

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1919

The Evening Times and Star

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2457. Subscription—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

BOTH HAVE WORK TO DO.

The board of trade is an established institution which fills an important place in the commercial life of St. John. The new Commercial Club will not conflict but co-operate with the board. The young men of the latter organization will find a field of effort not only in conjunction with the board of trade but in other directions. Had the board lived up to the prospectus issued when it was reorganized with ample funds some years ago there never would have been a Commercial Club, but the enthusiasm waned and the larger aims set forth in the prospectus were not achieved. This may serve as a warning to the newer organization that it must set its members at work—all of them—and keep them going. The time is very opportune. St. John has not progressed as it should have done because there has been a lack of that enthusiastic co-operation which is so noticeable in cities which are growing rapidly. All young business men should heed the call that comes to them and put their backs into some real work for the good of the city.

CHURCH AND PEOPLE

The religious forward movement in the evangelical churches is now attracting the attention of church members and through them will influence others to some extent. Christian Work, of New York, in a recent issue, made pointed reference to the need of what it regards as a weakness of the modern church in its relation to the world. We quote:—"But what the churches—churches, not merely ministers—first need is to repent to clear their minds, to adjust their facts, before they can work the works of God. One can never forget the attitude of so many of our countrymen in tent and train and behind the stricken field to Church Christianity. The 20th century God is all right, but the Church's God is not the one they cling about, but the one they serve—is no good to us. That justly or unjustly, was the sum of so much of their complaint. And much the thoughtful it led to much searching of heart. Is the Church the pioneer of the Kingdom of God, or only the rear-guard of an old social order? Do those who now appeal to her want her to be anything more than a rear-guard of peace and order? Will they support all her interests and privileges? Will they accept, first, the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? Are they ready for the good will which spread abroad in the hearts of men is her ministry? Or do they want her to be a last resort in the present struggles of competitive covetousness? Are they ready for a fearless moral leadership in the pursuit of the Kingdom of God, or think they that there is safety in the shibboleths of yesterday?"

The fact that representatives of churches hitherto not too friendly toward each other are now meeting on the same platform is one hopeful sign. In another respect there is also, perhaps, room for improvement. Class distinctions are not yet rooted out of the churches. We read that a "labor church" was opened in a western town recently. Why a labor church? Is it not that labor, churches, or felt that human brotherhood was not always practiced by those for whom it was preached? There is hope for the forward movement to the extent of the demand for his books. It is ample justification. There is too much criticism of the work of other men by those who have no notable work of their own in the list of literary achievements. Too many manuscripts have been rejected in Canada and found a welcome elsewhere. All this railing against the United States is merely a confession of the inability of those who rail to do their own part in building up a Canadian literature, and too often the young Canadian writer must make a name in the United States before he or she receives proper recognition in Canada. Some years ago two stories rejected by Canadian publications were accepted by one of the best known literary journals in Great Britain. It was not, therefore, a lack of merit, literary or otherwise that caused their rejection in Canada. Rev. H. A. Cody has won readers in Canada and in the United States. The sale of a hundred thousand copies of his books in the United States since last March is after all the best answer to a carping and unjust criticism at home.

AUTHORS AND CRITICS.

Rev. H. A. Cody in this issue of the Times-Star replies to a hostile critic of his latest book who had gone out of his way, as too many others have done, to sneer at Canadian writers. If the critic doubts Mr. Cody's ability as a writer the letter published today may help to enlighten him—and others. Mr. Cody's books are popular. Their moral tone is above criticism. If the author does not tear a passion to tatters, but prefers a story that flows along for the most part as quietly as his beloved St. John river, but like it, has its more thrilling moments, the popular demand for his books is ample justification. There is too much criticism of the work of other men by those who have no notable work of their own in the list of literary achievements. Too many manuscripts have been rejected in Canada and found a welcome elsewhere. All this railing against the United States is merely a confession of the inability of those who rail to do their own part in building up a Canadian literature, and too often the young Canadian writer must make a name in the United States before he or she receives proper recognition in Canada. Some years ago two stories rejected by Canadian publications were accepted by one of the best known literary journals in Great Britain. It was not, therefore, a lack of merit, literary or otherwise that caused their rejection in Canada. Rev. H. A. Cody has won readers in Canada and in the United States. The sale of a hundred thousand copies of his books in the United States since last March is after all the best answer to a carping and unjust criticism at home.

There is a serious situation in Toronto in connection with its general public hospital. It has a net debt of \$665,000. It is proposed, to put the institution squarely on its feet, that \$500,000 be subscribed by the public and the city and the university each grant \$125,000. The Globe, commending the proposal, says: "This proposal is entitled to sympathetic consideration on the part of both city and university. It must be remembered that if there were no General Hospital in Toronto there would have to be a large and costly municipal institution. Today city patients secure the advantages of this splendid and fully-equipped hospital at prices which are not remunerative. Its value to the university of Toronto is likewise inestimable. The educational facilities which it provides in connection with training in medicine and surgery are recognized to be essential."

Stranger things have happened than that St. John should have an air-raid, and there is no particular reason why it should be the last city to consider such a possibility. The Times-Star is not in a position to discuss with authority the merits or the prospects of the proposition now before the city council, but it should be carefully examined in the light of the knowledge that publicity is valuable to a city, and that the airplane will soon be a regular means of transportation.

Of the price movement in the United States, Bradstreet's for Nov. 29 says: "This week's index number, based on the prices per pound of thirty-one articles used for food, is \$5.10, compared with \$5.05 last week and \$4.93 for the week ending November 28, 1918. This week's number reflects a gain of 1 per cent over last week and of 34 per cent over the like week of last year, but it is 8.7 per cent down from the record high point of . . . 51 last."

By reducing his own salary three thousand dollars per year Premier Drury of Ontario has indicated that he is willing to help to keep expenses down. He will not do badly with \$9,000, although many men serving corporations get a good deal more. If Premier Drury gives Ontario good government he will earn a great deal more than his salary. He begins by setting a good example.

Financial Post—"The Saskatchewan Trades and Labor Council will have a representative to sit on the executive of the Board of Trade. This is an important development in the improvement of practical relations between business men and workers; nothing but good can come from a better understanding of each other's problems."

It has always been a reproach to this province that it kept no proper register of vital statistics. The new health department proposes to remove that reproach, and it should have the very hearty co-operation of the officials in every part of the province.

The new industrial conference at Washington will sit with closed doors. That is not a hopeful beginning. Sooner or later the public must know what it proposes—and why.

Some small coal mines in Kansas are now being operated under military control. The issue is fairly joined, and it remains to be seen what effect this will have upon the striking miners.

The Canadian parliament may not meet until February. The session will be lively, as many axes are being sharpened for the occasion.

PRESENTATION.

Before leaving the city last evening for his new appointment in Fredericton, Major S. S. Wetmore was the recipient of an address and a gold headed cane from His Worship the Mayor, on behalf of a group of citizens. Those present were: A. O. Skinner, Herbert S. Mayes, F. W. Daniel, Simon Jones, T. R. Promie, W. S. Clawson, C. W. deForest, A. N. McLean and A. S. Holman.

Police Court.

In the police court yesterday in the case against Arnold Reid and Walter Axle, charged with stealing razors from Sterling Kennedy's barber shop and also with stealing two coats from the Y. M. C. A., Sterling Kennedy said that nine razors, two pairs of clippers, two brushes and two combs had been stolen from his barber shop and subsequently Walter Axle had sold him one of the razors back. K. B. Ross, his assistant, gave evidence to this effect. On the other charge Basil D. Robertson, boy's work secretary, said that these men had been in the Y. M. C. A., but had no coats, and shortly after they left one coat was missing. The case was postponed until 1:30 day morning at ten o'clock. Thomas Ramsey, charged with having liquor in his beer shop, was fined \$100.

In St. John's (Stone) church last evening a patrol of Girl Guides was organized in charge of Mrs. Francis. They will receive instructions in sewing, millinery, cooking, and other subjects.



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IT IS COMING.

Le us think of Kris H. Kringle, who will soon be scheduled here, and we'll hear his sleighbells jingle on the frosty atmosphere. Long our thoughts have been of battling, of captains in their pads, and of blood and dry bones rattling where some fellows crawled and died. We've been too busy to walk and mangle with the things opposed to mirth; let us walk with J. Kris Kringle, who is boosting peace on earth. We have been immersed in trouble, we have sloughed around in care; we have long been pulling double, and our team mate was despair. Every kind of tribulation that the grim works could produce, has been dumped upon this nation every day. I am glad to greet the season when Kris Kringle comes to town, when there isn't rhyme or reason in a protest or a frown. In the snowy cope and dingle, in the spiny and the gien, I will root for J. K. Kringle, boost his nobles and boost again.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

UPPER CANADA.

On December 2, 1897, so numerous had become the warnings of an outbreak in Toronto on the seventh of the month, that the executive council of the province was called. This was in spite of the views of many governmental needs who still thought there was no likelihood of trouble. But on November 29 there had appeared in the paper of the dissatisfied party a proposed constitution for the country and that gave credence to the fear of a revolt. Also several farmers came to Toronto from the townships north of the city and declared that MacKenzie had told them there would be an uprising on the 7th.

At the council meeting the heads of Upper Canada discussed the situation and the prospect of the radical revolution. One declared that not fifty persons in the whole province were ready or anxious to take up arms against the constituted authorities. In fact only one or two in the meeting were fearful of trouble. Col. Fitzgibbon told of information he had received of men drilling by night, a blacksmith busy day and night making steel heads for pikes. Some laughed at his fears, but the colonel insisted he was right and they were wrong.

In the end those expecting trouble prevailed upon the authorities to issue a warrant for the arrest of MacKenzie and to organize two regiments of militia. Colonel Fitzgibbon was also appointed adjutant general of the forces required for handling the ugly situation. But he entered upon his work with little support from the government, who had at the close of the conference, declared that he was still unconvinced there was any real danger.

(Continued tomorrow.)

LIGHTER VEIN.

A preacher had ordered a load of beer from one of his parishioners. About noon the parishioner's little son came to the house crying lustily. On being asked what the matter was, he said that the load of hay had tipped over in the street. The preacher, a kindly man, said that he would fix it for him. He was told that the load of hay was not serious, and asked him to go to dinner.

But the preacher assured him that he would fix it all right with his father and urged him to go to dinner. He had at the close of the conference, declared that he was still unconvinced there was any real danger.

THE ITALIAN SITUATION.

(New York Evening Post.) The threat of revolution which the Italian government has been confronted is a threat from two directions. When we read the plans for uprisings have been discovered in some of the large manufacturing towns in the north of Italy and along the Adriatic coast it is well to recall that the conspiracies in the manufacturing cities are Socialist and anti-imperialist, whereas the plots on the Adriatic are pro-d'Annunzio. It is highly probable that the notable success of the Socialists in the recent elections would have encouraged hot-headed revolutionary schemes in any case, but it is obvious that Labor and Socialist counter-activity are stimulated by the militant poet's adventures in the Adriatic. If the government hesitates to take drastic action against d'Annunzio, one reason may be its fear of alienating the support of the army which it might lose to his cities; and yet it is this very hesitation on the part of the government that is feeding revolutionary agitation. In such a position a weak statesman throws up his hands; a strong man finds the means of playing off his enemies against each other. Were Nitti to fling down his challenge simultaneously to d'Annunzio and to the revolutionary Socialists he should seem to find enough support among Italians anxious for peace, which is now being menaced both by the chauvinists and the subversionists.

PROGRESSIVE FARMERS

The first community effort of Nebraska farmers to make use of electricity on their farms has just begun in Howard County. Both the housewife and farmer will seek to apply electrical power to their various household and farm problems. Thrashing machines, windmills and cornshellers are to be so operated and washing machines and churns. The farmers built the transmission line themselves at a cost of \$7,000, and will pay six cents per kilowatt for the power. They are chiefly Danes, heavy land owners and wealthy.

Alas, for Canadian Literature

To the Editor of The Times-Star:

Sir,—In the Nov. 22 number of the Montreal Standard there is a severe criticism of Canadian literature, in which is included my recent book, "The Touch of Abner." The writer of the article, who apparently has not the courage to sign his own name, has evidently a very low head. He reminds me of a certain man who, falling as an author, started out as a reviewer, and severely criticized all books of authors more successful than himself. Whether this is true concerning "The Dean" or whether he may be, I cannot say, but his writings very often bear the hallmarks of a dyspeptic and disappointed man. It is not my general habit to answer the criticisms of my books which appear from so-called "reviewers" for their name is "legion." But "The Dean" in this article has unreasonably attacked our national life, and held it up to scorn and ridicule. He says that "Canada is merely an intellectual parasite of the United States," and that "the Rotary Club is a good example of our intellectual parasitism." But he says that it is "a most worthy organization." Why, then, does "The Dean" growl if we have branches of the club here? He further says that "American tailors prescribe buttons on our shoulders; American shoemakers prescribe lumps on our shoes. And we meekly obey them." "Arbor Day" (by the way is "The Dean" responsible for the United States spelling of "Arbor" and "Labor")? So with the service flag, the "teddy bear," the whole paraphernalia of flags and crowns for the Victory Loan. So with our slang, our plays, our comic supplements, our "honey" words. We have nothing, we borrow, borrow, borrow.

And why, let me ask, should we not borrow, especially the things that are good? No doubt "The Dean" when he was pouring forth his invectives upon the Canadian literature, was working upon a typewriter made in the United States. Was not his room heated with anthracite coal from the great republic mines, and his room lighted by electric bulbs made across the border? In fact, does he not owe his electric light in the first place to a great American inventor? If he rode home in his auto, ten guesses to one it is a Ford or one of a similar make from the land to the south of us. When he reached home his dreary soul would be stimulated by an Edison gramophone, with American-made records. When he tired of "borrowed" music, he would pick up the latest United States novel, delight his soul in some stirring American problem, and curse all Canadian productions. On another night he would sit alone in a moving picture house, where he would laugh at Charlie Chaplin, and be moved to tears by Mary Pickford, or some other popular figure, all from the United States. On his way home he would light a cigar, bearing the brand of some large American firm. No matter where he turned "The Dean" would be confronted with United States productions, borrowed either for usefulness or recreation.

"The Dean" vents his spleen especially upon Canadian literature. He casts scorn upon my latest book, "The Touch of Abner." He says that I must cater both to the United States and to Canada, and therefore, my books are useless. But I wish to say that all my books are strongly Canadian in setting, and that I have never catered to the United States public. My novels, my books across the border are advertised as books of the "Canadian north-west" and that fact has not injured sales in the least degree. In fact, since last March 100,000 copies of my books were sold in the United States alone, and I may further add that though I have received hundreds of reviews of my work from the United States, so far I have failed to find among them such severe criticisms as are contained in certain Canadian newspapers and magazines, of which the Montreal Standard is one.

"The Dean" has said that "I invent nothing; we borrow, borrow, borrow." If this is so, then it must be due to men such as he who persistently discourage all Canadian productions of every kind. Concerning novels he says that "over all is the trail of the amateur." If so, then there is a good reason. We have had notable names in literature where are they now? Many of them went to the United States, simply because they received more recognition there than in their own native land. It has been said that for a Canadian to become recognized in his own country it is necessary for him first to make good in the United States. Is there not too much truth in this? "The Dean" further says that "style is the last quality demanded by the public, and the last the native novelist is fitted to supply. Neither in Canada nor the United States have we an educated public large enough to make it worth a writer's while to write good English for it." What a bad time "The Dean" must have been enduring when he wrote that article. Poor fellow, how he needs our sympathy.

In closing, I would remind "The Dean" and others of his ilk, of the answer made by a noted writer when his book, now a highly recognized work, had been severely criticized, "Produce better if thou canst. Condemn not the industry of another."

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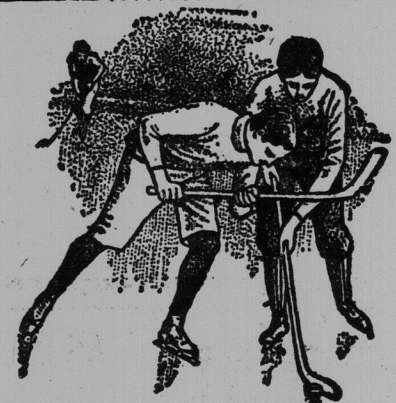
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