

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 21, 1919

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A RADICAL SCHOOL MEASURE.

A very radical measure relating to school attendance has been introduced by Premier Hearst in the Ontario legislature. The Toronto Globe says that it aims to do in Ontario what the Fisher Bill is expected to do in England, though it is even more radical in some respects. The Globe's summary of the provisions of the bill will be of interest to the people in other provinces as well as in Ontario. We quote:—

"A salient feature is the obligation on adolescents, both boys and girls, to attend school for the full time until sixteen years of age. The present school-leaving age is fourteen, and under the new Act children will still be permitted to leave at that age if it can be shown that their services are needed at home or as wage-earners. They may also leave unconditionally before they are sixteen if they have passed the matriculation examination or taken a course of study equivalent to it.

"Another important feature is the provision for the continued education of adolescents between fourteen and sixteen years of age. Between fourteen and sixteen every adolescent must attend these part-time courses of instruction for at least 400 hours each year. For those between sixteen and eighteen the aggregate will be 320 hours each year. This part-time instruction is to be given between 8 a. m. and 4 p. m. Employers must release adolescents from work during these school hours, and the time so spent shall be reckoned as a part of the number of hours per day or per week that such persons may lawfully be employed.

"The obligation of day-time attendance at continuation classes is a very striking departure. Educational authorities assure that night schools, while doing an invaluable work, reach only a small proportion of the children who are in need of it. Compulsory night attendance would put too great a physical strain on many. In England, Scotland, and a number of the states of the union compulsory part-time and day-time attendance for adolescents has been enacted, the night schools remaining open for voluntary students of all ages. The compulsory clauses of the act will apply only to urban municipalities with a population of 8,000 and over. The object will be to divide the school course between general and vocational subjects."

It is provided that the act will not become operative until it is proclaimed by the governor-in-council, and this will give time to make provision for new or larger classes. The Times-Star recently reviewed the new English law, and pointed out that Scotland had an even more radical measure. Ontario is now getting in line, and other Canadian provinces will also be encouraged to make better provision for the education of all the children.

THE COST OF LIVING.

In a debate in the senate last week Senator Robertson made an interesting statement about the cost of living in Canada. He made the remark that the government recognized that the cost of living must decrease and wages may decrease. Senator Fowler interjected a remark that the cost of living is going up, and Senator Casgrain said that was right. The report continues:—

Hon. Mr. Robertson—"I am speaking of all articles or prices in general in Canada. From our official records, which are accurate, I find that in February the retail prices reached the top and began to descend gradually, and while the reduction in each case is so far very small yet it does indicate that in recent months, wholesale prices in November and following them, three months later, retail prices, are slowly descending, and I anticipate that this tendency will probably continue. It will be gradual and not rapid."

Senator Robertson said further that unemployment in Canada in the last three months had been less than was feared. As to wages he said:—

"If we would prevent serious industrial unrest in Canada, we must at least maintain present standards for a time, until the cost of living, which made the existing standard absolutely necessary, has been substantially altered."

The most effective way to prevent the spread of smallpox from lumber camps is to destroy any old camps that have been infected and to have all men vaccinated before they go into the woods. It cost the county of Gloucester \$26,000 last year to fight a smallpox outbreak, and the big lumber operators in that county strongly support the amendment to the health act adopted yesterday making it necessary that all men going to the camps shall be vaccinated. The act is not to come into effect for a year, and this will give ample time for every

man to receive vaccination. In the meantime vaccination should be insisted upon in the case of all school children throughout the province. Readers of the report of Dr. Hanington, medical school inspector in St. John, were surprised at the number of children who had to be sent home at the beginning of last term because they had not yet been vaccinated. If that is the case in St. John the conditions throughout the province generally where there is no medical inspection must be very much more serious. The new health act, however, will overcome this difficulty, if medical inspectors attend faithfully to their duties. It is quite possible within a few years to free this province from danger of any epidemic of smallpox.

The citizens' committee, which did such excellent work in defence of the city's interests, should not be dissolved. The fight is not yet won. The New Brunswick Power Company will spend another busy year and appear in Fredericton next year with another powerful lobby. The city's interests must also be well represented, and there should be no last minute scramble due to unpreparedness. The citizens owe a debt of gratitude to this committee, and especially to its chairman, Mr. M. E. Agar, who gave so freely of his time, and whose knowledge of civic relations with the power company proved to be of so much value. He and the committee should have far more general support and assistance during the continuation of the struggle for the city's rights.

A minority report from the public accounts committee was offered in the closing hours of the legislature at Fredericton. It was an arraignment of the Foster government. It was signed by B. Frank Smith, George B. Jones and J. K. Pinder. These signatures ought to give it great weight. A review of the political career of these three statesmen, of whom two were asked by a majority vote of the house to resign their seats, cannot but add great weight to their utterances. It is understood that when they met to draw up their report they began by singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Then they were ready for anything.

Vorwarts, the German Socialist organ, says it is unthinkable that an international conflict can be satisfactorily settled without negotiations and simply by dictation from one side. We all know how the rest of the world would have been treated had Germany been able to dictate. It is only because she failed that she wants to negotiate. The Tagblatt asserts that, unless satisfactory terms are granted Germany will not sign the peace treaty; but such bluster will not influence the Allied powers. If harsh terms are imposed on Germany it will be because Germany is unrepentant.

Capt. E. F. White, an American army aviator, has made a flight from Chicago to New York, a distance of 727 miles, at the rate of 108.88 miles per hour, without a stop en route. Such flights, no doubt, will soon become commonplace. At the same rate of speed the Atlantic would be crossed in eighteen to twenty-four hours.

It is a great relief to learn that the Bolsheviks have been put to flight south of Archangel and are being hard pressed by the Allies. Word comes also of success against the Bolsheviks in the Ukraine and on the Siberian front. The Russian outlook appears to have improved very considerably during the last week.

There is great need in this province of an educational campaign in behalf of compulsory school attendance. In a New Brunswick town recently a family with eight children was discovered of whom none had ever been at school, and the parents did not even know the ages of the children.

Let us be thankful for small mercies. The city departments have adopted daylight time. Too many people, however, get up by daylight time and go to bed by standard time. St. John has become a joke for other cities.

The territorial dispute between Italy and Jugoslavia over Fiume and the Adriatic coast is one of the most irritating matters at present before the peace conference.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Indeterminate.

A California sheriff was discussing the way in which different prisoners accept sentences. Among others he mentioned a pair of negroes whom he was taking to St. Quentin.

"What you all believe set up for?" demanded one dusky prisoner of his companion.

"Ah sorta busted up a friend of mah wife's, an' he done croaked," was the answer.

"An' how long are you sentenced for?" persisted the other.

"From now awn," the murderer answered sourly.

Boston is known as the place where everybody is very, very "cultured," and very precise in their use of words. The latest Boston story is about a small child who fell out of a window.

A kind-hearted lady came hurrying up with the anxious question: "Dear, dear how did you fall?"

The child looked up at her questioner and replied, in a voice choked with sobs: "Vertically, ma'am."

His client was being sued for divorce by her husband and the attorney was trying to get her as much alimony as possible. Right in the middle of a flow of eloquence the attorney was interrupted by the husband, who said to the court: "Your honor, I have suddenly decided to withdraw my suit, and if my wife is willing I would like to have her come back to me." Pressed for explanation, he said: "Mr. Blackstone has presented her, in such an attractive light that I've fallen in love with her all over again."

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SEES GREAT TIMES AHEAD FOR CANADA

British Under-Secretary for Colonies Very Optimistic as to Our Future

London, April 21.—(Reuter's).—The Sunday Observer contains an interview with Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, under-secretary of state for colonies, in which he treats optimistically of Canada's future in the field of commerce and industrial enterprises.

There have been few things more amazing in military history, says Mr. Amery, than the way in which Canada, starting with a mere nucleus of trained officers and men, created a corps which was an instrument of scientific warfare and was unsurpassed by any army in the field. Hardly less remarkable has been Canada's effort in the production of war material. Few, even in Canada, foresaw the extent of the contribution which she proved capable of making in munitions of war.

It was significant, he said, that Canada, far from making her efforts with the termination of hostilities, was actively preparing for future development. Mr. Amery said he had unbounded confidence in that development. Canada, in his opinion, was destined inevitably to become one of the world's greatest industrial and exporting powers.

Mr. Amery was asked why he said "inevitably."

He replied: "Just look at the map: Nova Scotia jutting out into the Atlantic and British Columbia overhanging the Pacific form incomparable foci for the world's industry and commerce from the viewpoint of future economic strategy. Canadians have at their back the raw material and the market of half a continent, and in front their own empire whence to draw tropical raw materials and find an outlet for their surplus manufactures."

DOUKHOBORS MAY GO TO AUSTRALIA

Would be Killed if They Returned to Russia Now, Leader Says

Grand Forks, B. C., April 21.—That conditions now existing in Russia do not look inviting to the Doukhobors in Canada and that in leaving this country they would probably go to Australia or South Africa, was made quite clear by Peter Verigin, head of the community of Doukhobors, in discussing the matter of their removal with the reconstruction board. "We cannot think of going back to Russia. We would get killed if we went back there at present," said Mr. Verigin through his interpreter, who pointed out the revolutionary conditions now existing in Russia.

"In selling our land for soldier settlement, we would like the government to give us sufficient time to send a representative to Australia and South Africa to secure a new location for our people," commented the reconstruction committee assured him that no undue advantage would be taken and that they will

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JAPAN MASTER OF NORTH CHINA

Seizure of Shantung Declared a Colossal Wrong—China May Fall into the Hands of the Japs

London, April 21.—The seizure of Shantung by the Japanese forces is the text of a very vigorous editorial in the Daily News, which points out that the future, not only of the Far East, but of the whole world, is at stake. "Today," says the Daily News, "Japan is practically master of northern China, and potentially of much more. Unless the peace conference can right this colossal wrong the Chinese will fall like ripe fruit into the hands of the Japanese to be exploited, developed and militarized by that engaging people."

"Is this thing to happen? If it does, it needs no great effort of imagination to see what goal it leads to. It will mean the closing of the vast resources and inexhaustible markets of the Far East to the European and American worlds."

"China belongs to the Chinese. Japan has no more right in Shantung than we have. She must go. If self-determination has any sanctity at all, and the peace conference has any authority at all, this matter must be settled with uncompromising resolution. China demands the evacuation of Shantung and abrogation of the twenty-one points (in China's treaty with Japan). This is China's minimum demand, and its concession is the capital duty of the conference; failure here would mean failure in everything."

ITALY'S PARLIAMENT NOT TO MEET TILL MAY 6.

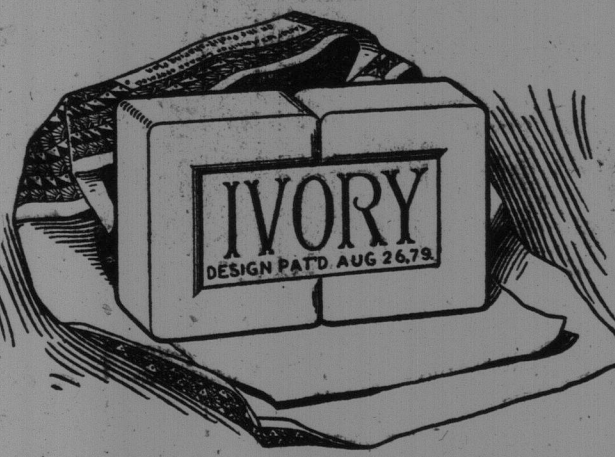
Rome, April 21.—It is announced that the convocation of the Italian parliament has been postponed until May 6.

TEA AND SALE.

The young ladies of the St. John Baptist church held a gratifyingly successful tea and sale in the church vestry on Saturday, and by it raised more than thirty dollars for the flower fund for the church. The vestry was prettily decorated for the occasion with spring flowers and flags placed most attractively. Very many patrons attended and the tempting dainties found ready purchasers. Mrs. C. E. Byles, Mrs. W. C. Lord and Mrs. J. Firth-Brittain presided over the pouring of the tea, and Mrs. D. C. Campbell and Mrs. H. McAlon had charge of the pantry sale. The waitresses were Miss Lillian Cameron, the president of the class, and the Misses Audrey Campbell, Willa McAlon, Muriel Haggart, Pearl McLean, Bertha Carvell, Madeline Christopher, Amber Sheffield, Doris Khour, Nora Cameron, Laura Allan and Pearl Wayne.

"GREENWICH MEAN TIME."

Bellville Daily Intelligencer: But wait a minute. The Toronto lights who have been digging into the English statutes for light on Greenwich time are no doubt concerning themselves with Greenwich mean time. Mean time is commonly used. English time is called Greenwich mean time and English time was advanced one hour last Sunday. Canada time is based by statute, made and provided upon English time known legally as Greenwich mean time. If that is a fact, what is called daylight-saving time is the real legal standard time as far as Canada is concerned.



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