

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1919

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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 2417. Subscription prices—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.

### JAPAN AND KOREA.

A marked change in the attitude of Japan towards Korea is indicated by a statement made by Baron Minoru Satou, recently appointed governor-general of Korea, on the eve of his departure for Seoul. In this announcement of his policy, Admiral Satou promises that the old methods of punishment would be abolished, the right of free speech would be granted, and a Korean autonomous government in villages and districts would be instituted, with the eventual goal of Korean representation in the Japanese diet. The programme outlined does not meet the Korean demand for independence, but it gives promise of a vast improvement in the condition of the people of the formerly called hermit nation.

When Japan first took possession of Korea, promises of fair treatment were made, but unfortunately they were not carried out as fully as the people were led to expect. The Japanese must be given credit for instituting many reforms and improvements in the conquered country, but the general benefit of these changes was enjoyed more by Japanese settlers than by the natives. The rights of the Koreans were not given much consideration, especially when they happened to conflict with the desires of the invaders. The tendency of Japanese rule was to make Korea a Japanese colony, in which the Koreans would be permitted to continue to live and find their usefulness as servants of their new masters. The attitude of the governing race was one of repression, based on oppression and it was not to be expected that a people so intelligent as the Koreans would suffer this in silence forever.

Although a primitive people in many ways, when measured by our standards, the Koreans were heirs to a civilization older than either ours or that of the Japanese; education was not neglected and their arts and handicrafts were not to be despised, their method of living was simple but it seemed to suit them and they had been content to go along in their own way without interference from the outside world until scarcely a generation ago.

Perhaps the greatest weakness of the nation was the lack of ability shown in self-government. Under their own monarchy the chief purpose of the government seemed to have been the collection of taxes and of the money so raised a greater proportion went to corrupt officials than was used for the general welfare. Lacking in initiative as they are, the guidance of a stronger people might easily be beneficial to them, and their future as a small and weak independent nation might not prove so attractive as their visions of independence made it appear.

The peculiarly peaceful "revolution" which took place in Korea this spring, although costing the lives of many Koreans and bringing suffering to many more, has produced beneficial results. Coming at a time when the rights of smaller nations were receiving the attention of the world, their appeal for independence attracted more attention and more sympathy than it might have before the great war established new international ideals. Undoubtedly the Japanese had been influenced by the attitude of the Allied nations as shown in the peace conference discussions and they were more prepared to grant reasonable concessions than would have been even a few years ago. The policy now proposed measures up fairly well to British ideas of fair treatment for a dependent people who have not yet proved themselves capable of self-government and it can be carried out successfully a much brighter day for the Koreans is dawning.

### MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

The shell of the old court house still stands, forlorn and desolate, awaiting the decision of the city and county councils regarding the policy which is to be adopted in connection with the municipal building problem. The temporary provision made for the courts is excellent as an expedient, but it is not a permanent arrangement and cannot be continued indefinitely. The lack of room in the city hall, which necessitates the use of offices in three other buildings will not remedy itself. The county offices are located in rented premises and other public offices are scattered over the city.

This situation was aired pretty thoroughly at the time the court house was destroyed and the need for radical action, rather than a policy of patchwork and repair, was generally admitted. There was considerable difference of opinion regarding the proper solution of the problem, and the possible cost involved made many hesitate to approve of suggestions for building on a really adequate scale, and so public interest in the matter waned and action was postponed. Even if the city and county are not prepared to go ahead just yet with the erection of a suitable building which would provide room for all the municipal and other public offices which might find a home in such a structure, some action must be taken before long. Meanwhile the time which is elapsing might be used profitably in deciding what is to be done, in settling on a plan

and preparing to put it into execution when circumstances warrant.

The school trustees are to be congratulated on their decision to appoint a committee on vocational education and it is to be hoped that this will be but the first step towards active efforts to provide the training in this branch to which the children are entitled, and which is required if St. John is to retain her present position and increase her activity as an industrial community. Vocational training is a useful and successful life for many of the pupils in the public schools and it is an essential for the development of the industrial life of the city. The course contemplated is but a beginning of what should grow into a much larger scheme in the future, but it provides a sound foundation on which to erect the system of technical schools and colleges which should follow. At present the important thing to do is to make a start.

Not only in the city of St. John, but throughout the province, the announcement that the Martello Hotel building in West St. John has been secured for use as temporary quarters for the extension of the Protestant Orphans' Home will be received with satisfaction. It has been a serious reflection on the city and the province that sufficient accommodation was lacking for the care of bereft children. Every child is entitled to a fair start in life and the general recognition of this fact was shown by the prompt action of prominent citizens so soon as the situation was brought to their attention. There should be no difficulty in securing the funds required to provide for the immediate needs of the orphans and for placing the work on a permanent and substantial basis.

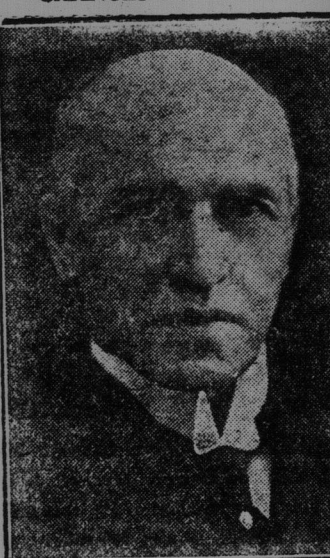
It must have been a very gallant thing for the Germans to know that their giant ship, the *Vaterland*, was being used throughout many months of the war to transport American soldiers to the European battlefields. Seized by the Americans and re-named the *Leviathan*, this second largest vessel in the world made nineteen round trips, taking over or bringing home fighting men of the United States. And now her war work is ended, crowned with the honor of bringing home the American legend, General Pershing. To peaceful pursuits her future will now be dedicated.

The re-opening of the schools, the return of city families from the country, the tang in the morning air, all denote the end of our all-too-short summer. September should give us pleasant days but thoughts soon must turn to the time of snow and furnace fires and the stock in the coal bins.

With October 20 set for the prohibition referendum in Ontario the "wet" and "dry" have six weeks in which to campaign. And it will likely be a lively period.

One more day left to save the five per cent discount on city taxes.

### CHANGES PORTFOLIO.



Hon. A. L. Sifton, who has been transferred from the ministry of customs to that of public works. He was one of the signatories of the peace treaty on behalf of Canada.

**A Time to Stop.**  
Toronto Mail and Empire: This constant yielding to demands for unwarrantably high rates of pay is one of the banes of government control of railways. Politicians are easy prey for a powerful group of unions, because they think that a deficit to be made up out of general taxes is less offensive to the public than a deficit to be made up out of general taxes. It is, therefore, a welcome sign of sane recognition of hard facts if they exist in railroad economics, that President Wilson has turned down the shopmen's main requests. Unless the vicious circle of widening costs is to bring disaster, there must be a check somewhere, and the shopmen's request is a good place to begin.

**To Cut Down Prices.**  
Buffalo Express: Chicago would not stand for the fifteen-cent shine and went on strike. Shines are now ten cents. Ought that not to encourage us to strike against the 50-cent hair cut?

**Wars and Rumors of War.**  
Toronto Globe: The wars in Europe show no sign of abatement in spite of the peace conference.



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### RELIEF COMING.

Be patient yet a little while, and winter will return; the blasts will come in arctic style, the blasts for which you gear. A little more of ardent heat, that heat which is a crime, and we may all exult in sleep and have the hangedest time. What though all night we toss and roll, and slumber does not come? 'Twill soon be time to shiver and make the furnace hum; then life will be one round of bliss without a caring care; remember it, on days like this, and cease to sigh and swear. Be patient, for it's always wise to bravely stand the gaff; so bode the germs and sweat the flies, and at hot weather laugh. The geese will soon be flying past, to dodge the polar storms, and, following, the eager blast will cool our fevered forms. And all our cares will disappear when winter brings its snows, and we have frothbite in the ear, and chilblains in the toes. How merrily we'll pay for coal that costs twelve bucks a ton, the precious knowledge in our soul, that summer days are done!

### I Follow.

I follow the lure of the lips of the morn.  
The breath of the pine bough, the call  
of the corn.  
The murmur of springs,  
And the butterfly's wings  
That flutter and fleet over height, over  
hollow.  
The voice of the wind as it chants, as it  
sings.  
I follow, I follow!  
I follow the luminous light in the west,  
The flickering sheen on the oriole's  
breast.  
The beckoning fern,  
And the hickory burn,  
The kingfisher's dart, and the sweep of  
the swallow.  
Aspiration and impulse and all things  
that yearn.  
I follow, I follow!  
I follow, I follow, I follow after  
The path of the sun and the path of the  
star  
To the secrets of birth  
And the wonders of death;  
While leaving behind me the empty and  
hollow.  
I seek what makes sweeter and fairer  
I follow, I follow!  
—Clinton Scollard, in the N. Y. Sun.

### LIGHTER VEIN.

"Here's my wife been taking coals to  
Newcastle."  
"In what way?"  
"She drove her car against the traffic  
policeman, pinning him to the scaphopod  
stand, and so she pinched the policeman."  
—Baltimore American.

"First you talk of a jewel robbery,"  
said the policeman, "and now all you  
have to say is that you have lost your  
cook."  
"Well," exclaimed Mr. Crossroads,  
"that cook was a jewel, and some of the  
neighbors came around and stole her."

"Heah Ah comes back from de wah  
an' finds yo' married to Baltimore Joe, an'  
yo' done swore to be true to me."  
"True? Was you true to me when you  
kept writin' all about your engagements  
with dat big Bertha orah thah?"

"What occasioned the sudden disappearance of Cascaud Charley from  
Crimson Gulch?"  
"Too much safety first," responded  
Cactus Joe, "just before the poker game  
he started the boys caught him marking  
the deck."

**The Principle the Same.**  
A well-known lawyer, in the peroration to his speech, said in a low, deep, and most impressive voice:  
"Gentlemen of the jury, the Scriptures tell us that Pontius Pilate wrote of the outward and invulnerable wall of mighty Nineveh these terrible and tragic words, 'Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin,' which, being interpreted, mean—"  
"The Scriptures," the judge snapped in angrily, "don't tell us that Pontius Pilate wrote any such words on any wall anywhere."

**Interference in Europe.**  
Ottawa Journal: Some people profess a passionate desire to see the newly liberated countries of Europe work out their own destiny, resenting anything in the nature of interference on the part of the Allies. It has been argued especially that the Allies had no business to butt into the affairs of Hungary, released from Hapsburg tyranny and seeking to establish a government of its own. But how has interference from the Allied peace council affected the interests of Hungary? For the better, surely. Allied suggestion ended the regime of the Bolshevik Bela Kun government. Now, it has defeated that country to resurrect the Hapsburg dynasty under Archduke Joseph. Hungary, it has been contended, should be free to choose its own government, but in the chaotic condition of the country the people are unable to choose for themselves. If they were able, would they select either a Bolshevik or a Hapsburg government? Surely not. So-called Allied interference has not usurped the proper rights of the Hungarians, but rather when in the direction of their preservation.

**A Woman and a Throne.**  
Calgary Herald: Prince Charles of Roumania has renounced his right to the throne of that country. It was a case of giving up the woman of his choice or passing up the royal title, and he took the latter course. It is a right there can be no question but that the prince did the best thing possible under the circumstances. European thrones are none too secure these days, anyway, while the love of a good woman is the most certain and constant thing in the whole world.

**Looking to Quebec.**  
Toronto Star: The farmers of Glenary are within their rights in refusing to accede to the election of Hon. Macdonald King by acclamation. Mr. King may be unable to enter the house at present except by way of Quebec. Why should there be any objection? Surely it is to the credit of a French-Canadian constituency to be broad-minded enough to elect a member who is not of the French race and who does not hold the prevailing faith of Quebec.

### CLOSE QUARTERS IN ROCKIES.

New York Herald—A mining engineer was taking a little exercise one morning in the Rockies and as he paused a moment to look about, a few bones caught his eye. The meat was picked from them, but the gristle was quite fresh. "Ah," he thought, "a bear must have been enjoying spring lamb." He thought bear, and he instantly saw bear. Lurching down the steep, and stopping directly in his path, was a huge grizzly, which was evidently as much surprised as the man, but not so frightened. The bear rose on its hind legs, waving its paws, and looked at the man slowly.

The engineer returned the stare, glance for glance, not knowing what else to do, half expecting the bear to run, as most four-footed will, and feeling backward at the same time for a footing that would give him range enough to use his rifle. As he took a step backward the bear stepped forward, growling. Oh for a tree. If there had been one in sight he would have risked running for it, as grizzlies are not good climbers, like the black bears; but there was—he could neither run nor shoot. His enemy gave a grin and a growl, and took another step forward, clawing at him.

The engineer dared not lift his rifle to his shoulder lest the bear should grab the muzzle, but he managed to grasp the butt down on the grizzly's nose with a heavy blow. The bear was only enraged, not stunned, and gave a growl, gnashing its teeth with a terrible noise. For a moment the man expected no other fate than to become the supper for little bears.

Something cold slipped along his shoulder and touched his cheek. Fortunately he had sufficient nerve not to miss the point altogether. Assuming that the bear intended to charge, he kept his ears ringing for death; but the bear plunged forward, just clearing him, and rolled down the rocks to a ledge below, shot through its wicked eye. A friend had come to the aid of the engineer.

**RUINED BY VICTORY.**  
World Outlook:—Will the war cost the French more per capita than it will cost the Germans? The Paris Matin believes that it will, and gives figures to prove the case:

"The war cost France \$25,000,000,000." "Of this \$25,000,000,000 demanded by the Allies from Germany, the share of France will amount to about \$15,000,000,000. Consequently, France will have to produce from her own resources about \$10,000,000,000. According to Mr. Bertillon's calculations, the war has reduced France to a population of 35,000,000."

"Germany has not been invaded, and her industries can be immediately put in order. Her minister of foreign affairs has said officially that the German nation expended \$84,000,000,000 in the war. With the indemnity of \$25,000,000,000 added to this figure, the total amounts to \$109,000,000,000. The population of Germany is approximately 68,000,000."

This means that the war debt of each Frenchman is more than \$1,400, while that of each German is less than \$900.

**THE RICH MEN'S SHOES.**  
Chicago Tribune:—A number of correspondents indulge in scorn and ridicule because certain of our rich men elect to wear their old shoes. We think they miss the point altogether. Assuming that these men, despite the income tax, could afford new shoes, it does not follow that their economy is merely a gesture. In any event, we the proletariat should be thankful. Suppose every man who could afford to do so should buy, ten pairs of new shoes every month, what would be the effect? Why, the price would probably advance so rapidly that we should have to wear our old shoes until they were worn out. Why blame the rich if they release more of it for the rest of us? More broadly, economy present should be regarded as a national necessity, and the economy of a rich man helps just as much in the scheme of things as that of the poor man. It is a pertinent fallacy that extravagance is virtue because it "puts money into circulation."

**TROUBLE FOR POSTERITY.**  
Seattle Post-Intelligencer:—A few generations hence when some newly rich start tracing their genealogies there will come a sudden halt when they run into the court proceedings where the name Deutsch was changed to Baker at the time of the war of 1914-18.

**RESOURCES OF CIVILIZATION.**  
New York Herald:—They found 55,000 pounds of gold in New Jersey which had been in storage since 1917. This suggests the case of the man who said, "I ordered three-minute eggs and they brought me some that were laid before the war began."

**A MANY HORNED BULL.**  
London Free Press:—The Irish Nationalist who wants the government "to take the Irish bull by the horns" probably has no idea with how many horns this particular dilemma is provided.

**Amateur Shopkeepers.**  
Montreal Gazette: The 100 Winnipeg housewives who are planning to start a big retail store are full of enthusiasm for the venture. But wait till they begin to have the usual buyers' troubles, not to mention the worry of managing their salesmen and drivers. And, besides, there are the taxes to consider, and the law's restrictions as to hours of sale, etc. Keeping shop is a serious and care-taking business if success is to be achieved.

**At War With Russia.**  
Springfield Republican: If it is true that Kronstadt is being destroyed by a British fleet it will be still more difficult to keep up the pretence that the Allies, or some of them, are not at war with Russia.

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**Mr. Asquith**  
Ottawa Journal: Every Canadian who takes an interest in Imperial affairs and who is not one among us who should fail to do so—must welcome the announcement that Mr. Asquith purposes returning to active political life. One of the most salient figures of his own or any other day, no Englishman since the passing of Mr. Gladstone so completely combines those qualities which go to make up a great Parliamentarian and no one quite equals him in capacity to interpret and express British thought in clear and lofty language. And in times such as these, when the need for greater reverence for Parliamentary institutions has become a clear necessity, the absence of Mr. Asquith from the House of Commons is a loss, not to England alone, but to every portion of the Empire where Parliamentary government prevails.

**Parents and Pupils**  
Staford Beacon: School time is coming again. All the schools which children and youths have to attend in this city open on September 2, the day after Labor Day. The problem of how to keep the small children employed should no longer engage the attention of the parents. It is important that the children of the requisite age should be at school when the opening takes place, both those who have been in attendance previously and those who are going for the first time. The teachers should not be hindered in their work by an absence at the very outset. The parents can help materially in the work of the school by seeing that the children attend regularly and punctually. The state educates the children. It is meet and right that the parents should cooperate by seeing that pupils get all the benefits that are to be derived from regular and full attendance.

**A Lesson From Finland**  
Dallas News: Finland, which suffered equally with Russia in the war, is now about the quietest country in Europe. This is because the Finns have sense enough to devote themselves to construction rather than destruction. "A little child shall lead them."

**At War With Russia**  
Springfield Republican: If it is true that Kronstadt is being destroyed by a British fleet it will be still more difficult to keep up the pretence that the Allies, or some of them, are not at war with Russia.

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