

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1921

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 28, 1921.

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TO THE RESCUE

The Times desires to appeal to the Board of Trade, Commercial Club, Trades and Labor Council, Rotary Club and women's organizations to save the city from the disgrace of abandoning vocational training. This journal believes that the seriousness of the situation has not been grasped by the public. It does not believe those who have singled out vocational training for the axe in order to reduce their taxes represent the intelligent opinion of St. John.

The Times prints today the first of several letters from Director Lawson, giving the truth of the matter. Every reader is invited to read these letters and to judge fairly. Director Lawson in the letter printed today exposes some of the incorrect assertions made by the tax reductionists and by some who appear to be actuated more by a spirit of vindictiveness than a desire to promote the welfare of the youth of this city.

Mr. Lawson points out that last year because it was necessary to demonstrate the value of vocational training the classes were thrown open to a much larger extent than this winter, and that in the future the selection of students will be still more carefully made. Of the present class in domestic science, for example, there is not one who is the wife or daughter of a professional man in search of diversion. Thirty-four are working girls, such as book-keepers, cashiers, clerks and shop assistants, fourteen are engaged in housework and four are teachers. The conditions are similar in other classes. Who wants to deprive these girls of the opportunity to improve themselves, when so large a portion of the cost of tuition is paid by the provincial government? Or who desires to deprive the members of the other classes of a similar opportunity?

With regard to the contention that school boys and girls are not getting the benefit, the grant asked for this year would be partially spent to provide day classes in commercial work for these very young people. The plan of the vocational board is progressive. It does not expect and cannot be expected to do everything at once.

There is one matter, however, which demands attention. Is it true that there is in the vocational board itself opposition to vocational training? If any members of the board are opposed, then the resignation of such member or members should be accepted at once. It would be absurd as well as unwise to retain on a board appointed for a specific purpose any person opposed to that purpose. The public interest demands a continuation of vocational training classes, and an extension of the work to include day classes. It would be extraordinary if the various organizations named in the opening paragraph of this article permitted such a retrograde step as the abandonment of the work already begun.

HUMANITARIANISM.

At a meeting of the Children's Aid Society of Halifax this week, after addresses by Mr. John P. McKee, Miss Wisdom, Mr. Ernest H. Blois, superintendent of neglected and dependent children in Nova Scotia, and Rev. Dr. Curren, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"In view of the consensus of opinion among authorities on child welfare regarding the importance of the home for the proper nurture and training of future citizens of the state, the Children's Aid Society endorses most heartily the principal of allowances from public funds for widowed mothers with families of young children. This society is glad to know that the matter is receiving attention of the provincial government and that a commission has been appointed to make the necessary survey to ascertain the number of widows in the province entitled to receive assistance in order to preserve the family home."

There is another movement in Nova Scotia that is worthy of attention in other provinces. The Halifax Chronicle says:—"There was a time when public interest in the care of the feeble-minded in Nova Scotia was at a very low ebb, and, in consequence, the province today is facing a truly serious problem in arranging for their care. Nevertheless, public opinion is now so enlightened that it demands an attempt at solution. This menace to the future of the country cannot longer be ignored. It is not safe to continue the previous policy of neglect. The unflinching interest of the few has at last had its reward in the enthusiasm of the many."

Reviewing the change that has come about in the treatment of the abnormal or sub-normal, the Chronicle goes on:—"Insane asylums were once little better

than torture chambers, because the mentally normal mass held the mentally abnormal few to be criminals of the deepest dye. Now we have hospitals for the treatment of mental diseases, and a large percentage of the cases treated recover mental poise. Once the sub-normal or feeble-minded child was neglected, punished, allowed to be the butt of the community, and to become the progenitor of idiots, paupers and criminals. When we first began to feel any public responsibility for them, we thrust them into reform schools, country poor farms or jails, to mingle with the vicious or the hopeless, if harmless insane. Now we are learning that there is potential good and potential power, not, of course, of a high grade, in the feeble-minded, if taken in hand early and properly trained. Moreover, we know that by keeping adult feeble-minded during procreative years, in proper institutions, we are lessening the chances of handing on still worse problems to posterity. These are some of the reasons why Nova Scotia as a whole is now demanding a home for the feeble-minded."

Of course provision of a home for the feeble-minded involves a scientific examination of such persons in order that no injustice may be done. Apparent mental deficiency may sometimes be due to physical defects, and this calls for expert knowledge. Hence there is need for the psychiatric clinic. This could not be provided in every community, and in the case of Nova Scotia the Chronicle suggests a central clinic at Halifax, from which an expert could be sent to examine cases in any part of the province. The necessary expenditure would, says the Chronicle, "mean the saving of tens of thousands of dollars eventually, and the brightening of scores of darkened lives."

Of course such an examination would be of little value unless an institution were provided for the care of those found to be in need of institutional care for their own protection and the good of the community at large; and the need of such an institution does not need to be demonstrated. The trend of modern legislation everywhere is in the direction of a greater recognition of humanitarian principles, and of the rights and the welfare of those who through physical, mental or moral defects or unavoidable misfortune are in need of community sympathy and care.

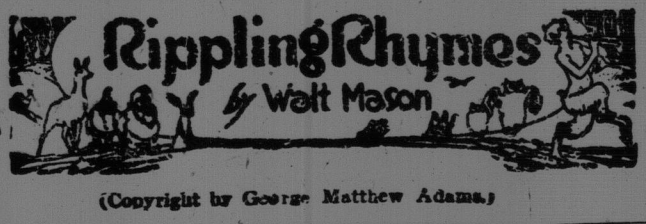
From estimates made by social workers there are from 400 to 700 illegitimate children brought into the world in Toronto every year. The Ontario government has a bill already drafted which will make fathers of illegitimate children jointly responsible for their support. A deputation representing various social agencies in Toronto waited upon the government a few days ago, and was told that legislation was almost ready. This legislation would eliminate the double standard of morality, which leaves the burden of caring for illegitimate children upon the mother or on the public. This subject is also being made the subject of consideration and enquiry in Nova Scotia.

THE PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS.

But for the burden imposed by the Valley Railway interest charges, the province would have this year the most satisfactory financial showing in its history. The statement of accounts printed today shows that the ordinary receipts were nearly \$100,000 greater than the ordinary expenditures. The surplus on ordinary account was thus the largest in the history of the province. The receipts from territorial revenue alone were no less than \$1,889,839, which is more than the total receipts from all sources in the last year of the former government. The expenditures were heavy. It costs more for a government to do business now than in former years, just as it does for a private individual or business concern. The heaviest increase in expenditure over the estimates was in the public works department, for roads and bridges, but in all departments increased cost had to be reckoned with. It cannot be expected that the revenue for the current year will be as large as that of last year, and there will necessarily be a pruning of the estimates to correspond. The item of \$311,903 for Valley Railway interest, with only \$39,552 as the province's share of earnings to offset it, is the cause of an adverse balance. For this the present government is not responsible. It is unfortunate that the earnings of the road are still so small, for the interest charge is a heavy burden to bear. The government is to be congratulated on the revenue statement which is presented today, and upon the progressive policies it has carried out under the handicap of high cost in every direction.

POTATO GROWERS MEET.

Hon. D. W. Mercer, minister of agriculture, was the principal speaker last night at the meeting of the New Brunswick Potato Growers' Association in Woodstock on Thursday and Friday. The subject was "Can the Farmer grow potatoes at the present price of fertilizer?" H. B. Dorset, also addressed the meeting. A. A. H. Margison of Centerville, was in the chair. The following officers were elected: President, E. C. Morgan, Hartland; Vice-President, A. A. H. Margison, East Centerville; Secretary, C. C. Cunningham, Fredericton; Treasurer, W. H. Moore, York County.



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HIS BUSY DAYS.

Now Brother Harding's days are busy, he has small chance to rest, or take a joyride in his lizze, the sport he loves the best; for every hour some statesman dilly arrives to be his guest. All day the garden gate is creaking as statesmen enter there, to do a lot of tiresome speaking and springing of hot air; and though poor Warren's nerves are shrieking, he has to grin and bear. He signified that he was willing to hear the views of men, and when windy James goes drilling to bore him in his den, expounding in their language thrilling the whiteness of the when. And Warren oftentimes is thinking of brighter days, I guess, before Renown was busy linking his life with such distress, when in his shirt-sleeves he was inking his cheap old army press. The patriots all day surround him, and tell him what to do, and off their yammerings confound him, and make him sad and blue; and office seekers hunt and hound him, and laugh when he says "Shoot!" And as they jabber he is dreaming of brighter days gone by, when approbation warm was beaming from Old Subscriber's eye, before the whole mad world was screaming for pie, and still more pie.

THE LANE TO BALLYBREE.

There's a little lane a-winding, a crooked little lane; A dewy, woodland scented lane, that leads to Ballybree. Where the Hawthorn houghs are laden with their wealth of stary bloom, And sweetly singing little birds are heard on bush and tree.

There's a little lane a-winding, a winding lane; Where the furze is all in blossom like a wave of yellow-gold, And every turning in the brake you hear the leaves a stirring, 'Tis the little fairy people—oh, they're very brave and bold.

There's a little lane a-winding, a crooked little lane, And there's some one at the end of it, who's wishing hard for me; There's soft winds gently blowing—a peat fire brightly glowing—Oh! I'm aching to be wandering the lane to Ballybree.—Katherine Edelman in the Kansas City Star.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Then She Changed Her Mind. A popular actor tells a good story against himself. Going up the steps of his church to conduct the service, he was accosted by a stately old lady in difficulties with her breathing. "Pardon me," she said, "but would you do me the favor of assisting me up the steps?" "Certainly, madam," assented the actor, giving her his arm. They reached the door, when the old lady, pausing for a moment's rest, said: "Pardon me once more, but do you happen to know who is preaching this morning?" "The rector, madam," replied the actor. "Oh!" she said. "Then might I beg you to do me another favor?" "Certainly," replied the actor once more. "What else can I do for you?" "Would you," said the old lady, "be so good as to assist me down the steps again?"

Looked Out For No. 1.

Green, Brown and Johnson were invited to Robinson's Christmas dinner. On the way there Brown remarked to Johnson and Green: "By the way, you fellows, I just want to give you a friendly warning. Beware of Robinson's champagne!" So when the drinks were produced, Johnson and Green said they would drink nothing stronger than lemonade. Much to their surprise, however, Brown did not follow their example, but drank the champagne. So on the way home they asked him: "What really was the matter with Robinson's champagne?" "Oh, the quality was all right," replied Brown quietly. "It was the quantity I thought would be deficient—not enough for everybody."—London Ideas.

"Miss Peach, you are gorgeous!" tooted William Telle. "When I look into your deep blue eyes, I feel my soul surge from out of the deepest depth of my heart. I cannot breathe; as in a swoon I am carried to some tranquil, quiet lagoon. That heavenly lagoon, in which blissful peace settles upon me, is in your eyes; the blue is the island, the whites around, the calm, happy sea, and the coral palms all round, your perfect eyebrows; there is Robinson."—O, I wish I could spend all my life on those enchanted shores!" Thus he babbled on for twenty minutes.

How those eyes of hers shone, how her pretty little cheeks blushed. "Mr. Telle," she said at last, "everybody says that you are such a flatterer." "But I believe you are sincere. Please excuse me, don't let me interrupt your remarks!"

The Amateur Farmer.

The favorite avocation of a well-known surgeon is his model farm near Chicago. It pays no profit except great pleasure. He is hospitable, always asking friends to dinner. One Sunday about noon fourteen unexpected guests arrived. His wife was aghast. "But," she said, "we haven't a thing to give them. Oh, anything will do," said the doctor. So the lady of the house consulted the cook. "What about that crate of pigeons out in the barn?" asked the cook. "How many are there?" asked the lady. "About eighteen," was the answer. "Well, bring their necks and fix them up." Dinner was served and the doctor, "What's that?" exclaimed the doctor. "Now, Fred, just go ahead and serve," said his wife. "But what are these?" he expostulated. "Just some pigeons. 'Well,' he exclaimed, "those pigeons cost twenty-five dollars apiece!"—Journal of the American Medical Association.

Respectfully Declined.

An income tax form was returned recently with the following remark:—"Sir, I belongs to the Foresters and don't wish to join the Income Tax."—Tit-Bits (London).

When a wagon-load of police responded to energetic cries for help from the victim of a holdup in Lancaster, Penn., they found a young man wildly demanding the arrest of a rival who had stolen his girl from him while he was walking along the street with her. "He pushed in between us and walked away with her. I want him arrested," he said, but the police were powerless.

After all, we are our brother's keeper. Nations that forget this perish. Individuals, too, lose out.—Forbes Magazine (N. Y.).

THOUSANDS MORE ON LIST OF THOSE LACKING WORK

In United Kingdom in Last Week 60,000 Names Added—The Coal Situation.

London, Jan. 29.—The tide of unemployment is still flowing. The number of those without work registered at the labor exchanges throughout the kingdom, which was close to a million on January 21, has increased by 60,000 in the week just passed. These figures are exclusive of those who are working on short time, and it is known that large numbers are not registered at the exchanges.

As many of the South Wales mines are closing down, owing to the virtual cessation of coal exports to France and elsewhere, the labor situation is bound to become worse. The miners' federation announces its intention to fight an arrangement for reduced wages on the ground of reduction of output, maintaining that the miners have no control over the circumstances arising out of the Spa agreement which resulted in France becoming flooded with coal while German industries are denuded and British export trade has stopped. The federation will urge pooling of profits for stabilization of the industry.

ELECTION IN THE MOTHERLAND TO BE CALLED SOON?

Times Says Lloyd George Has Given Word to Get Ready for May or June.

London, Jan. 29.—Lloyd George, says the London Times, has sent instructions from Paris for the coalition party machinery to be ready for a general election in May or June, after introduction of the budget early in April. It appears, the newspaper comments, that the prime minister and chancellor of the exchequer have decided that it is possible to introduce a budget of £250,000,000 which would allow considerable remission of taxation, and thus afford a favorable opportunity of appealing to the country.

DECLARES EAST INVADES WEST TO SELL SUGAR

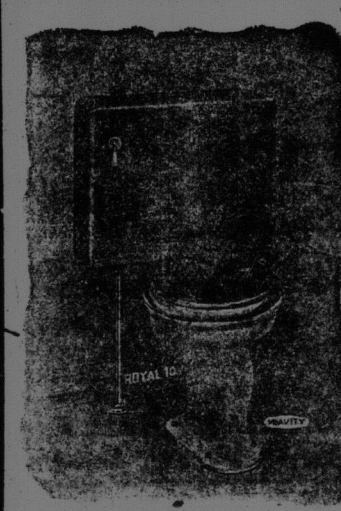
Vancouver, Jan. 29.—(Canadian Press.)—Discussing a dispatch from Calgary announcing an advance of fifty cents a hundred in the price of sugar, J. W. Fordham Johnson, president of the British Columbia Sugar Refineries, issued a flat denial that there was any collusion between eastern refineries and the local company. There was no combination, he said, in any sense of the word. Yesterday's increase in Calgary followed action of the eastern refineries which had raised the price in Winnipeg a dollar per hundred pounds.

Mr. Johnson said that due to the big stocks on hand in the east there had been unusually severe competition on the prairies, and prices in Saskatchewan and Alberta were consequently lower than conditions warranted, and the British Columbia Refinery had been forced to meet prices to hold its territory. Advice from Alberta points indicate that eastern refiners were shipping on consignment, which was a new condition in the Canadian sugar industry. On account of freight rates, the local refinery did not ship east of Regina, and the eastern refiners did not come west of that point, but to dispose of their stocks the east had invaded the western prairie territory.

REMEMBER THE FROGS.

(Forbes Magazine.) Tough going, isn't it? Almost tempted to give way to despair, perhaps? The prospect of winning out looks pretty hopeless? Maybe it will revive your faith and fortitude a teeny-weeny bit if you recall the story of the two frogs that fell into the can of milk. Try as they would you may remember, the frogs could not leap out of the can, but fell back into the milk each time they jumped. Finally, one frog whined, "What's the use of trying, we can never get out." So he curled up and was drowned. But the other frog possessed of more struggling and perseverance, kept on struggling and struggling, until the milk began to be churned into butter, and then it was easy for him to get out of his difficulty. Keep on struggling.

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The cheat deserves your pity as much as your condemnation. He is missing out in life.—Forbes Magazine (N. Y.).

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