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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1920

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U. S. TRADE CONDITIONS.

Bradstreet's Journal of Saturday last shows a continued decline in food prices in the United States. It says: "This week's index number, based on the prices per pound of thirty-one articles used for food, is \$83.00, compared with \$83.99 last week and \$83.10 for the week ending November 27, 1919. This week's number shows a loss of 4.7 per cent from last week and of 28.5 per cent from the like week of last year, and is at the lowest level in three years and three months. Of the seventy-six commodities quoted, one advanced as compared with last week, thirty-nine declined and thirty-six remained unchanged."

Among the articles showing a decline for the week were wheat, flour, corn, oats, barley, beans, sugar, coffee, cottonseed oil, tea, eggs, molasses, currants, live hogs, sheep and lambs, cotton, ginseng, wool, hay and leather. There was also a decline in spelter, antimony, lead, copper, tinplate, scrap iron and steel and pig iron. Of general trade Bradstreet says: "Sales generally are at the expense of prices."

THE FISHERIES.

Canada is one of the foremost fish-producing countries in the world, but scientific prosecution of the fisheries is not general. There is a great waste. A recent bulletin issued by the department of fisheries says:

"At a recent banquet in the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Mr. W. F. Pound, assistant deputy minister of fisheries stated that the annual waste in fish offal amounts to \$12,000,000. The council of Industrial and Scientific Research estimated the loss in waste at \$10,000,000 and oil, \$2,000,000. In other words, from every dollar's worth of fish taken from the water, commercial dealers are contented with selling 80 cents worth. The balance is thrown away. Mr. Pound intimated that it was a study worthy of serious scientific effort to determine some means of overcoming this waste. He suggested that scientists might devise some means of preserving fish offal from decaying until it could be reduced at a central plant, or locate some means of reducing the offal locally."

There is one phase of the fishing question which interests everybody. Why do the fishermen get and that which the consumer often pays? The application of science to the reduction of this waste would be hailed by consumers everywhere.

KEEP THE SLATE CLEAN.

There is a movement in some parts of the provinces in favor of having amateurs and professionals play together or all professional athletes restored to amateur standing. Such a movement is not in the interests of real sport. While there are many people who insist that they want to see fast games of all kinds, the habit of flitting with professionalism has invariably resulted in no sport at all—and a new beginning along amateur lines. A good beginning was made last year. The moment any sport seems promising it attracts the attention of those who see profit in it, and the result is professionalism. This tendency should be resisted. We must develop our young athletes, and not cater at their expense to the older ones who have forfeited their amateur standing. This cry of fast sport or no sport purely selfish, taking no account of the importance of developing young players till they become fast, as amateurs. If there are enough followers of professional sport to make it possible, let them organize and have it; but keep the amateur slate clean. They are talking of independent hockey in the event that professionals are not restored to the amateur class, and the News puts the case clearly when it says:—

"All those who take part will be suspended, not just for a period but for good. It means the death knell of orderly hockey, baseball, football or any other big game in this town, for there will be a constant argument as to who is who, and what is what, why this man is not eligible, and that man is, and so forth until all honest, clean sport is killed as dead as a door nail."

It is not fair to the younger amateurs to make them compete against—who have been professionals. If a player chooses to enter the professional class, that is his business, and the whole fabric of clean sport should not topple over it is kept where he belongs. The A. A. D. of Canada has already gone a long way in the desire to promote good feeling, but there is a limit beyond which it would go at the expense of clean athletics.

Visitors to the St. John exhibition last fall were very much interested in the exhibit of linen weaving conducted by Mrs. Joseph L. Blanchard of the Caranet Women's Institute. The Bathurst Northern Light says that Mrs. Blanchard has installed a plant in a workroom at Caranet, and will shortly undertake the manufacture of towels, carpets and other articles of linen. This suggests the possibility of a considerable expansion of the flax industry in that portion of the province, which would be of great value to the people.

Proportional representation to be gradually adopted in Ontario, with stipulated localities for the first experiments has been recommended to the legislative committee by its sub-committee. The Toronto Telegram says:—"Proportional representation was a plank in the platform of the United Farmers of Ontario at the last election. The experiment recommended for trial is not really representative in proportion to population, but rather one with the single transferable vote system whereby all candidates in an election are voted for on the ballot in the order in which the voters favor them. If it happened that no candidate received one vote more than 50 per cent of the total vote of the field, the second choice votes would be counted in and so on until it was conclusively decided who the first choice were."

They have a juvenile court and probation system in Ontario. There is now a movement to get a woman magistrate to share in the work of the ordinary police court, and it has the sympathy of the attorney general. Those who advocate the measure say there should also be a probation system under trained social workers in connection with the police court, with medical and mental inspection of all prisoners. In a city the size of Toronto all these changes are possible and desirable. Whatever may be done to keep delinquents out of prison and restore them to productive industry helps them, their families and the community at large.

There is a suggestion of the old feudallism in the reply to a question in the British Commons yesterday. It appears that the Duke of Athol has a body of two hundred tenants and servants who appear in uniform on ceremonial occasions. Queen Victoria authorized the formation of the "army" and it is a feature of the Duke's estate. There is no longer need of armed retainers, and the intention of this "army" are entirely peaceful. It is a relic and reminder of an age that is past.

It was recently announced that Senator McCormick was going to Europe as a personal representative of President-elect Harding to carry on conversations in regard to a new League of Nations that would be suitable to the United States. The senator in London yesterday denied that his visit had any political significance. Meanwhile Mr. Harding is still enjoying his holiday.

Mexico, with a new president who is a man of high character and inspired by patriotic motives, is entering upon an era of reconstruction, with an apparent desire to promote peace and good neighborhood. Canadians as well as the people of the United States will wish the new president all good fortune in carrying out a policy of that nature. The task is not an easy one in Mexico.

Mr. J. H. Burnham has complicated matters for the Meighen government in the Peterborough constituency. Mr. Burnham is a Conservative who does not believe in Union government. He now announces that in the next federal election he will be in the field as an independent Conservative.

De Valera is organizing in the United States an "American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic." There can be no doubt about what self-determination means to him and his friends. It means dismemberment of the British Empire.

It is announced that Austria will be admitted to the League of Nations. In Austria greatly reduced in area and cured of the Hapsburg malady. It has great problems to solve, but these may best be solved in co-operation with the other nations.

New Brunswick is apparently to have a farmer-labor party, when plans now being formulated have been made satisfactory to both parties involved.

When the western delegations come to Ottawa to demand control of natural resources the maritime provinces should also be represented.

Before the winter is over there may be an unemployment problem in this city. Plans to meet the situation should be advanced before the season is far advanced.

President Wilson will act as mediator in Armenia. In selecting him the League of Nations has made a good choice.

SEMONOFF AT VLADIVOSTOK AFTER DEFEAT

Tokio, Dec. 1.—Gen. Semonoff, leader of anti-Bolshevik forces along the frontier, between Siberia and Mongolia, has arrived at Vladivostok under Japanese escort. Despatches from that city state he has gone on board a Japanese transport. Gen. Semonoff's troops, defeated by the Bolsheviks, recently deserted in such numbers that their leader gave up the struggle against the Soviet armies in that region.

Rippling Rhymes

Walt Mason

(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

BRACING UP

Knocked out by fate, the bruiser, and by the votes of men, behold, the wretched loser begins to smile again. Right after the election this gent was sad to see; the symbol of dejection and of the dumps was he. "This frost will always haunt me, it caught me unawares; the people did not want me, they kicked me down the stairs. I'll leave the office seeking for thicker hidden chaps no more you'll see me streaking and pursuing public snaps. I thought the people loved me, and I loved them, by heck! But oh, the way they showed me, and I see my neck! No more, with front undaunted, shall I for office sprint; I see that I'm not wanted, and I can take a hint." Thus spake the mournful loser, and thus he sighed and wailed, when in a leading cruiser up Salt Creek's tide he sailed. But time heals all diseases, all bruises and all sores, according to the wheezes of bards and other bodes. "Time soothes the badly hurt," a d makes him soon forget the dish of crow's he eat—oh, time's our one best bet! But now the loser's grinning, and he forgets to groan; next year he's sure of winning, the gods will guard their own. And so we'll see him gliding on errands pure and vain, when he should be providing against the day of rain.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

FALL OF BEAUJOUR

De Vergor the cowardly commander of Fort Beaujour the strong French position at the head of the Bay of Fundy in 1756, did not have long to await the attack of the English who had arrived with a strong force off his position early in June of that year. The day after the fleet anchored off the shore the men were landed and the march to Beaujour began. As he made the trip Monsieur who commanded the English was attacked by 400 Acadians and some Indians as he attempted to cross the Miramichi, where the bridge had been burned to hinder the invaders. The skirmish was short and sharp but it caused a delay of a few days for the English when some small field pieces began to pour their fire into the ranks of the French. That was the only resistance offered to their march to the hills surrounding Fort Beaujour, where a camp was established that night at a distance of a little more than a mile from the French.

The night De Vergor burned the church and all the buildings without the ramparts of the fort so that the fire of his guns might not be hindered. A delay of a few days meant in certain ranges, the English turned their cannon upon the fortifications. The fight was sharp on both sides for a time and continued daily until the morning of June 16 a chance shot of the English pierced a bomb proof and killed everyone within. This happened to be immediately opposite the one occupied by De Vergor and when that officer saw what might happen to him any minute he ran up the white flag and asked for terms. Negotiations continued all day but at seven o'clock that night the French flag was hauled down and the English was given by a discharge of the Le French cannon. De Vergor completed the day by saluting the victors with his own.

THE FALL OF THE LEAF.

(Kington Gardens.)
Falling from their high estate
Come the leaves, in eddy and spate
From their tall
Eyes fall,
Fall, fall, early and late.

London town, of blue mist spun,
Dawn and moonshine, bliss of the sun,
Bird-song high
Clouds and rain,
All, all over and done.

Yet what gesture proud and bright
Crowns the end! In downward flight
Swirl and flit,
Dance and die
Gold discs in the glade's green light.

Spring was not more debonair,
Summer more serenely fair
Than this grace
In death's face—
Fall, fall beyond compare!

—Country Life, London.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

A certain society lady who was not quite so young or so beautiful as she used to be underwent an operation. On her recovery she was assured by her friends that the operation had taken 10 years away from her looks.

Laughingly, she complained one day to the doctor:—"If ten years on the operating table made me look 10 years younger, why didn't you keep me five hours and make me into a girl again?"

"Five hours there, my dear madam," sobbed the doctor, "would have made you into an angel!"

Prof. Moonshine was a very learned man, but he was even more learned than he was. One evening, after telling his housekeeper that he was going to a meeting of the Society Promoted for the Discovery of New Orleans, he forgot where he was going, went into a confectionery store to get his hair cut and asked the price of umbrellas.

After that he decided to give it up, and went home. He reached home late and found the place in darkness.

"How annoying!" he thought, for he had forgotten that he had not forgotten his latchkey. He rang the bell, and at last a sleepy head was thrust out of an upper window.

"The professor isn't in," declared the head.

"That's very unfortunate," replied the professor. "Tell him I'm sorry I missed him. I'll call again tomorrow."

The storm which had been brewing for some time was fast gathering overhead. Mother-in-law descended all no-where-law was at the bottom of the quarrel.

"Ah, me," sighed the young wife. "The days of chivalry are gone!"

"Chivalry be damned," was the husband's heated retort.

"Yes," continued the now weeping young wife. "Sir Walter Raleigh laid down his cloak on the ground for Queen Elizabeth to walk on, but you—you get angry simply because poor dear mother sat down on your hat!"

"Mama," said Daisy, "I think Mr. Meadows loves me and is beginning to have serious intentions."

"How's that?" asked her fond mother, all attention.

"He laughed heartily at one of papa's jokes last night," said Daisy.

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