

# MC 2035 POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1913

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 23, 1913.

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### A GOOD BEGINNING

The most important meeting held in St. John last evening was not the most largely attended, but there were enough people present, if they were seriously impressed by the facts presented, to ensure a more active general interest in the housing problem. It was perhaps unfortunate that the last of the speakers on the programme should be the one who was in doubt about the necessity for such a meeting and that his address should have gone without reply. It was quite proper that every phase of the question should be discussed, however, and though Mr. W. I. Fenton expressed some doubt whether there were a housing problem in St. John, and whether such cottages as proposed could be built except as a charitable proposition, and whether anybody could be persuaded to live in them after they had been built, yet those who heard his enlightening address could not forget the more definite and convincing statements made by Mr. W. F. Burditt and Dr. Melvin, the medical health officer. A city which has six persons living in one room in a basement, and which has the living quarters for people which were illustrated on the screen last night certainly has a housing problem, and the medical officer very emphatically declared that such a problem really exists.

Can it be said that any effort to provide sanitary and comfortable homes for working men at a low rental is in any way related to charity? Does it matter to the man who lives in his own home on Germain street or Princess street or some other desirable street, how the family lives that is located in a shack or an unsanitary tenement in the rear of a lot on Brussels street or Erin street? The answer is readily given. It does matter to every citizen of the city, and to every other citizen who lives in the city. If their homes are breeding places for disease there is a risk for him. If they live in fire traps other property is in danger. If there are slum conditions which breed incompetents, the latter become a burden upon the community at large. So long as people live together in cities and towns, just so long is there an obligation upon every citizen, purely from self-interest, to see that the conditions of life are such as to prevent as far as possible a development of slum conditions and the breeding of disease, vice and crime. It is not, therefore, a purely charitable proposition when serious minded people come together to ask what may best be done to improve housing conditions, make homes more sanitary and healthy, avoid overcrowding in dark tenements, and let in the light and air. It is a business proposition, and it ought to appeal to business men, for to them the appeals are made when money must be raised for the victims of such conditions as are found in the slums of cities.

Following last night's meeting, steps should be taken to carry out the suggestions made by Mr. W. F. Burditt for a systematic survey of housing conditions, the enactment of a housing code, proper regulation and inspection of buildings, and the adoption of some plan by which a group of model cottage homes might be erected as an illustration of what may and can be done for a given sum of money. The Times received by this morning's mail from the National Housing Association of the United States a little booklet entitled "The Fight for Better Homes," accompanied by a letter which says that the people of the United States have been dismayed to find that even in their smaller cities there are areas comparable to those which have made the slums of New York and London cause for uneasiness. The writer adds: "The danger is not confined to the metropolis. It is national, and the danger is growing with the constant crowding in of new arrivals. The unwholesome, overcrowded shacks and tenements are becoming commonplace in our prosperous communities, though we fail to note them either because our life is lived in a different part of town or because we look at them without seeing."

In this letter Mr. John Hilder, field secretary of the National Housing Association, adds that Dr. Hastings, medical health officer of Toronto, who has shown the people of that city that the tendency was downward, told the National Housing Conference that his experience forced him to believe that any city which claims to be without bad housing is simply proclaiming that it has not looked, and if refrains from looking long enough it will approximate New York conditions. "The business men of St. John may take one of two positions with regard to this question. They may refuse to look, and say that it is none of their business; or they may pursue the wiser course, recognize that this is a problem which in the end must affect the interests of all the people, and join with Mr. Burditt and others who have given the subject serious consideration, to devise a means by which present conditions may be improved and the development of the slums in the future prevented. St. John is growing, and will grow more rapidly from year to year, and because of that fact the question of town planning and proper housing becomes of paramount importance.

The United States senate will give no public hearings on the tariff bill. This is bad for the spellbinders, but will greatly facilitate the passage of the bill.

### CHURCH UNION

When an individual who is not what may be described as a partisan in church matters, asks why a minister of one church should not be given permission to speak in that of another denomination, he finds it difficult to get an answer which from his point of view is satisfactory. The Christian world has passed the stage where the people of one communion entertain the belief that those of other communions are in grave danger of eternal torment. The emphasis is now placed upon the essentials recognized by all churches, rather than upon differences in minor doctrines or in ecclesiastical forms. Of the billion and a half of people living in the world today the great majority are not Christians at all, but they are looking out upon the Christian portion of the world, observing its differences and disputes and asking questions. The world of today is not the world of half a century ago, much less that of two or three centuries ago. The people of Japan and China and India are no longer looked upon as they were when the rest of the world was more ignorant of the people, their history and their philosophy. The next hundred years will witness still greater changes and modifications of religious belief in the whole world. Looking back and looking forward, with some knowledge of what has passed and some faint conception of what the future must hold, one does not find sound reasons for the assumption upon the part of any religious denomination that they are the sole guardians of religious truth. So far as the Dominion of Canada is concerned, the cause of true religion would be immensely benefited by church union. With some narrow exceptions there is Christian fellowship among the members of different churches in every community. It might well be extended not merely to the point of an exchange of pulpits, but a union of forces to uphold the standard of true religion in the face of the materializing tendencies of modern life.

### THE CALL OF SPRING

The number of people enjoying the air on King Square yesterday, comfortably seated on the benches or moving about the walks, tells the story of the universal relief that is experienced in the pleasant spring weather. Soon there will be a longing to get out of town to places where the grass is springing up and the trees are putting forth their leaves and blossoms. However many attractions there may be in a city, the springtime and the summer bring a desire for the pleasures which are only obtainable in the country. The great difficulty in the way of a proper enjoyment of rural pleasures by St. John people has been the absence of suburban car lines. If on a fine summer afternoon or early evening the members of a family could enter a street car at the corner nearest their own home and ride for a mile or two into the country it would be a great boon to them and especially to the children, who ought to be given more of the fresh air and freedom of country excursions. It may be hoped that before another year has passed something will have been done toward making it easier for the city dwellers to enjoy the pleasures which are so near them, but of which they have not availed themselves because of a lack of easy transportation.

There is no emergency, and no excuse whatever for spending thirty-five million dollars without some attempt to build up Canadian shippers.

Mr. Lloyd George says that the mother country has entered upon "the most growing year that British trade has ever seen." This is sad news for the tariff reform party.

Speaking of the closure bill in parliament yesterday Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "We know generally that their design is to gag the opposition, and to prevent free speech by representatives of the people." This is a terse and accurate statement of the case.

Bulgaria and Greece are now quarreling about the spoils of the late war, and little Montenegro continues to show her teeth. The matters in dispute will no doubt be adjusted without serious difficulty, as the great powers are in harmony, and the British premier has declared that the relations between them are most cordial.

A Cleveland, Ohio, paper says: "Courses in dentistry and personal safety have just been added to the curriculum of the Cleveland public schools. They are under the direction of Dr. E. A. Peterson, chief school medical inspector. The dentists' organization mapped out what they thought should be incorporated in a course of lectures which are now being given by doctors and teachers. Physical instructors are giving personal safety talks in the gymnasium classes. They are telling the smaller pupils how to avoid dangers in the streets, and the older pupils how to board and get off cars. One result of the dental talks, which have been illustrated with moving picture films, has been nearly 3000 new pupil-customers for Cleveland dentists."

### BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL TWENTY-THREE.

Sir John Alexander Boyd, president of the High Court of Justice for Ontario since 1887, is seventy-five years of age today. He was born in Toronto and practiced law in his native city with the Hon. Edward Blake. He became chancellor of Ontario in 1881.

The Hon. F. A. Laurence, justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, was born on April 23, 1831. He practiced law for many years in Truro. He represented Colchester in the Legislature from 1884 to 1894 and was speaker for ten years. He became judge in 1907.

Andrew B. Ingram, member of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, was born at Strabane, Ont., April 23, 1831. He has represented Eglon County in both the Ontario Legislature and the House of Commons, retiring in 1906 to accept his present position.

### LIGHTER VEIN

Though living is high, it is funny. But by those who know best, it's agreed, folks can live in New York without money. Until there is something they need.

### MUFFLED KNOCKS.

"It's too bad old chap, that you didn't get an invitation to that affair; we forgot all about you." "Say, Lil, you don't need to be ashamed of that dress. When a garment is well made, what's the difference how cheap the stuff is?" "You take splendid care of your homes, anyhow, Throgson. By the way do you ever hear from that runaway boy of yours?"—Chicago Tribune.

### UNDER SUFFRAGE

Lawyer (in equal suffrage state)—Don't riggle every time she and I are alone together. Prisoner—But are you certain? Lawyer—It's inevitable; two of the jurors are man and wife.—Puck.

### NO CAUSE TO WORRY.

"For some reason, that girl begins to giggle every time she and I are alone together." "Don't mind that, old chap. Girls of ten giggle at nothing."—Exchange.

### RUSHED.

"Why did you break into the house in the middle of the day?" asked the magistrate. "Well," said the accused, "I had several others to cover that evening."

### GOOD LEGAL TENDER.

"Radium is constantly giving off particles of itself, yet never gets any less." "Good! That's the kind of stuff for a bank roll."—Exchange.

### HIS AMBITION.

"Some day," said the novelist, "I'm going to write something big—something that will make the world remember me." "Ah, yes," his friend replied, "but when are you going to do it?" "Just as soon as I have turned out enough trash to make me independent."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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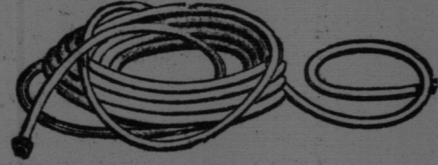
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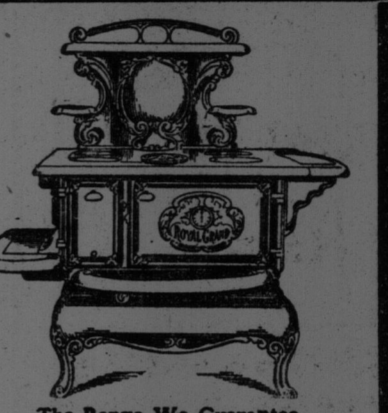
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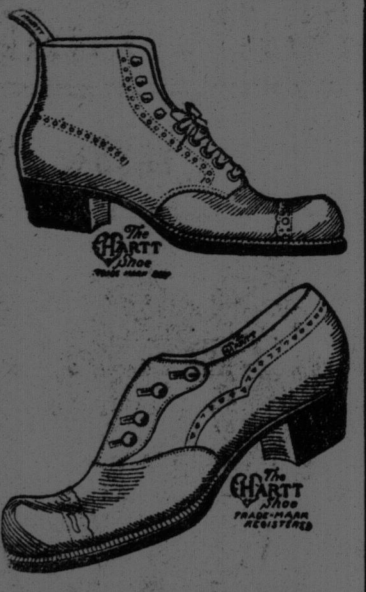
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PROVINCIAL PERSONALS  
The Taunton, Mass. Gazette of April 10 says: On Tuesday afternoon in St. Mary's rectory Miss Grace R. Conaly of Taunton was united in marriage to Harry L. MacCreedy of Lewiston, Me. formerly of Sackville. Sackville Post—Rev. H. C. Henniger and wife, when last heard from, were in London, en route from Glasgow University to Oxford University. Mr. and Mrs. Henniger, when returning eastward to their mission field in Japan, expect to take in Sackville again. Mrs. Henniger's father, Rev. Thomas Hart, of Sackville, is recovering from his protracted illness. Sackville Post—Mrs. Lucas with all the members of her family who were residing with her in Sackville, except her daughter Agnes, who teaches in the public schools, has moved west, and settled on the fruit farm in the vicinity of London, West, Ont. purchased by her husband, Rev. Aprilia Louise who, having returned after his annual West India trip, expects to rejoin his family this week. W. A. Jones left Moncton on Friday afternoon for Portland, Oregon, where he expects to locate. Lloyd Roberts, son of C. G. D. Roberts, and formerly of Fredericton, has lately been appointed to a position in the immigration branch of the department of the interior at Ottawa. Gordon Todd, accountant for the Bank of Nova Scotia in Fredericton and formerly in the Bank of New Brunswick in this city and Campbellton, has been notified of his impending transfer to Jamaica and will likely leave for the West Indies within a few days. Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Collins and child left Woodstock on Tuesday for Vancouver where they will reside. Mrs. Cummings and Miss Bertha Lint, will follow later. J. D. Tompkins, of Woodstock, son of Sheriff Tompkins, is now editor of The Penitentiary Herald in one of the new towns in the interior of British Columbia. Rev. P. W. Dixon, pastor for many years of St. Mary's R. C. church, Newcastle, leaves for Montreal to undergo treatment in the hospital.



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