

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1921

The Evening Times and Star

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RUSSIAN CONDITIONS.

Russia suffers from two great causes, which themselves are chiefly a result of Soviet rule, although the drought has contributed to one of them. They are food scarcity and the absence of proper transportation facilities. Because of the latter it is difficult for people to escape from famine regions, or to transport food to them. The Volga valley and the region between that valley and the Ural mountains, has been hurt by heat and drought and it is said that what might be termed the eastern third of European Russia is sorely stricken. It is reported that twenty millions of people are affected and that great numbers are fleeing either eastward toward the Urals, or westward toward the Ukraine and Poland. The country has seen nothing like this vast exodus, which affects whole provinces. The drought finished what the revolution had begun. The latter took from the farmers the incentive to raise more than they needed for themselves. Reports compiled by the United States Department of Commerce tell the story of the decline in acreage: "Examples of reports from the drought area show the province of Samara sowing this spring only 58 per cent of the average cultivated last year. In the province of Krasn, 56,000 acres, usually cultivated in some cases on larger dealings, were not sown at all. To the west of the Volga valley less than 50 per cent of the arable territory in the province of Orel was sown, and in the province of Tula only 20 to 30 per cent of the necessary seed for sowing was available."

Then came the drought. But even before this year the production of food had declined from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 tons for export to a condition where there was not enough to supply the cities of Russia itself. The exactions of the Soviet government had utterly disheartened the farmers, for it requisitioned enormous quantities of food and gave no adequate return, and they therefore lost all interest in the work of production. When we turn to the question of relief, the problem of transportation at once presents itself. A review of the situation by Bradstreet's says there has been a deterioration of transportation that "there is doubt as to the ability to move the local surpluses that do exist in the richer grain-producing provinces in Siberia and the south to those areas which normally depend on them. The Volga region is least accessible to relief from abroad. Of the railways we read:

Out of a total of 19,106 locomotives in good condition before the war, there are at present from 5,500 to 7,650 reported in working order by different authorities, or a decrease of motive power by 60 to 75 per cent. Of that number approximately 1,000 are still owing to lack of fuel. Serviceable cars are reported at from 150,000 to 236,000, or a decrease of from 48 to 70 per cent of the pre-war number. The roadbeds are reported in very bad condition, and if large repairs are not made in the next few months considerable sections will have to be closed to traffic. According to the latest estimate, at least 35,000,000 ties must be replaced, and the present programme calls for only 5,000,000 replacements. A considerable mileage of branch lines has been removed and used for repair material. The fuel situation is also very serious. Cessation in production of coal by 80 per cent and the deterioration of the mines has caused the railways to depend much more upon wood. Such wood must come from the forests of northern Russia, and the haul is too long for supply to southern Russian railways. An effort has been made to change the locomotives on the southern railways into oil burners, but the gradual decline of oil production has limited this transformation."

While the conditions in regard to food and transportation are so very bad, it is estimated that industry in general in Russia has decreased over 90 per cent from the pre-war output. It is a terrible situation, calling for relief from other nations, and that relief must be on a colossal scale if the lives of hundreds of thousands of people are to be saved.

THE MILK SUPPLY

The Board of Health has found that of one hundred samples of milk coming into St. John only fifteen per cent, was absolutely clean. Eleven per cent was very dirty, thirty-nine per cent dirty and thirty-five per cent fairly clean. This disgraceful showing bears out the criticism levelled against the quality of our milk supply in recent letters to the press. It calls for a prompt remedy. There is little use in carrying out a public health programme if the milk supply is not pure. This question has been before the public many times and the tests now made will justify drastic action on the part of the health authorities. Complaint has also been made over and over again about lack of proper supervision in the country of the killing of animals to provide meat for the city market. This whole matter of a clean and pure food supply calls for constant alertness, and such regulations, rigidly enforced, as will protect the public. Especially is it necessary to ensure a pure milk supply for the benefit of the health of the children. It should be

possible by a process of elimination to condemn one after another the sources of dirty milk. One very simple method would be to publish the result of the tests, but that should not be necessary. It is possible that milk which leaves the farm in a pure state becomes dirty before it reaches the consumer. The citizens will support the health authorities in a vigorous campaign for improved conditions.

THE TRADE OUTLOOK.

The Canadian Credit Men's Association finds business a little more active and the business outlook a little more satisfactory in the western provinces. In Ontario there appears to be a similar feeling, although the improvement is rather an indication than an accomplished fact in general trade. In the maritime provinces, where business has never been quite as bad as farther west, trade is very quiet at present. Of the situation in the United States Bradstreet's says:

"No great forward impulse is as yet visible in regular fall trade, but there seems to be slightly more doing in a number of lines at different markets; the industries, among those being some of the so-called basic lines, like iron and steel and coal, show a more hopeful feeling, and in some cases on larger dealings, the wearing apparel trades, wholesale and jobbing, have increased slightly in activity, both at wholesale and in final jobbing lines, and there is a slight accentuation of the more optimistic feeling visible last week. In word, the advance of the season is bringing out a certain amount of needed buying, which has lifted business as a whole out of the rut of depression and dullness of mid-summer."

There is no doubt at all that there is a quiet winter ahead, with a good deal of unemployment. This should be provided for as large an extent as possible by works of a public nature. The general feeling is that spring will see the beginning of a permanent revival of industry and commerce.

Christopher Morley writes in the New York Evening Post: "One of our favorite stories, we must confess, is that told, every now and then, by a member of the most genial social triumvirate in the world, the Ex-Editors of The Bookman. It tells about The Editor Who Made a Fortune. The editor (so the story runs) started poor as a proverbial church mouse, many years ago. He has now retired with a comfortable fortune of \$200,000. This money was amassed by industry, economy, conscientious effort to give full value, indomitable perseverance, and the death of an uncle, who left the editor \$49,999.50."

There are still living many persons who remember the great excitement which attended the boat races at River-side, when the great English oarsman, Renforth, met his death. It was claimed that fifteen thousand people witnessed the race, which had such a tragic end. All the older people, and the young as well, will read with deep interest the story reprinted in today's Times from the Daily Telegraph of fifty years ago.

Halifax Chronicle: The Dominion government's campaign sheet draws a vivid picture of present conditions and asks, in tones of frantic appeal, whether this is a time to discard old methods and tried administrators. It has not occurred to the propagandist, says the Winnipeg Free Press, that the people may conceivably hold the view that the old fellows, now on the job, are making such a poor list of it that it is time for a change.

It is announced that the liberated regions in France now possess 88 per cent of their pre-war population, while 77.7 per cent of the factories are running, 71 per cent of the agricultural area is being worked, and 45.4 per cent of the pre-war personnel is being employed.

The drug habit is growing in France. The most serious phase of the situation is that the children of parents addicted to drugs have a marked tendency toward physical and mental weakness. Canada is by no means free from this curse.

The Times referred a few days ago to the benefice of the late Mrs. E. B. Eddy. Her will gives further striking proof that to her the possession of wealth was regarded as a greater call to service.

The baseball season is drawing to a close, and it has been the most interesting St. John has known for many years. With more grounds next year and still more successful season may be anticipated.

The city council grant of \$2,000 to the Westfield fire sufferers will be approved by the people. It may have been a careless citizen who started one of those fires in the wilderness.

The officers and men of the Cambrian are welcome to St. John, and their stay in port should be made pleasant for them.

LIGHTER VEIN.

The Final Retort.

Great was the rejoicing in the suburban street when the Joneses were at length compelled to move, for they had been a grievance against them that they tried to keep up appearances above their station, and would have little to do with their neighbors.

Whilst the furniture was being brought out, some difficulty was experienced in removing a piano from an upper room, and someone proposed getting it through a large window and sliding it down.

Then came the suggestion from the Joneses' next door neighbor, who had long fostered the deepest enmity towards them, though until now she had attempted to conceal it.

"No," she said firmly, all her pent-up bitterness at last showing itself in her tone: "Let it come out as it went in—the installment system."

The Trip Was Off.

Johnny had been disobedient and his father, on returning home, had been appalled of the fact. "Come, my son," he said quietly, as he started for the woodshed, "we will take a little trip."

"If it's a whaling trip, I'd rather be excused," said the young delinquent, and his ready wit saved him a painful experience.—Boston Transcript.

CHINA'S HOARDED SILVER.

Facts Regarding the Country's Huge Absorption of the Metal.

(New York Times)

A statement lately issued by one of the foreign advisers to the Chinese Government states that "the statistical department of the Bank of China has just completed researches into the disappearance of silver coin through hoarding in Manchuria and in the metropolitan province of Chihli. They estimate that in each area from ten million to fifteen million silver dollars have been withdrawn and hidden since the coinage of the Yuan Shi Kai dollar had commenced on a large scale in 1914 and that, therefore, in the twenty-two provinces there might be anywhere from \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000 in cash, which the restoration of confidence would draw out." At the present price of silver the hoard of these amounts would be equivalent to something like 150,000,000 fine ounces.

One of the London bullion houses supplements this statement by a statistical table showing that whereas the net export of silver from China during the years from 1915 to 1918, inclusive, amounted to \$1,000,000,000, the net import during the years from 1919 to 1920, inclusive, has been 169,200,000. The net imports of 1920 alone, which were the largest on record, reached in amount the remarkable total of 112,575,000 fine ounces. The London bankers remark that "an importation of this size implies special conditions, and continuation of such an abnormal state of affairs cannot be regarded as likely."

RUSSIAN RELIEF.

(New York Times)

It may be found that it is less the lack of foodstuffs in Russia, as a whole, than of the means of transport from one part to another. This is indicated by the fact that people are going to the food, since food cannot be brought to them. There was sound advice in the statement made some weeks ago by Kravinsky, himself an able engineer, that what Russia needs is skilled men, especially in engineering, to help Russia to build the railroads. For example, it is but a small fraction of our export in wheat, and it could readily be met if only there were adequate transport.

The American Relief Administration, in which all the great nation-wide relief organizations in America are merged for the feeding of the children of Europe (the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the K. of C., the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Quakers), is ready to go to Russia with millions of dollars worth of supplies, though it may take weeks to reach some of the stricken areas. This organization, which is not only giving relief, but in the areas, will begin with the children. America will soon know the truth from its trained observers and will not hesitate to help. This awful visitation, whether it be, in legal phrase, an act of God, or the result of sheer economic stupidity (or something worse), may be the giant hand to open the self that does of Russia to the good-will of the world.

LEGENDS OF JADE.

The jade, at present so popular, has been associated with Chinese history from ancient days, and is one of the oldest and most curious of stones.

In China a string of jade beads is used as an insignia of rank and authority. At one time, it is said, no other than a prince of the royal blood had the right to possess jade in India, under the name of Jades.

In China the jade is termed the concentrated essence of life. It is an earnest often bestowed on young girls when they come of age. When fashioned in the form of a ring, it was the symbol of successful love, and the Chinese bridegrooms present jade butterflies to their fiancées.

Another Chinese custom was to place a piece of jade in the mouth of a person on his death. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York contains a collection of specimens of jade from Chinese tombs.

In the Indian museum collection of jades there is a large bowl on which a family of lapidaries in the employ of emperors of Delhi were engaged in engraving for three generations. It is said to be priceless.

COMMON COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the common council yesterday afternoon a communication from the Imperial Oil Co. was read with reference to their heavy tank trucks, which weigh more than the 6,000 pound limit, using the ferry. The letter was referred to Commissioner Bullock for report at the next meeting. J. Sydney King wrote requesting a refund of one dollar, which he claimed was the amount overpaid on his taxes. The letter was referred to the mayor. A request from residents of Dufferin street, through Armstrong & Bruce, that they be heard on Thursday morning, was accorded to the matter of assistance to those residents of Westfield who were in need was discussed at length. On motion of Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Thornton, the sum of \$2,000 was voted to the relief fund, the objective of which is \$4,000. The mayor said he understood that the municipality of Kings county would make an appropriation for this purpose. Other routine business was transacted.

MAY PARALYZE THE MEXICAN OIL BUSINESS

Low Market Price and Taxes Said to be Responsible—A Crisis in September.

Mexico City, Aug. 17.—The Mexican Petroleum industry is threatened with complete paralysis which probably will reach a crisis in the month of September, according to the newspapers.

The low market prices of oil in the main responsible, although the taxes imposed by the Mexican Government, which protests have been made, have been of no aid. Secretary of Commerce Zubaran said that the companies were not shutting down because of a spirit of hostility towards the government but for commercial reasons only.

The oil companies have declared there is no intention of definite abandonment of their production, asserting that operations will be resumed whenever market conditions make them practicable. Most of the firms will maintain skeleton organizations.

GOMPER'S OPINION OF VOLSTEAD ACT

"Unwarranted Interference With Freedom of People," He Says.

Toronto, Aug. 17.—We believe that the Volstead Act for the enforcement of the 18th amendment to the constitution is an unwarranted interference with the freedom of the people of the United States," was the declaration made by President Gomper of the A. F. of L. yesterday, in reply to a request for a pronouncement on the attitude of the American Federation of Labor regarding prohibition.

FORMER LAWYER GUILTY OF THEFT

Ottawa, Aug. 16.—(Canadian Press.)—Alfred P. Lusier, former lawyer of thirty years' standing here, was sentenced to five years in the Kingston penitentiary for the theft of \$2,750 from the law office of F. H. Scott of Perth yesterday. After Lusier had pleaded guilty to two charges of theft involving \$2,750 and \$1,000, the judge, who heard the case, said that Lusier had been unfaithful to his trust and had converted to his own use the sum of \$2,750, the property of A. Lalonde of Ottawa. It was announced in the court room by counsel for the defence that the defendant had no previous criminal record and was assigned for \$60,000 for the benefit of his creditors.

CONSERVATIVES OF P. E. I. ORGANIZE

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Aug. 17.—Four hundred delegates representing all of the province met here yesterday for the purpose of organizing the Liberal-Conservative party from a federal as well as a provincial standpoint. The delegates were met by Premier McCreagh in the afternoon and he expressed confidence in Premier McCreagh and J. D. Stewart the new provincial leader, and demanding a better railway service. Among the speakers were the following:—J. C. Douglas, M. P. of Gloucester; Hon. J. B. Macdonald, M. P. of St. John; D. Nicholson, M. P. of Miramichi; M. P. and J. D. Stewart.

HUNGRY, BREAKS WINDOWS.

Man, 60, Takes This Means to Get Food—Sent to Home for Aged.

(New York Times)

George Foster, 60 years old, a painter, who says he has no home, told Magistrate Renaud in the Yorkville Court yesterday he had been without food three days, and had broken windows in the Flatiron Building that he might be arrested and so get something to eat.

The suggestion came to him from "bums" in Union square, he said. Acting on it, early in the morning he wrapped a brick in paper, put stout twine around it, to use it as a sling, and smashed two show windows in the United Cigar Store at the north end of the building mentioned. He was about to smash the show window of Knauer & Rudolph, jewelers, on the Broadway side of the building, when Patrolman Chaffers arrested him.

Complaint against the prisoner on a burglary charge was made by A. K. Pinder, manager of the Flatiron Building, who said that to get a free meal he had broken windows costing \$500. Magistrate Renaud ordered that the charge of attempted burglary, to which the old man had pleaded guilty, be changed to vagrancy, and sentenced him on that charge to six months in a home for the aged.

QUITS BEAT FOR POTATOES.


Policeman in Peddler's Disguise Found He Liked the Job.

(New York Times)

When Policeman John Ryan of the Yankee police department was assigned to disguise himself as a farmer and drive a vegetable wagon to trap illicit liquor sellers he wasn't much of a success as a detective, but liked selling potatoes so well that he is going to stay in the force and sell them on his own hook. Ryan has just purchased a farm up north and will raise and sell potatoes. He believes the preliminary training he received on a potato wagon for the police department will be of good stead. His partner named him the "potato cop."

MONTREAL DANCE HALLS.

Montreal, Aug. 16.—The aldermen of the city council meeting yesterday with a three quarters majority present, threw out a by-law requiring the dance halls of the city to close at 1 a. m.



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A MOVE TO OUST MOORE AND DRAPER

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PREMIER DRURY CONGRATULATES LABOR BODIES

Toronto, Aug. 17.—Organized labor was congratulated on its "sane and steady attitude" and for having "steered clear of the dangers and pitfalls of the times," in a brief speech of welcome delivered by Premier R. C. Drury of Ontario, to the delegates attending the convention of the railway carmen of America yesterday.

In welcoming the delegates from the United States, Premier Drury stated that he felt it should be a creed on both sides of the international boundary to cultivate in every possible manner good will between the two great nations.

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H. G. Endow, 1 Brunswick St.

J. Stout, Fairville.

W. E. Emmerson, 481 Union St. West Side.

SUGAR WAS SUGAR OF LEAD.

Woman's Mistake in Sweetening Peaches Nearly Fatal.

(New York Times)

Mistaking sugar of lead for powdered sugar, Mrs. Isabel Cummings, fifty-one years old, of Concourse, S. I., used some of it on peaches she was preparing for dinner last night. She ate a spoonful of the peaches to ascertain their sweetness. She noticed a strange flavor and mentioned the fact to her husband.

Mrs. Cummings soon became ill and a physician was summoned from St. Vincent's Hospital. After applying a stomach pump, the doctor ordered the patient taken to the hospital. She will recover.


The package containing the sugar of lead, Mrs. Cummings said, was in a closet near where she kept the sugar. The packages were somewhat similar in appearance.

ADOPT SLIDING SCALE OF PRICES FOR CHICAGOANS WHO GET DRUNK

Chicago, Aug. 17.—Revised schedules of fines for various degrees of drunkenness, which take effect Monday, were announced by Judge Charles F. McKinley of the Chicago avenue police court. The increase is designed to offset the rising cost of feeding prisoners.

Plain drinks will cost \$3; only drunks \$8; drunks who go to sleep in public places, \$5; drunks who want to fight, \$10; drunks who actually fight, \$10 to \$25.

Schedules to be announced soon will cover increased fines for misdemeanors, disorderly conduct and other offenses.



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