

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1921

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, \$5.00 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. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—Chicago, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

CONSIDER THESE FACTS.

An article in today's Times presents very interesting facts regarding medical inspection in the city schools, the value of the work done and the assistance given by the public hospital, where clinics that are really free to children and thoughtfully, and ask himself or herself without prejudice whether there is anything in the principles adopted to the benefit of those requiring a minor operation to remove a physical defect. The figures show that these operations averaged almost one per day last year. In 800 cases children were relieved of a handicap that could not but affect their ability to progress at school, and in a great number of other cases the vigilance and skill of the medical inspector improved conditions for the boys and girls. The city still needs a dental clinic, and better provision for providing glasses for children with defective eyesight, but great progress has been made since medical inspection was introduced. The results are of the greatest benefit, not only in improving the health of children, but in preventing the spread of contagious and infectious diseases through the medium of the schools. In this general connection we quote a paragraph from the Bangor Commercial—

"No community is doing its duty to its children until it makes itself safe for the child to grow up into healthy, normal adult life, both in mind, body, and morals, says the Maine department of health. To do this there must be playgrounds with supervision; amusement places fit for boys and girls which will then be fit for men and women; means of overcoming physical defects which have been discovered by school nurses or physicians; instruction in healthy living; and a segregation of the mentally defective in order that they may secure special instruction. Last but not least there must be supervision of the child of working age to see that he is physically fitted for his work and that surroundings are fit for his mental and moral development."

St. John does not segregate the mentally defective, and does not even provide sufficient classes for retarded pupils. If we accept the average in cities where a study has been made, there are probably a hundred retarded and mentally deficient children in the schools of St. John. It is unfair to put them in classes with brighter pupils and expect them to do as well. They should be gathered in separate classes, graded according to their capacity, and given such instruction as their mental powers could grasp. It was noted in the Times on Thursday that out of 111 boys and girls examined in connection with the juvenile court in Montreal no less than 87 were mental defectives. It should be one of the aims of our educational system to pay special attention to this class of children, and they should be followed up after leaving school. Not many years ago there was a girl of school age who was mentally defective. Today she is a woman who has been the mother of several illegitimate children, born in institutions, and she herself is still at large without institutional care. One such object lesson is enough to enforce the argument for proper care of the mentally deficient in school and after; but New Brunswick pays no attention.

BRITISH SHIPPING TRADE

Information received by the foreign information department of New York shows how British shipping trade has recovered itself since the war. It says that official figures of the Board of Trade covering the entrance and clearance of vessels with cargo at British ports in 1920 show an increase of nine million tons net over similar returns for the year 1918, and a gain of almost twenty-four million tons over the figures of the year 1917. The net tonnage entered and cleared increased from 49,800,000 tons in 1917 to 78,100,000 tons in 1920. Of course there is yet a great gain to be made to equal pre-war times, as the figures for 1918 were 116,800,000 tons. The report further says:

"Of total entrances and clearances in 1920, approximately 46,000,000 tons were British ships compared to 44,000,000 tons in 1919; 86,000,000 tons in 1917 and 72,000,000 tons in 1918. Norwegian tonnage again led the foreign entrances and clearances in British ports in 1920, with American tonnage second. But United States shipping made the greater gain in the year. The comparative figures are: Norway 1920, 4,750,476 tons; 1919, 4,460,579 tons; United States, 1920, 8,599,404 tons; 1919, 8,284,518 tons. American tonnage with cargo in British ports in 1918 was only 618,922 tons, while Norway entered and cleared more than three quarter million tons."

An interesting fact as showing the rapidity of German recovery is that German entrances and clearances with cargo totalled 440,494 tons in 1920 compared to 11,044 tons in 1919.

The Standard's Ottawa correspondent says that at least five new men will be taken into the Meighen cabinet, and that three of them will be French-Canadians. He says further that there will be a series of by-elections, and that the result of these will determine whether or not there will be an early appeal to the people in a general election. It may be taken for granted that any by-elections held hereafter will be hotly contested.

READ THE STATEMENT.

The Times presents in brief today the story of vocational training in St. John and reasons why the evening classes should be continued. Every citizen in doubt should read the statement carefully given by the public hospital, where clinics that are really free to children and thoughtfully, and ask himself or herself without prejudice whether there is anything in the principles adopted to the benefit of those requiring a minor operation to remove a physical defect. The figures show that these operations averaged almost one per day last year. In 800 cases children were relieved of a handicap that could not but affect their ability to progress at school, and in a great number of other cases the vigilance and skill of the medical inspector improved conditions for the boys and girls. The city still needs a dental clinic, and better provision for providing glasses for children with defective eyesight, but great progress has been made since medical inspection was introduced. The results are of the greatest benefit, not only in improving the health of children, but in preventing the spread of contagious and infectious diseases through the medium of the schools. In this general connection we quote a paragraph from the Bangor Commercial—

DEFLATION

Canadian Finance makes some interesting remarks on the subject of deflation. It says: "We are pretty well agreed that the sooner we get right down to rock bottom in business the better it will be for us all, provided the downward movement is not too abrupt. There are two ways of reaching the foot of the business stairway, either by sliding down the banister and falling off the end with a bang or by an orderly descent of the steps which modern business provides. In Canada we are trying the latter method with a reasonable amount of success, but there are influences which have placed obstacles on the stairway which tend to cause us to lose our balance momentarily. Fortunately we are getting nearer the end of our downward journey every day. What are these drawbacks to orderly deflation? First, we have those who refuse to recognize the obvious fact that prices are falling and hold on to their goods waiting for prices to come back. These men will be adding to present difficulties by fighting against the inevitable. Next come those who only recognize a purchasing contract when it pays them to do so. There are men in our midst who pose as men of their word, who do not hesitate to cancel an order to purchase goods from a wholesaler as soon as they see prices dropping. With them an obligation to purchase is nothing more than a scrap of paper—to be torn up if it will not produce profit for them. We shall not build up a great business nation in this country until our business men live up to their obligations to the last letter of the contract. These men who cancel orders right and left so that they may buy in a lower market are dislocating Canadian industry, and although their actions may be profitable for the time being they will find that in the long run it does not pay."

This reference to men who cancel contracts without just cause deserves universal consideration. If we may judge from articles in trade journals and from business circulars that habit of cancellation has become sufficiently prevalent to suggest a slump in business ethics. This is not a healthy state of affairs, since it has a tendency to break down confidence without which business transactions on a large scale could not be carried on.

St. John has a world's skating record to its credit won by Charles Gorman yesterday. This city is getting into its stride again as a producer of athletes able to hold their own in any company. The present year should see a further great revival of interest in all amateur sports. As Gorman did all his practicing on outdoor rinks this season, the Improvement Leagues which provided them deserve credit for their public spirit, and deserve greater support than they have yet received from the citizens at large.

The big storm will at least furnish temporary employment for many idle men.

JAIL WITHOUT FINE FOR DRUNKEN DRIVERS OF AUTOS

Quebec, Feb. 12.—Hector Laferte of Drummond is bringing before the legislature a bill providing for imprisonment without the option of a fine for drunken drivers of autos. Mr. Laferte brought in this bill last year, but it was defeated in committee, on the ground it was too drastic. Since that time, however, Mr. Laferte, who is well known as a lawyer in Quebec, has gained the support of some additional members, as well as plenty of newspaper support throughout the province, and hopes to have more success this year.

The winter picnic of the Queen Square Methodist Sunday school was held last evening. A committee composed of Mrs. Horace Emery, Miss L. M. Lingey and Mrs. A. B. Gilmour were in charge of arrangements. Those taking part in the programme were: Girls of the C. G. I. T., Mrs. C. R. Mesereau, Miss Bessie Thompson, Leslie Bewick, Norman Magnusson and Charles Cromwell.



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THE BUSY BARD

I punch my lyre to buy a tin or two of sparkplugs for my fiver; I sing a lay to purchase hay and gas and beans and liver. The poet knows but small repose, these days of stress and strain; he works the muse for overhours to wear when it is raining. He swats the harp to buy a carp to feed his aunts and nieces; he turns out loads of hot stuff odes, on ancient Rome and Greece. And grocers say, "That rhyming lay takes life so beastly easy, while we must hump or hit the dump, where go the bankrupts cheery." And plumbers sigh, as they go by, "That poet's graft is a daisy; he merely sits and throws his fits, and he is fat and lazy; and we poor sink fix busted sinks and faucets that are leaking, and when we're done and ask our mon, the patron's always shrieking." As people walk I hear them talk about the snip I'm owning; I ask at ease and write my rhymes while working men are groaning. But oh, the times when decent rhymes won't come, for all my trying when my old dome under a frame a poem that men might call undying! The barren days when cheer-up lays it seems, cannot be written! The ghastly nights when he who writes is by brain-fag smitten! Oh, then the bard would lead in, or plumb with plummet, gayly, if he could seek the harp whose smoke has risen yearly, daily.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Where the New Books Begin.

"What sort of a novel is it?"

"Old-fashioned."

"That so?"

"Yes. The story ends that they were married and lived happily ever after."

"What's old-fashioned about that?"

"The newer authors usually start off their books with the wedding day, and work the old-fashioned racket till the finish."—Detroit Free Press.

Outwitted the Judge.

The jurymen ran breathlessly into the court.

"Oh, my lord," he exclaimed, "if you can excuse me, pray do I don't know which will die first—my wife or my daughter."

"Dear me, that's sad," said the innocent judge. "Certainly, you are excused."

The next day the jurymen were met by one of his fellow-jurors, who in a sympathetic voice asked:

"How's your wife?"

"She's all right. Why do you ask?"

"And your daughter?"

"She's all right, too. Why do you ask?"

"Why, yesterday you told the judge that you did not know which would die first?"

"Nor do I. That is a problem that time alone can solve."

Mother's Unconscious Joke.

Jack—And what did the old lady say when she entered the room and found her plump daughter sitting on your lap?"

Tom—She remarked that I had taken a great deal on myself—Boston Transcript.

More Enterprise Needed.

"No one has yet been successful in filming an actual murder," states a picture-goers' journal. It certainly does seem a pity that our murderers are so terribly self-conscious in the presence of a cinematograph man.—Punch London.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SUN LIFE

The year 1921 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada which in the half century of its existence has grown to be one of the largest and most successful life insurance companies in the world. A comparison of the growth of the company's business by decades indicates the most convincing proof of the strength of its management and of the steady development of public confidence towards it.

One year after it was organized, in 1872, the company's income was \$48,000; its assets, \$96,461, and it had written policies for a total of \$1,084,350. By the year 1880, the income had grown to \$141,402, with assets \$473,682 and insurance in force of \$3,897,139. From this time onward the development of the company not only in Canada but in stretching out to many other countries of the world, proceeded at a rapid pace, as the tables for the next four decades indicate:

1890—	Income	\$ 889,000
	Assets	2,473,000
	Insurance in force	16,739,000
1900—	Income	2,788,000
	Assets	10,486,000
	Insurance in force	87,980,000
1910—	Income	9,575,000
	Assets	88,164,000
	Insurance in force	143,546,000
1920—	Income	28,761,000
	Assets	114,839,000
	Insurance in force	486,941,000

QUEBEC SCHOOLS

Quebec, Feb. 12.—Hon. Athanasius David, provincial secretary, tabled the report of education statistics for the school year 1919-1920 in the house last night. There were 6,772 Catholic schools, which were in charge of 3,857 male and 12,244 female teachers. These schools were attended by 463,413 pupils, of whom 223,389 were boys and 230,014 girls. The average attendance was 342,272, or 76.44 per cent.

There were 817 schools for the Protestants, with 457 male and 1,946 female teachers, and attendance of 63,553 pupils, whereof 32,213 were boys and 31,342 girls. The average attendance was 46,345, or 72.92 per cent.

Taking both Catholic and Protestant figures together, it is noted that there are 7,589 schools, with 4,014 male and 14,190 female teachers, attended by 516,968 pupils, of whom 255,012 were boys and 261,956 girls. This still maintains the fact that more girls go to school than boys, though birth rates are the other way about. Girls also attend school more regularly than boys.

HOSPITAL MATTERS

Improvement and Increased Accommodation Discussed at Two Meetings Yesterday.

A conference between the finance committee of the municipal council, the hospital commissioners and staff was held last evening in the General Public Hospital, with a view to decide how the hospital accommodation should be enlarged. M. E. Agar said that in order to supply the hospital needs 600 more beds were needed. People were being turned away. He urged upon the council the necessity of greater accommodation. Dr. Curran said there was need for all that was asked, and he too, appealed to the council for aid.

Dr. Skinner strongly condemned the epidemic hospital and said that the present laboratory was good, but hampered by lack of room. Commissioner Thornton said he could see the need for more beds, but asked where the money was coming from. Dr. Rowley said that if ten years ago they had thought ahead there would now be no discussion. Mr. Agar said that in a broad way the board wished the place adjusted so as to accommodate all the patients for a definite proposition, and Dr. Rowley and Dr. Allingham envisaged the needs. Dr. Rowley moved that a committee be appointed to get down to business, and three members of the board and three from the staff were appointed to come to some conclusion as to costs, plans, etc., and will be called together by Warden Bullock some time next week.

Commissioners' Meeting. At a meeting of the board of commissioners of the General Public Hospital yesterday afternoon recommendations for extensive improvements in the building of the hospital were presented. Dr. H. Hedden, superintendent of the hospital, in his report recommended that an auditor be appointed and also that increasing X-ray work would soon require the full time of one man. The matter of a dietitian suite in the nurses' home was taken up by Mrs. McEldan, and a motion carried that action in this matter be deferred until J. A. Kelley returned. The principal, Miss Scott, in her report recommended that the epidemic be closed, as she could not be responsible for the welfare of nurses under the present conditions.

Much Linen Missing. As convener of the committee to look into the matter of the linen supply, Dr. Robert submitted a report in which he said that the shortage of linen had been serious and no account could be given of the linen in which it has disappeared. He recommended a linen depot be established and some one be placed in charge to look after the linen and be responsible for its repair. His report contained other important recommendations.

The financial statement told of total receipts \$1,900.68, made up of \$1,622 from paying patients; \$116 from X-ray work and \$268 from the Workmen's Compensation Board. The expenditures totalled \$16,702. The overdraft in the Bank of Nova Scotia was \$15,858.

Hopelessly Overcrowded. The report of the medical staff told of hopeless overcrowding in the hospital which had necessitated putting pneumonia, typhoid and meningitis cases in the same ward, which was very undesirable. It noticed a definite improvement in the meals served. The keeping of records was said to be unsatisfactory and would continue to be so until a proper house staff was obtained.

The financial staff's report cross infection in the epidemic was said to persist. The need of portable X-ray beside unit and of an orthopaedic table was said to be urgent. The cost of the orthopaedic table was said to be \$475 and of bedside X-ray \$1,000, plus \$150 for exchange. The superintendent was authorized to procure both.

The report of the dietitian, Miss Dorothy Hutton, showed provisions for the month to have cost \$3,164.71 and the cost per meal per person to have been fourteen cents; total cost per day \$102.08; meals served 4,864.

After estimation of the cost of operation of the hospital it was agreed that the charges to patients non-resident in the county be \$3.05 per day. In 1919 it was \$2.13; in 1920 it was \$2.57. It was also agreed that the price of private rooms, which had formerly been \$3, should be advanced to \$3.25 per day.

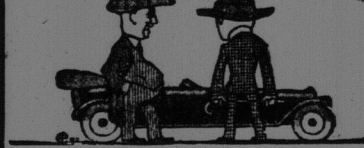
TRAGIC CASE IN A TRURO HOTEL. Truro, N. S., Feb. 12.—Leslie Hennessey, aged 24, is making a fight for life in a hospital here. Alarmed by a noise in Hennessey's room in a local hotel, patrons of the proprietor investigated and found the young man unconscious, with an empty bottle of chloroform and a half-filled bottle of carbolic acid by his side.

It is alleged that Hennessey had written a letter stating that he had been in some sort of trouble. The letter is said to have been addressed to Enoch Hennessey of Brooklyn, Hants county.

NEW YORK CLEARING HOUSE. New York, Feb. 12.—The actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they held \$19,347,550 reserve in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$4,250,480 from last week.

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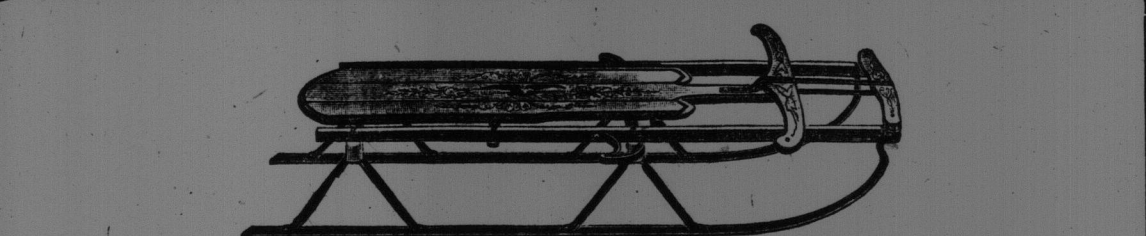
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	A.M.	P.M.
High Tide....	2.19	Low Tide.... 8.57
Sun Rises....	7.00	Sun Sets.... 5.47

FOREIGN PORTS.

Boston, Feb. 11—Ard. str. Winifred, Liverpool.
Genoa, Feb. 5—Ard. str. Regina, D'Italia, New York.

The senior and intermediate members of the Y. M. C. A. entertained the members of the Young Ladies' League at a Valentine social last evening. Those participating in the programme were: P. B. Cross, Geraldine Melick, and Captain Stokes. Dancing was also enjoyed.

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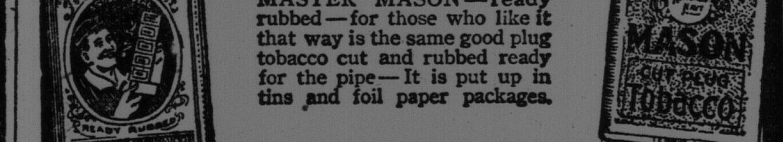
D. J. Barrett, 155 Union Street.
Geo. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq.
J. M. Logan, Haymarket Sq.
Quinn and Co., 415 Main Street.
C. H. Ritchie, 320 Main Street.
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