

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 12, 1921

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BEARING FALSE WITNESS.

It is to be regretted that the government press should so soon begin a systematically dishonest campaign in dealing with the policy of those who are opposed to the government. Both Hon. Mackenzie King and Hon. Mr. Crerar have declared emphatically that they are not advocates of free trade, yet the Toronto Mail and Empire says:

"Canada went through the war without being crushed and Canada is bearing the heavy burden of the war debt with unquenchable cheerfulness. But Canada, especially after that terrible war, could not bear up under the more afflicting load of free trade which Mr. Crerar and Mr. King are each holding in pickle for her."

The Mail and Empire is bearing false witness. Neither the Liberal nor the National Progressive policy is free trade. To charge that Mr. King or Mr. Crerar went abroad will tend to stimulate our own athletes to greater efforts to qualify for better work in future contests, and they are not without a feeling of pride that some of their own number were able to do so well. More and more encouragement should be given to athletes, and in those schools which are within easy reach of a playground the teachers should show a keen interest in having the pupils give some attention to sports and friendly competitions on the athletic field. There is no longer a lack of opportunity. During the winter, also, indoor sports should be encouraged and made to embrace the largest possible number of young people. Healthy physical exercise in groups is a good exchange for "the gang."

When next year's amateur championships are held, St. John should have a large group of competitors to enter the lists.

An Ottawa despatch says that there will be four or five representatives of Quebec in the new Meighen cabinet. A desperate effort is to be made to gain support in that Liberal province. The Gazette also hears that Mr. R. B. Bennett will join the cabinet and that either Hon. R. W. Wilmot or Hon. J. B. M. Baxter will represent New Brunswick. The situation grows more and more interesting.

Secretary Hoover predicts a general business revival in the United States within a few weeks. Conditions, he says, are much improved in the middle west and south. Bradstreet's says the stabilizing point in prices seems to have been reached in August. This is gratifying news, as improvement over the border will have a beneficial effect in Canada.

Commissioner Frink is justified in noting with satisfaction the mileage added to paved streets in St. John this year. When the Marsh Road to the One Mile House is put in good condition the leading thoroughfares will be a credit to this city. In this respect we are making very substantial progress.

The Assembly of the League of Nations will this week elect the judges of the international court, which will be a strong factor in settling international disputes. It is to be regretted that Mr. Elihu Root seems himself too old for a place in this court of which he was so effective an advocate.

The Irish language may become the written and spoken language of Ireland if the Sinn Fein have their way, but English will still be the language of commerce, which all Irishmen will need to know.

France is experiencing a rapid trade recovery. Her export business is growing and now exceeds her imports by nearly four hundred million francs. Her competition will soon be felt more keenly in world markets.

The track was not in good condition for fast bicycle racing on Saturday, but many who witnessed the contests felt a thrill that had its source in the memory of former days when the city had its own bicycle club. The sport might very well be revived.

Hon. R. W. Wilmot is coming to town. Will the Conservatives meet him with a band or a bump?

A high tariff and high freight rates going west would make the maritime provinces a nice little preserve for the upper province manufacturer.

The announcement that snow has already fallen in Alberta causes an involuntary shiver and a survey of the coal bin.

The St. Stephen and Woodstock exhibitions this week will attract many visitors to those thriving towns.

GERMAN MARK AT LOWEST IN LONDON MARKET

London, Sept. 12.—The value of the German mark fell today to 39 1/4 marks of the pound sterling. This is a new record for the mark here.

C. P. R. President's Train. Regina, Sept. 12.—President Beatty, of the C. P. R., and party arrived in Regina last night and left today for Moose Jaw.

Trouble appears to have begun in the Conservative camp in Northumberland county. The Standard had word from Chatham last week that Mr. George M. McDade would probably be the government candidate. In today's Standard Newcastle is heard from and a correspondent from that town scouts the idea that any other than Mr. E. A. McCurdy, who was lately mentioned for a senate appointment, and who is a brother of Hon. F. B. McCurdy, has any chance at all for a nomination. A Chatham Conservative said in St. John the other day that Mr. McDade was the man—and there you are. The Standard also hears that Dr. H. I. Taylor, M. L. A., is "the one man who can lead the party to victory" in Charlotte county. On the subject of St. John candidates for the party the Standard is silent.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Friend in Dark Days.

Jones—Heaven bless him! He showed confidence in me when the clouds were dark and threatening. Robinson—In what way? Jones—He lent me an umbrella.—Tit-Bits.

His Punishment.

"Doctor," said Johnny, half out of breath from running, "come up to our house, quick." "Who's sick there?" asked the doctor. "Everybody but me. I was naughty, so they wouldn't give me any of the nice mushrooms as picked in the woods."

They're Not Speaking Now.

Dolly—What a time you've been? Bella—Yes, I had to wait at the hair-dresser's before they could do my hair. Dolly—Why didn't you tell them to send for it? Now they never speak as they pass by.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Secret Is Out.

"Why does a woman's hat cost so much more than a man's? Surely, the trimmings can't account for more than a fraction of the difference." "Certainly not, but you must remember that it costs more to sell a hat to a woman. A man seldom takes up more than two minutes of the salesman's time, while a woman will keep the entire sales staff busy for half a day."

WED BROTHER'S "WAR BRIDE," NOW A SEPARATION

Baltimore, Sept. 12.—The international romance of P. R. Spiker and Emily R. Knowles, which culminated when Guy S. Spiker consented to marry his brother's English "war bride" after Percy returned to his wife and child in this country, has struck the rocks. Emily Knowles Spiker and Guy S. Spiker, who were married in Fall River, Mass., Feb. 8, 1920, have been separated for nearly five years.

The English girl, it is said, fled from her home several weeks ago, leaving a note saying that she no longer cared to live with him.

Guy Spiker was soon at his brother's home today. "Please don't ask me to make a statement concerning what has happened," he said. "All that I can say at this time is that my conscience is absolutely clear."

THE KU KLUX KLAN.

The Ku Klux Klan is receiving increasing space in the newspapers and according to its grand imperial wizard its membership is increasing at the rate of about 1,000 a week and is now found in all states except three, Maine not being among the exceptions.

The organization openly proclaims as among its principles, 100 per cent. Americanism, the sanctity of the home, the punishment of criminals and the perpetual rule, social and political, of native-born white Americans.

That there should be a revival of this organization more than half a century after its earlier activities is somewhat surprising. That there is any need for it is questioned. Its continuance will depend upon its activities.

It is reported that federal officials are investigating the activities of the organization and have decided that it is within the law so far as its announced principles are involved. It remains to be seen if it lives within the law. If not it must deal with the law.

Apparently the chief announced mission is to see that those who offend against the law are punished. This is all right if it means to support the law in bringing criminals to punishment. But it has no right to punish. It cannot take the law into its own hands as the earlier organization did. It has no warrant to indulge in rioting, destruction of property and lynching and the first attempt at such must meet with prompt suppression and punishment of the offenders.

According to reports from the south the Klan has been indulging in night riding and punishment of individuals. It is possible that these acts have been committed by imitators rather than by members of the organization, but this is certainly open to doubt. If the Klan is as powerful and devoted to good citizenship as it claims, then it should exert this power in support of the law and not by breaking it. Moreover, it is claimed in all the New England states save one, but we do not believe that there will be night riding in New England as the term is generally understood. The Klan in the persecution of individuals would be promptly repressed and promptly punished in this section.

THE STORK IN TURKEY.

The stork is the most conspicuous object in the life of Anatolia, the capital of Nationalist Turkey, says an Associated Press Letter. There are perched on every house-top. One solemn, huge pair has its nest built on a stately column erected long ago, under the Romans, to honor the Emperor Augustus. Others have their nests on the roof of the Hotel Hurriyet (Liberty). Small boys do not throw stones at them nor do the men shoot them. The storks are supposed to make trips to Arabia, Mecca, and the holy city of Mecca.

The Turkish superstition about the stork is that if seen carrying red weeds or grass in its flight, this is a sign of death to the holder and of long life if the grass is green. Anatolia is a paradise for birds. The Turks never shoot them nor destroy their nests. The little boy with his slingshot is spanked if found doing them mischief. Hence they flourish in abundance with their only enemies the eagle and the magpie.

SINGS AS HE WORKS.

New York has a singing motorman. He is George Primrose, once a member of George Primrose's minstrels. He runs a surface car up and down Seventy avenue, and whenever the traffic clears and things are rolling merrily, he bursts into song. His passengers often ride blocks beyond their destination for the pleasure of hearing him, and the traffic cops are always looking for his car.

Once in a while an officious inspector reports him, but Leo goes singing. It's old-time favorites that he sings. Leo explained he had left the stage because motoring was a good steady job the year round, with something definite to his pay envelope the end of every week.

THINK LICENSES AND NO WEDDING RINGS. GO WELL TOGETHER

Edmonton, Sept. 12.—The jewellers of Alberta are protesting about the withdrawal of the right to issue marriage licenses, and a committee will wait on Hon. R. G. Reid, minister of health.

MAFIA AT WORK IN NEW YORK?

Police There and in Other Cities Told That Therein Lies Cause of Some Recent Crimes.

Police in New York, Detroit and other American cities investigating scores of mysterious murders among the Sicilians have been informed that these crimes were not the result of local feuds, but have been committed at the order of the infamous secret society, La Mafia. It was about 100 years ago that the Sicilians first came to the United States. It is only upon rare occasions that Americans are assassinated, and it is on this account that public opinion refuses to become greatly excited. When it does there result tragedies like that in New Orleans some twenty years ago, which ended in the lynching of eleven Sicilians, the breaking off of diplomatic relations between the United States and Italy—and the end of Sicilian murders in New Orleans. The trouble began with the attempt of a number of Sicilians to get control of the New Orleans fruit, fish and oyster business. In order to frighten away other merchants not of Sicilian blood, black hand notices were posted on their doors. When these were disregarded, arson and murder were resorted to.

Murdered Police Chief.

Chief of Police Hennessey had collected information in these cases and was about to close his net against members of the Mafia, when one night on his way home he was shot and killed. When the police arrived they found twelve sawed-off shotguns which the murderers had thrown away. Arrests were made immediately and the accused persons placed on trial. The evidence against them was circumstantial, but in the public mind, inflamed against the Sicilians, it seemed ample. However, someone with a lot of money was given an opportunity to visit the jury, and the result was that the accused were acquitted. The juryman left town on this train. The morning newspapers carried a large advertisement, reciting the facts of the case and calling for a mass meeting at the Henry Clay statue on Canal street, to discuss the situation. The advertisement ended with the significant words, "Come prepared."

Eleven Men Hanged.

At ten o'clock a crowd of several thousand people assembled, many of them carrying rifles. A prominent attorney made an address in which he declared the time had come when the people of New Orleans must decide whether they were to be ruled and terrorized by a band of foreigners. Someone shouted "Fall in," and without further organization the crowd marched to the Mafia and recent occurrences in the United States have revived interest in this most mysterious organization.

A mysterious organization. It has no available list of membership; no head generally acknowledged, no regular meeting place or ceremonial. It came into existence about a hundred years ago as the result of the failure of the people of Sicily to receive protection from Algerine pirates and other outlaws. Gradually there grew up with them a contempt of all law and a hatred of law officers. They took the law into their own hands, executed their private vendettas, and gave protection to others of their kind who did likewise. Their most effective weapon against the police is called the "Omertà," a conspiracy of silence. They will give the officers no help even against their own enemies. If arrests are made the members of the Mafia will come forward with the necessary bribes to secure an acquittal, but the day after the acquittal are likely to murder the man they have just befriended. Of late years, and especially in the United States, the Mafia has degenerated into a band of criminals, living chiefly on blackmail. Old tradition, perhaps, and a fear of the consequences restrains those upon whom they prey from giving information to the police. Hence the order flourishes, and in some cities is even an important factor in politics.

MAN DROWNED

North Sydney, Sept. 11.—El Miles, one of the crew of the Newfoundland-owned schooner Cavalier, was swept overboard by the turbulent sea, and drowned, when the schooner was ten miles off Scatterie, en route here from Newfoundland.

French Exports Increase.

Ottawa, Sept. 12.—From statistics supplied by H. B. Canadian trade commissioner in Paris, the general tendency is for France to increase her exports. They now exceed her imports by nearly four hundred million francs.

A Spookerism.

Mr. G. B. Burgin, the veteran novelist, tells of a nervous young girl who had written a couple of novels and was taken into dinner by no less a person than Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

"Well, my dear, what do you do for a living?" gruffly asked the great man. The girl was so embarrassed by this unexpected inquiry that she faltered out, "I bite books."

PAINT IN SEPTEMBER



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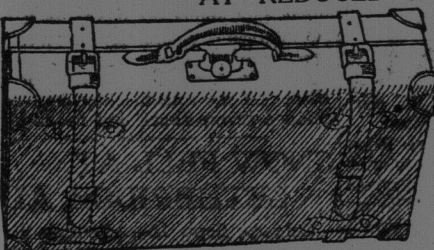
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