

POOR DOCUMENT

MAY 20 1922

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1922

The Evening Times and Star

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrop, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The fact that fifty-five members of the Commercial Club met at luncheon yesterday and decided with enthusiasm to have fortnightly luncheons hereafter, at which the club's work would be discussed and the interests of the members kept alive, shows that this organization retains the confidence of its members, who see in it an agency for valuable community service. The Commercial Club does not in any sense compete with the Board of Trade, but the latter in its activities for the benefit of the club an organized ally ready and willing to exert its influence in a co-operative way. There are many ways in which the Club can make itself useful along lines apart from those pursued by the Board of Trade. As an organization it appeals to young business and professional men, and with fortnightly luncheons to bring the members together and keep them in touch with its work it should grow steadily in membership and influence. President McAvity outlined the Club's general policy yesterday, and as suggestions are made from time to time and carefully considered by the executive and by the Club the scope of its work will be broadened. Its athletic association, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. W. Combs, supported by a group of men who are not only interested in but have a thorough knowledge of athletic sports, has done a great work in the last two years, and might easily be made the recognized sport promoting organization of the whole city. To that end it should have a larger, and more active membership and generous financial support. There is such an obvious relation between business and sport that the Commercial Club may very properly function in this direction. A good sporting town is a live town, and the sport helps business. There are many ways in which the Club can aid in making St. John a better city in which to live, and old and new members should rally to its support.

THAT HOUSING VENTURE.

The affairs of the county housing board were again discussed at great length in the municipal council yesterday. The housing venture was not a success. At the time it was popular, and the establishment of the board generally approved. Because of war conditions the houses cost far more than they would cost if constructed today, and the additional expense may as well be absorbed cheerfully. In addition to the abnormal cost there appears to have been a good deal of difficulty in regard to selling or renting some properties with an assurance of getting the price or the rent. One difficulty appears to have been that the location of the houses, as well as the price, did not appeal to buyers or tenants. All that can be done now is to make the best of a bad bargain and pocket the experience. They did this housing business better in Moncton. The board there was well assured of the sale of the houses and of the capacity of purchasers to pay before they were built. Of course the St. John municipality is not the only one that has had speculation in houses under war conditions. As Coun. O'Brien pointed out, many cities and towns in Ontario had a similar experience. It is unfortunate that the St. John experiment failed. If it had been as successful as that in Moncton we would doubtless be doing as that city is doing this year, and having more houses constructed under the terms of the housing act.

AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE.

Yesterday's meeting of the municipal council was for the most part a friendly duel between the city and Fairville councillors. The return of Mr. McLellan to the council adds interest to the discussions. The question raised in two resolutions was whether the municipality should enable the parish of Lancaster to raise money by bond issue in advance of legislation to authorize this issue. Money was needed for sidewalks and to provide fire walls in the area in Fairville where the house were recently destroyed. Objection was taken by Coun. McLellan and Frink to the principle of anticipating legislation in the manner proposed, and they argued that the money should be secured in some other way. The debate was lively, but in the end the contention of the city representatives was sustained, and both resolutions sent back to the finance committee for fuller information and more careful consideration. Undoubtedly the principle upheld by the city representatives is sound, and not to adopt it does not mean that there is any desire to handicap the parish of Lancaster, whose representatives so vigorously presented their case. It should be possible to arrive at a satisfactory agreement when the members of the council get together and thresh out the whole question in a friendly spirit, with a desire to safeguard all interests involved. Nor should there be any delay, as the matter in question should be settled as soon as possible.

TUBERCULOSIS

The tuberculosis case-finding campaign in this city revealed 70 positive and 178 suspected cases, of which 30 will probably turn out to be positive, making 100 in all. Many cases of disease other than tuberculosis were discovered. The campaign was well worth while, and has shown the great need of a health centre in this city. The suspected cases must be followed up, and the positive cases, most of which are in the incipient stage, can be cured by proper treatment. The Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has never had the financial support it should receive. Its dispensary and visiting service has been doing a quiet but most effective work, any has doubtless resulted in a decline in the death rate from tuberculosis. One gratifying feature of the case-finding campaign was that the number of advanced cases discovered was small. The excellent work done by the city had previously discovered most of the advanced cases and brought them under treatment. The disease is curable. Setting out with that knowledge it is only necessary to find the cases and give them proper treatment and the disease can be overcome. To that end the society is laboring, and the members who give their time freely to the work deserve not only the highest commendation, but sympathetic co-operation.

Montreal Gazette.—When Gandhi the Indian agitator went to prison as an alleged martyr in March it was generally predicted that grave and dire consequences would be the result. Nothing of the sort, however, has occurred; indeed, if facts be stuck to, the natives have been more exemplary in every way since the establishment of this ascetic behind prison bars. There is still great hope for India if her people would but see reason. Wise counsels are prevailing there, aided by strong and wise virile government. Firmness in India is essential and will in due course reap its own reward.

Toronto Globe.—The Pan-American Conference of Women at Baltimore, in which Canadian women took part, was an international gathering of a new and important kind. Instead of talking about boundaries, governments, national debts and armament, the women exchanged ideas as to child welfare, the legal status of women and other matters relating to the social conditions of the human race. These, after all, are the vital things for which governments, nations and empires exist. The condition of the people is the final test of government.

Canadian Finance, Winnipeg.—Are you one of those who think there is no money in this country? If so, watch the crowds at the movies; see how easily money can be obtained by those who cater to the desires of the public. Last week a Winnipeg publication which operates a football competition distributed \$38,047 in prizes. This money represents the entrance fees paid by contestants—the majority of whom are not capitalists. Yes! There is still some money in this country.

POPULATION DENSITY.

(New York Times.) A gratifying decrease in the densely populated sections of New York City has been noted in the last ten years, according to a statement yesterday by Dr. Walter Laidlaw, executive secretary of the New York 1920 census committee. The permanent map for the taking and tabulating of the population of New York City, on which the 1920 census was enumerated, said Dr. Laidlaw, has 3,427 sanitary district areas. "Sixty-six of these in 1910, whose average totaled 2,860, then had a population of 1,298,637, an average of 483 persons per acre," he said. "If the whole area of New York in 1910 had been populated as densely as these 2,860 acres, the equivalent of the whole population of the United States and then some, as in 1910, could have been packed within the limits of Greater New York."

"It is therefore most gratifying to find that fifty-eight of these sixty-six sanitary districts lost population between 1910 and 1920 to the extent of 172,827 persons, and still the acreage of this same group of sanitary districts now populated to the extent of more than 300 persons per acre has been reduced to 2,267 acres, or almost exactly four square miles. "In 1910 there were 146 acres of this area which was populated between 800 and 900 to the acre. "These three densest districts have lost over 25 per cent. of their population. "Five districts then populated between 600 and 700 per acre have lost 25 per cent. Nine districts of between 500 and 600 have lost 16 per cent. Eighteen of between 400 and 500 have lost 15 per cent, and districts between 300 and 400 in 1910 have lost only 8 per cent. "New York still has, however, over 18 per cent. of its population on 1½ per cent. of its area, and the four square miles of its fifty-nine sanitary districts still housing 800 people to the acre have an average of 406 persons per acre, or 289,840 persons per square mile. There is no comparable congestion of population in any other city of the world."

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LIGHTER VEIN.

A young Australian reporter was left in charge of the news room one evening. Suddenly he was confronted with, to him, an inexplicable cable from England. It ran: "Lincoln, 8.50. Dean Swift. Obit Roscoe Dawn," and was, in fact, the result of a race which had been run that day.

Knowing nothing about racing, and feeling bound to justify his existence, the inventive youth had the following inspired paragraph inserted in the paper next morning:—

"We regret to announce the death at Lincoln at 8.50 yesterday afternoon of the Very Reverend Dean Swift, the author of the well-known hymn, 'The Roscoe Huss of Early Dawn.'"

Pierce Van Vleck, a Baltimore financier, said at a dinner party: "Keeping a husband in hot water will never make him tender. Ignorance of his primary truth causes a lot of divorces. A Baltimorean got on a trolley car the other day in anything but a tender mood. His wife, because he could not afford her an 800 set of Siberian rat, had snatched the morning paper out of his hand, called him a shiftless, knock-kneed fellow and thrown his freshly opened package of cigars into the street. So this man, his mood not at all tender, got on the car and took a seat beside a giant, raw-boned woman of fifty or so. This woman started an altercation with the conductor when he came to get her fare. The altercation got hotter and hotter and finally the woman looked around the car and shrieked: 'Is there a gentleman on this car who will stand by and see a lady insulted?' The non-tender chap was on his feet at once. 'Yes, ma'am,' he said grimly, 'I will.'"

BRIDELESS STUDENT APPEALS TO COURT

Married on Thursday, He is Unable to Find Her, Husband Tells Magistrate.

(New York Times.) Bertrand Harold Poss, twenty-one years old, law student at Columbia University and writer for The Spectator, son of a patrolman, attached to the Fifth street station, and Miss Dorothy Ruth Lincoln, nineteen years old, high school graduate, daughter of L. A. Lincoln of 88 West Eighth-fourth street, wealthy cigar manufacturer, were married on Thursday in the Poss home at 112 East Eighth-fourth street by Rabbi Samuel Schulman, and yesterday afternoon Poss went to the West Side court, brideless, and with a pathetic story. He told Magistrate Thomas F. McAndrews and Assistant District Attorney Henry Goodman that after the wedding the young couple had gone to the bride's home for a fortnight, and blessing of her parents. Mr. Lincoln, he said, invited them in. Argument followed as to whether or not the bride had been escorted to the door and invited to leave, and as to whether or not a few hours had been kept in her parents' home. He wanted his wife back again and he had come to the West Side court to get a summons that would get her for him.

Poss told the magistrate that he had courted his bride for six months. Her parents had offered no serious objections, and he had presumed everything would be all right in the end. He had explained to his father-in-law Thursday, he said, that he planned to go on going into partnership with his brother, Charles S. Poss, in the electrical contracting business, and that the father-in-law failed to endorse over this plan he had been offered to go to work for his father-in-law, but the latter liked this idea even less.

Yesterday morning Poss called up the Lincoln home in the hope of being allowed to speak with his wife, he said, but an aunt of the girl's answered the telephone and not only refused to let Dorothy to the phone, but declared that Dorothy was "hysterical, in no condition to talk to him, and anyway she is in Atlantic City." And he is sure, he said, that Dorothy is at the Eighty-fourth street courts and going for him. "Be patient," Magistrate McAndrews counseled. "Go back and see your father-in-law again. Then, if you can't settle your difficulties without going to court, wait until the next magistrate comes to sit here in West Side court. Come back next Friday." Magistrate McAndrews at first suggested that Poss go to the supreme court and get a writ of habeas corpus, then he reconsidered and advised him to take his time.

LARGER EXPORTS; IMPORTS LESS

(Bank of Commerce Letter.) Our index number of wholesale prices in Canada for April shows a recovery in the case of exports, together with a continued fall in that of imports. The export number for mid-April is 151.74 as against 148.27 for the previous month; the import number is 142.50 as against 144.93, and the number for exports and imports combined is 147.12 as against 146.60. The only export to fall in price is copper; the remainder have either risen sharply, as the case of wheat, barley, cattle, beef and hogs, or have remained firm, as in the case of manufactured goods and other commodities unaffected by seasonal fluctuations. Among the imports, corn, wool, and rubber show a slight decline, while steel and steel products, but the steep fall of sugar to the level of 1915 and lesser declines in pork, raw cotton and linseed oil show that deflation in many lines has not yet run its course.

We shall not be far off the mark if we regard the line of our import number as reflecting world conditions, and the relations of our export number to that of imports as indicating the advantage or disadvantage, as the case may be, at which Canada finds herself in comparison with the rest of the business world.

GERMAN TREATY ON PATENTS REVIVED

Hughes Instructs Houghton to Notify Berlin That Pre-War Convention is Continued.

Washington, May 10.—Announcement was made by the State Department that Secretary Hughes has sent instructions to Ambassador Houghton at Berlin to notify the German government that, under the terms of the peace treaty with Germany, the Patent convention entered into with Germany in 1909 will be revived.

Under the terms of the separate treaty of peace with Germany it was stipulated that any of the commercial treaties between the two countries in effect upon the declaration of war against Germany might be revived within six weeks after the signing of the separate peace treaty. The time limit for serving such notice of revival would have expired on May 11. The administration asked the senate for its assent to the revival of the pre-war patent treaty with Germany and that consent has been given, but delay in sending instructions to the American ambassador to formally notify the German government resulted from the opposition of Secretary Weeks and the War Department to such revival until after the enactment of the Stanley Patent bill for the correction of certain abuses growing out of German acquisition of patents on war material. The Stanley bill would require Germans taking out patents in this country to work their patents within a specific time.

Can Be Modified Later. Secretary Hughes informed the senate committee on foreign relations last week that it was apparent the Stanley bill, or similar legislation, could not be enacted by May 11, and that the revival of the pre-war patent treaty could not be held up pending action on the Stanley bill. Secretary Hughes said it appeared better to go ahead with the revival of the patent treaty and then, if there is subsequent legislation by Congress such as is contemplated in the Stanley bill, the patent treaty could be amended and a modification of it obtained. It was pointed out that notice of one year could be given and then the changes could be effected.

Secretary Hughes explained last week that the demand for the revival of the pre-war patent treaty had come largely from American business men affected by the curtailment of German rights in Germany and in the United States. The opposition of the War Department was based largely on the fact that many patents have been issued, or applications for such filed by German citizens, many of which related particularly to articles pertinent to national defense.

"Two years prior to the entry of the United States into the war," Secretary Weeks explained in an official statement of the attitude of the War Department in favor of enactment of renewal patent legislation before revival of the pre-war patent treaty of 1910, "a number of industries came with serious difficulties in establishing the production of numerous materials which had theretofore been imported from Germany, but which were then shut off by reason of the British blockade of German ports. These industries, with their resources in production in the United States, were that growing out of the great number of German-owned and controlled United States patents which were unlicensed and unworked in this country."

Found Patents Were Useless. "Most of the American corporations under German ownership ceased the manufacture of articles necessary for our use in preparation for and in anticipation of war, and it was the United States nothing, after its entrance into the war, to seize the plants, in the absence of patents under which to operate. In many instances it was found that these corporations had nothing more than an oral license to use the German-owned patents and, in some cases the patents were so skillfully ambiguous and otherwise lacking in a full disclosure of the invention as to be practically useless to any one except those who were advised of their practical application. The War Department, realizing the full truth of the situation, and having brought the matter to the attention of the president, the secretary of war was advised by him to bring the matter to the attention of Congress, in order that the earliest possible steps might be taken to change the laws to meet the situation.

"The War Department is thoroughly conversant with the industrial situation as it existed at the beginning of the war, and the fact that it has gone into the market and purchase unprecedented quantities of supplies of the most varied character, and that the situation with respect to the German monopoly of the various classes of supplies was brought to its attention in a very marked degree, is thought to emphasize the necessity for legislation looking to the prevention of such a condition again arising. In this day and age national defense is viewed largely as a matter of a highly developed, well-balanced industry, and it was somewhat due to the lack of such a situation that the United States was so long delayed in effectively getting its army into the field of operations after the declaration of war. The question of establishing new industries to supply men with tools with which to fight and the various other supplies incident to a properly fed and equipped army, was a most stupendous one, and, while we were ultimately successful in acquiring the end sought, it is not thought that we should now or ever stand supply by and permit such as condition to again arise."

The position of the War Department was brought clearly and forcibly to the attention of Congress, but it proved impossible to obtain enactment of the Stanley bill or similar legislation prior to May 11. Secretary Hughes made it clear to the committee on foreign relations that if the pre-war treaty, which could be revived merely by serving the necessary notification on Germany prior to next Thursday, were not put into effect, American patent rights and interests in Germany would be seriously jeopardized.

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