

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1921

# The Evening Times and Star

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## GIVE THEM WORK.

A meeting to discuss the unemployment situation is being held this afternoon at the Y. M. C. A. It was not called by the city council or board of trade, as this paper suggested weeks ago should be done, but by clergymen of the city. They, at least, know the urgency of the situation and desire that it should be dealt with in an adequate manner. One clergyman was solicited for work or help by twenty-five men in one day recently. This alone ought to be sufficient evidence of the need of providing work. The families of the destitute must be fed. The money must come from some source. If it is merely to be paid out for doles there are many who will suffer rather than ask for it, and there will be many others who will welcome it as a relief from having to go to work. Work should be provided and wages paid, so that when the season is over there will be something to show for the money expended; those personally benefited will have preserved their self-respect; and the lazy will have been prevented from profiting by the charity of their neighbors. At best there will be need of charity in many cases, but let us give those who are able and willing to work a chance to earn what they get. That is what they ask, and it should not be denied them.

## THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS.

There is no love between Toronto and the big financial and railway interests in Montreal. The latter are against public ownership and operation of the National Railways, and in their Sir Lomer Gouin and Mr. Lemieux agree with them. The Toronto Globe declares that it was because Premier Meighen maintained his stand in favor of public ownership that the Star and Gazette swung toward Gouin and Lemieux rather than toward the Conservative leaders in the closing days of the campaign. While these journals did not openly advocate the cause of Liberal candidates they were sufficiently favorable to that cause to call forth the following paragraph from the Ottawa Journal—

"The business world of Montreal is fanatically opposed to national ownership of railways, and doesn't care much what else happens so long as public ownership is kicked out of doors. The ownership is kicked out of doors by the course of the two chief English newspapers of Montreal, the Gazette and the Star. Both stabbed Meighen in the back. They did him infinitely more harm than any professed opposition press could do, for the very reason that they had been avowed supporters of his administration. It is a question which did him most evil. The Star was the more treacherous and discreditable of the two, but the less grateful, and probably the less mischievous."

The Journal goes on to say that the Montreal Gazette has been the recipient of more profitable business from Conservative governments than from any other newspaper in the Dominion, and adds: "Then, the utmost good will has been shown to the proprietors of the Gazette personally by Conservative governments ever since Confederation—members of the family have been in cabinet, ministers, senators, and high civil service officials." Regarding the Montreal Star, the Journal says its "treachery was cold-blooded," but it gives both newspapers and the big interests this "tip"—

"National ownership of railways has come to stay. The Canadian people are not fools enough to put any more money into private pockets, or hand out any more public property free, under the pretence that private railway operation will give full corresponding value. We in this country may have a white elephant on our hands in the railway case, but we will manage the beast as best we can ourselves rather than turn it over to the friends of 'big business' to have it trample on us at their leisure."

This, of course, is the bitter taunt of a political journal smarting under defeat, but it quite coincides with the views of the Toronto Globe, which says—

"The truth is that the Montreal financiers are fighting for a lost cause. Mr. King and Mr. Fielding, the two most powerful personalities in the Liberal party, have declared emphatically that public ownership and operation of the National Railways, including the Grand Trunk, must be given a fair trial. Mr. Cregar and his followers go further and insist that public ownership of railways should be regarded as the settled policy of the Canadian people. The Conservative group from Ontario and British Columbia contains many pronounced advocates of the public ownership of public utilities, such as railways and water power developments, and relatively few friends of the Shaugnessy plan. Were the votes of the members of the new House of Commons to be polled on the issue of private railway monopoly versus public operation it would probably be found

that not more than fifty members out of 238 are of opinion that the people of Canada should not operate their own railways for their own benefit, or are disposed to turn over the National system to the C. P. R. or any other private company."

The Globe goes on to say that the National Railways offer to Hon. Mr. King his greatest opportunity and declares that if he pursues a right policy he will probably turn deficits into surpluses and receive the hearty endorsement of the people on that great issue. It warns him, however, against the Montreal reactionaries, who will "continue the war in guerrilla fashion" against the national system.

We are told that in a little over a month things have been accomplished at the Washington conference which would have taken many months to accomplish under the old system of international negotiations, and that a general feeling of optimism prevails in respect to its ultimate success. The world has reason to be thankful to President Harding for bringing about so momentous a conference, and by a bold stroke of policy setting the pace in the direction of good-will and co-operation.

The contrast between the conciliatory tone of the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and Viscount Morley on the one hand and Lord Carson and Lord Hugh Cecil on the other, on the Irish treaty marks the difference between wise statesmanship and unreasoning partisanship. There is a similar contrast between the speeches made on opposing sides in Dublin, but the treaty will doubtless be ratified by both parliaments. As for Ulster, it is not making friends for itself in this testing time.

## PLAN WORLD STRIKE IN CASE OF NEW WAR

International Federation of Trade Unions Representing 24,000,000 Workers.

(New York Times)

Plans for calling a general international strike in case of a threatened war have been made by the International Federation of Trade Unions, according to a statement received here this week from the Amsterdam headquarters of the organization, which represents 24,000,000 trade unionists in Europe.

A provisional international committee has been authorized, it was stated, to take all steps necessary to coordinate militancy and counteract the danger of a new war. This committee is empowered to proclaim and carry out its general strike immediately upon threat of war.

The Federation has also called upon the workers of all countries to start action "simultaneously against the ever-increasing attempts to worsen the conditions of the workers in connection with the prevailing economic depression."

The programme laid out will not apply as a whole to the American Federation of Labor, as the American movement has withdrawn its affiliation with the Amsterdam organization. The International Association of Machinists and the United Mine Workers of America, however, are allied with the European Federation because of their affiliation with international federations, which hold membership in the Amsterdam body.

The conference at which the anti-war programme was adopted, according to the announcement, was held in Amsterdam and was attended by delegates of the International Trade Secretariats of Transport Workers, Miners and Metal Workers. President John H. Thomas, the English labor leader, was reported unanimously elected.

The statement explained that the measures taken by the conference for combating new wars are preliminary to more definite steps to be taken by the next congress of the Federation, to be held in Rome next April. The provisional committee now in charge will report at that time. It consists of members of the Bureau of the International Federation and three trade secretariats—Robert Williams for the International Transport Workers' Federation, Frank Hodges for the International Miners' Federation, and C. H. H. for the International Metal Workers' Federation.

"The conference appeals especially to the millions of wives and mothers, whose husbands and sons will have to give their lives in event of a new world war, to organize and stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers organized in the International Federation of Trade Unions in order to combat militarism and render a new world war impossible," says the resolution calling for a worldwide strike.

The International Federation of Trade Unions, it is pointed out by local labor leaders, has in its affiliation the trade union organizations of Great Britain, Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy and many other European countries. It has been at odds for some time with the American Federation because of the former's alleged "revolutionary activities" and anti-war propaganda during the recent world conflict.

President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation last Spring served notice on the International Federation that American labor movement would not affiliate unless the International's alleged "revolutionary" programme was modified and the autonomy of the American Federation was guaranteed.

## SENT TO BORDEAUX AFTER AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM JAIL

Montreal, Dec. 15.—Following the discovery of a plot to attempt to escape from the St. John, Que. jail on last Saturday and still another attempt set for Tuesday, four of the more dangerous characters in the institution have been taken to the Bordeaux jail. They are Laventure and Frasier, awaiting trial on a charge of murder and Morris and Fialle, serving terms for theft.

## DISARMAMENT

Lay down your arms! Lay down your arms! Let love, not passion, right the wrong: No more the dread of war alarms, The harp is tuned to Love's sweet song.

O'er all the world—for darkest deeds, And fiercest wars, the blame must lie With honest dupes of crumbling creeds, And racial animosity.

Too long has man with footsteps weak, Old paths of dismal darkness trod; Now let him start anew, and seek The light of the Eternal God—

War's thunders never shall sweep the main, Nor lost meet host, by hatred hurled; But loyalty and love shall reign, And blessed Peace, throughout the world.

HOPE A. THOMSON.

## LIGHTER VEIN.

Might Be. Patron (crossing waiter, what are these black specks in my cereal? Waiter (after a close inspection)—Dunno, sir, unless it's some of them vitamins everyone is talking about now.—Life.

More Expensive Tastes. "How would you like to hear your children crying for bread, sir?" Impetuously the beggar. "I'd welcome the change," said the man, hurrying on; "they're always crying for chocolates now."—Pearson's Weekly.

## The Favorite Story.

Wallace—"The short story seems to be coming into favor again." Kingsley—"I should say so. Nearly every man I meet stops to tell me how short he is."—Answers.

## SHIPPING

ALMANAC FOR ST. JOHN, DEC. 15. A.M. P.M. Sun Rises.... 7.56 Sun Sets.... 4.43 High Tide.... 11.38 Low Tide.... 5.55

## PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived Yesterday. Schr. Tethys, 29, Thompson, from a fishing cruise.

Sailed Yesterday. Str. Canadian Voyager, 1898, Sharp, for Halifax.

## CANADIAN PORTS.

Campbellton, Dec. 12.—Cld. Norwegian str. Christian Krogh, 1,184, Queenstown for orders, lumber.

## BRITISH PORTS.

Liverpool, Dec. 13.—Arvd, stmr. Calcutta, New York; sld, stmr. Canadian Hunter, St. John.

Glasgow, Dec. 15.—Arvd, stmr. Tunisian, Halifax.

Adelaide, Dec. 12.—Arvd, stmr. Canadian Pioneer, Montreal.

## FOREIGN PORTS.

Vineyard Haven, Dec. 14.—Arvd, schrs. Bellwood, New York for St. John, N. B.; M. J. France, New York for Halifax; sld, schr. Stewart T. Salter, Poughkeepsie for New Haven.

St. Michaels, Dec. 13.—Arvd, stmr. Celtic, New York.

Havre, Dec. 12.—Arvd, stmr. La Touraine, New York.

Havana, Dec. 13.—Arvd, stmr. Sicilian, St. John, N. B., via Boston.

New York, Dec. 14.—Arvd, stmr. Stockholm, Gothenburg; Huron, Buenos Aires.

## MARINE NOTES.

The steamer Basara, now lying at Poughkeepsie, and which was sold on Thursday last by the court at Amherst to Alder Pugsley of River Hebert, and others, has been purchased by Blin V. Page of Skowhegan, Me.

## THOSE STRICKEN INDUSTRIES.

(Halifax Chronicle)

Two of the stricken industries on the Dartmouth side of the harbor marked out for ruin and slaughter by the Conservative candidates and spellbinders in the recent election, if the Liberals were elected, were Imperial and the Rope works. There were others, but these two in particular were to go out of business and only the dismantled plants and ruined foundations would remain as landmarks of other days.

The election was held on Tuesday, December 13th. Yesterday, just six days later, 200 men extra were taken on at Imperial. Not only is the "doomed" industry being carried on with increased activity, but it is understood that plans are afoot for extensions which will greatly increase the capacity of the plant.

As to the ropeworks there are also cheerful reports afoot. It was reported yesterday that the Consumers Cordage Co. has an order in sight, if it has not been actually received, which will keep the works busy for just for the winter.

The Ropeworks report this morning that they have taken back all their men, many of whom were laid off months ago. The plant is running nine hours a day and is fully staffed.

## THE LEGEND OF A DICTATOR.

(Toronto Globe)

Before the election it was common talk in Conservative circles that Mr. King would be ousted from the leadership and his place taken by Sir Lomer Gouin. Even now The Mail and Empire points Sir Lomer as a dictator controlling a solid Quebec block, who has only to stamp his foot and give his orders. Anyone who understands Quebec knows that no such dictatorship exists. Sir Lomer is only one of a group of leaders, including Mr. Lemieux, Dr. Beland and Mr. Lapointe. Sir Lomer has a good record to his credit as premier of Quebec, but if a plebiscite were taken as a test of popularity Mr. Lapointe would be well to the front, especially in Eastern Quebec.

Mr. Lapointe, Sir Lomer was premier there was a similar legend about a Tarte dictatorship, which events proved to be without foundation.

## BEER IS PLENTY AND POLICE WORRY

Can't Find Source of Strong Bottled Kind

Toronto, Dec. 15.—The plentiful supply of beer which is plainly not of the home-brew variety is giving considerable worry to provincial officers. Raids and seizures made recently show that from some source, not yet traced, blind pigs, hotels, etc., are getting a good grade of beer that bears all the marks of a brewery manufacture, although the bottles in which it is found are not labelled.

## HOUSEBOATS TO SOLVE THE HIGH RENT PROBLEM

Scores Along the Upper Harlem are Now Being Prepared Against Winter—Many Comforts Aboard.

Houseboating on the Harlem has become a popular means of escaping the profiteering landlord. Scores of these craft are moored along the upper reaches of the river. Beginning at the point where the Speedway turns west into the Dyckman district, they extend, sometimes in small groups or communities, and again diminishing into a scattering line, almost to Spuyten Duyvil.

These river homes, some of them raised above the perils of the high tides on cribs of logs, while others are flat on the sandy beach, have many comforts. Many are piped for water from the city supply and wired for electric lights and telephones. In size, they range from simple shelters of one room to suites of four and five rooms, with bath, comparing favorably with bungalows used by sea-side cottagers or those in the mountains. Of one story, they are built atop of stone walls, or upon ordinary bulls, the projecting decks of which are used as more or less spacious verandas. Morning glory vines creep up trellises fronting the land side of the more permanent dwellings. Children play about the yards; knots of neighbors, mostly women, visit nearby.

The colony, or series of communities, which has sprung from an occasional boatman's shack, or boat drawn up on the beach along the river, under the constantly increasing rents, has grown to one hundred or more dwellings. Movable structures are required because the city, from whom the land is obtained, can ask their removal on thirty days' notice if the land is needed.

Evidences of domestic happiness are apparent everywhere. A limousine drives up to one of the dwellings. The chauffeur jumps from his seat, two loaves of bread under his arm, and as he approaches his door is met by a playful cat that purrs about his heels until lifted into the chauffeur's idle arm. He is greeted affectionately on his entrance by his wife and the dog, who springs to meet him. The chauffeur has apparently profited by an hour's free time to come home in his employer's car.

Women stand about in the approaching dusk, discussing the event of the passing day, while in electrically lighted living rooms can be seen family groups, reading or talking, or housewives buying themselves and their evening tasks. A group of boys are feeding rabbits in a cage. Men are busily occupied protecting the vines from the ravages of winter. Broken windows are being replaced. Weather strips are being placed on doors and windows, while the verandas or near the kitchen doors. Unprotected pipes are being insulated.

Strange Winter's low temperatures. "Yes, we think we are fortunate to be able to escape the high rents, and we find it comfortable here, too," said one of the older river dwellers in the colony near 207th Street, in the Dyckman district. "Even in the coldest weather we do not suffer, with plenty of good fires. In severe weather I have two going. Wood is plentiful; it drifts to our very doors on the tides and river currents. Contrary to the general impression, we do not find the boats either. You see, most of them are built up from the beach.

General stores are groceries, markets and general stores; six or seven blocks away are the schools. We are two miles from the subway, which takes us in forty-five minutes to Times Square, the theatres and Broadway's White Light district. Fifteen minutes further is Wall Street, the world's financial centre.

"I can toast my shins by my kitchen fire and see off to the northeast the circular walls of the Hall of Fame, with New York University in the background on the heights. To the South, under the graceful arches of Washington and High Bridges, extends the Speedway. To the northwest I can see Inwood Hill, whose sides and crest form practically the only wooded land remaining on Manhattan Island, excepting Fort Washington and Central Park.

"The tenants of the houseboats remain here practically the year around. Most of them have jobs in the city and cannot afford to leave them for long, although some of them have their boats moved to other places up or down the river or along the Sound in the Summer. One family in this group here last Summer and early Fall at City Island, the man of the house commuting to and from the city to his job. It is a simple matter as the boats, once released will float at high tide, and can be towed by a line in a few hours to many beautiful vacation spots along the Hudson, the bay or the Sound.

"We pay the city \$5 a month for use of the land. There is a thirty-day provision that we must vacate if the land is needed, but there is no immediate prospect of this, we feel pretty safe for a long time to come. Practically no more available space is left. There are occasionally opportunities to buy boats, however. Soon, for instance, a retired police sergeant, who has bought a farm in Connecticut, and another man I know, intend to leave and doubtless would be willing to sell their houseboats."

"Yes," said the pioneer in Winter house-boating in this climate, in closing, "we are comfortable here. Rid of the officious janitor and the tyrannical landlord, with no neighbor's phonograph jangling across the court, why should we wish to return to flats?"

## THE WINDSOR IN MONTREAL IS TO BE IN NEW HANDS

Montreal, Dec. 15.—It was learned last night that change in control of the Windsor Hotel Company is now practically assured. Donald Haymond, proprietor of the Quebec Hotel, who recently made an offer of \$125 a share for the stock has acquired well above 8,000 shares of the 15,000 share issue and many more shareholders are understood to be coming forward with stock, so that Mr. Haymond is, or very soon will be in practical control of the company.

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### RULES FOR HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Children's Bureau of Washington, D. C., was requested by President Wilson to call a conference of national and international authorities in child welfare in 1919—the purpose being to formulate and to prepare standards for the better protection of children. The minimum standards which on this momentous occasion were drawn up for the public protection of school children are as follows:

- 1.—Proper location, construction, hygiene, ventilation and sanitation of school house, adequate room space, no overcrowding.
- 2.—Adequate playground and recreational facilities, physical training and supervision recreation.
- 3.—Adequate space and equipment for school medical work and available laboratory service.
- 4.—Full time school nurse to give instruction in personal hygiene and diet, to make home visits to advise and instruct mothers in principles of hygiene and nutrition and to take children to clinics with parents' permission.
- 5.—Part time physicians with full time nurse for not more than 2,000 children; if physician is not available one school nurse for every 1,000 children; or full time physician with two full time nurses for 4,000 children for:

- (a) Complete standardized basic physical examination once a year, with determination of weight and height at beginning and end of each school year; monthly weighing wherever possible.
- (b) Continuous health record for each pupil to be kept on file with other records of pupil. This should be a continuation of the pre-school health record which should accompany each child to school.
- (c) Special examinations to be made of children referred by teacher or nurse.
- (d) Supervision to control communicable disease.
- (e) Recommendation of treatment for all remediable defects, diseases, deformities, and cases of malnutrition.
- (f) Follow-up work by nurse to see that physician's recommendations are carried out.
- 6.—Available clinics for dentistry, nose, throat, eye, ear, skin, and orthopedic work, and for free vaccination against smallpox, diphtheria, etc.
- 7.—Open-air classes with rest periods and supplementary feedings for pre-nutritional and children with grave malnutrition. Special classes for children needing special instruction due to physical and mental defect.
- 8.—Nutrition classes for physically sub-normal children, and the maintenance of mid-morning lunch or hot noonday meal when necessary.
- 9.—Examination by psychiatrist, of all atypical or retarded children.
- 10.—Education of school child in health habits.
- 11.—General educational work in health and hygiene, including education of parent and teacher, to secure full co-operation in the health programme.

### 8 CHILDREN AT A BIRTH.

Tampico Mother Reported Well, But the Infants Were Still-Born.

Mexico City, Dec. 15.—From Tampico comes a report, published by El Universal, that Senora Enriqueta Rubio at that place gave birth yesterday to eight children, all still-born. The mother is well.

The Mexico City Medical Association is showing much interest in the report and will institute an investigation as to its authenticity.

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