

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 20, 1920.

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THE LUXURY TAX

The abolition of the luxury tax on all but a few articles follows a general and persistent protest from business men all over Canada. It is explained that the government was influenced by the growing seriousness of the unemployment situation, but it is also true that the receipts from this tax have been decreasing of late. The hope is expressed that there will be a revival of business in the lines most affected, and that this will stimulate industry. It is hoped there will now be a larger demand for clothing, furs and jewelry and there can be no doubt that the luxury tax greatly affected business in these and quite a number of other lines. The public will welcome the abolition of the tax, without perhaps caring much where the money needed to meet the country's financial obligations is to come from. It is the popular habit to let the finance minister do the worrying on that score. We are told that he will now confine himself to customs and excise duties and the sales and income taxes. The luxury tax was vexatious, and caused a great deal of trouble to merchants who in the face of falling prices already had trouble enough. Expectation that its abolition will have much effect on industry and trade may not be fulfilled to any great extent, but it will undoubtedly stimulate business.

HOW HE USES HIS FREEDOM

It is the boast of Mr. Lindsay Crawford that if he had preached sedition to the government at Ottawa, which had no love for him, would have laid him in the heels long before this time. This may be so. Perhaps it would not be easy to convict Mr. Crawford of seditious utterances, but he is saying things that should not be said with impunity in Canada. The man who, under the protection of the British flag, asserts that "the whole world now knows that England did not enter the war to save Belgium, but to destroy her great trade rival," and who describes Sir Auckland Geddes and Dr. Charles Aubrey Eaton as "professional British propagandists who go about the country uttering hypocritical platitudes about England's love of freedom and her sacrifices for the liberties of other nations," can hardly be regarded as a good British subject or a good citizen of Canada. Yet he makes these statements in the last issue of the pamphlet named *The Statesman*, which he is permitted to publish in the city of Toronto and which he is allowed to poison the springs of loyalty in this country. Whoever reads *The Statesman* and imbibes its spirit becomes bitterly prejudiced against England. Mr. Lindsay Crawford would confer a real favor by taking himself and his propaganda against England, which applies to Scotland and Wales and Canada, out of this country. Since he finds in the United States all the virtues which Great Britain and Canada lack, that country ought to appeal to him as a desirable place of residence, although we are not sure the Americans would thank us for making the suggestion.

A DANGEROUS ELEMENT

So sane and moderate a journal as the *Saturday Evening Post* has a very strong article on the question of how far it is wise to permit propaganda to go, who seek to stir up trouble if not to subvert the government. It recognizes that to speak of limiting freedom of speech is like threatening to pull down one of the pillars of liberty; but insists that there is abuse as well as use of the privilege, and that public sentiment on the subject should be well-considered and very definite. Too often trouble is caused by disordered minds, or by persons who avail themselves of the freedom of institutions to pull down the whole fabric. The *Post* finds that the great difficulty to be overcome is public indifference. If a situation develops that must be dealt with, everybody wants somebody else to do it, and if it is badly done the government or whoever undertakes the task is soundly criticized. The point is well taken. Nobody wants to limit reasonable free speech. It is a safeguard of liberty. There is, however, the possibility, and this has been shown over and over again in the United States, that misguided or vicious agitators may cause great harm, the people going about their own concerns and paying no attention until something blows up. The developments of recent years have shown very clearly that it is not merely the old type of anarchy which is to be feared; but that there is another and perhaps greater danger, which lies

in the impunity with which ill-balanced or vicious elements in a country are permitted to poison the minds of any who may come under their sinister influence. One grave source of danger is the vicious foreigners who take advantage of the freedom he enjoys to do all in his power to overthrow the institutions of the country that gave him shelter. The remedy is to be found in the development of a community conscience which will promptly put all malignant disturbers where they belong. Needed reforms can only be secured in a democratic country by constitutional means.

A STANDING DISGRACE

At this Christmas season, when the thoughts of all are turned toward the children, and toward Him who declared that of such is the Kingdom of Heaven, the Times desires to direct the attention of its readers to a letter received last week by Rev. George Scott, the agent of the Children's Aid Society in this city. The letter came from another part of the province where this society has no jurisdiction. It reveals a condition that is far from being confined to one locality in New Brunswick. The following is an extract from the letter:

"I beg to write you as an official of the Children's Aid Society of the province regarding a case in this village. We have a woman here who is not living with her husband, but who is living a very bad life. She has had two children out of wedlock and another is expected any time. She, so far as we can judge, is under-developed mentally and utterly unfit as well as incapable of bringing up her children. She has four with her now. Her two older children, aged about ten and six, or nine and six, are running the roads, begging, lying, and sometimes stealing. These children are most profane and vulgar, a source of delinquency to the childhood of the community. We wish to know if you will take some action to have these children put in a home. Alas, we would like to know what could be done with the mother. It is possible that one under-developed mentally can go on, raising children and training them as she is in all that is bad and nothing be done with her? I cannot believe it. Will you kindly advise?"

If there were a Children's Aid Society in the locality it could not doubt take these children. If there were a provincial superintendent of neglected and dependent children for the province, he could deal with the case, as far as the children are concerned. The mother, however, would still be at large, and there would be more children. All over the province today are to be found feeble-minded mothers of children, and feeble-minded girls who will become the mothers of children.

How long is this condition of affairs to continue? We shut out immigrants who are mentally deficient, and yet go on producing a crop of our own. We may multiply agencies to care for such children, with an assurance that the crop will not fail. Is that the best we can do? Recently the Children's Aid Society was called on to deal with four children whose home was a filthy, verminous place, utterly unfit as a dwelling. Two of these children were so mentally deficient that there could be no hope of getting a foster home for them. There is no home for Feeble-Minded, and so these children had to be placed in the Municipal Home. They will be well cared for, but mental deficiencies should not be met to that institution. The two mental deficient in this family are girls. When they grow older and go out into the world, what will their chances be? Surely it is time to end this condition of affairs. The province is deliberately laying a burden upon itself and contributing to the multiplication of the unfit and vicious, if not criminal, as long as it fails to provide a Home for the Feeble-Minded. With such a Home society would not only be protected, but the inmates would be happy and trained to do simple work that would go far toward making them self-supporting. The people of the province are not ignorant of these facts. How much longer will they be content with the present shameful conditions?

It is suggested that even if senate and house adopt an emergency tariff on wheat, potatoes and some other products, President Wilson may veto the measure. It certainly looks now as if he would have the opportunity.

We have rather dull times, it is true; but we have neither earthquakes, serious crime waves or riot and bloodshed in these parts. For all of which we should be duly thankful and in an optimistic mood.

The French minister has left Athens, and the British minister will have nothing to do with King Constantine. Greece has chosen a rocky road.

Hon. N. W. Rowell—"The first assembly of the League of Nations has satisfied its friends and disappointed its enemies."

Rippling Rhymes

(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

OUT OF WORK

A lot of factories and mills are closing—more will close, I fear; and countless sad-eyed Jacks and Jills are out of work, and winter's here. And they have seen their fortunes smile, with wages high, and more in sight; I wonder if they saved their piles or blew the roules left and right? If they did they need not weep when factory pulleys cease to turn; in peace and comfort they may sleep, and in their stoves the dimes roll; let honest toil go galley west, while we sit here and bake our toes; we have the guilders down in brims our credit's good and all is well; should we mourn and repine because we're laid off for a spell? But if they burned the useful bucks in booming times, they're sad today; their children cry for pie and ducks, and must be satisfied with hay. And most, I fear, are laid in woe, and now await their present lot; I hate to say, "I told you so," but nothing else would hit the spot. Oh, watch the weary legions drift, in search of work, upon their way; then buckle down and practice thrift—you may be there yourself some day.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days.

DE CAEN.

By the convention of St. John, Canada was to be restored by the English to French control; consequently early in 1881 Henry de Caen arrived at the port with a few ships to take possession of the place once more in the interests of the French king. He had too, as a part payment of the losses he had sustained in war, the right to the absolute control of the far side of the country for one year; then he was to turn the land over to the company of the Hundred Associates of New France. It was a strange place that De Caen found. During the troublesome period preceding the capture by the English the new colony had fallen in ruins. Even the Hundred Associates were in difficult times and the trade of the colony was at a very low ebb.

Caen landed with the Jesuit Fathers Paul de Jeune and Anne de la Noue. They climbed the steep stairway that led to the top of the rock and gazed upon the ruins of the once strong fort surrounded, too, with the wreck of what had been beautiful gardens. In all the scene of desolation there was only one bright spot; that was the garden of the Hebert family.

Few Indians were in sight, for they were fearful of the reception they would receive from the remaining French. When the English had taken possession of the place the changeable residents had turned to them, desiring the French to remain, and they were now to make new friends and they wondered if the white men would be ready to welcome them. Now they were compelled to see the assistance of the savages so he soon made it evident to the warriors that the past was forgotten and the future was to be made to trade with them again as of yore.

UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE

What would you do if now upon your knees should rest
A little boy, gaunt but precious form,
Still warm
With blood of yours?

What would you do if now upon your cheek
Were pressed pale, maiming lips that
Through fibre joined with fibre in a shiver
For God?
Could such necessity
Unheeded be?

What would you do if now upon your ear
Fell plaintive moanings, groanings—could
You guard
Your saving child in anguish, prone
Upon the barren ground to find a stone?

If you had gone before,
No more
To guard life of your life, no more enfold
The thing, God-given, you had learned
Most dear,
What would you do
If, from behind the veil, you could peer through?

What will you do, when now, upon your heart,
Is laid the burden of a million cries?
For dies within us the crumbling spark.
We hear a voice, a still, small voice—
then—Hark!
From behind the veil, the Master's
magic plea:
Reverberates: "Ye've done it unto Me."
—Alice Packard Palmer, in *New York Times*.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Plenty of Training.
"You're a good loser."
"I ought to be, I get so much practice at it."—*Detroit Free Press*.

Knockers.

"We have an old family knocker on our front door."
"We have one inside."—*Baltimore American*.

Fit Manner.

"That judge has a manner peculiarly appropriate to his calling."
"How do you mean?"
"He's so contentious."—*Boston Transcript*.

Tillie Clinger says the reason she didn't last long as clerk at the book store was because when an old gentleman asked for the *Chicken Fancier's Guide* she told him he didn't need a guide—what he wanted was a guardian.

Dallas News.

Impelled by Duty.
"I must save these blivets, are fine," exclaimed the young husband.
"How could you say those were fine blivets?" inquired his mother when they were alone.
"I didn't say they were fine, mother. I merely said I must say so."—*Boston Transcript*.

Mean.

"Ma, teacher's awful mean."
"Hush, my son, you mustn't say that."
"Well, she is! What do you think?"
She borrowed my knife to sharpen a pencil to give me a bad mark."—*Boston Transcript*.

Here's a Wallop For Ontario Tories

(Toronto Saturday Night)
The U. F. O. is certainly traveling in luck. If Premier Dwyer had been asked to select a leader for the Conservative party in Legislature, and had scanned the list of names, he would have chosen Mr. G. Howard Ferguson, Hartley Dewar, the Liberal leader, would undoubtedly have made a similar choice. The selection of Mr. Ferguson as Conservative leader for Ontario has been described in the daily press as an "extraordinary event." It is assuredly the first time in the recollection of most men that a party convention has deliberately followed a course which, in the judgment of all thinking party supporters, means certain humiliation and defeat.

When a few years ago, Sir William Hearst, one of the most ill-starred of politicians, brought Mr. Ferguson to public notice by appointing him Minister of Forests and Mines, he was little more than a nobody. He had gained an unenviable reputation as a member of the public accounts committee, at a time when his administration was widely and justly condemned. During his period of office the province was robbed of vast sums of money in timber dues, and valuable areas were turned into a wilderness of brush and the back of the neck was the press contravention of the statutes. No accusation has been made against Mr. Ferguson since he has been in office, but his competence is glaringly clear.

And what is Mr. Ferguson's answer? an answer which seems to have prompted the convention to elect him over men of much higher standing and ability, like Hon. George S. Henry, a first-class revenue-producing department, of the Crown we have lately had a great volume of sworn testimony and unimpeachable documentary evidence. During his period of office the province was robbed of vast sums of money in timber dues, and valuable areas were turned into a wilderness of brush and the back of the neck was the press contravention of the statutes. No accusation has been made against Mr. Ferguson since he has been in office, but his competence is glaringly clear.

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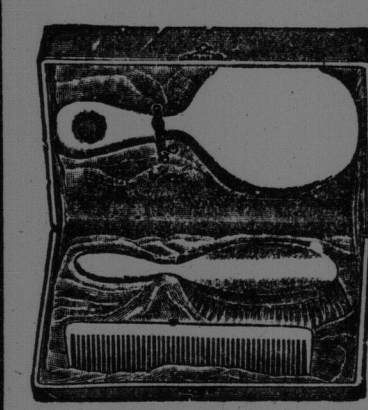
CANADA AT GENEVA.

(New York Globe)
The British empire has, as Senator Borah used to be fond of reminding his countrymen, six votes in the assembly of the League of Nations. One of these votes is that of South Africa, whose most conspicuous representative at Geneva is Robert Cecil, and Robert Cecil represents South Africa because he vehemently disagrees with the league policies of the British government. Another of the imperial votes is held by Canada, whose delegates have put fire into the assembly by their struggle against the autonomy of the "Big Four" and by their attempt to broaden a league of victorious nations into a true parliament of man. George Foster, Newton D. Rowell and C. J. Doherty, members of the Canadian delegation, have been doing at Geneva what an American delegation might have done and, if the opposition to the league had been an honest opposition to reactionary European statesmanship, would have done. They have spoken, where we were silent, and on the small nations, for free speech, and for democracy. While our so-called "liberals" denounce and belittle the league because it is "autocratic," these men are opposing its autocratic tendencies in the only place where they can be successfully fought—at Geneva, in the meetings of the assembly.

The late Czar of Russia had the reputation of being the most extravagant of European monarchs as regards dress. The bill of his civil tailor is said to have bordered on \$10,000 a year, and that of his military tailor \$15,000.

Heard on the Football Field.
First Stude—Look at 'em all in that mud. How will they ever get clean?
Second Stude—Huh! What do you suppose the scrub team is for?—*Boston Transcript*.

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TOOK NO MORE RISKS

(London Tit-Bits)
The newly returned African explorer found himself in a horribly tight corner at the first social function he attended. A scraggy necked dandy of very uncertain age, bore down upon him effusively.
"Well, this is a pleasure, Mr. Bigbore! Charming to see you again, I'm sure! You remember me, of course?" returned the traveler, wrestling with his memory. "Delighted to see you. All the youngsters speak well."
"Youngsters?" gasped the antique one. "Of—of course—how is your family, I meant to say, your husband, for instance."
"My—? Dear me, I never had a husband!"
"Ha, ha! No, no, of course not—only a joke on my part, you know," stammered the agitated explorer. "I was referring to your brother. I'm sure you love him just as much as I love your husband."
"But I never had a brother either!"
"Of course not. Merely a little pleasantry of mine—ha ha! I—?—I meant to ask, how is your—your—by the way, did you ever have a mother?"

HOW ANIMALS SLEEP

Elephants sleep standing up. When in a herd, a certain number will always stand watch while the others sleep; the big powerful beasts are timid and cautious at night and will not go to sleep unguarded.
Bats sleep head downward, hanging by their hind claws.
Birds, with few exceptions, sleep with their heads turned tailward over the back and the back thrust beneath the wing.
Snakes, gulls and other long-legged birds sleep standing on one leg.
Ducks sleep on open water. To avoid drifting ashore they keep paddling with one foot, thus making them more in a circle.
Foxes and wolves sleep curled up, their noses and the soles of their feet close together and blanketed by their bushy tails.
Lions, tigers and cat animals stretch themselves out flat upon the side. Their muscles twitch and throb, indicating that they are light and restless sleepers.
Owls, in addition to their eyelids, have screens that they draw sideways across their eyes to shut out the light, nor they sleep in the daytime.

TURKISH ADVERTISING.

In order to advertise in Constantinople it is necessary to use four languages. The market is hard to cultivate, but newspapers give good results there. The population of Constantinople is very cosmopolitan, and all the foreign newspapers, writes *Trades Commission* Elliot G. Meara. To reach the public in general, advertisements should be published in newspapers of at least four languages.
However, the best results are obtained by publication in Turkish newspapers, for, on the one hand, the Turkish population is most numerous, and on the other the Turkish reader is more susceptible to the claims of advertisements than are Europeans and Armenians. It has been found by experience that advertising in newspapers gives very good results in Constantinople, especially if it is pushed vigorously.
No advertising is carried on tramcars. Street advertising is not protected by law and cannot be recommended to foreign concerns. The circulation of newspapers is not great. French newspapers have an approximate issue of 6,000; Greek 4,000 to 12,000; Armenian 4,000 to 8,000; and Turkish 10,000 to 15,000.

Phone West 8 for Mill-to-Consumer Prices

for La Tour Flour
Delivered Right in Your Kitchen
Phone West 8
FOWLER MILLING CO., LTD.
St. John, West

THE IMMORTAL WILLIAM.

(Glasgow Herald)
Once while in London, writes "H. C. M.," I heard the late Lionel Brough tell a story of a dinner in England at which the principal guest was Kaiser Wilhelm II. Some one in course of conversation remarked—"As the immortal William said, 'There is a tide in the affairs of men,' etc. His Imperial Majesty turned to the speaker and said: 'Did I say that? I don't remember.' On my return home I was telling this story at tea one evening, and amidst the general laughter one lady said to me, with a plying smile—"Of course it was his grandfather they meant!"

MR. BRYAN WAS RIGHT.

(Washington Herald)
In the light of events, it seems passing strange that there was a time when the Democrats hoped, if not expected, to win the last election on the wet issue. More than that, the Republicans feared this. The resonant voice of the governor of New Jersey, who at San Francisco voted his state as "wet," seems an echo from the Dark Ages.
The Republicans at Chicago did not dare be faith, flesh, or fowl or even passable red herring on this issue. The Democrats wanted to be wet and

ejected Mr. Bryan as almost unclean, because so arid. Yet they took it out in longing, while hesitating to the point of inaction.
It reads like fiction that in that period New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, and other states were reckoned as at least in the doubtful column because of unquenchable thirst. Yet that was fact. It was believed that thousands upon thousands of men would drown on other issues in sloopy will and merris.
But Mr. Bryan was right and all the rest were wrong. He best knew the glib tactical character of the people. They may grive and mentally rebel at prohibition, but they will not vote what is both immoral and economic folly. To this extent he was not a politician, for a politician never has courage and seldom has that moral conscience which recognizes that he is not alone in his admirable possession.

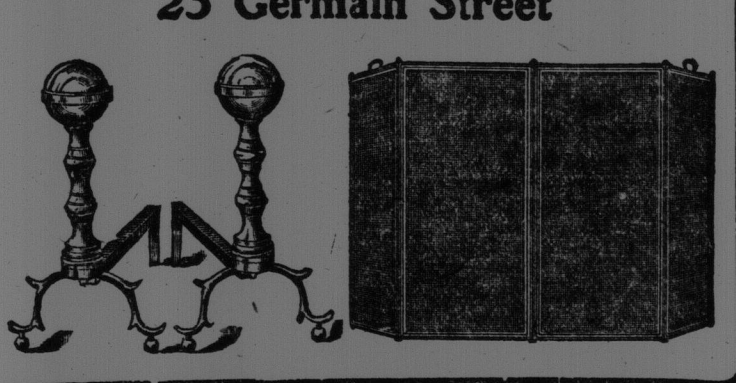
Cheaper.
"Fancy your getting married again, Mrs. Smale. I hope you have done wisely."
"Yes, mum; I reckon. Yew see, I have so much washing to take 'ome now, if I hadn't got 'e I should have been forced to buy a donkey, sure 'nough."—*London Tatler*.



For Christmas—Something in Brass

Brass always has been—and probably always will be—an acceptable gift. There are so many things you can choose from—many of them at very reasonable prices. We mention just a few—
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Range in price from \$2.35 to \$7.50.
FIRE LIGHTERS
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UMBRELLA STANDS
Priced from \$6.00 to \$9.00.
ASH TRAYS
\$1.15 to \$4.50 in price.
SMOKERS SETS—\$4.00 to \$20.00.
SMOKING STANDS—\$4.50 to \$9.00.
FERN POTS AND JARDINIERS
A Large Selection Priced from \$1.60 to \$7.00.
FIRE-PLACE BRASSES
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Fenders 16.50 to 30.00
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Fire Screens 4.50 to 6.00

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