

The Evening Times-Star
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SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 14, 1926.

THE CITY ENGINEER
IN reading over the report on the investigation of Saint John civic matters, as presented by Dr. Horace L. Brittain and his associates, one is struck by the anomaly of a city engineer who is not a city engineer in the full sense of the term. In spite of the fact that he bears that title, as the Brittain report points out, the city engineer is an engineer of only one department, and there with limited responsibility, and is simply a consulting engineer for the other departments.

When one considers that perhaps the most important details of a city's administration, from an economic and service standpoint, is in the planning and carrying out of its public works and utilities, it is very easy to realize where the city as a whole, and the taxpayers in particular, may have been suffering from such a condition as has existed in the administration of city affairs here for some years.

There seems to be a strong belief among many at City Hall, as well as among a large proportion of the citizens, that the only way to reduce taxation is by changing the assessment law. Dr. Brittain's report should go a long way to dispel this apparent misapprehension. There is no doubt that some changes are necessary to make the taxation burden equitable to all payers, but this would not be a panacea for all the assessment ills. That the people in the aggregate are over-taxed, very few will gainsay; but a rearrangement of the schedule will simply move the load from some shoulders to others, without materially reducing the total burden.

The basic solution of the whole trouble lies in the economic spending of the money collected. Looking at the question in the light of the recent survey, one would be inclined to look for that basis in the engineering services of the corporation. With these services disconnected through the operation of separate engineers in the several departments, there is bound to be over-lapping, and a lack of fixed responsibility, which cannot but prove more costly than under a concentrated organization.

The engineering problems of Saint John are sufficiently extensive and complicated to demand the employment of a well organized and clearly defined staff, and it would seem that the sooner the recommendations made by the Research Institute officials are made, the sooner will the administration of the city's services be placed upon an up-to-date and economic basis.

FREIGHT TARIFFS
THE observations of Mr. D. C. Coleman, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, published in the Canadian Magazine in the course of an article designed to assist young Canadians in selecting a career, are worth the attention of those who worship a sacrosanct rate structure. His says:

"Railway rate tariffs, particularly freight tariffs, contrary to a somewhat general impression, and apart altogether from the regulating influence of Railway Commission—are not fixed and static. They are in a constant state of flux. They must be adjusted to meet salt water and fresh water competition, and in recent years to meet new and novel forms of competition, and they should be, and are, modified and adjusted frequently to assist in the development of infant industries and to promote and encourage the import and export trade of the country. A political, financial and commercial actions and reactions which have an influence on general prosperity, and must be ready to accommodate itself to the lightning changes which in these years attend the interchange of trade."

This from a man high in the railway world is a valuable support to the recommendations of the Duncan Commission.

CURTAL THE ELOQUENCE
THE MONTREAL GAZETTE heartily approves of the announcement from Ottawa that the rules of the House are to be amended to expedite public business. It says:

"Unquestionably there is pressing need of reform in the parliamentary machinery, so that there may be an end of wasteful, meaningless and futile discussion. Time-killing abuses were had enough when the House of Commons was a much smaller body than it is now. They have been aggravated with successive increases in the numerical strength of the House and by an even more marked increase in per capita locquacity. By all means let the Commons amend their rules and conduct the country's business in a business way."

One of the difficulties is of course the presence of several groups instead of only two parties in the House. Each group will feel that to justify its existence it must have something to say on all matters coming before the House. Granting this, however, it should be possible to prevent long and pointless harangues aimed at constituents rather than at the House which must endure them. Josh Billings once observed that if a preacher in his sermon could not "strike fire" in twenty minutes there was something wrong with the sermon. We commend this observation to the members of the Commons.

Premier Hertzog says that "the work accomplished at the Imperial Conference in connection with South Africa's status as a Dominion was not the work of one section or another of the Conference, but had behind it the soul and spirit of the whole British Empire." Hon. A. B. Morine of Newfoundland says "it is impossible to doubt that a hoped-for solution of remaining Empire problems will be reached in the good old slow and sure British way." These observations should tend to allay the fears of any that as a result of the Imperial Conference the Empire is on the way to the scrap-heap. Outsiders do not understand us, but it is more regrettable that some among ourselves are always seeing the hand of disintegration doing its dreadful work. Happily they are a very small minority.

Mr. E. J. Archibald, executive editor of The Montreal Star, has this to say in the Canadian Magazine on the subject of a press for this country imbued with the spirit of Canada and untouched by foreign influences:

"Nowhere is American influence more strongly felt than in Canadian newspaperdom. American methods of news handling, illustrating and make-atmosphere inevitably carry much weight in a country into which American newspapers and periodicals enter not merely by thousands, but by carloads. * * * If the newspaper is in large measure the reflection of the 'kultar' of the country in which it is published we have a right to expect of our Canadian newspapers something more than a mere reflection of any foreign press, however excellent that press may be."

That was an interesting and instructive observation made in Vancouver by a director of the Consolidated Exporters of British Columbia, when he informed the Royal Commission that the Canadian Government Merchant Marine had agreed to transport liquor from Great Britain to Vancouver on through bills of lading for Mexican or Central American ports, although most of it went to the United States. "We thought," said this gentleman, "we could not be associated with any one better than the Canadian Government." The average Canadian will, however, entertain doubts as to whether the Government of this country should lend itself to the violation of the laws of a friendly nation.

Mr. J. T. O'Connor, of Montreal, vice-president of the Canadian Fisheries Association, comments on the Duncan Report, puts the case from the Maritime viewpoint with great clearness and force when he says: "But they don't want the Duncan Report to be treated as a medium for the exercise of charity to poor relations. They are not asking for sympathy, but for what they think is fair treatment of their rights as original partners in the Canadian Confederation. If the rest of Canada takes the attitude that the Duncan Report is only an excuse to help the Maritimes as an act of grace rather than of fair play, more harm than good will be done."

The value of fish production in Canada has increased from \$35,000,000 in 1921 to \$48,000,000 in 1925, and it is to be noted that there was an increase each year. Doubtless the figures for 1926 will show a further gain. There is too great a difference between the respective values in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Last year the figures for the former province were \$10,213,687 and for New Brunswick \$4,798,889. New Brunswick should do better. More capital is needed and a more vigorous effort to secure markets.

The Empty Stocking Fund is daily growing, and with each addition there is the assurance that more children who would otherwise think dull Christmas will be made happy for the day. Many families in Saint John are in straitened circumstances this winter, because during the past summer there was not sufficient steady work to keep the wage earners employed. The Empty Stocking Fund gives a favorable opportunity to an expression of sympathy that will lighten many a heart on Christmas Day.

Major Horner, of Yarmouth, says the West Indies are superior in many ways to the Southern United States as a tourist resort in winter. Those who have made the West India tour will be disposed to agree with Major Horner. If more Canadians got the habit of patronizing a British winter resort, it would tend to develop a more friendly feeling, resulting in a growth in trade.

A private member, Mr. S. W. Jacobs, of Montreal, will move in Parliament at Ottawa that the necessity of a by-election after a non-successful Cabinet office be removed. The House will probably concur. The constituents who elect a man are hardly likely to object to having him in the Cabinet if he is needed there.

The appeal of the Empty Stocking Fund is universal. Those who contribute will know that they have made some children happy on a day when every little one should be made glad.

Other Views

GOVERNMENT CONTROL ON TRIAL

(Cobalt Northern News)
THOSE who like liberty with their liquor were granted it on Wednesday by the consent of thousands upon thousands of non-drinkers who were willing to give Government control a trial. And the measure is on trial, or will be when the Legislature puts it into effect and the Government establishes stores early next spring. The restraint and behavior of the patrons of these stores will determine whether they are to remain a part of the life of the province, or whether they will be made them possible can sweep them out more swiftly than they have swept them in. Furthermore, crimes connected with intoxication, such as driving a car while inebriated, will be severely punished because force of public opinion will demand repressive harshness.

THE NEW YORK WAY

IN New York a Canadian from Toronto is reported as having been arrested for making a disturbance on the street. It seems that a thief grabbed his watch and ran. So he yelled for help and pursued the man, thus creating a disturbance. A visitor in New York can scarcely be blamed for not knowing local etiquette in such matters. In Toronto it is against the law to give the alarm and pursue a thief who snatches your watch. Here it is against the law for one man to steal the watch of another.

HORSES AND CARS

(Sydney Record)
AUTOMOBILES and tractors are making the horse of little value? Perhaps so, but at a recent auction sale in New York 400 horses sold for more than \$354,000, and there is a suspicion that an auction of cars would not have yielded as much.

COOL CAL WILL NOD

(Border Cities Star)
KING GEORGE and President Coolidge are expected to talk over the trans-Atlantic telephone. At least King George will talk, while Cal, if he is in laconic mood, will probably nod his head a couple of times.

CANADA'S HIGHWAYS

(London Free Press)
CANADA has added 7,018 miles of highway to her already many thousands of paved miles. Good highways all lead to better living conditions.

Making a Choice of Books For Children

(Calgary Herald)

THE Public Library staff has arranged an exhibit of juvenile books at the Library to which the attention of both parents and children should be given. A child's taste in reading may be affected at a very early age. The pleasure of the written word as conveyed by Mother Goose's Rhymes are understood by babies almost before they can talk. The next step in their progress is made with the old fairy tales and these may be followed with Robert Louis Stevenson's poems in his Child's Garden of Verses. In this later day A. A. Milne's verses, so full of melody, humor and whimsical charm, may well take their place beside Stevenson's. And Arthur Mee's delightful volumes, such as his One Thousand Beautiful Things, prove entrancing to the young mind at that age—to older minds, too, for that matter. Indeed, if parents will choose wisely of the books that are at hand for the very young, they will discover much benefit and information in them, for their own enjoyment.

Then comes, for boys, the age of adventure. Of this stage of reading, there is an infinite variety. Henty and Ballantyne, Dumas and Rolf Boldrewood, were the prototypes of later writers in various veins, but all dealing with healthy adventure, the class of reading that boys love.

A high taste in reading well fixed, although unconsciously determined, by what has preceded, the next stage might well be what are called standard authors. In the home will also decide that for their reach their sixteenth year? Is Dickens and Charles Kingsley? One may feel sorry for the lad who has not felt the spell of Keatsworth and Rob Roy and Ivanhoe, who has not lived with Oliver Twist and others of the great world of books, who has not read Hereward the Wake and Westward Ho.

But he will not read these books if he gets first the feet and light stuff of so many of the magazines of the day, or worse still, much of the strange material which lurks in some of our novels.

If parents prefer Michael Arlen and others of this ilk to the decent reading that is available, probably the lad in the home will also decide that for their reach their sixteenth year? Is Dickens and Charles Kingsley? One may feel sorry for the lad who has not felt the spell of Keatsworth and Rob Roy and Ivanhoe, who has not lived with Oliver Twist and others of the great world of books, who has not read Hereward the Wake and Westward Ho.

Christmas time is a good time to think of books. For this reason the Public Library has chosen these weeks for the exhibit of which The Herald speaks. To secure books from the library is good, but it is not enough. Boys and girls ought to respect books as things of value. The book stores will probably have on sale the books that are in this exhibit. It would be well therefore for parents to see this display, to talk with the librarian in charge about books for their own boys and daughters, and so help to start their sons and daughters right upon a road that will lead them to the greatest pleasures of the mind.

The Too Common Cold

(New York Times)

IN England, too, the medical faculty is put on its defense and certain and certain cure for the common cold. It is a complaint so universal and disagreeable that everybody is asking for a cure. But what is the cure? The doctors at least when they are frank, admit that they do not know either. This is virtually the confession of Professor Leonard Hill, a lecturer recently given at Gresham College.

The great trouble with the infecting bacillus may well be named Legion, as there are so many of them. It is a difficulty about the inoculation cure that is being tried. It is not only a matter of one bacillus, while it is really another that is doing the mischief. Hence it happens that inoculation sometimes fails. It is highly efficacious.

Professor Hill came out strongly on the side of prevention. He said that the infecting bacillus once he breaks through your lines at any point, however, you are lost, and the best thing to do is to keep your attention "run its course." There are various measures of relief, but apparently only time and rest. He said that the best thing to do when we have a bad cold, but we also know how to keep our feet warm, our head cool, or making sure always to breathe clean air, pure air, having a good ventilation of the room, and to keep on working and living in ordinary conditions. If the common cold were more curable, it would probably be all very well if one had not to keep on working and living in ordinary conditions. If the common cold were more curable, it would probably be all very well if one had not to keep on working and living in ordinary conditions. If the common cold were more curable, it would probably be all very well if one had not to keep on working and living in ordinary conditions.

Shop Early

(Hamilton Spectator)

IT is not a day too soon to remind readers to do their Christmas shopping early. There are but a few shopping days before the festival, and they will be very busy days for the storekeepers. It is hardly necessary to point out the advantages of getting Christmas purchases done before the final rush. The early buyer has a better selection of goods, and he is not one of the many who are having orders attended to in plenty of time for delivery and has the satisfaction which comes from the prompt dispatch. It is not only for the benefits accruing to the buyer, however, that early shopping is to be recommended. Out of fairness to the store clerks every effort should be made to relieve the heavy congestion of Christmas week. Wise shoppers will avoid that last scramble, with its inevitable disappointment and confusion, by supplying their requirements well in advance. The stores are ready with a complete assortment of Christmas goods; there is certainly no time like the present to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

Interesting Figures

(Ottawa Citizen)

TWO aspects of the bulletin issued by the Department of Immigration and Colonization concerning population movements into Canada are of special interest. One is the report dealing with Canadians returning from the United States, and the other that dealing with general immigration. The total number of Canadians returning from across the border since April 1 last is 42,926. This is satisfactory from more than one point of view. But by themselves the figures do not mean much. No figures are given of the number who left to go to the United States in the same period or of the number of British-born Canadians awaiting quota permission to depart. Waning prosperity in several important industries and sections of the United States probably accounts for the return of forty-two thousand. It is said they intend to remain in Canada, but a boom in the United States would test that intention very severely.

It All Depends

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review)

PREMIER OLIVE, of British Columbia, announces that the government has \$1,555,000 for distribution among the municipalities, the hospitals and others entitled to a share from the profits of government control of the liquor traffic for the last six months. "How fine!" will be the comment of some; "how shocking!" the comment of others, depending on the point of view.

Poems I Love

By CHAR. HANSON TOWNE

"Cynara," by Ernest Dowson.
DOWSON belonged to that flaming group of young poets who astonished England in the eight-nineties. This famous poem alone would have made a name for him; but fortunately he left us other songs which are piercingly lovely. This, however, he will live by. It will not perish, with much of the drift of that period.

Last night, ah, yesternight, betwixt her lips and mine,
There fell thy shadow, Cynara! thy breath was shed
Upon my soul between the kisses and the wine;
And I was desolate and sick of an old passion,
Yea, I was desolate and bowed my head.
I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! in my fashion.

All night upon mine heart I felt her warm heart beat,
Night-long within mine arms in love and since she lay;
Surely the kisses of her bought red mouth were sweet;
But I was desolate and sick of an old passion,
When I awoke and found the dawn at the feet of shadow, Cynara! in my fashion.

I have forgot much, Cynara! gone with the wind,
Flung roses, roses riotously with the throng,
Dancing, to put thy pale, lost lilies out of mind;
But I was desolate and sick of an old passion,
Yea, all the time, because the dance was long;
I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! in my fashion.

I cried for madder music and for stronger wine,
But when the feast is finished and the lamps expire,
Then falls thy shadow, Cynara! the night is thine;
And I am desolate and sick of an old passion,
Yea, hungry for the lips of my desire;
I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! in my fashion.

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Who's Who

IN THE DAYS NEWS

HERMAN ATKINS MACNEIL, ONE of the newly-elected members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, has taken many medals for his work in decorative art. He is known chiefly for his "Sun Vow" and "Primitive Chant," both Indian subjects, and is the designer of the latest American twenty-five-cent piece.

Born in Chelsea, Mass., in 1866, Mr. MacNeil received his early education at the Massachusetts State Normal School, later going to Paris, where he was a pupil of Chaps at the Julien Academy. He also passed two years under Paul Gauguin at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Returning to the United States, Mr. MacNeil instructed at Cornell University and the Art Institute, at Chicago. In addition to the many awards received for meritorious work, Mr. MacNeil has done important decorative sculpturing at the Paris, Buffalo, St. Louis and Panama expositions. His work also includes the McKinley Memorial at Columbus, O.; Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial, Whitman, Mass.; General Washington, Washington Arch, New York City; Ezra Cornell Memorial, Ithaca, N. Y., and many other memorials.

Mr. MacNeil now is housed in the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

After Dinner Stories

AN OLD negro went to the office of the commissioner of registration in a Missouri town and applied for registration papers.

"What is your name?" asked the official.

"George Washington," was the reply.

"Well, George, are you the man who cut down the cherry tree?"

"No, sah, I ain't de man. I ain't done no work for nigh onto a year."

HERES A SWIMMING STORY FROM MAORLAND

The small girl had been beaten in the school swimming carnival, her rival winning by about a yard. The small girl, to her family's surprise, took the beating nonchalantly. "You see," she explained gravely at the family tea-table, "Eugenia Gropser should swim better'n anybody else. Her father keeps a fish-shop!"

Queer Quirks of Nature

UNDER THIS THE VILLAGE SMITHY STOOD.

By ARTHUR N. PACK.

SURELY no tree has brought more real joy to boys and girls, not to mention grown folks, than the chestnut.

The leaves of the tree are simple, about six or eight inches long, sharp pointed and coarsely toothed with slender spines on the margin.

As for the bark, on the branches and small trunks it is smooth, brownish and close-fitting; but on the bigger and older trunks it is grayish brown and deeply furrowed.

The twigs are smooth and colored greenish to brown dotted with numerous small white breathing pores. The wood is light, soft, coarse-grained and not particularly strong; its greatest durability is in contact with the soil.

Though large quantities are used for posts, poles, ties and general construction.

The chestnut is found from Maine to Michigan, and as far south as the Carolinas, Georgia and Arkansas. Once extracted purposes, it is also suitable for a magnificent and abundant tree. It is now rather rare, due to the spread of the deadly chestnut blight.

CHESNUT

GIFT INSPIRATIONS FROM THE Third Floor at Dykeman's

BATH ROBES AS USEFUL PRESENTS
If you are in doubt as to what to give, you can always give bath robes. We have them for mother or sister, in good, warm velours in newest designs and colorings.
Girls' sizes, 8 to 14 years—\$4.25, \$5.95.
Women's and Misses', \$5.75 to \$12.00.

A CHARMING GIFT IS A SWEATER
New Chappie Coats, all the most popular colors, \$4.00.
Windbreakers, in the newest knitted effects, in striking colors and combinations, \$4.95 up to \$7.95.

GIVE HER A HOUSE DRESS
You can give more expensive things than a housedress, but you can't give anything more useful or sensible. Note these two big Xmas Specials—
\$1.19 and \$1.39
Smartest styles in Gingham and Chambray.

A BIG XMAS SPECIAL IN COMFORTERS
No woman can have too many. Note this price, \$3.59—on sale Wednesday. Nicely filled with cotton, well sewn, good durable cambric coverings; has panels in contrasting colors; size 60x72—a regular \$5.00 value.

BLANKETS, CUSHIONS, CURTAINS make splendid gifts for mother. The next time you are down town come up to the third floor and see the many dainty things in Christmas boxes all ready for presentation.

F. A. DYKEMAN & CO.

Just Fun

WE honestly believe that the average flapper worries just as much about her old-fashioned mother as her mother worries about her new fangled daughter.

THE newly married man had been piloted into a restaurant by his old friend. He studied the menu for a moment and then rose abruptly. "Let's get out of here," he gasped. "Let's try another place."

"What's the matter with this place?" said the friend in wonderment. "Man, don't you see what they have at the head of that bill of fare?" answered the benefactor. "Home cooking!"

THE DUMB LADY

LODGER: I'm going out tonight to see "The Barber of Seville." Landlady: Will you find out what he charges for ladies'—Passing Show, London.

SOME relatives are well to do. Others are hard to do. You can't keep a good man down, said the wife to Jonathan.

Average length of man's arm is 36 inches. Average circumference of woman's waist is 36 inches. Aln't woman's waist is 36 inches. Aln't woman's waist is 36 inches.

Some cooks leave. Others don't leave much.

SEVEN AGES OF WOMEN

Safety-plins
Whip-plins
Fraternally-plins
Diamond-plins
Clothes-plins
Rolling-plins

WHAT a whale of a difference a few cents makes," said the patient as he went under the anesthetic.

FEELS

Here's a heading that I lifted from THE BREEZE:
"A woman shoots her better half
And Flees!"
That's some shooting and my hat's off
To the madam.
As I wonder if it was her hub
Who had 'em.

NEVER make fun of "Hee" coffee, you may be old and weak some day yourself.

HER (haughtily): "I'll have you that all that all of my ancestors have been done in oil!"
HIM: "Humph, that's nothing! So are sardines."

LIVING in a box car is convenient. You needn't move because your house does it for you.

A BASHFUL suitor asked, "Gladys, would you like to have a puppy?"
"Oh, Eddie," she exclaimed. "How delightfully humble of you. Yes, dearest, I accept!"

A WHIST party will be held next Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. George Sparks for the benefit of the

the Bradlee Mothers' Club.—Lawrence, Mass., Telegram. Newspapermen are so cynical.

Open Saturday Night Till 10

BRAYVO!
A SUNDAY school teacher had been lecturing her class on virtue and its reward.

"Now tell me," she said, "what sort of people get the biggest crowns when they go to heaven?"

"Them with the biggest heads," answered her brightest pupil.—Tit-Bits, London.

MADE BY

THE FOLEY POTTERY

For good rich BAKED BEANS use plenty of clear pork fat and ALWAYS BAKE in the OLD FASHIONED BEAN POT

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