

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1923

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## A GREAT JOURNALIST.

In the early eighties the proprietors of the St. John Sun were looking about for an editor for that paper, which was the organ of the Liberal-Conservative party. Sir George Foster, then Prof. George E. Foster, just breaking into politics, was editorial writer for a time, but could not continue, as his political labors were then very strenuous, and so in 1885, the year in which Mr. Foster entered the Cabinet of Sir John Macdonald, Mr. S. D. Scott came from Halifax to become the editor of the Sun. The writer of the present article joined the Sun staff as a reporter during the next year. The other members of the staff were R. A. Payne, James Berry, William B. Quinton and H. L. Spencer, the poet. All of these except Mr. Berry, who is living in Montana, have passed away. Fred W. James, now of Montreal, was in the business office, and Col. Markham, now of Vancouver, was manager. Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, in those early years, reported the law courts for the Sun. The late Senator Thorne was a frequent visitor to the editorial rooms, and the Sun championed the cause of the Conservative party with great vigor. Mr. Scott, as editor, was a very clever political writer, who could use the deadly parallel in a controversy with perhaps greater skill than any writer of his time, while the ease for his own party was presented with such clearness and force as to give him rank within a few years among the ablest political writers in the Dominion. He was regarded with real affection by the members of the staff. To the young writers who came his home was always open, and he and Mrs. Scott took a personal interest in their welfare. He encouraged young men to do their best, and it was a rule of the office that reports of meetings should be fair to all concerned. Possibly in the heat of a political campaign the rule was not always observed to the letter, for contests were bitterly waged in those days, but Mr. Scott fought his battles in a fair and kindly spirit that disarmed all personal resentment. He could puncture an opponent's argument with a good-natured shaft of ridicule that had its effect without leaving the sting of bitterness, while his knowledge of public men and their record in politics enabled him to strike effective blows; although there were those who remembered the fiery invective of John Livingston and insisted that Mr. Scott was not altogether living up to the editorial traditions of the Sun. That journal had many vicissitudes, and did not long survive Mr. Scott's retirement from the editorial chair. He returned to the city when an effort was made to create a new Conservative paper called The Standard, but it had only a brief existence.

Mr. Scott was much more than a political writer, although his letters from Ottawa when he was a member of the Press Gallery were the most readable appearing in any newspaper. For some years he and Prof. Tweedie of Mount Allison made a walking tour each year, and nothing more delightful than his story of each day's wanderings could be desired, for it combined history, humorous incidents, reflections and comments that appealed to every reader. Mr. Scott occasionally contributed to magazines, and such work was of a very fine literary quality. His writings in the Vancouver Province in recent years have contained many references to the Maritime Provinces, and have been a really valuable contribution to history.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Scott were greatly beloved in St. John for their fine contribution to all that was best in the city's life. Both were actuated by the highest ideals of duty, and by voice and pen both were ready to promote each worthy cause. Education, art, temperance, benevolence, civic welfare—all these commanded their sympathy and aid. Their departure was a distinct loss to St. John. Mrs. Scott visited St. John last summer. To the writer she said Mr. Scott had particularly enjoyed her to call upon all his old friends and learn how it fared with them, as he did not expect to come this way again. The remark was prophetic, for he has gone to his rest, the end coming as he sat at his typewriter. He died in harness, leaving an unfinished task, but the labor of his hands has not been in vain; and all over Canada there is a feeling of regret today that a brilliant writer and true Canadian, of unblemished life and character has come to the end of the road. In St. John an intimate circle who found his friendship a benison will not forget, but cherish the memory of a good man, whose pen contributed much to the development of a national spirit in the young Dominion of Canada.

## COOLIDGE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The message of President Coolidge to Congress last week was well received by the Republican press, and is regarded as having strengthened his

chances for the Republican nomination in the next presidential election. The Democrats assert that this was the aim of the message, and that it is a stand pat document to please the "pre-datory special interests."

The people of other countries are most interested in what President Coolidge says about foreign policy. Beginning with the statement that the Americans recognize their obligation to help others, realize the common bond of humanity and know the inescapable law of service, he goes on to say that they will reserve to their own judgment the time, place and method of extending help; and that they will have nothing to do with the League of Nations. He does, however, favor American support of the International Court of Justice, and urges the Senate to ratify the measure. He regards it as the only practical plan of settling international controversies. Since his own party is not agreed on this matter it was thought the President might dodge the issue, but he declares it is not a partisan question and speaks very frankly to Congress and the people. There will be a feeling of disappointment in other countries because of his opposition to the League of Nations, but few people will believe that it is with the United States, as he describes it a "closed incident."

However, if he can persuade Congress to agree to participation in the World Court, it will be an important gain for the cause of peace.

With regard to Russia, the President is very explicit. He has no objection to the American people trading with Russia, but will not recognize the Soviet Government. On this point he says:—"Our Government does not propose, however, to enter into relations with another regime which refuses to recognize the sanctity of international obligations. I do not propose to barter away for the privilege of trade any of the cherished rights of humanity. I do not propose to make merchandise of any American principles. These rights and principles must go wherever the sanctions of our Government go."

The United States, he points out, has relieved Russia of an enormous burden, and adds:—"Whenever there appears any disposition to compensate our citizens who were despoiled, and to recognize that debt contracted with our Government, not by the Czar, but by the newly formed Republic of Russia; whenever the active spirit of enmity to our institutions is abated; whenever there appear words meet for repentance, our country ought to be the first to go to the economic and moral rescue of Russia. We have every desire to help and no desire to injure. We hope the time is near at hand when we can act."

It is doubtful if the time is near at hand. An American observer just back from Russia declares that the Soviet Government is still confident of a world revolution, and is doing whatever it can to foment a revolution in other countries of Europe, anticipating that after Europe is conquered by Bolshevist doctrines the turn of the United States will come.

Regarding the debts owed the United States by European countries, President Coolidge does not favor the cancellation of any, and adds that they give his country a direct interest in the recovery of Europe. Continuing he says:—"This interest is enlarged by our desire for the stability of civilization and the welfare of humanity. That we are making sacrifices to that end none can deny. Our deferred interest alone amounts to a million dollars every day. But recently we offered to aid with our advice and counsel. We have reiterated our desire to see France paid and Germany revived. We have proposed disarmament. We have earnestly sought to compose differences and restore peace. We shall persevere in well-doing, not by force, but by reason."

There is here an allusion to the American proposals regarding an enquiry into the reparations question, which France turned down. On the question of the army and navy, the President is against any further reduction, and says both should be strengthened rather than weakened.

## Press Comment

### HEROIN

The League of Nations' Advisory Committee on the Opium Traffic has requested each Government (presumably whether in the League or not) to appoint a committee of inquiry with a view to ascertaining the possibility of completely abolishing the manufacture of heroin and its use, or of limiting its use to certain types of cases if the committee of inquiry decides that the manufacture cannot be done away with entirely. It is to be expected that there will be practical co-operation from America, for Congressman Porter, who has been extremely active in attacking the opium traffic, spent some time at Geneva this summer, despite his hostile attitude toward the League and his earlier differences with "Mr. Cecil."

The testimony so far gathered seems to support the conclusion that the medical need for heroin is negligible compared with the evil effects of its use. The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at its annual session three years ago, in New Orleans, adopted a resolution going the whole length of this conclusion: voting that "heroin be eliminated from all medical preparations, that should not be administered, prescribed, dispensed, and that the importation, manufacture and sale of heroin should be prohibited in the United States."

The Surgeon General of the United States many years ago issued an order directing all commission medical officers to discontinue prescribing heroin. It served no purpose that other agents cannot accomplish as effectively and without the attendant possibility of grave disaster.

What the nature of this physiological and moral disaster is, subjectively, has been described by Dr. Alexander Lambert. But it is also objectively also in the records of crime. The Chief City Magistrate estimates that of about nine hundred drug addicts committed last year, 98 per cent. were users of heroin. What is more appalling is that, according to the Treasury Report on Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, the most of the addicts are comparatively young, "a large portion of them being boys and girls under the age of 20."

There can be, or should be, but one answer from the several nations to the inquiry of the League committee, but total abolition can be made effective only through international co-operation. It will be necessary to fight with others this evil not only here but out "where the poppies grow," even as our soldiers fought a common enemy in certain other fields where "poppies blow."

**TOWARDS THE KINGDOM.**  
(Daily Herald, London.)  
How far the world—our particular part of it—gets better and how far it gets worse is a subject for never-ending discussion.

In some directions we certainly have improved. We behave more decently to animals. We acknowledge more instinctively the fellowship in which the human race is joined with every other creature. There was an illustration of this in a hospital near London. A tiny kitten was run over. Some little boys picked it up and took it to the hospital.

Now that in itself was a decided advance. Fifty years ago that course would not even have suggested itself. "Put it out of its misery," would have been the most humane suggestion heard.

But more follows. At the hospital the kitten was treated with the utmost care. An operation was performed by doctors and nurses in the operating theatre. The little creature will be looked after with even more care.

There is something in a story like this which thrills the chords of sympathy and even touches the font of tears. When we all act towards one another and towards every form of life—whether in suffering or in health—with this tenderness and kindly care, we shall be really civilized. We shall have begun to found the ideal Commonwealth, the Kingdom of God upon earth.

**SIR HENRY THORNTON'S SUCCESS.**  
(Ottawa Citizen.)  
Steady improvement in the Canadian National Railways is to be seen in the reports that are published from time to time. According to the latest figures supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the nationally-owned railway system earned a net operating revenue of \$8,857,913 in the nine months from last January. During the same period last year the revenue amounted to only \$8,272,513.

While there are many factors contributing to this encouraging progress on the part of the C. N. R., it is but fair to recognize Sir Henry Thornton's part in bringing about the improvement. Certainly he would have been blamed for failure. But the evidence of Sir Henry Thornton's influence is quite apparent to travelers on the C. N. R. In the last year, the brightening up of the service has been the subject of much favorable comment. It can be seen in the comparatively small details, such as the attention of the porters, waiters and other members of the train crew to the comfort of passengers. The alert appearance of Sir Henry Thornton's men, their courtesy, readiness to serve and close attention to duty is surely evidence of capable leadership at the head of the nation's great railway organization.

In answer to arguments in favor of the nationalization of all the railways in Canada, it used to be said that the best results would be produced by having one system under public ownership and the other privately-owned. The high standard of service on the Canadian Pacific Railway would be the yardstick with which to measure the service on the Canadian National. Apparently this plan is working out well for the country.

**THE Y. W. C. A. PRAISED**  
(New York Times)  
The Y. W. C. A. of New York gives an invaluable service to the people of this city. It asks little in return—only enough to help it do all the work that it thinks to be urgently necessary. It has planned a budget for the coming year of \$1,691,680. But it already has a total available income of \$1,416,680. This means that it is asking the public to give not more than \$275,000, or 17 per cent. of its total budget. It has added \$100,000 as New York City's contribution toward the national work of the Y. W. C. A., making a total of \$400,000. The initial response is gratifying, one-fourth being pledged the first two days of budget week. It should be an easy matter to gather the rest for this most worthy cause.

### SURVIVAL.

(Winifred Lockhart Willis, in New York Herald)  
Deep in some shadowed byway of my brain  
You linger still. My life's small incidents  
You touch with sudden fingertips of pain  
Or lift to heights of strange significance.  
Because of you the world is fashioned new  
That long ago I thought had died with you.

Your face has dimmed; your eyes so blue and kind,  
The words you said and laughed,  
Have lost their poignant clearness in my mind.  
The heart that cried, the open wounds that bled  
Such scarlet drops of anguish long ago  
Lie quiet as your dust beneath the snow.

But some dear, dim familiar part of you  
Has found my "prisoned self," flung wide the doors;  
Crying: "We loved life so! To life be true  
Oh, heart of mine! The good, glad things are yours  
And you shall take them, live them, splendidly,  
Finding in all you love some part of me!"

### IN LIGHTER VEIN.

**When Jokes Were New.**  
Whatever trouble Adam had,  
No man in days of yore  
Could say when he had told a joke:  
I've heard that one before.

**Born to Trouble.**  
A man is but a worm of the dust—he comes along, wiggles about a while and finally some chicken gets him.

**Auto-Mania.**  
Here lies the body of Jim Lake, Tread softly all who pass; He thought his foot was on the brake, But it was on the gas.

**At sixty miles.**  
Drove Willie Snidder;  
He lost control  
His wife's a widder.  
—Town and Country, Pennsburg, Pa.

**Here lies what's left.**  
Of Henry Glenn;  
Match in gas tank—  
Up went San Francisco Chronicle.

**Bill Turpin sneered**  
At careful folk;  
He hasn't sneered  
Since his axle broke.  
—Pitt Panther

**Ben Higgins never would be passed.**  
He bragged his car's endurance.  
He passed six cars with backward glance  
His wife has his insurance.  
—Pitt Panther

**Easily Settled.**  
Jimmy had left his crusts piled up on his plate at breakfast.  
"When I was a little boy," remarked his father, "I always ate my crusts."  
"Did you like them?" asked Jimmy cheerfully.  
"Yes," replied his father.  
Jimmy pushed his plate across the table.

**About That Long.**  
"Is Jones a truthful man?"  
"Yes, generally, but he will go to any length in telling a fish story."

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### WORDS OF NOTED MEN

**Hatred.**  
Let us kill hatred. It is the survival of the cave instinct in man, which comes out of its hiding-places under the name of patriotism and justice.—Philip Gibbs.

**No Liberty.**  
No man oppresses thee. O free and independent franchise; but does not the stupid pewter pot oppress thee? No son of Adam can bid thee come and go, but this absurd pot of heavy wet can and does. Thou art the thrall, not of Cedric the Saxon, but of thy own brutal appetites and this accursed dish of liquor. And thou protest of thy liberty thou entire blockhead.—Carlyle.

**Fascist Leader's View.**  
H. E. Benito Mussolini, Prime Minister of Italy, in a recent interview, said: "No nation can call itself well organized and prosperous which has within its borders any large number of people who are instinctively provided with the necessities of life. There is nothing the matter with the logic of socialism or communism; but life does not fit in with that logic, and look at what disaster has been brought about in Russia by blindly insisting upon a logic that does not fit life! We live in a world of people."

### DR. MCKNIGHT THE NO-PAIN DENTIST

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### DELEGATES TO PRESBYTERY.

At a meeting held last evening after church service delegates were appointed to represent to Matthew's congregation in appearing before the meeting of the St. John Presbytery on Tuesday to deal with the matter of the resignation of Rev. W. H. Spencer, the minister of the church. The delegates named were as follows: Commissioner John Thornton, R. W. Hutchison, William Nicholson, J. W. McCarthy and Charles F. Stevens. The regular meeting of Presbytery will be held in St. Andrew's church on Tuesday.

### IS IN DRY DOCK.

The steamer Canadian Planter, of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, having finished discharging general cargo at the Long Wharf, was taken in tow yesterday and, in charge of Pilot William Trainor, was successfully placed in the St. John drydock, where she will be given a general overhauling, her bottom scraped and painted. The work will take three or four days, it is estimated.

### GIVES LECTURE AT ST. PETER'S.

Gordon Leavitt gave an instructive address before the Young Men's Association of St. Peter's church yesterday afternoon in the hall in Douglas avenue. Mr. Leavitt spoke on the birds of New Brunswick, with interesting illustrations, that held the attention of every one present. A vote of thanks was moved and heartily endorsed by the meeting. Arthur A. Codre was in the chair.

### Delight "Him" With These Slippers

After the day's work is over—he likes to be comfortable. On Sunday morning with his papers—he likes to be comfortable. How sincere will be his "Thank you" if you give him House Slippers—and help him to be comfortable!

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The popular Opera style (the top style picture) carried in Brown and Black Kid from ..... \$2.50 to \$5.00  
Romeo—high cut—Slippers in Brown and Black Kid at ..... \$2.85 to \$5.50  
Everett patterns in Leathers come in Black and Brown at \$2.50 to \$5.25

### Felt Slippers

Plaid Wool Felt Slippers with thick Felt and Leather Soles at ..... \$1.25 to \$3.00  
Plain Colors in Fawn, Black and Brown at ..... \$2.50 and \$3.00  
"Jaeger" Slippers at ..... \$3.00 and \$3.25  
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