

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1920

### The Evening Times and Star

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#### ST. JOHN'S OPPORTUNITY.

At the meeting of the Commercial Club on Friday evening references were made to some criticisms which appear to be based on the theory that there is no field for such an organization, or that it is not accomplishing anything worth while. Such criticism is without justification. The Commercial Club offers a field of activity for several hundred citizens whose sole desire is to promote the welfare of St. John. The Club is in no sense a passive auxiliary in all progressive work. It has not sought and will not seek to weaken the influence of the older organization, and if its activity stimulates the Board to more vigorous action the city will reap the benefit. If every citizen could have been at Friday night's meeting of the Club and listened to the record of work done or being done by the executive and the various large teams—half a dozen of them—such an organization would call for no argument. It is to be regretted that the spirit which prompted the formation of the Commercial Club is not universal, and that whatever may be attempted for the good of the community there are carrying critics ready to belittle the effort. There is the more reason that every member of the Club should take his membership seriously and resolve that the criticism shall presently be turned to praise for work accomplished. St. John, with an active Board of Trade, an active Commercial Club, and an active Rotary Club is bringing its most active citizens together in a way that cannot but have good results. There is no cause and no room for jealousy, but only for good-will and the heartiest co-operation. St. John today needs the best that all its citizens may be able to give in service. The present is big with promise for the future, if the citizens will but see their opportunity. The development of the port, the assurance of hydro-electric power, the prospect of industrial as well as commercial expansion, cannot but arouse feelings of confidence. There is no time to waste in senseless criticism. What we need is an enthusiasm which will weld all forces together for the promotion of the common good. Constructive criticism is always of value, but the sneering critic should be made to feel that he stands alone.

#### HOUSING AND RENTS.

Industrial corporations have learned that it pays to have their employees well housed. In the Pittsburgh district in the United States such corporations are financing house-building operations for their employees, to relieve the shortage of houses. A Pittsburgh dispatch says: "The most ambitious programme is that of the United States Steel Corporation. Under this an employee who is willing to make an initial investment of 10 per cent. of the total cost, is permitted to select from a large number of plans the kind of house that will suit his family. He then picks out a lot, usually near his place of employment, and the corporation's architects and builders do the rest. When the house is completed it is turned over to the employee, who pledges himself to pay for it in monthly instalments covering a period of ten years, the total cost being just what the cost has been to the corporation. Although the plan is hardly a month old, the bureau in charge of building is already swamped with applications. The Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. also has a building plan, and has just completed and sold to employees fifty houses at cost. They, too, are to be paid for on the instalment plan. Another and much larger programme is in preparation. The merit of these plans, builders say, is that materials can be purchased in large quantities, and the saving passes on to the workman buyer, who thus gets a much better home for less money than if he had bought the material and erected the house as an individual."

"The tenants of houses in Pittsburgh have also taken an important step, as a result of a great advance in rents. They have organized a Renters' League, opened an office and engaged counsel to fight the battles of those threatened with eviction because they cannot pay the increases which become operative the first of May."

Everywhere the problems of housing and of rents are pressing for a satisfactory solution. On the one hand is the great cost of building and on the other the dire need of the people. It is said families will be compelled to move away from St. John this spring because they cannot get suitable housing accommodation.

#### A SOUTHERN EXAMPLE.

A member of the Ontario legislature, discussing prohibition, argued that the Dominion order-in-council prohibiting the importation of liquor into the province led to a disgraceful condition of affairs, because prominent citizens did not hesitate to break the law. In answer the Toronto Globe says: "The remedy for the conditions he describes is not all-round rigid importation, but all-round enforcement of the prohibitory laws. In the southern states prohibition, when first introduced, was a device contrived by the white ruling class to prevent the negroes from obtaining either publicly or privately, the

liquor to indulgence in which were traced back many of the crimes against white women. There was no idea that the planter's supply of 'Bourbon' should be cut off, or that the guests on the spacious verandah of Southern mansions should be forced to do without the liquor no longer available for the colored folk. That flagrant caste legislation failed to operate in the south, where conditions were far more favorable than they ever will be here in Ontario, it is found that the only prohibition which could be depended upon to prohibit was that which prevented importation or the storage of liquor in private residences for private use. The 'leading citizens' of Ontario must make up their minds that bone-dry legislation is meant for them as well as for the Bulgarian or Macedonian laborers who end a night's debauchery by a plunge into red-handed murder."

#### THE FOSTER GOVERNMENT.

The Foster government has come creditably through another session of the legislature, and added two measures of far-reaching importance to the statutes of the province. These are the one which provides for the development of water power in general and the one which provides for the development of power at Grand Falls. There were other important measures, tending to better administration of provincial affairs, but these two are of outstanding importance. They are a valuable addition to former acts relating to public health, the highways, the crown lands, agriculture and others which owe their existence to the Foster government. The opposition made a rather poor showing during the session just closed. It could not be otherwise, while its members had to sit under a leader whom a number of them had repudiated before the session began, and when they had to face such a record as that of their own administration in public affairs. It is a noteworthy fact that their criticism did not include a single charge against the integrity of any member of the government. The people made a profitable change when they threw out the old government, and they will be in a hurry to replace the present administration with one which would be controlled by the influences which shamed the province by scandal after scandal. No doubt the present government has its weaknesses, but it is giving New Brunswick a progressive administration, and deserves the good-will of the electors.

Halifax Chronicle:—"What a big hotel successfully conducted means to a city in commercial value is indicated by the figures of the operation of the famous Chateau Frontenac on Dufferin Terrace, Quebec. The guests who registered at this hotel during 1919 numbered 90,000, who must have spent at the very least a million dollars in the city. The hotel authorities expended \$250,000 themselves during the year in supplies and repairs, an additional amount of \$142,500 for salaries, and \$28,750 for automobiles and other vehicles and baggage transfers. A hotel of this kind is a great asset to a city."

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen in New York have expelled more than two thousand workmen for taking part in an unauthorized strike. This should have a salutary effect. It is obvious that if an organization cannot control its members it can have no standing when it seeks to establish collective bargaining. There must be some assurance on both sides that the bargain will be kept. Just now the outlaws are doing the cause of organized labor a great deal of harm, and it is strange that the strikers themselves cannot see where their folly lies.

The new revolution in Mexico goes merrily on. Mexico is getting back to normal conditions. Without a revolution in progress life hangs heavy upon the people.

#### WIVES WERE CHEAP.

In an address on Zenana Mission Work in India, Rev. Thos. Carter, Ph. D., of London, told this story in Toronto this week: "A woman cleaning out her house put her hand into a dark corner and a cobra darted out and bit her. In the excitement and confusion that followed the woman was eventually sent for, but it was too late for anything to be done, and the woman very soon died. Through an interpreter Dr. Carter explained to the husband of the dead woman that they wanted to go in and root the cobra out and kill it before it could bite any else. To this the reply was a forbidding gesture, and—'The cobra is the genius of my house.' Tell him that the genius of his house has just killed his wife," was Dr. Carter's indignant response, but the answer came back, compositely: 'I know it, but I can easily get another wife.'

### Rippling Rhymes

(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

SPRING CHESTNUTS.

I fain would chant a song to spring, in soul-inspiring words; but of that theme one cannot sing and refer to birds. And birds are but a false alarm when all is said and done; if you have lived upon a farm, you know they eat up men. They scratch up seeds, and care no host that seedstuffs cost like sin; they spout a lot of priceless farrar by pecking holes therein. I cannot spring a vernal wheeze that with due passion throbs, but I must boost the springtime breeze that fans the thingumbobs. That lovely breeze along the street is smothering things today; it's spout a thousand miles of wheat by blowing soil away. It whoops and blithers till it's hoarse, and, while we stand and gaze, it may attain cyclonic force and kill a score of jays. I can't transcribe my blisful dream of spring and all its joys, without some mention of the stream that makes a babbling noise. Said stream has overflowed its banks and drowned a thousand sheep, and farmers stand, in mournful ranks, and rear and swear and weep.

#### CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Continuing Happenings of Other Days

#### BURNING THE PARLIAMENT

On April 25, 1849, during a great riot that had broken out in Montreal, a mob burned the parliament building and pelted the governor general, Lord Elgin, with sticks and stones and some eggs. Ever since the rebellion of 1837-38 there had been a proposition before the people that the losses of that upheaval should be paid by the government. A bill was raised that the rebels would be paid for their losses as well as those who had aided in the defence of the empire. Feeling ran very high and the controversy was a bitter one.

#### MORE SAFETY AND MORE SENSE.

(Toronto Star.)

All over Canada and the United States just now an attempt is getting under way to fasten public attention on the glaring fact that the annual loss of life and property through fires and accidents is colossal.

#### THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

The annual loss of life and property through fires and accidents which ought to be preventable is so great that we condemn ourselves as an inefficient people if we cannot reduce it. In the United States in 1918 the fire loss on insured property alone amounted to \$282,103,101. The experts declare that ninety per cent. of these fires were preventable—that is to say, that but for perfect or carelessness they would not have occurred. A man may think that losses from fire do not concern him, but something he owns is burned. But the fact is that anybody's fire is at everybody's expense.

#### THE WASTE OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

The waste of life and property has to be made up at the general expense. It enters into the cost of production, for which the consumers pay. The experts who have been analysing conditions in the United States, including telephone wires, was cut. The loss was estimated at \$300,000.

#### METHODISTS EXCHANGE.

The Methodist ministers in the city made their monthly exchange of pulpits at the morning service yesterday. Rev. H. A. Goodwin, of Centenary church, exchanged with Rev. J. Heaney, of Carleton church. Rev. George Dawson, of Exmouth street church, with Rev. George Morris, of Queen Square. Rev. Neil McArthur, of the Central Baptist church, with Rev. J. Heaney, of Carleton church. Rev. Thomas Marshall, of Fairville, preached in the Scammon's Mission. Mr. Brindle, of the Scammon's Mission, conducted the morning service in the Fairville church. Rev. Henry Penna, of the Fairville church, is progressing very favorably in St. John and is expected to be able to leave the hospital next week. Rev. K. F. Vallis, of Jerusalem, Queens county, in the services in the Central Baptist church yesterday and Rev. A. McVintch, of Waterloo street Baptist church.

#### RUSSIAN PRISONERS

IN GERMANY FOUND NOT VERY WELL OFF

Berne, April 26.—A Swiss committee investigating the condition of Russian prisoners in Germany, reports that there are now 200,000 of these in thirty-five camps. Many thousands of them lack clothing and are suffering from the shortage of soap, sugar, tea and tobacco.

#### Launching at Montreal.

Montreal, April 26.—The first launching of 1920 from the yard of the Canadian Vickers, Limited, took place on Saturday when the third vessel built by them for Norwegian interests took the water. The vessel was the Tatjana, of 3,300 tons deadweight, to the order of Winge & Company of Christiania.

#### New Air Service.

Billau, Spain, April 26.—A transport company has been formed for the establishment of an aerial line between this point and France and England on May 15.

#### Mayor of Nanaimo Dead.

Vancouver, B. C., April 26.—Mayor McKenzie of Nanaimo died in the hospital here following an operation.

#### Saskatoon Against It.

Saskatoon, April 26.—Ratepayers on Saturday defeated the daylight saving proposal by a majority of 254.

#### Joseph Lewis of Webb City.

Joseph Lewis of Webb City, Mo., sinking a shaft eighty feet deep in his backyard, has uncovered both lead and zinc deposits. The lead alone pays expenses. In one week he shipped a carload of zinc ore.

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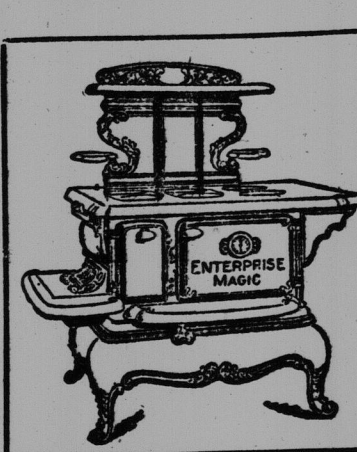
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#### Bridge Linking U. S. and Mexico

Destroyed by Fire

Laredo, Texas, April 26.—Fire last night destroyed the international bridge connecting the United States and Mexico. All communication, including telephone wires, was cut. The loss was estimated at \$300,000.

#### CONGRESS CRITICIZED

BY SAMUEL GOMPERS

Washington, April 26.—(Associated Press)—Sweeping charges that the present congress has failed the American nation with "completeness and abandon," are made by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in the current issue of the American Federationist. "America must get rid of its

#### veto congress and elect an action congress," he says.

The "No" congress must give place to a "Yes" congress. Vienna Strike Ends. Vienna, April 26.—The strikers' council on Sunday called off the general strike which had been in progress for several days and all the public services are now in operation.

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