

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 21, 1920.

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A REVIVING SANITY.

Vigorous efforts are being made by banks and other financial institutions in the United States to end the craze for luxuries and the extravagance that has marked the whole period since the end of the war. There has been nothing in the previous history of the country to compare with the reckless waste of money by people suddenly grown rich. Today, with famine and fever stalking through Central Europe, and with the cost of living at unheard-of heights in the United States itself, there is an awakening which should change the viewpoint of the people and gradually restore normal conditions. To go on as they have been going would but invite catastrophe, and thoughtful persons realize that a halt must be called to prevent a crash that would work incalculable injury. It is difficult to persuade those who find themselves in possession of sudden wealth that they should not gratify their desire to spend lavishly for non-essentials; but economic laws take no account of individuals, and the needs of the present time are increased production of essentials and a wise economy of financial resources. There is no lack of voices now to sound the warning note, and already some good results are apparent. The action taken by many great mercantile establishments in cutting prices shows that they realize the seriousness of the situation. Whether the prices can be kept down or further reduced will depend upon production, and here comes in the element of labor. One great body of workers in New England has pledged itself to see that shortened hours do not mean lessened production. If all labor were animated by this spirit the outlook would be much more hopeful, and certainly there is ground for hope in the refusal of organized labor in the United States to be dominated by the Bolshevik element which has been so extremely active during the past year or more. The two great sources of danger are the reckless spenders at the one extreme and the revolutionary element at the other. They are alike a menace to the public welfare.

A GREAT HOUSING SCHEME.

It is estimated that 40,000 apartments are necessary to take care of the surplus population of New York City. This estimate was made by Mr. Frank Mann, tenant house commissioner. The housing committee, which is formulating a plan to meet the very grave situation which exists in the city, is endeavoring to encourage the own-your-own-home idea. "There are over five million people in New York," Mr. Mann says, "who are occupying living quarters in buildings in which they have not the slightest interest. If it is possible for well-to-do persons to form co-operation societies to purchase their own dwelling places, there is no reason why the same plan should not be extended on a more modest scale to tenement houses throughout the city." In dealing with this problem, and with many others, the question of the stability of labor is an important consideration. Hence we are told: "A special appeal has been made by Mr. Mann to the employer and labor groups to come to some understanding whereby strikes will be prevented and a fixed wage scale adopted for the period of a year, during which time the contractors will be able to estimate their labor costs with some degree of accuracy. This uncertainty of labor costs has been one of the factors, in the opinion of those familiar with the housing situation, which has militated against building progress for the past year. A fair day's pay for a fair day's work" was the slogan adopted as a basis for conference between the employers and labor representatives." The committee has not yet worked out a plan to form co-operative syndicates, but Mr. Mann believes it can be done. Undoubtedly if tenants may be changed to owners on fair and reasonable terms it will be better for them and for the city.

THE RAILWAY BLOCKADE.

A serious situation has developed in the United States as a result of a blockade on the railways. Strenuous efforts are being made to bring relief. The New York Evening Post says: "We are hearing now of numerous manufacturing plants actually closing down, either because of inability to get fuel and raw material, or else because of inability to send out their finished goods. The Iron Age tells of fully a million tons of steel products that are finished for delivery but cannot be moved from the mills, and the same story comes from a number of industries, including food. The steel trade, however, also reports that the great bulk of the freight which is loaded on cars, that the cars are standing idle in mill yards or on sidings, and that the trouble is not so much actual lack of equipment as lack of men to move the trains. In other words, labor is the real crux of the difficulty. The heads of the railway unions charge that the whole trouble is due to 'delay in meeting the workers' request for increased wages'; which, they affirm, has led to the action of thousands of employees who voluntarily have quit to find higher wages elsewhere." The Railway Labor Board is looking

into this matter of wages, to learn to what extent the assertion of the men is justified, and meanwhile the railroad managers are doing their utmost to send cars where they are needed to transport the products most needed to meet urgent requirements. The whole country suffers the ill attendant upon unemployment and lessened production while the present state of affairs continues. When labor troubles affect transportation they are very bad for other classes of labor as well as for the public at large.

MAINE AND TOURISTS.

Maine anticipates a large and profitable tourist traffic this summer. The Bangor Commercial says: "The news from the Maine summer resorts and watering places both on the coast and inland, gives every evidence that the patronage of these resorts will be very great during the coming season. From Bar Harbor, from the islands in Frenchman's Bay, from the islands in Portland harbor, from Kinco, Poland Springs, Old Orchard, Boothbay, Squirrel Island and the rest come corresponding statements of large reservations at the hotels and a great demand for cottages." It is pointed out that conditions in Europe are not favorable for sight-seers, and that most of those who go there will have business reasons for it, the mere pleasure-seeking tourist waiting for another year, when travel will be easier and less expensive. The Commercial adds: "These conditions make for the advantage of the American summer resorts and none of these afford the combination of climate and scenery that is offered in this state. So there is every evidence that Maine will during the summer prove her claim to being the playground of the nation, a claim that the increasing use of automobiles for touring purposes is substantiating more and more with each succeeding season." When New Brunswick has good roads for motoring, with good hotels at St. John and along the St. John river, and gives publicity to the fact, the stream of tourists will head this way, greatly to the benefit of the province.

The story of the plans of the provincial government in regard to the development of water powers, published yesterday, is pleasant reading. The industries of the province have been handicapped by the high cost of power, and the comparisons made between costs here and in Ontario, for example, were the despair of the local manufacturer. The government has adopted a comprehensive as well as a progressive policy, and five years hence people will look back and wonder how it was that they were willing to submit so long to such a handicap as will be removed when cheap power is made available.

A report of the last meeting of the Halifax board of trade says: "Further correspondence regarding additional grain facilities at this port was read and, if necessary, another delegation will go to Ottawa in this connection before the supplementary estimates are announced." What does St. John propose to do in regard to increased harbor facilities at this port? Has the need for a delegation to Ottawa been removed by satisfactory assurances?

The British Drapers who are now touring the United States will be in St. John the latter part of July. In Halifax plans for their entertainment in that city are already being considered.



PROCLAMATION

Whereas at a meeting of the Common Council held at the City of Saint John on the 28th day of April last, it was resolved that The City of Saint John adopt Daylight Saving Time to become effective at midnight of the 22nd day of May instant and to continue until midnight of the 11th day of September next, and that all citizens be requested to adopt the said time.

NOW THEREFORE I DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND DECLARE that from midnight of Saturday the 22nd day of May instant until midnight of Saturday the 11th day of September next the time of the forty-fifth meridian of longitude will be observed by The City of Saint John at the City Hall and in all its departments, and I do hereby request all citizens to observe the said time, and at midnight of Saturday the 22nd instant, to set their clocks ahead one hour.

E. A. SCHOFIELD,
Mayor.

New Athletic Field.

Sussex Record:—The new athletic field is beginning to look up in fine shape. The five lap cinder track is well under way and when completed will be one of the best in the province. The hundred yard and 220 yard are going to be excellent tracks. The athletic field from the Railway Labor Board is looking

Rippling Rhymes

By Walt Mason

(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

OVERALLS.

I bought a suit of overalls, a suit of dingy blue, with creases down the outer walls, and bib and tucker, too. And all my neighbors did the same, and everyone in town, to knock the profligate game, and bring the prices down. The rich men in their gilded halls with poof men fell in line; we all were wearing overalls, and feeling mighty fine. At last we'd found a useful way to curb the rising cost, and make the profligate jay feel like an early frost. And then the price of denim rags went soaring to the moon; the dealers sprang the same old gags, and crowned the same old tune. The honest toiler in the ditch could not afford to buy new overalls—we idle rich had sent the price sky high. The honest workers everywhere in fig-leaves were arrayed; the dealer had no duds to spare—we'd bought his stock in trade. We wore our overalls a week, and then the thing grew stale; we took and threw them in the creek, or hung them on a nail. And thus a great reform, my dears, was to the discard hurled; and still the busy profiteers are fencing in the world.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

SIR GEORGE ETIENNE CARTIER. On May 21, 1878, Sir George Etienne Cartier, a great French-Canadian statesman, died, after a long and honored career. Messages of condolence came from Queen Victoria and later from almost every part of the empire. Now a great statue of the gifted leader of the province stands on the slope of Mount Royal overlooking the city where he labored so long.

He was born at St. Antoine-on-the-Richelieu, Vercheres, on September 6, 1814. The family was one that dated back to the days of Jacques Cartier. When he was old enough he was sent to Montreal College where, under the Sulpician teachers, he began his education. There, too, he established a reputation for intellectual attainments that was maintained in his later years. He was called to the bar and became associated with a Montreal firm. But it was not until 1848 that he entered public life when he was elected parliament as a supporter of the Lafontaine-Baldwin administration. He was appointed to a cabinet position in 1856. Soon he was the first minister of the province of Canada, from that time onward his career was one long line of successes. He gave great attention to municipal law, ocean navigation, the canal of the country, the deepening of the St. Lawrence, and measures that bore their full fruit when the Northwest was opened up for trade and settlement.

In 1872, however, he met with a defeat in East Montreal. It was known among his friends that he was far from well, but his condition was not considered serious. But soon after his political defeat it was evident the end was approaching and in the next May he died.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Nothing to Do. Hostess, (at party)—Does your mother allow you to have two pieces of cake when you are at home? Willie, (who has asked for a second piece)—No, ma'am. Well, do you think she'll like you to have two pieces here? Oh, confidentially, she wouldn't care. This isn't her cake.

50-50.

Father—How many people work in your office? Son (government employee)—Oh, about half—By-stander, London.

Cause and Effect. "Was Edith surprised when her husband gave her such a splendid present?" "No—she wasn't surprised. Suspicious!"

What He Forgot. The ship on which they were crossing the Atlantic was not a dry one, and the revelers consumed between them considerably more than was good for them, only retiring finally when the stewards began to lay the tables for breakfast. Later in the day one of the revelers sought out the organizer of the affair in his cabin. "Hullo, old bean!" he exclaimed. "How are you feeling?" "Oh, I'm right!" lied the man addressed, stifling a groan. "In fact, I'm top hole. I wasn't really drunk, you know. I only ate everything that happened to me." "What was that?" asked his friend, drinking his seventeenth glass of water. "I can't think who paid for the taxi."

MINSTREL SHOW GIVES PLEASURE

A cleverly arranged and pleasing minstrel show was presented in St. Vincent's Auditorium last evening, under the auspices of the East End League, and the City of Saint John Association. The proceeds are to be spent on improvements on the East End grounds. The entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed and the soloists were given hearty and well merited applause, and were forced to respond to encores. It will be repeated this evening and as the object of raising funds is a worthy one a large number should be in attendance. An orchestra, under the direction of E. R. Hansen, accompanied the singers and also played selections. Miss Hawley presided at the piano and her clever playing was not lost on the appreciative audience. Those taking part included John J. Corr, Interlocutor; J. Eizenhouse, Thomas Stack, Mrs. Courtice, William Garnett, H. E. Collins, H. R. Garnett, Miss Hilda Cowan, Miss A. O'Neill, Miss Higgins, T. P. Stack, F. P. Stack, H. Corr, Miss Cox, Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. Lawrence, Miss Gertrude Howard, Florence Howard, Gladys Howard, Susan Hammond, Arta Pearson, Helen Fox, Agnes O'Neill, A. C. Lawrence, Annie Slocum, Ephie Cracker, Bertelle Sweeney, Hilda Dykeman, Bride Squires, Thomas Owens, Wm. Stack, Thomas Collins, Charles McFadden, Frank Garnett, Earl J. Seale, Edward McCann, Harold Roop, Jack Stenhouse, Albert Garnett, Juvenile minstrels—Masters Francis P. Stack, Ronald Garnett, H. Corr. St. Mary's band played during a picnic scene and also for the grand finale.

EMPIRE DAY

(Contributed by Municipal Chapter I.O.O.F.E.)

Previous to 1914 children—and many of their elders—felt that the British Empire was a fairly safe and comfortable place to live in and let it go at that. But when with the heroic sacrifices of fathers and brothers brought to this younger generation a realization of the relationship of Canada to the Empire. And so today, Empire Day, while every British-born subject must experience a thrill of national pride, young Canada has just reason for rejoicing that to her comes the double inheritance of the motherland and her own free state. No daughter ever held a nobler mother in greater reverence even when endorsing the declaration of Our Lady of the Snows.

"Daughter am I in my mother's house But mistress in my own."

This inheritance, however, brings with it serious responsibilities which we must be prepared to meet if we are to uphold its greatness and develop its amazing possibilities. The fate of the nation depends upon its future citizens, our present-day children, from whom must come its leaders and its advisors. "Every British-born child comes into the world with potentialities which should make for the welfare of the British Empire. To transform these possibilities into real qualities is the first and last duty of all who have the care of the future citizens of our empire."

There is an almost universal demand for educational improvement. Broader and better roads to fields of knowledge must be opened up in the near future. The talented and ambitious youth must be given opportunity for developing his talents and fitting himself for the leadership or position to which he would aspire. Never in the world's history did education mean more than it does today. Neither has it ever promised more or demanded more. Its special demands, which should claim our own particular attention, is for more school accommodation and a better and more practical approach to the qualified teacher to whom we would entrust the education of our children, the hope of Canada and the Empire.

Canada has already contributed richly to the Empire; but she is nothing if not generous. From her splendid store of brain power and ability she will continue to contribute; but her storehouse must be kept in order and care taken that the young shoots do not shrivel or wither for want of light. Science, selected her favorites from among the young. The mightiest trees of our future forests may be those which now are only saplings.

CUPID'S AGENTS TURNED DOWN

(Toronto Globe.) Seldom does cupid penetrate the close atmosphere of the division court. Yesterday, although Cupid did not appear in person, two women, Mrs. H. Shapero and Mrs. Clara Aron, claiming to be his agents, did their best to have Judge Morson award them \$30 for services rendered in dressing Cupid's arrows. The women contended that they had been regularly retained by Harry Lang to furnish him with a wife. "He said he would give me \$30 if I would furnish him with a nice wife," said Mrs. Shapero.

But, though Lang did marry, he did not pick up his bride any of the young ladies the plaintiffs introduced to him. The bride and her mother backed this statement up, and Judge Morson dismissed the case.

IN PARLIAMENT

Ottawa, May 21.—The House of Commons will decide today whether or not to sit on Victoria Day. Sir Robert Borden announced that Sir George Perley would represent Canada at the Spa conference of the Allies. Budget debate resumed by H. M. McKenna. The budget brought relief to no one. The poor man was taxed as much as the rich. H. H. Stevens of Vancouver attacked the national provisions and charged that the grain growers country had gambled in futures. He advocated the abolition of the Canada wheat board.

HE CREDITS TREES WITH HAVING THREE SENSES.

The curate of the British Guiana Museum, James Rodway, who is an eminent botanist, declares that plants possess at least three of our five senses—feeling, taste and smell—and that certain tropical trees smell water from a distance, and will move straight toward it. But trees not in the tropics can do as well. A resident of an old Scotch mansion found the waste pipe from the house repeatedly choked. Lifting the slabs in the basement paving, he discovered that the pipe was completely encircled by popular roots. They belonged to a tree that grew some thirty yards away on the opposite side of the house. Thus the roots had moved steadily toward the house, and had penetrated below the foundation and across the basement until they reached their goal, the waste pipe, 150 feet away. Then they had pierced a cement jointing and had worked their way in long, tapering lengths inside the pipe for a considerable distance beyond the house. These seems

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something almost human in such unerring instinct and perseverance in surmounting obstacles.

250 WAIT IN RAIN FOR LAYING ON OF HANDS (New York Evening Post.)

Two hundred and fifty persons, many of them ill or crippled, waited outside of St. Anne's Church, Brooklyn, this morning, trying to get into the healing mission conducted by James Moore Hickson, who professes to heal by the laying on of his hands. Every bit of standing room was taken. The church, both inside and outside, was composed largely of cripples of every kind, blind persons, and those suffering from organic disease, most of whom were supported by attendants. There were many wheel chairs, and many helpless children scattered pathetically among their equally helpless elders.

The Rev. G. Ashton Oliphant, rector of the church, opened the service with a prayer, followed by a brief talk by Mr. Hickson, who said: "Science is doing its best to work miracles upon the sick, but which we are trying to do now. This is nothing new. It is merely taking up the work which Jesus Christ started."

A Kings County Man. Arthur Oldfield, a former resident of Newton, Kings Co., who for some time has been assistant manager of the Imperial Oil Companies' business at Halifax, has lately been promoted, and is now manager for Newfoundland.

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