POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 5, 1921

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THE CIVIC OUTLOOK.

Mayor Schofield as civic commissioner of finance has submitted an interesting report. His tribute to the comptroller and chamberlain is well deserved, for it is doubtful if any city in Canada has more painstaking and faithful officials in its finance department. The mayor's report shows that of a total assessment of $1,627,928-82 last year only $208,675.16 was unpaid at the end of December, and of this a considerable portion has since been secured. That is a very good showing. The mayor repeats a former suggestion made by him that at least the smaller taxpayer be given the opportunity to pay in twelve monthly installments. The experiment might be worth trying for a year, and if the results were not satisfactory the present system could be restored. With regard to unemployment there is no doubt a general feeling that the council did its best to relieve the situation, although an employment bureau might have helped to some extent. The attitude of Mayor Schofield toward the question of school buildings is sound and progressive, and if provision for vocational training may be included in any new programme it will be of great public benefit. Indeed it is essential. The mayor also approves of improved hospital accommodation. His hope that another year it may be possible to provide a garbage incinerator is based on a desire to improve health conditions, and its fulfilment would gratify the citizens. With regard to harbor development the Times is still of opinion that the council should reject the wholly unsatisfactory harbor commission scheme and call upon the federal government to fulfill its pledges and do its duty to this national port. Mayor Schofield sees no reason why, if taxes are as well paid as last year's, the city should not get needed improvements along general lines from year to year. He is justified in this assumption and in his closing appeal to civic pride. Before the war people did not believe they could endure any more taxation. They endured a great deal more, and it did not injure them. There should be no complaint about even a high rate of taxation to meet real and urgent needs of the community.

THE WOMEN MUST ACT.

Those who have interested themselves in the case of Margaret Long cannot consistently end their activities at this stage. The problem of the unmarried mother and her child is one that calls for much more drastic action. The Times referred a few days ago to a bill before the Nova Scotia legislature which would compel the father of any such child to assume his share of responsibility. Such a law exists in England and in some American states. A drastic bill along these lines should be introduced and adopted at the next session of the New Brunswick legislature. The Council of Women should have such a bill drafted and presented to the government. This should be followed by a vigorous campaign to enlist the support of every member of the legislature. The women of the province could not make a better use of their influence as electors than to press for this measure of justice to their sex. It is very gratifying to note that at the last meeting of the St. John Local Council of Women there was a very general expression of a desire not only to help the unfortuante in securing justice, but to show a real interest in their future, that they might be safeguarded from temptation and saved from the reckless mood which might naturally result from ostracism. Too often the harshest critics of a woman gone wrong have been women, who perhaps never experienced a great temptation. Sheltered lives know nothing of the storms that beat upon young and perhaps ill-trained and weak-minded girls, or those forced to earn a living, or thrown by parental neglect upon their own resources and into an atmosphere of evil. Society must recognize its obligation and the challenge is to the newly enfranchised womanhood of the country. The men have failed in their duty.

The Dumbells, the famous concert party which entertained soldiers at the front and also played the leading theatres of London, and since the war has delighted audiences all across Canada has been invited to play an engagement in New York. The Toronto Mail and Empire says:—"Returned men throughout Canada will wish the Dumbells company a successful visit to New York. The organization is almost a unique one, and equally rare it is for a Canadian theatrical company to be invited to fill an engagement in the city that is acknowledged as the theatrical centre of this continent. That the unusual honor should come to a company of Canadian soldiers is even more gratifying. The production has had an enormous popularity in Canada since the close of the war, and has played for fifteen weeks in the Grand Opera House, which must be a record."

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A Toronto report says that during the past three months the volume of trade in dry goods in Ontario has been almost equal to that of the corresponding period last year. This is regarded as an encouraging statement. Seeding operations in the west are progressing favorably and the Grain Trade News says it is expected a normal acreage will be planted.

DECLINE IN PRICES.

The price of butter in Montreal has dropped about twenty cents a pound in a week. The Montreal Gazette says that at the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society sale, held at the Board of Trade, there were 425 packages of creamery butter offered of which 123 packages of pasteurized creamery sold at 35 1-4 cents per pound, 201 packages finest at 34 1-2 cents, and 99 packages fine at 32 5-8 cents. This shows a remarkable decline compared with prices of the same date a year ago when on the Montreal market pasteurized creamery sold at 60 3-4 cents, finest at 60 cents, and fine at 58 1-2 cents. There was also a sharp drop recently in the price of eggs in Montreal, and they were quoted at 35 cents per dozen on Monday. In New York and Chicago they were still cheaper. In quite a number of lines of produce, and notably potatoes, there has been a sharp decline in price during the last year. This should have an appreciable effect upon the cost of living for the average family.

In Halifax last week contracts for supplies for the city prison and municipal home for six months were awarded. One item was bread, a pound and a half loaf at seven and a half cents. The tenders for milk ranged from nine and four firths to ten and a half cents per quart. Fresh fish was offered at five to five and a half cents per pound. Mess pork, a hundred pounds a week, will cost seventeen cents per pound and solid creamery buttery forty-two cents. The price of fresh meat is also relatively low, as well as that of groceries, in comparison with former prices. Some of these prices will make the general consumer rise up and ask questions.

Toronto Globe:—"It is noteworthy that the number of persons in the United States born in Ireland is slightly over half the number born elsewhere under the British flag. Yet nothing is heard of a British vote. Unlike some other foreign groups, the people of English, Scotch, Welsh and Canadian birth or blood in the United States do not organize for political purposes, and in public matters are not distinguishable from the mass of Americans. The many thousands of settlers from the United States in Western Canada show a similar charactertistic, and identify themselves with the main body of Canadian citizenship. There is no American party or group in the prairie provinces, just as there is no British party across the line. Whatever the explanation, the problem of government would be simplified in each country if all foreigners were as assimilable."

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There will be universal interest in Canada in the following extract from the annual address of President Beatty of the C. P. R.:—"The effort to secure reductions in wages and alterations in working conditions has already been commence in the United States and is proceeding in a sane, orderly and legal manner. What is accomplished there will undoubtedly reflect on the rates of pay and the working conditions in Canada. These increases in wage scales, while not the only element which entered into the increase in freight and passenger rates, were still a very outstanding and potent factor and when the readjustment of wages takes place it is only right that the rate situation should be again reconsidered with a view to revision downward."

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The resignation of the German cabinet complicates matters so far as the Germans are concerned, but will have no effect upon the action of the Supreme Allied Council, which has signed and forwarded an ultimatum, calling for an answer before May 12. Germany is called on to execute its obligations in full. The alternative is occupation of the Ruhr Valley and such military and naval measures as the Allies deem necessary to enforce the terms. There is perfect unity among the Allies on the whole question.

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The matter of the height of the new railroad bridge at the reversing falls is not yet finally settled. The order to construct the bridge has not yet been issued. The question is still before the public works department. With regard to the crossing at Douglas avenue, which Hon. F. B. Carvell wants arranged satisfactorily, this can be done by a subgrade crossing, as was done in Moncton. The raising of the bridge will not create a crossing problem.

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With nearly two milion people out of work in England, the situation is one causing great anxiety. A termination of the miners' strike would result in immediate improvement, but the optimistic prediction of Mr. J. H. Thomas that the strike would soon end is not confirmed by any developments thus far revealed.

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The Poles appear to be acting in a very high-handed manner in Upper Silesia, and coming into conflict with their best friends. The situation is described as critical.

ROSE TIME

(Rev. George Scott).

The roses riot o'er the land,
Creamy and crimson, pearly white,
Dancing a care free saraband,
Delirious with sheer delight.

And carelessly the breezes throw
The treasures of their hoarded musk,
While humming birds flit to and fro,
Right busy in the pleasant dusk.

The robber bees return to sip,
Such is the boldness of their kind
The nectar from their perfumed lip,
Nor leave a sweeter flower behind.

So in and out and all about
The roses lead their happy throng,
And piping to the merry rout
The oriole breaks into song.

And in the meads where cattle stray
And sheep bells ring their sleepy tunes,
As in the well-kept garden way
They loiter all the sunny noons.

I open every casement wide,
And marvel at their sweet excess,
Their cravings cannot be denied,
The pleadings of their loveliness.

The roses riot o'er the land,
A passionate alluring flame,
A prodigal and spendthrift band,
Forever new but still the same.

ADMONITION.

(Abigail Cresson in New York Times.)

Dear Jock, this love's a pretty thing,
But marriage, so they say,
Takes gold to keep it happy,
For there's many a bill to pay.

You've but the coat upon your back,
The feather in your hat,
A whistle like a blackbird's—but
You can't buy bread with that!

Why don't you seek your fortune, Jock?
I'm sure that I've been told
That he who finds the rainbow's end
Shall find a pot of gold.

You might hunt treasure, too,
Or seek Aladdin's lamp,
Or try your luck at mining gold—
Although such work is damp.

Dear Jock, it is such things as bills
That make of love a worry;
So go and find the money, dear,
And I will wait—but hurry!

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Not a Valued "Charge Customer."

"Who is that man?"

"I haven't the slightest idea."

"But he comes into your store almost every day."

"I know, but he pays cash for everything he gets and I've never had any occasion to ask his name."—Detroit Free Press.

He tapped on the back door and asked for something to eat. The good housewife replied that she would feed him if he was willing to earn the meal by clearing out the gutter.

The tramp agreed, and when he had eaten his way through several sandwiches she came out with a reliable-looking hoe.

"You needn't have gone to that trouble, madam," said the weary one, sizing up the farm implement. "I never use a hoe in cleaning out a gutter."

"Never use a hoe!" said the woman. "What do you use, then—a shovel?"

"No, madam," replied the tramp; starting for the gate, "my method is to pray for rain."

Like the Boy Who Whistles Picking Cherries.

"Hiram," said Mrs. Corntossel, "why did you insist on our boy Josh takin' music lessons? You know he hasn't any talent.'

"I wasn't thinkin' about the talent. As long as I hear him practicin' on the violin, I know he isn't skylarkin' with the hired man nor teasin' the stock."—Washington Star.

A clergyman who had been preaching some miles away was returning home at a late hour. He noticed that the occupants of one house had left a window open, so he decided to warn them and perhaps prevent a burglary. Putting his head through the open space he called out: "Hello, good peop—"

That was all he said. A pailful of water struck him in the face, and as he staggered back a woman shrieked. "Didn't I tell you what you'd get if you didn't get home by ten o'clock?"

HALIFAX TO HAVE A PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC.

(Halifax Chronicle.)

The need of a psychiatric clinic for the province is urgent and the Nova Scotia Society for Mental Hygiene is endeavoring through its committees on finance and education to raise a sum of money sufficient to pay the salary and expenses of a trained social worker. The amount necessary is approximately $8,000. It is proposed that the clinic meet once a week in Halifax city, and that the trained worker will be under the direction of medical specialists who have volunteered their services to the clinic gratis for the first year, and that the balance of her time shall be given to the province.

The following points show plainly the purpose and aim of this province-wide organization for the protection and care of the mentally deficient, and all other phases of mental hygiene:

1. Promotion of clinics for mental and nervous diseases and mental defect—especially assist in the early dentification of cases and referring them to the clinics.

2. Promotion of special classes in public schools—especially in educating the local communities as to the need for these and thus assisting the state department of education in securing their establishment.

3. Promotion of after-card committees or agents—assisting in their establishment and conduct in local communities, especially for the supervision of the mental defective who is outside of an institution.

4. Endeavoring to eliminate the stigma attached to mental trouble and to institutions for the same, especially emphasizing the possibility of prevention, the fact that recoveries take place, and that institutions for the insane are hospitals, not asylums.

5. Endeavoring to secure better facilities for the detention of suspected mental cases either while under observation or awaiting commitment.

6. Advocate the consideration of the mental status of all persons passing through the courts.

7. Arrange for assistance in the rehabilitation of former mental and nervous patients.

8. Arrange for assistance in the extra institutional disposition of mental defectives, especially those of high grade.

A lumber company of Platte Center, Neb., sells lumber, laths, shingles, fencing and other building materials to farmers in exchange for corn, allowing the purchaser eight cents more a bushel than the market price at time of delivery.

MAJOR JOHN BARNETT.

Chairman of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, who submitted a table to a special committee on pensions showing that of 18,705 active established settlers with loans, 10,072 had made payments to date. More than 5,800 of these had made their full payments.

A PORTRAIT IN VERSE.

(Dr. J. D. Logan.)

No pleasanter or worthier task could fall to a Nova Scotia poet than to commemorate in verse "The Old Sea Dogs" that in the last half of the last century sailed from the harbors of Pictou, Halifax, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Lunenburg. Thomas W. Carten, in the following verses, essays a portrait-sketch of Captain Zacharie Surette and adds these interesting facts to give the portrait point. About thirty years ago Captain Surette of Eel Brook, Yarmouth county, then master of a Gloucester fishing vessel, was caught in a storm, with others of a considerable fleet, in the Bay of Fundy, and sought the harbor of Grand Manan for safety. When his craft came to anchor, Capt. Surette observed that one vessel, which he knew to have been in the Bay, had not reached port. He asked his crew for volunteers to put out with him search of the missing vessel. They put to sea under single reef foresail, in the face of a living gale and returned with the entire crew (twenty-one men) of the derelict ship.

For this act Captain Zacharie Surette was presented by the British government with a handsome ship's chronometer, and by the United States government with a pair of marine glasses, suitably engraved. Captain Surette is well known in Halifax, and has relatives living here.

Captain Zacharie.

That old man walking down the road,
With rolling gate, a-swinging free,
His white hair like a topsail stowed,
Aye, sir, that's Captain Zacharie.

If you would know him ask the gale
That strikes its might on Fundy's tide;
Ask of the reeking waves that rail
Where he their deadly grip defied—
Or seek where salvaged souls abide.

He never knew what men call Fear;
To him to thunder of the sea
Was but the echo of a prayer
That's fathomed in eternity—
Same as the soul of Zacharie.

The grey unyielding cliffs impose
Their granite will upon the storm,
So does his rugged soul disclose
The strength that only faith can form;
And light supernal pouring forth
In rays of hope and charity
Transcends the Star that glides the North
In beauty and in constancy.

MELVILLE E. STONE

(New York Evening Post)

The transfer of Melville E. Stone from the general managership of the Associated Press to the virtually emeritus position of Counsellor" crowns at once with permanent recognition and well-earned release from active responsibility a third century of public service. Under Mr. Stone's personal direction, with the assistance of a group of active newspaper men of singularly far-sighted and unselfish temper, constituting the board of directors, the great cooperative newsgathering organization has worked and fought its way to distinguished success. For both the character of the association and the measure of its achievement Mr. Stone is entitled to the major share of the credit.

Enemies and critics of the Associated Press have signally failed and will continue to fail in any essential way to convict the association as regards either motives of activities. Their hostility and criticism are based upon misinformation and misunderstanding of the nature and operations of the service. Mr. Stone himself once said:

"No great and lasting wrong can be inflicted upon the sons of men anywhere so long as this fierce blaze of publicity is beating upon the scene. For in the end the world must know, and when the world knows, justice must be done. The most absolute and irresponsible authority must finally yield to the demands of a great public sentiment."

Frederick Roy Martin, for several years assistant general manager, succeeds not only to a title and a great responsibility—he and the remarkably able and conscientious group of active associates, gathered and inspired by Mr. Stone, become custodions of a record and tradition unique in journalism. They are guardians of a great stream of public information, upon which a large proportion of the American people must depend for their guidance in the conduct of the public.

A JOB FOR OLD SALTS.

An opportunity for old salts to return to the sea in a new capacity—that of official guide and yarnsman — was announced today by a large American steamship company in New York.

The company decided that what was needed on its larger ships to answer the hundred and one questions of land lubber passengers were some of those retired seamen that are to be found in sailors' missions along the water front modeling ships and splicing rope. Several various seamen's organizations have been asked to nominate their best yarn spinners, and an official board will pass judgment.

Then the winners will be shipped. Their chief duties will be in the ship's nursery and on the play deck, giving the youngsters maritime history in story book form.

WORK TEN HOURS A DAY.

(Fredericton Mail.)

Fraser Companies Limited have started sawing lumber at Victoria Mill. One side of the main mill is operating. The starting of the mill is rather earlier than had been expected on account of the surplus of labor offering. The main mill planing mill and loading operations are employing sixty men in all at the present time. Many other men are waiting for employment. The entire plant is working on the basis of a ten hour day or fifty-nine hour week.

The Babbitt Mill in Devon, owned by W. D. Gunter, will not be operated this season according to the announcement made by the owner. Stanley Douglass Limited will not operate the mill at Stanley. Gordon G. Scott, who rebuilt the West End mill last year will not start it for at least another month. The Devon mill of Stanley Douglass Limited will start sawing on Tuesday. Members of the crew which operated the mill at Stanley are here to work in the Devon mill which will run ten hours a day.

TO GET IMMIGRANTS.

Plans of co-operation with the government of Canada to effect the most desirable kind of immigration from overseas have been put under way. The Canadian Pacific and White Star-Dominion Lines have established a system of medical inspection of all passengers at continental embarkation points. Large sanitary stations are being erected at Antwerp, where every immigrant will be given a searching examination and a sanitary bath.

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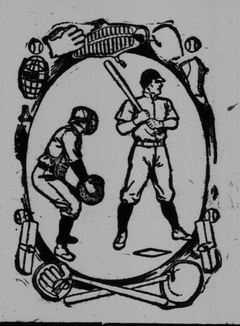

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THE COAST OF DEATH

Many Boats Are Wrecked on the Purple Rocks Near Muros.

(Spanish Correspondent London Morning Post.)

The beautiful but dangerous coast known as the Coast of Death, from Finisterre to Malpica, has many memories for Englishmen. The whole region is full of interest. As one approaches Finisterre, along a road through dark-pine woods, and above coves of white sand and transparent water of amber and beryl in the shelter of the headlands, one thinks of George Borrow, some of whose most exciting, one had almost said fantastic, adventures occurred in this part of Galicia. Another British traveler, the Earl of Carnarvon, was arrested not far from here as a Carlist. It is fitting that an Englishman, Alfred Lewis, should reign in solitary glory at the Marconi station above the little town of Finisterre.

Many a good ship has been lost upon this inhospitable coast; the Atlantic here is seen in all its grandeur and fury, and even on a calm, blue summer day one hears a great roaring about the cliffs and sees a wide belt of foam all along the coast. It was near Camarinas that some thirty years ago the training ship Serpent was wrecked and old women of this little town can still scarcely recall without tears the sight of the narrow strand between rocks thickly strewn with bodies on the following day. A stone at Coruna, near Moore's tomb, and a memorial at Villagarcia commemorate their death, but the cemetery specially built for them on the coast is now neglected. As a result of this shipwreck the splendid lighthouse was built twenty years ago on the sheer granite rock of Cabo Vilano. Its light is seen for over fifty sea miles and it sends long white ghosts creeping all night across cliff and moorland. The whole of this coast is now very effectively lighted.

Opposite Cabo Vilano and Camarinas, on a tiny peninsula at Mugia, is the Chapel of Our Lady of the Ship, with its white roof visible many leagues inland like a solitary splotch of snow on a sierra in August. Near it are the ship, with its sail and rudder, in which St. James came to Galicia. They are now turned into stone, and the ship at certain times is seen to move, being poised a few inches from the ground in such a way that one can see no support or foundation. In September this shrine is visited by many thousands of pilgrims from far and near, with all kinds of offerings. This year a peasant who had been at death's door carried his coffin for many leagues on his head and left it in gratitude at the shrine.

Mugia and Camarinas are the chief centres of the lace industry, over £100,000 of this work being now exported yearly. The greater part is made in small villages along the coast, from Muros to Lage, and in a tiny hamlet such as Melgueiras one may come upon as many as thirty women in a large upper room seated before their bobbins and singing as they work often fifteen hours a day. Or in fine weather they sit at their doors or in the shade of the granaries of granite. The type of peasant along this coast is very striking. Many of the women have markedly Greek features, and some of the fishermen are living Greek bronzes. Of course there are other types, and a coast population is usually mixed, but the isolation of these small towns and villages seems to have enabled them to preserve in its purity the race of the early settlers from Greece and further east.

Between Muros and Corcubion is a wide valley containing four or five villages, scarcely approachable except by sea, and in winter almost entirely isolated. Between these granite villages and the sea is a plain of maize which gives them their chief food, and the great semi-circle of rugged mountains behind is covered half way up with pines. Splendid, purple Mount Pindo—the place names, too, are Greek—towers above in huge, weirdly poised, strangely shaped boulders of granite. The stone is of a reddish hue, and time and rain have given it a warm purple varnish. Opposite is the white light of Finisterre, across one of those serene blue bays in which lie sheltered towns and villages, while on the coast beyond the Atlantic roars and surges everlastingly, awaiting its prey.

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