

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1912

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 16, 1912.

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THE OCEAN GRAVE

An ocean grave has swallowed up the latest pride of man's ingenuity in his efforts to make the sea his servant, and with the giant steamship have gone down more than twelve hundred people and much treasure. A vessel that was regarded as almost unsinkable met her fate in collision with an iceberg that had floated down from the north into the region of fogs through which the ocean liners pass on the voyage across the Atlantic.

Anyone who has encountered one of those chilling fogs, and experienced the depressing influence of being shut in on all sides, with the fog sailing soundless hour after hour, and the dread that somewhere ahead in that impenetrable veil might be lurking one of the icebergs which in clear weather were visible on the horizon, can realize something of the horror of that scene, of which as yet we have no description, when the giant liner went to her doom.

The news that even thousands of persons had been killed in a battle would not cause such a thrill of horror as this story of a palatial steamship, filled with people of all classes, including persons of great wealth, and men of power and influence in the industrial and commercial world, going down on her maiden voyage and blotting out the sunshine from so many homes.

In the long list of ocean horrors the loss of the Titanic, if the loss of life be as great as is feared, is the most awful. The world waits with bated breath to learn the complete story, so far as it may be learned, of those dreadful hours which intervened between the first impact with the iceberg and the final plunge of the greatest of ocean steamships with her living freight to an ocean grave.

READY-MADE FARMS

The provincial government measure providing for ready-made farms must depend largely for success upon the character of the commission. If the three commissioners appointed were strong partisans, disposed to buy up the farms of other partisans at high prices, or to purchase generally a course which would make a property an expensive one, the benefit to the province would be very small. Such a measure as that proposed by Premier Fleming naturally suggests the question why some financial restriction could not be extended to persons who, because of a lack of working capital, are discouraged and about to abandon their farms. This whole subject needs to be considered very carefully. One hundred thousand dollars is a mere trifle to be used for such a purpose as that outlined in the bill introduced by Premier Fleming, when we consider the number of farmers that should be settled in this province. New Brunswick must make a much bolder bid for settlers and adopt a more comprehensive and ambitious policy if it is to gain the rural population at the rate desired by the people. In any case, whatever is done should be free from any suspicion of partisanship, and conducted as a straightforward business transaction.

THE OREGON EXPERIMENT

The Times has already referred to the experiment in prison reform that is being carried on in the state penitentiary of Oregon. This particular penal institution had a rather bad record when Mr. Oswald West became governor, but he introduced a new system. He paid frequent visits to the penitentiary and got into personal touch with the convicts, and decided that it would not be safe but profitable to inaugurate a new system. The state owned hundreds of acres of land, and had in the penitentiary hundreds of men doing nothing or engaged in useless tasks. The governor decided to set the men at work, and to establish an honest system, under which any man who worked faithfully would be paroled as soon as he showed that he deserved it. The men were put at the outset that they would not be placed under severe restraint, and they were requested to give the governor their word that they would not run away. They were to be paid a certain amount of wages, to be given them when they left the prison. Describing the result of this effort, Mr. Jennings Sutor in the Pacific Monthly, says:

"Today you can take a trip over almost any road out of Salem and pass convicts at work without being able to tell them from the ordinary industrious farm hand to be met with in any countryside. There is no 'person look' about them. The hang-dog shift is lacking from their eyes. There is a healthy tan on their faces. The feeling of satisfaction that comes from a hard day's work out-of-doors is noticeable. The cleverest forger, the most accomplished safe-cracker, the most daring of porch-climbers seem to have the unhealthy lure of their crafts driven out of them. There is no room for crime thoughts when there's a day's work to be done in the country as are free from suspicion and surveillance as the rich farmer, who is working his own fields across the road."

While some of the convicts are employed on roads, others are engaged in general farm work. Some return to the penitentiary at night, but many working at a distance remain in camp. Since the system was adopted only three men have broken their parole, and one of them was recaptured. In two years immediately before the new system was adopted thirty men escaped, of whom some were captured,

\$100,000 FIRE IN AUGUSTA, MAINE

Augusta, Me., April 15.—Damage estimated at \$100,000 was caused by a fire which raged for more than four hours early today and which for a time threatened to wipe out a considerable part of the business section of the city.

Starting from an unknown cause in the basement of a fruit store in the Bowman block on Water street, the fire spread rapidly to other wooden buildings in that quarter. The old City Hotel building, the Theatre Comique and a tenement house were destroyed.

Some were killed and some are still at large.

What Judge Lindsey has done with boys and girls Governor West appears to be doing with fair success among older criminals. In Canada it has been found that the parole system works out well. A more general application of the methods adopted by the government of Oregon ought to be of advantage in connection with the prisons of Canada.

A dispatch from Toronto states that despite the largely increased dry area in Ontario there is an increase in drunkenness. It is stated that there were 757 more commitments for drunkenness last year than in the previous year, and that there has been a steady increase since 1890. It will be noted, however, that Toronto and Hamilton lead the list, and they are not local option territory. The truth is that the increase in drunkenness in Ontario and other places where there is an increase is largely due to the quality of the liquor that is consumed. Rigid inspection would probably lead to a different showing than that reported for Ontario last year.

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The legislature of Ontario has passed what is called the City and Suburban Planning Act. This act applies to the large cities in the province, and provides that when a sub-division of lots is proposed on any tract of land within five miles of a city of not less than 50,000, a plan must be submitted to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for its approval. The board may order such changes in the plan as it deems expedient, with regard to the width of the streets, their direction and location, and the size and form of the lots. The purpose of this new legislation is, of course, to enable cities to grow symmetrically and in conformity with a general plan. Ontario in this matter has taken the lead of New Brunswick, but it may be hoped that legislation of a similar character will be long adopted by the legislature of this province.

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Mr. Rudyard Kipling must have been sadly disappointed by the attitude of even the English Tory press since the Home Rule bill was introduced. Mr. Kipling appeared to regard home rule as something which should make the people seize their weapons and rush into battle. Perhaps one of the reasons that the Unionist press has been less violent than ardent opponents of Home Rule might define as the fact that almost half the representatives of Ulster in the British parliament are Home Rulers. There are, to be exact, seventeen Unionists and sixteen Home Ruler members from Ulster. The fact is worth remembering, in view of the violent speeches of Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Bonar Law and other Unionist leaders. The country at large accepts the Home Rule bill as an honest effort to heal the breach that has existed between England and Ireland for generations. As such, whatever changes may be made in the details, it will be accepted by parliament.

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PAID IN ADVANCE

The boatman was smoking his clay pipe, when he was roused by the tramp of a policeman's regulation boots.

"Have you let out a boat called the 'Alies' today?" demanded the officer of the law.

The boatman looked up in mild surprise. "That's right, mister; a young couple took it about half an hour ago."

"Then," said the man in blue, in his best style, "that boat has been found floating bottom up."

He of the sea paled. "What has happened to the sculls and cushions?" he demanded, in a husky tone.

"Sculls and cushions?" said the policeman, indignantly. "Sculls and cushions indeed! Where are the occupants?"

"Oh, the occupants," drawled the boatman; "never mind about them. They paid in advance."

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QUITTING A PHILOSOPHER

Mrs. Silas Bennett was a philosopher. On a certain dismal occasion some of the neighboring women were chattering with her. With commendable candor she replied:

"I've reared four girls and three boys, expectin' every time they'd be red-headed like their Grandpa Bennett, an' yet they ain't. An' I've worried considerable over smallpox breakin' out in my big family. So far, 'tain't. Last summer, durin' July and August, an' mebbe part of September, I was real melancholic, fearin' I'd got an appendix, but I guess I ain't. An' through it all it never once occurred to me that I'd be the one to fall down them old steps an' break my leg in two places, but I be."

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OLIVE OIL

Under the adulteration act Olive Oil is declared to be "entirely a product of the fruit of the olive tree," and cotton seed oil "is the oil obtained from seeds of cotton plants," etc. The order-in-council states that "either of the above may be sold as salad oil, but when cotton seed oil is offered as salad oil the fact that the article is cottonseed oil must be declared on the label. Mixtures of cottonseed oil with olive oil must be so declared on the label."

Beri Olive Oil is pure. It does not contain cottonseed oil. 50c. the pint, 90c. per quart \$3.50 per gallon.

Porter's Drug Store

"The Biggest Little Drug Store in the Town"

Cor. Union and St. Patrick Sts.



DECEIVING HIMSELF

"Ah, see, that ugly Bill is away! I'll just pinch his bones for a joke on him!"

—Fun.

TESTED AND FOUND WANTING.

A working man had been taken ill, and his wife had received instructions from the doctor to keep him quiet and give him only light food.

"Do not let him get excited," the doctor had said, "and if he seems restless and fidgety again tonight you must put a thermometer under his arm and tell me what temperature it records when I call again tomorrow."

The woman promised to obey instructions, and the doctor went on his way.

When the medical man called the next morning he was surprised to find that the patient seemed much worse.

"Did you take his temperature last night as I asked you?" the doctor inquired.

"Yes," said the woman. "I put the thermometer under his arm just as you said, and it went around to 175, so I gave him some beer!"

SUPERFLUOUS INFORMATION.

"It's quite a heavy shower we're having," he said, cheerily, to the man who had entered with his clothes soaked and his umbrella dripping.

"Yes, sir," replied the stranger, testily. "It's a heavy shower; but you have failed to remark also the interesting facts that the shower is falling downward from above, that it's a wet shower, and that it is raining on both sides of the street. Also you have neglected to observe that this is the year 1912, that the earth is round, and that there are four seasons each year. But I'm obliged to you for your information about the weather."

And the stranger walked away with a glitter of vindictive triumph in his eye.

A MATTER OF TASTE.

The driver of the old horse-bus was ruddy of countenance, with a large head of the blue politely known as auburn.

The cabby he was holding up eyed him, and then his face lit up.

"Whatto, bossy?" he called coarsely. "I utter have a beard like that till I saw myself in the glass; then I cut it off."

But the bearded man was not dismayed.

"Much better 'ave left it on, mate," he returned gently. "I utter 'ave a face like yours till I saw 'it in the glass; then I growed this beard!"

GOOD REASON.

Any—"Why did Miss Antiqua discharge her butler?"

Mamie: "He boasted that he had grown grey in her service."

SO CREDULOUS.

"He believes thoroughly in himself," said an admiring friend.

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "but some people are so credulous!"

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SULKIES, 2 Wheel, with Stationary Seat, \$1.75. With Reversible Seat, \$1.75.

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JOHN BURNS SITS TIGHT IN CABINET

Story is That Lloyd George is Anxious to Have Him Make Way for Protege of His

(Times' Special Correspondence)

London, April 6.—If several of the more important members of the Asquith cabinet had their way, the Rt. Hon. John Burns, president of the Local Government Board, familiarly known as "Honorable John," one-time red hot revolutionary agitator, but now denounced as a renegade and a reactionary by his former socialist friends, would be looking for a job. The man who, when first offered cabinet office by the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, was looked upon as the most extreme radical of an ultra-radical ministry, is now called too conservative by several of his associates.

Lloyd George, in particular, has a knife unsheathed for the scalp of the redoubtable John. It is an open secret that Mr. George wants the office which Burns holds for his pet protégé, C. E. G. Masterman. But Mr. Burns is not a man to be moved without a hard fight. He is as pugacious and as obstinate as a bulldog, and he refuses to budge even at the repeated bidding of the powerful Lloyd George. The latter has tried every vile known to the modern political game, but Mr. Burns sits tight in his official chair in Whitehall, going quietly about his business, seldom getting into the limelight and defying the machinations of his colleagues.

It is freely said in the parliamentary jobbies that, if Mr. Burns had been called in and given a free hand in the coal strike negotiations, he probably would have settled the whole trouble long before this. There is no denying that he has a vast knowledge of the conditions surrounding the working classes and an understanding of the character of the British workmen which are not possessed by theorists. It is a significant fact supporting the report that there is a cabinet conspiracy formed against Mr. Burns that he was not even consulted during the progress of the official negotiations with the strikers and the coal owners.

Mr. Masterman, whom Lloyd George would shove into cabinet rank if he could, is a loyal henchman of the Welshman. He has had a brilliant career in parliament. It has been said of him that "he was a specialist in the evading of clothes," but there are many evidences that he is rapidly outgrowing his more radical views. He was a brilliant scholar at Cambridge, win-

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