

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 1, 1920.

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### WELCOME NEWS.

If any man had predicted before the Foster Government came into office that an electric current from Musquash and Lepreau would be brought to St. John, and linked up with another current generated about Fredericton, and carried on to Moncton to be linked up with another from the North Shore—all resulting from water power development—he would have been set down as a romantic or a teller of fairy tales. Yet this is on the eve of accomplishment. Surveys have shown that the power is available, and only needs to be harnessed. What it will mean to the various sections of the province where the electric current is to be distributed one does not need to dwell upon. The people of the province have every reason to be glad they exchanged a government which squandered the resources of the province for one which not only conserves but develops them. The use of money to develop water power is in the interests of the people, and the government is to be congratulated upon the vigor with which it has taken up the work. The law governing the case amply protects the province from exploitation by owners of property where power is to be developed, and while no hardship should be imposed on any such owner the public interest must be paramount. The announcement made yesterday comes as a most agreeable revelation of possibilities hitherto unsuspected by most people.

### WOMEN AND EDUCATION.

The Federation of University Women of Canada has performed a public service by making a survey and submitting a report on educational conditions, which shows the need of a radical change. Graduates of universities from coast to coast were represented on the committee which prepared the report. Miss Gladys Borden, B. A., of Mount Allison and Miss Florence Blackwood, B. A., of Halifax represented the maritime provinces. We quote from the report:

"Twenty per cent. of our school population are not utilizing our schools owing to non-enrollment. Only 82 per cent. are taking adequate advantage by regular attendance. About 70 per cent. of the children enrolled are in the first four grades and only a small percentage of the enrollment reach Grade Eight. Only six per cent. of the school children of Canada are receiving the high school or vocational education necessary in a democratic country for good citizenship and adequate living."

In Ontario, the report points out, the attendance at high schools is 67 per cent. of the school population; in Nova Scotia, 5.5 per cent; in Saskatchewan, 5.46 per cent; in Alberta, 6.25 per cent; and in British Columbia, 8 per cent. The approximate average, 62 per cent. is considerably lower than that of the United States, which is 10.5 per cent. New Brunswick does not appear to be mentioned, but its percentage of school population in the high schools is much smaller than in any of the provinces as given in this report. Indeed it is so much smaller that one is tempted to doubt the accuracy of the figures for other provinces, and notably Nova Scotia. At best, however, the showing is not a creditable one. The report attributes the unsatisfactory showing to the low age limit of compulsory attendance, or the absence of compulsion, lax enforcement of compulsion laws, and retardation in the earlier grades. One western province complains of irregular attendance. Incompetent teachers, constant change of teachers and overloading of teachers of the primary grades. "The attendance laws throughout Canada are not uniform," says the report. "Ontario, with its recent Adolescent Attendance Act, stands highest. Full-time attendance is required up to sixteen years, with exceptional cases of part-time attendance of 400 hours permitted between fourteen and sixteen years. Adolescents between sixteen and eighteen are required to devote 320 hours in the year to school duties. The compulsory age limit in Alberta is fifteen, in Saskatchewan and Manitoba fourteen."

In New Brunswick there is no general compulsory attendance law, and this is a condition which should be altered without further delay. We should at least be on a par with Ontario. With regard to teachers it has just been announced that there are between forty and fifty less applicants than last year from students for New Brunswick normal school, and the total is only 178 compared with upwards of three hundred a few years ago. And this at a time when there is a shortage of teachers in the province. Obviously, as the university women point out in their report, the pay of teachers must be brought nearer to a parity with that received in other branches of work. Touching the question of teachers the Toronto Globe's summing up of the report says:—

"The report states that the academic and professional training of a large number of teachers is inadequate. From 20 per cent to 50 per cent have less than the second-class certificate. Salaries are too low to attract men and women to the profession. The female teacher is now joining in the exodus. In Nova Scotia 22 per cent of the teachers have an experience of one year or less, and 53 per cent only three years. In Ontario

60.06 per cent have three years' experience. Various devices for improving the conditions of teachers are suggested. They include:—(1) teachers' residences, (2) economy in the number of teachers and more opportunity for specialization through centralized schools, (3) a pension fund, (4) no distinction of sex in the wage schedule, (5) Provincial Teachers' Exchange substituted for the present method of advertising."

The report favors consolidated schools. We quote again:—

"In Manitoba they have proved a success. In that province there are 106 in operation and 4 in process of formation. Saskatchewan has 85, Alberta 63, British Columbia 3, Ontario 2 in operation and 7 in process of formation. In New Brunswick there are 4 and in Nova Scotia none. In Alberta 52 of the 63 consolidated schools offer high school work, and an equally large percentage in Manitoba do the same. They are recommended because they would make possible better paid and better qualified teachers, also the engagement of specialists to teach agriculture, domestic science, music and art. They would also furnish a continuous educational system of twelve years for both rural and urban children."

The report offers a number of recommendations, which ought to receive very careful consideration in all the provinces. They are as follows:—

"(1) A municipal system of school administration, with consolidation of schools and rural high schools to afford an opportunity to each child of twelve continuous years of education. (2) More liberal financial support of schools by municipalities and districts, and Provincial and Federal grants sufficient to equalize taxation and school standards. (3) An adequate salary schedule for teachers and higher qualifications for teaching. (4) The consideration of equal pay for equal work, and the promotion of higher qualifications for teaching. (5) The foundation of research fellowships for the study of Canadian educational problems."

If the now enfranchised women of each province in Canada will unite their efforts to secure better educational conditions they will immeasurably benefit the whole country. There is the more reason they should do so because their daughters as well as their sons must be trained not only for citizenship but for a more active part in industry and commerce than ever in the past. The women of New Brunswick have here a field of effort worthy of their highest endeavor."

In the course of an article in Leslie's Weekly on the reaction against high prices and high wages, Dr. Charles Aubrey Eaton says:—"It is not that people object to high wages. Most of us would like to see wages high and mounting higher. But what people are resolutely rebelling against is paying high prices for cheap stuff, and high wages for grudging, careless and wasteful service. The complaint is that no one will do an honest day's work any more. As wages go up, efficiency goes down." The editor of Leslie's declares that there is a great, silent strike in progress on the part of the unorganized general public, and that "it will continue until morality, reason and humanity regain their influence in everyday affairs. 'The rich,' he says, 'quit buying long ago; the great, unorganized and voiceless public are quitting, and the new rich of the industrial working class, no matter how senselessly extravagant they may be, cannot sustain the economic structure of the nation.' This appears to be a very good sizing-up of the situation in the United States today."

Congressman Fred A. Brittain of Illinois is one of that class of politicians who are a disgrace to their country. He charged that \$87,000 appropriated by the British parliament to keep up the British Embassy at Washington was really put into the Democratic campaign fund. When asked to prove it he said he had no evidence but that it was his "personal idea." Behind that personal idea was of course the desire to consolidate the anti-British vote for the Republican party.

Why does the Globe say that steamers of the Canadian Merchant Marine cannot come to St. John if we do not accept harbor commission? These vessels have come here, are coming here and will continue to come here, as they do to Halifax, where there is no harbor commission. Is the case so desperate that utterly incorrect assertions must be made to bolster it up?

The British miners have voted by a very large majority in favor of a strike. If the railway and transport workers approve of this action the country will be thrown into industrial and commercial chaos until the issue has been fought out. The situation is one of extreme gravity.

Sir Auckland Geddes will confer with the government at Ottawa in regard to the appointment of a Canadian minister to Washington. A large number of hopeful tory aspirants have their ears to the ground.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

### SONG AND SUCCOTASH.

When I'm not toiling at my lyre, producing thrilling waves of sound, I'm busy as a housewife, in my small plot of garden ground. When I've turned out an anthem sweet, designed to soothe men's troubled souls, I spade the dirt around a beet, and teach my beans to grow on poles. A bird may chant an ode or two, may write, perchance, some soaring screeds, but to his duty he's untrue if he neglects to pull the weeds. For what this country needs just now, when everything's kerfuffled and stands, is not the product of the brow—it is the product of the hands. Too many bask on beds of ease, and write or sing or paint or play, when they should be the stringless peas and pluck the fragrant bale of hay. If I were young I'd sink my lyre, and quit this idle graft of song, and in the furrow I'd persevere, or whack up elm the whole day long. But I am old and full of lard, and when I've worked an hour or three, the neighbors lead me from the yard and fan me with a cedar tree. And so I too, the poet's horn, but when I've earned a sawbuck green, I strive to grow an ear of corn, a carrot or a lima bean.

### CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

#### THE SELKIRK SETTLERS.

June of 1815 opened with a new evil to the settlers whom Lord Selkirk had brought to the Red River from overseas. In that month many of them gave way to the threats that had been made against them by Indians and North Westers in the land and quit the colony for homes in what became later the counties of Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin in Ontario. Three-fourths of the band were in this way driven from the Red River district.

An order was served on the few who remained to get out at once and to leave no trace of the settlement. At the end of June thirteen families were driven from their homes like the Acadian refugees and sent northward to Norway House on their way to Hudson's Bay. They had been there only a short time when Colin Robertson and twenty clerks arrived from Lower Canada, with him they returned to their settlement and occupied the houses which the Indians and others had not burned. Robertson had been sent by Lord Selkirk to assist the colony and when he arrived at Red River he found the settlement burned and the settlement dispersed he followed the track of the band until he overtook the fugitives. Then he led them back to their blackened homes on July 19, 1815.

October brought new arrivals from Scotland and a determination to see the thing through and win in the struggle with the other inhabitants of the section. The winter, long and dreary, was endured because with the coming of the spring the colony was to be re-established. It was a fresh start under the new leader. They heard stories of course, of impending difficulties, but if they came then they would only see a repetition of the past difficulties; no one had as yet met a violent death at the hands of the assassins. But the next blow in the history of the colony was about to fall and death was stalking in the camp.

(To be Continued.)

#### NEW YORK TO NOME—1920.

Drumming over dark nomads, natural meadows deep with grasses, Lake and stream like crystal glasses that reflect our racing planes, Humming over peaks eternal, endless forests ever vernal, Rapids boiling like infernal dinner pots from recent rains, Far below our abominable speeding over flocks of wild ducks feeding, Over lake to lake succeeding, ever to the northward fly.

Through the vast blue spaces winging, lo! our peerless planes are singing Wondrous songs, wild and ringing, of the conquest of the sky.

Where the bright aurora flashes, where the icy Yukon dashes, Where the pick and shovel clashes in the rocks of virgin gold, We are roaring, we are soaring, with the silver star dust pouring.

In our wake as we go boring through the ether high and proud, Brave immortal spirits meet us, souls of Clark and Lewis greet us, Whence the man can ever beat us in the air which is our home! Ho! we need no pole or paddle, guide or carrier or saddle.

As the continent we straddle from New York to frozen Nome. —Minna Irving in New York Tribune.

#### CYRUS H. K. CURTIS—THE MAN

Richard Spillane, who has been writing a masterly story of the life of Cyrus H. K. Curtis is past 70 and remains young. Possibly the man who made The Saturday Evening Post, in Forbes Magazine, devote the final chapter to a character study of this publishing genius.

How can a man be young at 70? Cyrus H. K. Curtis is past 70 and remains young. Possibly the man who made The Saturday Evening Post, in Forbes Magazine, devote the final chapter to a character study of this publishing genius.

He works. It is doubtful if any one has his severe dogmatism works harder. He plays. He makes a good job of his playing. He smokes. The cigars he enjoys most are astonishingly long-blended. He is as light on his feet as a youth 20. He is not a strict teetotaler. He reads. His library is well stocked and the table in his home is covered with publications of every kind. He studies. There are few subjects on which he does not keep posted. He travels. Each year he journeys by land or sea thousands of miles. He is religious. From childhood he has been faithful in his attendance to his church and his support of the church.

Probably the explanation of his amazing energy, the clarity of his vision, his sprightfulness, his tolerance and his breadth of interest in men and measures is contained in the fact that he never has become self-centered, never has permitted one thing to monopolize him, never has departed from a same, well-balanced course of never overdoing anything.

### COST EXCEEDS SALE PRICE.

Imperial Oil Co. Manager Says That Western Harvest Demand is Chief Reason for Advance.

(Toronto Telegram.) "By advertising we have been trying to get the pleasure car owners to conserve gasoline for some time past, warning them that all the available gas would be needed for the west during harvest time," said Manager George W. Mayor of the Imperial Oil Company this morning, in explaining the reason for the increase in price of gasoline.

"The actual reason for the price increase from 40 to 42 cents a gallon wholesale is the law of supply and demand. The Imperial Oil Company of Canada is purchasing gasoline in all parts of the United States and shipping as much to the western farming country as possible," stated Mr. Mayor.

"The harvest must be looked after before everything else. We are purchasing 40 per cent. of our gas from outside. There is a world shortage of crude oil. We have big refining plants at Halifax and Montreal which should turn out 10,000 barrels a day but are only turning out 1,800 or 2,000 barrels."

He stated that his firm bought 100,000 barrels in New Jersey a few days ago, occupied the 40 per cent. to lay down in Toronto. He estimated that it cost another three cents a gallon to deliver it to local retailers, with overhead expenses. According to a statement which his firm issued some time ago, the production of gasoline in the last few years has only increased 156 per cent, while the consumption has increased 650 per cent.

"Do you think there will be a drop in prices later?" asked The Telegram. "As soon as the winter wears on, people will stop using their cars and the price will drop two, three, possibly four cents."

The British-American Oil Company also expects to increase its prices very soon. In the meantime retailers who sell Imperial will charge forty-five cents a gallon.

### ONE BIG UNION IS NOT FIT TO GOVERN

(Canadian Finance.)

There is a well-known saying which suggests that if you would learn the real characteristics of a man, you must first live with him, but the recent labor movement in Winnipeg prompts the belief that you may get some idea of the fairness, intelligence, tolerance and good judgment of your fellow man if you watch his actions during such a discussion. The debate was arranged so that the respective merits of the One Big Union and the American Federation of Labor might be discussed. There were two speakers for each side and each one was prepared to do his best to beat his opponent. An audience of approximately 4,000 people, quite a percentage of females being included, were at the meeting, and it was soon evident that the speakers of the O. B. U. outnumbered by far the supporters of the International movement. When the O. B. U. speakers stepped to the platform they were cheered vociferously, but the International speakers were booed and hissed.

The debate was commenced by an O. B. U. speaker who delivered a very excellent speech, but the International speaker, who followed, was so much out of his element that he was unable to deliver a speech of any value. The next speaker represented the International movement. He was supposed to speak for forty minutes but he was so much out of his element that he was unable to deliver a speech of any value.

These O. B. U. supporters are the men who declare our existing governments are not fit to govern. They say that the so-called capitalist class—seems to include everyone who is not a member of the O. B. U.—is intolerant. They say that the O. B. U. is intolerant. They say that the O. B. U. is intolerant. They say that the O. B. U. is intolerant.

They deny autocracy and laud proletarianism. They say that Canadian labor leaders are the servants of Sam Bomby and it is urged, in an argument against these leaders that they have dared to co-operate with the government.

The day may come when labor may be the predominant political force in this country, but it will not come until labor makes itself fit to govern. Intolerance, class hatred and mob violence such as was exhibited by the O. B. U. supporters at the Winnipeg debate is the worst kind of recommendation that labor can get. We believe that the common sense of the Canadian people, including the laboring classes, will assert itself and place the O. B. U. where all breeders of class warfare should go in the discard.

### ORDERS BY PIGEON POST.

(New York Sun and Herald.)

An entirely practical use of homing pigeons is reported from England. The inventor of the system is a butcher's son, who employs his birds regularly to carry orders from outlying districts—presumably where there are no telephones—to his father's shop. The plan works excellently.

When the boy goes to collect orders he takes six of his fastest birds in a trap with him. After he has gone a mile or two and collected the orders he liberates a pigeon with the slips enclosed in a little metal case attached to the bird's foot. Before five minutes have elapsed these orders are in the shop.

At the various stages of his round, which usually takes three hours, the other birds with more orders are set free, and by the time the ship is reached all the orders received by this pigeon post have been despatched.

The civil service commission announces that William Harold Hayes, of Gondola Point, Kings county, has been appointed to the position of plant disease investigator dominion department of agriculture. His territory will be the province of New Brunswick.

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Of extra heavy Coutil, specially made for average and stout figures. This corset has medium bust and back laced. Very Special at \$4.50

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A very comfortable light weight front lace Corset for small and average figures. Has four suspenders and comes in white only. A very popular model. Priced at \$3.00

### GODDESS NO. 542—

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### WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

London, Eng., Sept. 1.—Dr. Josiah Oldfield, well known physician, said women should be less seen and less heard. "To me there is a great risk and greater pity in women attempting to carry their public life burden in addition to their own private life's golden halo," he said. "It is stated that because last year the ratio of suicides as between women and men has risen from one woman to three men, to one to two; therefore, modern married life is to be blamed." A woman's security, peace and happiness, he said, lie in withdrawal, motherhood and household.

### STRIKE AGAINST HIGH RENTS

Glasgow, Scotland, Sept. 1.—A one-day strike in Scotland was the prelude to a no-rents campaign which will be waged with a view of reducing the proposed increases in rent permitted by the new act. The idea of the strike and non-payment of rents will be that the landlords, unable to act against the thousands of tenants, will be compelled to bring pressure on the government to reduce the cost of living.

### Marking Babies.

Aluminum tags are now placed about the necks of babies born in maternity hospitals, with the view of preventing any possibility of a mix-up on such occasions as it is necessary to take the infant away from its mother for a time. The tag is secured by a cord of some material which will not scratch the tender flesh and is tied in a triple knot to insure its permanency when once it has been placed on the child.

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