

# The Evening Times and Star

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## MORE THAN ONE PROBLEM

St. John offers an interesting problem in town planning, a problem which must be solved if the city is to provide accommodation for its present population, to say nothing of offering room for expansion.

In his report to the common council yesterday, Commissioner Bullock, who also is a member of the city housing commission, announced that one of the greatest difficulties which the commission had encountered was that experienced in finding land suitable for use as sites for dwellings of the type which the better housing act is designed to encourage. Some land was found to be suitable but too costly; other sites were cheap enough, but undesirable. There are some vacant lots in the city proper, and there is much vacant land farther away from the centre of the city, but land which presents the required attractions for desirable homes and which is within reach of the person of moderate means is declared painfully scarce.

Few cities have to contend with the peculiar situation in which St. John is placed on account of its geographical location. The strategic value of the city's position, situated as it is around one of the few available winter harbors on the Canadian coast and at the mouth of the St. John river, which contribute to the value of the location also prove a barrier to the easy growth of the community. With Courtenay Bay on one side, the harbor on the other, high rocky hills to the north and the great marsh to the east, the city is practically isolated. This has led to congestion in the street after street of closely packed dwellings, most of them with two of the requisites of ideal homes.

Of course the desire to live within a few blocks of the heart of the city may partake of a small town characteristic but it is one element of the situation which must be taken into consideration. If that tendency is to continue the only way in which St. John can grow is upward. Big apartment houses can accommodate a large number of people in a small area, but they do not provide the surroundings that hope life on which the best elements of the national spirit are based; and the housing acts refuse to aid in the construction of dwellings of this type.

Even if the home seeker is willing to go farther afield, there are few spots within the city limits which offer even a reasonable share of the advantages demanded. The largest territory which has not been built up lies in Stanley ward, where the lack of transportation and of other urban conveniences, and even the prospect of securing them within a reasonable period, make development in that direction a matter of uncertainty—to say the least.

Crossing the city boundaries, large open areas are found in East St. John and in Lancaster, and in these directions there has been more growth than elsewhere. The town planning experts have approved a proposal for the development of the city property on the Manawanish road, but here again the matter of transportation enters into the calculations of the would-be owner of a home of his own. The price of the lots, made necessary by the improvements which are part of the scheme, also add to the barrier interposed between the ownership of a home here and the man of limited means for whom aid is most urgently required. The extension of the street car service would bring this area within closer reach of the city, but even so the time required to get to it would give the home seeker a wider range of choice of location if spent in travelling on the steam railways to other suburban points.

As a matter of fact, many of St. John's citizens are facing and following this way out of the housing difficulty and the steadily increasing number of permanent dwellings erected along the C. N. R. line, and to a lesser extent along the C. P. R. shows that this is a tendency to be reckoned with in estimating the future growth of the city and the direction of that growth.

It is regarded as inevitable that St. John, some day, will be a much larger city than it is at present but where the additional population is to be housed is a problem which will require some ingenuity to solve; and how the houses are to be provided is another problem which already is assuming threatening proportions.

It is quite right that public aid towards the erection of dwellings should be used to encourage the construction of ideal homes in the most desirable surroundings, but if the limitations place this aid beyond the reach of those who need it, the object is not attained. People must live somewhere and if the community wishes to keep the present population within the city limits and to attract others to share in the building up of St. John and in the task of paying the city taxes, it may be found worth while to work out some scheme, which while not so satisfying, may at least help to provide shelter for those who find difficulty in securing one of any description in this city.

## A MATTER FOR CITY HALL

Complaints have been made by citizens, and more particularly by property owners, because of the fact that the periods during which the cash discount is allowed on the tax bills end on dates so close together. The discount is allowed this year on general taxes until September 10, and then the water rates must be paid by October 1, if the five per cent is to be saved. Property owners feel that they should be allowed an interval of at least one rent day between the payments, and few landlords are so fortunate as to receive all their rentals on the first day of the month, in time to take the money collected to city hall on that day. Even a few days of grace would be a great advantage to many citizens so situated and the extra days would not occasion serious loss to the city.

The use of the Carleton mill pond as the scene of an aquatic race on Saturday gives fresh impetus to the suggestions which have been made for the conversion of this area into something more desirable than an offence to the eye and the nostrils, as it is for a great part of the day. The plan to build flood gates and keep the pond filled with water all the time might not work out to the best advantage, but if this cannot be done there is little excuse for allowing the pond to remain in its present condition. If it were filled in the city would gain a large area of valuable land, which should offset the cost of filling.

The decision of the county council to go ahead with the construction of the nurses' home in connection with the general public hospital according to the original plan will be commended by the majority of the citizens. Provision for the sick and injured is an obligation which the community cannot escape and the saving that could be effected by cutting down the original plans would not compensate for the loss of convenience involved nor for the substitution of an unsightly structure for an attractive public building.

The standard devotes a column of editorial space to speculation on the question of where the city's money goes. Every citizen who has bills to pay can explain why more money is required this year than a few years ago to meet the expenses of either an individual or a city. The higher cost of living is the obvious answer.

The suggestion of the district health officer that East St. John should be included in city limits in order to give that district an opportunity to secure sewerage facilities again draws attention to the rapid growth of this district.

Dr. Thomas Travis, associate editor of Forest and Stream, speaks enthusiastically of the fish and game resources of New Brunswick but sounds a timely note of warning regarding their conservation.

**About Pearls.**  
M. J. Karples, an authority on pearls, gave some interesting information on these gems at the recent convention of jewelers at Atlantic City.

"Nature in producing pearls has given us a wonderful variety of shapes, sizes, colors and tints," said Mr. Karples. "We have the beautiful Fire Rose pearl of priceless value. I do not know that a string of them exists. An individual pearl of twenty or twenty-five grains of this variety will bring any price that may be asked for it."

"The price of the pearl depends upon its color, its perfectness, smooth skin and the chances of matching it with other pearls in a necklace. If we have 800 pearls of various sizes and colors we find that unless we know where to place each pearl in a necklace they lose greatly in value. On the other hand, if we know just where to place each pearl in a necklace, we find them doubled and tripled in value. Hence the ability to match a pearl with others is a large factor in its value."

"Pearls are found practically in all countries. Very fine ones have been found in our American rivers. The fine Orinental variety comes from the waters of Ceylon, Madagascar and other parts of the Indian ocean. Usually pearls travel to London and from there are distributed all over the world. After the outbreak of the war a number of dealers from India came to New York. During the war the United States was the largest importer of pearls and New York seems in a fair way to become the centre of the world's pearl trade."

**The Spanish Flg.**  
Among the various fruit crops of Spain, a prominent place must be assigned to the fig, because of its wide-spread cultivation throughout the peninsula and its general use as a food product. In a number of provinces the fig leads to other fruits in importance. The dried fruit serves as food for a large portion of the poorer classes, and in years of great abundance it is also used for fattening pigs for the local markets.

**Peace Treaties**  
The peace treaty with the Austrians is now being considered by them; it was taken to Vienna by their delegation yesterday. The peace treaty with Bulgaria, it is said, will bind that country to accept future decision by the powers with regard to Thrace and the Aegean Sea.



**Rippling Rhymes**  
by Walt Mason  
(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

**USELESS NOISE**  
The prices still are soaring, but noise won't bring them down; not all our frenzied shouting will cheapen things in town. So let us get together, renouncing tactics vain and ask our neighbors whether we can't do something sane. The prices have been speeded until our hearts are sore; and sanity is needed more now than ever before. We must be calm and thoughtful if we would lay, it's clear, our vengeful hands and swartful upon the profiteer. No vain and rapid ranting, no anarchistic wheeze, will bring the robbers pausing upon their stalled knees. We must be calm and sober, an earnest, quiet troop, or long before October we'll all be in the soup. While we remain excited the profiteers will say, "These delegates benighted are easy marks to flay. While they are raising thunder, and standing things on end, we have a chance to plunder that quiet, wouldn't you?" The pirate profiteering will bear the passing of a kind, while we are done carousing and raising merry halifax. So let us go together, and cease our riots vain, and ask our neighbors whether we can't do something sane.—Published exclusively by The George Matthew Adams Service, 8 West 40th street, New York.

## SUMMER IS DYING

Ah! 'tis a melancholy hour  
When fades the fragrant Summer flower,  
When through the woods and meadows dry  
The little-ghosts go drifting by.  
While soft and solemn winds seem sighing,  
"Summer is dying."

Ah! 'tis a melancholy scene  
When fields no longer smile serene  
With waving grain, when birds have fled  
And gladness seems to sadness given;  
When reminiscent winds seem sighing,  
"Summer is dying."

Ah! 'tis a melancholy sound  
When leaves begin to rustle round,  
When crickets chirp their lonely notes  
In tune to thoughts of bygone days,  
While restless, plaintive winds seem sighing,  
"Summer is dying."

Ah! 'tis a melancholy air  
That nips the heart with withering care;  
That, bird-like, let our minds take wing  
To soulful southlands there lying  
Beyond the chill winds that seem sighing,  
"Summer is dying."  
—Arcanus, in N. Y. Times.

## LIGHTER VEIN

The conversation had veered round to thrilling adventures.  
"You fellows," said Horatio Phibberly, "remind me of a little experience I had some time ago. I was riding a brackish bicycle down a steep hill, when suddenly the chain snapped and I careered down the rest of the hill guided by a flash of lightning with the jingling of my decanter, my boy. Remember esprit de corps—and all that sort of thing."  
A dead, dull silence descended on the company.

"Do you act toward your wife as you did before you married her?"  
"Exactly. I remember just how I used to act when I first fell in love with her. I used to lean over the fence in front of her house and gaze at her shadow on the curtain afraid to go in. And I act just the same now when I get home late."

The senior major of a British regiment was giving the benefit of his advice and experience to a youthful sub.  
"See here," he exclaimed, "this is your first dinner, and I will go with the decanter, my boy. Remember esprit de corps—and all that sort of thing."  
Here a good tip. See those silver candlesticks there? When you can see four instead of two—why, clear out, go home. See?"

"Perfectly, and thanks awfully," replied the young officer, "but don't you think you had better go home at once? There's only one candlestick."

One morning early the mistress of the house entered the kitchen and saw a plate and knife and fork, the former of which had evidently contained rabbit pie.

Strongly suspecting that a certain admirer of the maid's had supped off it, she said to her, "Mary, what became of the cold rabbit pie that was left?"  
"O," answered the girl, "I didn't think it was wanted, mum, so I gave it to the dog."

"Indeed," said the mistress, sarcastically. "Does the dog use a knife and fork, then?"  
"Not very well, mum," was the unabashed reply, "but I'm teaching him to."

## Record for Chronometer.

Showing a daily variation of but six one-hundredths of a second, a chronometer entered in the competition at the Geneva Conservatory exceeded the former record made in the year 1891 by one-hundredth of a second. One hundred and sixteen chronometers of 132 in 1917 and 106 in 1918. Of these 116 entries, five were marine chronometers and 111 pocket chronometers or watches, two of the latter being complicated pieces.

Professor Raoul Gautier of the Industrial Arts Society, writes Consul Lewis W. Hassel from Geneva, in regard to a report on the competition gave some interesting details on the tests which are made to determine the accuracy of the timepieces. The chronometers are graded on a scale of 1,000 numbers. The ideal watch would be granted 300 points for its daily precision, 300 points for its ability to support changes of position, 300 points for its ability to support changes of temperature, and 100 points for its ability to resume its normal precision after the changes of position and temperature. The different deviations of time are quoted in hundredths of a second. The maximum allowed at the Geneva Conservatory for pocket chronometers is one-half second of deviation during one day's run, two seconds after the position has been changed, fifteen one-hundredths for watches of different temperature, and two and one-half seconds of deviation after having resumed the normal position and temperature.

## Man In The Street

Five million Germans have asked permission to emigrate, presumably because they lack the price of a through ticket.

Will the Canadian senators consider it their duty to follow the example of the august body across the boundary and hurl a few bricks, at the league of nations before they ratify the peace treaty?

If some residents of Lancaster are in earnest in their remarks, the parish may petition the senate for the right of self-determination as a condition of the treaty.

By the way, has anyone heard anything of that provincial opposition convention which was to have been held last May, last June or this September?

Boycott by women purchasers is given the credit for the tumble in Chicago pork prices which helped to bring both the four-footed and the two-footed hogs to terms.

Natural History Museum is improving its collection of native woods, but the office boy says the collection must remain incomplete, he cannot spare a hunk from his head.

A friend of ours remarks that he has been smoking an awful lot of cigars lately. Judging by the odor, we heartily agree with him.

## Keep A Still Tongue

Here's another "prohibition story." The train was coming from Montreal. Somewhere up the line a passenger engaged in conversation with another. The latter was an official but was not in uniform. The talk gradually turned to prohibition, as you know, these days. "It's not hard to get if you know how," the passenger from Montreal confided to his seat-mate, the official. "I've a dozen self-boasted mixtures which I guess I'll be able to get by with." At McAdam the other got off the train but before it started another man in uniform got on, went up to the passenger who had claimed to have the whiskey and asked him if that was his suitcase beside him. The brass buttons must have frightened him because he denied owning the luggage and said he didn't know to whom it belonged. "Well, I'll take it for safekeeping," said the man in uniform, and the suitcase with the dozen bottles was surrendered without a murmur. The moral of this is not so much "don't try to smuggle in booze" as it is to "keep it to yourself if you are doing so" because it is strongly suspected that the first man to whom the knowledge was imparted to his brother in service and so the stuff disappeared. But what became of the liquor he had not told.

## Some Entertainment.

In one of our suburbs recently the high notes were coming from five to eight years, decided that, on their own initiative entirely, they would stage a concert for charitable purposes and they started in, hanging the whole lot of themselves from hiring the hall to the final production. The event was scheduled for Friday night, but it had to be postponed as one of the little girls, disgraced with the row to whom it belonged, was scratched from the cast and a substitute filled her place. On Saturday night the children were at the hall hours before the concert was to begin, "waiting for the crowd." The hall being filled, they started. No accompanists were provided, so the little lady who started the bill commenced her solo much too high for her childish treble, but she persevered and although the high notes were considerably reduced she got through without stopping. Then a little chap recited in a monotone a piece called "Fatigue," which was greeted with such applause that he came out and said it all over again. It was only with difficulty that he was restrained from doing it a third time. The programme worked its way through to the end, the closing number being a dialogue called "Snowdrops," with various fairy representations. The piece was well on its way when it was discovered that a comb, one of the "properties," was missing, so the production was halted while one of the little ladies descended into the audience and borrowed the required article, taken for the occasion from a lady's hair. And the programme was finished.

## NEW PLAN FOR PERMANENT RAILROAD LEGISLATION IN STATES

Washington, Sept. 3.—Private ownership and operation of railroads in some regional systems under strict government control with strikers and lockouts of railroad employees prohibited, is a plan for permanent railroad legislation submitted to the senate yesterday by Senator Cummins, chairman of the interstate commerce commission.

Funeral directors, clergymen and cemetery managers throughout Essex and Union counties in New Jersey are league to put a ban on Sunday funerals after September 1.

Yesterday the mercury reached seventy-six degrees. This was the third warmest day of the summer.

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# FIFTEEN DOLLARS A WEEK AS LURE TO GET SCHOOL TEACHERS

(New York Times.)

Wanted—One hundred young women to whom life is not altogether a matter of dollars and cents, to take a position in New Hampshire's rural schools at, say, \$15 a week.—Manchester Union.

It seems that New Hampshire "has set about building a first-rate educational system," under which school teachers will be splendidly pampered, as usual. The young women to whom this appeal is made can get \$30 a week all the year in a shoe factory or a cloth factory, but the century of teachers called for must love to teach, must feel that "their lives are counting for a good deal more than if they were weaving cloth or making shoes. Finally, our Manchester friend tries to cheer them with the hope that the pay of teachers will be made adequate after a fashion, some time.

Too flattering a hope, perhaps. Teaching is so supremely momentous to the state that the moulding of each generation is paid for at rate a scrub-woman would despise. Still, the hundred young women asked for will be found. There are yet in the country plenty of persons who love to work. If the ill-paid school teachers can but communicate that fading passion to their scholars, the United States will be all right in secula.

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