

The Evening Times-Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 28, 1924

NOT TYPICAL

Mr. Robert Stead, of Ottawa, who is President of the Canadian Authors' Association, ought to know what "a typical Canadian home" is, but, judging by a recent communication he sent to the literary editor of the *Montreal Free Press*, he is not so well informed on this matter as he might well be. At all events, he seems to have drawn conclusions which are more hurried and much less logical than is desirable.

Mr. Stead writes that recently he visited the home of a Canadian artist of ordinary circumstances. He saw on the walls of living rooms some pictures which the owner's wife had cut out from magazines. Proceeding, Mr. Stead says:

"The first to catch my eye was a highly idealized conception of Abraham Lincoln spilling milk. Underneath was the caption, 'The True American.' The next picture illustrated the spirit of 1776. A third depicted a domestic scene in a New England home of the 1870's. There wasn't a Canadian or British picture on the walls. A heap of magazines on a centre table proved to be exclusively American, except for one Canadian daily paper, which had edged its way in, and which, upon examination, was found to consist largely of cheap American syndicate material, for which, quite naturally, the Canadian public has developed a taste."

So far, so good; but, after remarking that the gramophone records in this home were those of the latest American songs and dances and that the radio set reproduced American speeches, Mr. Stead says:

"And this home is typical of thousands throughout all Canada." It would be nearer the facts to say that "this home is typical of those of which it is typical." If we are asked to believe, or if Mr. Stead believes, that the conditions he describes are general throughout Canada, his picture must be regarded as a highly exaggerated one. In the homes of Americans who have moved to Canada, it is not surprising that he would find pictures, magazines and books almost exclusively American. It is not to be expected that settlers coming to another country, particularly those with strong feelings of nationality, should immediately put away pictures and publications suggesting old associations for others such as usually are found in the homes of Canadians. Mr. Stead doubtless intends to complain of what he would term the "Americanization of Canada," and the invasion of American habits and ideas by no means so widespread as he seems to intimate. If he had visited the homes of Canadians living in the United States he would probably have found Canadian pictures and magazines.

Mr. Stead believes that the situation would be much better if people in this country would read the works of Canadian authors who describe Canadian life and draw their inspiration from Canadian sources. That is very true, and as we build up a more extensive and more compelling literature of our own more rapid progress along those lines will be certain. Canadian magazine publishers want a protective tariff against American publications. The issue thus raised is not an easy one to deal with. There are many American publications which ought not to be kept of Canada. On the other hand, there are a great many American publications the exclusion of which would be justified by the adoption of more effective measures than a high tariff. Certainly anyone is ill advised if he believes that Canadian can be compelled to read the productions of Canadian authors, which they would not otherwise read, merely by the setting up of a tariff against competing products. Canadians will read the home product if it is interesting; they will not read it merely because it is prescribed for them. The typical Canadian home, it is true, does not contain so many books of Canadian origin, or as much other reading material of Canadian authorship, as it should; but to speak of "the typical Canadian home" as one through which Americanized after the fashion of that of the artisan Mr. Stead visited is to give a wholly wrong impression of this country. Our Canadianism is not weak; it is robust. The proportion of our population that is American by birth is small. The proportion that is of native or Empire stock is large. To entertain the idea that Canada is likely to lose its identity, its citizenship, its birthright, through the too great stream of American publications, or through other American influences is to think unworthily of this country. It is true, nevertheless, that we do import and that too many of our people do encourage altogether too much American trash of one form or another. The selection is not creditable to our taste; but we are not going to die of this malady. Canadianism has much greater tenacity of life than Mr. Stead gives it credit for.

Many of those who do not go to church, and more of those who do, will find in to-day's *Times-Star* a discourse on "The Empty Church," by the Rev. James Dunlop. It does more than scratch the surface of a sad worth plowing.

VISCOUNT GREY'S VIEW.

Viscount Grey of Fallodon, whose word carries much weight in Great Britain and throughout the Empire, is one of those who condemn very strongly the proposed treaty with Russia for which the Labor Ministry is responsible. Viscount Grey is a man of liberal mind, and his reputation and judgment are such that he would not be easily led into condemning a policy merely because of the source from which it came. He recently resigned his position as Liberal Leader in the House of Lords, and in doing so he withdrew largely from active participation in political life. Nevertheless he has thought it necessary on several occasions to present his views regarding the government's policy in Russian affairs. He does not object to official recognition of the government of Russia, but he says that when the British Ministry proposes an agreement with such a government the character of the Russian administration ought not to be considered. He points out that that government was brought into existence by massacre, and that to-day it is quite as despotic as the government of the Czar which it destroyed. He thinks the methods and principles of the Russian government have destroyed the country's productive capacity, and he regards it as foolish to propose that Britain shall guarantee a loan to Russia unless there is the most ample security and complete knowledge as to the use to which such a loan is to be put. He objects very strongly to the pledging of British credit to support any such state of things as exists in Russia to-day. Further, he suggests the possibility that the Labor Ministry's policy might result in increased British credit, and that, if persisted in, it might destroy that credit altogether. Viscount Grey says:

"I never knew an agreement between foreign nations start under such bad auspices. It is claimed in Russia as a precedent for the British Government. The British Prime Minister has replied that the treaty implies a Russian surrender to us. A treaty so variously described, you may take it, is not going to make for good feeling between the two countries. As to what ought to happen in the House of Commons, I would say this: I do not think it is fair of the Government to have brought before the House of Commons an agreement such as this, and I hope the House of Commons will say that it will have no responsibility whatever for a thing which is so vague and in many of its details so likely to lead to misunderstanding and future disagreement. I shall be very much surprised if the House of Commons is willing to pledge itself to the loan for an unknown amount. That really is not business. I think the Government ought to be told this. When you have reached the point at which you can say what the amount will be, and that it will be spent for the British advantage, then you can bring it before the House of Commons as it is. It is an agreement; it is neither good business nor good foreign policy."

Two days hence the world will know whether or not Mr. MacDonald and his colleagues are to have the power to put the Russian agreement, or to have say control over affairs in Great Britain. Meantime it is worthy of note that a man of Viscount Grey's character speaks so strongly against a policy which Mr. MacDonald evidently believes and to which he attaches so much importance. Viscount Grey stamps it unhesitatingly as not only unsound but dangerous.

The Mayor and Commissioners, who are considering port matters, are to confer today with the Port Committee. Members of both bodies may be interested in these words, which make an editorial paragraph in the *Boston Transcript*:

"The freight sheds on the Maine State pier are about to be enlarged." Are the sheds to be enlarged in order to accommodate traffic which should come to St. John? Is it not important, that, pending the construction of additional terminal facilities here for the C. N. R., and until a general plan for the reduction of port charges has been developed, the port of St. John should make every effort to secure additional traffic for one year at least by making some concessions in connection with top wharfage?

In the case of Peter Smith, former Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, sent to prison for three years, and also until he or Amelius Jarvis pays a fine of \$500,000, it is said the sentence is equivalent to imprisonment for life, unless Jarvis pays up. Apparently Jarvis must pay, or stay in prison indefinitely. He must serve six months anyway. If he pays up, his friend Smith will have to serve three years only. The Ontario sentence affords welcome proof that the law there is no respecter of persons.

According to instructions left in his will the body of Admiral Sir Percy Scott, noted British naval authority, who died the other day, was cremated and the ashes scattered at sea. The urn was taken on a cruiser twenty miles out from Portsmouth and the ashes were committed to the deep with full naval honors. Previously there had

been a funeral service at St. Margaret's, Westminster, at which His Majesty and the Admiralty were represented. The sailor is at sea again.

Of British election results Mr. J. A. Sponder, a leader among Liberal publicists in Britain, is manifestly doubtful. He says, on the eve of polling:—"It is sensible to face the fact that we are again with a hailing distance of coalitions, and we must hope that this time they will be combinations of reasonably like-minded men and not of fundamentally different men who transfer to the Cabinet controversies which ought to be settled before Cabinets are formed."

Twenty-five years ago to-day the Canadian troops were assembling at Quebec, en route to South Africa.

The Cost of Campaigns.

(New York Evening Post.) The cost of a general election in America will run somewhere between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 for all parties. County and local committees, groups and candidates spend millions. State and presidential primary costs run into more millions.

A national election costs as much as a war once cost. Campaign expenses mount quadratically. The high cost of living has hit politics. In 1888 the Buchanan campaign cost the Democrats \$250,000. A single county campaign expense may go higher now. Grant's first campaign cost \$150,000, his second, \$250,000. In 1880, with Garfield, the Republicans first went over a million, with \$1,100,000. In 1884 the Blaine forces spent \$1,500,000; those of Cleveland, \$1,600,000. The Democrats set a new mark of \$2,350,000 in the third Cleveland campaign. The Republican fund raised by Mark Hanna in 1896 was popularly supposed to be as much as \$12,000,000. Actual figures are \$8,000,000. Bryan had only \$650,000 that year. In 1912 Woodrow Wilson was backed by \$1,100,000. Taft was \$1,070,000, while Roosevelt's third party got along on \$670,000. In 1916 Hughes had \$2,825,000, and Wilson \$1,958,000. High-water mark in these national committee expenditures was reached in 1920, when Harding's forces spent \$6,318,000, and those of Cox, \$1,618,000, including the deficits afterward made good.

Essentials in Education.

(Indianapolis News.) It is welcome news that schools are giving more attention to English grammar and spelling, and that they are teaching, and even in college, many a student seems to know nothing about the construction of a sentence. He becomes deaf if asked to analyze a sentence, to separate subject from predicate or to hint at the derivation of words. This is not always the fault of the schools. Grammar is taught on these days and it was taught years ago, but there comes to be lacking some connecting link by which the pupil is made to understand the practical application of the study. Ever more conspicuous than errors in the spoken language are those in the written form. It is remarkable how appalling to investigate the spelling records of boys and girls, men and women. This seems to be the true of college as well as of high school and grade students. The successful business man seems to think that the only knowledge he need have of spelling is that of his stenographer, but what of those who have no one to whom they may dictate their letters?

Inconsistent.

"It is indeed pleaded that it will be made easier by the tax which is proposed, and that the increase of the price will diminish the number of purchasers; but it is at the same time expected that this tax shall supply the expense of a war on the continent. It is asserted, therefore, that the consumption of spirits will be hindered, and yet that it will be such as may be expected to furnish from a very small tax, a revenue sufficient for the support of armies, or the re-establishment of the Austrian family, and the repression of the attempts of France. Surely, my lords, these expectations are very inconsistent; nor can it be imagined that they are both formed in the same head, though they may be expressed by the same mouth."—Lord Chesterfield in speech against Gln Bill of the Ministry (1745).

LONDON.

(Lucy Maitland.) Romance has set her castle here, where beats the heart of England; hither no winds blow. But sing of youth; long since the Bells of Bow Called Whittington; here Milton, Lamb and Keats. Once bowed the knee to her; and he that meets In some pale dawn that gallant band shall know Her secret, and why Shakespeare long ago Left Stratford for the beauty of her streets.

Still when the moth of twilight flutters down Posts and kings and sages long since dust. Leave Partridge to gather at her gate; These gave their lives as jewels for her crown.

Left us this London as a holy trust, Bidding us keep their faith inviolate.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Out of One Yard.

Rastus was sporting proudly a new shirt when a friend asked: "Boy, how many yards does it take for a shirt like that?"

Rastus replied: "Say, man, Ah got three shirts like this outa one yard last night."

One Reservation.

"And this special treatment of your for sleeplessness, doctor?"

"I strike at the cause or the origin of the trouble."

"Oh, I see. Well, you'll find the baby in the adjoining room. Only don't strike at him too hard."

Example of Economy.

"Talking of economy," remarked the man in the corner seat of the third-class smoker, "I know a fellow as ain't spent a 'play in five years."

"Nonsense!" commented the man in the opposite corner. "What're you getting at?"

"It's a fact," said the first man; "but he'll be out next week."

Bringing Him To.

The doctor was examining a naval hospital orderly for advancement in rating. "What would you do if the captain fainted on the bridge?"

"Then what?" asked the doctor.

"Bring him two more," returned the man promptly.

CHANGES IN P. E. I. SERVICE.

Canadian National Railways announce that effective Monday, November 3rd, the double daily service between Prince Edward Island and the Mainland will be discontinued.

S.S. Prince Edward Island will make but one round trip daily (except Sunday), leaving Boston about 9.00 a. m., and returning, leaving Tormentine 2.50 p. m.

Connection for Prince Edward Island points from St. John will therefore be by No. 44 train, leaving at 7.05 a. m. The noon train, No. 14, will not connect with boat train at Sackville.

10-30

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Some Amazing Hydro Results in St. John, N. B.

Eight column "head" in the Halifax Evening Mail, October 23, 1924, calling attention to the success of St. John Hydro as follows:

"When the Musquash Hydro project was developed, the citizens of St. John retained control of the development and the energy flowing therefrom."

"Before the introduction of Hydro in St. John, the private company there declared that the power from the new source would not benefit the consumers more than a fraction of a cent in the rates."

"When Hydro was introduced, the private company was charging a flat rate of Fifteen Cents per K. W. H. for domestic lighting."

"Now we learn that another amazing cut in rates has been made by the private company, hard up against Hydro competition."

"That is what cheap current can do when it is given a chance. In St. John, it has forced the private company to make the astonishing cut from 15 cts. per K. W. H. down to 2 1/2 cts. per K. W. H.—plus the service charge of 54 cts."

"The citizens of Halifax lost control of their Hydro. The private corporation here (Halifax) is in absolute control. It is stated citizens of Halifax will under new rates pay more than ever before."

THE HALIFAX EVENING MAIL
The Power Commission
of The City of St. John

\$2,931,111 WORTH OF FISH LANDED

More Than 190,000,000 Pounds Caught During Last Month

Ottawa, Oct. 27.—During September 192,185,000 pounds of sea fish valued at \$2,931,111 were landed on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, according to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. This is an increase over the same month last year, when the catch was 108,628,100. On the Atlantic coast the total catch of cod, haddock, hake and pollock was 55,244,300 pounds compared with 52,187,000 in the same period last year. Herring, mackerel and sardines all showed a larger catch than last year. The catch of lobsters was 1,421,000, a slight increase over last year.

BUFFET SERVICE AN IMPROVEMENT

New Service on Trains Between St. John and Moncton Meets With Favor.

Since the change of time on C. N. R. lines effective Sept. 28th, provision has been made for a better buffet service on trains Nos. 19 and 20 between Moncton and St. John.

No. 20 train, leaving St. John at 6.15 p.m., carries a buffet-parlor car as far as Moncton, and on this train excellent meals are served, the menu including such substantial items as steaks, chops, and, cooked to order by a competent chef.

This improvement in the service is finding favor with many travelers. The same service is furnished on the buffet car leaving Moncton on train No. 19 at 10.35 a.m. and reaching St. John at 1.45 p.m.

A through sleeping car for Halifax is carried on train No. 20 except on Saturday evenings, and is transferred at Truro to No. 8 train from Sydney and carried to Halifax, arriving at 8.45 a.m.

A cafe-parlor car is operated from St. John to Moncton on train No. 14 leaving at 1.25 p.m., serving regular meals. This car operates from Moncton to St. St. John on train No. 43, leaving Moncton at 5.35 p.m.

HAMILTON WANTS MAN FROM SYDNEY

Hamilton, Ont., Oct. 27.—In connection with the arrest at Sydney of a man named Mike Zabosky in connection with an alleged bank robbery plan, and who was said to be wanted here, local police say they know of a man named Zabosky who was sentenced to three years for cracking a safe in Bentley's Bakery here and who was later released on parole. He was caught through the fingerprint system. The police do not know of any one by the name of Smet, also arrested in Sydney.

REORGANIZE SCOUTS.

The St. Andrew's church troop of Boy Scouts was reorganized last night and started out on a new career with much enthusiasm displayed by the members. Harry Lister, Dominion field commissioner, and L. L. Johnson, district secretary, were present and Scoutmaster D. C. McNelis and Assistant

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