

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1919

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A JUVENILE COURT.

St. John has been too long without a juvenile court. It is now possible to establish one with little further expense than the salaries of judge and probation officer, and without taking the children to the police cells or the jail.

Judge Ritchie has conducted a juvenile court within limitations, but it is not a task for a police magistrate. It is one man's job, and he should give it his whole time, not merely hearing cases but following them up and acting in a semi-parental capacity toward the youthful wrong-doers.

The record shows a grave increase in juvenile crime in St. John, but that is not all. There are too many boys and girls learning vicious practices and openly guilty of misbehavior in the streets. A lecture and dismissal will not cure them. There must be such an organization radiating from the juvenile court tary aid committees to the very homes from which delinquents come that the responsibility will be fixed and the boys and girls made to feel that somebody cares for them, and will not only help them but restrain them if that should be necessary. Merely to ask a boy who has been caught stealing several times to report periodically is no guarantee that he will not go on stealing as well as reporting. In its own defence society must care for its boys and girls—of its boys and girls. The Juvenile Delinquent Act, a Dominion statute, should be proclaimed in St. John, a judge appointed, a probation officer provided, and a vigorous and systematic effort made to change the whole outlook of boys and girls who are now drifting toward the rocks of failure and shame, if not of actual crime.

PHYSICAL CULTURE.

Major Smith pointed out to the Rotary Club yesterday how great an honor it was that after four years of experience of all the forces in the war, and in the critical period of the final drives against the enemy, the Canadians were selected to provide storming troops, to open the way for the armies. That they were in such fit condition, and with such a high spirit of courage and cheerfulness, he attributed in goodly measure to the play and the physical exercises which were constantly indulged in at the training camps and at the base. Major Smith told of one Ontario battalion in the formation of which 1,700 out of 2,900 men were turned down because of physical defects, and how a period of proper training made many such men able in the end to pass the necessary examination. There is here a great lesson. More attention must be paid to physical training in Canada. We must have more playgrounds, more physical instructors, more attention to this subject in the schools. Major Smith expresses the hope that the men who were chosen as storming troops in France may come home to be storming troops in the battle for righteousness and improved social conditions. We can all echo that wish, but it does not relieve us of our own responsibility. They have set an example we should follow, and the period of reconstruction should be marked by nation-wide effort to build up a vigorous physical manhood, disciplined on the play-field, and eager to accomplish great things in the development of the country and its resources.

WHAT ABOUT GARDENING?

The time has come to consider the future of the War Gardens Association of St. John. If it is to be an active organization next spring and summer plans should be made in ample time. Last year's experience should be valuable in suggesting ways in which still more effective work could be done. The exhibit of products of the gardens last fall was a revelation, and it should be possible next fall to have a very much larger exhibition, with far more exhibitors. There are families who have not found it necessary to purchase many vegetables this winter because they raised their own; and there is a great satisfaction in feeling that the fruits of one's own industry contributed so much to the household supply. Apart from the mere question whether it pays in dollars and cents to raise garden produce there is the benefit, both mental and physical, derived from work in the garden, in the fresh air, and with thought directed toward partnership with nature in a worthy cause. There is also the great satisfaction in the success of plucking vegetables from one's own garden, getting them fresh for the table. It would therefore be well to keep the War Gardens Association alive, under another name, and endeavor to arouse a far more general interest in its activities.

"The S. Valerius Army does not merely drag a man out of the mud and clean him and place him on high ground once more," says Harry Furniss, the famous caricaturist of Punch. "It takes him under the wing and uses its influence for permanent good, beginning at a point where he is equally equally a made man in many cases have off."

Of the evils of land speculation the Toronto Globe says: "The Alberta legislature at its coming session will deal with some of the evil consequences of the land boom. Nearly all the municipalities where the epidemic raged have large areas of taxation, usually levied against vacant land bought as a speculation, which they are unable to collect. The city of Edmonton is a classic example. Its tax arrears amount to \$600,000, a situation which has put it beyond the power of the municipality to meet its obligations and pull itself out of the morass unaided. Edmonton and other cities and towns bitten by the boom are appealing to the government for financial aid. Probably the province will lend cash or credit to enable the municipalities to spread the arrears of taxation over a long period, during which defaulting property owners may be able to pay their debts."

Halifax Chronicle: "What is to be the future attitude of the human brotherhood towards its constituents? Are we to degenerate into permanent warring classes and sections, or are we to join hands harmoniously and wholeheartedly for mutual help, through close co-operation? All depends on whether those who are more enlightened and successful stand coldly aloof from those who are less, or recognize it as the most sacred of all human duties to open warm hearts to those who are in distress of any kind—physical, mental or spiritual—and so prove that they are really influenced by Christ's revelation of the brotherhood of men and the fatherhood of God."

The Rotary Club conference in Halifax tomorrow and Thursday will deal with matters of public concern. Primary education, maritime union, boys' work, civics and problems of reconstruction are on the programme, and the relation of Rotary Clubs to these and other community questions will be considered. Rotary has gone far afield from the idea of its founders, and has become an international as well as a national force for progress in community life.

What a change in a few months in the position of William Hohenzollern. It seems like yesterday when he boasted of what he as God's instrument would do. Today there are few to do him reverence. Even the German people are careless as to his fate. Looking back from the peace conference to the pre-war period one can scarcely realize how great and swift and beneficent has been the change in the world outlook.

Three matters relating to child-welfare have been brought to the attention of the city council recently. The first was vocational training. The second was playgrounds. The third was a juvenile court. With regard to the first, nothing of importance has been done. With regard to the second, the increased grant asked for was not given. With regard to the third—what?

If the Bolsheviks prevail in Russia that country's debt to France will be repaid. That is reason why France wants no recognition of the Bolsheviks, and why a portion of the French press criticizes the attitude of Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson. The latter, however, do not anticipate the triumph of Bolshevism.

Reference was made in this paper a few days ago to a movement started in Winnipeg in favor of a national system of education for Canada. President Osborne of the University of Manitoba addressed the Canadian Club of Montreal last evening on this subject.

The strike in Belfast for a forty-hour week has assumed such proportions that every industry and every public service are paralyzed. Belfast has had many strikes, but none of such magnitude as this.

Joint trustees for civilization is Mr. Balfour's description of the British Empire and the United States. It should appeal very strongly to the people of both great powers, and would be the realization of a dream long cherished.

The participation by Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian ministers in a service in Trinity church this week marked a new and happier era in church relationship in this province.

The Standard is worried about the fate of the provincial audit act. It is partial to the act because the act was so useful in preventing graft and fraud under the old government. What?

The city council and school board had a friendly conference yesterday. May this be the beginning of more cordial relations that will result in great benefit to the schools.

German schools in Buenos Aires observed the ex-Kaiser's birthday by the usual holiday. It was not observed in Germany.

What is the Standard trying to do in its discussions of the coming tax-rate? What is the Standard trying to do in its discussions of the coming tax-rate?

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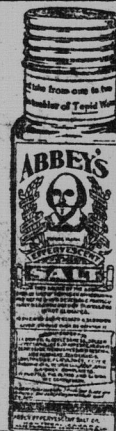
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Small Powers All Fall in Line

Paris, Jan. 27.—(By the Associated Press)—The peace conference today made a distinct gain when the sixteen small powers gave adhesion to the organization formulated by the five great powers thus securing a united front of the great and small powers at the outset of the work on the main subjects before the members of the commission.

This was largely due to the skilful direction of Jules Cambon, French delegate and former ambassador at Washington, who was designated by the council of the great powers to preside over the meeting of the small powers held this afternoon. This meeting convened at the foreign office at 3 o'clock, at the same time the council of the great powers met, the two separate gatherings proceeding simultaneously, one in the office of M. Pichon, the foreign minister and the other in the Salle de la Paix.

For a time there was some apprehension of the sequel to the different viewpoints expressed at Saturday's conference, but today's meeting of the small powers was without incident or renewal of the claims then set up for increased representation on the various committees. Belgium, Serbia, Roumania and all the other small powers had their full delegations at the afternoon meeting.

NO REPLY FROM RUSSIA AND FIGHTING CONTINUES.
Paris, Jan. 27.—No direct reply to the invitation, extended to the various Russian factions for a conference with representatives of the allied and associated governments has so far been received from any quarter. The protests that have been filed by the anti-Bolshevik elements in Paris are not regarded as fully authorized by their governments, and the reply sent out by M. Tchitcherine, the Bolshevik foreign minister, by wireless through Stockholm and addressed to a Paris newspaper, is considered as being altogether unofficial.

DOMINION FAIR PRIZE WINNERS

Dominion L. O. L. No. 141 fair drawings resulted as follows: W. Branden, ticket 617, set of carriers; M. M. Kerr, ticket 655, nickel kettle; ticket 219, A. F. Webb, parlor lamp; P. Danahy, ticket 360, fancy cushion; C. E. Parlee, ticket 847, quilt. The ladies' lodges of L. O.

B. A., assisting at the fair, awarded the following prizes: Mrs. McAdam, fancy quilt, ticket 246; D. Magee, sofa cushion, ticket 817; Mrs. Kierstead, water set, ticket 105; D. Shields, fancy yoke, ticket 24; K. F. Ross, umbrella, ticket 292; Louise Donovan, hand bag, ticket 227.

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I shall be at my St. John office, Room 20, Robinson Block, for five days only, Monday, Jan. 27, Tuesday, Jan. 28, Wednesday, Jan. 29, Thursday, Jan. 30, and Friday, Jan. 31; office hours 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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D. S. O. for Lieut.-Colonel Powers.

At an exhibit recently in Ottawa of a collection of naval pictures depicting every phase of war at sea was given an added interest when Hon. Thomas

White made the presentation of two distinguished service orders and three military crosses. Among the recipients of the D. S. O.'s was Lieut.-Colonel Thomas

Edwards Powers of St. John, officer commanding the signalling depot, Ottawa.

USE The Want Ad Way

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