

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 1, 1921.

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TRADE COMPARISONS.

In attempting to ascertain the condition of trade there has been a tendency to use war prices as a measure of comparison. The New York Journal of Commerce points out that this is a wrong thing to do and that if the pre-war standard is taken it will be found that the present state of business, both domestic and foreign, is large. It says: "Both exports and imports, measured in quantities, are above their true pre-war level, and taking them together they are far above the old base. We speak of them today as having fallen off, simply because prices have fallen. But there is a demand for shipment to foreign buyers of as much food and materials as well as of about as many manufactured and semi-manufactured goods as before the war. It has always been a mistake to accept the war level as a basis of comparison, and this mistake is more obvious because it is plainer and plainer that we are not likely to get back to the war level or anything like it—indeed, ought not to do so."

It is probably true that complaints about trade conditions are due not so much to diminished turnover as to losses caused by declining prices. As one reviewer says, "stocks of all commodities in hand a year ago have had to be written down in value, and in respect of manufacturers and wholesalers goods have been sold at a loss. The falling down of prices has been slower with retailers, but no class of traders has escaped loss on stocks held when the price recession began. The point is that the volume of business has not diminished to anything like the same extent as the value."

So far as the trade of Canada is concerned, it is pointed out that July exports from the United States fell off \$200,000,000 from the figure for the corresponding month last year. This amounted to about fifty per cent. However, more than a dozen principal commodities the quantity shipped was actually greater than a year ago. United States statistics show that for the year ending June 30, 1921, the import of hides and skins fell off 72 per cent in value and 56 per cent in quantity; wool fell off 63 per cent in value and 25 per cent in quantity; coffee 43 per cent, and four per cent; raw rubber 58 per cent, and 38 per cent; crude rubber 58 per cent, and 44 per cent. In the case of foodstuffs the volume has kept up well, but the value has been much lower. "All depends," says one observer of business conditions, "on how trade is measured. If the measure is price then a heavy shrinkage has occurred and large losses have befallen both producers and distributors; while if the measure is quantity, the contraction has not been so serious."

Business houses, in other words, have been down to falling prices rather than to diminished sales. "Quantity movement is still much in excess of any pre-war year, and when prices all round have been adjusted to the lower level several basic commodities have already reached, trade will again become profitable even though the volume is not enlarged."

FOR THE MEN OF THE SEA.

A writer in the London Daily Chronicle suggests that the various maritime nations might frame an international agreement regarding the placing of provisions on desolate ocean islands and at points along great stretches of bleak, uninhabited coastline for the benefit of shipwrecked crews or vessels short of food in the vicinity of the supply depots. He points out that there are huge expanses of ocean in which a ship in distress might find itself for a long period absolutely alone, with food and ration dwindling rapidly, and he urges the governments interested to take up the matter in earnest.

This has led to the announcement that some countries, including Canada, New Zealand, France, Norway and Chile, have already found it necessary to place food stores on islands where desolate crews may land, and in more than one instance this food has been the means of saving hungry men from starvation. In 1906 the crew of the whaling schooner Catherine, which was wrecked on Creag Island in the Indian Ocean, lived on the food stores at one of the depots placed there by the Norwegian government.

IT'S AFTER A VACATION THAT THE REST IS NEEDED



—Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle.

LIGHTER VEIN.
Either Way.
Parson—Are you prepared for the hereafter?
Optimistic One—Sure! If I go to heaven—fine! If I go to the other place—well I've been married five years.

A New Record Set.
"Some time ago you called me the worst scoundrel you ever met. Will you take back those words now?"
"Surely I'll do that. Since then I've found one who is much worse than you."

Don't Call Me Names.
"A tall, strong man walked into a shop. 'I want a set of lady's hair,' he said. 'What kind?' asked the male assistant. 'That brown set in the window will do if it's not too dear,' replied the tall, strong man. 'Oh, you mean skunk!' said the assistant. 'The poor assistant is still in hospital.'"

The Appearance of Evil.
"Sister Henderson," said the deacon, "I should avoid even the appearance of evil."
"Why, deacon, what do you mean?"
"On your sideboard you have several cut glass decanters, each half filled with what appears to be ardent spirits."

Optical Stunts.
"I noticed him throwing glances at her,"
"And I saw her when she caught his eye."

Beauty While You Wait.
(London Newspaper)
What kind of a face shall I have this season? This question suggests itself to many modern women, for the beauty culture craze is increasing. A woman who has the necessary fee of about fifty guineas and courage in proportion to undergo the operation can do so with the assurance of a Botticelli angel or a Roman empress.

When Electing Kings.
The Tocmac was the real legislative assembly, especially convened for the consideration of important questions such as the election of a king or the adoption of laws and ordinances. The Dal (pronounced Dhaw) was composed of men who corresponded roughly with the Knights of the Shire. Its principal duties were the assessment of fines and levying of taxes, the maintenance of highways, the duties of ward and ward, the fiscal business of the province, as well as questions of war and peace.

Just Graduated.
Jack—The college girl I am engaged to picked me up on grammar before a week had passed over our heads.
Tom—You got off easy—the one I knew corrected my English while I was proposing to her.—Boston Transcript.

MARRIED YESTERDAY.
In Centenary Methodist church, yesterday afternoon, Miss Ella Tait, daughter of Mrs. S. F. Hatfield, 252 Princess Street, was united in marriage to Harry Douglas Booth of Springfield, Kings county, by Rev. R. G. Fulton. They left last evening on a honeymoon trip to Prince Edward Island, and on their return will reside in Springfield.

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FAST WRITERS OF SHORTHAND

Recently The Times announced that the shorthand championship had been won by Albert Schneider, New York City, a Gregg writer, twenty years old, with an average of accuracy at 200, 210 and 280 words, respectively, or 97.9 per cent. John F. Daly, also of New York City, and Isaac Pitman writer, came second with a score of 97.3 per cent. The world's record of 98.3, made by Nathan Behring, a disciple of Isaac Pitman, and four times champion, still stands.

Albert Schneider is a free-lance reporter, and the youngest that has ever held the title of champion. He wrote 175 words a minute in a literary test without making an error. On questions and answers, jury system, he wrote 280 words a minute with forty-four errors. On a charge to a jury he wrote 240 words a minute with twenty-two errors. In a literary test he wrote 200 words in a minute with twelve errors.

The showing made by amateurs was a revelation. Miss Alice M. Menckel, of Minneapolis, a writer of scientific shorthand, Pitman, which she commenced to study in 1919, won the first prize in the 160-word test with four errors, a record for accuracy of 99.5 per cent, and tied with two professionals for first place in the 175-word test with 99.3 per cent. accuracy. Miss Elora of Minneapolis, also a writer of scientific shorthand, who took up the study only in 1920, also won a speed certificate with 97.50 per cent. accuracy at 175 words per minute. Seven out of twenty-two certificates for 160 words were taken by amateurs.

The association will meet next year at New London, Conn.

An interesting discussion upon the topic "Training Shorthand Reporters," opened by Clyde H. Marshall, New York, directed attention to the acute shortage of competent shorthand reporters. The association appointed a committee to act in co-operation with the Shorthand Association of New York State and the American Association in appealing to the Rockefeller Foundation to endow a chair of shorthand in the university for training shorthand reporters.

The necessity of defining a clear line of demarcation between office stenography and the profession of verbatim reporting was emphasized.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REVENUE IN AUGUST

Ottawa, Sept. 1.—(Canadian Press)—Excise and customs revenue to the total of \$20,614,464 was collected during August. The collections were as follows: Customs import duties \$10,502,136;

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Geo. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq.
Quinn and Co., 155 Main St.
C. H. Ritchie, 320 Main St.
P. Nise & Son, Ltd, Indianopolis.
J. A. Liberty, Variety Store, 283 Brussels St.
H. G. Enslow, 1 Brussels St.
Stout, Fells.
W. E. Emmerson, 81 Union St. West Side.

JUDGE CLUTE DEAD

Toronto, Aug. 31.—Mr. Justice Clute of the Supreme Court of Ontario died this afternoon after a long illness.

A STORY OF CARUSO.

Caruso's vocal range was so great that he used to amuse himself and his auditors by singing bits of music written for baritone and even for basses. His singing of a bass solo in "La Boheme" when the basso suddenly lost his voice, was widely chronicled, but on some occasions he indulged in similar diversions so successfully that critics failed to notice the departures from the score. When he sang with a baritone who possessed an unusually high voice Caruso sometimes traded parts in ensemble numbers, and these who were applauding the fine high notes of "Caruso" were really cheering the other artist.