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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1919

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STRIKES AND THE PUBLIC

The policeman's strike in Boston, the steel strike, and the miners' strike, together with the arrogant claims put forward by some of the revolutionary leaders in the ranks of labor in the United States have given rise to a strong public feeling of antagonism which is reflected in the press of the country and in congress. Senator Edge of New York, in giving notice of a bill repealing the clause in the general deficiency law which exempts organized workers and farmers from investigation or prosecution under the anti-trust laws, put into words a feeling that is manifestly growing throughout the country when he said: "I desire to emphasize the fact, of which labor and capital seem ignorant or intolerant, that labor is not the employee of capital, but of the people at large, of the whole United States, and that the people are the employers of capital also. The people pay capital for the use of its money and its services; they pay labor for its manual work and its time. When labor imposes unwarranted wages on capital, through threats or coercion, it does not wring such wages from capital, but from the ultimate consumer—the people. To such an extreme did capital once go that state and national legislation was enacted to restrain it from oppression; especially in these times, it seems to me, the other employee of the people also should be held within reasonable bounds."

A writer in the New York Times puts forth a suggestion that was also thrown out by Mr. J. Fraser Gregory in his address yesterday before the Rotary Club of this city. The New York writer says: "It would seem to me that at this time when capital and labor are having such a conflict, and when labor has become so autocratic, the great mass of the people, who are really the greatest sufferers from the conflict, should form a union similar to the labor unions in order to protect themselves. If the common people were properly organized, it seems to me they could exert an immense influence and prevent to a great extent the troubles brought about by the labor strikes."

Of course all labor leaders are not autocratic, nor are all representatives of capital; but there are enough of them in each camp to make trouble and encourage conflict. The miners' strike was not voted on by the miners as a body. This is autocracy, and is resented by the public which stands to lose so much as a result of the strike; and this explains why the public stands behind a united congress determined to protect to the fullest possible extent the public interest.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S OPPORTUNITY

Dr. C. M. Hinks, associate medical director and secretary of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, of the executive of which Hon. Dr. Roberts is a member, has replied to an enquiry regarding a survey of New Brunswick. He says the committee will be pleased to make such a survey and expresses the hope that friends of the mental hygiene movement will get together and give the committee a chance to do constructive work in this province. He says: "The study would be comprehensive, and would include a careful investigation of the whole problem of mental abnormality, the facilities employed to meet the situation, and recommendations concerning constructive measures that should be used."

In reply to an enquiry as to what has been done in other provinces, Dr. Hinks writes: "Manitoba has enacted legislation to put in operation practically all of our recommendations, and British Columbia is doing the same. We received a letter from the Hon. J. D. MacLean, provincial secretary of British Columbia, only yesterday, stating that among other reforms they were going to erect immediately a modern training school for mental defectives. Dr. C. K. Clarke, our medical director, has been summoned to Victoria to consult with the provincial architect concerning plans."

This is New Brunswick's opportunity. The government will invite the National Committee to make a survey and submit recommendations, and the province will then be in a position to deal intelligently and practically with a problem that must in the interest of morals and efficiency be dealt with as soon as possible. The expert survey will render it unnecessary for private organizations to proceed with their plans in that regard, but they can do a valuable work by building up a body of public opinion to endorse government action after the survey has been made and the recommendations presented.

THE MELANCHOLY DAYS.

A former well-known political speaker in St. John once described his opponents as running wildly after the cry of progress crying: "Stop her! Stop her!" If he were alive today he would perhaps describe the citizens of St. John as standing in front of the car of progress crying: "Thou shalt not pass." Of a verity, the melancholy days have come. The hearts of the leaders are heavy within them. We cannot afford a municipal building. We must not ask the government at Ottawa whether St.

John or Portland is to be their winter port. We must just grub along in the shadow, thankful for the scraps condescendingly thrown us from the table of plenty. It is nothing that St. John is the Canadian winter port nearest to Montreal, or that Canadian trade should go through Canadian channels. Trust the government. Draw nourishment from its promises which have been our fodder for so many years—and be thankful. Hand over the harbor and be done with it—for the government can do no wrong. As for local schemes of expansion, including a new municipal building, we simply cannot afford them—we really cannot. Let large cities like Moncton and Edmundston talk of expansion, but let us glue our eyes on the tax rate and draw long sighs of resignation to a gloomy fate. As compensation we may stand on King Square and reflect that we have saved the court house. And what greater consolation could a citizen of St. John desire? Many a condemned man has there heard his sentence proclaimed. It has been a place of weeping. There also wisdom has held her seat when such matters as hospital repairs and extensions have been up for judgment. Let the building stand as a memorial, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land; as a place to lean against while we gaze upon the Old Burial Ground and reflect upon the vanity of human wishes.

UNDER-PRIVILEGED BOYS.

A citizen deeply interested in the welfare of boys, and always ready to contribute for their benefit, said to the Times-Star this morning that it would be most unfortunate if no home could be got for the Boys' Club this winter. In this connection it is worthy of note that the Boys' Club Federation, with headquarters in New York, and with which the St. John Boys' Club was affiliated, last week began a nation-wide survey of six million under-privileged boys, or boys of limited opportunities, in the United States, with a view to organizing them into boys' clubs, federating and fitting them for useful citizenship.

A class of instruction for workers with boys has just been opened by Columbia University, in co-operation with the Boys' Club Federation, as a part of the plan of country-wide extension, better to prepare teachers and supervisors for this welfare extension work. The New York Times says: "The purposes of the Federation are wholly philanthropic, and the organization operates without profit to itself, it being the only organization of its kind that takes the boy under 12 years. It provides direction, vocational training and activities, and builds up physically the lad whose home environment may otherwise lead him to spend his spare hours on the streets. According to the statistics of the Federation, many large industrial concerns are organizing these boys' clubs in their plants, in co-operation with the Federation, finding that they are not only a solution of a great human problem, but a direct business investment."

The reports show that the citizens of St. John should display more interest in the Victory Loan. A great number of business men are giving much time to the task of presenting the case to the people, and all that is needed is popular interest in the success of a loan which represents the difference between good times and bad times in the early future. It cannot be said that money is scarce, for the people never spent it more freely, and the very small failure record for the year proves that business is prosperous. Hence St. John should do its full share in making the Victory Loan a success.

The vocational training board has taken up its duties with commendable energy. It has outlined such a programme as, if teachers and equipment are available, should attract hundreds of young men and women to evening classes; and pave the way for a far more extensive and necessary work in the future. The city council will of course lend its hearty co-operation. A competent director is one of the first requisites.

The New York Evening Post holds out a pleasant prospect to King Albert of Belgium. It says: "Should King Albert want another job at any time, and for any reason he can undoubtedly get one in this country as railroad engineer. He has proved his capability and his liking for the work. It would probably be more stable than kingship. Better pay, too—if wages keep on soaring."

The ratepayers of Acton, Ontario, last week voted 205 to 56 to spend \$40,000 on a waterworks system and by 228 to 27 to loan \$25,000 to a company to start a shoe factory. The Guelph Chamber of Commerce is urging the need of 500 additional houses in that city, as a need more pressing than that for new industries.

Have you bought your Victory Bond?

Canada pledged her last man and her last dollar. Redem that pledge in Victory Bonds.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

MARY'S LAMB.

When Mary had her little lamb, existence was a joke; then people lived on pie and jam, and weren't always broke. The prices then were not so steep as those our markets quote, and so a girl could have a sheep, a warthog or a goat. If Mary had a lamb today, and wished to feed the same, and went to buy a bale of hay, she'd find the price a shame. And she would cry, "Oh, mutton dear, the prices freeze my blood; if you can't live on atmosphere, methinks your name is Mud. I gnash my teeth and mourn and weep to see you go away; but I must have a woaden sheep, that doesn't bleat for hay." When Mary had her little lamb you'd buy a herd of swine, for what you now pay for a ham, that's mostly bone and brine. Then little girls could have their lambs to trail along behind, and have their polar bears, and wolves, and snakes galore, and build them neat and cozy lairs beneath the kitchen floor. But now a girl would get in wrong, if she with pets should fool; and Mary takes no lamb along, when she proceeds to school.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

"LE CANADIEN."

About this date in 1806 the first issue of "Le Canadien," a paper printed entirely in French, appeared in Montreal. The journal was born in stormy days and its career was one of almost perpetual trouble ranging all the way from petty persecution to suppression by the authorities of the time. It appeared first at a time when there was friction between the governor, Sir James Craig, and the legislative assembly. There was much opposition in the assembly to the presence of the court judges as members of the legislative council. Then Mr. Hart, a Jew, who had been elected to the assembly by Three Rivers, was expelled from that body because of his faith. Three times his constituents returned him to his seat; then that body attempted to solve the situation by passing a law that no Jew was eligible for nomination. A bitter controversy broke out between the governor and the French Canadian majority in the province. So sharp were the criticisms of the governor that he suppressed the paper and arrested some of the sympathizers with the assembly with which he was clashing. Soon after he was removed from office.

The paper continued its course until May, 1807, when trouble came again. This time it was the rebellion in the province. It pleaded for moderation, although intensely loyal to what it believed the interests of Lower Canada. It urged the people not to be deceived by such a course. But its words were unheeded and soon there were many who had bitter regrets that they had not accepted its sane message. For several years it continued its way with varying success until finally its stormy career ended in the hands of many and the paper of those who wrong doing, or alleged evils, it had flayed so fearlessly.

FAIRIES.

(Edmund Kemper Broadens in The Times-Star.)

Underneath the beech trees,
— Lights and shadows glancing,
Surely there are fairies
In the sun-spots dancing!
Underneath the beech trees,
Underneath and in them,
Wait a host of fairies,
Wait for you to win them.
Fairies they are quick folk;
Never may you bind them;
But underneath the beech trees,
You can always find them.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Aunt Mary had been introduced to all the friends of a family while visiting her brother. Now, womanlike, she was trying to discover if her niece "favored" any young man specially.

"That young Mr. Smarte, who comes here, seems a clever sort of man, Maude," she began.

"Yes," replied Maude, "he is clever." "What is he by profession?"

"A bit of a lawyer and a bit of a musician."

"But what is he really?" asked auntie, puzzled.

"Well," exclaimed the girl, "the lawyers say he is a musician, and the musicians say he is a lawyer."

Cornelius on his first visit to the seaside went down to the beach at low tide and saw a big fishing smack lying high and dry on the mud flats.

"Hey, mister," he said to the fisherman, "how do you get that big boat down to the water?"

"We don't take the boat down to the water, mate," said the fisherman. "The water comes up to the boat."

Cornelius gave a harsh laugh.

"Say, mister," he said, "I may be from the country, but I ain't goin' to swallow that."

The moonlight shone on the lonely house on the hill, where all was peacefully hushed in sleep. A dark form sat in the shadow of the hedge. Suddenly he moved as a soft whistle heralded someone's approach.

"That you, mate?" he whispered hoarsely, as a stealthy figure approached in the darkness. "Yus" was the answer. "What ye doin' with that dog?" he muttered, as his burglar pal came nearer.

"Well," answered his confederate, "there's nothing worth taking in the house, and it's had luck to come away empty handed, so I brought along the watch dog and them burglar alarms."

The visitor to the lawyer's office stood in amazement.

"I say, old man!" he exclaimed. "What ever has happened to you? Had a motor smash, or what?"

The lawyer shook his head wearily as he gingerly touched his bandaged face.

"No. You remember that case the other day when I defended a man charged with assault? Well, I made a strong plea for him on the ground that he was a fool rather than a criminal."

"Yes, but—"

"I did it so well that he was acquitted, and he waited for me outside the court."

SIR GEORGE FOSTER ON CANADA AFTER THE WAR

(Montreal Herald.)

Sir George Foster, minister of trade and commerce, was the speaker at the meeting of the Montreal Women's Club yesterday afternoon. The minister, whose subject was "Our Dominion After the War," declared that there would not result a changed country and a changed people to the degree popularly supposed, the basic principles of government and of conduct remaining the same, but the status of Canada among the world nations had been most decidedly raised by the part borne by her soldiers and sailors in the war.

A second gain with which the speaker credited the nation was the stable characters formed in the great body of fighting men who, he was assured, after four and a half years in the great university of war will have brought something out of it which will count as an influence for good as these men work out their futures. Those who remained at home and steadily backed up with all their resources the efforts of the fighting men, will also have acquired, through discipline and chastening, a staidness which the criticisms of the past in the years of struggle which lie before the Dominion. The final gain mentioned by Sir George was the spirit of co-operation which has grown up through the war, and which was not yet dead, will carry through the present Victory Loan to great success. In closing, the minister earnestly exhorted his hearers to produce and save for Canada.

LOWELL SPEAKS TO KEIBEL

President A. Lawrence Lowell of Harvard University has received a letter from Prof. Franz Keibel of the University of Konigsberg, Germany, asserting that the French government has retained certain private scientific property of his at Strasbourg, including books and instruments, and requesting President Lowell to help him procure their return.

Mr. Lowell has replied as follows: "Your letter of August 8 has come, complaining that your books, instruments and other private scientific property have been retained by the French government at Strasbourg, and asking me to use my influence to procure their return. "If you can prove to me that you protest against the burning of the library at Louvain, and that you endeavor to secure protection and such treatment as you now request for the professors in the universities in the Belgian and French territory occupied by the Germans, then I will exert any influence that I may possess to procure the return of your personal scientific property."

MOTOR-BOATING ESKIMOS.

(New York Evening Post.)

A Canadian boatbuilding company is now constructing a power boat for an Eskimo customer of the Arctic region. It is to be shipped north as early as the weather permits. It is a sailboat with auxiliary gasoline power. The Eskimo purchaser is paying \$2,700 for the boat, which is to be used along the Arctic coast.

If an Eskimo wants a power boat and has the money to pay for it there is nothing to do but let him have the boat. Nevertheless it is difficult for members of the more advanced civilized peoples to keep up with the rapid modernization of the so-called backward peoples. Here are our own American Indians using modern fur machines and automobiles. Here are eskimos abandoning their skin canoes for power craft. It would not be surprising to learn next that a native of Zululand had purchased an airplane and taken his family over to Tibet for a Sunday afternoon airing.

ABOUT THE STREETS OF HAVANA.

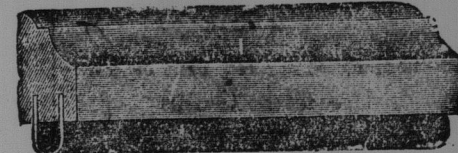
"Many of the streets of Havana," says A. Hyatt Verrill in "The Book of the West Indies," "are as narrow as by-paths, and lead, like canons down and cool with shadows, between Spanish buildings, the tiled fronts and jutting balconies with scarce a dozen feet of space between them."

"Great archways, in ponderous walls lead to huge, colonnaded patios wherein fountains splashed, birds sing, and flowering plants fill the air with perfume; while the tinkle of guitars and the strains of soft Spanish music mingle with the roar of traffic and the honk of automobile horns."

"For ancient, picturesque, and delightfully foreign as are these byways of old Havana, yet through them flows a constant stream of modern traffic, pedestrians of every class, color, and race; rubber-tired victorias, mule-drawn drays and oxcarts; ponderous motor trucks and vans; rushing motor delivery wagons; softly purring limousines and clanging trolley cars. Marvellous it seems that the narrow lanes can accommodate the jam, but the traffic moves swiftly and with scarce a hitch, for the police are efficient, and the drivers skilful."

"Overhead, during the sunny hours of the day, stretch canopies gay with color, gorgeous with painted advertisements and strange Spanish names and which, far above the streets, form a covered way like an oriental bazaar between the stores of the shopping districts. And such shops! No dingy dusty, old-fashioned affairs are these, but modern stores with enormous plate glass windows, brass and mahogany fronts, and within which every article known to the world may be found."

Conserve Coal!

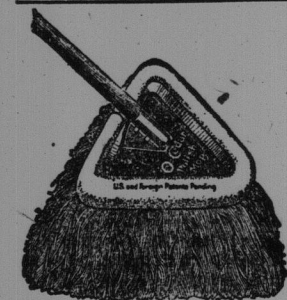


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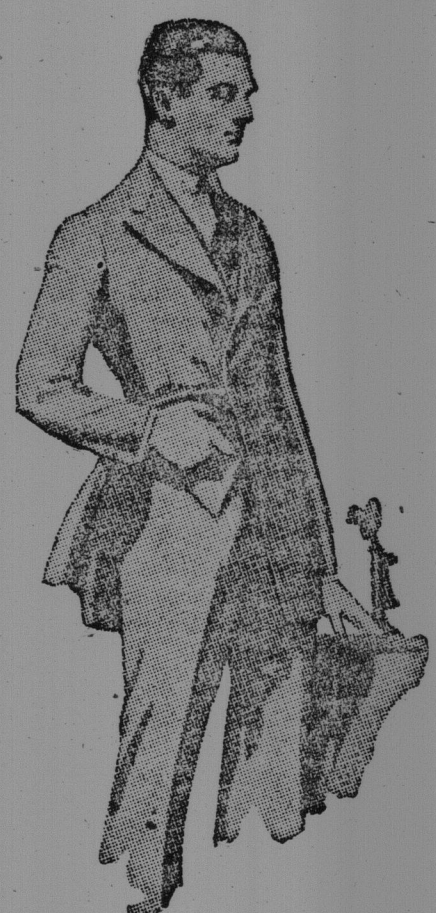
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