

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1920

THE SERVANT PROBLEM HERE

Canadian Woman Protests Exploitation of English Girls — One Example.

Servant trouble in Canada, according to a woman in the Dominion writing to The London Daily Telegraph, is trouble for the servant and the employer, as one story goes, seems to be doing a little profiting. If there are any of these "bright, neatly dressed" English girls who wish to enter domestic service, says an employer, they had better find their way to the States, and they will be sure of a welcome and surely something better than \$5 a month, \$10 being deducted for passage money from England.

This is what the Canadian woman has to say:

"The writer talked recently with an English girl who had been in Canada about nine months, a bright, neatly dressed girl, of the type who should succeed anywhere. Finding that she was dissatisfied with conditions in the Dominion, the writer, who, while never advocating emigration for office and factory workers, has always regarded Canada as really a 'land of opportunity' for domestic servants, spoke of the better conditions in Canada and the higher wages, only to find that the cause of the girl's discontent was the fact that she was being paid \$15 a month (about 12 sterling), \$10 a month of which was deducted by her employer as a refund of her passage money. The man she works for is a salaried government official, and yet he and his wife expect this girl who looks after their children and home to clothe herself decently on \$5 a month, and that sum will purchase very little in Canada in these times.

"The girl explained that when she wanted to buy a pair of boots, for instance, she saved her \$5 until her next pay day, when by putting the two months' wages together, she was able to do so. Two months seems a long time to do cleaning, cooking and washing and the hundred-and-one other things which make up housework, in order to earn money to buy a pair of boots. Even if she had been paid \$15 a month without the deduction she would not have had much to spare for recreative purposes, and saving would have been an impossibility unless she was unusually thrifty.

"Canadians will say that the case is exceptional. They said so in the case of a Canadian girl of the writer's acquaintance, who while she was paid \$25 a month, was hardly ever given meat to eat, and who had to take her choice of spending all her evenings, except one a week, in a stuffy kitchen or stifling attic bedroom. (It is not generally known that Canadian summers are very warm—much more so than English ones). The case may be exceptional as regards food—one hopes it was—but inquiries among the domestic servants of the writer's acquaintance have failed to find one who rejoices in the luxury of a sitting room—though she is not advocating sitting rooms for domestics at present.

"At the time the Canadian Council of Immigration held its Conference the statement was made that 'never again will any one be able to say that a British immigration girl has been ill-treated in Canada.' The English girl has not been ill-treated, but no just person will admit that she has been fairly treated. If she had not had a good supply of clothing when she came out she would now be too shabbily dressed to secure decently paid work, and be classed as another of England's 'failures.' There is no protection against such exploitation of British immigrant girls, as the writer knows to her sorrow. The Department of Immigration does not even pretend to be wage-collecting agency, though when cases of unusual hardship have been brought to the attention of the officials

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"But there is no need for a girl to come to Canada and take domestic work at \$15 a month. The English girl, having borrowed the amount still owing on her passage money—and she must have paid considerable interest on her employer's original expenditure—has been re-employed at \$25 a month in a house where another maid is kept, and her duties will naturally be lighter.

"No immigrant girl should take work at less than \$20 a month, and if engaged before leaving her native land for Can-



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land and tells the true story of her disillusionment and disappointment, she interferes with a very necessary emigration propaganda, and the Canadian people who take part in this exploitation of immigrants are not wise enough to see that they themselves are holding back the development of what promises to be a fine country."

thorities at Ottawa, is expected within ten days or so.

Senor Jose Costa of Havana, Cuba, who has been in Canada for the purpose of improving the steamship service between Havana and St. John, left last

evening for his home in Cuba, via New York, Philadelphia and Washington. He was accompanied by his wife and Dr. Jose and Senora Navarro. Senor Costa is a prominent shipping agent and trader at Havana and represents the St. John arm of J. Roderick & Son in Cuba.

THIRTY-FIVE WANT THREE POSITIONS

The application papers of some thirty-five candidates who are applying for appointment by the civil service commission to the positions of inland revenue accountants at the St. John, Halifax and Pictou-Charlottetown divisions were examined yesterday in the Centennial school building by John MacDonald, Jr., district inspector of the inland revenue department and an advisory board comprising M. D. Sweeney, representing the civil service commission; Major Norman P. MacLeod, representing the Great War Veterans' Association, and Arthur B. Cox, chartered accountant. The position of inland revenue accountant for the three maritime provinces divisions was opened recently and is an attractive one, paying an initial salary of \$2,500 with a maximum of \$3,000. Only three accountants are to be appointed and the decision, which will be made by the au-

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THE PROMISE THE PERFORMANCE

With the object of stampeding the vote in St. John to the support of Hon. Mr. Wigmore, promises of the most glittering kind have been made. Inducements of almost any imaginable description have been held out—commencing with a radio station, and finally within the last few days, a sea-plane base. Before election day we might expect a further large instalment.

Wigmore is the savior of this port—we are told, "a man that can do things." Then the Standard and the Tory propaganda as a refrain, shout: "Let everybody vote."

In the brief period between now and election day it becomes the duty of each and every person in possession of the franchise, to examine for his or herself the calibre of the promise-makers. First and foremost be it remembered that Hon. Mr. Wigmore is a Conservative, supporting nothing more or less than a Tory administration. With this uppermost we commence the inquiry. What is the record of Conservative governments towards St. John? Cabinet ministers and private members from this constituency supporting such cannot point to any one big project carried through. Sir George Foster, should he come here, might enlighten St. John on his achievement as affecting the welfare of this port.

The memory of our citizens is not short: Hon. Robert Rogers came, saw and made promises; Sir Robert Borden likewise. Bringing things up to date, Hon. Arthur Meighen and now Hon. Mr. Wigmore.

Of the government candidate, he must be measured by his own record. He has been at Ottawa two years. Can he point to any one thing of consequence accomplished by him during that period. Since Dr. Emery's manifesto, the Standard and the Conservative propagandists are already commencing to explain away this. He has not, it has been admitted, been able to do much "during the brief term he has represented this constituency at Ottawa." At the outside he cannot be longer than "two years" should he be elected, and probably not that time.

Again, explanation is made that all these things that are promised, "quite naturally cannot be done in a day and new works, even the most necessary may be undertaken by the government only after careful consideration." Two years, surely, is brief for consideration and accomplishment.

While the Standard bemoaned the absence of Dr. Emery's statement to the electorate, it was being read by thousands. Not willing to give even credit for this, the same journal dismisses it as political clap-trap. His pronouncement as to port matters is left unnoticed. There is, however, a further admission that Hon. Mr. Wigmore has done nothing and the Standard distorts the Scripture to read: "If thy right hand offend thee, leave it on," by the mythical assertion, "that a stronger argument for the return of the Hon. Mr. Wigmore could hardly be penned." As to what might be expected from a Liberal administration, we have the record before us. Any large Federal expenditure that has been made at this port has come from Liberal governments. Witness the efforts of Hon. Dr. Pugsley in this regard, and once more bring matters up to date. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, after an inspection of the port facilities, was the one man to stand up in parliament to plead for consideration of St. John, while Mr. Wigmore sat as dumb as an oyster. Let no one be deceived: let the promiser shew his performances.

TWO GRAND RALLIES

The Electors of St. John, ladies and gentlemen, are cordially invited to a Mass Meeting in the interests of

HON. RUPERT W. WIGMORE

which will be held in the

IMPERIAL THEATRE

Friday Evening, September 17th

At 8.30 O'Clock

Addresses will be delivered on the issues of the day and on duty of St. John in this present contest by

HON. R. W. WIGMORE,
DR. J. B. M. BAXTER, K. C.,
And Others.

COL. MURRAY MacLAREN, C. M. G.,
Chairman.

ALSO IN

Fairville Temperance Hall

A Mass Meeting will be held

Friday Evening, at 8 o'clock

Speakers:

HON. R. W. WIGMORE,
MILES E. AGAR,
And Others.

WILLIAM E. GOLDING,
Chairman.