

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 26, 1924

The Evening Times-Star

The Evening Times-Star is printed at 83-27 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.
Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 8417.
Subscription Price—By mail per year, in Canada, \$5.00; United States, \$6.00; by carrier per year, \$4.00.
The Evening Times-Star has the largest circulation of any evening paper in the Maritime Provinces.
Advertising Representatives—New York, Frank R. Northrup, 350 Madison Ave.; Chicago, E. J. Powers, 19 South La Salle Street.
The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times-Star.

ST JOHN, N. B., MAY 26, 1924

NOT SO ROSY.

There have been frequent warnings of late, coming from Canadians who went to the United States to secure employment, that conditions there now are by no means so rosy as they have been represented to be. Not a few New Brunswickers have been among those who have met disappointment, and many are coming home. Also, the number leaving home is much reduced.

An American financial authority, making a forecast of fundamental business conditions, has just issued a circular saying that the decline in business will primarily affect the industrial sections of the United States and, as a matter of fact, that decline has been already very noticeable. This authority says:—

"As things appear at the present time, this business decline should be sharp enough to affect industrial production and industrial profit conditions to a marked degree, thereby lessening the purchasing power in industrial sections, but should not be so sharp enough to curtail the normal buying of farm products or to affect general agriculture prices adversely."

This would mean less employment even for Americans in the industrial centres of New England to which New Brunswickers are sometimes attracted. It is one of many statements which should cause people in the Maritime Provinces to hesitate about leaving their own country on the chance of bettering themselves in the neighboring states. This information, coming from an American source, does not, we may be sure, make things appear any worse than they are. A St. John man who recently returned after an extended motor tour through many of the American States probably stated the case mildly when he said that fifty per cent. of the Canadians who have gone to the Republic would be better off at home. There is much reason to believe that that is true of much more than fifty per cent. of those who have gone within the last year. As is frequently said, we are likely to hear much of the few of our people who achieve success in alien countries, but we hear little about nine out of ten who expatriate themselves only to find hard work and little pay, or neither work nor pay except on part time and under hazardous conditions.

RATHER BETTER.

Unemployment in Great Britain is still a mighty problem, but is a pleasure to record that there has been a distinct improvement as compared with last year. According to official reports now supplied by the Bankers' Trust Company of New York the number of people unemployed in Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of March was 1,057,000, whereas in March of 1923 the number was 1,289,000. These returns are secured under the British Unemployed Insurance Acts, and they show that of all those insured 11.5 per cent. were idle in the spring of last year as compared with 9.9 per cent. this year. Statistics given by the trades unions show that of their numbers 7.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of March this year as compared with 12.3 per cent. a year before. The situation was considerably better in March than during any of the previous twelve months.

Unemployment plays a big part in political discussion constantly in Great Britain, and while the protectionists assert that a reasonable tariff would effect a very great improvement by providing more steady work, the Labor Government and many of the Liberals who give it support contend that as a tariff would involve a tax on consumption it would make matters worse rather than better. The dispute will go on indefinitely. The present government will not change its fiscal policy, and it has even abolished the preferences given to the overseas Dominions during the war. But the government's life is constantly at the mercy of the other parties, and might be terminated at short notice should the MacDonald ministry attempt to carry into practice some of the socialistic plans which several of its leaders advocated very strongly at the time of the last elections.

Meantime, as has been said, there is at least some evidence that unemployment is less, and if Great Britain and France agree upon a common policy toward Germany, and Europe settles down in the near future, almost every British industry will benefit very greatly and the whole nation will be afforded steadily growing relief from both tension and industrial depression.

Speaking of waste, the Boston Transcript says: "Strikes and lock-outs in the United States are said to have cost more than \$12,500,000,000 since 1916, which suggests the desirability of making their elimination part of the national thrift campaign."

Very likely that big rain ushered in the summer.

CANADA'S MOTOR INDUSTRY.

The men who make motor cars in Canada are, as a rule, a highly successful and enterprising group, and the official figures concerning the automobile industry for 1923 give proofs of very substantial progress. During that year Canada broke all previous records in the number of motor vehicles turned out, although the total value of the product was slightly less than that of 1920, when prices were higher. The number of cars produced, of all classes, in 1923 was 147,582, and the value of these was \$97,368,000. In 1922 the number of vehicles was 101,000, and in 1920 it was 94,144. The value of the product last year was eighteen per cent. higher than in 1922, but it fell about \$4,000,000 below that of 1920. The number of cars employed in this industry was 8,305, an increase of nearly 2,000 over the previous year. Salaries and wages amounted to \$14,998,000, an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 over 1922. Only ten firms engaged in the business last year, a reduction from fifteen the year previous, but the Dominion Bureau of Statistics explains that those who went out of business were among the smaller ones and that the actual capital employed increased from \$47,000,000 to more than \$60,000,000. Of the cars turned out in 1923, 106,228 were pleasure cars and 19,226 were for commercial use.

It is to be noted that the value of motor vehicles and parts imported into Canada last year was \$32,081,000, and this included 10,467 passenger cars, valued roughly at \$7,000 each, and 1,855 commercial cars. The number of engines imported was 31,547. The Bureau of Statistics arrives at the Canadian consumption of passenger automobiles for 1923 by adding the quantity produced to the number imported and deducting the exports, and thus finds that it amounted to 58,790 such vehicles.

Car registration throughout the Dominion amounted to one vehicle to every 15.6 persons. By provinces, the registration shows one vehicle for every 10.8 persons in Ontario, 12.1 in Saskatchewan, 12.4 in British Columbia, 14.1 in Alberta, 15.1 in Manitoba, 23.6 in New Brunswick, 29.0 in Nova Scotia, 33.7 in Quebec, 35.8 in Prince Edward Island, and 143.5 in the Yukon and North West Territories.

There were 886,784 motor vehicles registered in Canada during 1923, a tremendous increase over the previous year, and this year is expected to show an equally great gain.

BANKS AND CRIME.

The manager of the Protective Department of the American Bankers' Association has made a report covering the last six months, during which period he finds that bank robberies and other crimes against banks have "risen to heights heretofore unknown to the banking fraternity." He says that forgeries, cheque alterations, sneak thefts and some other crimes, not including those of violence, show an increase of 48 per cent. as compared with the six months previous. Of all classes of crime affecting American banks there were 677 cases during the last six months, as compared with 463 for the six months before. Reference is made to the surprisingly large number of cases of robbery, particularly among the smaller American country banks during the luncheon hour of employees, "and other banks which allow the transfer of funds by messenger without an adequate guard."

The head of the Protective Department gives the Association some advice which one might think its members would scarcely need. "The biggest enemy of the banks is the stranger," he says in his report. "Strangers are not always crooks, but crooks are usually strangers, and we cannot emphasize too strongly the danger of violating the rule not to cash cheques without proof of identity. Don't cash cheques for strangers." The crime wave so frequently reported in the American newspapers as in evidence in New York and other large American cities seems to be real enough. In the matter of homicides and of robbery with violence some of the more populous American states, judging by official reports, are contending with conditions which grow steadily worse instead of better. Canada is much better off, but even it has more than enough criminals, and frequently it is invaded by American crooks for whom temporarily at least their home territory has become too hot.

Sir George Foster is still telling people how to keep young. What he really says is that the way to keep young is to keep young. Quite right, too.

COMPLAINS PIPE STOLEN.

Allan Lambert, 210 Water street, West St. John, has reported to the police that two joints of soil pipe, valued at \$5, were stolen from his yard on Friday night.

Press Comment

CHARACTER.

(Boston Globe.)
It would be well if every person as well as every firm were able to point to opportunities for gain turned down because they "sounded shady." High tone is not obtainable through the lavish use of varnish, Turkish rugs and gilt letters on ground glass. The reputation to be envied is not created by expenditure, but by refusal to be interested in what does not quite measure up to standard. The man who is asked to do important things is, in the long run, the man who is known to draw the line with extreme strictness—as to what he will not do. There is a lot of temporary prosperity in get-rich-quick schemes and methods, but the more permanent success must be founded on something more than smartness. Its basis is best described as character.

PARTY SOBRIQUETS.

(N. Y. Herald-Tribune.)
A sensitive Briton writing to The London Times protesting against Liberalism, referring to Conservatives as "Tories." The terms "Whig" and "Tory," he declares, have long been devoid of significance, as "A Tory is, or was, an Irish outlaw or robber, a Whig a sour-faced Covenantor."

Modern Conservatives, he points out, no longer claim their Liberal opponents "Whigs," and he trusts that the latter will return the courtesy. But to the disinterested observer it appears paradoxical that the Conservatives, of all people, should suffer these fine old words to disappear from the political dictionary. However, sinister their origin, time has imparted to them a sentimental flavor that is entirely lacking in present-day party names. Here is a task for Mr. G. K. Chesterton, that assiduous collector of the romantic antiquities of England. Indeed, only recently he referred rather wistfully to the period, "two generations after Milton, when the last of the true Tories drank wine with Bolingbroke or tea with Johnson." Even granting that the true Tory line is at an end, the same cannot be said of its historic opposition, if Dr. Johnson spoke the truth when he asserted that the devil was the first Whig. Unless, of course, both Liberal and Conservative believers in the traditional two-party system assume that the personage in question has deserted to the standard of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.

Our own politics suffers from a lack of such "indefinite sobriquets" as are denounced by the Times correspondent, "Republican" and "Democrat," like "Liberal" and "Conservative," are hedged with a certain formality. Efforts of hardy headline writers to bestow a more homely touch by condensing to "Reps" and "Dems" have

Today I See

Today I see—how well do I see?

Well, I must confess I really don't know for sure.

The sight I have been used to may fall far below that of other people's eyes. How am I to know?

Just for the experience I must have my eyes examined and try on the Glasses that are bound to give me perfect sight. Then I can tell if I should see better and avoid strain.

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ST. JOHN, CANADA

TWO TO-NIGHT

for loss of appetite, bad breath, coated tongue, biliousness, Without griping or nausea
CHAMBERLAIN'S TABLETS
Set your liver right—only 25c.

touched no popular chord. True, there is "G. O. P.," but that is applicable to the party alone.
Only our fly-by-night parties have contributed colorful titles to the political vocabulary. "Know-Nothings," "Greenbackers," "Pops"—all these designations carry a distinct imaginative appeal, to say nothing of that robust appellation, "Bull Moose."

It is inconceivable that any one should label himself "non-partisan" or "independent," instead of rejoicing in the noble epithet, "mugwump."

BOY AND CAR COLLIDE.

Auto truck X1507, owned by the Crown Beverage Co., Main street, was in collision with a bicycle ridden by Brunswick B. Brittain, a boy who resides at 100 Guilford street, West St. John, on Friday afternoon in Prince William street. The bicycle was badly damaged and the boy received a severe shaking up, but not seriously injured.

PLAN UNITED MEETINGS.

In St. David's Presbyterian church last night Rev. Hugh Miller, minister, announced that during the months of June, July and August the four congregations of Central Baptist, Centenary Methodist and St. Andrews and St. David's Presbyterian would hold united mid-week prayer meetings in the Central Baptist church.

BACK IN OLD QUARTERS.

Because of repairs made necessary by the recent fire in their band room, in the police station building, King street east, the City Cornet band has been obliged to seek temporary quarters in St. Malachi's Hall, in the very same building which, in 1879, the band left to seek larger quarters.

CHILLON.

Eternal Spirit of the chainless mind! Brightest in dungeons. Liberty, thou art, For there thy habitation is the heart—The heart which love of thee alone can bind; And when thy sons to fetters are constrained, To fetters, and thy damp vault's day-less gloom, 'Tis their country conquers with their martyrdom. And Freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.

Chillon! Thy prison is a holy place, And thy sad floor an altar, for 'twas trod, Until his very steps have left a trace. Worn, as if thy cold pavement were a sod, By Bonnyvale! May none those marks efface! For they appeal from tyranny to God.—Lord Byron.

Must Keep Going

"Whither away, old man?" "I'm looking for someone who will lend me a fiver."

"Ah! Then I shan't detain you."

CORNS

Relief in One Minute

Now!—get relief in one minute from corns, callouses and bunions with Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads. They remove the cause—friction and pressure. Thin, easy to apply, antiseptic, healing. Three sizes. Nothing so quick and sure. At your druggist or shoe dealer.

Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads

"Put one on—the pain is gone"

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Escaped Hatch—So you've always been fortunate in your affairs of the heart? Batch—"Very. I am still unmarried."

To Whom the Credit. Doctor—"Young man, you owe your very remarkable recovery to your wife's tender nursing."

Patience—"Thanks, doctor. I shall make out the check to my wife."

A Necessary Article. "A physician says we eat too much salt. He's probably right," postcards E. C.; "we have to take nearly everything with a pinch of it nowadays."

Reversed. A little girl who was learning to spell simple words of one syllable astonished her teacher one day by spelling "U-p, up—p-u, down."

Mercy! Just Think of It! English paper—"Dr. said he thought all were now alive to the risks they ran, and people were being vaccinated all over."

In Southern Russia, according to "Red Cross" reports, furniture and rail-holsters to supply wearing apparel.

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