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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1920

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 24, 1920.

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### PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

Mayor Schofield and the city commissioners will find ample justification for their playground policy in an article by Mr. Thomas Adams in the last issue of Town Planning and Conservation of Life, published by the Commission of Conservation of Canada. The first four pages are devoted to his article. Parks and Playgrounds in Cities, and he not only sets forth the value of these areas but shows what is being done in cities in Canada and the United States to meet the needs of the people in regard to healthful recreation. It is pointed out that whatever we may do to increase our agricultural population the cities will continue to grow, and if the health and morals of the people are not to deteriorate we must provide proper housing and recreational facilities. The motor car makes the streets dangerous for children and the dust of the streets is bad for their health. "We want bigger ideas about the provision we should make for parks and playgrounds."

But from the economic standpoint parks pay, because of their effect upon the value of property. For example: "It has been found in the case of Madison, Wisconsin, that new parks not only meet all charges but, by reason of the increased value of adjoining property, paid into the city treasury, not less than \$10,000 a year in increased taxes. A similar state of affairs exists in New York, where the amount collected (in taxes) in twenty-five years on the property of the three wards (contiguous to Central Park) over and above the ordinary increase in the taxable value of the real estate in the rest of the city was \$65,000,000, or about \$2,000,000 more than the aggregate expense attending and following the establishment of the park in 1914. In other words, in addition to acquiring lands valued at \$20,000,000, the city of New York has made \$10,000,000 in cash out of that transaction. The original price paid for the 840 acres forming Central Park was \$6,640,000. Baltimore has nearly 2,000 acres of park land, with a total area of 2,400 acres, for which the city has paid a direct cost of only about \$10,000. The cost has been met out of the city's percentage of the gross receipts of the street railway company."

Mr. Adams contends that "more ample facilities should be made in our parks for recreation, and more encouragement should be given to athletics." Among other things he advocates a public golf course, and adds that "we need to spend some of our money in getting utility as well as beauty." He declares that if public money were used to encourage athletics and develop the energies and physical fitness of our people it would be as beneficial as the money spent in improving farm stock." Remembering that the planning of our parks and athletic grounds needs more attention he says:

"In some of our newer building developments we are providing that not less than one acre in every ten should be left as an open space for public use. The laws of Alberta and Saskatchewan lay down this standard for new subdivisions. In the Ottawa housing scheme facilities are provided for outdoor recreation for the residents, from twelve to fourteen per cent of the area being reserved for open spaces. Much of the land that is usually wasted in unnecessary streets has been set aside for tennis courts and children's playgrounds. Parks and recreation grounds should be spread about our cities and neither too concentrated in one place nor too far distant from the homes of the people. Perhaps less could be spent on artificial adornment and more in making them useful. The greatest benefit from the parks will be derived from the increased health and, consequently, greater efficiency of the population. Parks are a better investment than hospitals and asylums, and if we do not spend the money on the one we shall be compelled to spend it on the other in greater degree than is needed if we exercise proper judgment and foresight."

Mr. Adams notes the fact that the city of Vancouver paid over \$15,000 per acre for its parks, other than Stanley Park, and in the case of the Woodland playgrounds the cost was \$43,200 per acre. Compare this with the price the city of St. John pays for its north end playground, and what the city might have had to pay ten years hence. In the case of Vancouver, Mr. Adams says that "if it had set aside its open spaces well in advance of development it might have bought 280 acres at the same price or less than the \$8 acres it has purchased at \$805,466." To hear of nearly a million dollars being paid for parks and playgrounds in a new city like Vancouver almost takes one's breath away, but it illustrates the fact that the people there are at last awake to the necessity of providing recreation areas, regardless of the cost. Let us quote again from Mr. Adams:

"Probably there never was a time when it was as important as it is at present to develop outdoor recreation and to improve the park areas and playgrounds of our cities. In proportion as we close the saloon we must open and extend the park; as we shorten the hours of labor and extend manufacturing, we must provide facilities for healthy outdoor recreation; as we enlarge our cities we must enlarge their lungs. In proportion as we extend the uses of the

automobile and develop good roads we must have playgrounds to enable the children to play in safety. This is wise counsel. If we apply it to St. John we find that the city council has made a splendid beginning this year in encouraging the development of neighborhood playgrounds and the preparation of the larger area at the entrance to Rockwood Park. But Rockwood Park is itself inaccessible to thousands because of a lack of means of reaching it, and Tucker Park is an unknown quantity so far as the average citizen is concerned. There is, therefore, need of a continuance and an enlargement of the policy adopted this year, in order that the people may enjoy to the fullest extent the benefits to be derived from healthy recreation in open spaces provided for that purpose."

On the subject of street trees Mr. Clyde Leavitt of the Canadian forestry department writes: "The modern way is for this matter to be handled as a city or municipal enterprise, under the immediate direction of a thoroughly trained and experienced specialist. Some of our western cities have shown commendable foresight in their street policies. In addition to keeping sidewalks and roadways in good condition, the boulevards are made, the grass kept cut and watered, and shade trees planted and taken care of. The result is a uniformity and harmony in the appearance of the street, the trees are kept in good order, and are well protected by the municipality. Under such conditions the public take a just pride in the appearance of their streets, and are also influenced in keeping adjoining property in like condition."

Greek and Turk are fighting, Russian and Pole are engaged in a bitter struggle. France and Syria are at odds and may come to blows. There is fear that the Allies may yet be forced to engage in war with Russia to save Poland. As the war correspondents used to say there is "a certain liveliness" in several directions. The greatest danger is in Russia.

Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht was not fast enough yesterday. Perhaps he will have better fortune today. It is quite evident, however, that he has no mean antagonist, and the race will be well contested. Indeed the Americans craft is a favorite in the wagering on today's race.

If the city can get along without adequate hotel accommodation why ask for more railway or wharf accommodation? But of course the city will have the new hotel. It cannot afford not to have it when it is offered on such advantageous terms.

If the citizens do not back up the new hotel proposition it will be a blot on the advertisement St. John could get. How other cities would laugh at this future pretensions of St. John that it was a live city.

The Commercial Club, the Board of Trade, the mayor, the premier of the province—all of them say the hotel proposition is a good one for St. John. Investors should not hesitate.

The Bolsheviks are making threats of terrible vengeance against British prisoners, based on an utterly false charge against the British government. The only weapon of those people is murder. They are a curse to civilization.

The city cannot afford to pay \$66,000 more for the Spruce Lake water main than the work could be done for—if it be true that there is this much difference between two tenders for the work.

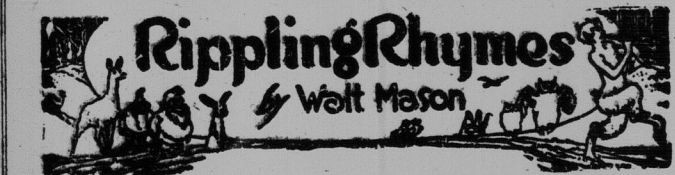
The British government faces grave problems at home and abroad. We are told that the cabinet yesterday was discussing "involving the welfare of millions of people and the prestige of the country."

### FARMERS NOT KEEN ON GOING INTO POLITICS

Regina, Sask., July 24—Judging from the number of replies received to the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' circular letters sent out to every S. G. G. local and to many other organizations and private individuals, the farmers of the province are not enthusiastic about entering the provincial political field. Out of 1,170 letters sent out 102 replies have been received. Of these thirty-eight are opposed to any action being taken, 118 are indifferent, twenty-two are favorable to the preparation of a platform, but offer no suggestions, thirty are in favor of and offer suggestions, while only one received was non-committal.

### KNEW NO ENGLISH SEVEN YEARS AGO; NOW LEADS CLASS

Cobalt, July 24—Seven years ago, when he came with his parents to Cobalt from Italy, Pietro Giovannella could not speak one word of English. This week the entrance examination results show that the boy, now only twelve years of age, passed with honors from St. Patrick's Separate School here. The runner-up in the same class was a Czech-Slovak.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

### LANG SYNE

When we grow old we all look back with longing o'er the traveled track, to days of old lang syne; and we inform the younger men that everything was better then, yea, doubly smooth and fine. I'm having better times today than in the dim years far away, when I was always broke; I'm living now in Easy street, but every morning I repeat the old gent's harmless joke. "When I was young," my yarn begins; then all was gold that now is tin, and bridle were precious stones; then orchids grew on all our lawns, and guinea hens and geese were swans, and trees grew silver bones. When I was young my path was steep, and often I sat down and weep and wail for better times; I slaved away at bitter tasks, and carried kegs of nails and casks, to earn some meagre dimes. I wrought with rusty tools; I swung an ax, I packed a hod, and, breaking miles of prairie sod, I pushed two sorel mules. I wouldn't do the old time chores for all the wealth the miser pours into his bin at night; but when I'd break some heaver's hearts, "When I was young," my story starts, "the world was gay and bright."

### CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

#### TAKING THE "ADAMS"

On July 23, 1814 Sir John Sherbrooke with year Admiral Coombs and a small land force sailed from Halifax in a search for United States ships of war. It was in the days of the three years' warfare between the British and the Americans. Five days later they fell in with the "Adams," a sloop of war from which they learned that the United States frigate "Adams" had entered the Penobscot and to avoid attack had gone up the river as far as Hampden. Sherbrooke at once shaped his course for the Penobscot intent upon the capture of the "Adams." A fort at Castine was attacked to clear the way to Hampden. The Americans, finding they could not maintain possession of the place, blew it up. Then the attack on the frigate was resumed. Captain Barrie and Lieut.-Col. John were given charge of the expedition that had to advance about twenty-six miles beyond Castine. A fierce fight took place at Hampden, and the casualty list for the day was large. In the various fights several hundred Americans were captured while a score of cannon were taken. But most of these could not be brought away so they were destroyed where they stood. In the expedition two ships, one brig, six choppers and three sloops were captured and brought out to the British wharves. The "Adams" was burned where she lay with two other ships of the Americans. At Bangor, Me., the British burned one ship, but the British schooners and a sloop while several unfinished ships on the ways in various parts of the river were left untouched. Soon afterwards the expedition sailed back to Halifax, having almost cleared the American ships from the district and leaving only one small port of the United States between the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Bay.

#### FORGET, A SONNET.

Forget at these, the barren foot in power,  
The man in command, the jealous  
Of  
The bitter world biting its bitter hour,  
The cruel now, the happy long ago.

Forget all these, for, though they truly hurt,  
Even to the soul, they are not lasting things,  
Men are not gods; we tread the city dirt,  
But in our souls we can be queens and kings.

And I, O Beauty, O divine white wonder,  
On whom my dull eyes, blind to all else, peer;  
Have you for peace, that not the whole world's  
Nervous wreck can threaten or take from here.

So you remain, though all man's passions  
Sate and sated, I can forget all these.  
Roar their blind tides, I can forget all these.  
—John Macfie.

#### GREY HAIR

Your hair is grey—what then? The east is grey.  
When the sun laughs it into living gold,  
As Wisdom's sun in you begins a day,  
Even now, of lights mellow and manifold.

Grey are the loftiest turrets; grey the hills  
In tender-pencilled twilight, and the sea  
Twist night and sunset, ere the first  
And penetrates its beautiful mystery.  
Like Lore's hand brushing back this  
Frosted lock.

To find the high-domed temple of  
Thought blind.  
The dove's grey, like the mist; the eternal  
And cool cloud, ruffled by the western  
ing wind.

Grey hair! From Thought's white peak  
From Learning's light,  
The silver is caught; show me a gold  
as bright!  
—S. Gertrude Ford.

#### POPE RECEIVES MISS HOLT

Interest of the Pontiff Enlisted in Favor of the Blind.

Rome, July 24—Pope Benedict, who wishes to participate in any attempt to relieve the misery of humanity, especially that caused by the late war, has received in private audience, Miss Winifred Holt, president of an Italian-American committee for the protection of the blind, and also the founder of the New York State Association for the Blind. The audience occurred in the beautiful private library of the Pontiff, who was most cordial, taking great interest in the work for the blind.

His Holiness was much impressed by work of the blind in America and France, and also admired the work done by the Italian blind.

The Pope bestowed his pontifical blessing on the work and also they try to follow the teachings of Alesia as given in those books. Obedience is "to give in to the Old Wolf, and not to give in to it." Any Scouts who wish to secure the very best of practice in leading before they are called upon to set as a patrol leader or second cannot do better than help a cubmaster with his pack of lively and eager Wolf Cubs.

Dominion headquarters announces that after August 1 the subscription price for

## SCOUT CAMP IN NOVA SCOTIA A MARKED SUCCESS

Headquarters Here Has Word from Mr. Eaman

More About New Brunswick's—Visitor from Honduras—Woodstock Scout Wins Silver Cross for Rescue in Water.



### THE BOY SCOUT.

Word has been received by headquarters from Mr. Eaman in camp with the Nova Scotia Scouts that more than 100 boys are registered in that camp and having the best time of their lives. The N. S. provincial camp is situated on the Stewiacke River about fifteen miles from Truro, and is said to be ideal in many respects. A further visit to the New Brunswick camp site by headquarters officers has convinced them of the excellence of this beautiful spot on the Bellefleur. In addition to the necessary features, the somewhat rare asset of being completely isolated, at the same time being quite easy of access by train, boat and road. Applications are coming in at a merry rate and an excellent camp is assured so far as numbers are concerned. The leaders' training course in connection with the camp is also proving popular, and judging by the prospectus of that course it will be one of the most attractive features of the camp. All camp applications must be in by Saturday, July 31. Any boys who are in doubt as to any point in connection with the camp should visit headquarters at an early date and secure the information they need.

A pleasing visitor to headquarters during the week was an assistant scoutmaster from Honduras. He reported that a large number of Scouts were carrying on in that country despite the loss of their scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster during the war. The Scouts have to wait more than six weeks before they get their badges and awards. All St. John Scouts will wish good luck to their brethren in Honduras, remembering that a Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout. One of the statements of the visitor was to the effect that in his travels he has always been able to count on a friend in any port where he has seen the scout emblem.

Another British isle where Scouts are flourishing is the famous St. Helena. Scouts are urged to interest themselves in the Wolf Cub movement. These little brothers are carrying on in excellent style in several packs in the city and many more are eagerly awaiting the fall to form packs in their own localities. The Wolf Cub movement is not a Scout movement with color washed out, but is quite a distinct organization, having different laws and altogether different system of carrying on. Animal nature is copied a great deal and the cubmaster is called Alesia, or the Old Wolf. Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Books are the basis for most of the games and ceremonies of the Cubs, and they try to follow the teachings of Alesia as given in those books. Obedience is "to give in to the Old Wolf, and not to give in to it." Any Scouts who wish to secure the very best of practice in leading before they are called upon to set as a patrol leader or second cannot do better than help a cubmaster with his pack of lively and eager Wolf Cubs.

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A splendid little book has been received at headquarters from England entitled Boy Scouts and Citizenship. It is issued in connection with the International Jamboree which will commence soon and, besides telling about it, contains a history of the Scout movement from its origin to the present time. During the week award of the Silver Cross was made to Scout Ray Jarvis Smith of Woodstock in recognition of his courage in saving Chester McIntyre from drowning some time ago. Scout Smith was very highly recommended for this award as he subjected himself to great risk to prevent what seemed a sure case of drowning.

### SHIFTS CONSULS GENERAL.

State Department Makes Changes Affecting Six Men in Service.

Washington, July 24—Changes in the consular corps announced by the state department affect six consuls general.

Robert Fraser of Pennsylvania, now at Kobe, is ordered to Washington to assume his duties as consul general at large.

Stanley Hollis of Massachusetts, now at London, is assigned as consul general at Lisbon, succeeding William L. Lewis of Illinois, who is transferred to Athens.

Marion Letherer of Georgia, now consul general at Christiania, is transferred to Calcutta, India.

Prize for "Little Mother"

Paris, France, July 24—Louis Dupuis aged 9, since her mother was killed in Paris in 1918 by a Big Bertha shell, has been acting as mother to her five brothers and five sisters. Now she has been awarded a \$100 prize by a French benevolent society for her devotion and courage.

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