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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1918

The Evening Times and Star

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THE PATRIOTIC POTATOES

At last we are to get the facts about the "patriotic potatoes." As a result of certain discoveries made in relation to the alleged payment of \$82,881 to the old government by A. C. Smith & Co., an enquiry is to be held. The evidence appears to show that the firm in question gave the government a note for the amount stated, and the note was retired by a prominent Moncton Conservative. The public accounts also appear to show that Mr. J. C. Manser and other dealers in Cuba received and paid for quantities of potatoes. Mr. Manser says they received no potatoes through A. C. Smith & Co. that year. There appears, therefore, to have been a juggling with accounts to cover up a transaction of some sort and keep the people in the dark. There is a suggestion that the check for \$82,881 drawn by Mr. W. B. Tennant after he got that \$100,000 from the Nova Scotia Construction Company may have had some connection with the final details of the potato transaction. Mr. James McQueen has been appointed a commissioner with wide powers to probe the whole affair, and with Mr. P. J. Hughes as chief counsel may be sure the enquiry will be ably prosecuted. The old government refused to grant an enquiry into this matter.

THE AMERICAN SUCCESS

While the Americans did not meet with as determined opposition on the St. Michel front as has been encountered on some other parts of the western front, they did a fine piece of work with remarkable neatness and despatch. The whole salient was wiped out almost as fast as men could travel, and thousands of prisoners and large quantities of war material were gathered in. The Germans explain that they had for some time contemplated withdrawal from the salient and actually began to do so some days ago. That is the customary German explanation, but it is also a confession that they could no longer hope to hold the position. The American gration has given the Allies access to valuable roads, and placed them in a much better position to press the enemy in that region. That the salient was not strongly held shows that the enemy needed his forces somewhere else. His man-power problem grows more and more serious, and every capture of prisoners by the Allies makes his task more difficult. The Americans are making their strength felt, and as yet they have hardly begun.

WE ALL CAN HELP.

There is great need in St. John of an educational campaign to save the flowers and trees. This is not a beautiful city, and every effort made to add to its outward attractiveness should be encouraged.

We wonder if there is any other city where complaint has to be made that even cemeteries are robbed of flowers, and every effort made to add to its outward attractiveness should be encouraged.

In a corner of the public gardens a sign has been placed beside a gorgeous peony filled with bloom that was deliberately pulled out by the roots a few days ago. Once this season the garden, at a time when he was supposed to be away from the public gardens, caught two women with scissors and paper bags, about to help themselves to the choicest flowers. One evening a group of boys came out of the gate carrying stolen peonies. So general has become the destructive habit that the gardener has talked of resigning, because the fruits of his loving labor are so much reduced by pure vandalism in hours when he is not on duty.

There is also complaint of damage done on Queen square and to young trees along the streets, while it is notorious that the streets and sidewalks of the city are regarded by many people as the proper receptacle for rubbish of one sort and another. The phrase "city beautiful" does not apply to St. John. What is the remedy? Clearly it must begin with a campaign of education. No doubt the teachers in the schools give brief talks on this subject now and then. Could they not be given more frequently as part of a definite plan of fixing in the minds of the young a desire to develop rather than destroy the beautiful? A St. John man in an American city observed some boys chasing each other on the sidewalk, but carefully refraining from cutting across grass plots. The visitor asked an explanation of this evidence of care, and the reply was: "They learn it in school."

Of course the punishment of a few vandals, if they could be caught, would have a salutary effect, but until a proper spirit of community pride has been aroused the objectionable practices will not cease. Even the war gardens have not escaped. Some men who toiled hard to produce a little crop have suffered from thieves and wanton destroyers of the fruits of their labor.

If conditions are to be improved a general campaign of education must be

undertaken, and community interest aroused. St. John cannot be made beautiful as many other cities are, but every vacant lot should blossom, and the love of trees and flowers should be developed and cherished, to the end that every advantage be taken of our limited opportunities to add to the outward attractiveness of the city.

THE BOYS' INDUSTRIAL HOME

Perhaps the criticism of the Boys' Industrial Home by Rev. Dr. Fullerton may have the effect of awakening a more general interest in making that institution what it should be. If additional testimony were needed it is found in the remarks of Rev. Mr. Goodwin, that a judge in an outside town had told him that he was very reluctant ever to sentence a boy to this Home. The objection to the Home is that it does not provide enough training—does not keep the boys busy enough of fit them as it should for a useful career. This cannot be done until a modern institution is provided. A reformatory institution should not have a common dormitory. It should be attractive in outward appearance. It should be so equipped that a boy of thirteen to sixteen sent there for four years would be kept busy at work that would appeal to him and give him vocational power. The present Home does not meet the requirements, and the provincial government should see that a proper provincial institution is provided.

SOCIAL SERVICE

The action of the Social Service Council of New Brunswick yesterday in deciding to unite with Prince Edward Island and arrange to engage a field secretary is the first step in a movement that has great possibilities. The Dominion Council has been most fortunate in securing the services of Rev. J. G. Shearer as its field secretary, and his hands should be strengthened by strong provincial organizations. The number of these, when a provincial field secretary is appointed, will grow. The Social Service Council is not an additional institution, but a clearing house for those already in existence, whose delegates form its membership. It offers an opportunity to co-ordinate their efforts to secure needed social reforms. The success of the recent series of meetings held by Dr. Shearer, and Rev. Messrs. Dowling and Goodwin in different parts of the province has proved that the people are interested and ready to respond. With a live field secretary at work, all social reform measures would find in the various councils most effective advocacy and support. An excellent beginning has been made.

If the fuel controller will follow the coal from the mine to the bin, and convince the people that their interests are fairly guarded at every point he will render a great service.

A prompt and satisfactory settlement of the express strike is a great relief to the business interests of the country.

More trouble appears to be looming up between the New Brunswick Power Company and its employees. The latter object to the one-man-car.

Nearly 14,000,000 men registered in the United States on Thursday for military service. There is food for thought for the Kaiser in this registration.

India has just added half a million men to the army and pledged further financial assistance on a large scale.

Tomorrow the patriotic citizen will not run a motor car for pleasure. To save gasoline is to help win the war.

THE DOOM OF BEER.

Manufacturers of beer in the United States will be prohibited after December 1 next as a war measure. This announcement was made on Friday night by the food administration, which said the decision had been reached at a conference between President Wilson and representatives of the fuel, food and railroad administrations and War Industries board.

Factors, which influenced the decision to prohibit the manufacture of beer after December 1, the food administration announcement says, were "the further necessity of war industries for the whole fuel productive capacity of the country, the considerable drought which has materially affected the supply of foodstuffs for next year."

Warning also was issued to manufacturers of all beverages and mineral waters that for the same reasons there will be "further great curtailment in fuel for the manufacture of glass containers, of tin plate for cups, of transportation and of food products in such beverages."

Under national prohibition legislation passed by the senate Friday and sent to the House, manufacture of beer and wine would be prohibited after next May 1. Friday's order will move up six months the time for discontinuance of the manufacture of beer, although the breweries may be allowed to resume operations between that date and the effective operation of the "dry" legislation, if finally enacted, since Friday's order was "until further orders."

Let's Shelve It.

The worst of a library is that only low conversation is allowed there.—Cartoon Magazine



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He asked her, "Will you marry me?" In the same old ardent way. She answered, "No, sir, I will not." But she said "No" with a "K."

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O. Henry Used His Brains.

An editor gave O. Henry an order for a short story, which was to be delivered at a specified date. The time for the story came, but the editor did not receive it. Thinking it would arrive soon, he waited for several days, but still the story failed to arrive. The editor then reminded O. Henry of the fact that his story was overdue, and the author replied that he would have it ready the next day. When another day had passed, and still no story, the editor became angry, and wrote to O. Henry: "Dear Sir:—If you don't send that story in tomorrow, I'll kick you out the next time you come, and I keep my promise!"

Beneath this note O. Henry wrote his reply, "And so would I—I used only my feet!"—H. M. East, Cartoon Magazine

See Enough Nurses

For 5,000,000 Army

U. S. Defense Committee Says Call For 25,000 Has Been Met—Enrollment Now 27,000

The Committee on Nursing of the Council of National Defense has issued a statement saying that the hospital requirements of the American Army had been thoroughly provided for, and that there was no longer any shortage of nurses for army work in this country or abroad.

"The problem of nursing the sick and wounded of America's army of 5,000,000 men next year has been solved," the statement says. It is announced that Surgeon General Gorgas's requirement of 25,000 graduate nurses, to be enrolled in January 1, has already been exceeded by nearly 2,000, while more than 1,000 student nurses, who will be 14 for service in France as soon as they are needed there, have been recruited for the army school and will be assigned for training in ten army camps east of the Mississippi. The statement of Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, chairman of the committee on nursing of the Council of National Defense, says:

"The nursing situation, far from being serious, is very good indeed. No other country in the world has ever been so well equipped to send immediately into the field an ample body of thoroughly trained nurses. A survey of the country's nursing strength shows an available reserve of about 100,000 graduate nurses. From this figure allowance is made for a depreciation of 25 per cent. on account of age, marriage, disability, and other causes. In addition, however, from the civil hospital training schools of the country, about 14,000 nurses were graduated this year, and the yearly increment may be expected to be greater as long as the war lasts.

"In response to Surgeon General Gorgas's appeal for 25,000 graduate nurses by next January, nearly 27,000 are already enrolled by the Red Cross and of these 16,000 are actually in military service. Everybody knows that there are hundreds of these women waiting sometimes for weeks at ports of embarkation. Just as fast as hospitals are established for the newly arriving troops

Saturday Specials

Our leader for this week is a Ladies' Nut Brown High Out Boot with Neolin sole and rubber heel, all sizes, at \$5.98

Ladies' Gun Metal, Neolin sole and rubber heel Bals, all sizes, at \$4.98

Ladies' Patent, cloth top, high cut Bals, all sizes, at \$2.98

Ladies' Patent, cloth top, high cut button, all sizes, at \$2.98

Ladies' Nut Brown, low heels high cut pointing Bals, all sizes, at \$6.98

Ladies' Tan Oxfords—Sizes 2, 2 1/2, 3 and 3 1/2—\$1.98

Boys' Boots—Sizes 1 to 5, at \$2.98, \$3.28, \$3.48, \$3.98

Youths' Boots—Sizes 11 to 2, at \$2.48, \$2.78, \$2.98

Misses' Boots—Sizes 11 to 2, at \$2.48, \$2.78, \$2.98, \$3.48, \$4.48

Children's Strong School Boots—Sizes 8-10, \$1.98, \$2.48

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