

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 11, 1920.

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.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

Sir Robert Borden will return to Ottawa tomorrow. The public has no information as to the actual condition of his health or his intentions. This state of uncertainty cannot go on indefinitely. The people of the whole country will be glad if it is announced that Sir Robert is fully restored to health, but they want to know what he proposes to do. The government has been without a leader or a policy quite long enough. It is long past the time when the people should have been given an opportunity to choose a new government. Will Sir Robert now proceed to adopt a policy and get ready for an appeal to the country, or will he announce his early retirement from office? The country has waited patiently for a long period and should now be made to get another taste of power for a Union government, with Sir Robert at its head, or whether another leader will be chosen and a new government, Union or otherwise, formulate a policy. The Hon. Robert Rogers is waiting in the underbrush to take the field at a moment's notice in support of a straight Conservative, high-tariff party. If it is the intention of Sir Robert to go to Washington as Canada's first ambassador, the announcement should be made, so that the country may adjust itself to new conditions, and a government with a definite policy and a fresh mandate from the people may assume the direction of affairs.

EAST AND WEST.

The Montreal Herald, discussing the apparently growing interest in maritime union in these provinces makes these observations:—

"A delicate situation seems to be developing in the relations between the maritime provinces and the Dominion arising out of the demand of the maritime provinces for complete control of their natural resources and a feeling that if this request is granted the federal government should grant compensation to the provinces by the sea. For the purpose of presenting a united front to Ottawa the project of a maritime union has been revived. It is contended that the maritime provinces are rapidly losing their influence in the Dominion and that the benefits expected from confederation have not been realized, while the west is making rapid progress at the expense of the provinces down by the sea. If delegates representing a united maritime union go to Ottawa and present a strong case, backed by the three prime ministers of these provinces, the federal government will be bound to lead an attack on the maritime provinces. They have been compelled to contribute a share of the heavy expenditure under this head which has gone chiefly to the building up of the prairie provinces."

Whatever may be the fate of maritime union the three provinces will undoubtedly draw closer together for the defence of their common interests. There is as yet no desire to lead an agitation to weaken the bond of confederation, but that bond is being steadily weakened at Ottawa by a disregard of the rights of the maritime provinces. The hopes held out at the time of confederation have not been realized, and there is a general feeling that the east has been sacrificed for the sake of the west.

A SHORTAGE OF MONEY.

Referring to an apparently growing shortage of money a financial review says:—

"It may be that the shortage of money is not quite as acute as many think, and that a drag has purposely been put upon speculation, not only in stocks but in commodities, but there does seem to be a genuine shortage which applies to capital requirements urgently needed in different enterprises as well as to speculative demands. The two-fold remedy for this is saving and increased production."

This remedy is not easily applied, because the people do not seem to be impressed by the need. Looking only at the surface of things they see no immediate reason for a halt in the extravagance which is so marked a feature of life today, and it will probably take a severe jolt to bring them to a full realization of the seriousness of the situation. Moreover, increased production is hampered by high costs, and would be still further affected adversely by a scarcity of money to finance new activities or extend those already in existence. And yet, in saving and increased production lies the hope of better conditions. The Financial Post believes we are near the peak of high prices, but there is nowhere an indication of a rapid decline. Nothing would so much contribute to a downward movement as a wave of economy in purchasing, for then the supply would begin to overtake the demand.

The Valley Railway should have a suburban service. There are great opportunities for the development of a heavy summer traffic between St. John and Oak Point. It is good business to take full advantage of such an opportunity.

IMMIGRATION.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Post learns that the immigration and colonization department does not anticipate a large influx of settlers from Great Britain this year, as the partition of the big estates at home offers good opportunities for young men who desire to own land. Moreover, wages are said to be good and there seems to be plenty of employment. But the correspondent adds:—

"There will, however, be a big immigration from the United States. Government agents who have been operating across the line are estimating that not less than one hundred thousand farmers will cross the border this year, going almost wholly into the western provinces, with a preference for Alberta. The movement is already beginning, and officials of the immigration department say that at one western point 150 farmers entered in one day recently."

These Americans are a very desirable class of settlers, and more to be sought after than much of the immigration that comes from central and southern Europe. They are already familiar with farming conditions and come with a substantial amount of money to invest. Some fear has been expressed that they might be imbued with American ideas that would not be relished in Canada, but we may safely assume that intelligent men bringing their families and making their homes in Canada will prove to be good citizens, and much more to be relied on than those from Europe who crowd the cities and have little in common with Canadians in the matter of national ideals.

The Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance has entered upon a very vigorous campaign to make the coming referendum a triumph for prohibition. A campaign budget of \$150,000 has been approved. The executive committee says:—"It is our purpose that the whole resources and influence of this Alliance, together with staff, shall be applied with full force, and in effort to secure such a great majority as will make our victory decisive; and that efforts be continued to secure the greatest possible co-operation of the various organized prohibition forces in carrying on the campaign." Conventions will be held in every electoral district, every elector will be canvassed, and every poll efficiently manned on polling day.

It will undoubtedly be to the advantage of Canada to have a capable ambassador at Washington. The relations between the two countries are close, and many matters arise that call for prompt adjustment. These can best be dealt with by a Canadian who is thoroughly familiar with the Canadian point of view. Incidentally there will be longings eyes cast in the direction of this office of dignity and importance.

The municipal council should decide in favor of a municipal building worthy of a city the size of St. John. To repair the old court house would be like turning back the hands of the clock.

If there are to be subsidies for shipbuilding there is an excellent site for a shipbuilding plant at Courtenay Bay, where such a plant should have been established several years ago.

The citizens of the North End should rally in force to form a strong Improvement League. The west and south ends must also wake up. The east end has set the pace.

East St. John needs a modern school building. The residents should press this matter until a satisfactory result is achieved.

St. John is to have two new school buildings. They should be designed for community use as well as for the purposes of a day school.

The Rothery road should be made safe by prompt prosecution of every violator of the road laws and regulations.

The revolution in Mexico appears to be complete. Carranza is practically down and out.

Resumption of the Boston steamship service will be hailed with satisfaction throughout the province.

EAST ST. JOHN SCHOOL.

The board of governors of the Boys' Industrial Home, at a meeting in the office of Mayor Schofield yesterday afternoon, considered the application of the trustees of the East St. John school for a grant or lease to a portion of the land occupied by the home. It was pointed out by the older members of the board that the land is a grant to the home by the federal government and that it is not in the province of the governors to make any grant or lease of it. However, members of the board will look over the area asked for by the school trustees, and if satisfied will recommend the school board to make a formal application for the land to the dominion government.

Mayor Schofield was elected chairman of the board succeeding R. T. Hayes, the retiring mayor.



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BAD LUCK.

It is seldom ill is single; in a regiment they rise, and our scalding teardrops mingle with the tears of other guys. When a blaze calls out the firemen, there'll be seven in a row, while the bards and kindred lyre-men chant the litany of woe. Now a tire sustains a puncture, in a long cross-country run, and the driver, at this juncture, knows his grief is but begun. Not a paragon he'll travel, but a tire is running flat; tacks and nails and chunks of gravel all contributing to that. To the morals and kindred lyre-men are such grievous things as these, and his language, hot and shimmering, with the leaves on nearby trees. Things go wrong at early morning, wrong when from your couch you start, and you take it as a warning that the day will break your heart. For our evils come cawing, not alas, as single spies; but in legions they come snoring, as we sadly swat the flies. But they'll soon have run their courses, and the luck will change awhile; for our woe we'll have divorces, and we'll spring the old time smile.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

HENRY HUDSON.

When the white men came to the New World first they thought the new land was a narrow strip of land through which a water way might be found to give a short way to the east. For many years they sought this shorter route by the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence river; in fact it was in the attempt to discover the way to China and the Indies that the great west of America was discovered.

In the days of Champlain, Henry Hudson sailed across the Atlantic in a vessel called the Half Moon to search for a water-way to the east. He sailed into bays and inlets along the coast, but found no passage through the land. He determined to search for a passage further north. He crossed the sea again in a vessel called the Discovery. Then he sailed north until he came to what is now known as Hudson Bay. Thinking there might be a way across the land from that sea he remained there until the ice went out in the spring and he could sail across the sea and see what was on the other side. His men had been very much wearied by the long winter in the lonely land and so when spring came they wanted to return without making any attempt to find the way across the land barrier. Hudson refused to return without making another attempt, so they put him adrift in an open boat with his son and a few sick men. Then they sailed home leaving him to perish in the cold northern waters. Hudson disappeared forever and it is supposed that he found a grave in the great sea that still bears his name.

The result of the trip was that explorers began to wonder if the great inland sea could be reached by any over-land route and a result hardly explorers set out to accomplish that task.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Willing to Share Burden. The Lady Straphanger—In all my affairs I insist on standing on the footing of men.

The Mere Man—I wish you'd divide your attention. For the last ten blocks you've stood on my footing alone—Houston Post.

The New Version. Everybody laughs but father: He's working hard all day, Nose upon the grindstone, Keeping the wolf in the pen, Mother's joined the union, So has sister Anne, Everybody's struck in our house, But my old man. —Poster Ware.

Another on the Scotch. "I hear that Sandy has quit playing golf," remarked one crony to another at the first tee. "You don't let me? Not the Scotchman who has been a golfer for forty years?" "Yep, that's the chap." "What's the reason? Is he crippled?" "Oh, no, he lost his golf ball."

A drunk, taken to the police station recently, was allowed to sleep off his jag and then set free because he gave the night squad the best laugh they've had in a long time.

"How do you happen to be lying there in the gutter?" demanded the sergeant severely. "Sill right, boss, I just happened to walk between two lamp posts and leaned against the wrong one."

A Fast Five Minutes. Steve—That Smith guy of the Meadow Bottom Development Company has got the fastest car in this neck of the country. He makes ninety miles an hour. Hank—Some car! What's he want of such a speed demon? Steve—He's gotta have it when he's advertising his development as being five minutes from the station.—New York World.

"That fortune teller must have thought I was an heiress?" "Why, dear?" "She said I was to marry a poet and live happily ever afterward."—Boston Transcript.

"Shakespeare had no scenery worth mentioning!" "And he had no press agent, either," said Stormington Barnes. "Otherwise there would have been no lingering doubt as to who wrote the plays."—Washington Star.

TAX ON DANCE SUPPERS IN THE ONTARIO HOTELS.

Toronto, May 11.—Hon. Peter Smith, provincial treasurer, introduced his bill to class dance suppers in hotels, cabarets and restaurants as taxable amusements, at yesterday's sitting of the legislature.

NEW AIR RECORD.

El Centro, Calif., May 11.—Captain Lowell H. Smith, commanding officer of Puryear Field here, broke what is said to be the world's record for an airplane carrying a pilot and three passengers, when he ascended 17,100 feet. The airplane was in the air two hours and forty minutes.

The third rank was exemplified last night by the St. John Lodge, No. 3, K. of P., in their rooms, Temple Building, Main street, and twenty-four candidates received the degree.

A CANADIAN NOVELIST

The Work of Lucie Maud Montgomery of P. E. Island —The "Anne" Books.

Everybody loves the "Anne" books. They are all the more lovable when we realize that the author is a Canadian—a genuine Canadian. She claims Prince Edward Island as her native province. Lucie Maud Montgomery was born in Clifton, Prince Edward Island, but lived from her infancy on a farm near Cavendish with her grandparents, her mother having died before she was two years old. Cavendish is situated on the north shore of the most picturesque surroundings in the whole province. Cavendish figures as Avonlea in Miss Montgomery's novels, and the first two "Anne" books are said to hold reflections of her own childhood. She loved the sea and fisherfolk from her early childhood, and spent practically all her time on the coast during the fishing season.

When still a child she created her own little stories, and had her special friends among the imaginary people. She would wander off all by herself along the seashore and talk to her collection of imaginary people. They were her most intimate friends. She had a passionate love for nature and her wonderful outdoors, and had a whole host of fairies at her command. But then it is said that her grandfather's death was the fairest dwell.

She attended the "district school" in Cavendish until she was sixteen years of age, and then took a course at the Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, for one year, and later attended for one winter Dalhousie College in Halifax. For three years she taught school and had already begun her literary career. She would rise at 5 o'clock each morning and write before breakfast. At her grandfather's death she went home to stay with her grandmother, and then gave all her time to her writing.

In the year 1911 she was married to her grandfather's orchard to Rev. Ewan MacDonald, Presbyterian minister of Lunenburg, Ontario. The admirers of Miss Montgomery are not a bit surprised that she wrote poetry before prose. It isn't strange that any one with such a vivid imagination, such an intimacy with nature and such originality should be a poet. And then she has a direct descendant of the Scotch poet, Hector MacNeill, author of the well-known lyrics: "Saw Ye My Wee Thingie," "I Laid Nipper a Laddie but Aye," and "Come Under My Plaidie."

Miss Montgomery has the talent of bringing before one's eyes the beauty, humor and pathos of what we might have called a vivid prosaic and unworldly of special notice. She has a wonderful way of describing nature in all her glory; one has but to close the eyes and the whole picture is there.

In the year 1908 she presented "Anne of Green Gables" to the public, which proved more than a delight to all the female readers. Hundreds of thousands of copies have been sold. Such original humor is rarely met with; and Anne had a warm spot in every reader's heart. She is a gingerly, red-headed orphan girl sent in mistake from the Home to an elderly bachelor, and his sister. They wanted a boy, but Anne soon won their sympathy, and after much consideration they kept her. She, the high-spirited, sensitive girl, dominated the whole book. Her imagination is wonderful, and she holds the attention and admiration of the readers from start to finish. Even Mark Twain, after reading the book, sent a letter to an actor friend, in which he said: "Anne of Green Gables is the sweetest creation of child-life yet written." No doubt the author's life with her elderly grandparents gave her the sympathetic understanding of orphan Anne's little problems.

Then came to the admiring public "Kilnsey of the Orchard," "The Story Girl," "Chronicles of Avonlea," "The Golden Road," and more "Anne Books." In "Anne of Avonlea" the orphan girl has worked her way into everyone's heart, and spends two eventful years teaching school. The author, understanding children thoroughly, makes all her new characters just as perfectly natural as one.

In "Anne of the Island" we find our heroine entering college and coming out with the initials B. A. added to Anne Shirley.

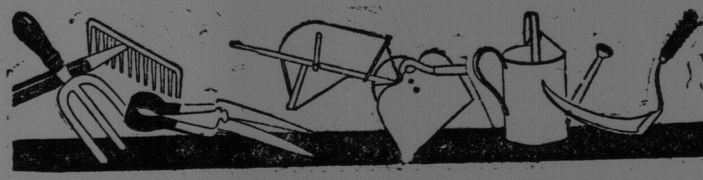
Then comes "Anne's House of Dreams," said to be the author's masterpiece. Anne is now Mrs. Gilbert Blythe, and lives along the seacoast, and mingles with her beloved fisherfolk. "Rainbow Valley" is this clever author's latest novel, and is a sweet, clean, wholesome story of home life. Anne's children, along with the prominent places through the book. After reading the lively experiences of the children and looking into their loving dispositions it isn't surprising to learn that the author has two boys of her very own.

The public is waiting anxiously for Miss Montgomery's next novel, which will undoubtedly be a war story with Anne's sons in khaki.

This winter the Famous Players are going to introduce Anne to the public by means of the moving picture screen. The Anne stories have been dramatized, and the setting will be the farms and orchards of Prince Edward Island, the land of enchantment.

Miss Montgomery's volume of poetry is said to quite excel her novels. The

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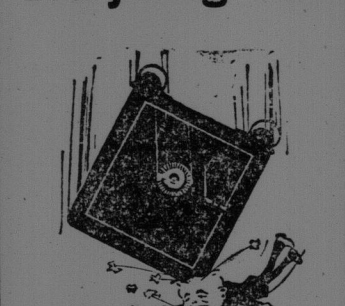
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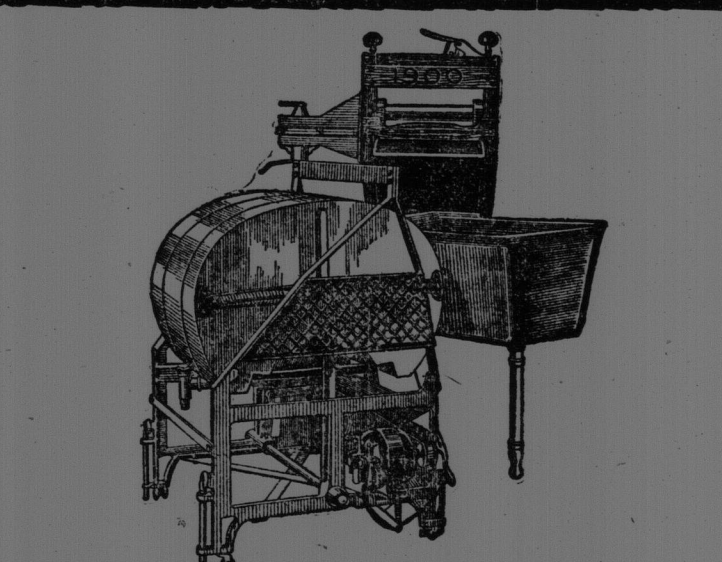
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