

The Evening Times-Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 18, 1924

CHEER UP.

Perhaps the day and the date account for it. Anyhow it was on Friday the thirteenth that a city official was quoted as having made some lugubrious observations in connection with the bank clearings. It had been announced that the local bank clearings showed an increase, but this official apparently disliked the idea that anything cheerful had been chronicled, or even anything by which an encouraging impression might possibly be created, so he proceeded to say that any increase in the bank clearings was probably accounted for by cheque transactions in connection with the issue of city bonds. He is not named, and these reflections are not aimed at him personally but at the type of thought his remarks suggest.

The point seems to be that, even if his conclusion was sound, he was in that gloomy state of mind which would not permit him to stand by and allow any suggestion of cheerfulness or improvement to get by unchallenged. Ordinarily, let us hope, he may not object to indications that things are improving and that the community has bright days ahead of it, but on Friday the thirteenth any idea of that sort seems to have been repulsive to him and he invoked his fellow-citizens to join with him in lamentation.

Gloom is cheap and plentiful if you are looking for it, but to go looking for it is not good for the individual or the community. A doleful man leaves the sunshine for the shadow, and presently he is likely to deny that the sun is shining at all. Communities are not built up by pessimism and fear of the future. Such feelings are both groundless and unnatural. The citizens who radiate hope and confidence help themselves, and their town as well. There are some people who would do well to remember that Friday the thirteenth is a day likely to hoodoo them into walling utterances, and on that day they ought to train themselves sternly into saying something cheerful, or going silent from the rising even unto the going down of the sun.

By the way—wasn't yesterday about as fine a summer day as ever came along? Note the good ones. So with life and with business—Keep your chin up and have an eye out for the best, not the worst. Most of our troubles never happen.

AMERICANS AND THE LEAGUE.

Sir George Foster's view that if the American people could vote directly upon membership in the League of Nations they would favor it by a large majority, gains at least a measure of support in a recent statement by Mr. James M. Cox, formerly Governor of Ohio, who was the Democratic candidate for President in 1920. Mr. Cox in reviewing the political questions of the day in the Republic predicts that this year's presidential contest will furnish the country with a surprise "in showing a continuing affection for Woodrow Wilson, and a developing confidence in his policies." Mr. Cox goes so far as to say that he would like to see the United States enter the League of Nations "under such terms as the Senate might fix." He says that the foreign policy will be one of the outstanding issues of the campaign, the Republicans standing fast for isolation, and the Democrats fighting for "international participation." Also, like a good Democrat in a campaign year, he asserts that his own party has better than an even chance to win.

In referring to the Dawes plan, Mr. Cox contends that those knowing the inside of the discussion on reparations at the Versailles Peace Conference will recognize that the figures Mr. Wilson then named are now approximated in the Dawes report, and he argues that had the Wilson policies not been scrapped a settlement might have been worked out two years ago, at which time Germany had more money to pay with than at present. "We have waited four years for something with which to replace the League," says Mr. Cox, "but nothing has been offered by those who did most to keep us out of the League of Nations."

All this, it is true, is a long way from the optimism of Sir George Foster with respect to the American position. Sir George, of course, fully realizes that the American people will not have League membership presented to them as a straight issue. When Mr. Cox refers to American membership under such terms as the Senate might fix, he inadvertently points out an obstacle not likely to be surmounted. Even if Mr. Cox were right about the prospects for Democratic victory, there is no likelihood at all that the next election will produce a Senate ready for membership in the League on the same basis as that adopted by the other great Powers. This Senate insists that such membership would involve loss of control over American foreign policy in some particulars which it regards as vital, and the next Senate, whatever its political complexion, is likely to adhere to that view.

Many of the Democrat leaders, while they profess to oppose the ultra-Republican policy of isolation, are themselves by no means frank advocates of American admission to the League without reservations which Europe would regard as fatal to effective co-operation. The League, in short, cannot be reconstructed to suit the peculiar views of a great many influential American public men who are still guided by Washington's warning against "foreign entanglements," a warning which lost all its point after the United States entered the great war and so became involved in its consequences and learned how vital settled conditions in Europe are to prosperity in the Republic.

SOME B. C. PLANKS.

A great many people from the Maritime Provinces have gone to British Columbia during the last few years, and still greater numbers from Ontario; and now British Columbia has among its other problems a large exodus to deal with. During the campaign which comes to an end this week all of the parties have been presenting platforms promising measures to provide more employment and to keep the people at home.

The Conservatives have pledged themselves to reduce taxation—a plank in all political platforms—and to reduce and finally stop the exodus to the United States. The Conservatives propose to discourage immigration until such time as work can be provided for the people now in British Columbia and the migration has been brought to an end. The party's agricultural policy, which is represented as likely to produce production, includes the loaning of money to farmers at a low rate of interest and assistance in marketing their products. Another Conservative policy concerns timber—"to conserve the great timber resources of British Columbia in their productive stages and the use of our own people by doing all that is possible to prohibit the export of those resources in their unmanufactured state." As to taxes, the Conservatives would abolish the personal property tax and seek a better distribution of the burden of taxation. The other parties have been dealing with these same problems during the campaign, and offering their own remedies, and Eastern Canada will be interested in seeing how the winners carry out their platform pledges.

In regard to the exodus from British Columbia, that will probably cure itself as conditions improve. A great many New Brunswickers are coming back home from the United States these days, and we have an idea that a great many of our people who went to other parts of Canada at different times have by now discovered that they would have been at least as well off, if not better, had they remained in this province.

AS A BISHOP SEES IT.

An American bishop, F. H. Leete, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was a speaker at the Toronto Methodist Conference the other day, and in the course of his address he made some references to the late war, to the possibilities of another, and to the matter of international relations. He apologized for "the slowness of the United States in getting into the late war," and he attributed the delay to American leadership at that time, referring to Woodrow Wilson, though not by name. "We will be ready the next time a little sooner, probably," the Bishop said, "but we will fight only for certain things. We do not want more territory, or mandates over countries that do not want our supervision."

The United States, according to Bishop Leete, "is willing to go into a covenant or a league with only three nations—and they are Canada, Britain and Australia." The Americans, he said, would not go into a league with other nations where a majority vote might involve them in war without due cause. Further, he felt that leagues and organizations could not guarantee peace, that the problem of war would never be settled until peace got into the hearts of men.

It is true enough that the mere formation of a league will not prevent men from thinking about war, or going to war, yet it will help to do so, and too much cannot be said for the efforts of those who are striving to turn the thoughts of the nations to peace rather than to war. An offensive and defensive alliance between the British Empire and the United States would safeguard them both, but no such alliance is likely. Whatever the American position may be, the other nations will continue to build up a League of Nations as an organization within which great countries and small may find both security and justice. Anglo-American friendship and understanding are of the highest importance, but even the two leading nations cannot police the world. World peace to be lasting must come through belief, not through compulsion. The British Empire and the United States should lead the world toward the desired end.

Having read yesterday an account of a party of German settlers passing through St. John bound for Western Canada, a citizen sends a clipping of the story to The Times-Star, attaching a copy of Colonel John McCrae's verses, "In Flanders Fields." He underscores the first line of those following here—

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The Torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.

The first figures from South Africa, far from complete, indicate the defeat of the Smuts administration by the Nationalist-Jabulani combination. If Heriot, the Nationalist leader, is to be Premier and can bend the Laborites to his purposes, there will be trouble. General Smuts personally was badly beaten by a Laborite. If secession should be proposed by the Nationalists, it is thought the Labor party might desert their allies and join Smuts in keeping South Africa within the Empire. No immediate crisis is to be anticipated.

Much longer training under the best of conditions would give Maritime athletes the chance they should have in the big competitions.

Press Comment

EVENINGS DETERMINE YOUR PROMOTION.

(B. C. Forbes in Forbes' Magazine.)
Tell me how a young man spends his evenings and I will tell you how far he is likely to go in the world. The popular notion is that a youth's progress depends upon how he acts during his working hours. It doesn't. It depends far more upon how he utilizes his leisure. If he spends it badly, he is likely to find himself out of a job before very long. If he spends it in harmless idleness, he is likely to be kept on the payroll, but that will be about all. If he diligently utilizes his own time to equip himself to do his duties more skillfully and to fit himself for more responsible duties, then the greater rewards are almost certain to come to him.

There are exceptions to this general rule, which is represented as likely to produce production, includes the loaning of money to farmers at a low rate of interest and assistance in marketing their products. Another Conservative policy concerns timber—"to conserve the great timber resources of British Columbia in their productive stages and the use of our own people by doing all that is possible to prohibit the export of those resources in their unmanufactured state." As to taxes, the Conservatives would abolish the personal property tax and seek a better distribution of the burden of taxation. The other parties have been dealing with these same problems during the campaign, and offering their own remedies, and Eastern Canada will be interested in seeing how the winners carry out their platform pledges.

THE REAL PAYMASTER

(By Robson Black, Manager Canadian Forestry Association)
Forests are jobs. Trees mean trade. Logs are the raw material, not of lumber or paper, but of pay checks. It is an incidental matter that the forest gives us telegraph poles. It is a very important matter that the forest gives us 120,000 workmen, supporting a half million of Canadian dependents, and distributing 500,000,000 dollars to maintain Canadian prosperity. Conservation would never bother itself with trees if trees were not the substance of human employment. The forest protectionist must not sweat a drop for a square mile of spruce if he did not know that some vast industry, a thriving town and a thousand contented homes are tied to spruce trees by an inseparable bond.

We Canadians set 6,000 forest fires a year and nine-tenths of them through recklessness, but those beacon lights of prodigality mean nothing if they do not tell us that we have put the torch to the livelihood of thousands of men, we have signed an unrevocable note for our children and our grandchildren to pay. Let it be laid down as a solemn and unalterable fact that in the present situation with forest demand jammed hard against dwindling supplies, every forest fire must be paid for. Every mile of spruce or pine or fir given to the annual bonfire will have to be bought back by the next generation in higher costs of lumber and paper, in forfeited industries, in dwindling public revenues, and a sacrifice of population.

NOTHING "TOO TERRIBLE."

(Vancouver Sun.)
Military critics declared that the new exploded "death rays," at first thought capable of destroying airplanes at five miles distance, killing whole armies at once and setting fire to public buildings 50 miles away, were so destructive and terrible that war would automatically end because nations will not dare to use them or risk their use against themselves.

Pure nonsense.

Some 50,000 years ago, the tribe that first learned to throw rocks instead of using a club only was quite confident it had ended all opposition because the rock-throwing game was "too terrible" for any opponents.

Then came another tribe that knew how to use bows and arrows and put the rock-throwers out of business.

The bow-and-arrow people thought they had finished their enemies until other tribes came along on horses and in chariots.

The first man who used gunpowder frightened everybody so much that he thought he, too, had ended war.

There is more difference between the club of the first savage warrior and the club of a modern soldier than there is between present war implements and the new death ray. If all the improvements on war equipment up to the present have not been able to make war "too terrible" to be waged you can't count very much on the effect of the death ray.

A man cannot be frightened into peace. Fear is the basis of most wars.

The only way to end war is to make men realize that to use his scientific knowledge along lines of production and construction is infinitely more profitable from all angles than to use it along lines of war and destruction.

SEA HUNGER.

(John Hanson Mitchell in N. Y. Times.)
The wall of a waking wind in a wide-sung wheat field.
The tilt of a low-down lark over a flat-
less sea.
The sigh of the serrated trees on a city
street yield
Nothing to me.

The sails of a schooner bending across
bright billows,
Bright billows with ruff of lace and
a lap of green;
The stir of a wild, salt wind in the
clinging willows,
Boisterous, clean.

Great combers that crash, cream-crest-
ed, against gray granite;
A tangle of tawny weed at the tidal
mark;
The flame of an iris flower, a fallen
planet
Cooled to a spark;

Nasturtiums sheathing the shells in neat
white-washed gardens
And fish that is put to dry on a birch-
pole stake;
Remembering these means hope to a
heart that hardens
Ready to break.

Remembering these uplifts and yet
leaves me lonely
And sick for the song, the sheen of
the Summer sea.
The wheat field, the lark waked pleasure
in landmen only—
Nothing in me.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

No Real Backing.
Blodge—"I've nothing but praise for
the new vicar, y'know."
Curate—"So I noticed when the plate
went round."—Falling Snow.

Resourceful Young Man.
"What did he do when your mother
came in and found him embracing you?"
"With great presence of mind he
started to dance."—Pathfinder.

In Practically Every Life.
Interviewer—"What is your wife's fa-
vorite dish?"
Husband of Celebrity—"In the maga-
zine it is peach-bloom fudge cake
with orange-wisp salad, but at home it
is tripe and onions."

Enough For Any Man

Virginia—"Why did Howard break off
his engagement with me?"
Husband of Celebrity—"In the maga-
zine it is peach-bloom fudge cake
with orange-wisp salad, but at home it
is tripe and onions."

Teasing The Fair Sex.

One of the old-timers wonders why
girls so seldom cry nowadays. Easy.
They're keeping their powder dry.
Arkansas has as much of a sense of
humor as a man, but she is afraid that
laughing will make her fat.—Chicago
Herald.

Pa Gets an Earful.

The telephone in a well-known sur-
geon's office rang. When the doctor
answered the voice at the other end of
the line inquired, "Who is this?"
The doctor, recognizing the voice of
his seven-year-old son, replied, "The
smartest man in the world."
"I beg your pardon," said the boy, "I
have the wrong number."—Tit-Bits
(London).

Across the table of contentment.

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there is nothing which adds more
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Travel CANADIAN PACIFIC

THREAT LETTERS BLAMED ON KLAN

Frighthen Mother of Girl so That She Says She Will Move From Place.
Penna Grove, N. J., June 18.—A friendship between a pretty schoolgirl and her athletic young classmate, both graduates in the senior class of the Penna Grove High School, which held its commencement exercises a few days ago, has brought threats, purported to have come from the Ku Klux Klan, warning the parents of the young people to keep them apart. The principals of the school, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Brooke, and Richard Kent, 19-year-old son of Bert N. Kent, a real estate dealer, have been notified. The threats came in May on a letterhead upon which was typewritten, "Salem-Penns Grove Imperial Klan." A similar letter is said to have been received at the same time by Mr. Kent. Both of these letters, which came in May, are said to have warned the parents to keep their two classmates apart. A second letter was received by the Brooke family last Tuesday. It was without signature or heading, but bore the cryptic notice: "Warning disregarded, henceforth we act." Miss Brooke, back after a sight-seeing trip with her classmates at Washington, was indignant over the affair. She said that she and Kent had been classmates and friends during their course in the local high school. She said that the affair had been taken up with the Federal post office authorities. The father has been working of late in New York, from which city the family removed here about seven years ago. The mother announced her intention of selling out and returning to New York as a result of the scare she has had over the anonymous letters.

FINDS CITY IMPROVED.

Berton Colwell, of Vancouver, arrived in the city yesterday and is visiting his uncle, F. C. Colwell, 291 Germain street. It is 13 years since Berton Colwell was last in St. John and he remarked upon the many improvements which had been made since he was last here.

A suicide-proof fence will be built around the New York central park reservoir.

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The Hewetson Kiddie is backed by our guarantee of natural fit, double wear and perfect style in Hewetson Shoes for Children—from Baby "First Steps" to school age.

Insist on our Guarantee Tag on the children's shoes you buy.

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Emerson & Fisher, Ltd.

And the finest gift of all—was a beautiful, pure white, enamel gas range. Guests at the wedding didn't see it, but when they were entertained in the new home afterwards and were being "shown through"—there it stood in the sunshiny kitchen—the most useful thing in the house!

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Many a business girl will become a bride this summer. And few, if any, will be denied the comforts and conveniences in their new home that they were accustomed to in their offices.

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