

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1922

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THE HEALTH REPORT.

In presenting his fourth annual report to the minister of health of this province, Dr. Geo. G. Melvin, chief medical officer, remarks that in reality it only marks the completion of three years of health administration under the present act. A study of the report itself shows continued advance in all branches of the work of the department, despite the fact that there is in some municipalities so strong a prejudice against giving substantial financial support to public health work. This prejudice, which has been deliberately encouraged in some cases for purely partisan political reasons, must be overcome by a process of enlightenment which will clear away the mists of misunderstanding and convince all the people that in decrying public health services they are acting against the interests of their own community and the province at large. It is only necessary to examine the figures presented in this report to learn how urgent is the need for improved health conditions. An infant death rate of 184.9 per thousand births is not creditable to the province.

The annual report shows that more attention was given last year to general sanitation and to a purer water supply, although in both these directions there is much more to be done. Dr. Melvin says: "Perhaps no source of typhoid and intestinal disease with us is so prolific as the presence of 'dug' wells in towns and villages. To these may be confidently ascribed two sharp outbreaks of typhoid during the past year in Carleton and Northumberland counties, outbreaks that caused not only measurable loss of life but a large amount of sickness and expense. There can be no doubt that our infantile mortality, much too high, is largely indirectly occasioned by these wells."

While expressing confidence that medical inspection in schools, which is now almost general, has done very much to eliminate contagious diseases, Dr. Melvin regrets that the correction of physical defects and deformities has not progressed as it should; but he adds that with an improved medical inspection service and the aid of the Red Cross in providing for clinics the coming year will see a notable advance in this very important branch of the work.

With regard to the collection of vital statistics, Dr. Melvin says it can be safely asserted that no province in Canada has a more efficient or complete system. In 1920 there were reported and registered in the province (exclusive of Kent county) 10,778 births, making a birth-rate of 29.87 per thousand population; 3,780 marriages, or a rate of 10.48 per thousand; and 5,628 deaths, rate 15.60 per thousand. Of this record Dr. Melvin says:

"The birth-rate may be regarded as distinctly high, the marriage rate as somewhat in excess of what obtains elsewhere, while the death rate cannot but be looked upon as rather higher than one could wish. Twenty years ago it would have been deemed very moderate. Indeed, but public health measures have in that time so reduced mortality that the rate mentioned must be deemed rather high. It will be the ambition of this department to effect in this province a reduction comparable to that achieved in other states and provinces."

A most interesting part of the book is the report of Dr. Abramson, chief of laboratories, setting out in a very clear and striking manner the value of the department to the whole medical profession of the province, to the hospitals and to public health in general. The reports of the district medical health officers tell a story of progress, as do those from the sub-health districts throughout the province. It is easy and in some quarters has become somewhat popular to criticize the department of health and Hon. Dr. Roberts, the minister of health; but a perusal of the annual report will impress every reader with a deep sense of the value of the work that is being done by the department. Amendments to the health act that are proposed may tend to bring it more into line with the municipalities, but if they should render it in any sense less effective the cause of public health would suffer, and there is no cause more worthy of the earnest consideration of the members of the legislature.

A portion of Hon. Mr. Veniot's reference to the health act in his speech on Thursday may well be commended to the readers of this paper. The official report says: "He noticed that honorable members opposite who had spoken of the act took care to say that they agreed with its principle, but considered it too costly in administration. They dared not attack the principle of the act but complained of expense in its operation. He believed the honorable minister of health was deserving of the highest praise for the public service he had performed in connection with the health act, and it was to his credit that New Brunswick was taking the lead in health legislation. When the people in rural districts came to understand the act as it was now understood in cities and towns there would be no complaints. At the present time there were no complaints from St. John, Moncton, Fredericton and Newcastle, and

there were none from St. Stephen except of a political nature. Some honorable members were almost making a personal attack on the honorable minister of health. Instead of criticizing him they should be praising him for his work."

THE HYDRO QUESTION.

The council of the Board of Trade has suggested a way of dealing with hydro distribution. It sets out, however, with the erroneous assumption that there are three principal parties to be considered. There are only two, the citizens of St. John and the Hydro Electric Commission. The New Brunswick Power Company may be entirely disregarded, unless it is able to show, of its own motion, that it will pay the city to do business with the company. Moreover, a two-year contract with the company would be fatal to hydro. Under such a contract the company would not put forth the effort to expand the market, which is vital to the success of the hydro proposition. Nor would it be feasible for the city to expropriate the distribution system of the power company without taking over its whole plant, which forms the security of the bondholders. The thing for the city to do is to find out the cost of light and power under civil distribution. As the mayor has again been in conference with Mr. Ross it would appear that City Hall still has faith in the Ross report. If so City Hall will not give the people the real information they want, and other steps must be taken. The whole trouble about hydro is due to the assumption on the part of some people that we cannot safely avoid doing business with the power company. If the company has a proposition to make it should be given fair consideration, but the city has the matter in its own hands, and is under no obligation whatever to do anything that would prevent the people getting the full benefit of the Musquash development. The danger to be avoided is that this benefit may be diverted to the coffers of a third party.

THE PARTIES AT OTTAWA.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette, Conservative, takes a somewhat gloomy view of Conservative prospects at this session of parliament. He says:

"A Liberal government in office by the grace of the Agrarians, a shattered Conservative party, and an Agrarian group that would not function as an opposition although they claimed capacity for government, makes a parliament filled with possibilities. Today's session showed little enthusiasm in any of the parties, but did not conceal the narrowness of the groups. The Liberals are joyful, but have many moments of anxiety; the Conservatives bitter and revengeful; while to the Agrarians there is a strange atmosphere that carries with it a dread that all may be a dream, and they will not risk a rude awakening."

This correspondent says further that "the Agrarians are on their way to the government," and that Hon. Mr. Crerar "is not restraining, if he is not encouraging, individual desertions to Premier King." Hon. A. B. Hudson, we are told, has led the way, and he adds that "the government is in no danger of defeat," as "Mr. Crerar will protect them." It is intimated, however, that Mr. Melvin will probably force the railway issue, and that the session may develop considerable controversy of a lively nature.

The position of the government is so strong that it would be much wiser for the opposition to give it a fair field for the development of its policies, and this view will probably be held by the great majority of the members of all parties. The opposition would have nothing to gain by prolonged discussion at this session. The country at large would not look with favor on partisan obstruction when a new government is getting down to business after having received an emphatic mandate from the people.

CALIFORNIA HAS ANOTHER MYSTERY

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
Chico, Cal., March 10.—Showers of rocks that fell from "the clouds" on March 9 here have baffled the police, neighbors and various official and unofficial investigators.

Today J. Charge, owner of the warehouse, posted the offer of a reward of \$200 to the person revealing the source of the rocks. While the town marshal and a committee of newspapermen and others were examining the corrugated iron roof yesterday, a shower of large smooth rocks fell, sending the investigators scurrying for cover. Others standing on the street at the time declared the rocks seemed to come straight from the clouds. The committee declared that the mysterious bombardment of the roof had been occurring periodically for three weeks.

Canadian Failures, 85.
Ottawa, March 11.—(Canadian Press.)—This week's issue of the Canadian Gazette contains notifications of eighty-five assignments under the bankruptcy act.

GOD'S WAY.

(Rev. George Scott)
It is God's patient loving way,
Where rugged pits the hills have marred
To mantle the unsightly clay
With lilies, violets, and 'nard.

To cover all the splintered stones
With brotherhood of peerless tints,
With adder's tongues and anemones,
With jewel-weed and peppermint.

To draw from winter's angry gloom
The nature of spring's balmy showers,
And wreath about her lovely tomb
A bed of sweet arbutus flowers.

To fill with every winning grace
The pleasing round of day and night,
And bid the solitary place
Be minister of His delight.

To plant a garden in whose street
Wise men may hear at eventide,
With bated breath the passing feet
Of angels on the green hillside.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Breaking The News.
"Good afternoon, Mrs. Brown," exclaimed Mr. Smith. "What a coincidence, meeting you. I ran into your husband half an hour ago."

"How funny!" replied Mrs. Brown. "And how did you think he was looking?"

"Pretty poorly."

"Well, I'm surprised to hear you say so. Everybody says he's looking much better lately."

"Well, he looked seedy enough just now," said Mr. Smith.

"I wonder why it was?" said Mrs. Brown.

"Oh, I can tell you that," said Mr. Smith. "You see, I was in my car when I ran into him."

Fair Share.

"John, I wish you would rock the baby?"

"Why should I rock the baby?"

"Because he is not very well. And what's more, half of him belongs to you, and you should not jib at rocking him."

"Well, doesn't half of him belong to you?"

"Yes, well, you can rock your half and let my half go on crying."

Morris—How's business with you, Bernie?

Bernie—Oh, lookin' up.

Morris—What do you mean, lookin' up?

Bernie—Well, it's flat on its back ain't it?

Not The Only One.

The Instalment Collector—Your wife promised me faithfully that she'd make a payment today.

Mr. Peewee—What are you kicking about? She once solemnly promised that she'd obey me.

Who Planteth a Tree.

He that planteth a tree is a servant of God.

He provideth a kindness for many generations.

And faces that he hath not seen shall bless him.

Down town Toronto was startled to see chugging through the streets one of the oldest automobiles in existence—a one-cylinder Olds horseless wagon, built in 1900. Brought to the city in connection with the 1922 Toronto Motor Show, the outlandish-looking chariot, driven by a much-bewildered individual in top hat, rubber boots and red cutaway coat, caused little less than a sensation, when it stopped for a rest at the corner of King and Yonge streets, early in the afternoon.

So great was the crowd, whose curiosity was aroused by the peculiar-looking aborigine of the motor family, that traffic was brought to a standstill, and the police made dire threats against the driver and his objectionable "bus" as to what would happen if they did not get themselves out of the way.

And well might the crowd gaze, for the ancient-looking vehicle was enough to arouse any one's curiosity. Built like an old-fashioned buggy, it boasted a curved dashboard in front, a single seat, an awkward-looking steering lever and a big box behind, from which came a large-sized racket when moving operations were resumed.

When stopped at King and Yonge streets, "to let her cool down," as the driver explained to the police, a good deal of skepticism was shown by the crowd of spectators as to the possibility of seeing the eccentric "bus" in operation. Nothing daunted, the driver proceeded to go through an exercise with a crank sticking out from the side of the seat, his operation bearing a resemblance to the winding up of a gramophone. After considerable fruitless exertion, the diminutive machine suddenly gave a series of about its business. A minute later the snoring "wagon" was chugging merrily across Yonge street in the wake of a re-splendent, but extremely haughty, limousine.

Should Interest Antiquarians.
When interviewed later the driver turned out to be E. H. Judd, of the Oldsmobile Service Department, Oshawa, Ontario. His machine is a single-cylinder, seven-horse-power Olds, built at Lansing, Michigan, in 1900. A car built at the same place during the preceding year was recently awarded the prize at the New York Motor Show on the continent. It has three speeds, two forward and one reverse, and can make fifteen miles an hour in emergencies. Ordinary speed is six to eight miles per hour. It is driven by a chain direct to the rear axle. Both air and water cooled, the engine depends for most of its cooling on a large tank of water. Ignition is by a vibrating coil and a battery.

The machine was purchased a year ago by the Oakland section of the General Motors Corporation from a resident of Owen Sound. It was originally sold for \$1000, and was disposed of last year for \$700. The buyer stated that it had been in service since he first acquired it.

Minard's Liniment prevents Spanish Flu.

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ROW AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE MINERS' UNION

Open Break Among Members of District 26 Executive Over Montreal Agreement and Charges Made.

Sydney, N. S., March 10.—An open break among members of the district 26 executive, United Mine Workers of America, occurred last night at a stormy meeting of the Phalen local union when Vice-President William Delaney accused J. B. McLachlan, district secretary, of double-dealing in connection with the new Montreal wage agreement, which is to be voted on a referendum of the 12,000 miners of Nova Scotia on March 14.

On Wednesday night President Robert Baxter, of Dominion No. 6, accused Secretary McLachlan of being more concerned with "playing politics" than getting a new wage agreement. At the same time Mr. McLachlan at the Phalen local union, his home lodge, was delivering a bitter attack upon the new Montreal agreement. Thursday night Louis McCormick, district organizer, was howled down by five Reserve miners who refused to listen to any explanation of the proposed wage scale. On Thursday night Baxter and Delaney were heckled by the Phalen men, and Delaney bitterly assailed McLachlan.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. PAUL'S W. A.

In all respects the last year was a record one for the W. A. of St. Paul's. The annual meeting last night was most encouraging. The annual corporate attendance at Holy Communion took place at 10 o'clock in the morning when the service was conducted by Ven. Archdeacon A. H. Crowfoot, rector of the church, and a large number of members were present. The business session was held in the schoolroom in the evening with the president, Mrs. Andrew Jack, in the chair, and opened with prayer and an address by the rector. Splendid reports were presented by the secretary of the girls' branch, Miss Dorothy Hickson, and the secretary of the junior branch, Miss Jean Dickson. It was the first time that the reports of the work of the younger branches had been read at the annual meeting of the senior branch and the innovation was heartily approved.

Three special guests were welcomed at the meeting, Mr. James F. Robertson, diocesan secretary of literature, Mrs. W. D. Forster, diocesan organizing secretary, and Mrs. Samuel Williams, secretary of St. Mary's W. A. Mrs. Robertson gave an inspiring address on the real missionary spirit, the giving of oneself to the service of the church, and Mrs. Forster gave an address on individual responsibility in the work of the W. A. She also urged each member to do her best.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary president, Mrs. A. H. Crowfoot; president, Mrs. Andrew Jack; vice-presidents, first, Mrs. J. K. Schofield; second, Mrs. Geoffrey Stead; third, Mrs. Cortland Robinson; secretary, Mrs. A. Hickson; treasurer, Miss Dorothy Hickson; diocesan secretary, Mrs. James Fowler; diocesan secretary, Mrs. James Barber; E. C. D. treasurer, Miss Ada Peacock; babies' branch secretary, Mrs. Gladys Hegarty; delegates to the diocesan annual meeting, Mrs. Andrew Jack and Mrs. J. Roy Campbell; substitutes, Mrs. A. Hickson and Mrs. J. H. Barber.

GREAT BRITAIN ABANDONS BLIMPS

London, March 11.—Great Britain definitely has abandoned blimps. The air ministry has announced that what is left of the great war fleet of aerial monsters is now for sale, which means that the plants, materials on hand, the latest ideas in mooring masts and hydrogen generators must go to the scrap heap. The celebrated stations at Pulham and Norfolk already are awaiting dismantlement.

This decision has been taken, it is stated officially, partly as a result of the failure of the plan for formation of an imperial airship service and partly on grounds of economy. The decision comes as a surprise, because a recent official statement said the airship fleet would be kept intact for some time to give an opportunity for the dominions to take action to link up the empire aerially. At the imperial conference last summer such pressure was brought to bear by the dominions, particularly by Australia and Canada, that the airship scrapping programme was delayed and there was hope that the service might be saved.

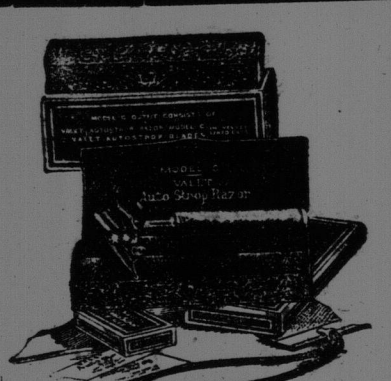
Then came the disaster of the ZR-2, with the great loss of British and American lives, which caused widespread discouragement of any development of the plans. The ultimate decision still was under discussion when the Roma was wrecked, and then even the staunchest friends of airships in this country gave up hope.

Sponsors for airships say that the official disinclination to carry on means that America and Germany will lose the trail for airships. There is still a determined opinion here that the airship will succeed if given a chance.

The Pall Mall Gazette says: "Great Britain now will have to take a back seat definitely as regards long distance air transport. There is one hope. An airship is not so hard to make as a country to try to get airship at scrap prices, and fly them across the Atlantic. Good luck to him."

FOURTEEN CRIPPLED CHILDREN INJURED IN COLLISION

New York, March 11.—Fourteen crippled children, many of them with crutches and with legs in braces, were injured when a Board of Education motor "bus" taking them home from a public school in Brooklyn was overturned in a collision with a heavy motor truck. Attracted by the shrieks of the children, police and citizens battered out windows of the "bus" and removed the terrified youngsters.



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OUTSIDE THE 3-MILE LIMIT

Former Harvard Professor Plans Floating Wine Palace for Thirsty New Yorkers—\$5,000,000 in Sight.

New York, March 11.—A floating palace beyond the three-mile limit, riding at anchor, while on her decks thirsty New Yorkers indulge themselves in the wines of Burgundy, the ales of Old England, and the champagnes of Italy and France, while soft music plays and whirling dancers amuse the weary drinkers, is a scheme now being developed by Captain James V. Martin, purporting to be a former professor of astronomy at Harvard University.

Captain Martin's idea, in brief, is the establishment of a floating service between New York City and his "floating palace of delight," and so confident is he of the desires of New Yorkers for the successful operation of this scheme that he has taken two offices, intending more, has distributed something like a ton of literature, and has started flashing in electric lights from the portal of the old Herald building overlooking Broadway, the advertisement, "Recreation beyond the three-mile limit."

According to the prospectus, the annual season for drinking in billows in this vessel will be from June to New Year's. He does not tell when the vessel will be brought over from Europe, but states that it will not be more than five million tickets at \$1 will be sold, permitting persons to board her. After this million of tickets are disposed of no others will be sold, the circular states.

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H. G. Enslow, 1 Prince Edward St.
J. Stout, Fairville.
W. E. Emmerson, 81 Union Street, West Side.

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WAILING MUSIC MADE BY SNAKE IN PIANO

Nairobi, East Africa, March 11.—A country house party near her was disturbed on two successive nights by a mysterious wailing music that proceeded from the sitting room soon after midnight. Nothing happened so long as the light were on, but immediately they were extinguished the music began. It was finally discovered that a snake had made its home in the piano and was wailing across the strings, playing ghostly music solo.

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