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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1922

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 21, 1922.

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### PRAISE FOR HON. J. A. ROBB

The Financial Times of Montreal says that the recent address by Hon. J. A. Robb, minister of trade and commerce, has been well received by the business community, and that the views he expressed are "altogether sound and encouraging." It says further that "judging by Mr. Robb's remarks, we will have less cause to protest against government interference in business under the new government than we unfortunately had under the old. For this at least we are thankful. Mr. Robb took the attitude that the function of the Department of Trade and Commerce was to help, not to hinder trade either within or without Canada. This remark we interpret as signifying abandonment of a policy such as the previous government to force upon an unwilling and protesting business community such foolish and meddlesome measures as the marking act, which could be of no advantage to the country and, on the contrary, must be a serious handicap."

Touching Mr. Robb's remarks on the tariff, the Financial Times says: "He declared it a rule of trade that wherever and whenever a tariff increase, purchases also grow, and when a country puts up extreme tariff barriers, hindering necessary purchases, it places a stumbling block against its own trade. This is sound economics by contrast with the insular idea that by some miracle, legislative or otherwise, we can bring about a condition of affairs in which our exports shall increase by leaps and bounds and our imports more in a reverse direction, and that thus, and thus only, can we reach prosperity."

The Montreal Journal is equally well pleased with the minister's remarks on development of resources and on immigration. Evidently Premier King made a good choice when he selected the new minister of trade and commerce.

### THE MARITIME POSITION.

The answer to a question asked by Hon. F. B. Carvell at the freight rates hearing explains the whole situation with regard to industries in the maritime provinces. Mr. Carvell asked why the lower province foundries could not get pig iron in Sydney. The answer is that there is not a large enough market in these provinces to enable the market in the country to be supplied. The position is business, and they cannot compete in the Ontario market. Therefore they have ceased the production of foundry pig. The same rule applies in other industries. It is a case of the big fellow devouring the little fellow. Mr. Elkin showed how great is the disadvantage the mill manufacturers labor under—so great that his company had started to move part of its plant to Montreal. Other manufacturers gave conclusive evidence that unless better terms are secured there can be no expansion of manufactures in these provinces. Any citizen whose memory goes back any length of time can recall industry after industry that succumbed to upper province competition, even when the freight rates were more favorable. The position is now infinitely worse, for the upper province manufacturer has an ever expanding market near at hand, and can the better afford to cut prices down here when it is desired to snuff out a competitor; while the local market for the maritime province manufacturer does not grow, the population being almost stationary.

But a reduction of freight rates east and west, while it would benefit the manufacturers, is not all that is needed. The rest of the people suffer because of too high local freight rates. If these rates were lowered, the spirit of the confederation pact must be carried out. It is now continuously violated, and unless the people offer a more strenuous opposition they may as well abandon hope of developing along with the rest of Canada in the old days, when the country west recognized the just claims of the people in the east, the intercolonial deficits were absorbed by the country. Now the rule is to burden the paying portions of this railway with deficits on their part doubly strong. Moreover, they deserve whatever they may ask that is within reason, because of what they did for Canada in war-time and have done since for the community.

Premier King has been re-elected without opposition. The fact is to the credit of the man who withdrew from the field and to the party in the constituency for whom he spoke. As the Times has before observed, it would be a graceful act to permit Hon. Mr. McEwen also to go in by acclamation.

De Valera's announcement that he will still assist for an Irish republic will cause very little disturbance in Ireland. With an Irish government in power, the people at large will be well content.

### A MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

The message of Chicago's mayor to the mayor of St. John must not be overlooked in the general absorption in the skating events of the week. Mr. Julius T. Fitzgerald of Chicago brought the mayor's message. He told of six hundred vacant areas in that city that were flooded this winter for the benefit of young skaters, besides seventy-five school yards converted into rinks, and others to be found in the parks. And the end is not yet. Chicago also has a great system of summer playgrounds, costing millions of dollars, and under adequate supervision. What the mayor desired to say to the mayor of St. John was that the latter should see to it that the play activities of the boys and girls were well provided for. Mr. Louis Rubenstein of Montreal, in conversation, added the remark that whether for sport or citizenship we must begin with the boys while they are still young, and encourage them to play for the honor of the game.

Of the city council of St. John it must be said that its attitude in regard to playgrounds has been in the last two or three years not only progressive but generous. It has expended a large sum of money which will be ready for use this year. It has purchased a site for a model playground in the north end. It has encouraged and aided the Improvement League to develop neighborhood playgrounds and skating rinks. With such a record one cannot doubt that this year a generous policy will also be adopted. Of course civic grants do not prevent and should not discourage private generosity, for the need is great. By way of encouragement to individual citizens we may quote from an exchange.

"Mr. F. J. D. Barjum, a public spirited citizen of Annapolis Royal, N. S., is building a skating rink at his own expense for the benefit and amusement of the young people of the town."

The following from the Toronto Telegram is even more suggestive:—"Sergeant Daniel Moncur, a veteran of the war, yesterday, at the Parks Committee, presented to the city, free of all cost, a piece of ground on Cairns avenue, east of Cowell, a plot of ground 326 x 108 feet, to be used for all time as a children's playground. The property is presented as a memorial to his son, David Moncur, who, as a scout in the Gordon Highlanders, was murdered by the Germans for refusing to give up the code of the day when captured. Another gift to the city accepted by the committee was a plot of 2 1/2 acres on the west side of Yonge street opposite Mount Pleasant Cemetery."

Coming nearer home, we read in the St. Stephen's Courier:—"At the Rotary Club luncheon on Monday, President Marks Mills announced the receipt of a gift of \$100 from Mrs. Frank Todd as a contribution towards the expense of leading and fitting up the Dr. Sullivan building for use as a gymnasium." This gymnasium, opened by the Rotary Club for the boys of St. Stephen, is now open every evening with a competent director and nearly a hundred boys in attendance. The Times is glad to be able to commend to St. John people these widespread evidences of a regard for the welfare of the young people of the community.

The Hardware Clerks' Association furnishes today some further evidence of the effect of hydro-electric on the cost of power in Ontario cities. The more the subject is considered the more apparent it is that St. John should not throw away the opportunity to get the full benefit for the future of the cheap power generated at Muskegash. It is not difficult to trace to their source the rumors that there is not enough power available or that the city could not afford a distribution plant.

The project for a Woman's Building for St. John was advanced a stage last evening. The building is needed, and this paper ventures to say that if the women of St. John unite in demanding its erection they will get their wish. They have a reputation and a record for achievement which make conviction on their part doubly strong. Moreover, they deserve whatever they may ask that is within reason, because of what they did for Canada in war-time and have done since for the community.

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### Local Lads Had Good Share in Making Visiting Officials and Skaters at Home While in St. John.

**OF BURIED CITIES.**  
The state-horn streets of ancient Rome Mayhap still older streets in dust lie Beneath the 'sands may' stand a pyramid Unmentioned in historic book or tome; The forest may o'ertop some crumbling dome Beneath which older rulers dreamed and did; Some palace that once housed the mighty Old May sleep below an humble peasant's home.

**What of the buried cities of the mind—**  
The stately halls and castles still unthought  
Because we sit with idly, folded hands?  
Shall some one else far in the future find  
What could be ours, would we but  
Shall others build upon our barren lands?  
—Wilber D. Nesbit in Chicago Evening Post.

**LIGHTER VEIN.**  
It Depends on the Gender.  
"I say, governor (is a woman as old as the looks?"  
"Yes, my boy, and a man is only old when he stops looking."—Life.

**No Handicap.**  
A stranger with a low handicap asked the secretary of an Irish club to find a match for him, and the secretary directed him to an old gentleman. As they reached the first tee the stranger said: "I'm a four man; what are you?" "I'm a bean."—Sunbeam.

**Cross Country.**  
An American newspaper, not frightened to recount a story in which one of its country's great athletes comes off second best, tells a yarn about an Englishman who sat next to an American legal dignitary at a public dinner in New York. During the course of the meal the judge turned to the visitor: "You would be a long time in the Old Country," he remarked wistfully, "before you had the honor of having dinner with the judge." "Possibly," replied the fellow guest, "I'm a four man; what are you?" "I'm a bean."—The Morning Post.

**Mid But Firm.**  
A telephone pole never hits an automobile except in an automobile. —Toronto Blade.

**LOCAL NEWS**  
**BURNS CONCERT.**  
Centenary hall, Jan. 26, under auspices of St. David's brotherhood. Tickets 50c. 1922.—29

**SKATERS' PHOTOGRAPHS.**  
Headquarters for photographs of skaters and events at Lily Lake. Dealers supplied.—Lugin Studio, 88 Charlotte street.

**SKATING RACES.**  
Picture post cards of the skating races are on sale at Grey & Co's book store, King street.

Much has been said regarding the part played by the people and the committee in charge in contributing towards the success of the Canadian championship skating meet here this week, and the visiting skaters and officials left here with the highest praise of the treatment accorded them during their stay in the city. To the Boy Scouts of the city is due a share of the responsibility for this feeling on the part of visitors.

On their arrival in the city the strangers were each assigned a scout, whose duty it was to pilot him about, take from his shoulders many of the small tasks which invariably fall to the lot of a stranger in a strange land and be generally at his disposal during the period outside of school hours. The boys did their work well; they carried out their duty in a manner which merited the appreciation of the committee in charge, and in many cases formed a bond between themselves and the men with whom they served which will survive long. That the service was appreciated is demonstrated by many pleasing incidents during the meet, the most striking being that in which Wesley Moore and his scout pilot, Wesley Stewart, fought.

When the skaters were leaving the lake after the last day of the meet, Joe had climbed on the big sleigh, but before settling himself, he inquired, "Where is my Boy Scout?" And he was not prepared to leave the lake until "my Boy Scout" was loaded into the sleigh alongside him.

The following is a list of the boys who did service at the meet and the visitors to whom they were attached:  
During the week, J. T. Fitzgerald of Chicago, president of the International Skating Association; Alton Fiewelly of the United States; L. A. Pladd, vice-president of the I. S. A.; Lorne Bowman, with W. E. Roughton of Montreal; R. E. Melville of the Montreal A. A. A.; David Legate, with Russell Wheeler; John Legate, with E. Stevenson; Murray Stroome, with Charles Jewter; Douglas Gibson, with Raymond Murray; Jack Bestley, with Richard Denmore; Montgomery, with Joe Moore; Harry Old Livingston, with Fred Bungden; Jack Penock, with Joseph Vosberg; Edward Relyea, with Wm. Murphy; New York; Ronald Morrey, with Geo. Fickelberry; Walter Webster, with Bobby Hearn; Vernon Waters, with Wm. Steinmetz; Wm. McKenna, with Wm. Harshy; Chicago; Arthur Patterson, with Harold Fortune; Donald Bostwick, with David Patrick; Reg. Whittick, with Leslie Boyd; Victor Regan, with Val Bialas; Douglas Cody, with West Becker; Eddie Jenner, with Roy Whittier; Edzer Adams, with Orle Green; Murray Brown, with G. Gloster; Selby Wetmore, with Earl Finch.

At the races the Y. M. C. I. committee, appreciative of the work of the Scouts, saw to it that they had good opportunity to witness the contests.

**LOCAL NEWS**  
A meeting of the creditors of Joseph S. Noel, of Lunenburg (N. B.), took place in the office of the trustee, the Canada Permanent Trust Company, yesterday afternoon. Frank Whippley and E. M. Smith were appointed inspectors, and the disposal of the assets of the estate was left in the hands of the inspectors and the trustee. The liabilities were slightly in excess of \$12,000, and the assets less than \$8,000.

The amount of income taxes collected in this district for 1921 was more than ninety-one per cent of the objective. It was announced yesterday by Norman P. McLeod, inspector of taxation for New Brunswick. Returns for January of light and heavy are yet to be received, and it was believed by local officials that when these are all in, the district will be well to the fore in regard to percentage of collection, compared with the other districts in Canada.

**STRANGE SEA TALE TOLD IN BOSTON**  
**Wave Sweeps Four From a Boat, and Returns Three.**  
Boston, Jan. 21—How four of his crew were swept overboard by a giant wave during the storm of last Wednesday, and three of them were returned to the deck by the same wave, was told by Captain Edward Fogg, of the Boston fishing schooner Athena, when he brought his vessel into port. The fourth sailor was drowned.

When the vessel was making for Provincetown to escape the storm the four men were dressing fish. A great sea swept over the vessel and carried all four men overboard. The captain said the same wave brought them back and deposited them on the deck. The fourth, Thomas Merchant, was caught by a second wave and carried away.

The last man was 22 years old, and formerly lived at Arichat, Cape Breton.

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actually had less unfilled orders, both as regards value and yards, than in previous years. This shrinkage was many due to the liquidation of stocks by wholesale and retailers and to uncertainty as to the course of prices, caused by a steady fall in the price of raw cotton from January to July.

A general advance in the price of piece goods took place in September, bringing out inquiries from all sides for a considerable quantity of goods. This gave the principal mills more business, and their position at the present time is that unfilled orders are on hand for two to three months ahead, which is considered to be practically a normal position.

**INCREASE THAT SOME PENNSYLVANIA MINERS DECIDE TO ASK FOR**  
Shamokin, Pa., Jan. 21—The Tri-District wage convention of the United Mine Workers of the anthracite fields yesterday decided to ask the operators for a twenty per cent increase in wages for contract miners and an increase of \$1 a day for all men employed by the day.

**FORMER PASTOR ONE OF PAIR INDICTED IN MAIL TRUCK ROBBERY**  
Los Angeles, Jan. 21—Indictments were returned yesterday by the federal grand jury against Herbert Wilson, who formerly held pastorates in Canada and Oregon, and Herbert Cox of Los Angeles, on charges of holding up and robbing a mail truck of \$750,000 in money and valuables here last March.

**NOT SURPRISING.**  
The bore was relating his experiences in the clubroom.  
"There I stood, gentlemen," the long-winded narrator was saying, after droning on for an hour regarding his trip to Switzerland—"there I stood, with the abyss yawning in front of me."  
"Excuse me," interrupted one of the unfortunate men who had been obliged to listen to the story, "but was that abyss yawning before you got there?"

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