

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1924

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OUR FRIENDS BUSY AGAIN

Well, well, here we are again. The Canadian National Railways have issued another map. The International Rotary Convention is to be held in Toronto in June. The Canadian National naturally wants the business. Hence the series of red lines in the midst of a group of lovely pictures of places easily reached by excursionists from Toronto. The red lines begin at Chicago in the west and end at Quebec in the east, running north to Cobalt and Cochrane. For the purposes of this map, west of Ontario and east of Quebec do not exist, although in a list of agencies of the C. N. R., for the benefit of ticket buyers, Moncton and Halifax are mentioned. St. John is not named. Among great trains mentioned are The Ocean Limited and Maritime Express, "between Montreal and Halifax." St. John, being on a branch line, no doubt, is not worthy of mention; although we are told that "Toronto is easy of access from all points on the North American continent, and can be reached by Canadian National-Grand Trunk Railway system directly or by connecting lines from such centres of the United States as Portland, New London, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Detroit, Port Huron and Chicago."

"Portland," "New London"—where have we heard those names before? Ah, yes—they are winter ports of the C. N. R.
It would not be fair to say there is no mention of St. John in this elaborate picture of the world. If the visitor decides to travel east there are "the great ports of St. John and Halifax, the latter resting under the wing of a mighty fortress, jealously guarding Canada's Atlantic Gateway."

Not one of Canada's Atlantic gateways, mind you—but the only one Halifax should be "tickled pink" by the compliment, and doubtless St. John should be grateful that it is mentioned at all.

A COOKING PLANT

The announcement in The Times-Star yesterday, that a syndicate of engineers making a survey with the intention, if reports are satisfactory, of establishing in St. John a plant for the production of coke and the by-products of coal, gives rise to the hope that this industry may soon be created. St. John is admirably located for such a plant, whose products would be sent through the provinces. Many St. John people discovered during the past winter that coke was an excellent substitute for American anthracite. There is also a good market in these provinces for the by-products of coal. Since it is possible to establish a plant here with both rail and water connections, and since there are great deposits of suitable coal in the Minto fields in addition to the Nova Scotia supply, the conditions would seem to be especially favorable for the industry. The syndicate has evidently been impressed by these facts. It is said the plant would cost \$2,000,000 or more, and it would give employment to many people. If it should be decided to proceed with the work this year, the construction of the plant would call for much labor. St. John has been losing some industries, more especially those connected with lumber. It needs others to take their places. The attention of the citizens should be centred on industrial possibilities. A great manufacturing plant is a great asset, but numerous small ones have their merits and add a great deal, in the aggregate, to the amount of work provided and wages paid.

There is a better feeling abroad as the spring season opens up. It needs to be encouraged and stimulated by constructive action. There were those who mocked when it was proposed to erect a sugar refinery here. There were mockers of the hotel project. Let the mockers cease, and every citizen becomes a booster for St. John.

NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOLS

More schools, more teachers and more pupils—that is the record of the public schools of New Brunswick for the school year 1922-23, as revealed in the annual report of Dr. W. S. Carter, Chief Superintendent.

The total number of pupils in attendance during the year was 76,753. This was one in every five of the three-above of the population, according to the census of 1911. The total expenditure for the year was \$2,674,376.84, made up as follows:—

By districts \$2,063,391.46
County funds 204,102.83
Provincial grants 866,882.53

Total \$2,674,376.84

In the years 1917 to 1919 the supply of teachers in the province was about four hundred short. Last year the supply was nearly equal to the demand, and the result was an increase of 71,800 in the school enrolment. The Normal School attendance is now a record one, so that the problem of getting enough teachers is solved. The minimum

salary has greatly helped, and it is noted that some who had left the profession have returned to it because there is a better opportunity to get a living wage. No local licenses have been issued this year.
Dr. Carter notes that many of the high schools are overcrowded, and he does not recall any year in which more school houses have been built or planned. It is nevertheless a regrettable fact that so small a proportion of pupils go through the high school course. Only 8,243 children over fifteen years were in the public schools in the first term of last year, and 3,965 in the second. The problem is to provide such a course of instruction as will keep a larger number of pupils who have passed the common school grades in attendance for a longer period. Obviously vocational training is needed, and especially in the cities and towns.

It is to be noted that the percentage of average attendance of pupils at school has improved. It had fallen from 1915 to 1918, being only 67 in the December term of the latter year, but in 1922 had risen to 74.47. An interesting table compares the enrolment in cities and towns since 1918. Taking the December term in St. John we find that the enrolment in 1918 was 7,813, and in 1922 had increased to 9,195. Selecting these two terms for comparison we find:—

	1918-19	1922-23
St. John	7,813	9,195
Pictou	1,370	1,800
Moncton	2,134	3,563
St. Stephen	485	575
Milltown	351	324
Woodstock	666	783
Marysville	328	303
Campbellton	575	594
Chatham	799	912
Newcastle	467	682
Sussex	377	535
St. Andrews	214	244
Shediac	269	400
Sackville	450	669
St. George	225	284
Grand Falls	319	423

The figures for Devon show 332 in 1917 and 384 last year. Those for Bathurst show 373 in 1920 and 407 in 1922 and Edmundston 463 and 679. The figures for Campbellton for December term 1922 did not do justice to the town, as it had an enrolment of 1,190 in December, 1921 and 1,069 a year before. It will be observed in looking over the above list that some towns have grown while some have added very little to their school enrolment in ten years, and two show a loss.

A very interesting table, and one which explains why it is not as difficult to get teachers as it was a few years ago, is that showing the average salaries of teachers as compared with that of ten years ago. It is as follows:—

Class	1913	1923 Increase
Grammar school	\$1,104.20	\$2,103.62 \$999.42
Superior school	724.70	1,332.23 607.53
1st class, male	524.43	1,446.54 922.11
2nd class, male	374.94	808.89 433.95
3rd class, male	284.92	531.80 246.88
1st class, female	418.92	996.17 577.25
2nd class, female	308.92	726.44 417.52
3rd class, female	238.17	561.85 323.68

It will not be contended that salaries are too high. When we consider the value of the work the teachers perform, and that they get so little practical assistance from parents or Parent-Teacher Associations, it must be conceded that they deserve more rather than less remuneration. The proportion of male teachers is still very small. Of 2,291 teachers employed, including 99 assistants, 190 were male and 2,101 females.

There is still a very large proportion of ungraded schools in the province. During the first term of 1922-23 there were 140 graded schools in operation, and 1,228 ungraded schools. The former, however, had an enrolment 3,637 greater than the latter. In this connection it is interesting to note the number of districts having a claim upon the poor aid for the school year 1924-25. They are as follows:—Albert County, 12; Carleton, 12; Charlotte, 21; Gloucester, 65; Kent, 67; Kings, 84; Madawaska, 37; Northumberland, 37; Queens, 41; Restigouche, 19; St. John County, 7; Sunbury, 16; Victoria, 11; Westmorland, 9; York, 8. This makes a total of 380. It is explained that districts having a valuation of \$12,000 and under are rated poor; those \$8,000 and under one-third poor, and those between \$8,000 and \$12,000 one quarter poor. The amount apportioned from the County Fund to poor districts last year was \$12,968.79.

It is gratifying to note that there has been an increase in the number of pupils taking the high-school course. In the term ended December 1908-9 there were 1,801 students in high school and in the like term last year 3,315. This, however, compared with the total school attendance, is not a satisfactory showing.

Dr. Carter makes a very interesting comparison of the cost of schools in the province and in St. John in 1912-13 and 1922-23. The cost to the province in the former year was \$1,009,384, and in the latter \$2,657,046. This did not include the university, vocational, elementary, agriculture, health, and

schools for the deaf and blind. In St. John the annual expenditure in the former period was \$250,484, and in the latter \$339,262, while the bonded indebtedness for schools increased from \$269,000 to \$1,103,400. To bring it down to a simple statement, the schools of St. John cost \$2,700 per day.
The annual report from which these facts and figures have been gleaned contains much other interesting information, which may be made the subject of another reference.

Our friends in Moncton are not letting the world forget their enterprising city. In the Financial Post we find this advertisement attractively displayed:—"Manufacturers and Distributors should consider Moncton, N. B., the ideal manufacturing and distributing centre of the Maritime Provinces; the railway hub of the East; convenient to ocean ports the year round, giving excellent service to Newfoundland, Bermuda and the West Indies. Apply to: Advertising and Industrial Committee, Moncton, N. B."

Press Comment

HERE'S A TEST.
(Ottawa Citizen.)
Mr. Leader, Progressive member for Portage La Prairie, is to move that the Government take steps to reduce the indemnities and salaries paid to ministers of the crown by 12 1/2 per cent. When the vote is taken there will be a perfect test of how genuine is the parliamentary belief in "economy" by cutting staffs and reducing salaries.

ONTARIO AIRCRAFT INVESTMENT.

(Ottawa Citizen.)
The Ontario Government is evidently impressed with the urgent necessity of conserving the forest wealth of this province. It is announced that 12 aeroplanes have been purchased for fire patrol work in the timber areas. They are to be used also in an extensive forest survey. Timber concessions are to be checked up and preliminary information upon which to base a policy of reforestation is to be gathered.
The aircraft fleet should prove to be a profitable investment. Last year, fire burnt over 2,120,000 acres in this province, much of it timber land. With a more efficient fire prevention service, which a well-organized aircraft patrol will give, the cost of the aeroplane fleet should soon be saved to the province.
Cheaper aeroplanes are being designed and it is possible that some of the larger timber companies will themselves invest in modern machines so soon as a standard design is produced. The Provincial Government might perhaps have been better advised to build up the fire patrol fleet gradually, instead of buying so many machines at once. But the answer is that the need is urgent. Many large industries are dependent upon the maintenance of the province's forest resources.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(Mail and Empire.)
It is a common criticism of the League of Nations that, despite its influence and in some cases its strong endeavors much has happened in Europe as if the strong hand still prevailed in the settlement of differences between nations. In her measures to collect reparations from Germany, France has not lived up to the covenant of the League, to which she is a subscriber. Italy, in her dealings with Greece, refused to be constrained by her obligations as a member of the League. These and other disappointments tend to make people forgetful of the very substantial services to the peace and restoration of Europe that have been rendered by the League, notably in the settlement of disputes between Germany and Poland, in the obtaining of financial aid for Austria, and in the easing of the situation in Hungary. Surely nobody expected the moral authority of the League would become fully recognized and established in a few years. Long time is required to build up a formidable military power, and equally long time must be taken to build up an organization of equal potency for peace. Though some 60 nations now belong to the League, it does not yet include the United States. That is a great lack. Its use for the prevention of war would be immensely increased were that great power a member.
It is not, however, by adding nations to the League is to be made the security against war that it was designed to be. The emerging power of the League must be public opinion. When public opinion in the several constituent countries has been developed to the anti-war pitch, the League can then say that its objects have become attainable.

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LOVE'S LANTERN.
(By Joyce Kilmer.)
Because the road was steep and long
And through a dark and lonely land,
God set upon my lips a song
And put a lantern in my hand.
Through miles on weary miles of night
That stretch relentless on my way
My lantern burns serene and white,
An unexhausted cup of day.
O golden lights and lights like wine,
How dim your boasted splendors are.
Behold this little lamp of mine;
It is more starlike than a star!

LIGHTER VEIN
Unafraid
Landlady (to new boarder)—"Don't be afraid of the bacon."
Boarder—"I won't. I seen a piece twice as big as this and never got scared."
Won't Hurt Him a Bit
Coach—"You can't go in swimming on a full stomach."
Dorothy—"No, 2206, Miss."
Dorothy—"How funny! But, of course, that is not his real name."
Guard—"Oh, no, Miss! That's just his pen name."

Night Shirts
"Hello, Jim, I hear you're working in a shirt factory."
"Yes, I am."
"Well, why aren't you working today?"
"Oh, ye're making night shirts this week."

Cheated
Kind Old Lady—"Why are you crying, my boy?"
Boy—"Pa fell downstairs."
Kind Old Lady—"Well, don't cry; he'll be all right soon."
Boy—"Yes, I know; but my sister saw him fall all the way, and I never saw nuthin'."

Moneyed Men
"Can you direct me to the First National Bank?"
"I kin for a quarter. Bank directors don't work for nuthin' in this town."

The Last Flooded Her
Willie—"Mamma, will you answer just one more question, then I won't bother you any more."
Mother—"All right, then, what is it?"
Willie—"Why is it that the little fish don't drown before they learn to swim?"

ASK KINDERGARTEN TRAINING SCHOOL
The matter of the establishment of a training school for kindergarten teachers was discussed at the meeting of the Free Kindergarten Association yesterday afternoon in the Board of Trade rooms with Mrs. Allan G. McAvity, president, in the chair. The association had been in communication with Mrs. F. A. Robinson, former supervisor of the kindergartens, who conducted a training school successfully a short while ago in St. John. It was decided to write to Mrs. Robinson again asking whether if a guarantee of a certain enrollment could be given, she would undertake the school once more.

The finances were reported in a satisfactory condition. Two gifts were acknowledged. A friend had sent \$10 for music books. The second gift consisted of seven dresses. There are always some cases of great need found among the children.
Mrs. H. H. Pickett gave the report of the educational committee telling of the improved attendance since the weather moderated and less sickness amongst the children.

UNDERTAKE TO ASK MONEY FOR Y. W. C. A.

The Young Women's Christian Association goes behind at the rate of about \$100 or \$200 each month and the financial statement presented to the friends, members and club girls, has been matter of serious consideration. The mothers of the gymnasium girls are undertaking to send out the plea for contributions which has been prepared. At a meeting of the mothers last night Mrs. W. J. Angus explained the financial situation and Miss Hoyt the Travelers' Aid.

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Dreco is being specially introduced in St. John by Ross Drug Co., 100 King St., Moore's Drug Store, 105 Prince Edward St., F. W. Munro, 357 Main St., and in West St. John by Watson R. Dunlop. It is also sold in Fairville by T. H. Wilson, and by a good druggist everywhere.

CANADIAN PACIFIC CRUISES.

The Canadian Pacific Railway will run a cruise around the world in 1925. The magnificent Empress of France will leave New York on January 27th, and, after circling the globe, will return via the Panama Canal, reaching the home port on June 1st.
The Canadian Pacific will also operate a Mediterranean cruise by the Empress of Scotland, leaving New

York February 9th, and steamer will return to Southampton April 14th, which will enable patrons to spend several weeks on the Continent, if desired, before sailing on one of the liners to the St. Lawrence.
The date of the annual cruises to the West Indies will shortly be announced.
All information relative to these cruises may be obtained through any of the many agencies of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

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