

The Evening Times-Star
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SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 11, 1927.

THE CITY COUNCIL

CITIZENS are asking two questions in relation to the action of the City Council. One is in regard to port nationalization. If that matter should come up in the Cabinet at Ottawa, what information has the Minister from New Brunswick to place before his colleagues? Is he receiving the full co-operation of the City Council in this matter? The second question relates to the British report. Has the firm of P. S. Ross & Sons been engaged to make the test audit and investigation? These are matters of vital importance, and associated with them, is the recommendation of the British report in favor of a change in the method of city administration. If we are to have nationalization of the port, and if we are to have any change along the line of civic administration, and the other recommendations of the British report, the attention of the Council should be devoted to these matters with all earnestness. At the same time the citizens should be kept fully informed of the progress of events. Never in the history of Saint John did heavier responsibility rest upon a City Council.

ECONOMIC UNITY

ECONOMIC unity with the United States is the cure-all presented by the editor of the Vancouver Sun for all the ills of the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. He holds that it is attempting the economic and the impossible to try to do business east and west, with the long rail haul; while it is both economic and possible to do business with the people south of the province. He says United States capital now controls and operates two-thirds of the industries of Canada, which is suffering all the disadvantages of economic unity and enjoying none of the advantages. He therefore concludes that instead of artificial stimulation and bonuses from the Federal Government to the Maritimes and to British Columbia "the economic, the obvious and the only thing for Canada to do is to negotiate a series of Canadian-United States trade treaties, which will allow Canadian cattle, Canadian wheat and products manufactured from Canadian raw materials to enter the United States free of duty, in return for the free entry into Canada of goods which can be more economically manufactured in the United States."

We have heard a good deal of late about the importance of trade within the Empire. Premier Bruce of Australia declared in Hamilton last week that "if Canada does not develop great trade connections in other directions, she will become commercially and industrially more closely linked to the United States, and as a result will find her national aspirations inevitably undermined." He would have Canada look to Great Britain and Australia for trade expansion and industrial relations. This is the very opposite of what the Vancouver Sun recommends. Premier Bruce declared that Canada, as well as Australia, needed the difficulties of a smaller nation living under the shadow of a larger one so close at hand, but believed the wise policy would be the development of a greater inter-empire trade.

Unless the people of Canada are willing to face the prospects of an eventual political absorption by the United States, they must set a limit to the extent to which they will permit economic absorption. In the case of the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, even if it be granted that they cannot count upon trading to a very large extent with the other provinces, they have the seaboard location and great opportunities for overseas trade. Unquestionably, we need better trade relations with the United States. Eventually we may hope to secure them. We need not anticipate, however, that those relations will be other than on a strictly business basis, so far as our neighbors to the south are concerned. If Canada were entirely dependent upon the United States for its existence, the views of the Vancouver Sun might prevail. Such, however, is not the case; and we must not blind ourselves to the advantages, not only of inter-empire trade, but trade with other countries in addition to Great Britain and the United States.

MUSSOLINI AND THE PREFECTS

The limitations of even a Mussolini, devotee of personal efficiency though he be, are fixed. The most assiduous worker can accomplish only a certain amount. If he attempts more it must be at the price of less attention to detail. Mussolini has gathered most of the portfolios of the Italian Government into his own hands. His is the brain to initiate all the policies of nearly all the departments, and doubtless he saves time by eliminating discussion. Possibly Mussolini may, because of his great ability, exercise some degree of control over projects launched; but, short of attributing to him supernatural powers, this control must be strictly limited. Mussolini formulates, but others must carry out his plans. Whether Mussolini have the gift of selecting able lieutenants and placing each in his right place will probably not be known until the Duce leaves the stage. Up to a point he must be able to select good assistants, else would the fabric of Fascism have crumbled ere this. On the other hand the fact of his centralizing so much in himself argues lack of confidence in others. And even under Mussolini enormous executive power rests with others.

Fascism is, for the moment at any rate, firmly bound on Italy. Fascism has gained Italy's press, and there is no means of knowing just what Italy thinks of it all. But Fascism has roused protest from France and from the Vatican against the acts of Fascists, and Mussolini has issued a stern ukase to provincial prefects ordering them to repress anti-foreign and anti-clerical demonstrations. Having abolished municipal self-government and centralized administration in Rome, Mussolini orders his prefects to be the most benevolent autocrats and to "salvage the politically and morally lowly." That is a big job, needing big men, honest, upright and unselfish. Furthermore, the prefects are to comb out the parasites that have fastened on to Fascism. Mussolini is issuing the right orders, but have his subordinates sufficient calibre to make them effective?

WHAT IS IT?

THE MANITOBA FREE PRESS has been urging the need of obtaining for Canada the right to amend her own constitution. This, the Free Press acknowledges, has drawn angry comment from some of the Quebec newspapers, and these latter the Winnipeg newspaper seeks to win over to its way of thinking by gentle reasoning. At the moment changes in the constitution are made by the British Parliament in the form of amendments to the B. N. A. Act, if a joint resolution of both Canadian Houses ask it. This is the precedent. There never has been occasion to question the desirability of any such joint resolution, therefore the British Parliament has complied without hesitation. But presumably the British Parliament did not comply blindly. Had there been any reason to imagine that the rights of the provinces or of minorities were being infringed, it is likely that the British Parliament would have been so readily compliant, and it is this safeguard that the Quebec newspapers desire to preserve. It is true that the British Parliament no longer claims even technical supremacy over the Canadian Parliament. It does, however, seem that the Constitution of Canada, under which the Parliament of Canada functions, legally to long as its acts are constitutional, places the British Parliament in the position of trustee to guard the rights of individual provinces and minorities.

The Free Press contends that at present the provinces and minorities are insufficiently protected, and suggests that "circumstances indicate the need for a new arrangement, by which the people of Canada will have the power to change their constitution upon terms which will protect the provinces and the French-Canadian minority in their special rights." Of the correctness of this it will be easier to judge when the Free Press discloses what these protective terms are to be, and doubtless Quebec and other newspapers will await with interest elucidation of this point. Meanwhile, just what is there about Canada's constitution that the Free Press desires to change—beyond amending it so as to allow the Canadian Parliament to amend it? The report of the Duxbury Commission has shown how provinces may suffer injustice under the constitution as it stands. If the Manitoba Free Press can demonstrate that this is in mind, it may convert adherents to its point of view. Till then, banishing all suspicion, one asks what is the game?

Saint John entertained a number of conventions last year. The number should be increased in 1927. When it is possible to prove such accommodation that those attending a convention are not even called upon to leave the hotel where they are registered, there is a natural disposition to give a preference to the city where such accommodation is provided. In Toronto they have a Convention Association, whose secretaries estimate that convention visitors will spend \$7,000,000 in that city this year. He says that ninety-six annual meetings with a total attendance of over 75,000 are already scheduled, and since the delegates will spend several days, and many of them a week or more in town, the expenditure will be large.

The town of Woodstock, which has a town manager, has issued no new bonds for two years, has paid off \$15,000 in old bonds and refunded \$20,000 at a rate of interest which will save the town \$8,000. Mayor Belyen, Town Manager Rutledge and the Town Council are to be congratulated on this civic record. So far as the reports indicate, the public services have not been starved, while the financial position of the town has been greatly improved.

The city of Toronto is preparing to make an appeal to the Government at Ottawa for a grant to carry on harbor work in that city. A very large amount of money has already been expended to provide Toronto with a harbor, but much yet remains to be done. An exact estimate of what requires to be done will be made and submitted to Ottawa.

Other Views

CUTTING DOWN THE DANGER.

(Victoria Times)
MILLIONS of Americans are fervently hoping that promiscuous shooting in banks and in the streets will be considerably curtailed by the passage of a bill through Congress which will prohibit the sending of pistols through the mails. Representative Miller of Seattle has introduced the measure through the Lower House and it now awaits the pleasure of the Senate. It already, incidentally, has the warm support of the Postmaster-General.

Under existing conditions, The Seattle Times points out, Uncle Sam is made the unwilling agent for the distribution of dangerous weapons. It appears that the purchaser may have a pistol brought to his door by the postman—who also collects the money—while local regulations for the sale of pistols are defeated, since no record is kept of these mail transactions. It is contended, likewise, that the enactment of the bill would result in a large business now being done by post in foreign-made weapons.

NOT WELL INFORMED.

(Toronto Star)
IN an article on "Christmas Round the Empire," the London Express referred to Canada as follows: "East and west is bound with snow—deep and crisp and even—the motor car vanishes, and the hobsleigh and the toboggan come to their own." Canada is a somewhat large slice of territory, so large that a general description is bound to be challenged. Even as between Toronto and the Bruce peninsula there is a wide variation in winter climate. And Christmas, as every Canadian knows, may be white or green at the whim of the Weather Man. But white or green, the motor car does not vanish. In the east, at any rate, it has become an all-winter vehicle.

NEW MEDITERRANEAN.

(Edmonton Journal)
IN assuming the leadership in the movement for the deepening of the St. Lawrence, Mr. Hoover has followed in the course taken by his predecessor as American secretary of commerce, Mr. Franklin K. Lane. During his tenure of that post, Mr. Lane kept the project constantly before the public. One statement of his has been widely quoted. This was that, when the work was completed, the Great Lakes would be an American Mediterranean. It is claimed that if the scheme should go through, eighty-five per cent. of the world's merchant fleet could come to the head of the lakes.

EMPIRE TRADE.

(Right Hon. Stanley M. Bruce, in the London Nineteenth Century)
IT is not necessary to emphasize the importance of Great Britain to the Dominions as a market, and also for defense. This idea has always been in the forefront of Empire politics. It is most essential, however, that there should be a clearer realization of the importance of Empire trade to Great Britain. It is not sufficient for leading men alone to understand the possibilities of Empire trade. It is necessary for every British citizen to attain the same realization, and to grasp the bearing of the problem upon his own everyday life and that of his fellows.

Oldest Legislator Nephew of Papineau

(Ottawa Cor. Toronto Star)
"MY age is as a lustrous winter, frosty, but kindly," Hon. Senator George Casimir Desaulles, who celebrated his ninety-ninth birthday on September 20 last, might say the foregoing for himself. The chances are he would not quote anybody else but make comment all his own of Gallic piquancy and wit.

It was recently written of him, "He carries his age as others a button-hole bouquet." Canada's most venerated senator, and possibly the oldest legislator in the British Empire actively engaged in public duties, walked erectly and with firm step to his place in the red chamber the other evening. He carried a cane which had much more the appearance of a swagger stick than a staff. His shoulders in perfect fitting coat were squared, his head unbowed, and his keen, kindly dark eyes undimmed by the long years over which he looks back to childhood days in the manor house of the seignior of St. Hyacinthe.

A link with the French regime in Canada was the chair on which he sat next morning as he chatted to The Star in the home of a niece by marriage. Thence-like in design, gold and upholstered richly in blue velvet, once upon a time it belonged to the Marquis de Vaudreuil from whom the St. Hyacinthe acres were purchased. Eventually they came to a large extent to the Desaulles family.

Senator Desaulles talked of many things, political questions of the day, changes which a century has brought in customs and methods, personal recollections of history-making people, and especially of his uncle, brother to his mother, the patriot, Louis Joseph Papineau. The snow-whiteness of his ninety-nine winters was on his hair and patriarchal beard, but his voice was the voice of a young man, trumpet-like in its resonance, firmness and even quality.

"But I was obliged to read it all in the papers after," he said. "Unfortunately I have a handwriting, a deafness which prevents me from hearing. The other night one of the speakers was standing very close to me. Everyone else here said I could not get a word. I make a point of attending the sittings, however, and I follow closely what takes place through reading."

Very well indeed. A most distinguished-looking man he was, of charming good nature, and always especially of his uncle, brother to his mother, the patriot, Louis Joseph Papineau. The snow-whiteness of his ninety-nine winters was on his hair and patriarchal beard, but his voice was the voice of a young man, trumpet-like in its resonance, firmness and even quality.

"He knew that he must stay and he applied himself to work with such good results that he was able to keep out of trouble in the same year. My grandmother was a strong-minded woman who knew what was best for her family."

Choice of Friends

(Hamilton Spectator)
THE inmates of an Ontario reformatory were recently asked to give the causes which had led them to do wrong. Of the 444 boys thus questioned over 200 named "bad associations" as their downfall. This was by far the highest percentage of the reasons given, next in order coming lack of money, followed by lack of employment, pool rooms, laziness, corner gangs, gambling. Many of the latter causes are included in the category of "bad associations." It is not surprising, therefore, that the one great thing to be avoided is evil companions. One bad boy will corrupt a whole company of his playmates if they consent to follow him. One bad girl will lead a whole company of her friends into the same error. The inmates of the reformatory were asked to give the causes which had led them to do wrong. Of the 444 boys thus questioned over 200 named "bad associations" as their downfall. This was by far the highest percentage of the reasons given, next in order coming lack of money, followed by lack of employment, pool rooms, laziness, corner gangs, gambling. Many of the latter causes are included in the category of "bad associations." It is not surprising, therefore, that the one great thing to be avoided is evil companions. One bad boy will corrupt a whole company of his playmates if they consent to follow him. One bad girl will lead a whole company of her friends into the same error.

One must admire the candor of these unfortunate reformatory boys. Take laziness, for instance, to which about 25 of them confessed, and corner gangs, to which about 100 confessed, and pool rooms, to which about 100 confessed, and laziness, corner gangs, gambling. Many of the latter causes are included in the category of "bad associations." It is not surprising, therefore, that the one great thing to be avoided is evil companions. One bad boy will corrupt a whole company of his playmates if they consent to follow him. One bad girl will lead a whole company of her friends into the same error.

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Migrating To Canada

(New York Sun)
CANADA continues to draw farmers from the United States to the extent of satisfaction of the Dominion government. Its latest official statistics show that in September the Canadian immigration and colonization agency at Fargo, North Dakota, sent 675 persons across the line, 300 more than in the same month of last year. Of these all but ten were farmers. The settlers took with them \$726,095. There are eighteen Dominion agencies in the United States; all of them reported increased immigration of this class as compared with September of recent years. The agent at Syracuse says more settlers have been sent to Canada through his office since April 1 than in any corresponding period for ten years.

These emigrants are attracted to the Dominion by his cheap land and the fact that their labor on soil that can be bought for nominal prices will bring them a higher return than the same labor expended on the high priced lands of the United States. They take with them capital to set them up in business; Canada welcomes them as desirable additions to its population. They have the pioneer spirit, the same spirit that conquered our West in the days when Uncle Sam distributed the national domain. Canada is fortunate to win them. However, many Canadians come here to settle, so, in a measure, the score balances.

Two Vacations

(Montreal Gazette)
WE are strong for the medical director of a life insurance company who says that two vacations a year are none too many, but he ought not to forget that while plenty of vacations may make a man a better insurance risk, they tend to impair his value on days when premiums fall due.

Queer Quirks of Nature

THIS TREE GIVES US FURNITURE AND NUTS
By Arthur N. Pack

THE species of walnut tree best known in America is the black walnut, a very handsome tree of great value for furniture purposes and for its nuts.

This tree suffered much at the hands of early settlers, for it stood on the most fertile soil and was cut down to make room for crops. For this reason it is now becoming quite scarce, and the nuts should be planted wherever they will grow.

The leaves of the tree are compound of from 18 to 28 leaflets, each about three or four inches long; they are sharp-pointed, stalkless, and toothed along the margin.

The nut-producing flowers occur in few flowered clusters on the new growth. The fruit is a round, furrowed nut, one to two inches in diameter with a green non-splitting fleshy husk which turns black when mature. It is from this that the tree derives its common name.

The wood is rich dark brown, hard and strong, and very durable. It is chiefly used in furniture and gunstocks, beauty of its markings rendering it desirable for the first named purpose. While its strength and elasticity it is for the second.

The black walnut's natural country extends from Massachusetts south to Florida, and west and southwest of Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas.

Adaptability to strange regions broadens this range to include almost the entire country for purpose of trading in the north.

Stretches or roads lined with magnificent trees of this species may be found in many places, one of the finest being in Lincoln highway 15 miles west of Sacramento.

Poems I Love

BY CHAR. HANSON TOWNE
"If Only in Dreams," by Theodore Watts-Dunton

LONG the companion of Swinburne, Watts-Dunton sacrificed something of his art to the genius whose unfailing friend he was.

He was the author of "Atlantis" what Severn was to Keats; yet he found time, even amid his long years of stendfast devotion, to write his own poetry; and in the Encyclopedia Britannica will be found his majestic essay of Poetry, which every student should read and digest. He had a charming fancy, much culture, and of course, a brilliant technique at his fingers' ends.

If only in dreams may Man be fully blest, Is heaven a dream? Is she I clasp a dream? Or stood she here even now where dewdrops gleam.

And now of furze shine yellow down the West? I seem to clasp her still—still on my bosom beamed; I see the bright eyes beam.

I think she kissed these lips, for now they seem Scarce mine; so hallowed of the lips they pressed!

Yon thickets' breath—can that be gleaming? Those birds—can they be Morning's choristers? Can this be earth? Can these be banks of furze?

Like burning bushes fired of God they seem to know, though this body of mine Passed into spirit at the touch of hers!

SOME people are so hopelessly solemn that any sign of gaiety in others seems to hurt them.

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If I Were You

IN THE days of Now and the Town of Everywhere there lives a man who is shunned by all his neighbors. Not that he is cruel. Were we to search for them doubtless we could find many to testify to kindness he has done them.

Nor is he crafty. His eyes are clear and without trace of guile, and his countenance as easily read as an open book, since expression is the mirror of his thought.

Nor in his way of living is there anything to which the world can take exception. Daily he labors long and earnestly, and nightly counts up that little bit more to add to his well-gotten gains.

Kind, honest, ambitious, wishing ill to none, why then do his neighbors so adamantly avoid him? Why has not such a worthy man hosts of cordial friends?

That which costs him his popularity is his insistence upon distributing free what nobody wishes. Are there many among us who lend ear to the patronizing critic?

And these four words are not index to deep knowledge as the worthy man who makes them the burden of his song may mistakenly suppose. Rather they are indicative of limited experience with things and people.

He who is truly wise knows full well that "I" can seldom if ever justifiably lay down the law to "you" realizes "I" and "you" being "you" that never the twain shall meet on altogether common ground with undimmed understanding.

After Dinner Stories

"NOW, boys," said the teacher, "can any of you tell me how iron was first discovered?"

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Gettysburg address 'I had to tell her he never lived there, h, you should have heard the class laugh then."

Worry A worry is but a poison—An acid to the wit; A fiddler's pole's attitude That neutralizes it.

McKAY—"You receive my play of course? Will you produce it?" A fiddler's pole's attitude That neutralizes it.

"Well, did Santa Claus get to your house on time?" one man was heard asking a friend recently. "If you mean on credit," replied the friend, "he did."

"Why don't you go into politics?" "I am in politics," answered Miss Cayenne. "I cast a vote every time I have the opportunity."

"Why don't you run for office?" "I cling to the life of a friend recently. I prefer having a man requesting me to vote for him to being in a position where I would have to request him to vote for me."

ONE: "Well, I showed up the teacher before the whole class today." The other: "Why? Wise up now." One: "She asked me for Lincoln's address."

Like burning bushes fired of God they seem to know, though this body of mine Passed into spirit at the touch of hers!

SOME people are so hopelessly solemn that any sign of gaiety in others seems to hurt them.

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