

The Evening Times and Star

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WEST PETERBORO.

Canada is ringing today with the news of the overwhelming defeat of the government candidate in West Peterboro, with four other candidates in the field. The constituency was close enough to Ottawa to enable the forces of the government, including the premier and most of his colleagues, to take part in the campaign, and they left no stone unturned. The constituency literally swarmed with government workers sent in for the purpose of the campaign. Under all the conditions a victory for the government candidate would not have caused surprise, where there were so many candidates in the field; but that he should be snowed under so completely, and the Liberal candidate have so great a majority was not anticipated, at least by anybody outside of the constituency. There can be only one interpretation of the results in East Egin and West Peterboro. The people of Canada want a general election, and an opportunity to say who shall be the government. The Meighen government is pursuing a mistaken policy in holding on to office after the Union mandate had expired. When the vote cast for the government candidate in West Peterboro is compared with the total vote cast for all the other candidates the strength of the opposition sentiment is very impressive. And while the defeat of its candidate places the government in the beaten class the election of Mr. Gordon is a notable triumph for the Hon. MacKenzie King and the Liberal party. The Liberal leader was bitterly assailed by government speakers and the government press; but he has the last word, and it is to tell Premier Meighen he should give the rest of the people of Canada the same opportunity given those of West Peterboro to declare their preference. But Mr. King is not alone in giving expression to this view. The Conservative Montreal Gazette advises the premier to get through with supply and go to the country. The result in West Peterboro has changed the whole political outlook. It is significant of a growing sentiment of dissatisfaction throughout the country. It has been held that it would have been better for the government to have appealed to the people immediately after the reconstruction of the cabinet. Yesterday's verdict confirms that view.

NOT ON THE PROGRAMME

Of course it was never intended that last evening's banquet to boost the board of trade should develop into a symposium on harbor commission. This must be assumed, because only one side of the case was presented, although Premier Foster did digress from his theme long enough to suggest that all the cards he laid on the table before there is any serious talk about harbor commission for St. John. The speakers who somewhat recklessly advocated commission perhaps felt they might not soon get as large a group of business men together, and so talked more on that subject than they otherwise. It is to be regretted the other side of the question was not heard. It should have been pointed out, for example, that to picture the government as offering to take over harbor and develop it is pure imagination. The government did not begin the agitation for harbor commission in St. John. Let be honest about this matter. We know from long and hard experience how eager the government is to do things in St. John. The slogan "trust the government," which was sounded by the commission advocates last night will not strengthen their case. There was also a contradiction in the remarks of one speaker of which he did not himself appear to be conscious. In one breath he said it was hopeless to expect anything unless we got this harbor commission matter satisfactorily settled, and in the next admitted that the government is planning some extension work in the harbor for this year. The burden of the cry of all the advocates of commission was "trust the government." They also expressed faith in the port of St. John, and in that everybody will agree with them. The citizens have so much faith in the port that they will not exchange it for an agreement which promises nothing more than that the total cost of equipping the harbor shall be a burden on its traffic. Such an agreement the citizens will not accept, and in rejecting it they will give an excellent illustration of the unity for which the mayor pleads.

VOCATIONAL CLASSES.

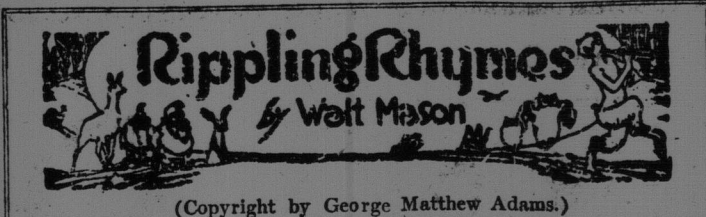
That vocational training must be saved by its friends in St. John not only for the sake of the boys and girls of the city, but because of the effect its rejection here would have all over the province, is clear to those friends, who constitute a great majority of the citizens. A citizens' committee should take the matter in hand at once. An insidious but quiet campaign against vocational training is being carried on by some persons who profess to be its friends. There is the more reason that its friends should get out in the open and rally to its defence. Another public meeting will be held shortly and the whole matter placed before the people for their decision. There is no room for doubt as to what has been done, what is being done, and what ought to be the policy for the future. It is most unfortunate that some well-intentioned people have permitted themselves to be placed in a position of apparent opposition without fully informing themselves upon the merits of the case. Take one illustration. The remark has been quoted that "where there is smoke there must be some fire." Let us apply this in another case. Suppose a citizen started the rumor that a St. John business house was on the edge of bankruptcy. Suppose the rumor spread, as such rumors do, until it was over the city. Would any man be justified in saying in this case that where there was smoke there must be some fire? The Times is convinced that when any fair-minded citizen gets all the facts he or she will not as a progressive citizen, attempt to maintain that the evening vocational classes should be closed. It would be a retrograde step and a triumph for that spirit which has too often put a check on forward movements in St. John. The evening vocational classes must be saved, and there should also be a start, as proposed, in day classes for high school students.

FEWER BACHELORS IN ENGLAND—MANY WIDOWS RE-MARRY

London, Feb. 8.—Striking increases in the re-marriages of young widows and of the marriages of middle-aged bachelors, and a general tendency for mortality to decline, are the features of the registrar-general's report for 1919. The re-marriage of widows was a direct consequence of the war, many of them losing their husbands in battle. Under the age of twenty-five the number of re-marriages was 10.7 times between twenty-five and thirty, six times greater than in 1911. The marriage of bachelors was twice as numerous as in 1911.

URGES CURFEW FOR GIRLS.

London, Feb. 8.—"Guard your daughters more carefully," is the advice given by the Rev. C. B. Law, vicar of Chestnut, Herts. "Again and again you may see girls behaving in the street in a way that makes your blood run cold and then not for shame and sorrow, and you naturally say to yourself: 'Where are the mothers of these girls?' Strict rules about being out late at night and so on, cannot be relaxed in the case of those who might be labeled 'good' or 'respectable' any more than in the case of others."



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NIGHTS AT HOME.

I always spend my night at home, remote from strife and care; a pillow soft supports my dome, my feet rest on a chair; and so I read some frizzling poem, or volume ripe and rare. My aunts and grandmas play some tunes, or blithely sew and knit, while merry children, full of prunes, throw many a gladstone fit, till lullaby their mother croons—and so the calm hours fly. And when the morning comes I read how men who roamed by night fell victims to the auto's speed, were shot up in a fight, or touched for all their chicken feed by some unholy wight. I read of kidnaped maidens fair, and parents in distress, of youths who lose, in White Way glare, the number of their mess, of misdeeds in the gamblers' lair, and crimes no man dare guess. I say, if those who gallivant, would spend their nights at home, with grandma, niece and maiden aunt, and read some helpful tome, the crime of which the peepers rant would disappear like foam. I'd rather be with bards who think than with the men who prance to places where the glasses cling, and there are games of chance; a book is better than a drink, or than a tango dance. And when at dawn I leave my bed I caper and I sing, no hold-up, with a bar of lead, has spoiled my larkboard wing, I do not have to stick my head, or wear it in a sling.

LABOR STRIKE ON EVE OF THE S. A. ELECTIONS

Five Thousand Rand Miners Cause Sensation as Ballotting is Begun.

Cape Town, Feb. 8.—(By Canadian Press)—Voting to select members for a new house of assembly took place today throughout the Union of South Africa. With the casting of the ballots to day a period will be put to one of the most important general elections that have ever taken place in the British Empire, because the South African press, has fought his campaign directly on the issue of continuance of the British connection, which has been denounced by his chief opponent, Gen. Hertzog, leader of the Nationalist party.

Five thousand miners in the Rand district have struck and their action on the eve of the election came as a thunderbolt. Belief was expressed that the strike was a political move designed to consolidate the ranks of labor. There have been predictions that the strike would capture twenty seats in parliament.

London, Feb. 8.—(By Canadian Associated Press)—The morning papers here carry few cables from South Africa dealing with the elections, and these are of a fragmentary character. The Daily Express correspondent at Cape Town writes that the Nationalists have gone so far as to declare that Premier Smuts himself favors secession, and that they have reiterated this charge at meetings after meeting with many Unionists have been induced to credit it, against their will and judgment. Gen. Hertzog, the Express adds, has held out to labor the lure of independence with ministerial office and power.

The Daily News thinks that it is doubtful that the Nationalists would go as far as to bring secession forward as a political issue, but avers that, even so, the results of today's polling are disturbingly uncertain. Fortunately, the News adds, the reliable observers predict that Gen. Smuts will obtain a small but sufficient majority.

The Daily Chronicle considers it quite possible that if Hertzog's should achieve victory at the polls they would decide to moderate the extreme attitude which has marked their course during the election campaign.

PATIENT LEAPS FROM HOSPITAL TO DEATH

Son of Western Cartridge Co. President Had Been Operated.

New York, Feb. 8.—Franklin W. Olin, Jr., of 1228 State Street, Alton, Ill., son of F. W. Olin, President of the Western Cartridge Company, committed suicide by jumping from the third floor of St. Charles Hospital, 217 East Forty-second street. Mr. Olin, upon whom an abdominal operation had been performed six days ago, was killed instantly. He was 30 years old and an architectural engineer.

Accompanied by his father and mother, who stayed at the Waldorf-Astoria to await his expected recovery, Mr. Olin came to New York and went into the hospital two weeks ago. The operation was considered successful.

Mr. Olin had a private room in the hospital and was tended by three nurses, one of whom was constantly in attendance. The nurse on duty left the room momentarily and returned in time to see his patient climbing over the window sill. The nurse jumped forward, but was too late to check Mr. Olin's fall to the hospital courtyard.

J. W. Piske, Superintendent of the hospital, and members of the staff, found Mr. Olin apparently lifeless when they reached him. He was taken inside the hospital and unsuccessful efforts were made to revive him. Mr. Olin Sr. said that his son was depressed because of the operation.

FAMOUS PRISON TO GO.

Paris, Feb. 8.—Another of the landmarks of Paris is to disappear. St. Lazare, the women's prison, will soon be pulled down, and a new prison will be constructed in a suburb. The prison was formerly a convent. It had been condemned.

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TURN DOWN MAYOR CHURCH'S PLAN FOR TORONTO HOUSING

Toronto, Feb. 8.—Proposals of Mayor T. L. Church that this city should build 1,000 houses suitable for workers and raise a fund of \$1,000,000 to make advances to home builders up to 75 per cent of the gross value were voted down by the city council last night. The council refused to apply for legislation to enable the city to meet the housing situation in any form of manner.

The council decided to discontinue the Inglenook Farm boys' home, the management of which was recently reported against by Judge Denton.

KING-EMPEROR'S CALL TO PRINCES OF INDIAN STATES

London, Feb. 8.—The India office has issued the text of the king-emperor's proclamation summoning the ruling princes and chiefs of the Indian states to the inauguration of the chamber of princes. It says that the problems of the future must be faced in a spirit of co-operation and mutual trust, and adds: "It is in that spirit that I summon the princes of India to a larger share in my councils, in confident anticipation that thereby the bonds of mutual understanding will be strengthened and the growing identity of interests between the Indian states and the rest of my empire will be fostered and developed."

Assuring the princes that their rights, privileges and dignities will remain inviolate and inviolated, the emperor hopes that the princes will regularly participate in the deliberations of the

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