

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1917

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 20, 1917.

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THE PROVINCIAL ROADS.

The provincial public works department will do well not to be disturbed by the violent clamor of the opposition press about the condition of the roads. That press last year was boasting that the roads were never in such fine condition. It was not telling the truth then and is not acting by a desire to serve the public interest now. It is trying to make political capital.

Neither should friends of the government become over-anxious to have money hastily spent for temporary repairs. A certain amount of such work is necessary, but as there are bad roads and bad places in the roads all over the province it would be easy to spend an immense amount of money that would have to be spent over again year after year without giving the province good roads.

The people should be content with a very moderate expenditure on temporary repairs, in order that the government may go ahead with as large a programme as possible of real road work, of permanent value. Having tolerated for so long a government which let the roads run down, the people should give the new government a reasonable time to improve conditions, and not press demands for temporary work on a large scale, since that policy would result in perpetual bad roads.

The government has four years in which to carry out a practical road policy. If at the end of that period it has made a real improvement in the roads, the complaints of today will be well gotten. Hon. Mr. Venne will be well advised if he bears this fact constantly in mind. He could easily waste his whole appropriation every year if he proceeded without definite aims and yielded to every demand made upon him. By all means let the worst places in the roads be improved, but let the bulk of the work done be of lasting value. If the people do not approve now, they will when they see the result a few years hence.

But what are the people themselves doing? We are all familiar with the man who refuses to lift a stone out of the road in front of his house because he regards that as the work of somebody else; but is that the right spirit? The Times was told recently of a stream of water running down the middle of a piece of road, washing it out and doing constant damage, simply because nobody thought it worth while to spend a few minutes with a hoe or spade opening up a choked drain. If the people who use the roads had the right idea they would regard a little work of this kind as a public service which would do them no harm, and do the general public much good. In time we shall have good roads and a patrol system, but in the meantime why should not every man feel himself obligated to save the province money by making quick repairs where the need is obvious and the task easy? It is the people's money the government spends on the roads, and therefore every taxpayer has a personal interest in seeing that expenditure as small as possible. Failure to make repairs, that at the outset would call for only a very little effort on the part of users of the road, results in an aggregate later expenditure of a stream of a great deal of money—which the people must provide. Why are we all so short-sighted in these matters?

A TIMELY PROTEST

An editorial published in the Conservative Montreal Gazette some weeks ago is commended to those Conservative papers which are beginning to raise the race and religion cry for purely partisan purposes. The Gazette said:

"Those who seek to punish Quebec for not calling men for service in Europe in the same proportion as Ontario and the western provinces, should not fail to remember that there is an element in this province which has done as well as the people in any other part of Canada. The number of men enlisted is in the neighborhood of 45,000, a total greater by half than the first contingent. Among these are several thousands of French-Canadians. The people have also contributed generously, even lavishly, to the Patriotic Fund. The private subscriptions are in the millions. The Quebec government contributed a million dollars at the last session of the legislature. Are all these gifts of men and money to be counted as naught? Are the fierce hatreds bred of the war, and which are universal, to prevail over right and common sense in a land like Canada, which is only beginning to build itself up on a scale commensurate with its territorial size and natural wealth? Union not disunion, is needed in the Dominion today. The war cannot last forever, and Canada will be laboring under a terrible handicap if her people are torn with religious and racial jealousies and suspicions when peace is restored."

After moving an amendment that diversity students be exempted from the conscription bill, and having it accepted, Sir Robert Borden yesterday moved to have it struck out again. There's consistency for you.

THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR.

The speech of the new German Chancellor shows clearly that he is opposed to any peace except on Germany's terms. The militarists are in the ascendant. The chancellor repeats the old falsehood that the war was forced on Germany, and approves in the strongest terms the submarine warfare. He appears fully to justify what M. Jules Cambon says of him—

"Herr Michaelis," says M. Cambon, "seems to be of the type of disciplined, brutal Prussian functionary, a Liberal so long as he is not in power, but a Conservative and reactionary as soon as he is charged with public functions. He is charged with public functions, to practice contradictory policies, supporting Von Hindenburg and Von Ludendorff and the military party energetically on the one hand and trying on the other to flatter the Socialist and the pacifist element in Germany, and her allied countries."

The Bangor Commercial says: "Reports come to us that some of the farmers are considering allowing their hay crops to rot in the fields because of the difficulties of harvesting, and the possibilities as they view them, that the harvesting will not prove lucrative for them. They would point out that the expense of harvesting would be greater than usual and that it is almost impossible to obtain labor. And they also consider that there is a considerable surplus of hay in the country. The grain surplus in the country is very slight and there is an extreme likelihood that the high prices now prevailing will continue for another year, in any event that the prices will be more than normal. There will be use for the hay and while it is discouraging to the farmers to be confronted with the labor scarcity they must make extra effort to overcome it."

The following from the Montreal Star is very timely, in view of the present political crisis in Canada: "The movement for a union government at Ottawa must be kept within proper bounds or it may become a movement for disunion in Canada. While it is desirable that all unessential political differences should be dropped in a common effort to win the war, it is not desirable that permanent divisions should be crystallized upon racial or creedal lines. We are building in Canada a great nation, with wonderful possibilities which require for their sure development a strong co-operative coast-to-coast loyalty. If we lose that, we face a future of shallows and uncertainties. Never in our history did we have greater need for broad and generous statesmanship. Never was there a more dangerous weapon in the hands of indiscreet or adventurous politicians."

The Ottawa correspondent of the Standard makes it clear that the government has no intention of enforcing the conscription act before the general elections are held, and he intimates that these will not be held until the latter part of September. Evidently the need of the men in the trenches is taking second place to the need of the Tory politicians at Ottawa. The government is playing the game of politics. That being the case the people will estimate at their true value the racial and religious appeals of which the beginning is already in evidence in a section of the Tory press.

That some hard coal is actually to be landed at St. John at \$9.85 per ton and some more at \$11.25, is vouched for by Dr. James H. Frink. Dealers' invoices show a higher price, but the fact stated by Dr. Frink confirms his contention that the price of coal can be reduced. If government action is necessary, let the government be called upon to act.

Those who are very optimistic over the war situation should study the map and ask themselves how much territory has been taken from the Germans in the last few months.

Maj. Gen. F. B. Maurice believes the Germans are incapable of making any really great effort on the western front because of the wearing down of their man power.

The Conservatives now frankly admit that they cannot get along without the help of the Liberals. They should have made that discovery nearly three years ago.

The Standard says parliament is "performing the last rites over the conscription bill." In other words, Sir Robert will lay it away on the shelf until after the elections.

A coroner's jury finds that Robert Harris was murdered. The next step is to convict the murderer.

The Russian government has the Petrograd situation well in hand.

LIGHTER VEIN

The Lawyer Knew
Defendant—I don't know what I would have done if it hadn't been for you.
Lawyer—I know, though. You'd have done time.

As It Looks to Him Now
Wife—Did you ever have more money than you knew what to do with?
Hub—I suppose I must have had at one time or I wouldn't have got married.

That Thousand Pound Look
"It pays to be cheerful."
"You bet. As long as you look as if you had money, your creditors will have confidence in you."

The Latter, Probably
Clerk—Did you notice that the office boy has dark circles under his eyes?
Cashier—Yes, but I don't know whether he needs medicine or soap.

Stung
Stella—Was Jack wounded at the front, then?
Maud—No; he came home on leave, and sat on a wasp's nest—Cassell's Saturday Journal.

Making A Noise Like An Onion
Sir J. M. Barrie heard two actors discussing the power of expression and how much could be conveyed by gestures without speech. One was quite sure he could make his audience understand without opening his lips.
"Please go," said Sir James, "to the back of the stage and express in your face that you have a brother who, although born in Dewsbury, now lives in the Latin quarter in Paris."—Liverpool Post.

"How's your boy Josh getting along with his studies?"
"Pleasantly," replied Farmer Corntossel. "He don't bother 'em none."

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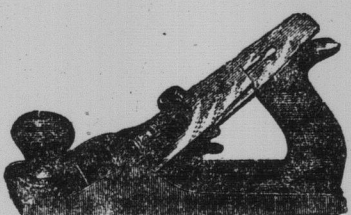
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THE OLD OF THE MOON
Writer Says Science and the Bible Both Oppose Superstitions Re Crop Sowing.

(Newark Evening News)
One of the most persistent beliefs is that which attributes some sort of inexplicable influence to the moon. Early last spring a newspaper devoting much of its space to agricultural affairs said: "The time to plant winter potatoes is in the old of the moon in the month of May." And there are farmers and gardeners who would no more think of planting at any other phase of the moon than they would of sowing oats in mid-winter. Now that the time for late crop planting has arrived, the same sort of lunar advice is being disseminated. "The time in which to cut bushes," wrote Dr. Jared Eliot, an authority in years gone by, "is in the old of the moon in the month of August." Beans, it is said, should be planted only when the moon is bright. Timber should be cut only at certain phases of the moon, otherwise it will not season properly. Young calves should be weaned only

"when the moon is right," and some have gone so far as to believe that babies should not be weaned until the moon presents a certain phase; just what is this favorable phase the records at hand do not say.
Sailors believe that sleeping in the moonlight induces insanity. In some localities the farmers think that if the horns of the new moon will hold water it will be a dry month, but if tipped so the water will run out the month will be rainy. In other places just the reverse view is held.
Just at this time, when many men, women and children are engaging in farming and gardening who never did so before, these "old of the moon" and related beliefs are of interest to large numbers of people. There's really nothing in them, but they still persist. Years of scientific research and tens of thousands of careful observations have clearly demonstrated that for all practical purposes the moon has no influence upon the weather or the growth of crops, but the man who wants to hold on to his moon superstitions will say: "The moon makes the tides, and anything that makes the tides can do a lot of other things. In the good old

It Pays to Shop at Arnold's

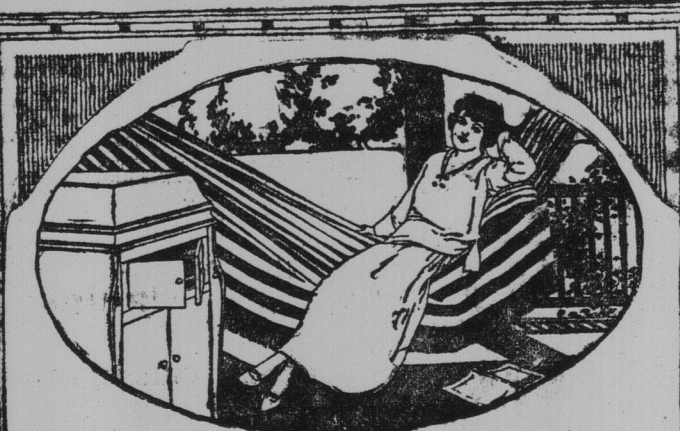
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book it is written: "He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." In the morning sow thy seed and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for thou knowest not whether shall prosper either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." From which it may be judged that science and the

Bible are fully agreed on one point, which is the unreliability of the "old of the moon" superstitions. The seeming effects of the moon on weather and crops are mere unrelated coincidences and are not due to physical influences.



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