

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 13, 1926.

HARBOR DEVELOPMENT

POLITICS must be kept out of whatever developments there may be in connection with the harbor of Saint John. The public interest must dominate the situation. The Duncanson Commission recommends a harbor commission and such a program as will keep the port facilities somewhat in advance of immediate requirements. When large public expenditures are in prospect there is always an effort to turn them to private gain, without too fine a distinction between the latter and the former. What is to be done within the next few months or a year will have a very direct and lasting effect on the future of the port. It is therefore essential that partisan or selfish interests be thrust to one side, and the citizens unite to secure the best possible return in the coming years from the agreement to be made. There should be no divided future of the port. There should be no divided future of the port. There should be no divided future of the port.

THE SMITH CASE

USUALLY the New York Times shows a friendly, if sometimes critical and therefore valuable appreciation of British institutions. In commenting on the recent Smith trial, however, that newspaper hints that despite the judge's verdict, the Times says: "In last week's sensational murder trial in England, both the public prosecutor and the presiding judge warned the jury that they must take no account of the unwritten law." Such a thing should not figure in the British code of justice. But the result showed that it did, just the same. The jury, amid the cheers of the spectators, acquitted the man who had killed his wife's paramour—much the same as if it had all happened in New York.

INSTALLMENT BUYING

BUYING on the installment plan has become of sufficient importance to receive consideration from the President of a great banking institution. Sir Vincent Meredith, President of the Bank of Montreal, in his annual address, touched on the part played in the expansion of domestic trade by the extension of installment sales. He finds that buying on the installment plan has not resulted in decrease in the aggregate of savings deposits nor reduced purchasing of life insurance. Conducted within prudent lines, he says installment selling has its merits. Speaking particularly of automobiles, he points out that the percentage of cars returned diminishes as the payments rise. The merchant who first adopted the installment plan no doubt had in mind not only immediate business but the hold he would gain upon future earnings of the customer. The latter found it convenient to pay in installments because of a lack of enough money in hand to purchase an article outright. The system may be open to some abuses, but Sir Vincent is doubtless right in his contention that within prudent limits it serves a useful purpose.

Lieut.-Gov. Todd believes the recommendations of the Duncanson Commission will be to a large extent carried out. His belief should be well founded; for, as Premier Rhodes points out, "the specific findings are to be regarded as a minimum provision to meet an emergency situation." We read with satisfaction that the Canadian Press correspondent at Ottawa says:—"If the report passes the House of Commons and the recommendations of the Duncanson Commission are carried out in full, it will go a long way to reinstating the Maritimes to their proper position as a potential part of the Dominion of Canada. 'Maritime Rights' have won a great victory, in obtaining this important judicial decision in their favor from an impartial tribunal." The rest of the country now knows that justice has been suffered by the Maritimes and that their claims were fair.

THE CAR ACCURSED

HARD things have been said of motor cars—and flingers—for the most part by owners and drivers in moments of overpowering emotion when the engine dies inopportunely or a tire goes flat in the midst of a cloudburst; but it has remained for a lawyerman to dub automobiles one of the biggest curses that the country has today. This Daniel came in judgment is reported as declaring that in one place where he was minister with other men's wives or girls who would like to be other men's wives.

Somehow one cannot avoid the suspicion that this is, to say the least of it, exaggerated. The inference is that the motor car has had a loosening effect on morals. Is this fair? Is it true? Is morality of today laxer than it was twenty-five years ago, or is it merely that there is less pretence and simultaneously an acceptance of the possibility of asexual camaraderie between men and women? If there were no cars, would not those men who, innocently or otherwise, enjoy the society of other men's wives find opportunity to meet the latter? Cars or no cars, would not the same proportion of girls who would like to be other men's wives entertain identical yearnings? Possibly the motor car has made for publicity of actions afloat and hid, in that case it is a benefit. Let us be just to the automobile, and while admitting that it may have inspired some of the most heartless crimes of today, it is not lightly to be accepted as itself one of the biggest.

The Firestone Rubber interests which, as a countermove to Great Britain's virtual control of the world's raw rubber, initiated a scheme to plant in Liberia for their own requirements—have received ratification of their project from the Liberian Congress. The company secures a ninety-nine-year lease on 200,000 acres planted sixteen years ago and now in full bearing and on 1,000,000 acres yet to be planted. As the first tapping of trees cannot be undertaken until something like ten years have elapsed from the time of planting, and as many changes may take place within ten years, the activities of the Firestone Company are not likely to flutter the British rubber producers.

If the announcement in the London Evening Standard be true, the retirement of Lord Oxford from the leadership of the Liberal party in Great Britain has not had the effect of healing the breach. If, as reported, Lord Grey of Fallodon consent to head the anti-Lloyd George faction, the rift will remain as wide as ever. Whatever be one's political affiliations, it seems a pity that a historic party should thus be split and rendered almost impotent by dissension within its own ranks.

Meetings of the Premiers of the Maritime Provinces to discuss matters of common interest to their people are greatly to be commended. We need Maritime unity. Especially is it needed now, when matters vital to the Maritimes are up for consideration at Ottawa and in the country at large.

The British suffragettes who are still fighting for enfranchisement under the age of thirty are stated, according to a London despatch, to display amongst others the slogan, "We can be wives, mothers, teachers and M.P.'s, but we cannot be citizens." The careless use of "can" for "ought" would lead mere males to hail this as an admission of limitations.

A factory employing two hundred hands will be of great benefit to Saint John. There has been some development of industry along new lines in the city in the last two years, and the tendency should be to give encouragement to enterprise and so increase our industrial activity. There are better days ahead.

The shipping of liquor as fish, lumber, lathes, junk, or what not has become a popular pastime. Occasionally a shipment is held up, but the traffic goes on. It will continue to go on until a real drive is made to put an end to it.

Other Views

LEARNING FROM CANADA.

(Boston Advertiser)
CANADA can teach the United States a lot in the matter of restraining criminality. The New York Crime Commission learned in Canada recently how the Dominion controls crime. Jurists and police officials explained that speed in the handling of criminal cases is the basis of Canada's success in curbing the lawless.

Under the Canadian system it is not unusual for a person accused of a serious crime to be indicted, tried and convicted within two days. Cases that in this country would drag on for a year are picked in a few minutes.

"A trial here is not a game, but a solemn, serious investigation to ascertain whether a crime has been committed against the State," says Justice Riddell, the man who stamped out the Toronto crime wave of three years in a couple of months.

In other words, in Canada you can't fool the law, or fool with it. The State moves swiftly and inexorably to crush the evildoer. Here in the United States we have a prize collection of antiquated legal machinery which is being tinkered to make it operate more quickly and effectively. Mean while, the murders keep up in our cities. Can't the job be hurried?

VALUE OF EDUCATION.

(Ottawa Journal)
THE complaint frequently is made that many a college graduate has a mind stored with raw knowledge and has no experience in its application. That the value of his education to him is not to Society develops only when he meets the hard and grinding processes of everyday life. It is possible that the whole system of education places too much emphasis on formal tests, and it is obvious that the ability which meets successfully the demands of examinations is not always adapted with equal success to the problems of post-graduate days. The ability to make a living is a vital necessity, but the one who has learned "how to live," in the fullest sense of that expression, has achieved what all the philosophers have sought. Education is of great value in the degree to which it makes possible the realization of that objective.

SILVER LINING!

(Galt Reporter)
THOSE who lose elections are always greatly comforted by the thought that eventually right will triumph.

THE BIG NEED.

(Pittsburgh Gazette Times)
CHICAGO plans a temple of health, but what Chicagoans need are bullet-proof vests and bomb-proof homes.

LAUNDRY NOTE.

(Pittsburgh Clarion-News)
A MAN'S shirt lasts only as long as its weakest cuff.

News and Views From The British Capital

LONDON, November 25, 1926—It is quite likely that the reports from Doorn of the ex-Kaiser's serious illness are based on nothing worse, but that that may be, than an attack of the prevalent influenza. But if anything did befall the former Emperor Wilhelm, particularly at this rather unsettled period of Germany's post-war development, it would almost certainly cause trouble. The monarchist and militarist parties in Germany are tremendously in earnest, and nothing weakens their determination, soon rather than late, to endeavour to restore the old regime. To let pass such a conjunction as the death of the ex-Emperor, whose desertion in the hour of defeat puts him completely out of court in every sense, would be to weaken their cause. If and when anything happens to the exile of Doorn, a high post may be expected in favour of nominating one of the younger Hohenzollerns to the succession.

The First Sea Lord.

The generally-accepted explanation of Mr. Bridgeman's request for the deferring of Earl Beatty's resignation is that the Admiralty had no one immediately in view whom they could select as First Sea Lord. There are several distinguished Flag officers on the unemployed list whose names have been repeatedly mentioned as likely successors to Earl Beatty, but his continuance at Whitehall clearly puts them out of the running for this coveted post. It is generally believed in Service circles that the post is being "kept warm" for a few months for Admiral Sir Roger Keyes. That officer is at present Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, a position which in the normal course of things he will relinquish next May. If Sir Roger Keyes, he could assume the duties of First Sea Lord at Whitehall as soon as his successor can relieve him of the Mediterranean Command.

New Telephone to America.

The delegates from the U. S. A. who have been conferred privately with representatives of the Post Office Electrical Engineering writers and are a complete understanding with us regarding the opening of a new telephone service line from London to New York before the end of this year. It is true this service, for a commencement, will be of a tentative nature, but already, if not all of the initial difficulties that made the experimental stage, six months ago, a somewhat erratic one, and dependent upon climatic conditions, have been overcome. I listened to one of the leaders of the Boy Scout Movement, speaking through an ordinary telephone line, and the wonderful fact remains that large business firms—let alone private individuals—can now communicate direct with the United States—a tremendous advance on any previous telephonic installations.

A Peppy Wedding.

The engagement of the Earl of Cottenham to Miss Venetia Taylor has a literary and historical interest that the London writers entirely overlook. The Earl is just 23, and has raced his car at Brooklands with the best speed-merchants. He is the sixth Earl, and has been married twice. The wedding occurred during a Christmas holiday visit to his aunt, Idina Countess Brassey. But the interesting fact is that his father, the fourth Earl, transmitted direct to the trunk lines of this country, the first and best of all "London Correspondents," whose description of the Great Fire shows that he passed the bread-and-butter to his visitors to read "The Way of All Flesh," they put it down as good publicity. After he beat Dempsey and began to take about Bernard Shaw's novels and plays, they began to shake their heads. But when he got up at a Press Club reception and said that all of his listeners ought to read Schopenhauer, they got mad.

Tunney, they say, ought to stick to his job and leave the rest to the lawyers. Their dismay is real. How can they write stories about a champion who knows something and likes to talk about it to the public? The future looks brighter to them than the present. They have looked over all the white hopes and not one of them goes about with a volume of Plato in his pocket and a novel by Thomas Love Peacock in his hand.

Our Philosophic Champion

(Boston Post)
NEW YORK sporting editors are hoping that Jack Dempsey will come back. They are getting tired of Gene Tunney, who will not talk about the career of John L. Sullivan or about the latest musical show on Broadway, or even about All-American football teams. When Tunney was a champion, he was a philosopher. He used to read "The Way of All Flesh," they put it down as good publicity. After he beat Dempsey and began to take about Bernard Shaw's novels and plays, they began to shake their heads. But when he got up at a Press Club reception and said that all of his listeners ought to read Schopenhauer, they got mad.

Disturbing Figures

(London Daily News)
THE following statement is from a return issued by the ministry of health, 27th October. Those receiving relief in England and Wales on January 1, 1926, numbered 1,439,210; men, 369,352; women, 809,962; children, 560,400. An increase of January, 1925. In institutions, 326,732 were relieved and 1,112,078 the receipt of relief in their own homes includes 466,646 persons (including dependants) returned at relieved on account of unemployment—an increase of 100,272, or 49.1 per cent.

The Retired Farmer

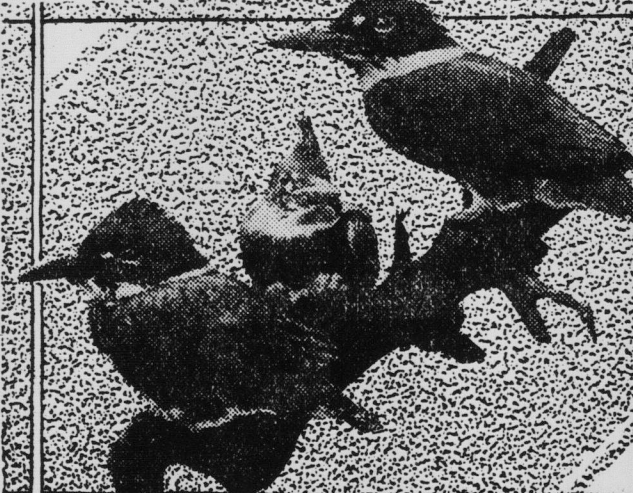
(Simcoe Reformer)
THE Hon. W. A. Charlton, when he called upon us a week ago, told us of a town in Ontario where there were 27 widows of retired farmers. When asked for the reason of this state of affairs he had been told that the farmers retired they had nothing to do but loaf, and died, while the women, who had to go on with the same housekeeping work that they had done while their husbands lived. Moral: Keep busy. Work keeps you alive.

Canada and Roumania

(Vancouver Province)
A PART from Queen Marie's visit, Canada is deeply interested in the welfare of Roumania. That country has the distinction of being Canada's largest foreign debtor. The amount owed is stated to be \$28,969,720.

Queer Quirks of Nature

BELOVED BY GODS, SAYS ANCIENT LEGEND.



Kingfisher.

By ARTHUR N. PACK.
THESE saucy little kingfishers look rather contented. When Daddy Kingfisher and his good wife first began to think wistfully of a little nest and some brightly-eyed babies, they hunted long for just the right sand or gravel bank. Finally when they had selected a perpendicular bank that appealed to them, they burrowed into it horizontally four to six feet a sleeping apartment at the end of the nesting burrow they scratched out a round little, bowl-like hollow, and to line this nest and make a cradle for their expected babies, they disgorged countless fish bones, and on these undigested fish bones, the little mother deposited her pearly white eggs, surprisingly large in comparison with her size. Sometimes six eggs were laid, some ambitious mothers even laying as many as nine. The kingfishers usually start their housekeeping in May and in about two weeks their hearts are gladdened by the arrival of their family. Those babies have an enormous appetite and the parents have to go fishing early and late.

Who's Who

IN THE DAYS NEWS

CHARLES E. HUGHES

CHARLES Evans Hughes is hearing the evidence and arguments in the suit of six states to restrain what they regard as an excessive diversion of lake water by the city of Chicago for its drainage canal. He has been appointed as special master by the United States Supreme Court to hear the suit.

With a varied and brilliant career, Mr. Hughes has been much in the public eye since his resignation from the governorship of New York State in 1907, a position from which CHARLES E. HUGHES resigned in 1910 to become associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Later, in 1916, he resigned from the Supreme Court on the day he was nominated by the Republican party as candidate for the presidency. He received 234 electoral votes in the presidential elections of 1916 against 277 for Woodrow Wilson, although on the basis of the early returns he had been proclaimed president by many newspapers. When Warren Harding succeeded Wilson to the presidency in 1921, Mr. Hughes was appointed Secretary of State and served as commissioner plenipotentiary for the United States at the International Conference on the Limitation of Armaments which met at Washington, November 12, 1921. Among the important governmental charges he has had since his defeat for the presidency are special assistant to the attorney general in charge of the aircraft inquiry in 1918, and chairman of the draft appeals board, New York City, 1917-18.

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Poems I Love

By CHAR. HANSON TOWNE.

"Sometimes," by Thomas S. Jones, Jr.
This American poet—he was born in Utica, N. Y.—used to appear frequently in our magazines, and several small volumes of dainty verse stands to his credit. His love poems are particularly beautiful; and why he now remains silent is one of the mysteries in the world of art. His poems are always exquisitely wrought and carefully moulded; if they are not profound, they are at least thoughtful. This brief lyric is one of his best, I think.

Open Saturday Night Till 10

Across the fields of yesterday
He sometimes comes to me—
A little lad just back from play—
The lad I used to be.

And yet he smiles so wistfully
I wonder if he creeps within,
The man I might have been.

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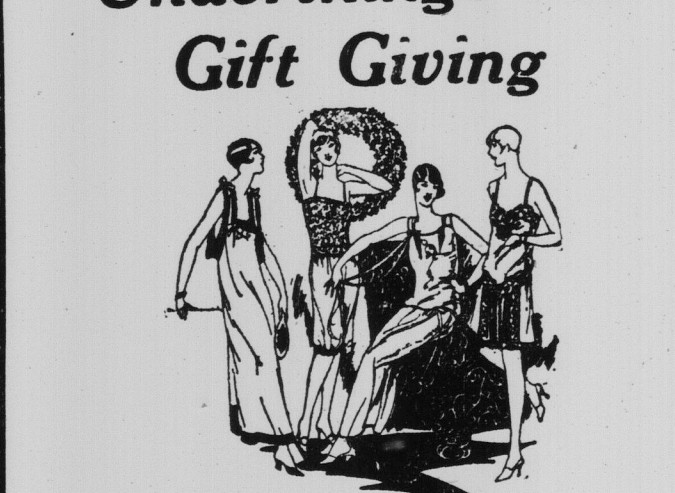
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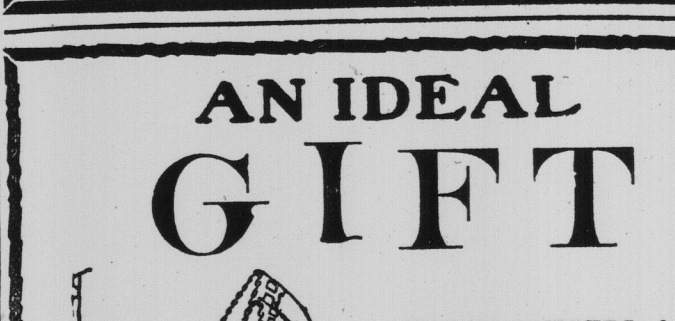
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