

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1924

UNBUSINESSLIKE OPERATION IN PUBLIC OWNED RETAIL STORES

Toronto Paper Finds Further Evidence in Stratford Hydro.

Hardware and Metal, published in Toronto, has the following in its issue of Sept. 6:

Further evidence of the unbusinesslike manner in which certain public owned enterprises are being conducted is found in the report of the accounts of the Stratford retail store operated by the Hydro for the sale of electrical appliances. Auditors who have made a thorough examination of the books of this store report that "a far from businesslike system" seems to be in vogue in the matter of handling accounts.

The auditors made a close check of the accounts receivable in the merchandising department of the Stratford store and it was found that there were some 782 accounts on the books owing approximately \$46,000.

The report continues as follows: "An examination of this list shows that the question of the regular collection of accounts is not given the attention that it should get."

"The following are some of the irregularities:

"1. The non-payment in a large number of cases of the instalments as called for in the contract and the lack of any apparent follow-up methods.

"2. The failure to charge interest on outstanding accounts.

"3. The selling of goods in a large number of cases on time without a contract.

"4. The showing of bad and doubtful accounts as current balances.

"5. The number of small balances remaining unpaid for a considerable length of time.

"6. The selling of goods with a small cash payment down and a small instalment due every month. An example of this is the following transaction:

"A party purchased an article for \$50.00 under date of May 20, 1922, signing a contract which called for 50 per cent. down and 50 per month. This transaction took place during a special campaign. This party failed to live up to even this arrangement for on July 10, 1924, she still owed \$34 on the account.

"In conversation with Mr. Myers, of the local commission, it was found that it was their practice to send out special statements for the merchandising department accounts, and only in case of continued non-payment would the account included on the current bill."

The foregoing being but one of scores of similar cases which have developed in connection with stores publicly operated in various parts of Canada, it becomes quite obvious that the principle and the method of operation is not only grossly unfair to competing retailers and to the taxpayers who must provide the means for the operation of such stores, but the unbusinesslike character of such operations is undermining the very structure upon which independent retail stores have been endeavoring to build during recent years.

What hardware merchant could conduct his business successfully with a large portion of \$42,000 of time payment accounts in arrears?

What would a bank manager tell a hardwareman about his account, were he to let such a state of affairs develop in his business?

He would be denied further credit until he put his business on a more efficient basis, and the number of hardwaremen who could stand such a condition is limited. The public owned enterprise meanwhile pursues the even tenor of its way, secure in the knowledge that the taxpayer will be deluded into providing revenue to meet the deficits resulting from such inefficient management.

Then there is the practice of encouraging time payment accounts, a basis upon which such public owned stores are largely founded. Hardwaremen use this plan with very great care, if at all, realizing its great dangers, and steps are taken to see that every risk is secure. Such care is taken that the unpaid balance can frequently be discounted at the bank and the whole sum

become immediately available to the merchant.

The instalment plan is a very easy method of getting business and a highly dangerous one if improperly administered. As such it appeals strongly to public owned store managers, who, unfortunately, have almost unlimited funds at their disposal and are only out for big volume business.

The lax business methods followed by most of such stores and the encouragement of time payments are two phases of this subject which are becoming an increasing menace to retail trade. Efficient retail merchants have discovered that they cannot operate their business upon such methods, and have been endeavoring to educate their customers away from expecting long credit extension and indiscriminate granting of instalment payments. Their efforts along such lines are likely to be largely frustrated by the public owned store which is only out to rapidly flood the district with merchandise and hope to make a profit from the flood of retail distribution.

PREPARING FOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

The quarterly official board of the Queen square Methodist church met last night and dealt with matters relating to the fall and winter work of the church. The budget was presented by the finance committee and adopted.

Plans for the 181st anniversary of the church, on Oct. 19, were discussed. It was reported that during the week there would be a congregational reunion on Tuesday, evangelized meeting on Wednesday, and young people's night on Thursday. For the Sunday services it was planned to have the community singing of 18 voices, present to augment the local choir.

The music committee reported that plans had been made for the choir for the winter months.

An innovation was introduced in the recommendation of the board of management of the Sunday school, the association of men of the church be formed to study the Bible and hold their meetings at the same time as the Sunday school.

Oct. 9 Named Fire Prevention Day

Washington, Sept. 12.—President Coolidge issued a proclamation today designating Thursday, Oct. 9, the 58th anniversary of the Chicago fire, as National Fire Prevention Day. The proclamation called for the attention of public officials and newspapers to the importance of carrying on fire prevention activities in the school, homes and industrial establishments.

It is reported that 15,000,000 and property valued at \$500,000,000 were lost in fires in the U. S. during 1923.

Pershing's Term in Army Ends

Washington, Sept. 12.—General Pershing will be retired from active service at midnight.

DR. YEN ELECTED CHINA'S PREMIER

Peking, Sept. 12.—(Associated Press)—Dr. W. W. Yen, former foreign minister, was elected Premier of China today, succeeding Sun Pao-chi, whose cabinet resigned last July.

SOCIAL SERVICE WORK.

Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer, secretary of the Social Service Council for Canada, was in the city yesterday conferring with Rev. Neil McLachlan, president of the New Brunswick council. Mr. Shearer said that he was planning to have the provincial conference this winter, beginning on February 9. The annual meeting of the Dominion Council is to be held on January 26 at Hamilton. Dr. Shearer left today for Halifax.

SUGGESTS THEATRE HERE.

Mayor Potts this morning received from a correspondent a clipping from the Boston Globe which stated that Warner Brothers were building big theatres in Montreal and Toronto "to fight the moving picture trust," and suggested that an effort be made to get them to come to St. John and build a big up-to-date theatre here.

MILK INQUIRY.

Commissioner Wigney said this morning that he was still securing information about the cost of distributing milk in other parts of the Dominion and hoped to have a report to present to the council in a few days. In Ottawa the spread between the price paid the producer than that paid by the customer was 4 cents a quart and in no case was it more than 6 cents in any city.

NOTICES OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, 50 cents.

BIRTHS

ADAMS—On Sept. 12, 1924, at the Evangelina Maternity Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. L. Adams, a daughter.

ADAMS—On Sept. 11, to Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Adams, a son, 9½ pounds.

BEYER—To Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Beyer, 111 Thorne avenue—a daughter.

MARRIAGES

KANE-TAYLOR—On Sept. 10, 1924, in St. Mary's rectory, by Rev. R. Taylor, McKim, Thomas Kane to Christina Taylor, both of St. John.

DEATHS

KING—Suddenly, at her home, 41 Brook street, on September 11, 1924, Annie, widow of Mr. King, leaving three sons, five daughters, one brother and one sister to mourn.

Notice of funeral later.

SULLIVAN—In this city on September 12, 1924, John Sullivan, leaving wife and two sons to mourn.

Funeral from his late residence, 110 St. James street, Monday morning at 9 a.m. to St. John's Cathedral, high mass of requiem. Friends invited.

McCoy—At the St. John County Hospital, Sept. 11, 1924, Myrtle McCoy, in her fifteenth year, leaving her parents and three brothers to mourn.

Funeral from her late home, 118 Queen street, at 2.30 Saturday afternoon.

GREEN'S DINING HALL

King Square

BREAKFAST A la Carte

DINNER 65c

SUPPER 65c

Noon 12-2.30 P.M. 5-8

19-27-1924

LOCAL NEWS

CHIEF INSPECTOR HERE.

Chief Inspector J. B. Hawthorne is in town today on business in connection with his department. He expects to return to Fredericton tomorrow.

BURIED TODAY.

The funeral of John A. Ferris took place this afternoon from his sons residence, 288 Bridge street, Rev. R. T. McKim conducted the service. Interment was in Fernhill.

WAS FOR SON.

The recently given shower at the home of Frank Craft, 262 Millidge avenue, was in honor of his son Ernest who is to be married next week, and not for Frank Craft.

GETS JAIL SENTENCE.

George Robert Cook, found guilty on two charges of the theft of bicycles, was brought before His Honor Judge Barry in the County Court this morning and sentenced to six months in jail on each charge, the terms to run concurrently from the date of the prisoner's arrest.

DIED TODAY.

This morning at his home, 710 St. James street, John Sullivan passed away. He was a well known resident of the city and his family will have the sympathy of a large circle of friends and acquaintances in their loss. He is survived by his wife and two sons, John and Joseph. The funeral will be held on Monday morning at 8.45 to St. John the Baptist church.

PRESENTATION.

Mrs. Mary Jeffrey of Pasadena, California, of St. John, who is in the city visiting relatives and friends, was pleasantly surprised last evening on receiving an invitation to visit Miss Florence Joyce at her home, 19 Somerset street, to find a number of friends assembled to greet her. The guest of honor was still more greatly surprised when she was made the recipient of a beautiful traveling case and other remembrances. Mrs. Jeffrey will leave in a few days for her home in California. She will return via New Jersey, where she will spend a few days visiting her daughter, Mrs. Baker.

BURIED TODAY.

The funeral of Robert McCarthy took place this morning at his residence, 105 St. James street, to St. John the Baptist church, where Requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. J. A. McDermott. Interment was in the new Catholic cemetery.

The funeral was attended by many friends, and the City Cornet Band, of which Mr. McCarthy was for a long time a popular member, preceded the cortege. The band was led by Mr. McCarthy, who was for a long time a popular member of the band. The funeral was attended by many friends, and the City Cornet Band, of which Mr. McCarthy was for a long time a popular member, preceded the cortege. The band was led by Mr. McCarthy, who was for a long time a popular member of the band.

IS GIVEN SHOWER.

Mrs. Gordon Lawson and Miss Madelon Dwyer were hostesses at a novelty shower for Miss Amber Teed, who is to be married on Monday afternoon in Cambridgeport. Miss Teed, whose home is now in Kitchener, was warmly welcomed by a number of old friends, and then was led to the "web of fate" and ordered to untangle it. During the untangling she encountered many mysterious packages, which were found to contain a large number of delightful gifts. The "routine business" of admiring the gifts, followed by games and music, was then proceeded with, after which refreshments were served. Then the party broke up, after wishing the guest of honor all kinds of good luck and happiness in the future.

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

In the County Court this morning, hearing was begun and concluded in the case of Scott vs. Fraser, an action brought by the city yesterday for recovery of rent alleged to be due. The defendant took over the premises under an unexpired lease, and he contended that he received notice to quit on the first of May, and did so. The plaintiff maintained that there had been entered into between them what constituted a renewal of the lease for another year, and that when the defendant left he had been unable to rent the premises.

The action was accordingly brought for the recovery of the rent for the month of May. Judgment of the court was reserved. W. R. Scott appeared for the plaintiff and A. E. Richard for the defendant. The court has adjourned until Sept. 22.

DOES NOT THINK SO.

D. L. Hutchinson, director of the Meteorological Laboratory in Dallas, Texas, did not put much credence in the reports of a slight earthquake. He said it would take a good quake to topple over a house, and if one fell there is no reason why many others did not meet with a similar fate. The observatory is not equipped with apparatus which could detect an earthquake, but he said no instruments would be necessary to detect one severe enough to shake over a house.

MARTIAL LAW IS RULING IN PEKIN

60,000 Troops Stand Ready To Repel Invasion From North.

By RAY G. MARSHALL (United Press Staff Correspondent)

Pekin, Sept. 12.—Pekin was placed under what amounted to martial law today by an order extending the powers of the gendarmes. Sixty thousand troops were in readiness to repel an invasion from the North.

Chin To Lin is mobilizing his full force and moving southward from Manchuria.

Shanghai, Sept. 12.—(Associated Press)—The Chekiang forces defending Shanghai operating on the west of this city have captured the town of Hing, compelling the Kiangsu army on that sector to fall back toward Changchew.

Lu Makes Progress.

London, Sept. 12.—(United Press)—Kiangsu's second army has advanced a total 80 miles in the last four days in its march north, the news from Shanghai correspondents said today. Meanwhile the correspondent said the northern front from Wangtu to Lihuo remains virtually unchanged.

Europe Must Disarm Or Go Bankrupt

Geneva, Sept. 12.—(By Associated Press)—Europe must disarm or go bankrupt, this was the declaration of a prominent European delegate attending the League of Nations sessions here in enumerating various reasons why the nations of the world are striving to prevent future wars by resort to a system of compulsory arbitration which would be backed by a suitable system of penalties.

Great Britain's dramatic announcement yesterday of her readiness to accept compulsory arbitration on the principle that the weaker nations should be protected by the stronger, was a move in the direction of a more peaceful world.

Mr. Wm. J. MacAfee of West St. John left last evening for an extended visit to relatives in Toronto and St. Andrews.

The Misses Irene and Nellie O'Brien returned home yesterday after a pleasant vacation visit to St. Stephen and St. Andrews.

Mrs. Frank L. Foley of Bathurst and her sister, Miss Mildred Howell, who have been visiting the Misses Foley, Sewell street, have returned home.

Mrs. Wm. J. MacAfee of West St. John left last evening for an extended visit to relatives in Toronto and St. Andrews.

Among the passengers on the Governor Dingley were Miss Hazel Cornier and Miss Clara Cornier, returning to their former positions in the U. S. after spending the summer here.

Miss May London and Miss Gladys Miller, have left for Yarmouth, N.S., where they will visit Miss Miller's sister, Mrs. Giles, for ten days.

C. H. Higgins, of Hamilton, Ont., who was attending the Canadian Club Convention here, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Owens, while in the city.

K. A. Green, of Ottawa, who has been representing his Canadian Club, left on the C. P. R. last evening for Green's In a series of lectures.

Mr. Green is a personal friend of Sir Douglas Hazen and family, Captain J. E. Masters, a member of the Moncton Board of Trade, was in the city yesterday and visited the office of the local board.

Miss Mildred MacLellan of the Excelsior Life Insurance Co. is spending her vacation in Portland and Boston. While in Portland she will be the guest of her sister, Mr. Lorato MacLellan of the Maine General Hospital.

Mrs. and Mrs. Fred Thomas will leave tomorrow evening for Boston, where they will spend their vacation with their son, Frederick J. Thomas, and their daughter, Mrs. Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Perry of Montreal arrived in the city today on a visit to Mrs. Perry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew T. Morris, Winter street.

W. J. Pickers, master mechanic of the C. P. R. New Brunswick district, arrived in the city today from Moncton.

Edward A. Ready returned to the city today from Woodstock, where he heard his horse races held in conjunction with the exhibition.

Textile Workers Told To Remain

New York, Sept. 12.—All workers employed in the textile mills of the Masville Jencks Company in Woonsocket and Pawtucket, R. I., have been instructed to remain in the city.

The United Textile Workers of America, in convention here. Earlier in the convention the delegates had authorized a resolution permitting all textile workers' organizations to enter the United Textile Workers' Union either collectively or individually.

This was a step in the amalgamation of textile unions outside the American Federation of Labor with the United Textile Workers.

NOT THIS MAN.

Abraham Levine, of Levine's taxi service, wishes to state that he is not the Mr. Levine who was defendant recently in a court case for damages arising out of a collision in the Gondola Point road.

CITY WATER WORKS.

The work of renewing the water main in Kennedy street will be completed today. Commissioner Wigney said. Excellent progress was being made with the laying of the water main in East St. John, about 1,000 feet having been laid to date.

A Municipal Bond Unique at 5.05%

For comparisons in favor of the price at which we offer \$100,000 in City of Fredericton Bonds, we need look no further than St. John.

The Bonds of St. John just sold went at a fair figure above par. As was natural with the recent emphatic downward step toward normal interest yields, the yields offered for various maturities of Fredericton Bonds are higher than the market.

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J. M. Robinson & Sons Ltd. (1889)

St. John, Fredericton, Moncton

WORK OF RED CROSS IS REPORTED ON

Hospital Committee Goes Over Events of the Summer Months.

At a special meeting of the Provincial Red Cross Hospital Committee this morning, reports of the activities of the committee during the summer were received.

For the Lancaster Hospital, Mrs. E. R. Taylor and Mrs. J. V. Anglin reported that cigarettes and tobacco, three swing hammocks and one couch hammock had been supplied, and that Mrs. Topping had sent in magazines and a croquet set. A letter of appreciation of these gifts was received from Dr. Skinner.

For East St. John Hospital Mrs. W. H. Shaw and Mrs. F. B. Ellis reported that during August and September the soldiers had been given drives on the request of Dr. Farris, that flowers had been sent in from Kothsey and Fair Vale. One death had occurred during the summer, that of Mr. Thibideau. Flowers had been sent and a letter of appreciation received from his family.

It was reported that the sum of \$83 had been won in prizes by the exhibit of the patients from River Glade and East St. John at the summer exhibition and this would be divided between the two hospitals.

PERSONALS

Premier Veniot left on the morning train on his return to Bathurst today after addressing the banquet of the Associated Canadian Clubs last evening.

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Fredericton Notes

Fredericton, Sept. 12.—Premier Veniot will open the Fredericton exhibition here tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. Other speakers will include Hon. D. W. Messer and Superintendent Bailey of the experimental station. There are upwards of 1,000 exhibitors.

C. Henderson, a former teacher of the Fredericton High School, now connected with the high school in the city, was in the city yesterday and visited the office of the local board.

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