

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 17, 1920.

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AS OTHERS SEE US.

We suffer no damage if occasionally we pause to consider the light in which we are regarded by our neighbors. Take, for example, the following extract from a letter written by a citizen of Halifax to the Echo, published in that city: "It was indeed satisfactory to note in a recent issue that Mayor Parker has proclaimed the first week in May 'clean-up week.' This early announcement enables citizens to properly prepare to have their places thoroughly cleaned. During that week, it matters not what the quantity or the kind of rubbish placed in the barrels, the teams will take delivery. Everything goes that week, including garden rakes. After that date, only ashes and garbage will be taken. If citizens will now do their part and act promptly, this year ought to eclipse all previous efforts, because the city has better equipment and the scavenging system is superior to anything Halifax has yet had. It might be well for the citizens to remember that St. John has no civic ashes or garbage collection, and no incinerator plant, all citizens being compelled to care for their own, at their own personal expense. How would you like to live in St. John? If citizens in Halifax generally knew the fact in regard to St. John, there would probably be considerably less criticism of our civic corporation and more individual effort."

NOVA SCOTIA FARMERS.

The United Farmers of Nova Scotia are now organized, and have adopted the platform of the United Farmers of New Brunswick. They are not in sympathy, however, with the Labor party, and gave a cold reception, although applied with some heat, to a delegation from the Independent Labor Party. Eighty-five farmers joined at the organization meeting in Truro, but it was pointed out that the United Farmers of Ontario started six years ago with 248 members and now have 60,000. The convention adopted a strong resolution denouncing the eight-hour day. Later a delegation from the Labor party was heard, and before its members had got very far there was an exchange of compliments which would seem to preclude anything approaching co-operation between the two parties, although the resolution calling for joint action was finally referred to the executive for consideration. The Echo reports that the meeting was so "hot" up over the discussion that the farmers left the hall on their way home without the formality of adjournment. It was in vain that a Labor delegate asserted that without the Labor party support there would be no farmers' government today in Ontario. The Nova Scotia farmers propose for the present to hoe their own row, although one of their officials has said since the convention that there might be co-operation with Labor in some contingencies at election time.

WHY PRICES ADVANCE.

Refraining that an increase in the cost of living in war time was easily understood, but that many seem unable to understand why prices should go on increasing in peace time, the Journal of Commerce gives the following clear explanation: "Actual shortage of supplies is greater now than it was during the war. There was an abundance of supplies in most countries when war broke out and though the expectation of shortage had an immediate and increasing effect on prices the diminution of stocks was gradual, and it was only when the war was well advanced that actual shortage began to be keenly felt. Now all reserves have been exhausted. The world has to depend on the goods of recent production, and production, carried on under great difficulty and with a shortage of efficient labor, has not overtaken consumption. It is now, rather than most keenly felt, that the shortage is exceeded the supply, and so long as this condition remains there can be no reduction of prices. Increased production in all the lines of food and other necessities is the only hope of reducing the cost of living, and this betterment must come slowly."

The discussion in the legislature yesterday brought out the fact that salaries in the departments, from the chief down to the lowest paid member, are very small in comparison with what is paid in commercial and industrial life. The like is true of the salaries of teachers and school inspectors. Hon. C. W. Robinson's remark that there were hundreds of men in Moncton getting more pay than school inspectors, and having no traveling to do, gives force to the plea that we hold educational work far too cheaply in New Brunswick.

WESTERN SCHOOL LANDS.

A full report of the speech of Mr. J. C. Tory in the Nova Scotia legislature on the rights of the maritime provinces in regard to western school lands shows that he has given the subject a great deal of study, and he made out a very strong case for these provinces. The Halifax Echo says: "Mr. Tory commenced by reading his resolution, which provides for the immediate calling of a conference of representatives of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, to formulate a plan to effect a settlement through joint action of the western school lands problem, to obtain compensation for the maritime provinces for the cash subsidies paid to the western provinces in lieu of lands, for the lands ceded to Ontario and Quebec, which the maritime provinces held a proprietary interest, and also compensation for the non-observance of provisions affecting the maritime provinces which were set forth in the British North America Act. He announced that the premiers of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had already promised their co-operation."

Mr. Tory pointed out that this was not a matter of party politics, and that co-ordination of all the forces in the three provinces was necessary; and that if prompt action were not taken the question might be settled at Ottawa adversely to their interests. The Liberal convention last year had passed a resolution favoring the granting to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the control of their resources. Hence the maritime provinces must look to their rights. The four original provinces had purchased in 1870 a vast area in the west and in 1876 the balance of the territory was ceded to the Dominion, which was then composed of six provinces. Certain proportions of those lands were reserved by the Dominion for school purposes when the three other provinces were organized. The maritime provinces clearly have a claim with other provinces on these lands, and it should be recognized by the federal government. Quebec and Ontario have had large sections of their territory without any consideration for these provinces. Mr. Tory argued that there are millions of dollars coming to us if we get our rights, and our people must bestir themselves or lose wealth which rightly belongs to them."

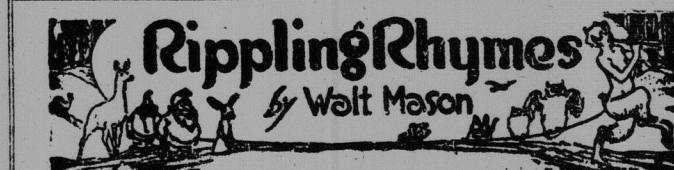
Fredericton Mail: "The present government has been in office three years, and during that time millions of dollars have passed through its hands. The very fact that so keen and discerning an advocate as Mr. Baxter was compelled to centre his criticism to the alleged violation of Liberal principles, to the Carleton vacancy, to the appointment of Hon. Dr. Roberts as Minister of Health without salary, and to the changing of the title of the Auditor-General, should be sufficient to convince the people of this province that the administration of their affairs is in good hands. The heroes of the patriotic potato scandal, the timber land booties and the Valley Railway grafters should thank their lucky stars that Mr. Baxter was not a member of the opposition in the House at the time they were playing high jinks with the finances of the province."

If when it has succeeded in reforming the internal affairs of the United Kingdom to its liking the American congress goes on to deal with the other nations of Europe, Japan, China, Mexico and the Central and South American Republics, it will have a long session. Meanwhile there are several matters in the United States which would seem to call for attention. Why not refer them to the British or French parliament, the Russian Soviet, or the president of Mexico? A little reciprocity in mind and other people's business would perhaps be good all round."

Montreal Star: "For years past the civil authorities have asserted that the notifications of birth have been so lax that no accurate tables could be compiled showing the natural increase in the population. There is no more important branch of the civil service than that connected with the tabulation of its vital statistics. It stands to reason if there are handicaps in the securing of accurate birth returns, percentages, showing just what contrasts there are between births, deaths, etc., are difficult if not impossible to compile."

ONTARIO TORIES PLAN CONVENTION FOR OCTOBER

Toronto, April 15.—A provincial convention of the Conservative party will be held here in the last week of October. A permanent leader for Ontario will be appointed, and party policy laid down.



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THE SPRING COLD.

I have a cold; it should be hard to be a cheerful sunshine band. I'd like to croak about despair, and rear on my hind limbs and swear; but habit is a wondrous thing, and so I dance around and sing. My head is clogged, my eyes are sore, and every breath sounds like a moan; I'm full of fever, and my brow feels like an old Dutch oven now, and men would say I had excuse, if I should rant and raise the deuce. But habit has me in its grip, and so I sound my cheerful yip. For years I've piled this sunshine lute, and kept a smiling face in front, and now, when I'm tough as sin, but every groan ends in a grin. And this, my friends, methinks should teach that wholesome habit as a peach. I'm glad I learned when I was young to leave the doleful dirge unsung, and chant glad ditties, span and spick, till some one hit me with a brick, to push gay balls through my beard, until the pecters interfered.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

MARGARET BOURGEOIS.

One of the heroic French women of the pioneer days of Canada was Margaret Bourgeois, who was born in France on April 17, 1820. In early life she experienced considerable disappointment in not being able to enter a religious community in which she was greatly interested. Having made an unsuccessful attempt to form a congregation of sisters in France, her opportunity came in 1869 when M. de Montigny, a French nobleman, came to Canada with a mission to found the Congregation of Notre Dame. On her arrival in Quebec late in the fall of 1869 she entered upon her religious and educational work with tremendous enthusiasm. She was urged to join the Ursulines, but she declined the invitation and went to Montreal. In two months after her arrival she had started a school with no better accommodation for it than an old stable she was able to procure as a meeting place. In 1870, in connection with other French ladies, she formed the Congregation of Notre Dame, which was incorporated in 1880 and formally established seven years afterwards. After having enjoyed the great pleasure of seeing the order taking a foremost place in education in the city and being a great blessing to the colony, she died on Jan. 12. She is recorded in the histories of the country as one of the greatest educationalists of her time, and as the founder of the most useful workers for the general good of the colony."

THE CHILD WITHOUT PLAY.

Plenty of room for dives and dens (glitter and glare and art). Plenty of room for prison pens (gather the criminals in). Plenty of room for jails and courts (willing enough to pay). But never a place for the kids to race, no, never a place to play. Plenty of room for shops and stores (Mammon must have the day). Plenty of room for the running sores that rot in the city's breast. Plenty of room for the lures that lead the heads of youth astray. But never a cent on a playground spent; no, never a place to play. Plenty of room for schools and halls, plenty of room for art. Plenty of room for tea and balls, platform, stage and mart. Proud is the city that finds a place for many a fad today. But she's more than blind if she fails to find a place for the boys to play. Give them a chance for innocent sport, give them a place for fun. Better a playground plot than a quart and a jail when the harm is done. Give them a chance—if you're a man, now, tomorrow you'll have to pay. A larger bill for a darker ill, so give them a place to play. —Dennis A. McCarthy in "Social Welfare," Toronto.

LIGHTER VEIN.

A Worth-While Job. A pessimist and an optimist were discussing life from their different points of view. "I really believe," said the former, "that I could make a better world myself." "Sure!" returned the optimist, "that's what we are here for. Now let us get to work and do it!" —"The Sun Transcript."

Swift Times.

Proibiter—What's been in clover for six months now? His Wife—A few months more and we will be going to the old aristocracy. —Pele-Mele (Paris).

From Front to Rear.

Tramp—Madam, I was at the front—Kind-hearted Lady—My poor man! Another victim of that terrible war! Here's a dollar. Tell me how you got into these straits. Tramp—I was going to say that I was at the front door and nobody answered so I came round to the back. Thanked, mum. —The Home Sector.

James—Why is an after-dinner speech called a toast? Dowdell—Because it is so dry.

Madden—I have here a little poem, the only one I ever wrote. Ever Sensitive Editor—Then, my dear maiden, haven't the heart to take it from you.

He—Will you marry me? She—No. He—Whom are you going to marry? She—The man I like. He—Well, you please me, let's elope.

Suspicious.

"It is very becoming, my love," is the first harlequin of the week-end living trip.

A Horrible Situation. Nigs—Why did you give up that job I got you as a collector? Biggs—Why, hang it, I owed money to nearly all the men I was sent to dun.

The Doctor's Fee.

Chicago doctors have raised their rates to a minimum of \$5 for each call. This, however, merely means that a lot of people will owe the doctor more money than ever.

CITY VS. TOWN IN COST OF LIVING.

"A man with a family can go to a small town and live for exactly one-half the cost of living in the city, living conditions being equal." The statement is made quite decisively by a writer in a recent periodical, and he follows it up with further information, to the effect that 80 per cent of the 25,000,000 families who make up the rank and file of American life are drawing less than \$2,000 a year in wages. That they are not only living but saving money is evidenced by the fact that our bond issues have been floated successfully among large numbers of subscribers, and by the sums which have been laid away in the national savings banks. Any city dweller would claim emphatically and with good reason that this could not be done in the city—the obvious conclusion seems to be that incomes with such remarkable purchasing power are made and spent in small towns and the implication is backed up by authoritative figures.

Of course, any one is likely to argue that not half as much money can be made outside of the cities—that this is apparent in the numbers who come to town from distant points to make their fortunes. But the writer mentioned insists that there is more chance for success, and incidentally for a thorough enjoyment of life, in the average small American town than in any one of its crowded metropolitan centres—and this notwithstanding that he is a city man born and bred and was holding down a responsible position in line for advancement when he left. His advice is to get away from the "square jaw, routine, monotony, asphalt and high prices of the city" before you become "a goldfish in a globe" with an chance of escape.

OUR PRODUCTS IN ENGLAND.

That progressive Canadian manufacturers appreciate the possibilities and importance of export trade is evidenced by a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce from the chief Canadian representative in London, Mr. J. H. Kingdon. The Commissioner writes relative to the British Industries Fair and says in part: "While there are still far too few Canadian exhibitors, it is gratifying to find that Canada is represented there. The London branch of the Otto Higel Co., Ltd., of Toronto, has a very elaborate display of piano actions and other musical instruments. This energetic Canadian enterprise has been supplying such a quantity of goods to British piano manufacturers since the war that it was found advantageous to erect a branch factory close to London, which is now in the course of being greatly enlarged. The company is understood to be supplying player actions to almost all the principal United Kingdom makers. "Toys manufactured by J. F. Finlay & Sons Co., of Norwood, Ont., and the 'Kiddie-Koop,' manufactured by the Sea-Tribble Mfg. Co., of Toronto, are shown by their respective agents, Messrs. Winther, Fernin & Co., Ltd. "The Gillette Safety Razor Co., of Canada, Ltd., has its own stand; the Palmolive Co., Ltd., of Toronto, which maintains a London office, has a comprehensive display of soaps, toilet specialties, etc., and the Empire Typewriter Co., Ltd., of Montreal, the London office of which has done considerable business in this country for years past—is also well represented."

"A line of dolls manufactured by the Dominion Toy Mfg. Co., Ltd., of Toronto, finds a place in the general toy exhibit made by their London agent, Lewis & Co."

"Although this report deals solely with the London section, it is understood that there are several Canadian exhibits at Birmingham, so it would appear that the value of the fair is becoming more appreciated."

COVENT GARDEN.

"There is no 'ras in urbe' like Covent Garden Market," wrote Charles Kenny. "It is the London of the vegetable kingdom." If he could see it today he would call it the international congress of the vegetable kingdom, for the wealth of the world of fruit and flowers and vegetables is pouring day by day into this clearing house of beauty. There are people who will rise at 5 o'clock to visit the market, merely for the sight of the flowers and fruit, but few are like Charles Dickens, who confessed that in the old days, when he had no money, he took a turn in Covent Garden and stared at the pineapples. The sale of twelve sections of the Covent Garden estate brings to mind the original name, the Covent Garden, which as far back as the first quarter of the thirteenth century was an enclosure belonging to the abbots of Westminster. Toward the west, adjacent to it, were seven acres of "fair speaking pastures" with an avenue of stately elms, with "country lanes and green fields on either side. A plan of London published by Agnes in 1802 shows Covent Garden enclosed by a thick wall which ran straight on the north side parallel with this avenue of shady elms. A large pond is said to have existed near the middle of the market, fed partly by a local spring, which, afterward supplied a pump near the parish church, and partly by a running stream which made its way to the Thames. A writer in the last century speaks of the extraordinary taste for flowers by Londoners, and mentions is made of the prices given for them—ten and sixpence for a moss rose. The fine people who once had their residences in Covent Garden, and promenade on the piazza, would be astonished if they could see the working men and women of London "treating themselves" to flowers at prices unheard of here.

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