

# The Evening Times and Star

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## THEN AND NOW.

The Globe last evening published a list of names of St. John manufacturers who issued an appeal in support of confederation. The reader of the arguments in support of confederation sees at once what the people were promised. There was to be a great expansion of industry, for a large market was to be made available. We know now how false an assumption that was, and there is today the further handicap of prohibitive freight rates. The reader of the article reprinted in the Globe is deeply impressed by the list of names of manufacturers, showing the industries which then existed in St. John, but many of which do not exist today. If the hopes of the friends of confederation had been realized, not only would all those industries still exist but they would be larger and we would have many more. One is led to wonder what the industrial conditions would be if maritime union had been consummated and these provinces remained out of the confederation. One effect is plain. The central and western provinces would have no outlet to the Atlantic in winter, except over foreign soil or by arrangement with New Brunswick. It is well to keep in mind a comparison of present industrial conditions with those of 1866, and to remember also the pledges then made. The central and western provinces do not understand the situation because they have greatly profited by a change which did not bring proportionate benefits to them. The claims that are pressed at Ottawa must bring desired results or there can be no hope of the development which the seaboard location and the rich and varied resources of the maritime provinces should bring. Canadian unity can only be assured by a square deal.

## BRITISH POLITICS.

Will Mr. Lloyd George or the diehards of the Conservative party prevail? If the latter, then the prime minister will resign. The militant section of the Conservative party seeks a Conservative-Unionist alliance that would out the present coalition government. Mr. Lloyd George has been made the target of their criticism. He is defended by Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Chancellor Birkhead and other moderate Conservatives who stand for the existing administration. The situation is further affected by the defeat of government candidates in several by-elections. The prime minister is not one to let matters drift. He has made it clear that if the Conservatives do not want him and will not give him genuine support his resignation is ready. If he should resign and a Conservative government be formed it would probably be short-lived. The coalition government is attacked from more than one quarter. But successor would have to meet similar conditions. The solution will be an early appeal to the people, and in the present ferment of public opinion the outcome is by no means clear. Mr. Lloyd George has held office for a long time, and under conditions the most difficult that have confronted any British premier in modern times. It would be unfortunate if he were not left free to continue as leader of the government in the negotiations reconstruction. No other man has so clear a grasp of the difficulties to be met and surmounted, and none is better qualified to combine tact with decision when the situation calls for the exercise of these qualities.

## SCHOOLS AND ATHLETICS.

The Commercial Club Athletic Association has done much to promote clean amateur sports during the last two years. This year it will make a new departure more important in results than any yet attempted. Its present aim is to organize the schools for baseball and field athletics. This is made possible by the increase in the number of neighborhood playgrounds in the last few years, and the development of the Rockwood area. The east, west and south ends have good grounds. The north end has an area set apart which may eventually be the best neighborhood playground in the city, and which the people of that section of the city should put in condition this year for at least the school activities, which may also be carried on to some extent in Victoria Square and elsewhere. The plan of the Commercial Club is to enlist the sympathies of the superintendent, principals and teachers of all schools, to the end that each may have one or more baseball teams and a track team. Each school would have its own training and practice; there would also be inter-school competitions; and at the end of the school term a grand championship series of events could be carried out, the Commercial Club looking after the prizes. By this means all the school boys would have an opportunity for training that would be most beneficial and those showing special qualities encouraged to go in for championship honors. Nor should the girls be overlooked. There is in the schools a most promising field for good work, and the Commercial Club Athletic Association could engage in no more useful service.

## ONE ILLUSTRATION.

The following extract from the little monthly publication of the provincial department of health calls for no comment. It drives home very forcibly an important truth—

"In a little shoe shine shop, in a town of New Brunswick, I found a boy, a few days ago, shining shoes. He claimed his fourteen years but looked ten or eleven. Looking into his case a bit, I found he had left school because he had a cold in his head all the time and was too stupid to learn. That boy needs a two minute operation for adenoids, after which he would be learning with the best of them. He is the product of the neglect of his community and if allowed to continue as he is will almost certainly be a taxable liability to that community, within a very short period of time. A public health nurse in that town and that boy would have had his square deal—his chance to grow up a healthy citizen and an asset to his community."

## THE GARY PLAN.

At various times attention has been directed by a member of the St. John school board to the Gary system of conducting public schools, which mingles work, study and play in a most interesting manner for all the pupils. In the New York Evening Post a report of a meeting in Chicago says:—

"The work-study-play plan of school organization has come to stay," said Superintendent William M. Davidson of Pittsburgh, describing progress in the adoption of the so-called Gary, or platoon, plan before a conference of superintendents' meetings here under the auspices of the United States Bureau of Education. "We would not go back to the old plan in our city if we could," asserted Mr. Davidson, "Thanks be to William Wirt of Gary, who brought over the educational horizon the biggest and finest advance in a century in elementary education."

The report further says:—"Some thirty cities, from Sacramento, Cal., to Wilmington, Del., reported that they had adopted the platoon plan and that teachers and the public were enthusiastic over it. Detroit, Mich., reported forty-four schools now organized on the new plan and fifty-five to be in operation by the end of the year."

A system that has produced such apparently excellent results is worthy of study. Its adoption, even in a modified form, might be very desirable in Canadian cities.

Chatham World:—"The editor of The World was presented to Princess Mary, of whom all the world is talking just now, in 1918, in Buckingham Palace. She was somewhat shy, demure and silent, leaving all the talking to the King and Queen. She is not a beauty in ordinary dress, merely nice looking, but must look stunning in the diamond and lace dresses the reporters say she is to wear as a bride. She is a very nice girl, domestic in her tastes, and has taken a great interest in public charities. She is beloved by the people, and this is finding expression in the public interest that her marriage for love is exciting."

One of the evidences that we are over the worst of the depression is found in the record of building operations. For the first two months in this year building permits in St. John were valued at \$48,000, compared with \$8,000 in the like period last year. In Moncton the value in February was \$16,850, compared with \$1,650. The Toronto Globe says, "Building permits in Toronto during the first two months of 1922 were double in value the permits issued for the first two months of 1921. The clouds of depression begin to disperse."

Moncton is seeking legislation to enable it to secure the services of a town manager, if that course should be approved by the citizens. Sackville, Campbellton, Amherst and other towns have been studying the same problem. What Mr. R. Fraser Armstrong has done as town manager in Woodstock has aroused a widespread interest in the provinces at large. Nor is the town-manager plan suited only to small places. The big American city of Cleveland has adopted it.

Hon. E. A. Smith, chairman of the hydro-electric commission, writes that the commission will make a contract to supply St. John with electric power and he has no doubt it will be approved by the governor-in-council. Premier Foster says the government will approve. What more does the city want? Why does it not move quickly and close the deal? And why does it not make a real move to learn the cost of a civic distribution system?

Mr. Fordney says there will be no reciprocity with Canada at present, but that when the present American tariff bill is adopted President Harding assures him negotiations with Canada will be opened. If the two administrations are friendly some beneficial results are assured, although it will take some time to get down to real business. Hon. Mr. Fielding's visit to Washington has at least created a favorable atmosphere.

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK



—Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle

## REAL AND UNREAL.

(After Swinburne.)

All that we see and hear is a dream of the glory behind;  
That which we touch and feel is not the thing that it seems:  
Matter is only the husk, the kernel is Infinite Mind.  
The unseen world is the true, this world is but shadow and dream;  
Ocean and land and sky, the mountains and plains and dales;  
All things composing the form and frame of this wonderful globe;  
Stars in the azure profound—are all but the garment that veils  
Deity's presence from view—a seamless and beautiful robe.  
Keep the bud back from the flower, nor bid the sun stand in his place, the foot-steps of summer retard;  
Sever the eye from its vision, but think still to the present to bind the hopes of the sage and the hard!  
These are the things we might see, but filling our eyes with the dust,  
Bind us hand and foot and trample with envious tread  
Hopes of the heart and the soul, and fill our eyes with the dust,  
Make us too blind to behold the glory that shines overhead.

## LIGHTER VEIN.

Earning His Pay.

The story is told that a prespiring copy writer working on an ivory soap campaign produced this:

The alkaline elements and vegetable fats in this product are blended in such a way as to secure the highest quality of saponification along with a specific gray-tint that keeps it on top of the water, relieving the bother of the trouble and annoyance of fishing around for it in the bottom during his ablutions.

When this piece of copy reached the advertising manager, he substituted for it these two words: "It floats."

Treat 'Em Gentle.

(American Legion Weekly)

An old sergeant was noted for his ability as a disciplinarian and was invariably called to the task of breaking in new recruits. There came to the company a captain with advanced ideas, who quietly noted that the sergeant was as proficient in profanity as he was in the I. D. R. He took him to task.

"Sergeant," he said, "I have no complaint to make of your ability, but I want you to realize that you are not to swear. And I want you to teach these men how to drill and not to swear. And I want you to know that when you are called upon to give them a lesson in the use of the rifle, you are to use the word 'fire' and not 'bang'."

The following day he overheard the sergeant at instruction.

"Now I want you to see some stock in a nut factory."

"What? And keep your eyes straight to the front, my sons. And hold your heads up, my sons. You know the kind of sons I mean."

The Remains.

A professor was showing one of his friends round his chemistry laboratory.

"What has become of Jim Filibottle?" the friend asked. "Wasn't he studying with the class last year?"

"Ah, yes," replied the professor. "Filibottle, poor fellow, a fine student, but absent-minded in the use of chemicals. Do you notice that slight discoloration on the ceiling?"

"Well, that's Filibottle."

"Rastus, I's gwine get rich. I's done bought me some stock in a nut factory. 'A which kind of a factory?'"

"A nut factory, which sells de meat of pecans, almonds and sich, already cracked an' picked out. This heah company gwine save money with a new labo'-sawing device which de promote done tole me about. De nuts an' gwine be cracked by trained squirrels which don't charge no wages."

"Is this heah-company already licensed, established an' ready fo' business?"

"Yeah, praktikally—all 'cept trainin' de squirrels."—Life.

## TROUBLES OF NEWSPAPERS.

(Victoria Colonist.)

Newspapers have a difficult path along which to steer in these times, when ideas are so unsettled and nerves are unstrung. There are more critics abroad than ever before, and there is a greater variety of seekers after the hundred and one news which they have in view, and they believe the press should supply. Newspapers have never been so generous in allotting space to the viewpoints of their correspondents. There is not a newspaper which is not accused, from time to time, of not being generous enough. Religious, civic, social organizations, and scores of newly formed societies and associations believe that the papers exist as a medium for propaganda for their cause, and they believe that when a score or less people get together and promulgate a policy, or platform, such necessarily constitutes news. That is one of the difficulties with the newspapers have to contend.

## GRANT ALLEN

(By George Hies.)

Grant Allen was born in Kingston, Ont., on February 24, 1848. His father, the Rev. J. Antislip Allen, was a clergyman of the Church of England. In 1861 he removed, with his family, to New Haven, Conn., where his son became the pupil of a tutor from Yale College, near by. Next year the lad was sent to school at College Imperiale in Dieppe. Thence he proceeded to King Edward's School, Birmingham. In 1867, at nineteen, he entered Merton College, Oxford, winning a scholarship of eighty pounds a year for five years. In 1871 he received his degree as Bachelor of Arts. Two years later he became a professor of mental and moral philosophy at the newly-founded Government College, Spanish Town, Jamaica. Here he remained for several years, until the college was abolished as a failure.

On his return to England, Grant Allen wrote many articles on science-made-easy. These found little or no favor at first, and he underwent serious hardship. Little by little his popularity grew, until his income stood at about a thousand pounds a year. This happy change in his fortunes came as a result of adding fiction to fact, romances to expositions in botany and psychology. He began with "Our Scientific Observations on a Ghost" and "My New Year's Eve Among the Mummies," both published in "Belgravia." These were included by Chatto & Windus in his Strange Stories. In 1884 appeared his first novel, "Phylis," bearing the pseudonym "Cecil Power." Then followed "In All Shades," "For Maimie's Sake" and other works, of which the last was "Elida Wake," issued in 1900 by Grant Richards.

But the field which Grant Allen would have cultivated had he the choice been given him, was not fiction but science. As a boy he had gathered and studied flowers on Wolfe Island, near Kingston, where he lived. Year by year botany became his pursuit and his passion. Dr. Sydney H. Vines, Sherardian professor of botany at Oxford, when Grant Allen died, said in his obituary notice: "In his botanical work—which of the most important are 'The Colors of Flowers' and 'Flowers and Their Pedigrees,' Grant was a most faithful and diligent worker. He was a true naturalist. Every page gives evidence of his exceptional power to observe, which made him a first-rate field botanist that he undoubtedly was. But he was much more than this. His observations in the field were but the starting point upon which his eager and well-trained intelligence proceeded to work. Each fact at once raised the question of how and why, so that the student of a single chapter in Grant Allen's work would find more or less complicated problems, to which he sought the solutions with no small degree of success."

Grant Allen was a convinced evolutionist, holding that the master-key of Nature is the law of descent with modification. Of that law he gave in his chapters many new and striking illustrations. In 1874 Allen formed the acquaintance of his master in philosophy, Herbert Spencer; and never had a master a more faithful disciple. When Allen wrote his Life of Charles Darwin he pointed out that the philosophy of evolution, in its universal sweep, is a generalization of Spencer's. Darwin is accorded the great discovery of the law of natural selection, which, for all its importance, is subordinate to the supreme generalization of Spencer. Allen thus condensed the Gospel according to Herbert Spencer: "Know yourself and your own place in the universe, understand you, fear no phantoms, but face reality. Understand your own body, and the light cast upon it by the history and evolution of other minds. Understand the phenomena, organic and inorganic, physical or psychical, by which you are surrounded, and the laws to which they severally conform. Understand the society of which you are a member, and learn from like analogies the origin and functions of its various parts. So, in your capacity as an individual, you govern your own path in the world; and, in your capacity as a parent, you produce and bring up better units for the composition of the society in future; so, in your capacity as a citizen, you will help to mould the state, of which you are a part, to ultimate conformity with truth and justice."

Grant Allen wrote a remarkable series of historical guides, supplementing in a most informing fashion, the manuals of Baedeker or Murray. These were: Paris, Florence, cities of Belgium, Venice, closing with "The European Tour," a handbook worth its weight in gold to tourists old or young.

Grant Allen was not only a naturalist and a novelist, he was also a poet. In 1894 appeared a collection of his verse, "The Lower Slopes," published in London by Matthews and Lane; in Chicago by Stone and Kimball. Three pieces in this little volume stood highest in his regard, "In the Night Watches," "Passing the Sanguine," and "Mytila." To his mother he sent this poem:

Dear Mother, take this English poem, called  
In alien fields beyond the evening sea;  
Take it in memory of the boy who lulled  
One child Canadian winter on your knee.

Its flowers are but chance friends of after years,  
Whose very names my childhood hardly knew,  
And even today far sweeter in my ears  
Ring older names unheard long seasons through.

I loved them all, the bloodroot waxen white,  
Canopied Mayflower, trilliums red and pale,  
Flaunting bellies, lilies richly dight,  
And pipe-plant from the wood behind the swale.

I knew each dell where yellow violets blow,  
Each bud or leaf that changing seasons bring;  
I marked each spot where whens from the melting snow  
Peeped forth the first hepatica of spring.

I watched the fireflies on the shingly ridge,  
Besides the swamp that bounds the Baron's hill;  
Or tempted sunfish by the ebbing bridge,  
Or hooked a bass by Shirley Grog's mill.

These were my budding fancy's mother tongue,  
But daisies, cowslips, dorrer, primrose—hips,  
All beasts or birds my little book has sung,  
Sit like a borrowed dream on stammering lips.

And still I build fond dreams of happier days,  
If hard-earned pence may bridge the ocean's ex,  
That yet old boy may see my mother's face,  
And gather shell's beside Ontario's shore.

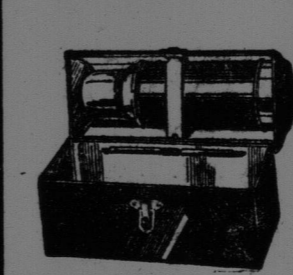
May yet behold Canadian woodlands dim,  
And flowers and birds his father loved to see;  
While you and I sit by and smile on him,  
As down grey years you sat and smiled on me.

In the summer of 1886, Grant Allen fulfilled the wish expressed in this poem. He had a good, long holiday with his wife and son at Kingston, renewing old friendships and reviving old impressions. During his visit to Montreal he climbed the slopes of Mount Royal, enchanted with its views, its wild flowers and shrubbery.

His health had always been delicate, and he suffered at home and abroad many serious pulmonary attacks. These befell him, and when, early in 1899, he was stricken with malaria fever, he slowly succumbed. He died on October 26, in that year. Gerrard Grant Allen, for a good many years Grant Allen resided at Dorling, with George Meredith as a neighbor and warm friend. Afterwards he was removed to Hind Head, where he could make his home the year round.

In 1900 his friend, Edward Clodd, wrote a memoir of Grant Allen, published by Matthews and Lane; in Chicago by Stone and Kimball.

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