

# The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 6, 1927.

## A GOOD RECORD

THE view was expressed at a meeting of the Board of Health yesterday that probably no city in Canada gives more careful supervision to infants born within its borders. A report submitted to the Board said that fully half the children born in Saint John are under the care of nurses engaged in child welfare work under direction of the Board. The other half are assumed to be in homes where financial conditions enable the parents to provide all needed care; and therefore it is assumed, with apparently good reason, that almost all infants born in the city are the subject of proper care. Of course there are always some exceptions; but, with nurses going about from day to day, greatly devoted to their work and welcomed everywhere, it may be taken for granted that the great majority of cases where their services are required are brought to their attention. If more public health nurses are needed, the funds should be provided, since their work is of the highest value to the community. Day in and day out they go about their work, and the general public contribute to health and happiness in the homes of the very poor. Their services are invaluable.

## THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF ILLITERACY

ALLOWING that statistics do not tell the whole tale, and that New Brunswick's percentage of illiteracy as recently published may not take into account all the factors that ensure proper comparison with her sister provinces, the problem of illiteracy is, nevertheless, one to which attention may profitably be directed. The Bureau of Dominion Statistics has issued a document analyzing the 1921 census from the standpoint of illiteracy and school attendance. According to this, more children are kept from school because of the illiteracy of their parents and of the community than because of climate and lack of facilities in new or out of the way settlements. It says:

"Illiterate persons are more apt to keep their children out of school than literate persons; the illiteracy of the mother is more influential in keeping children out of school than the illiteracy of the father; and the combined illiteracy of mother and father is associated with school non-attendance to more than twice as great an extent as that with the illiteracy of one parent when the other is literate."

The bearing of the industrial conditions of a city on non-attendance at school is reviewed. Where the women of a community are employed, any extent outside their homes in textile manufactures, domestic service and like activities, school attendance is worst. Where the work is carried out mainly by adult males it is best. Industries that employ child labor naturally draw the older children from school, but this condition only accounts for about one-fourth the number of children kept from school who might be attending. A balance being under working age. To quote again:

"This means that the attitude towards school dance holds at ages when the children are usefully employed as well as at later ages, at school non-attendance cannot be more fully due to the need for the services of children. Partly at least it is due to a want of recognition of the value of school attendance; perhaps, to inability to equip children for anything but the most menial work; and partly, again to the attitude of the parents, who are not so much interested in the education of the children as in their being employed in certain classes of industries."

The conditions favorable to illiteracy are summed up thus:

"1. First and foremost, illiteracy of the community. Although it may be argued that illiteracy really is the effect of school non-attendance in the community, this argument merely pushes the explanation further back. Why should school non-attendance in 1921 be prevalent in the urban centres where school non-attendance was prevalent in 1911? Evidently the same or similar conditions tended to persist, and the fact that the more literate centres showed poorer school attendance in 1921 than less illiterate centres, certainly goes to show that the force of inertia is peculiarly strong in the case of illiteracy—illiterate communities, whether rural or urban, tend to remain illiterate."

"2. Mining, fishing and dock industries. These, as we have seen, are industries which require the employment of females. This does not necessarily mean the employment of female children under 14. It would rather seem to mean the employment of females who have the supervision of children."

"3. Industries which require the importation of foreign labor."

As a Dominion-wide review of conditions, this naturally concerns principally urban illiteracy, which is certainly not one of New Brunswick's chief educational problems. But if the document do nothing else, it points out that school non-attendance, which spells future illiteracy, is to be found chiefly where the parents are illiterate. Illiteracy moves in a vicious circle.

## MODESTY

THE press of a country is a valuable gauge of that country's spiritual grace. In the older civilizations the soul of a people is largely that depicted by the upper classes. The masses who have attained democracy gradually by evolutionary and even by revolutionary processes have never lost their inherent respect for the real virtues of the classes, for virtues they do possess as well as faults. Perhaps the most aristocratic virtue is that vague quality "honor," and where this is held in high—sometimes extreme—regard by the social leaders it is usually most widely acclaimed. Truth said: "Purity is the feminine, truth the masculine of honor." To that might be added modesty is the only true setting for honor, though the old proverb expresses it: "Modesty sets off one's new dress to honor." Honor in this latter

sense, however, is the outward sign, not the inward grace.

A people which has never had to struggle to attain democracy has not to the same extent exemplars of the chivalric code of honor. Those who know the United States are well aware that there has always existed in that country a class with as strong regard for that code as ever had the Knights of the Round Table. But, with a vigorous young democracy leaping forward without obstacle, that class has by means tinged the general opinions of the republic.

Now, however, there is to be discerned in the aforementioned gauge of national mentality, the press, a decided swing from aggressive materialism to the acceptance of a more spiritual standard as the correct poise. On the same page of one issue of a New York newspaper there are two items exemplifying the elevation of modesty. The first refers to a protest voiced in Melbourne against the proposal to send "Miss Australia" on a world tour. The following is the New York comment:

"The mania for competitions of this sort has grown greatly. It is world-wide, and includes all sorts of absurd rivalries. Winners are thrust into the limelight for no sound reason, and do not stand up well under the publicity they receive. The Australians appear to think that the standards of girls who do not compete will be lowered or at least confused by the attention which the competitors receive. But sensible young women are not going to be disturbed by such events, and those who are not sensible cannot be prevented from envying the winners anyhow."

The second item is in the form of a letter signed George Palmer Putnam. After referring to the "renewed flare-up" between Amundson and Noble it contrasts the behavior of these dauntless explorers with that of Captain Byrd. It says:

"Byrd's feat, and particularly the way in which he has handled himself subsequently, is genuinely unique. He seems almost the only major explorer of today who continues to keep out of rows, criticism and back-biting. And to know Byrd himself is to comprehend the reason why. A fearless flier and an imaginative explorer, he is something more. Essentially he is a genuine explorer, and an extraordinarily modest one, with a rare ability to keep his head on his shoulders and his feet on the ground. His generosity to his associates and his contemporaries is inspiring. He voices nothing but praise for the others. He has remained deaf to the unkindness which certain of his rivals, and even his ex-associates, have voiced. And that has endeared him to the American public, which revels in his good sportsmanship as much as it admires his heroic attainments."

The trend indicated by the above is one which the United States may sincerely be congratulated.

The Boston Post publishes an article which shows that heavy auto trucks have to pay much higher license fees in England than in the state of Massachusetts. The British tax authorities base the heavier tax on the ground that heavy trucks cause more wear and tear on the roadway than lighter cars. Since good prices have been realized, the trade has put a large amount of money in circulation in the potato exporting districts of the province.

If potatoes sent by way of Boston or New York to Cuba are in greater danger of being frozen than when shipped through Saint John or Halifax, it becomes a matter of profit as well as of patriotic duty to patronize home ports. If steamers may be got to load at Boston or New York, why not at Saint John or Halifax?

It is estimated that more than a million barrels of potatoes have been shipped out of New Brunswick this season, of which about 428,000 barrels have gone to Cuba. Since good prices have been realized, the trade has put a large amount of money in circulation in the potato exporting districts of the province.

The members of the Saint John Ski Club may possess their souls in patience. The snow may be somewhat delayed, but it will arrive before March.

## Other Views

**TOPHEAVY.**  
(London Daily Telegraph)

WHETHER there is such a thing as human progress, whether we are indeed any slier, wiser, better than the men of the Stone Age, is a question which has long troubled the philosophers. Dr. Nansen has lately told us that he has the gravest doubts about it. But there is no denying that we are much better off.

Until about a century ago only a very small fraction of the human race lived on wheat bread and ate fresh meat all the year around. Now this is the menu of the million throughout a large part of the world. The products of the Tropics are in every house. Fresh fruit never fails. This is, as Mr. Wells said, "all very capital," but to the prophetic eye it is revealed that we have only achieved this dissemination of luxury by setting up a civilization in unstable equilibrium. Too many people are in the towns, too few on the land. The producers of food have been dangerously reduced in number and the industrial workers excessively multiplied. If once the system which feeds the many by the labors of the few is disturbed by war or strikes, by economic or political difficulties, we shall be in danger of starvation.

**A LESSON LEARNED.**  
(Brantford Expositor)

THE sharp criticism that was directed against the useless waste of time, and the partisan political maneuvering of the last session at Ottawa, appears to have borne fruit. In record time the debate on the Speech from the Throne was brought to an end, and the Government succeeded in getting the greater part of the Supply Bill passed for the balance of the year. It is to be hoped that both parties will show the country an example of prompt and efficient administrative capacity.

**WHAT ALBERTA COULD DO.**  
(Redcliffe Review)

SUPPOSE our governments took steps to make it possible for Alberta to supply all the coal now being imported, it would mean the employment of over fifty thousand miners with an annual payroll of approximately twelve million dollars.

**HOME LIFE AND THE ANCENTS.**  
(Washington Star)

DISCOVERIES in an ancient tomb invariably disclose the fact that jewelry and furniture were abundant, while the "comforts of home" were scarce.

## News and Views From The British Capital

LONDON, December 23, 1926.—In the newspaper sphere my Lord Beaverbrook has Mark Tapley skinned to a mediocre whisper. For years now his principal organ of exuberance has been assuring us that always great post-war trade boom was just about to begin. To this earthenware slogan he has stuck like a prophetic limpet, even amid the enervating gloom of six-months' coal stoppage super-imposed on an industrial nadir that threw a million-and-a-half unemployed workers on the dole. Happily, human optimism is an infectious quality, but Lord Beaverbrook's never even impressed the city men. But now at last the Board of Trade's expert committee holds views about the possibilities of 1927 which afford genuine reason to hope that business generally may shortly and steadily improve.

**Millennium By Installments.**

But, though reliable expert opinion thus encourages intelligent optimism, nothing disposes of the grim fact that normality after such an orgy of thriftlessness as the war period can be attained only by slow degrees and hard plodding work. We may in due time attain to Lord Beaverbrook's industrial optimism, but only on a painful installment system, and by avoiding any more such gigantic hostilities to misfortune as the coal trouble. With improving trade we shall gradually rid ourselves of the post-war unemployment bogey, and our national affairs will improve, two-fold. Once this hoped-for condition really causes, moreover, the bottom will be knocked right out of the Black revolutionary powder barrel. Prosperity in industry means normality in politics. When work is plentiful and wages good, the wind goes right out of the Red Flag harmonium.

**American Straws.**

The importance of Columbia University's lead on war debts to American opinion must be neither exaggerated nor belittled. The newly sets forth what the historic Balfour note laid down soon after the war—that finance should be regarded as a part of the common Allied effort towards winning the war, and that as we pooled our blood so should we pool our war debts. That American opinion would sooner or later come round to that view is a foregone conclusion. The fact that distinguished American savants have done what American statesmen dare not, and told their public that the popular revision of sentiment must be quickened, particularly as business America comes to realize how true were the prophecies of the war, that the American people are more America than Oxford and Cambridge are the Midlands. This is a statement that shows how the wind may blow presently.

## A Literary Incident

(Toronto Globe)

WHEN a member of the Inferiority Complex Club is heard to decry Canadian literature, or to say that the Canadian is too raw and young for important creative work, he should be told of the Masseyfield incident. This event may not be recorded in the history of the world, but it is a story which learned men burn sixty-watt bulbs, but in days to come it will be something of a landmark in our national letters.

The merest hint of this incident has been given once or twice, but the story has only now been released from the confidence of a friend who is concerned with the complete poems of Duncan Campbell Scott gave the well-informed reviewer of The Ottawa Journal the following account of the day to speak of the relations between Mr. Scott and John Masseyfield, one of the greatest of living English poets.

There was published in 1895 in the New York Truth, then edited by Peter MacArthur, a moving, mystical poem called "The Piper of Aril." At that time John Masseyfield was working as a porter in a New York saloon, after years of roughing it on the sea. His chief school was the "University of Hard Knocks," but he was full of the inner fire which was later to rouse critical readers everywhere to enthusiasm. Masseyfield's eyes on "The Piper of Aril," with its delicate purity, as in the opening lines:

There was in Aril a little cove  
Where the salt wind came cold and free;  
A little cove where one would love,  
If he were longing for the sea.

A brook hung sparkling on the hill,  
The hill swept far to ring the bay;  
The bay was faithful, wild or still,  
To the heart of the ocean far away.

Ten years later Masseyfield was a poet of standing, his reputation an anthology of verse called "A Sailor's Garland." He wrote Scott for permission to quote some of his work, and it was then that Masseyfield confessed that "The Piper of Aril" had set his soul on fire, and that after reading it poetry became the one deep influence of his life, and that of his his poetry was the one deep influence of his life, and that of his his poetry was the one deep influence of his life.

You will therefore understand how greatly I shall appreciate your kindness if you will allow me to include your poem in my anthology, as the most beautiful sea poem of modern times, and the poem which has moved me more than any I have ever read. Perhaps you will be so kind as to send me a copy of your poem, and I will be so kind as to send you a copy of my poem, and I will be so kind as to send you a copy of my poem.

And so for Masseyfield, he has preserved the darling, the atmosphere, the courage of the men out with "the lonely sea and the sky" for countless readers the world over.

## The Book He Needed

SHE hurried into the shop as though she had not a moment to spare. "I want a book for my husband. It's his birthday tomorrow and I want to give him a present. Show me what you have, please." She continued in a voice that could be heard all over the place. "Nothing too expensive—and I don't want anything cheap, either. He is not very fond of sport, so don't show me anything in that line. For goodness sake, don't offer me any of those trashy novels, and no matter how you try to persuade me I won't have anything in the way of history or biography. Come now, I'm in a dreadful hurry; can you suggest something?" "Yes, madam," replied the clerk, as he picked up a small red-bound book. "Here's a little work entitled 'How to Manage a Loud Speaker.'"

## Saskatoon Disregards P.R.

(Edmonton Bulletin)

SASKATOON electors decided by a large majority to abandon the proportionate system of electing their city council and to return to the method by which a voter votes for the candidates he wants elected and for no others. Edmonton has been given a chance. The proportional system is in existence here not because it is a popular system, nor because any discernible benefits have resulted from it, but just because it is.

## Progress In Japan

IN its program of increasing domestic production, Japan proposes to give government aid to its leading industries, and the National Products Encouragement Association recently selected ten industrial arts to be recommended. These were iron and steel, dye stuffs, soda ash, shipbuilding, woolen textiles, automobiles, aluminum, artificial fertilizers, machinery and silk and silk textiles. Government officials will consider the recommendations within a short time.

## Queer Quirks of Nature

**SOME BABY BUGS HAVE DOWNY BLANKETS**  
By Arthur N. Pack.

LEAF-HOPPERS or tree-hoppers are a weird tribe, grotesque in shape and gait, and about the funniest thing to be found among the insect hordes. Stranger yet is the downy blanket



Baby Bug House.

in which they roll themselves while they are growing from baby bugs to big bugs—a sort of coverlet of down, made by them in much the same way the spider spins its web.

Dan Beard, of the Boy Scouts, says they are the sort of bugs which could appropriately inhabit a bug-house because they certainly are a crazy-looking lot. England these insects are called frog-hoppers.

Birds and wasps and other live things also have discovered the baby bug's blanket. Occasionally they add the leaf-hoppers to their daily rations. If the object of the blanket is protection, Nature has made a bad job of it, because these soft, sassy air-bubble wraps are easily penetrated.

## Timely Views On World Topics

**NARROWER MARGIN OF PROFIT IN 1927 IS PREDICTED**  
By Colonel Leonard Ayres.

DESPITE excellent current reports for industrial output and transportation activity, the evidence is beginning to accumulate showing that the causes making for less good business conditions are already operative. Industrial profit margins are rapidly narrowing. Earnings and profits of manufacturing will be greater in 1927 than ever before.

Leonard Ayres, who the state-ments now available covering the operations of the third quarter closely indicate that exceptional industrial prosperity of the first and second quarters was by no means fully continued in the third quarter. Current reports indicate that still narrower profits will be realized by very many industrial firms in the fourth quarter.

Automobiles and employment in motor manufacturing centres is falling. The number of reported accidents sharply increased in October.

The one real danger is that business men may now indicate in unwise attempts to stimulate business back to the pitch of activity that it reached last spring.

The easiest way to do this, and the most dangerous one, would be to enter upon a new campaign of easy terms in installment financing. The existing situation with regard to the financing of installment sales is probably adequately safe and reasonably sound even in a time of slowly declining general business.

Such an outcome is most unlikely. The real prospects are that bankers and business men will carefully avoid the extension of credit for the financing of installment purchasing on easier terms than experience has shown to be safe.

## After Dinner Stories

RECENTLY a traveler called at an hotel in Paris and asked what the charge was for rooms.

"Forty francs for the first floor, thirty francs for the second, twenty francs for the third, and ten francs for the fourth floor," replied the hotel proprietor.

"Oh, very well, thank you," said the traveler, as he turned to go away.

"That does not please you?" replied the proprietor, as he called him back.

"Oh, my prices are all right," said the traveler, "but your hotel is not high enough for me."

THERE was a commotion in the theatre, and the attendant was seen ejecting a man. The man was spluttering angrily when the manager came into the lobby.

"Why did you eject this man?" asked the manager.

"He was hissing the performance," replied the attendant.

"Why did you hiss the performance?" asked the manager.

"I d-d-didn't h-h-hiss," stammered the man. "I m-m-m-merely s-s-said t-t-to m-m-my friend beside me: 'S-S-Sammy, is-s-s-n't the s-s-s-singing s-s-superb?'"

A WITTY Irishman was invited to a dinner party in the hopes that he would amuse and divert his host's guests. But from the beginning to the end of the dinner he preserved a solemn and serious face. The host was surprised.

"Why, old fellow," he remarked, "I don't believe the blightest fool in Ireland could make you laugh tonight."

"Try," was the cutting rejoinder.

## Poems I Love

By CHAR. HANSON TOWNE.

"Silence," by Edgar Lee Masters.

I HAVE deep enthusiasm for "The Spoon River Anthology" and it has been mentioned by several writers of distinction as one of the ten great books of this century, written in any language. Some critics contend that Masters wrote himself out in that single volume—it would make little difference to me if he had; for to give to the world one enduring book is not the privilege of every man. But I achieved other really great things. His "Domestic Book" is a work of genius; and in a poem like "Silence" surely he proves that he has a message, and utters it with poetic fire. Space forbids the printing of the entire set of verses; but enough is here given to get a sense of the poem's magnificence.

I have known the silence of the stars  
And the sea,  
And the silence of the city when it  
pauses,  
And the silence of a man and a maid,  
And the silence for which music alone  
finds the word,  
And the silence of the woods before  
the winds of spring begin,  
And the silence of the sick  
When their eyes roam about the room,  
And I ask: For the depths,  
Of what use is language?  
A beast of the fields moans a few  
times  
When death takes its young.  
And we are voiceless in the presence  
of realities.

We cannot speak.  
A curious boy asks an old soldier  
Sitting in front of the grocery-store,  
"How did you lose your leg?"  
And the old soldier is struck with  
silence.  
Or his mind flies away  
Because he cannot concentrate it on  
Gettysburg.  
It comes back jocosely  
And he says: "A bear bit it off."  
And the boy wonders, while the old  
soldier  
Dumbly, feebly lives over  
The flashes of guns, the thunder of  
cannon,  
The shrieks of the slain,  
And himself lying on the ground,  
And the hospital surgeons, the knives,  
And the things in bed,  
But if he could describe it all  
He would be an artist.  
But if he were an artist there would  
be deeper wounds  
Which he could not describe.

There is the silence of a great hatred,  
And the silence of a great love;  
And the silence of a deep peace of  
mind,  
And the silence of an embittered  
heart,  
There is the silence of a spiritual  
crisis,  
Through which your soul, exquisitely  
K-KEAT P THURS . . . . .  
tortured,  
Comes to visions not to be uttered  
Into a realm of higher life.  
And the silence of the gods who un-  
derstand each other without  
speech.  
There is the silence of defeat.  
Through which your soul, exquisitely  
K-KEAT P THURS . . . . .  
tortured,  
Comes to visions not to be uttered  
Into a realm of higher life.  
And the silence of the gods who un-  
derstand each other without  
speech.

There is the silence of the dead.  
If we who are in life cannot speak  
Of profound experiences,  
Why do we marvel that the dead  
Do not tell you of death?  
Their silence shall be interpreted  
As we approach them.

## Just Fun

ASK Dad, he knows. It takes more  
than a short leader to brighten the  
father of a large family when the  
Christmas bills come due.

"I HOPE they don't give me a little  
boy any naughty nicknames in  
school?"  
"Yes, may, they call me 'Corn.'"  
"How dreadful! And why do they  
call you that?"  
"Cause in our class, you know, I'm  
always at the foot."

HE: I've got something to tell you.  
She: Well, if I said "yes" would that  
help you?—Passing Show, London.

"EDGE," you know," complained an  
irate colored lady to the court,  
"dis yash no 'count' husband 'o' mine  
drink."

"Yassur, judge," you know, Ah does  
drink, but he ain't committed the husband.  
"But, judge, dat woman don't treat me  
right. Why, Ah pawns de kitchen  
stove 't get a little money an' she don't  
miss it fo' two weeks."

SURGERY has taken the place of re-  
ligion for enabling some women  
to die happy.

WHAT good is a strong body—  
when you have a weak head?

AN ANSWER.  
"I SHOULD think that a night club  
would be the last place you would  
go to," scolded her father.  
"Yes," replied the flapper, "it usually  
is."—Pete Mele, Paris.

WAS IT A TINSHOP?  
"DO YOU know anything of Dickens' works?" said the girl.  
"I'm afraid I don't," replied the  
young man, "though I must admit I  
proprietor."

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know most of the factories in this town.—Tit-Bits, London.

CIRCUS LOVE.  
"SO THE snake charmer married the contortionist?" asked the lion tamer.  
"Yes," returned the clown. "She wanted a man she could wrap around her finger."—Orange Judd Farmer.

SUCH A GOOD CHANCE.  
MRS. HENPECK: Joseph, you were talking in your sleep last night.  
Mr. Henpeck: Was I? Sorry I interrupted you, my dear.—Sydney Bulletin.

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Through all kinds of manipulations and manoeuvres to confuse the public mind, Hydro—Your Hydro—comes through in clearcut style, proving every inch of the way that right is right.

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Your Own Hydro

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