POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 27, 1921.

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STANDING IN THE WAY.

Once more the Times extends a polite and earnest invitation to the Globe's anonymous correspondent on harbor commission to come out from under the barn and let us look him over. He must see that it is a rather ungracious proceeding to fire from ambush upon his fellow-citizens, imputing motives, insinuating political influence and the like. It would also be useful if he would demonstrate how harbor commission would bring trade to the port. There are now said to be steamers in port waiting for orders. Where is the freight? The railroads supply the freight. They do not wait to learn the views of a harbor commission. A recent report says that freight will be provided at Portland, Maine, both winter and summer. The railroad, which provides its own terminals, will provide the freight. There is no harbor commission at Portland. There is none at Halifax. Vancouver has one, but the government provides its own terminals. In St. John there are enough wharves now on the west side to serve the needs of the C. P. R., and when it needs more it always gets them. There is an agreement to that effect. The government has both railways and steamships. It has only to provide them with adequate terminal facilities on the east side of the harbor. But for the Globe's anonymous correspondent and his sympathizers the city council would long ago have rejected an impossible harbor commission proposal and we would have been well on the way to more satisfactory conditions. Just now there is a great hullabaloo about increasing taxes, but there is no concerted effort to bring about harbor conditions such as would make the city grow and produce more taxable property and taxpayers.

THE QUESTION OF RENTS.

A correspondent of the Times gives instances where the increase in rents has been quite out of proportion to the growth in taxation. Other similar complaints have been made. The matter is one which might fairly be made the subject of inquiry. The average citizen is not in a position to judge in this matter, and if there is injustice it should be exposed. In the city of New York there is a board which deals with the question, and it seems to have been doing excellent work. A landlord is entitled to a fair return on his investment, but not an inordinate profit. If there are any who make increased taxation, or the plea of an expected increase in taxes, the excuse for demanding far more than a fair return on investment it becomes a matter of public concern, and action for the protection of the tenant is justified. The theory that a man has a right to take advantage of another man's necessity, the man having a family to support, and being practically at the mercy of the house owner, is neither sound nor in the public interest. There are many landlords in St. John who have treated tenants fairly, and have not increased rates beyond what would yield them a fair return. If there are others who seek to squeeze the last possible dollar out of their tenants, regardless of service rendered, there should be a way to get at them and bring them to a more human frame of mind. The price of building material has declined and is still declining. Labor will not cost more, and is expected to be more efficient. If increased taxes are made the excuse for raising rents the rate of increase should only be made proportionate to the taxes. The housing problem is acute because houses are scarce. The temptation to make this a reason for extortion should not be encouraged.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

The vocational school board of this city has been savagely attacked. There is also a grossly unfair attack upon the vocational training act and upon the provincial director, Mr. Fletcher Peacock. The vocational training act was a non-partisan measure, endorsed by both parties in the legislature. Mr. Peacock was appointed director because he was thoroughly qualified. So far as the carrying out of the act in St. John is concerned, it has been in the hands of a reputable group of citizens who serve without remuneration. If anybody has helpful suggestions to make the board will be glad to listen and profit thereby. Its members, however, have a right to object to venomous attacks that are not prompted by any desire to serve the needs of the public. If the board is open to criticism, let that criticism be fair, and actuated by a desire to improve rather than destroy. To cut out the grant for vocational training would be a confession of failure, which a city like St. John should not tolerate for a moment. We want more, not less, of this training, and if the right persons are not getting the benefit a remedy can easily be applied.

Sweden has adopted equal suffrage without qualification, and women will be eligible to sit in either of the houses of parliament.

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An Ontario bond issue of $10,000,000 had far more applicants than could be accommodated. This is a satisfactory indication of financial conditions.

FARMERS AND LIBERALS.

It suits the purpose of Premier Meighen and the high tariff advocates to represent the Farmers and the Liberals as advocates of complete free trade. The Grain Growers' Guide replies for the Farmers as follows:—

"The Farmers' platform does not call for absolute free trade either immediately or remotely. It calls for certain reductions in the tariff, and if the Tariff Commission has collected any evidence of value it will come in handy for the determination of those reductions. If it hasn't any evidence of value a reform government will dig it up for itself. In the meantime we will wait and see what the commission has for the public, which is more than Mr. Meighen has done in his anxiety to blacken the Farmers' movement."

The Toronto Globe is equally emphatic in its statement of the position of the Liberal party in relation to the tariff. It says:—

"Liberals and Progressives are as deeply interested in the prosperity of the Canadian people as any high-as-Haman's-gallows protectionist. They desire that prosperity shall be widespread, and that the fiscal policy of the country, instead of being so framed as to encourage the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few privileged captains of industry, shall make it easier for the average man to provide those dependent on him with food, clothing and shelter. They propose, in short, that the tariff of Canada shall be based on the principle of obtaining the maximum revenue possible from those who live luxuriously, and taxing as lightly as revenue requirements will permit the necessaries of life. That is a very different thing from the free trade fanaticism Mr. Meighen has been endeavoring—without success—to ascribe to all who refuse to bow the knee to the group of reactionary tories who have usurped power at Ottawa, and who propose to hold it till the end of the parliamentary term without securing the consent of the Canadian people."

Mr. Meighen has carried the tariff issue into the West Peterboro by-election, and hopes to win. With so many candidates in the field it would be folly to predict results there, but even if the high protectionist should not win it is a foregone conclusion that the tariff issue will be the chief one on which the government will go to the country, when it has mustered up enough courage to make its appeal in a general election. Allied with it of course will be the American bogey, and the delicate insinuation that only a Conservative victory can save Canada from the Bolshevists and all manner of reactionaries. Neither Farmers nor Liberals, however, will permit themselves to be wrongly represented in regard either to the tariff or the orderly conduct of public affairs.

The Sackville Tribune neatly describes one class in every community as those "who have lost everything except their money, which they guard with unusual care lest by any chance the revisors and tax collectors should learn of its whereabouts." It is members of this class who always see disaster hovering near when any forward movement is projected. Too much attention should not be paid to their views. The Tribune makes in the same article another observation which is worth passing on to a wider circle of readers. It is as follows: "For a man in this enlightened age to place himself on record as being opposed to vocational training is sure evidence that he is living in the past, rather than in the present."

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Eight hundred Ontario widows with children are receiving mothers' allowances from the province. They are civil servants raising children for the state—and there is no nobler or more valuable service. But for the aid given them their children would suffer deprivation, would be under-nourished, and likely to grow up to be less efficient citizens than those reared in comfortable homes under a mother's care. Indeed the ranks of delinquents are too often recruited from those deprived of proper care in their early youth. Ontario does well, and is not the only province having such a system. What of New Brunswick?

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The birth rate in England for 1920 was the highest for ten years, and the death rate the lowest recorded, as was also the infant mortality rate. This is a remarkable showing. The total number of deaths was the lowest since 1862.

ONTARIO BONDS WERE DISPOSED OF QUICKLY

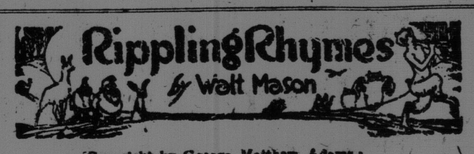
Toronto, Ont., Jan. 27.—The Ontario bond issue of ten million dollars yesterday was well over-subscribed. The price to the public will bring a yield of 6.15.

FIRE HIGH UP IN THE WOOLWORTH BUILDING

In the Woolworth building, yesterday, there was a fire in the forty-third story. Slight damage was done.

MUST ATTEND CHURCH.

Freeport, L. I., Jan. 27—LeRoy Hamilton, seventeen years old, was sentenced to attend church every Sunday for two months. He was arrested following the theft of a storage battery.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

MIDWINTER SORROW.

Alas, there's trouble everywhere, according to the daily news, and countless cupboards now are bare of pumpkin pies and oyster stews, and children wail and tear their hair because they haven't any shoes. And we might preach to those who lack the pies that human critters need, reminding them how, some months back, they cut a gorgeous swath, indeed, and how we urged them to pack in brine the kopeck and the seed. But preaching is an empty graft when human innards madly ache; there always is a mighty raft of sermons when kids call for cake, when poor folks yearn to sit abaaft a large and luscious sirloin steak. And so we'll brighten up the lives of those who walk knee deep in woe, and stake the poor gents and their wives from our abundant stack of dough; the Christmas spirit still survives in all of us, we'd have you know. We'll spring our platitudes when next prosperity around is seen, when workingmen are not perplext by absence of the good long green; a pie is better than a text when meals are few and far between.

LIGHTER VEIN.

The New Way.

"Where's the office boy?"

"Gone to the football game."

"Gone to the football game! He didn't ask me if he could go."

"No. That custom has gone out of style. He just said he was going and would be back in the morning, and if you didn't like it he wouldn't be back at all."—Detroit Free Press.

Should Dry Up.

Knowitall—I have some good ideas I wish your journal would absorb.

Editor—Do you think we're running a blotting paper?—Boston Transcript.

Popular Brand.

(From the Boston Transcript.)

The new girl at the perfumery counter had received her training in a bookstore. She hadn't been long on her new job when a customer, after looking over the display, picked up a bottle and asked, "Is this a good brand of perfume?"

"That, madame, is one of our six best smellers," declared the newsales girl.

She Didn't Know Everything.

"Bobby, your mother tells me you are a very bright boy, and she expects you to be a great man," said Mr. Blossom as he sat in the parlor waiting for Bobby's sister.

"Ma never does 'spect right. She doesn't know what she's talking about. She told dad she's 'spected you and my sister would be married 'fore spring, and that was more than a year ago."

Profiteering Approved.

"I'm sorry, young man," said the druggist, as he eyed the small boy over the counter, "but I can only give you half as much castor-oil for a dime as I used to."

The boy blithely handed him the coin. "I'm not kicking," he remarked. "The stuff's for me."—The Watchman-Examiner, New York.

The Cash Call.

(Baltimore Sun.)

Marse Henry Watterson said at a Louisville dinner:

"One day I met an old colored man toting a fine ham under each arm. It was a gray, cold day, windy and threatening snow, but the old fellow had on a ragged seersucker coat and seersucker trousers—you could see his black skin through the holes.

"'Ephraim,' I said, 'why did you spend your money for those magnificent hams? You'd have done better to buy an overcoat.'"

Old Eph rolled his eyes at me and said solemnly:

"'Mars Henry, when Ah axes mah back fo' credit Ah gits it; but when Ah speaks to dis'—and he gave his stomach three or four whacks with a ham—'it calls fo' de cash.'"

EXCITING MIDNIGHT CHASE OF CROWD IN STOLEN AUTOMOBILE

(Montreal Herald.)

Coming from the Motordrome at midnight Malcolm LeMieux, of LeMieux and Copping, motor distributors, and vice-president of the Montreal Motor Owners' Association, caught sight of his $4,500 Chandler coupe with four men and two women occupants. Requisitioning the car of a friend he commenced a thrilling chase which lasted a half hour.

Before the end was in sight Mr. La Mieux had travelled many streets going 40 miles an hour. At one point in the chase constable D'Aigle jumped aboard his car and was pulled to a seat in the auto as he caught the speeding chaser.

The hunt started when the owner saw his machine driven by and into the darkness of a side street. The car was stolen last Tuesday from in front of the Princess theatre and when recovered Friday, was so dismantled that it cost the owner $684 to repair it.

Every tire was gone, and mud guards removed with all the essentials parts of the car.

On the first day out, after the repairs had been made it disappeared a second time. The owner was at his place of business on Belmont street for a moment and was asked by a friend if he had loaned his car. The question sent him to the street to find that for the second time within a week his automobile had been taken without permission.

When he got a sight of it last night he requisitioned another auto and for a time there was nothing on the road to pass him. Through St. Denis around a square to Sherbrooke, to Berri street, up Mentana to Cherrier, pursued and pursuers held on. Several times it looked as if the followers would overtake the car ahead, each time street cars prevented capture. At Duluth the policeman jumped aboard and down the street to Pine avenue to a street car crossing, the race progressed.

Cars which had foiled the capture twice, proved to be the means of arrest. With a tramway stopped in the street the trailed car turned, shot ahead of it and faced to the south. The auto containing the owner glided around the rear of the tramway and his chaffeur planted his car straight across the space between the street car and the curbing, blocking further passage there.

Constable D'Aigle, who had been informed of the thefts, jumped out and captured the chauffeur, who gave his name as Angelo Perenti, and his address as Wiseman avenue. When Judge Leet heard the circumstances of the case he placed a bail bond of $2,500 which the accused will have to furnish to get his freedom, pending the enquete. His five companions, with no charge upon which to hold them, were allowed to depart.

"LE GRAND FRANKLIN."

(From the Toronto Globe.)

The two hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin is being observed this week in the United States by a national thrift campaign. His memory and teachings are beig honored throughout the union by a wide variety of public functions in the hope that a people who have won a reputation for waste and extravagance may be persuaded that the large place their nation occupies in the councils of the world can be held practising the simple but mighty virtues of the great statesman and diplomat who wished to be remembered rather as a prudent printer.

No man in his difficult day played so prominent a part in moulding the destiny first of the American colonies and later of the young Republic as did Franklin, described by Rufus Choate at a banquet as 'The great Philadelphian born in Boston." In 1723, when seventeen years of age, he entered the printing trade in Philadelphia. Next year found him in London in the same employment. Three years later he was back in Philadelphia with his former employer, Samuel Keimer. In 1729 he began the printing of The Pennsylvania Gazette, which thrives today under another name. The busy Franklin applied himself to mastering foreign languages, and in 1736 he entered the service of his country by becoming clerk of the General Assembly. He went to London in 1757 and won his first battle for self-government by obtaining from the British Government recognition of the right of the colonies to be consulted in the making of their laws. In his many subsequent missions to the British and French capitals, both before and during the American struggle for independence. Franklin created a deep impression by his candor and his perspicacity. John Adams wrote home from Paris once that Franklin's visits to Paris were of great importance to the whole of Europe.

This printer-statesman and some relations with Canada. A pamphlet he published in 1760 had much to do with the determination of the British Ministry to retain Canada in the face of the argument that its retention might embarrass the Home Government in its dealings with the Thirteen Colonies. Sixteen years later he, with Charles Carroll, Samuel Chase and John Carroll, came to Montreal, conferred with General Arnold and unsuccessfully sought the co-operation of Canada in the War of Independence. He helped to draw up immediately afterward the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia.

Franklin thought deeply, wrote much and worked hard at his trade. His publications administered a sharp turn to American thought in the nineteenth century as well as his own. He knew Adam Smith personally and by sympathetic reading of the latter's work, and he was an ardent free trade advocate. In the realm of morals Franklin stood high. He recognized in practice thirteen virtues:—Temperance, Silence, Order, Resolution, Frugality, Industry, Sincerity, Justice, Moderation, Cleanliness, Tranquility, Chastity and Humility. The greatest of these in the minds of his countrymen today, grown dizzy with prosperity, are Frugality and Industry, so by six days of oratory they would elevate themselves to the thrifty eminence of "Poor Richard," whom an ebullient France acclaimed as "Le Grand Franklin."

ENORMOUS PAPER BILL OF PUBLISHERS

Newsprint to Value of More Than $300,000,000 Will be Consumed By American Press.

According to Editor and Publisher the newsprint bill of the American press for the calendar year 1921 will be considerably over $300,000,000 providing the contract prices announced by five big companies, rule firm for the entire year. This $300,000,000 should be compared with a paper bill in 1920 of approximately $226,000,000.

Roughly, the increased cost in 1921 for newsprint alone that American newspaper publishers now face is $75,000,000. This vast sum must be wrung from the very life-blood of the newspaper business, and, in turn advertisers, and finally the public in general.

These figures are naturally conservative, because they are based upon a total production of 2,317,000 tons in 1920 and an estimated production of 2,500,000 tons for 1921, under an average selling price of the five largest manufacturers, and no account is taken of the spot market prices under which a percentage of the tonnage of 1920 was sold.

MOTOR PREAMBULATORS.

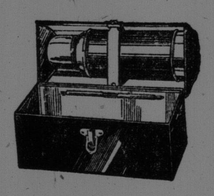
Chicago, Jan. 27—Manufacturers report a falling off in the demand for baby carriages. New models, they say, will be operated by storage batteries.

At a meeting of the St. Andrew's Sunday school society the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Superintendent, J. H. Murphy; secretary-treasurer, F. Allen; assistant secretary-treasurer, H. B. Rossiter; superintendent of the cradle roll, Miss Edna Simon; pianist, Mrs. W. G. Stratton; librarians, Misses I. Cushing, E. McRobbie, and L. Robinson; in charge of attendance button, Miss T. Ferguson.

Under the auspices of the vocational committee a public lecture was given last night as the second in the series. Dr. D. C. Malcolm spoke on "The Living Machine" and Mrs. James Magee gave an address on foods. Alexander Wilson of the vocational commitee was chairman and among those present were Fletcher Peacock, director of vocational education and Commissioner John Thornton.

STORES CLOSE ON SATURDAYS AT 1 P. M. DURING JAN., FEB. AND MARCH

THERMOS METAL LUNCH KITS



With Positive Lock. Indispensable to those who are compelled to carry their noonday or midnight meal with them, giving them their hot coffee or soup, which is productive of more energy than can possibly be obtained from the same food cold.

PRICE - - $5.00

Thermos Bottles—
Pint Sizes ..... $2.00 to $5.50
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2,000 Yds. of 36 to 39 Inch

Duchess Satin,

in black, navy, copenhagen, pink, sky, nut brown, peach, taupe, sand grey, and other shades.

$2.29 yd

Worth in the regular way $4.85 per yard. on sale Friday and following days

It has been four years or more since Silks of this quality have been offered at anywhere near this price, and the extraordinary conditions following the war are the reasons today. Wholesalers have found themselves at stock taking confronted with entirely new market conditions, the need of ready cash in order to start the new year on an entirely new basis has been urgent. To obtain this quickly it has been necessary to sacrifice considerable merchandise. This Silk is a case in point. We bought for cash at just the right time and—the public gains.

Easter is coming early. Silks are going to be much worn. Women who are wise will buy Silks NOW while this offer lasts.

An opportunity such as this will not occur again. Since the purchase of this Silk, the market has stiffened and prices in many instances have already advanced. ....

SALE STARTS TOMORROW—BE EARLY.

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The Store for Silks DYKEMAN'S The Store for Silks

Smoke T&B Use it for pipe satisfaction

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R. Wilson, Ltd., Sydney St.
Emerson & Fisher, Ltd., Germain Street.
D. J. Barrett, 155 Union Street.
Geo. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq.
J. M. Logan, Haymarket Sq.
Quinn and Co., 415 Main Street.
C. H. Ritchie, 320 Main Street.
P. Nase & Son, Ltd., Indiantown.
J. A. Lipsett, Variety Store, 283 Brussels Street.
H. G. Enslow, 1 Brussels Street.
J. Stout, Fairville.
W. E. Emerson, 81 Union St., West End.

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