

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 23, 1926.

CITIES AND TAXES.

Ottawa reports a civil surplus of \$40,996 for 1925, and the Board of Control has indicated that there is a prospect of some taxation relief this year. The surplus is attributed to economies on the part of both the board and department heads, and the Citizens' Association, in congratulating them upon their harmonious and economic policies, recalls that last year the estimates were out to what was believed the limit, yet the biggest savings have been made in the various departments, the works department spending less than its appropriation by \$26,000. Small surpluses were shown in several other departments, including fire, markets, scavenging, swimming baths, and the city clerk's office auditor's and city treasurer's departments. Credit is given for constant improvement in accounting and city business methods generally, including more carefully regulated purchasing, and early estimates.

The road of civic economy is a hard one, but Ottawa appears to have followed it under the pressure of a strong public opinion demanding taxation relief. Mere comparisons of expenditures and rates of taxation amount to little in themselves, since scarcely any two cities follow precisely the same methods of raising money, and, after all, a great deal, so far as public satisfaction goes, depends upon what the citizens get in return for what they pay. In these days of generally high taxation there are some economies which are still unjustifiable, for every enterprising city finds it necessary to spend some money in publicity and in other directions calculated to improve revenue conditions later on.

"CINDERELLA."

An amusing picture of recent events at Ottawa is presented by the Toronto Star, which describes the fashion in which both the old parties have been wooing the Progressives of late. It says:

"Cinderella is, indeed, the belle of the ball at Ottawa. She is the sort and size and offering her wine to drink out of her slippers and their own slippers."

There has never been anything like it in the young life of the Progressive party. The world is at its feet kissing its toes and murmuring words for nobody else to hear.

It is an intoxicating, head-turning business for a modest and inexperienced Cinderella, and only the soundest native instinct can bring her safely through."

But not even native instinct can save the Progressives. They might be getting a lot of fun out of the situation if they were convinced that it could last; but they know it cannot last. In the last House, Mr. Forke had more than sixty followers. Indeed at one time there were sixty-five Progressives or near Progressives in the Commons, but in October last they were reduced to twenty-four, nearly all representing constituencies west of the Lakes. They have a shrewd suspicion that their forces will be further decimated in another election, and they want to postpone the evil day, and perhaps in the interval get some of their favorite policies carried into effect by Parliament. Yet the very fact that they hold the balance of power tends to paralyze Parliament's usefulness and hasten the day when another appeal to the country will be unavoidable.

"Our neighbors to the South are gradually becoming civilized," says the Hamilton Herald. "Last year there were only sixteen lynchings in the United States."

In 1919 Toronto had 26,137 automobiles, and in that year fifty-two people were killed by them. Last year it had 65,871, and forty-nine people were killed. The safety first campaign is really making progress there.

Vancouver newspapers announce that during 1925 the number of vessels entering that port was 19,668, compared with 6,909 at San Francisco and 3,212 at Montreal. The freight gets the tonnage. The rates get the freight.

For ten days past the Toronto Star, the Ottawa Citizen, the Quebec Chronicle Telegraph and other newspapers here and there have been discussing the question: Are our Canadian winters becoming milder? And now you see what comes of that sort of thing.

Sir Robert Borden told the New York Canadian Society last night that he had remained Premier of Canada, by this time we should have had a minister at Washington. Sir Esme Howard, British Ambassador at Washington, said to the same audience that the appointment of a representative at Washington would be a step further in the direction of Canada settling its own affairs, and he did not think this would in any way tend to disintegrate the British Empire. Here are two authorities who carry weight, but all the same this question will be the subject of sharp debate in the House of Commons, where there is a considerable element

which views the proposal as either dangerous, or unjustifiable because they cannot see that any real benefit will arise from it.

There has been a great deal of talk in and out of Parliament about tariff changes and their effect upon trade, but the Dominion Bureau of Statistics presents figures showing how little real change there has been in the tariff on imports in recent years. Thus it is stated that the average ad valorem rate on all imports was 15.2 per cent. in 1920, was slightly lower in 1921, rose to 17.3 per cent. in 1922, fell to 15.1 per cent. in 1923. The country's total trade last year was greater by \$295,000,000 than last year was \$393,000,000, the greatest in our history with one exception, 1917, when we were at the full tide of war production. In that year the favorable balance was \$387,000,000.

As to the situation at Ottawa, there is at least one public man who says he knows what is going to happen. He is Hon. George Bolvin, Minister of Customs. In a speech before the Young Liberals' Association in Montreal on Wednesday, Mr. Bolvin said: "I can now say with all confidence that the crisis, the biggest since Confederation, has passed. Parliament is as normal as it was before election and the galleries are half empty. At least three of the Progressives who voted against us have since declared, privately and publicly, that they voted for the largest group, but not from now on, with the Government. We can count upon them." The Conservative view is that Mr. Bolvin's confidence is not justified. The debate continues, and it seems probable now that a vote will not be reached until the end of next week.

Odds and Ends

The Pessimist

(Ben King.)

Nothing to do but work,
Nothing to eat but food,
Nothing to wear but clothes,
To keep one from going nude.

Nothing to breathe but air,
Quick as a flash 'tis gone!
Nowhere to fall but off,
Nowhere to stand but on.

Nothing to comb but hair,
Nowhere to sleep but in bed,
Nothing to weep but tears,
Nothing to bury but dead.

Nothing to sing but songs,
Ah, well, alas! alack!
Nowhere to go but out,
Nowhere to come but back.

Nothing to see but sights,
Nothing to quench but thirst,
Nothing to have but what we've got,
Thus through life we are cursed.

Nothing to strike but a gait,
Everything moves that goes,
Nothing at all but common sense
Can ever withstand these woes.

Radio in Hospitals.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Wireless has revolutionized hospitals, declared Lord Riddell when, as president of the Royal Free Hospital, in the Old Country, he acknowledged a wireless installation, with 240 pairs of headphones and three loud speakers, provided from the fund raised by a London daily.

Only those who had to care for the sick were aware of the long, weary hours patients have to pass, and wireless helps to relieve the monotony of illness. Lord Riddell had not the slightest doubt that wireless will have good curative effects. When he heard of the movement to equip hospitals with wireless, he could not help thinking what delight Charles Dickens would have had in it, for the great author took a keen interest in hospital work.

Husband Wanted—The Value of the Iron Cross.

(Glasgow Herald.)

"Christmas wish" advertisements fill German newspapers again.

The dominant Christmas wish thus revealed (wires the Berlin correspondent of the Daily News) is for a husband or a wife, with communal housekeeping to begin at latest on New Year's Day.

In the affable mood marking Christmas matrimonial contact is often established in Germany. In Berlin alone, it is estimated, 2,000 marriages will be celebrated on Christmas Eve. Last Sunday 220 appeals for husbands or wives figured in a single Berlin newspaper.

Exact conditions invest the fulfillment of these Christmas wishes. As the following advertisement reveals, there is a demand for patriots:

"A distinguished lady of noble nature, belonging to a family Teutonic to the core, in whose soul life has caused deep wounds, wants to find this Christmas a husband thoroughly German, too. Soldiers or war cripples, provided their uniforms are attractive and can be worn at social gatherings, get 50 per cent. preference; wearers of the Iron Cross (first class), 75 per cent."

Over-dressed.

(Detroit Free Press.)

A German professor recently weighed the clothes of his assistant and of his assistant's wife, with the result that he found that the man's shoes alone were heavier than all the woman had on. He might have got about the same result if he had weighed the man's bedroom slippers.

Just Fun

A POOL and his Honey are soon parted.

THESE GIRLS that are so practiced in rolling hose, should make good firemen.

"WHAT did you have for lunch downtown today, dear?" asked the wife.

"I don't know what I had," replied the husband, "but I ordered chicken croquettes."

FAMOUS POLES.

Telegraph — cat.
North — vault.
South — ice.
Ice — ice.

LIZARD and crocodile skins are to be used for women's shoes this season. Lobsters, however, will probably provide the fair sex with as many pairs as usual.

GREAT ACHES from little corns grow.

IF EVERYBODY could see as well as each begins to observe how faulty the other looks in a bathing suit.

THE HONEYMOON is over when each begins to observe how faulty the other looks in a bathing suit.

WHOEVER nicknamed the ladies "the fair sex" was a poor judge of equity.

THERE are two sides to every question, both of which are often entirely wrong.

"ALL during the testimony he hardly moved in his chair. Most of the time he rested his head on his chin."

Try maintaining this position for some little time and see how difficult it is.

WIVES are so much smarter than husbands most of them keep the husbands from ever finding it out.

RING OFF

She rung me on the telephone.
She rung her hands—I was not home.
She rung from me my hard-earned jack.
I rung her finger—but she gave it back.

HALF the women seem to be trying to get husbands and the other half seem to be trying to get rid of them.

SHARPER: "Say, stranger, would you like to buy the Brooklyn Bridge—at only \$1,000?"

Sighs: "No, I ain't got no money. I just bought the Statue of Liberty for \$300."

WISH the doctor would tell us we couldn't eat anything except fried chicken.

SALTY STUFF

A sailor's wife—she ran away.
In vain he tried to trip her.
It seems he took her for a mate.
Instead, she proved a skipper.

"WELL, let's have it out now!" said the dentist yanking on the aching molar.

"WHAT started the explosion?"

"The powder on father's sleeve when he came home from the lodge meeting."

IN ANNISTON, ALA., a man weighs 50,000 pounds. But it is iron pipe, and he does it every day.

"THEY have a new name for the divorce records now."

"Yes, 'Who's Whose in America.'"

NEITHER DO TONSILS

"ROSS RICKERY, who had his right eye removed at the Massachusetts hospital, returned Saturday. He says it does not hurt near so much out."

MONEY don't talk as much as some people who have money.

WHETHER or not evolution is true is the greatest question in the world, says one man.

Wrong, says another. "What will the neighbors say?" is the greatest question in the world.

SOME FLAPPERS would be beautiful and dumb if they happened to be beautiful.

MOST of the farmhouses in this country now have modern improvements, including the mortgage foreclosure notice by radio.

THE MAN (having surrendered his seat): "I beg your pardon!"

The Girl: "It didn't speak!"

The Man: "Sorry, I'm sure. I thought you said 'thank you.'"

THERE is no use talking—you can't become a star of any kind by staying out late at night.

Dinner Stories

IN A LITTLE country village there is a cottage, the door of which must be raised a little to be opened, and for this purpose a hatchet is generally used.

One night a knock came to the door, and a youngster was sent to see who was there.

"Who is it?" inquired the boy.

"It's me," said a voice outside.

The youngster recognizing the voice, shouted back—"It's Mrs. Giles; get the hatchet!"

Mrs. Giles didn't wait.

FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRECLAY FOR LINING YOUR OWN STOVE

Sold By Hardware Dealers.

British Sympathy



The Lender's Lot.

Poems That Live

TO THE EVENING STAR.

Star that bringest home the bee,
And sett'st the weary laborer free!
If any star shed peace, 'tis thou
That send'st it from above.
Appearing when heaven's breath and brow
Are sweet as hers we love.

Come to the luxuriant skies,
Whit the landscape's odors rise,
Whist far-off lowing herds are heard
And songs when toll is done,
From cottages whose smoke unstrid'd
Curls yellow in the sun.

Star of love's soft interviews,
Parted lovers on the muse;
Their remembrance in heaven
Of thrilling vows thou art,
Too delicious to be given
By absence from the heart.

—Thomas Campbell.

The Best of Advice

—BY CLARK KINNAIRD.

THE SECRET SPRINGS.

IN A POND of still water, lying like a mirror, or in the little stream that trickles from it, rippling its way to a larger one, there is no sign of the roar and thunder with which it can leap from the precipice, and yet remain what it is; or again rise high in the air as a fountain.

When water is as cold as ice, you can have the idea of the warmth contained in it.

It is the same with humans: no one knows what capacities for doing and achieving a man has in himself until something comes to rouse them to activity.

us with his own yardstick and standard.

And thus it is that the practical principle which guides people in their opinions on the regulation of human conduct is the feeling in each person's mind that everybody should be required to act as he, and those with whom he sympathizes, would like them to act.

IT IS observed that, "According as a man's mental energy is exerted or relaxed will life appear to him either so short and petty and full of difficulties, or so long, so important, so momentous and so full of difficulty, that we have to plunge into it with our whole soul if we are to obtain a share of its goods, make sure of its prizes, and carry out our plans."

"A man is great or small according as he leans to the one or the other of these views of life."

The great majority of men take the limits of their own field of vision for the limits of the world.

For this reason, everyone measures

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Twenty Years Ago Today

From Times' Files.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE of the safety board decided to employ Ross and Holgate Co. at a fee of \$300 to report on the cost of a lighting plant to light the streets and public buildings.

F. A. BARBOUR, consulting engineer, was in the city and inspected the work on the Loch Lomond water extension.

TUG GYPSUM KING struck on the Murr ledges.

Timely Views On World Topics

"CAPITALISM has made a criminal mess in England. The waste is appalling. There are thousands of shoe workers idle there today, receiving doles, while their own children and thousands of others run about barefoot." This is a statement given out by Lady Cynthia Mosley, Socialist candidate for a seat in the British parliament, wife of Oswald Mosley, former labor M. P. and now in the United States. Lady Cynthia, the daughter of the late Marquis of Curzon and an American mother, formerly Mary Lettice, of Chicago, has deserted society for the masses, she says.

"We need nothing so much as building. Yet building workers are doing nothing and drawing doles. There are 1,500,000 men out of work.

SAYS SOCIALISM IS REMEDY.

"Socialism will avert this waste and make Great Britain the most efficient Commonwealth on earth. Mines, factories, banks must be nationalized. It will come by swift evolution instead of revolution. We do not advocate force in any way. Under national operation mines and factories will not curtail production to create prices.

"America seems to be in the same prosperous state that obtained in England under Victoria. Consequently you are conservative. Gradually capital will become concentrated there as it is in England today, and you will have a period of adversity that will eliminate some such change as is being effected among us now.

"Or it may be that the efficiency of the British Commonwealth under Socialist rule will make our countries such wretched competitors in the world markets that reforms will be hastened in the United States and elsewhere by external economic pressure."

BRITISH SOLDIERS AGAINST WAR.

Lady Cynthia says two-thirds of the British soldiers have joined the La-

ADVANCE SHOWING NEW SPRING FROCKS

On Sale Tonight and Monday at

JANUARY SALE PRICES

Women and misses who appreciate smart style and exclusiveness will be delighted with these new arrivals. Fabrics are Crepe Back Satins, Flat Crepes and Crepe de Chene, each dress possessing the utmost in style and all the favored colors of the new season. Sizes 16 to 42.

\$14.75, \$21.00, \$23.00

Come in and see these values tonight.

F. A. DYKEMAN & CO.



bor Party and the youth of England is fast enrolling.

"Would they go to war again as before?" she was asked.

"No, they would not," she said with flashing eyes. "I tell you war is a filthy thing. Society as it now exists will not avoid war, but Socialism will help to prevent it."

Films and Pictures.

(Youth's Companion.)

American films are more popular in England than those that the British producers offer. Whether that popu-

larity is likely to reflect credit on the United States, and whether American parents have any excuse for allowing their children to attend moving picture theatres in this country without first finding out what the offering is to be may find a pertinent answer in the opening sentence of an English schoolboy's composition. "America," he wrote, "is a place where you can shoot as many people as you like without getting into trouble."

HELPFUL HINTS to Fish: Caution is a great asset in fishing, especially if you are a fish.

Hydro Making Money

People who got behind Hydro saved themselves Over Four Hundred Thousand Dollars in Reduced Rates and forced competing Rates down almost to One-Third

All Pull Together Now for STILL LOWER Rates!

CITIZENS—Your Own Hydro is making good. Right now it is paying its own way and better. But it needs your interest and understanding. Hydro's business is your business. It is your investment—ALL the Profits are yours—returned to you in reduced rates.

That is the character of Hydro—all through—light and power AT COST.

The great majority of our Citizens patronized Hydro-at-Cost. In the past 18 months alone they have saved on their meter bills the enormous total of \$442,569.85.

And that is not all. Even those who have delayed patronizing their own business gained by the efforts of those who did. Those who did stand in with their own Hydro enabled Hydro to quote prices that forced down competing prices to nearly one-third of what we all had to pay before Hydro-at-Cost arrived.

There is this other distinction about Your Own Hydro. Its rates are down to stay down—they are not down for the present only, not with the idea of being put up later on. You are running Your Own Hydro and you are running it to deliver electric current AT COST. And the sooner the rest of you line up on your own proposition the sooner your meter bills go down lower and lower again.

The situation is such that if only 25 per cent. of those not yet using Hydro acted in their own best interests they and every other Hydro user would gain still lower rates. How much more would they all gain if this entire tardy minority speeded up their awakening to a duty to their City and their Pocket Books.

Hydro-at-cost means more than the cheapest current you can buy—growing cheaper as more buy it. Hydro growing cheaper means more encouragement to Industries. It means more than a rescue from old exorbitant prices. It means Permanent Protection.



VICARAGE PORTER

REUMORS persist in London that Sir Roger Keyes who conceived the Zeppelins raid during the war and brought the Dover patrol to the highest state of efficiency against the submarines, is shortly to succeed Earl Beatty as First Sea Lord of the British Admiralty.

It has always been an accepted rule that First Sea Lord should previously have commanded one of the major fleets. The elevation of Admiral Keyes is made possible through his recent appointment to command the important Mediterranean fleet. He is a staunch disciple of Beatty, which will go far to enhance the popularity of his selection.

Admiral Keyes has served continuously in the British navy for 41 years. He was married in 1906.



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