

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 1, 1922.

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A GREATER ST. JOHN.

Is not the time opportune to consider a Greater St. John? If this city is to grow, as everybody believes it must, it will eventually overtake and absorb and read out beyond the present suburbs of East and West St. John. That has been the history of most other cities. Sooner or later an agreement has to be made between the city and the formerly outlying districts. This being so, the sooner the amalgamation is brought about, on terms that would be mutually fair and advantageous, the better for all concerned. Naturally the people in suburban areas fear that they would be forced to pay higher taxes, without receiving compensating advantages, the bulk of the money being spent near the heart of the city. This, however, is a matter of arrangement. Doubtless both sides would have to make concessions, but there should be no real ground for fear that in the general result the smaller community would suffer. This is evident from the view of the people of East St. John, who have already approached the city with a tentative proposition and asked the city council for a conference upon the whole subject. If there are big enough men in the council and among the delegates from East St. John they should be able to get down to a basis of union which would meet with general approval. The question is one that deserves prompt and thoughtful consideration, and it should not be found to be incapable of solution. The growth of East St. John is steady. It needs the city and the city needs it. Why not get together? The like is true of Fairville although the people of that district are not yet convinced of the fact.

A BETTER OUTLOOK.

Higher prices for farm products has had a very stimulating effect upon business conditions in the American west. Not only do the farmers reap a benefit, but industries feel the effect of improved demand for their products. Despatches to the New York Evening Post are more cheerful in tone than for a long time. There has also been an increase in the production of steel. The improvement in the United States is reflected in Canada, where there has also been an advance in wheat, and a slight improvement in business sentiment. Another indication is the improved condition of the stock markets. While this continent is yet a long way from being out of the woods the conditions are improving, and trade and industry are quick to respond to any movement that points to increased business. Even in St. John the effect of the gradual improvement is seen in a larger movement of grain and more work for men who labor on the waterfront. While local business in this province is still to a certain extent marking time, there are indications that when the spring opens up there will be an increase in activity. We have come well through the winter, and basic conditions are sound. The maritime provinces can stand a depression better than most parts of the country.

AMATEUR SPORT.

St. John men who are even younger than middle age do not need to be told that professionalization or semi-professionalism kills sport herabouts. They can remember when the last killing took place, and how for some years this city was without even a good baseball diamond. They are also able to remember that persons interested in clean amateur sport and the physical development of young people began to build up again by laboring first to get playgrounds and then to former organizations affiliated with the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada. It is solely due to the patient efforts of these friends of real sport that the wonderful revival of interest in the last two or three years has come about. They got no assistance and no sympathy from those who seek to professionalize sport for profit. These facts should not be overlooked in giving consideration to present conditions in the maritime provinces. It is not the fault of the maritime branch of the A. A. U. of C. if a wave of semi-professionalism swept over these provinces. The only fault that can be found with its conduct is that at the outset it was a bit too lenient. Quick advantage was taken of that lenience by sport promoters who had an eye on the box-office or on fast play please the bleachers, and now the line must be drawn. Amateur sport is not after "a gate." It must of necessity pay its way, but that does not include a profit for promoters. There is no objection to professional sport, when it is properly labeled, but that has not always been done; and there are always those who would cheerfully deprive athletes of amateur standing from motives having no relation whatever to the interests of true sport. The Maritime Branch of the A. A. U. of C. deserves general support in its present campaign.

The Hydro-Electric Commission is not trying to cram a dose of bitter medicine down the throats of the people of St. John. It merely offers them cheap light and power. Why is the offer not accepted without delay?

IN MEXICO.

From the Mexican journal El Universal, we learn that by the latest census records the population of Mexico is 14,500,000 and that of this total 7,085,010, or a majority are women. As a former census placed the population at 15,000,000 El Universal asks where the other half million have gone, along with the natural increase that would be expected. It assumes that ten years of civil war caused a large emigration, and says that in ten years the number of Mexicans living in the southern portion of the United States has more than quadrupled. Since Oregon became president Mexico has enjoyed comparative quiet, although recently it became necessary to introduce a number of rebel generals to a firing squad. The history of Mexico has been one of hopeless discord for many years, but the present administration appears to be more intelligent and effective than its predecessors, and if it is able to carry forward its policy of education the future of the country may be brighter than a few years ago seemed possible. It is an interesting fact that there are as many or more women than men in the country, and if the former can be aroused to take a deeper interest in matters affecting them and their families great results might fairly be anticipated. Education, however, must come first.

Edmonton Bulletin.

"On the road to reconstruction Canadians have at least got far enough along to know what is the matter with the country. Everybody seems agreed that the root cause of the business dullness, scarce money and lack of jobs is that the farmer is not getting as much for his products as he used to get. What has to be done next is tolerably clear, even if we don't like it. The outsider fixes the price the farmer can get, and we cannot compel him to pay more. The alternative is to scale expenses and producing costs down to the level of the farmer's depleted income."

Montreal Gazette.

"The one and only deduction to be made from the census returns is that Canada is not progressing in population commensurate with the merits and attractions of the country, and the moral to be drawn is that a more energetic immigration policy should be pursued."

The path of Premier Lloyd George is

at present beset with difficulties. He has never, however, found progress easy, and has shown a remarkable capacity for overcoming obstacles. In view of all he has accomplished as prime minister he ought to be the most highly esteemed of British statesmen.

When will the citizens have an authoritative statement of the cost of a

hydro distribution system? That is the first essential. The Ross report is discredited. Is Mr. Phillips' estimate too low? The city council should get an answer to this question.

Griffith and Collins have a majority in the

Dall Eireann. There is some bitterness of feeling between the republicans and the friends of the provisional government, but the general Irish situation continues to improve.

The Egyptian protectorate has been

abandoned by Britain. The Egyptians now have the coveted opportunity to show their capacity for ordered self-government. They have Britain to thank that chaos did not long since prevail.

Early risers this morning discovered

that March had brought her winds along, and had not tempered them to the shorn lamb. It was a real winter morning.

HUNDREDS BOUGHT BARGAIN RAINCOATS

The United Sales Company, who have engaged the premises at 105 Charlotte street, formerly occupied by the College Inn, for the quick disposal of 2000 Dominion Raysters (waterproofs), opened this lively merchandising event at 9:30 o'clock this morning and at the hour of this writing people were still flocking to the place. It is expected large crowds will be made into the store before night. However, the store is kept open in the evening and the staff of clerks is large and alert. In fact it does not take much effort to sell a \$10 or a \$12 brand new raincoat for \$3 or \$4, which is a fair example of the bargains that are going.

An interesting illustrated lecture on Baptist missionary work in India was given last night under the auspices of the mission band of the Fairville Baptist church. The pastor, Rev. C. T. Clark, was the lecturer of the evening. After the address, the members of the band took part in a pleasing programme of recitations.

THE WINTER HOUR.

(By Robert Underwood Johnson)

Of all the hours of day or night
Be mine the winter candle-light,
When Day's usurpers of Love's throne—
Fame, Pride, and tyrant Care—are
Flooded.

And hearts are letters of his desire
Yielding their secret at the fire.
Now beauty in a woman's face
Glow with a sympathetic grace,
And friend draws closer unto friend,
Like travellers near a journey's end;
In casual talk some common hope
Finds fresher wing and farther scope;
The eye has language fit to speak,
Thoughts that by day 't were vain to
seek.

Out of their silence, and the hand

Grasps with a comrade's sure demand.
Pile high the winter's cheer and higher—
The world is saved, not lost, by fire.

LIGHTER VEIN.

How She Proposed.

Pearl had just become engaged, and Phyllis was naturally dying to know all about it. "O, do tell me, Pearl!" she said at last, "how did Mr. Timidman ever pluck up enough courage to propose?" "He is so dreadfully bashful," "O," exclaimed Pearl, "he seemed to do it easily enough! I merely asked him if he didn't think mother would make an ideal mother-in-law, and he replied at once."

Family Name.

The smart young man—his school honors thick upon him, and his intention to teach the world in general, and his father in particular, the manner in which up-to-date commerce should be conducted—stood earnestly holding forth in his father's study, and was saying, with emphasis, "I will devote my whole life to the interests of the business. It shall be my aim and ambition to keep the family name free from stain."

A Carver.

The new boarder shyly took his seat at Mrs. Simpkins' table. "May I ask, sir," said the old boarder, "what your occupation is?" "Oh! I am a sculptor," replied the newcomer. "You carve marble, do you?" pursued the veteran. "I do."

GERMAN PARENTS WANT CHILD BACK.

Girl Adopted by French Couple in 1914 Never Saw the Fatherland.

Paris, Feb. 28.—In the next few days France may find herself involved in a diplomatic discussion over the "reparation" of a German girl, who, according to her own declarations, does not wish to see it.

The subject in question is eight-year-old Marcelle Heymann, who was born in Nancy in 1914 of German parents, who upon the outbreak of the war were in France. A French family named Demange, neighbors of the interned Germans, realizing the hardships the infant faced, took her into their home. All parties concerned believed at the time the war would be a matter of a few months. Instead, the war continued year after year, and the foster parents continued to care for the child, whom they brought up as their own, and for whom they developed a great affection.

Last year the strange but happy family

was suddenly disturbed by Marcelle's father, who, writing from Germany, demanded his daughter. The parents refused to pay the child's expenses incurred in keeping her. The child's father refused to pay the child's expenses incurred in keeping her. The child's father refused to pay the child's expenses incurred in keeping her.

Demange meanwhile wants the child

far more than the \$500 francs, and expresses himself as being happy that Heymann will not make the just payment in order to obtain possession of her. As for Marcelle, she bursts into tears at the mention of being sent to Germany.

EVANGELISTS HERE

Rev. Alexander and Mrs. Torrey to Conduct Special Services.

Rev. Alexander and Mrs. Torrey

arrived in the city on the Montreal train today from Toronto to conduct a three weeks revival series in the Victoria street Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Torrey are people of captivating appearance and for the last fourteen years have been successfully conducting revival services in Canada and the United States. Mrs. Torrey is director of music at the services and is also an excellent soloist. The week night services will be held in the auditorium of the old church.

CENSUS PADDING FOUND AT REGINA

Four Enumerators Fined for Swelling City's Population—Got Five Cents a Name.

Ottawa, March 1.—Census "padding" is

under close investigation. Already, according to official advice here, four prosecutions of enumerators have been undertaken and fines imposed. The city of Regina, Saskatchewan, was the first in point. Investigation by the census authorities showed that irregularities had been committed and several thousand fictitious names added to the census. Four enumerators were prosecuted. It was found that one had padded his returns by 1,353 names; a second by 1,353 names; a third by 769 names, and a fourth by 1,127 names. S. S. Macphail, chief of the census division, who conducted the investigation at Regina, had the men prosecuted, each of them entered through census returns of guilty, and was fined \$100 and costs. Census enumerators were paid five cents for each name reported.

A NEW REVERSE FOR LLOYD GEORGE

Ominous Signs Increasing With Defeat at Bodmin.

Coalition Revolt—Premier Will Resign Unless His Followers Unite—Younger Leads Rebels.

(Associated Press Cable.)

London, Feb. 26.—The reverse for the government in the three by-elections recently held, for the Clayton division of Manchester, on February 18; the north division of Cornwall, on February 20, and the Bodmin division of Cornwall, on February 22, yesterday, are regarded as ominous for the cause of the Coalition whenever the general elections may come. Nothing is known of how soon this will be, but all parties are pursuing the election campaign with the greatest energy. There will be speeches throughout the country by the principal ministers, including the prime minister, in the coming two months. Mr. Lloyd George will make a big speech at Manchester and possibly visit other cities, and it is considered that he would hardly be likely to do this amid the difficulties presented by the Irish question, the Genoa economic conference and other matters unless an appeal to the country was believed to be near.

The revolt of the extreme Tory wing against the leadership of Mr. Lloyd George and the continuance of the Coalition has grown with great rapidity since the Irish treaty was concluded, and unless the premier is able to stem the revolt it promises to have very serious effects on the Coalition.

Tact Understanding.

The victories by two Labor candidates and one Liberal in the recent by-elections were due largely to the tact understanding between the Labor and Independent Liberal parties to avoid triangular contests. Heretofore the Labor party had resolutely refused any compact with the Liberal party, although the policies of the two parties on many questions are almost identical, hence most of the electoral contests found Labor candidates opposing Liberal candidates, the consequence being that a Coalition candidate usually secured the seat on a minority vote. This system was avoided in the three foregoing contests, which were straight fights between Labor and Coalition, or between Liberal and Coalition.

COALITION REVOLT.

Sir George Younger Must Be Put in His Place.

(Special Cable to the New York Times and Montreal Gazette.) London, Feb. 26.—In all three cases the turn over of votes against the Coalition has been remarkably high. The precedent of Mr. Asquith's loss in the Bodmin election, particularly among the women, has been nearly eighty per cent.

Since the present government came into office there have been sixty-four by-elections. The Coalition has held thirty-three seats, lost nineteen and gained two. Labor has held six, lost two and gained eleven. The Independent Liberals have held two, lost one and gained five, and the non-partisan candidates, who stood on a platform of economy, changing the government with wasteful methods, held two seats and gained three.

The Bodmin result is, in some respects,

the most important indication of the swing of the political pendulum yet recorded. Disorder in the Coalition ranks latterly has been growing apace. Leaders like Mr. Lloyd George and Austen Chamberlain, and also Lord Birkhead, still proclaim the virtues and the necessity of the continuance of the coalition, but the rank and file of Unionists is growing restive. Many among them believe that the Coalition party is a general election secure notwithstanding the more or less openly admitted apprehension of some of their leaders.

Lord Birkhead, for instance, this

week told fellow Conservatives that any idea that they could win an election as an independent party was the counsel of insanity, and he warned them that Mr. Lloyd George was unlikely to submit indefinitely to the kind of humiliation and criticism to which he was exposed by them.

Sir George Younger of the Conservative

Central Office is the head of front of this Coalition revolt. His object is to secure for his party at a general election a distribution of seats practically identical with that obtained at the general elections of 1918. The Lloyd Georgians claim that conditions now are entirely different, and that the continuance of the coalition, which according to present indications, will be fought under conditions of political topsy-turvydom calculated to place any united party with 200 votes at its command in a position of particular strength.

Some of the persons to whom the

letters are alleged to have been written were equally reticent. Mrs. Elkins denied that she had received any such letter. At the residence of Mr. and Mrs. White it was stated that the Whites were in New York City and knowledge of the letters were denied. But stationed in front of the White residence was a policeman in citizen's attire, who has been on duty there for a week, and who is relieved every night at midnight. Mrs. Haug refused to discuss the matter and Mr. Walsh and Mrs. Townsend could not be seen.

Despite official reticence, it appears

well established that the letters demanded that sums ranging from \$15,000 to \$35,000 be placed in empty tobacco cans and dropped in lonely spots on roads out of Washington.

The letter to Mrs. Townsend, it is

asserted, instructed her to place fifteen \$1,000 bills in a tobacco can and drop it from her automobile at a spot on the old Tanlaw road. It is asserted she was threatened with death if she refused to comply.

It is understood that the chief of the

women's bureau of the Metropolitan Police Department drove to the designated spot yesterday and dropped an "automobile" window, following directions given in the letter. Detectives and secret service men were concealed nearby. No one appeared to pick up the can.

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DEATH THREATS TO SOCIETY LEADERS

Five Prominent Women Receive Demands for Money

Calls Made for \$25,000—Mrs. White, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Townsend, Mme. Haug, and Mrs. Elkins Reported Threatened.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Under a veil of secrecy which they were able to maintain until late Thursday afternoon, the Metropolitan Police Department and Department of Justice forces have for more than a week been investigating the authorship of at least five alleged "black-hand" letters received by many prominent Washington society women threatening them with death unless they pay sums of money ranging from \$15,000 to \$25,000, which they were instructed to leave in isolated sections of the city. Those alleged to have received these letters are Mrs. Henry White, wife of the former Ambassador to Italy, and a member of the American peace commission at Versailles; Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, widow of Thomas F. Walsh of Washington and Denver; Mme. Christian Haug, widow of a former Norwegian minister to the United States; Mrs. Mary T. Scott Townsend, widow of Richard Townsend, and Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, widow of Senator Elkins, of West Virginia.

The police authorities consider it unfortunate that there should have been any publicity at this time regarding the sending of the letters. They were extremely loath today to talk about the case while action was being taken to protect those to whom the letters had been sent. It was admitted in police circles that such letters had been sent, and Chief Burns of the Bureau of Investigation admitted tonight that the matter was being investigated. However, he refused to give any information and refused to say who had received the letters. The police, despite admissions made earlier in the day, took every precaution tonight to clamp the lid on the story.

Some of the persons to whom the letters are alleged to have been written were equally reticent. Mrs. Elkins denied that she had received any such letter. At the residence of Mr. and Mrs. White it was stated that the Whites were in New York City and knowledge of the letters were denied. But stationed in front of the White residence was a policeman in citizen's attire, who has been on duty there for a week, and who is relieved every night at midnight. Mrs. Haug refused to discuss the matter and Mr. Walsh and Mrs. Townsend could not be seen.

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It is understood that the chief of the

women's bureau of the Metropolitan Police Department drove to the designated spot yesterday and dropped an "automobile" window, following directions given in the letter. Detectives and secret service men were concealed nearby. No one appeared to pick up the can.

The letter is alleged to have threat-

ened to blow up the Townsend home some night when a reception was being held if the money demanded was not paid over. The other letters are declared to have been generally similar.

The letters are said to bear evidence

of having been written by a person of good education, and while they demand money and were threatening in character, there is a disposition in certain quarters to believe that they were written by some person with a "poison pen" for purposes of mischief rather than for purposes of carrying out threats.

Chief Burns, while refusing point

blank tonight to state the name of any of the prominent women to whom such letters had been sent, explained that it was not proper to talk about the case until after its investigation has been completed.

"I think it outrageous that anything

has been published about the matter, a day or two I may be able to give you the whole story," he said.

It was intimated in another

quarter that an arrest may be made within a few days. Refusal of the police to discuss the case is understood to be due their belief that publicity might interfere with the making of an arrest.

All the women to whom letters are

leged to have been sent are prominent in Washington society circles, and are wealthy. The homes of Mrs. Townsend, Mme. Haug and Mrs. Walsh are among the show places of the fashionable world of Washington, and are within a stone's throw of one another in Sheridan Circle district. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry White is not distant.

Mrs. Elkins' residence is in the

down residential section, and in view her flat denial that she had received such a letter, given to a friend, it is rather doubtful that she was the recipient of one of the missives.

The writer of vicious letters to

sons prominent in Washington society, no new practice. But it is learned there has been considerable of this in the last six months. The particular letters under investigation have been of a slightly different character and are believed to have emanated from a single source.

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It is understood that the chief of the