

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1923

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Let not the useless sorrow
Pursue night and morning;
If e'er you hoped, hope now...
Take heart—encourage your faces,
And join in our embraces,
Under the Holly Bough.
—Charles Mackay.

THE VERDICT OF KENT

Kent has gone Conservative. When Halifax went Conservative the other day it was explained that a split in the Liberal party over the choice of a candidate was very largely responsible, also that the Liberals were so over-confident that many did not go to the polls. Of course this explanation did not explain. The turnover from a Liberal majority of 5,000 to a minority of nearly 2,000 needs some further explanation, and it is found in what Sir Henry Thornton described as "a feeling of disappointment," which he said he found everywhere he went in the Maritime Provinces. Now comes Kent, with a turnover that places the Government in a minority in the House, and therefore unable to carry on without Progressive support. Despite the campaign efforts of two members of the Federal Government, a Senator and a Member of the Commons, and the Premier of the Province, the people rejected the Liberal candidate.

The moral of these two by-elections is plain. The Government must look to its fences in the Maritime Provinces. What representatives of both parties, the Boards of Trade and other organizations have been striving to impress upon the authorities at Ottawa was served as a very effective text for Conservative speakers in the Halifax and Kent campaigns.

The result in Kent yesterday alters the whole political complexion of affairs in Canada. It brings the general elections nearer. There is no reason to assume that the Progressives will unite with the Conservatives to defeat the Government, but the latter in relation to every measure must consider from what quarter it will get the necessary support to ensure its passage. A Government that exists on indifference cannot pursue a bold and independent policy.

So far as the Conservatives are concerned they are naturally jubilant. Halifax and Kent have given a tremendous impulse to what the Montreal Gazette describes as "the rejuvenescence of the Conservative party."

On this subject the Gazette says: "The Conservative sweep in Ontario in the early summer revived hope and inspired confidence in supporters in other provinces, and the scattered forces are beginning again to form their ranks for the electoral contest that cannot be long delayed. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, where scarcely a corporal's guard could until recently be recruited, largely-attended conventions have been held and, according to report, much enthusiasm manifested, organizations were fashioned and vigorous verbal onslaughts made upon the governments managed by political opponents. Hon. Robert Rogers would resent the statement that he has returned to a fold from which he insists he has never strayed; in any case, he has consecrated his energies and fidelity anew to the party and embraced a leadership to which his sympathies may have seemed somewhat lukewarm. Another portent of party consolidation is the appearance of Mr. Sauve on the platform with ex-Ministers of the Meighen Government, and while the provincial leader of the Opposition was circumspect in his language, he reaffirmed his devotion to the principle of Macdonald and Carleton. Then, there is the Halifax election, the significance of which cannot be disparaged."

This is the summary of the situation by a Conservative newspaper before Kent was heard from, and in regard to that constituency the Gazette said: "Upon the Kent election hangs the fate of the Government." No doubt with the Gazette the wish was father to the thought. The Government is not defeated, but it has met with a very distinct loss of prestige, and the interest of the people at large in the developments of the next few months will be increased tenfold. The Conservatives have already been clamoring for an early session of Parliament, and the demand will now be renewed with great vigor. The Liberal party in the Maritime Provinces will see the need of organization.

Mr. Mellon, Secretary of the United States Treasury, this week expressed the opinion when asked about the industrial and business outlook in the United States that recent developments apparently have given support to the statement, made in his annual report, that "the factors which have been most influential in the revival that has taken place are likely to remain effective, at least in a considerable degree."

THE UNEMPLOYED

The Times-Star does not usually pay any attention to anonymous letters, but one received yesterday deserves comment. The writer discusses unemployment and signs himself "One out of work." He says that while men may be wanted for the lumber woods there is a dollar to be paid to the employment agency and the man must pay his own way to the camps. This is only a half truth. The Dominion Employment Agency does not charge a dollar to an applicant for work. It is probably true that he has to get to the lumber camps himself, for lumber operators have too often been caught paying the expenses of men who did not stay long enough to earn their expenses. The writer remembers a good man who once at his solicitation paid the expenses of a group of men to his camps. These men asserted they were eager to get work of any kind. They staid in camp long enough to get two good meals and then fled. Mr. E. A. Schofield could tell an interesting story about many men he sent to the woods while he was mayor, and who came away again without asking anybody to pay their way back. And they came back. The man who is determined to work and is offered a job will get there in some way. It is quite as easy to go without money as to come back without it.

This correspondent has a fling at the Government Employment Agency and another at the Salvation Army, which he says asks twenty-five and thirty-five cents a night for a bed. The truth is that there is seldom a night when the Salvation Army does not shelter some men who have no money. It does make a charge for beds, because it could not of course keep its doors open and many men get orders from citizens for a night's lodging there. Moreover, the Seamen's Mission shelters penniless men every night. Men come here without any guarantee of work or of getting a ship, and with many men who live here looking for work the stranger must take his chance or move on.

Our correspondent closes his letter with the remark that "when a wolf gets too hungry he does not care how he gets a meal." This may be true, but the wolf usually finds in the end that discretion pays best. It goes without saying that everything possible should be done to provide work for those who need it, and to relieve the families of those who live in the city and are in want. That in itself implies a considerable burden upon the citizens at large in such a season as the present, and the "foster" would do well to try some other locality.

Attorney General Manson of British Columbia is a public benefactor. He told the Legislature last week that in the revision of the statutes of the province the words "hereof, aforesaid, and such" are being eliminated. The ordinary legal document is a terror to more than evil-doers. The good citizen also needs an interpreter. But there is economy as well as common sense in the action being taken in the Pacific Province. The Attorney General informed the House that by leaving out useless words he was saving fifty pages of printing. May the reform spread eastward.

Up to Dec. 10 deliveries of grain to Vancouver by the C. N. R. more than doubled those for the corresponding period of 1922, a total of 2,515 cars having been delivered at the Pacific Coast this year, against 1,021 cars between September and December 10, 1922. The western route gains in popularity.

In the recent civic elections in Vancouver all the nominees of the Federated Labor party and the labor representation committee were defeated. There have been labor troubles in Vancouver and the citizens generally appear to have disapproved. The vote polled was the largest in the city's record of civic elections.

MAPLE SYRUP IN DECEMBER.

We have heard that frogs were singing in the southern part of the province, we have seen butterflies and caterpillars around the office this December, while all kinds of flowers have been sent in, says the Harland Observer. More remarkable than anything in the foregoing is the fact that P. J. Shaw, of Middle Simonds, while working in the woods, decided to tap a few trees, and found that the sap flowed as freely as in April. When he had secured a considerable quantity they "dried off" twice, producing maple syrup, a sample of which is on exhibition at the Observer office.

Youngest Train Crew.
Cumberland, Eng.—Two 16-year-old boys are serving as engine driver and guard on the Ravenglass-Eskdale line. It is said to be the smallest stretch of railway in the world. The lads are Bob Hardy and Cyril Holland. Hardy has been able to pilot a locomotive since he was eight. It's no doubt the youngest train crew anywhere.

Press Comment

THE YULE TIDE CANDLE.

(Portland Press-Herald.)
Of late years it has been the fashion for the American people to return to the custom of our fathers and light many candles at Christmas time, displaying them in their windows and elsewhere. Last year the National Association of Fire Underwriters reports many fires were occasioned by this method of illumination. The danger from lighted candles about Christmas trees is much less than it was owing to the fact that tiny electric lights of various colors can be used with much greater effect and electricity for this purpose is now available in most places.

But the regressive method of illuminating houses at Christmas time has become the fad and last year, the report is, a great many fires originated in this way.

To display a light where it may be seen by passers-by, is, of course, a pretty piece of symbolism, but it has, alas, often been converted into a beacon to guide the fire department and from a token of Christmas cheer has become a signal of distress. Symbolism achieved at the cost of human life, and of property destruction amounting annually to thousands of dollars, is bought at too steep a price to be desirable.

Of course the candle is not the only Yuletide hazard, but since it is an important one, why should it be tolerated unnecessarily? Surely no one can wish to do anything that might cast the shadow of tragedy across the celebration of Christmas.

THE ESSENCE OF IT.

(Halifax Echo.)
Professor Falconer gave a much needed and most timely lecture on Sunday afternoon on the sin of gambling. The gambling spirit was never more rife than at present, and every opportunity and convenience are provided for indulging the passion. Children grow up surrounded by such opportunities, and parents seem scarcely to recognize the danger, nor to provide even the safeguard of wise counsel against it. Judging from newspaper reports there is one effect of gambling that the lecturer did not emphasize, although it was included perhaps in "anti-social." The worst thing growing out of gambling is the fostering, if not the creating, of the spirit of getting something for nothing. There could hardly be a more deadly enemy of self-respect, of honesty, of the recognition of the brotherhood of man, and of the rights of society, than the feeling that it is right to get something for nothing, which can only be done at the expense of others. Legislation against gambling, the suppression of opportunities and inducements will all do something to lessen the evil, but after all the real work goes back of that. It requires a quickening of moral perceptions on the part of parents and teachers so that the in-

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Jury to oneself and one's neighbors may be brought home to the children while they are young. A real understanding of the value and importance of the moral issue involved would do more than all other agencies combined to break up the gambling habit.



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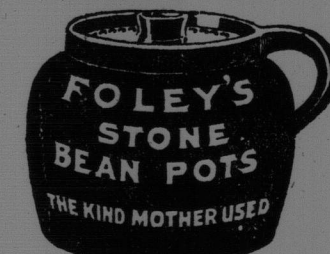
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SONG.
(Robert Loveman.)
What care I for caste or creed?
It is the deed, it is the deed;
What for class or what for clan?
It is the man, it is the man;
Heirs of love and joy, and woe,
Who is high, and who is low?
Mountain, valley, sky and sea,
Are for all humanity.



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Teacher—"Patsy, have you anything in your mouth?"
Patsy—"Yes, Miss."
Teacher—"Throw it into the basket."
Patsy—"I can't, teacher. It's my tongue."
The Sleuth's Joke.
"Not in," said the maid who answered the detective's ring.
"Ah!" sighed the sleuth. "I could hardly expect anything else."
"Why not, sir?"
"Because it's my business to find people out."

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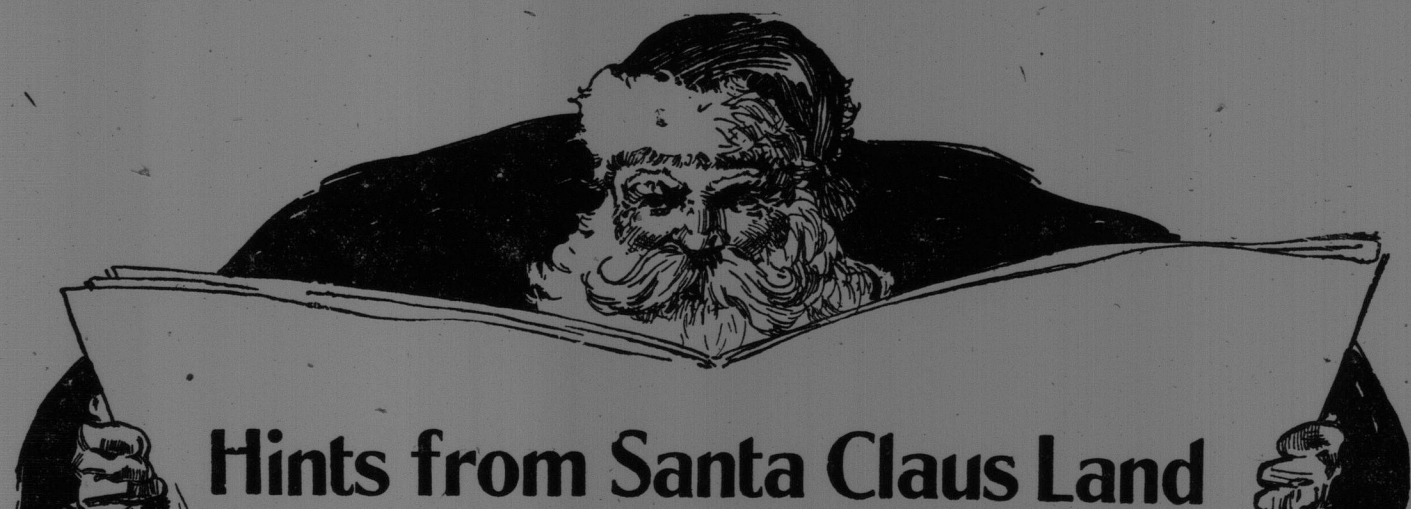
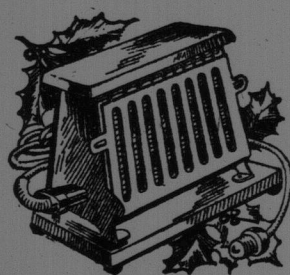
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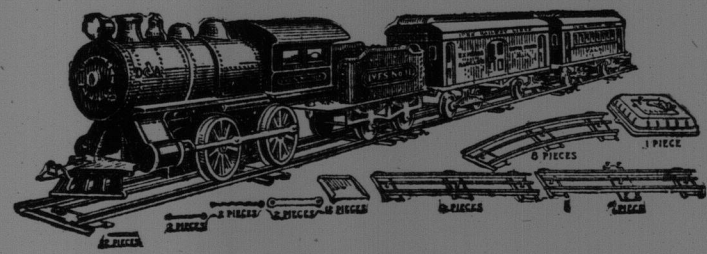
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