vigorous. Given normal weather during July, a crop above the average is probable. The heavy rains in districts subject to insect pests have minimized the danger of loss from this cause. The preliminary official estimates show that the area sown to wheat in Canada is 22,158,100 acres, slightly less than in 1922, but comparing favourably with the annual average for the five-year period 1917 to 1921, which was 18,545,868 acres. In the three prairie provinces the wheat acreage this year is 20,998,700, or 227,748 acres less than in 1922. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan there is a slight decrease but in the province of Alberta an increase is reported. Reports of other field crops are also decidedly reassuring. The growth of hay and clover is luxuriant, and the condition of the pastures is now excellent. In Ontario and Quebec and in a few districts in the West the pastures were backward until rain fell late in June."

The backwardness of the crop season extended to the Maritime Provinces, but here also the belated rains came, and the general crop outlook has notably improved in the last week. Nothing else could make such a contribution to general prosperity as a large crop throughout the Dominion. The Bank of Commerce notes the fact that the benefits of last year's large harvest are still felt in business circles, and that as a result payments upon indebtedness, especially in the western provinces, have been larger than was anticipated. The fall in prices of agricultural products of last year reduced the arrears of interest on debts, but these have been reduced, in some cases by as much as fifty per cent. It is added that business would be better in the west today but for the fact that the farmers are cautious about incurring new debt. A good general harvest this year would reduce still further the indebtedness, and increase the buying power of the farmers, creating a large demand for merchandise, and so giving a new stimulus to industry in general. Already the promise of good crops has increased confidence in business circles, although as yet it is not reflected in any marked growth in production or distribution. Midsommer is a quiet season, but there is hope of a brisk fall and winter business all over the country.

The Bank of Commerce anticipates that during the balance of this year, apart from agricultural products, the products of the forests and mines will bulk more largely than in previous years. For the first five months of the year exports of newspapers were 487,013 tons, compared with 507,571 tons in the like period last year, and 277,471 tons in the period in 1920. The value of the product of Ontario mines exported in the first quarter of this year was \$9,241,833, compared with \$7,227,372 in the like period last year. The output of automobiles in Canada last year was valued at \$81,056,429, or \$14,066,220 in excess of that of the previous year; and the export trade has been growing with marked rapidity. Canadian trade with foreign countries as a whole is holding its own, while the proportion of exports to Great Britain as compared with the United States shows a notable drift in the former direction. The Bank of Commerce letter says:—

"From a preliminary report of the trade of Canada for the last fiscal year, it is noted that exports of Canadian produce to the United Kingdom were valued at \$879,067,448, while Canada's exports to the United States amounted to \$369,960,218. These figures are worthy of note because in the fiscal year ending March 1921 Great Britain took Canadian produce to the value of \$12,844,871 and the United States to the value of \$549,922,067."

In spite of the Fordney tariff, however, the United States has proved a better market than was anticipated. For example, the export of cheese, milk, cream and cattle to that country has been greater in 1923 than in 1922. Turning to the building trade, the construction contracts awarded in Canada in May amounted to \$40,000,000, compared with \$38,000,000 in May of last year; and for five months to \$115,000,000, compared with \$98,000,000 in the like period in 1922, and \$88,000,000 in 1921. The Maritime and Prairie Provinces do not share, however, in the building gains.

This general review shows that basic

conditions in Canada are sound, with the business barometer pointing to steady improvement, which will be accelerated if the promise of the harvest is fulfilled. While difficulties still confront the business community the outlook, regarding the Dominion as a whole, is such as to inspire hope and confidence.

HILTON BELVEA.

Hilton Belvea has failed to lift the Diamond Sculls, but he made so creditable a showing that he was regarded as the first two days as a possible winner. It was a remarkable achievement by a man whom the British observers were disposed to regard as fatally handicapped by his age. The honor of St. John and Canada has been nobly upheld, and while his fellow-citizens greatly regret that Belvea did not win the coveted prize they rejoice that he did so well in such fast company, and is deemed worthy to be classed with the world's great oarsmen. He will be given a notable welcome on his return to St. John, and the possibility of further competitions in which he may share will keep alive the local interest in this great branch of sport. It is a sport which must be kept alive by a show of public interest, for there are some very promising youths who ought to win laurels against all comers when they are at their best. The heavy rain, however, has been a decided disaster. The growth of hay and clover is luxuriant, and the condition of the pastures is now excellent. In Ontario and Quebec and in a few districts in the West the pastures were backward until rain fell late in June."

St. John on Monday will extend a most cordial reception to the Governor-General and Lady Byng, whose welcome in those parts of the province they have already visited has been so enthusiastic and sincere. It is clear from the reports that both have won golden opinions by their democratic spirit and their keen interest in the people and in the resources of each locality. St. John will be no less eager than other towns to do honor to these distinguished guests on the occasion of their first official visit to this part of the Dominion. They do not come as strangers, but His Excellency in particular has been in the city for some time, and his comrades in the Great War.

It is announced that the United Farmers will be the official opposition in the new Ontario Legislature, and that a convention of the Farmers' party endorses him and gives him a free hand Mr. Drury will be the leader. The ex-Premier says the party is full of optimism and will have the effective fighting force in the Legislature. Its cheerfulness, however, is likely to subside somewhat as the next session advances. The Conservatives have complete control of the situation, and what they will be the interesting feature of a session in which there need be no compromise with any other party.

CRITICIZES MUSICAL TASTE.

Violin Collector Says Average Person Has None.

(New York Times.)

Harry Dykes, a collector of old violins and public pictures, from Cleveland, Ohio, who recently returned from London, says that the taste and judgment of the man in the street cannot be trusted in regard to music, and that he does not know a good instrument from a poor one. He says that recently in London a prize was offered for the best judge of violins. A number of instruments were assembled, ranging from instruments made by amateurs to some of the priceless Stradivarius. One by one the violins were played upon, and the judgment rested with the crowd. As a result the first prize was given to a violin made by an amateur by the name of Vincent, an instrument which he valued at only \$180.

"Now, I consider the whole affair, from beginning to end, a mistake," said Mr. Dykes, who has been at the Hotel Pennsylvania. "In the first place, I do not believe that the man in the street is a judge of either music or the tone of a violin. According to the result of the competition, if \$180 represents the value of a violin which the public deems is equal in tone to that of a Stradivarius, a Stradivarius could only be worth \$180. The only way to conduct such a contest would be to have an artist play the violins and be the judge himself."

"There are many reasons why old Italian violins are superior to new ones. The climate helped them very much in tempering the wood. The construction of most Italian violins is a peculiar small-flamed maple is used, and it does not seem to be available any more. Also, in the fronts there is usually a peculiar Italian pine called Rosa pine, and this, although I have tried, we cannot seem to procure at the present time. Either it does not grow any more, or it flourishes in such small quantities and in such out-of-the-way places that it is not procurable."

"At the present time there are a greater number of old violins in America than in any other country in the world, except England. The investment in a fine old violin, if it is carefully preserved, is better even than gilt-edged bonds, for the older the violin grows the more its value will increase."

A PARTING.

(C. F. S. in London Punch.)

"I come ashore off a Cardiff tramp—the worst as ever I see; She was all the things you could name," said Bill, "as a ship's no right to be;

She was gritty and grimy, an' smelly, an' slimy, the same aloft as a'low, But it's always 'ard at the last' said he, "when it's time for a man to go."

"There was nothing to please a seaman's eye in the blessed wharfe; She was ugly as sin from her slab of a stern to her blunt old lump of a nose;

She rolled like a pig an' she steered like a dory, she crawled like a bloom in 'er ease, An' the things she done in a seaway, Lord! they'd make a parson curse."

"But there I stood like a bloomin' fool on the quay in the dripping rain, An' looked at 'er, an' thought of 'er, the things us two 'ad seen together—The work an' fun as was over 'er tone, the pals, the spees ashore, An' the times we'd 'ad both good an' 'ard as 'ad never come round no more."

"An' I spat in the dock, an' I turned to go with a kind of a mist in my eye, An' a foot of an ache in my foot of a heart," said 'Ol' girl, goodbye; For let 'em be good us or let 'em be bad, an' let 'em be fast or slow, it's always the same with a ship, said Bill, "when it's time for a man to go."

LIGHTER VEIN.

She Only Borrows.

Mrs. Flatbush—Who is that woman you just bowed to?

Mr. Benbow—Oh, she's my next door neighbor.

"But she didn't return your bow."

"No, she never returns anything."—Christian Advocate (New York).

Consented At Last.

The bazaar was in full swing when a young man strolled round the stalls. He had no intention of buying anything. As he passed a tastefully decorated stall, the pretty saleswoman detained him.

"Would you buy a cigarette-holder?" she asked.

"No, thank you, I don't smoke," was the curt reply.

"Or a pen-wiper worked by my own hands?"

"I don't write."

"Then do have this nice box of chocolates."

"No, thank you, I don't eat sweets."

The young woman's patience was exhausted.

"Sir," she said grimly, "will you buy this box of soap?"

The young man paid up.—London Tit-Bits.

BACK TO FARM IS LURE.

CALLING SWEDISH LABOR.

Idle Land Will be Utilized by Workers in Agricultural Drive.

Stockholm, May 30.—(By Associated Press, by Mail)—Sweden's "back to the soil" movement, started to turn production and at the same time to provide farms for the excess of industrial workers who had difficulty in finding employment when the post-war boom ended, has already resulted in a number of new and successful farming colonies, according to the Stockholm newspapers.

A typical case which illustrates how men without jobs have been transformed into proprietors of forty-acre farms, with home, live stock, implements, etc., is seen in the colony at Svanen. A tract of 476 acres, part of a private estate, was purchased by the Private Homes Commission and divided into ten farms. Each farm was put into possession of a parcel each on condition that they serve as leaders and instructors of the other seven colonists, who were selected from the superfluous of the army works at the time of the war. Each farm had a cottage and the commission further provided each colonist with one horse, two cows, a number of hogs, chickens, etc. Each farm has 20 acres or more of forest, which is expected, will be conserved.

The average cost of the land was \$1,300 for each farm, and the cost of the implements, etc., completed the financing was done by the Private Homes Commission, which has acted as a mortgagee for the purpose. Each farmstead carries a mortgage, but the interest is low, and the terms of payment easy.

GIFT TO UNIVERSITY.

Two Annual Prizes For Drawings at Liverpool.

(London, June 14.—(By Mail).)—The Liverpool University Council have accepted from Messrs. Holland & Hannen & Cubitts, the well-known contractors of Grays Inn road, London, their offer to found in the School of Architecture two annual prizes, one of £15 and one of £10, for the best sets of working drawings made in the school during the year. The firm, who are one of the largest firms of contractors in the kingdom, and also one of the oldest, said in their letter containing the offer:—"We are greatly interested in the excellent work the School of Architecture has been doing, and more especially in the development of its artistic appreciation, our literary output is considerable and of a worthy order. In the union of the church and art we have made an altogether notable experiment, which is bound to have its effect far outside our national borders. We have a country to be proud of, noble in extent, fair to the eye, rich in natural resources, but, better than all, a country where the people are brave, temperate, vigorous, and hardy. It is for us to develop these great qualities. To rest on past achievement means stagnation and decay; to press onward toward the horizon of greater things means that this horizon shall grow wider, and that every citizen shall be more worlds to conquer. But let us all, each in our own sphere and way, set ourselves consciously to make Canada a land of love."

ARCHDUKE REFUSED VISA.

Austria Still Bars Members of Hapsburg Family.

Vienna, June 8.—(By Mail).—From time to time one gets a reminder that the Austrian Government does not allow members of the Hapsburg family to enter the country, except those who like the Archduke Franz Salvator, have resigned their rights as members of the dynasty. This time it is the Archduke Joseph who has been refused an Austrian visa.

The Archduke, who resides at Budapest, wished to take part in some motor trials held by the Hungarian Automobile Club between Vienna and Budapest. The Austrian Minister at Budapest was compelled to refuse him permission, and the Archduke had to content himself with joining the run at the Hungarian front.

MR. DOOLEY ON WORK AND SPORT

By FINLEY PETER DUNNE.

"A hard time th' rich have injin' goin', said Mr. Dooley.

"I'd thrade with thim," said Mr. Hennessy.

"I wud not," said Mr. Dooley. "Tis too much like hard wurruk. If I ever got hold o' a little moun' o' th' money, divvie th' bit o' hardship wud I inflict on meelf."

"I'd set on a large Turkish sofa an' have dancin' girls dancin' an' a mandolin orchestra playin' to me. I wudn't move a step without bein' carried. I'd go to bed with th' lark an' get up with th' night watchman."

"If anywan suggested physical exercise to me, I'd give him forty dollars to go away. I'd hire a prize fighter to



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JUDGE'S NAME HIS ALIAS:

"DANIEL MURPHY" IN BAD

New York, July 7.—Said Justice Daniel Murphy to "Daniel Murphy," prisoner:—

"Is Daniel Murphy your right name?"

"No, your Honor, I admit I made a mistake in taking that name. My right name is Irving Persons."

Said Justice Daniel Murphy to Irving Persons:—

"I vote to sentence you to the penitentiary for not less than six months or more than three years."

Justices Kernochan and Hermann concurred. Persons, 34, was arrested by Detective Gruen and Schumacher of the narcotic squad for possessing sixteen bottles of heroin and cocaine. He said his name was "Daniel Murphy," and that name was called in court. The detectives said he had served terms in Sing Sing, the penitentiary and the workhouse.

Minard's Lintment Heals Cuts.

After an extended motor car tour of Nova Scotia, Miss Dorothy Fraser, R. N., and Miss Beale Miller, R. N., have returned to the city. They spent an enjoyable month in this fashion, visiting relatives and friends en route.

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SMOKE

TOBACCO

The safe operation of a punch press requires experience and skill but, according to testimony obtained by the National Safety Council from its members, the sex of the operator has little relation to the hazards of the work. In handling small material, women are usually more dextrous than men are. Where larger pieces are handled, however, men have had previous experience in this line of work, we have had more accidents among the women during the first two or three weeks of employment at punch press work.

"However, after both men and women have become familiar with the machines and realize the risks of the work, we do not find any difference in the hazard. Possibly, the women are less inclined to take chances after they have learned the dangers."

"We try to eliminate as far as possible."

(N. Y. Times.)

Accident Hazard the Same for Men and Women Punch Press Workers.

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