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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1921

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 10, 1921.

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### FEDERAL INCOME TAXES.

What is Parliament going to do about the federal income tax law as amended in 1919? Those whose income is sufficient to render them liable to the federal income tax will this year have to pay two years' taxes at one time, for the 1919 bills in many cases are not passed, or very recently passed, and those who submit income statements soon are required to pay at least twenty-five per cent. of the tax in advance, and those who are able would probably prefer to pay the full amount rather than pay six per cent. interest on the deferred balance in addition to the trouble of making subsequent payments.

The maritime boards of trade which have taken up this matter will have a very general support in the position they have set forth, and early action in the House of Commons should reasonably be expected. The penalty clauses, as the boards of trade point out, are of an unreasonable character. The amendments of 1919 make the taxpayer his own assessor and threaten him with all sorts of penalties in case he tries honestly to discharge the complicated duty imposed upon him by law and yet fails to do so. The Dominion government should be able to collect income taxes without these extraordinary provisions. It is but fair to say that the business of introducing income taxation was necessarily a difficult one, and that the widespread machinery necessary for the purpose could only be organized gradually. It must be supposed that by this time that machinery is sufficiently effective to reach by far the greater proportion of those who are justly liable, but it is wrong that the law should proceed on the assumption that a great proportion of prospective taxpayers are dishonest and that it is therefore necessary to threaten all with such provisions as are now contained in the income tax law.

It is fully understood by the public, no doubt, that the district inspectors are in no way to blame for this, and that they can only proceed in accordance with the rules laid down for them at Ottawa. While, therefore, action to simplify the law and remove the objectionable clauses is necessary in the House of Commons, and that speedy, those liable to the tax cannot depend upon any immediate changes and should prepare to file their statements in accordance with the demands of the existing legislation. Delay in the case of companies or individuals could only do harm. Before long protests from various parts of the country should have sufficient effect at Ottawa to bring about the required reforms.

### RHODES AND SOUTH AFRICA.

The part which General Smuts played in the war and the stature he has gained in Imperial councils, coupled with the recent political victory through which he is credited with saving South Africa for the Empire, have naturally led the people of the British Dominions to feel a sharpened interest in South African affairs.

There is a suggestion in the new biography of Cecil Rhodes, written by Mr. Basil Williams, that if Rhodes had been at the height of his mental powers at the time of the Jameson raid, the South African war might have been averted. An English reviewer of Mr. Williams' work, remembering how keenly Rhodes hoped and sought for South African union and Anglo-Dutch reconciliation, asks how he ever came to be involved in such a mess as the raid. The reviewer continues:—

"He may have excused himself for entering, while Prime Minister of Cape Colony, into conspiracy against a neighboring state, by arguing that the oppression suffered by the Uitlanders over-rode the proprieties of official position. But he must have been aware that such a defence would have required the fullest degree of success to make it effective. He appears to have failed altogether in his estimate of the dependence to be placed on the malcontents at Johannesburg, or else his agents served him with hopeless incompetence, for the raising there was a complete fiasco. As for Jameson's force, it is simply extraordinary that Rhodes should so clearly have realized the necessity of preventing its march and yet so utterly failed to do so. Mr. Williams holds that the tension of his powers had by this time become relaxed. He was losing the faculty of self-restraint, the belief that his health indicated a short life began to impinge, and an arrogant spirit was creeping over him. If it stood by itself, the story of the Raid would mark him as an emphatic bungler. The proof of his real greatness is the way in which his reputation has dwarfed the events of that unhappy Christmas. And this, in spite of the fact that his judgment of South African affairs from then till his death was not marked by his former clearness, and that on the eve of the war he failed to read the situation aright, either from the Dutch or the British standpoint. His inspirations, however, had been successfully planted, and they have ever since steadily fruited. He has become part of the very atmosphere of South Africa."

The reviewer, in the columns of the London Observer, concludes his survey of Mr. Williams' book with this paragraph:—

"Mr. Williams has concealed none of the outward asperities or inward flaws which belong to his conception of the

man. It is a biography in which sympathy and justice play their due parts without reciprocal interference. And it makes the humanity of Rhodes more vivid than any other portrait."

### A COSTLY CAMPAIGN.

It cost more than ten million dollars to conduct the last Presidential election in the United States. It should have cost no such sum, and thousands of thoughtful citizens of the republic are beginning to ask why so much money was paid out. The special Senate committee investigating the expenditures has reported that the Republicans spent nearly four times as much as the Democrats who got along with the modest sum of \$2,297,770.

Eight million dollars is a lot of money to spend for the purpose of electing a President. Where did it all come from? And do the contributors expect to get it back? These are questions which many Americans are asking now. Of course, they are not answered in the Senate committee's report, but they are causing more than one citizen of the United States to do some serious thinking.

The Republican leaders say it was not necessary for them to spend so much in the campaign because the result was a "foregone conclusion," but they contend that they wanted to "educate" the people on "the subject of the international mess toward which the Democratic party wanted to steer the country."

Some day, many representative Americans declare, it may transpire that this "education" was costly enough—far more costly than the \$8,000,000 that was spent in the enlightening process. To the non-partisan mind, they maintain, it would appear that the millions were spent for partisan gain and that for the time being the international status of the nation was very much in the background.

Will the N. B. Legislature be wise this year and limit the debate on the address? At Ottawa, and in the Ontario Legislature this year the needless length of the opening debate caused much adverse public criticism. At Fredericton this year the eloquence which usually occupies the first day of the session might well be curtailed. The opening is late, and many of the legislators will naturally favor a short and business-like session. The opposing forces could readily agree to limit the opening debate. Will they?

The Nova Scotia government is seeking new sources of revenue. All the provincial governments have found this course necessary to meet the high costs of carrying on the public services. The state, like the individual, is still pined by the high cost of living. The purchasing power of the dollar is still very far below the old level, and the movement towards normal values is slow.

News of the serious accident met by Hon. Mr. Tweeddale will cause very general regret and sympathy. Mr. Tweeddale is a public man who has given the province good service, and a host of friends will hope for his recovery.

With three-quarters of the city of Petrograd in the hands of the anti-Soviet forces the new revolution seems to be making rapid headway. Its success is still doubtful, but the odds are that the Lenin regime is doomed.

### WANTS SHARE OF LIQUOR REVENUE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Quebec, March 10.—(Canadian Press)—That municipalities should have a share of the revenue which the government will get from the control of the liquor traffic in this province, is the view held by Arthur Sauve, leader of the opposition, who has announced his intention of bringing up this question in the assembly.

When the new Mitchell bill, which purports to adjust all questions of constitutionality in the big liquor bill recently sanctioned and to prohibit the import of liquor by individuals, comes up, Mr. Sauve will bring in an amendment with the object of giving municipalities a voice in the matter as well as a portion of the revenue. He holds that the municipalities are in need of more revenue and their only source at the present time is taxing proprietors.

### DEATH RECALLS ORGANIZATION OF POLYMERPHAN SOCIETY.

The death of Charles Nevins recalls the organization of the Polymerphian Society, which was founded in April 1888 for the purpose of celebrating the centennial. Mr. Nevins was first president and the society soon had a membership of about 500. Mr. Nevins was also a member of the original Ashburn Fishing Club and of the old "Double X" Rifle Club.

### GROUP GOVERNMENT IN THE MANITOBA HOUSE

Winnipeg, March 10.—The group system of government was seen in operation in the Manitoba legislature yesterday when all factions gathered for discussion of the financial affairs of the province, with a farmer member presiding. It was decided that the whole docket of financial requirements, such as proposed grants to the university, for good roads, hospitals, charities, etc., should be decided upon at conferences of the body of legislators. Premier Norris said the committee of the whole house would be called upon to aid the government in finding new revenues with which to carry on the operations of government.

### LIGHTER VEIN.

Cheerful.

He is a man we love to praise  
I sing of Henry Hiram Hayes,  
He always smiles his way along,  
And never knows when things go wrong.

Exactly.

"My dear," remonstrated her husband, "don't you cook much more for dinner than we use?"  
"Of course," retorted his wife, "if I didn't how could I economize on the left-overs?"

Higgins got home one night to learn that his wife had given birth to triplets. Overjoyed, he went to the office the next morning and recounted the rare and wonderful thing that had befallen him. His employer congratulated him, and the next day Higgins was sent for. He hurried to the office again to find the entire force assembled there. A handsome silver cup stood on the table and the trophy, in an eloquent speech, his employer presented to him in recognition of the triple blessing he had bestowed upon his country. Higgins took the cup, thanked his thanks and then added, "Excuse me, sir, but is this cup mine permanently or do I have to win it three years in succession?"

A billiard-marker was told by his employer that he must be more careful in the matter of chalk. "Can't help it, sir," the youth replied. "I know the chalks as pocket the chalk, but they are our regular customers and you wouldn't like me to offend 'em, would you, sir?"

"Well, no, not exactly," was the reply, "but you might give them a gentle hint, you know."

The marker promised to do so, and a day or two later, on observing a player pocket a piece of chalk, he approached the culprit and remarked: "You'll excuse me, sir, but I'm connected in any way with the milk trade?"

"Why, yes," returned the player, "I do, happen to be."

"I thought so," rejoined the marker, "by the amount of chalk you carry away. By loss likes enterprise. He told me give you a gentle hint that if you wanted a bucket of water now and then you could have one with pleasure."

### PASSENGERS TO THE UNITED STATES TO PAY SURCHARGES

(Canadian Press Despatch)

Ottawa, March 9.—In a judgment issued today the board of railway commissioners grants the application of the railway association of Canada for permission to make surcharges on passenger tickets to the United States and the United Kingdom. This means that Canadians purchasing passenger tickets to United States points will be required to pay not only the usual price of the tickets but an additional amount to cover the difference in value between Canadian and United States money. The order will go into effect on March 15.

The judgment was written by Hon. P. B. Carvell, chief commissioner, and concurred in by Commissioners Rutherford, McLeod and Macdonald.

The order is intended to place the Canadian roads in such a position that after giving for credit to the American roads the balance they will receive from the American roads on traffic to Canada in American funds they will receive their share of the traffic in Canadian funds and will be in a position to pay to the American roads their proportion in American funds.

From points immediately on the border, the whole fare will be paid in American funds.

From points a short distance from the border, the surcharge will be seventy-five per cent. of the rate of exchange. Then from points further inland, the surcharge will be fifty per cent. of the rate of exchange.

This arrangement will not in any way interfere with the right which any passenger may have to travel to the United States, or of purchasing his ticket to the American border in Canadian funds and from there making his own arrangements.

### ALIVE WHEN THROWN INTO THE RIVER

Doctor's Evidence at Trial of St. Pierre in Edmundston.

Edmundston, March 9.—No new facts were brought out at the second day's trial of St. Pierre charged with the murder of Miss Minnie Stevens. In the afternoon Herman Savage, chief of police testified as to finding the body. Fred Strain told of finding the switch and hair pins. Dr. Sormany told of the condition of the body when found. Moses Mitchell told of finding the marked pieces of terra cotta pipe. Eddie Michaud was on the stand when adjournment was called.

All seven witnesses were excluded on the ruling of the judge at the request of A. T. LeBlanc of Campbellton, for the defence.

Dr. Sormany said, in his opinion, the young woman was drowned while in an unconscious condition.

### HELP MOTHERLAND PAY THE WAR DEBT

Jamaica Votes \$350,000 Annually for 40 Years.

Kingston, Jan. 10.—The legislative council yesterday passed a measure providing for an appropriation of \$350,000 annually for forty years to help in the liquidation of the mother country's war debt.

### 50,000 FARM HOLDINGS USING HYDRO POWER

Slogan for Western Ontario Farmers' Clubs Given by Prof. Wood.

Thorndale, March 10.—"I hope to see fifty thousand farm holdings, large and small, in western Ontario using hydro-power for all purposes within the next ten years." This was the slogan offered by Prof. Wood to a large public gathering held under the auspices of the Thorndale Farmers' Club.

Prof. Wood argued that during fifteen years the Hydro-electric Power Commission had done the barest minimum for the farmers of the province. It was imperative that the farmers' clubs should take the initiative in endeavoring to secure power for the agricultural communities of the province, despite the policy which, he alleged, the commission appeared at present to have adopted.

## GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO BORROW SOME

Strain on Announced Decision of Premier and Finance Minister—The Situation.

(Special to Times)

Ottawa, March 10.—The announced decision of the prime minister and of the finance minister that there would henceforth be "no borrowing," is being put to a heavy strain these days. There are prophets who say that the government cannot come to the other end of the fiscal year 1921-22 without borrowing. Customs revenue receipts are expected on the present basis to be \$400,000 less than there were, and an increase in tariff duties would only lessen the revenue by shutting out more imports. And yet the government will not lessen the duties to any extent without being chastised by its friends.

Income taxation receipts are not expected to increase much for the coming year, and the business profits tax, if not eliminated, might as well be for the ten per cent. exemption will cancel the profits of most companies in these post-war times. The sales tax will be extended and it is even said that the finance minister is once again considering how it would be to put on a one per cent. turnover tax to take the place of all sales taxes. The objection urged to this is that it would be easiest on the large business which manufactures stores and retails its whole product as against a small business which gets its goods through the established channels of trade, thus having to send to the consumer a four-fold addition to the goods sent from the manufacturer through broker, wholesaler and retailer.

In all probability the government will borrow for all capital expenditures which there is an excuse for thinking can be repaid at some time. In this category will come railroad betterments and equipments, advances to settlers under the soldiers' land settlement act, and the housing loans. In this way it is believed that the government, instead of having to finance \$600,000,000 for 1921-22, will have to finance something a good deal less than half a billion dollars. Even so, the receipts this year will not be more than \$450,000,000, and being subject to dropping somewhat, must be reinforced by new sources of taxation. Even with a modified borrowing policy along the lines anticipated, the government will have to cut out, to introduce acceptable taxation proposals which will turn the trick.

On the railway side, the government's present hole, and efficient management now, becomes the pressing need and the principal way by which the government will be sustained.

### CASE OF ALLEGED ST. JOHN MEN

Robert White Held in Bangor on Charge of Attack on Timothy Burke.

(Bangor Commercial)

Robert White, of St. John, N. B., was held under \$10,000 for the May term of court when he was charged with the superior court by Judge Blanchard in Municipal court Monday morning, probably the most serious charge against him for assault and battery upon Timothy Burke of St. John, N. B. Ball was furnished and the defendant released.

White was arraigned in court Tuesday, March 1, as the result of a drunken row at the Bancroft House in which Burke received severe blows presumably from a mauler's hammer and was taken to the Eastern Maine hospital, where it was found that he had some bad bruises on the head and a laceration of the lip. On account of Burke's condition, he alone his life to present at the hearing on Tuesday, the case was continued until Monday at nine o'clock.

Nelson, Esq., who waived examination for the respondent, Burke's condition was such that he was able to appear in court Monday and he was brought down from the hospital in the patrol.

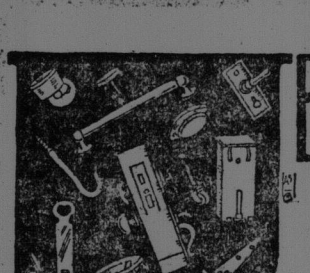
In answer to questions from Judge Blanchard, Burke said he could not remember very clearly what happened on the night in question except that he was drinking and that he had been drinking since that night and it was because of this that he could not remember much about the affair. He said that he had not seen White since that night and he was struck with but saw a hammer with blood on it lying on the floor and he thought he was struck with that as the blows were too powerful to have been struck with just a bare fist. Burke wore the suit in court which he had on at the time of the assault and the suit was blood soaked. His head was bandaged up and he appeared very pale and nervous.

After adjudge probable cause against White, Judge Blanchard also ordered Burke to recognize in the sum of \$800 for his appearance at the May term of the Superior court as a material witness in the case. Burke did not have and bondsmen, but as it was necessary for him to return to the hospital, he was taken back to that institution and will probably give bonds as soon as he is discharged at the hospital.

### WOMEN AS DIPLOMATS

Would Perfect Understanding Between Nations.

London, March 10.—Professor Winifred Cullis, speaking on "Women Attaches at the Embassies," at the English-Speaking Union, Charing Cross road, said that women must assist in interpreting the points of view in the government of those nations, now that they had a voice in the government of those nations. She suggested that women should be sent out on special missions, or that a woman councillor should be attached to each Embassy. Unfortunately, she said, many Ambassadors were strongly opposed to such suggestions, but she was confident that the inauguration of such positions for women was the only way to perfect understanding between the nations.



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## THIRD MURDER IN TWO DAYS

Chicago Bandits Hold Up and Kill Man Near His Home.

Chicago, March 10.—Five bandits yesterday shot to death Arthur Witteit, after attempting to hold him up near his home on the south side. Witteit was the third man to be shot down in the past two days, two being killed Tuesday, where a bitter political feud had raged, in the 19th Ward.

STRANGLED HIMSELF.

Youth Emulating Performer is Hanged in Strap.

On arriving home from school at Bideford, England, Leonard J. Bracher, eleven, went to one of the rooms and soon afterwards was found hanging by a strap from the handle of the door.

He was in a crouching position, his knees not touching the ground, and frequently used the strap to lasso the cat. On the day before the tragedy a woman went through an exhibition of being tied with a rope to the neck of a horse on the quay and getting free while suspended in mid-air.

Dr. Foye thought the boy became frightened when the strap tightened and that he had an attack of syncope. Otherwise he would have stood up and so released himself.

A verdict of accidentally strangled was returned.

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