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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1920

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 24, 1920.

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CANADA AND LYNCHING.

The authorities in Ontario are investigating the recent riot at Thorold, where the town hall was set on fire and a prisoner charged with an atrocious murder narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of a frenzied mob. The attorney general of Ontario is giving support to the local officials with the intention of punishing the mob and punishing those responsible for the outbreak. While the crime in question was one likely to excite the greatest possible public indignation, the prisoner had been already held for trial by the court and there was no reason to believe that he would escape execution if the evidence to prove his guilt was forthcoming. It has been said that a speech delivered by the accused man, after he had been severely injured by the mob, led to his escape from death, but while his plea had some effect it appears more likely that the crowd, when they saw the court house and heard the statements of officers of the law who defended the prisoner, suddenly realized what they were trying to do and decided to take the wiser course of leaving punishment to the law.

In certain parts of the United States the excuse commonly urged in defence of lynch law is that many prisoners charged with detestable crimes finally escape through the weakness or inefficiency of the prosecuting authorities. In those places it is contended that the criminal law is not effective, and that mob law is therefore an excusable substitute. Very often that is not the case, but the lynching habit has become firmly fixed, and the public mind is influenced to a considerable extent in some districts by the fact that the white population is small in comparison with other elements. Too frequently the wrong man is lynched, and in many cases suspicion is regarded as sufficient.

At Thorold now the authorities have been receiving threatening letters because of their decision to seek out and punish the ringleaders in the recent outbreak, but it is likely that such threats will only make the crown authorities more determined to proceed with the investigation. Lynch law does not flourish in Canada, largely because the criminal law as a rule is well enforced, and citizens not only have a high respect for law and order but are justified in having it because citizens know that when evidence can be obtained the authors of serious crimes are bound to receive their just deserts. On sober second thought the people of Thorold will realize that if the man who was attacked by the mob is guilty he will go to the gallows, and they will also realize that if the law is to be fully vindicated those who burned the court house and were leaders in the disorder must take their medicine if they are identified and convicted.

Counsel for the prisoner and the officers who had him in charge displayed the utmost courage in defending him and were severely injured in doing so. Public feeling against them at the moment was exceedingly bitter, but they did what they conceived their duty with marked decision and fortitude. It is fortunate that the good name of the country was saved, even at the last moment, and public opinion will approve of thorough measures in detecting and punishing those who inspired and led the lynching party. It is a fortunate thing that in every part of Canada the administration of the criminal law is supported by fearless and effective to remove all cause for mob violence.

VILLA WINS.

Mexico, it now appears, is going to pay General Francisco Villa a very handsome price for being good. At the time of his surrender the man was about having him shot, and outside of Mexico if not in that country there was a multitude of opinion to the opinion that it was a case of "better dead." But the Huerta government, it appears, not only considered it unsafe to shoot the famous bandit but decided that it would be well to deal most generously not only with him but with his extraordinary army, the remnant of which contained a striking percentage of officers of high rank. Villa had nine generals and colonels galore.

It is now announced from Mexico that Villa is to have an estate and the right to maintain a bodyguard of sixty officers during the remainder of his life. The life of an adventurous spirit in Mexico is generally short, but Villa is an exception to that rule and may live long to enjoy his country's wonderful bounty. Each of his followers is to have a grant of land and a year's pay according to rank. It appears that when Villa surrendered he had at his back less than 600 non-commissioned officers and privates. Evidently the mortality in the ranks was much greater than among the officers, for the surviving officers include no fewer than nine generals, thirty-three colonels, twenty-five lieutenant-colonels, eighty-five captains, thirty-four lieutenants and forty-one sub-lieutenants.

It is figured that the cash payments to Villa and his followers will cost the Huerta government \$1,500,000 in gold. One danger attaching to such a settlement is the temptation it may offer to others to make war upon the government. Perhaps Huerta comforts himself with the thought that there is not soon likely to

be another bandit leader bearing a charmed life. The whole Villa story, from beginning to end would be possible only in Mexico.

NEW ZEALAND'S LOAD.

Canada's debt is heavy and the country faces a long period of severe taxation, direct and indirect. When we look at New Zealand, however, we may well ask ourselves how we should feel if Canada were facing that country's financial obligations, which are roughly three times as great per head as our own. New Zealand has a population of about a million. Premier Massey's recent budget shows that the net debt per head of population is now \$800, as compared with approximately \$275 in Canada. The war loans totalled \$400,000,000 of which \$265,000,000 was raised in New Zealand, and the annual debt charges now amount to \$36,250,000. For the coming financial year the revenue is estimated at \$138,000,000, and the expenditure at \$131,000,000, but it will be necessary to provide for loans totalling \$124,000,000, including \$50,000,000 for renewals. Premier Massey announced that authority levy for certain loans, in case this course should be found to be necessary. "Compulsory levy" has a sufficiently ominous sound in connection with loans. The New Zealand government, notwithstanding the terrible burden of debt and taxation, proposes new measures which will further increase the public expenditure. Among these are maternity homes, more nurses for remote rural districts, more money for education, and the inception of a bureau of infant welfare.

BIG BERTHA GOES TO MT. KISCO

Distribution of French War Trophies in New York—German Tank for Washington.

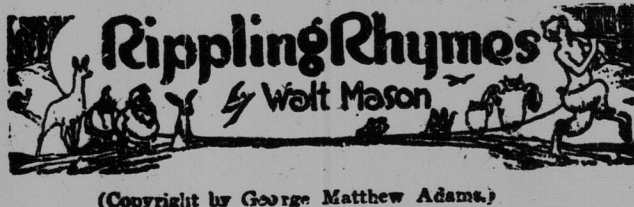
(Associated Press Correspondence.) New York, Aug. 19.—Thousands of war trophies brought from the battle fields of France for use during the Liberty Loan and other drives are being distributed at the warehouse of the French mission here. The material includes guns of all kinds used by the French, British and German cavalry, swords, cuirasses, helmets and soldier equipment. Large demands for trophies have come from inland cities, according to Major Jean Malve, director of the Bureau of Information, Director General Des Services Français Aux Etats Unis, now in this city. One of the largest single collections, with the exception of that given to Washington for the National Museum, was presented to the city of America. The trophies will be preserved in a suitable environment to be included in the plans for the new \$5,000,000 clubhouse that is to be erected in honor of the officers killed in the war. The collection of fifty pieces, French trench mortars, machine guns, bayonets, rifles, swords, cuirasses, wire cutting machines, French stoves, brassieres, marmites, shells and shell baskets, marine signal flags and other interesting and valuable trophies. The selection was made by Captain Adrian Duane Duty, U. S. Signal Corps, representing the city. Tanks and German field pieces weighing from one ton to ten recently have been given to cities like Chicago, St. Louis, Chattanooga and others as far away as Texas.

A huge German listening post has been given to Bloomfield, N. J. Montclair received a whippet tank, while the National Museum in Washington was awarded a large sixteen-man tank. Other valuable pieces were sent to Washington including an airplane, sample pieces of all the foreign artillery used during the war, uniforms and field kitchens. The prize of the collection, a Big Bertha, was claimed by Mt. Kisco, N. Y., and will be placed in a prominent position there. The State University of Baton Rouge, La., has requested the immediate shipment of a German machine gun. The State University of Baton Rouge, La., has requested the immediate shipment of a German machine gun. The State University of Baton Rouge, La., has requested the immediate shipment of a German machine gun.

The Chicago collection was chosen by Colonel E. M. Marr. It will be shipped to that city within the next few days. Sergeant Fred Ameth, French Army, who has been in charge of the material for two years, announced. An idea of the demands made for trophies, he said, could be gained from the fact that more than 3,000 French helmets and an equal number of uniforms had been disposed of.

To various posts of the American Legion field pieces have been given. Chicago, Aug. 23.—A 10-cent tax on every grave dug in Chicago will be charged to help provide the additional \$10,000,000 just decided upon by the Council committee on licenses and revenues. "We have placed a tax even on graves because conducting a cemetery is a business and we are going to tax every business in Chicago," said Alderman Cornak.

FOREST FIRES STILL RAVAGING B. C. WOODS. Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 23.—Although the forest fire situation is said to be easing somewhat, there are literally hundreds of fires still ablaze in the coast districts of the mainland, and Vancouver Island. The worst is in the Stillwater vicinity where miles of forest are a vast sea of flames.



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THE LOAFERS.

I ply my line the whole day long, and have since long ago, and ship out bales of deathless song at fifty cents a throw. And if I faltered in my zeal, the sheriff would appear, and promptly place his large red seal on all my worldly gear. And when my harp gets smoking hot, its cooling system clogged, to some calm park or kindred spot I oftentimes have jogged and there the loafers always sit on benches, day by day; they do not toll, they do not knit, they never strive for pay. I see the same old dusty groups by day and after dark; barred out from all the city's coops, their home is in the park. They seem to think there's nothing wrong, they burble and they laugh, until some preter comes along and preps them with his staff. How doth the seely little shirk still find existence? How doth the booby little hum contrive to stay on earth, when we must toil and make things hum, to gain our board and berth? It is a mystery, I wot, that needs solution, much; and when my air cooled harp gets hot, I muse, to beat the Dutch.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

GOOSE CREEK FIGHT.

Late in July, 1918, two United States vessels—the British and the American—were then at war with the battles being fought in Canadian territory—were sent from Sackett's Harbor on a cruise to cut off ships carrying supplies to the British forces. Concealing themselves among the Thousand Islands they surprised a British convoy of fifteen boats laden with 280 barrels of pork, 800 bags of biscuits and other stores, bound from Montreal to Kingston under escort of a small boat with one gun. Sixty-seven prisoners, mostly Canadian boatmen, were captured.

When the news of this foray reached Kingston it was determined at once to capture these vessels before they could return to Sackett's Harbor. Three gun boats were sent out on the mission, only to learn quickly that the Americans had fled up Goose Creek, a little stream about twelve miles from Gananoque. The two ships had slipped up the small stream as far as they could and then cut trees to block the stream against any assaults. The British sent three vessels to the attack—a fourth came up in the night previous to the engagement—but it was soon discovered that the Americans were lying so as to command the stream which was so narrow that the attacking vessels could not turn to return to the broadside. The enemy poured a severe fire upon the British who could not bring their guns to bear.

New was received that William R. McLean, formerly of this city but now with the C. P. R. at Lethbridge, Alta., was in the recent train robbery near Crows Nest. He lost \$10.

The Life Saving Girl Guides camp, held at Sussex, broke up yesterday after an enjoyable outing under the leadership of Ensign Hildred Brindley and Mrs. Moore being in charge. Fifteen new members from St. John's joined the camp.

On Sunday afternoon and evening service was held at the camp grounds and the morning a meeting was held in Sussex.

At a meeting of the Lancaster Highway Board last evening T. H. McCauley, manager of the St. John Street Railway, was expected to sign a pledge that permission be granted to build a loop line at the terminus of the Fairview line. The matter was left over for another meeting but during the meeting Councilman Murray Campbell spoke of the good service given by the railway company.

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SPRUCE LAKE EXTENSION IS DISPOSED OF

Contract with Lock Joint Pipe Co., and Agreement with Pulp Mill Approved.

At yesterday's meeting of the common council it was decided to approve the agreement between the city and the Canada Lock Joint Pipe Company, Ltd., for a 22,000 foot extension of the water main from Manchester's corner to Spruce Lake. The agreement between the city and the Nishnawak Pulp and Paper Company was also approved. Under the contract with the Lock Joint Pipe Company the city is safeguarded for the completion and maintenance of the work for five years. The contract also calls for the employment of local labor as far as possible. The contract price is \$15.50 a lineal foot for the pipe.

LOCAL NEWS

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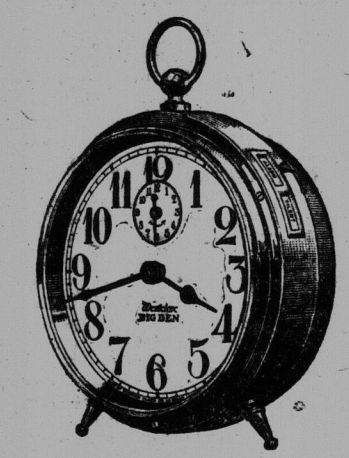
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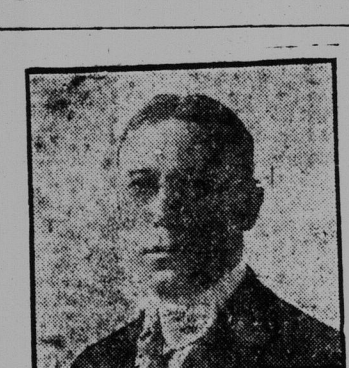
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MR. O'CONNELL'S PICNIC. It was announced last evening by J. D. O'Connell, the orphans' friend, who arrived in the city recently from Hattay, Canagay, Cuba, that the annual picnic for the orphans in the city this year will be held on Tuesday and the invitation will not only include the orphans but all the children in the city, rich and poor. The picnic will be held at Rockwood Park and automobiles will be provided for the transportation of the orphans and the Rotary Club and other organizations will provide all the cars they can while private citizens are asked to lend their cars. Other children will have to get to the picnic grounds by other conveyances if there is not enough for all and there is no age limit. Mr. O'Connell says. Provision has been made by Mr. O'Connell to have these picnics held in fifty-two cities indefinitely and he hopes to increase this to 100 cities within the next few years. Motion pictures will be taken at the picnic and 1,000 feet will be presented to the city. Each child will receive a flag and thirty cents instead of a quarter as in former years.

WHY LIPTON USES SAUCER. New York, Aug. 24.—"You know," said Sir Thomas Lipton, as he was being entertained at a tea by the National League for Women's Service Convalescent Home for Soldiers and Sailors, "You know, they say I can't lift the cup." "Because I can't lift the cup."

GIRLS TO EDIT PAPER. Bedford, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Inmates of the State Reformatory for Women will be permitted to start a small newspaper for publication of news concerning the institution and events outside.



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