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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1919

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 6, 1919.

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UP TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

Is the city of St. John so poor that it cannot provide and maintain essential services?

One of these essentials is proper provision for play. The boys and girls are the most valuable asset of the city. The city council is as fully justified in providing playgrounds as any other civic service. It should regard their provision as a part of its duty. The council includes a "commissioner of parks and playgrounds." Thus the duty is recognized in the city charter. In all that has been done by private effort to provide neighborhood playgrounds those who took part were doing what the city ought to do. They were glad to help, but they were only a fraction of those who got the benefit. It is unfair to throw upon a few the burden all should share. It has been quite too much the custom. Playgrounds are for the benefit of everybody—let everybody share in paying for them. It is not necessary to make a heavy expenditure in any one year. The city council has had before it a very moderate estimate for providing a baseball diamond and running track at the entrance to Rockwood Park. Year by year more could be done till the great area available is fully equipped as a recreation field. The first step was taken eight years ago. With even a small expenditure each year since then a splendid field would now be available. Why go on fiddling?

HELPS TO MEMORY.

St. John Globe, Oct. 10, 1919.—"By the evidence it appears that the main source of supply of this potato crop was B. Frank Smith. . . . When it developed that there was a financial loss, the deputy minister of agriculture, Mr. Daggett, the minister of agriculture, Mr. Murray (afterwards Premier Murray), and the premier, George J. Clarke, discussed the situation. Subsequently the premier negotiated a loan of more than thirty thousand dollars to temporarily cover this loss and deceive the country. The source of the loan was F. W. Sumner. . . . Mr. Sumner was repaid with money received from W. B. Tennant, a political supporter of the late government, who explains that he agreed to provide the necessary funds if a company in which he was interested got a Valley Railroad contract. They got the contract. . . . The repayment to Mr. Sumner was made through G. B. Jones, then and now a member of the legislature, out of a total of \$61,500 given by Mr. Tennant from his profits on the Valley Railroad contract awarded him after the conference with Premier Clarke. What became of the \$28,000 not returned to Mr. Sumner was revealed by Mr. Jones today, adding another nasty chapter to the dirty tale. . . . A side issue feature reveals the Hon. J. B. Baxter, late attorney general, whose name does not figure in any of the main transactions, loaning the deputy minister of agriculture the sum of three thousand dollars to make good obligations in connection with the potato sale which Mr. Daggett felt he should assume."

St. John Globe, Oct. 11, 1919.—"That is stone wall testimony that cannot be got around or explained away. It is proof that the province lost and that there was craft. It is the reason why all legislative members identified with that phase of the affair should be firmly asked to step down and out and to stay out."

St. John Globe, March 19, 1919.—"The commissioner finds himself compelled by the evidence adduced to point out that some of the money secured as a result of the Valley Railroad bargain was used for political campaigning in the government interest. He is forced to conclude that George B. Jones and Hon. J. B. Baxter gave financial aid to W. B. Tennant to help him conceal the \$61,500 transaction at the time of the Valley Railroad investigation; that Jones was false before one or the other enquires; that ex-Premier Murray was constantly informed as to the progress of events in connection with the potato transaction and is largely responsible for the loss incurred; either through neglect or incompetency; and that B. Frank Smith is still indebted to the province for \$2,375 advanced him and never returned. The report is an exhaustive review of the evidence. It will undoubtedly be attacked even more viciously than before it was presented; but attack is not answer to the evidence. To this the house and country must give attention. The province was plundered and financial trickery of the most despicable kind employed in an effort to conceal the facts. For a time the effort was successful. Today the whole dirty story is pretty well laid bare."

St. John Globe, Dec. 20, 1918.—"Thursday's probe went deep and brought unexpected results in establishing yet more clearly the close relation one transaction bore to the other and in identifying the attorney general, Hon. J. B. Baxter, with the covering proceedings. At previous hearings the name of Hon. Mr. Baxter was brought into the case as the financial backer of the deputy minister of agriculture. Now he appears in the same role for W. B. Tennant, but unless Mr. Baxter is able to make explanations much more satisfying than did Mr. Tennant, it will be difficult to regard his two

financial transactions in the same light." St. John Globe, Dec. 30, 1918.—"Hon. Mr. Baxter admitted a loan to W. B. Tennant of \$40,000 to help him prepare for the Valley Railroad investigation, but denied knowledge at that time that Mr. Tennant had made the advance to cover the potato loss. . . . The Valley Railroad affair is so closely related to the potato loss, that it is impossible to view them as separate transactions, and to regard the Tennant payments, buttressed by cabinet minister knowledge and assistance, in the light some apologists would have the country view them. The evidence is too clear and the connection too plain to leave room for any doubts."

Toronto Globe.—"As a sound and profitable investment the Victory Loan cannot be excelled. It has back of it the resources of the whole Dominion. Every War Loan or Victory bond hitherto issued by the Government of Canada has sold at a higher price, and still sells at a higher price, than that at which it was issued, and there is every reason to believe that the present loan, as well as the others, will continue to advance in price. The interest return, 5 1/2 per cent., on a security as good as this has hardly been equalled since the Napoleonic Wars. In normal times previous Dominion of Canada bonds sold readily at a price which yielded the investor about 3 1/2 to 4 per cent. The rate of interest on the present Victory Loan is high, but the whole of the Dominion of Canada is security for it."

The policemen's strike in Boston failed, as did the longshoremen's strike in New York. The steel strike is a failure. Now the miners' strike engrosses attention and seems doomed to failure. The men were not asked to vote on it before they were ordered out, and they have to fight the government with the country behind it as well as the mine owners."

If the Conservative convention is responsible for the gloom that has descended like a mantle upon the city, the citizens will endure it with a certain degree of sympathy for those who are compelled to carry such an atmosphere about with them. Moreover, it might be worse. This time last year we had the flu."

When a Democratic president congratulates a Republican governor on a political victory, as President Wilson did Gov. Coolidge of Massachusetts, the world may safely congratulate both of them. They stand for law and order, which is the only safeguard of democracy."

A Calgary despatch says:—"The discovery of a raisin whiskey still in full operation in the janitor's quarters in a local church was made here today when the home of Joseph Faline was raided by the city police." He was hearkening to the still small voice."

A writer in the Halifax Chronicle offers this bit of interesting information:—"The feminine devotees of the weed in Halifax are rejoicing in having a place where they can smoke without receiving scathing notes from the management. Address furnished on request."

Before the city hands over its harbor to the government the people should be told what the government proposes to do with it. Years have passed since Sir Robert Borden promised that this harbor would be nationalized. We are fed up on promises."

The war is not over. In Ottawa yesterday Col. Currie slapped Dr. Cowan's face, and Dr. Cowan whacked Col. Currie with his cane. The regrettable part of it is that both are still able to talk."

A bill creating a daylight saving law is now before the Maine legislature. It is supported by the cities and by the Maine Federation of Labor, but opposed by the farmers."

The city and province are not yet giving the Victory Loan the support necessary to complete success. And yet it is their loan. The people will reap the benefit derived from its success."

The Woodstock Press has been so much upset by the recent by-election that it devotes half a column to a fervid defence of Hon. B. Frank Smith. Well, he needs it."

This is the day on which the Conservatives of the province are to meet in convention and recall the glories of the days that were. Also, to choose a leader and a policy. It is a sad occasion."

A delegate to the Conservative convention says the provincial roads are very bad. It may be so, but think of the road the Tory party has to travel."

Have you bought your Victory Bond? If so, induce your friends to follow so excellent an example."

"The coal strike is likely to be fought to a finish, but the end may not be far off—at that."

Rippling Rhymes

By Walt Mason

(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

NOVEMBER.

November skies are dreary, her winds as sharp as knives; and all the world seems weary, when this sad month arrives; the birds no longer tarry where tempests raise old Harry, the bees no longer carry the glucose to their hives. The cockleburrs I tended through golden summer days, the milkweeds tall and splendid, no longer meet the gaze; the frost is falling nightly, I see it gleaming white, when in the morn, politely, I cuss November's ways. The night wind, at the casement, now shrieks in fiendish glee; the furnace in the basement is calling, calling me, in Spring I shan't meet it, the summer weather freed it, but soon I'll have to feed it coal carloads two or three. No wonder if my somnet should strike a plaintive note; my uncle has my bonnet, he also has my coat; the sun-socks, my ears, my nose, my feet, the sum-mer rags I'm wearing won't do when sweating; my uncle has my gown. Alas, that bleak November, which leaves us cold and numb, is followed by December, the bummiest of the bum! Then comes fierce January, to punish the unwary; but, ho! let us be merry—the worst is yet to come!

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

THE SALT BEDS OF CANADA.

Salt is such a common article in every home that one is liable to forget its necessity—also that in Canada are some of the greatest salt beds in the world.

The upper silurian beds are found in Ontario and New York state; the Devonian in Manitoba and other parts of the west, while New Brunswick and Cape Breton have a third supply. Salt is found either in solution or in rock beds. Several salt springs arise from the lower carboniferous rocks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but this is small and the quantity of salt obtained from this supply annually is small. It is used chiefly to make a fine table salt. But in a belt ten to fifteen miles in width reaching from the Niagara River to Southampton, Ont., is a huge supply in beds. Numerous wells have been sunk through the covering layer of rock to a depth of from one to two thousand feet. At Goderich the beds average 126 feet of solid salt with much scattered in the marl above. At Blyth it is a eighty feet thick. Salt is mined in the Goderich section in this way: the water that finds its way down the outside of the pipes sunk forms an almost saturated solution which is pumped to the surface and evaporated in the same way that maple syrup is made from the sap of the tree. A saturated brine contains 23 1/2 per cent salt and frequently a twenty-four per cent solution is obtained in the Canadian mines or in pans ranging in length from 100 to 300 feet in length with a slow fire burning beneath.

The industry is one producing much work and wealth for the Canadian people—a certain source of employment and income.

TRUTH

(Rev. George Scott) There's nothing holier than truth. The painful virtues that we teach To curb the self will of our youth No higher than this point may reach.

Seek thou the truth although it lead To weary days and sleepless nights, If thou wouldst know in very deed The conquerors supreme delights.

Think thou the truth and let thy mind, Quick to discern be bright still, Cast falsehood from thee thou shalt find Strength to derive the bower will.

Act thou the truth and hold it cheap, To flatter vanity or power, Stretch not thy hand to grasp or keep The supple henchman's evil dower.

Speak thou the truth and never not, Nor dare to forge the subtle lie, That man is free whose soul unbought Disdains to use false sophistry.

There's nothing holier than truth, All things are changing, men must change, Let not thy heart of thoughtless youth This priceless heritage exchange.

All things are changing, men must change, And all their outward social forms Perish in heavings wild and strange And crash of elemental storms.

All things are changing, men must change, Truth rules this universe of ours And guides the planets where they range, Girding with strength to handle powers.

There's nothing holier than truth, Then guard it as a priceless gem, Here is the gift of endless youth, Through it we touch God's garment hem.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

A Cruel Parent. "How did you break your son of trying to be a poet?" "Refused to supply him with postage stamps."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Touch and Go. "That fellow is some hustler. He stays in one place only long enough to borrow money." "I see. A case of touch and go."—Baltimore American.

Golden Rule Eggs. "We should return good for evil." "That's what I'm doing. Taking back fresh eggs for the cold storage things borrowed from Mrs. Nextdoor."—Detroit Free Press.

A Horrid Man. (He admiring vase of flowers)—"Are they not beautiful? Do you know they remind me of you?" She—"But they are artificial." He—"Ah, yes, but you'd never know it."—Boston Transcript.

An old Scotswoman who had resisted all entreaties of her friends to have her photograph taken was at last induced to employ the services of a local artist. On receiving the first impression she failed to recognize herself; so, photo in hand, she set out for the artist's studio to see if there was a mistake.

"Yes, madam. It's a speaking likeness." "Aweel," she said, resignedly, "it's a humblin' sight."

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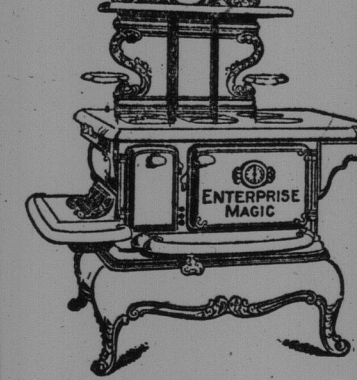
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THE MINER'S HOURS

(New York Evening Post.)

Public opinion has been more impressed by the coal miners' demand for the thirty-hour week than for a 60 per cent. increase in wages. In the course of the war it became commonplace to think in billions of dollars, and since then it has become a commonplace to speak of prices and wages in terms of 50, 75, 100 per cent. But a six-hour day per week and five-day week for the bituminous miners does seem rather steep at a time when the eight-hour day is by no means universal and when high-class labor like the printing trade is fighting for a forty-hour week. Actually the thirty-hour week in the mines is not so extortionate as it would appear at first sight, though it is radical enough in all conscience. It is regarded as the special condition, however prevailing in the coal industry, the reduction in working hours and consequent productivity would be much less than the casual reader assumes. The eight-hour day has been prevalent in the bituminous coal fields for nearly twenty-five years. The five-day week is a maximum which has obtained in practice if not in theory. Actually, however, very few years when that maximum has been reached. Long periods of slack and numerous holidays supplemented by strikes have been responsible. In the year 1908 the bituminous miners worked only 198 days; in the year 1913 they worked 203 days. Government figures for nine years between 1906 and 1915, omitting the year 1910, show an average working year of only 213 days, which gives us virtually a four-day week. The actual change involved in the miners' demand is not so great as it seems. The average of 213 days just mentioned multiplied by eight hours per day would give an actual working year of 1,704 hours. The thirty-hour week would give 1,860 hours to the year. The difference thus amounts to 156 hours a year, or some what less than three hours a week. Here obviously is no unbridgeable gulf. Not only is compromise possible, but it is conceivable that the miners might yield a whole difference and consent to a thirty-three hour week, which is virtually the condition that has obtained up till now.

The problem, therefore, as far as the dispute over hours is concerned, consists essentially in putting the soft-coal industry on a basis of uninterrupted production every week in the year and every working day in the week. If on the side of the operators slack periods can be eliminated, if on the side of the workers the free and easy taking of holidays can be stopped, a close approach to the

THE BOLSHIEVIST CREED.

(London Times.)

The Bolshievist ideal State would stifle the soul and mind of the individual more completely than the narrowest and the most degrading of religions, and would deliver his body and all his possessions to an abject and hopeless slavery. In the Bolshievist State there would be no masters, no classes, no employers, no capitalists. Nobody would possess anything. All would belong to the state. All would have to work to the age of sixty-four, and all work skilled or unskilled, would be regarded as of equal value, and would receive the same remuneration in the shape of a ration in kind, determined by the minimum judged necessary for the laborer's support. Money is to be abolished. Barter, in the future, is to take its place. Forced labor and resort to tickets as the only means of obtaining food are to compel the intelligentsia to work for Bolshievisim. The compulsory labor of the rich must be preliminary to the compulsory labor of all. A central statistical bureau would decide what should be the output in the necessities of life, and would apportion the labor of the country to produce it. There would be no religion, for "believed in God and the Devil retards progress," and indeed "the destruction of religion is as essential as that of the classes. The state, by undertaking education, would free the children from this pernicious superstition."

ERECT A PROPER BUILDING.

To the Editor of The Times-Star. Sir,—Regarding the old court house wreck, your editorial of the 5th inst., "Forward or Backward," on this subject should have been printed in larger type to ensure public attention.

We appreciate old landmarks of merit such as the court house, but they must also be considered from a business standpoint.

This building should be the most imposing and the most important one in St. John. The present one will not give enough space worth considering for the requirements. To add in height adds the greatest risk of ruining the architectural features which so many of our citizens and societies are now lauding.

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close to the minimum compatible with public necessity. They imply a sustained production uninterrupted by strikes, which in the year 1914 involved the loss of nearly 10 per cent. of the total number of actual working days in the entire bituminous industry. They involve, too, a sustained efficiency on the part of the worker, not to speak of the increased hourly output which ought to come with a reduction in hours and days of labor. Such efficiency will not be obtained if the new working week is "basic" instead of actual; that is to say, if the workers are planning longer working hours with overtime pay. In such cases the main argument for reduced hours of labor, the humanitarian and social argument, disappears.

But these figures are obviously very

USE The Want Ad Way