

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 15, 1908

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SOME REFLECTIONS

Public attention is at present directed to exhibits of the products of the farm and factory, as illustrations of what has been accomplished in the steady advancement of the material prosperity of the country. The progress made is the subject of congratulatory addresses, and thousands crowd the places of exhibition. The people see and admire, and perhaps take some credit to themselves for their part in achieving the general result. This is not only proper but desirable. These exhibitions are milestones, marking progress.

There is another sort of exhibition, however, which it would be well not to overlook. Last night a man in this city slept in a doorway, because he could not buy a bed. If early in the evening he had been given the price of a bed he would have spent it for liquor. This man is practically a beggar. Money given him goes to the saloons. He is not an old man. He is quite able to work. But he begs, and drinks, and his clothing is infested with vermin, and no man is his friend. A kindness extended to him is a waste of effort so long as the saloon is open to him. He should be interdicted—perhaps he is; but he can get liquor when he has the price.

Take another exhibit. There is the chain gang. In its ranks are some men who spend much of their time as members of the gang. They are liberated, get drunk, and go back again. They do not reform, but sink gradually lower. Men do not suffer that humiliation and profit by the experience. It may be a deterrent, but even this is doubtful. It certainly does not reform.

What shall we say of these exhibits? What should be said of a social system under which so many persons degenerate from the status of living souls to that of a mere gross appetite clothed in human form?

We are proud of our prize cattle and horses, and other animals. We take care of them, and invoke the aid of science to develop the species. We are careful as to what they shall eat, and what they shall drink. What of the human species, the future citizenship of this country? Are we proud of the exhibit? Granted that even in this direction there is improvement, how long, at the present rate of progress, will it be before the chain gang disappears, and the productive energy of so many men ceases to be the bond-slave of their grosser appetites? How long?

The following letter from Mr. Arnold White recently appeared in the London Daily Telegraph: "The German danger is not an abstract danger, it is a concrete one. It is a danger which has no precedent in our experience. For the first time in modern history the greatest military power anxiously avoids all conflict with other continental powers, and concentrates herself upon England. Why are twelve high officers engaged in Berlin on the general staff in the study of England and the English? Is it for amusement or for health? Why are there miles of quays and dozens of traveling cranes at Emden? Why does Germany borrow money to build Dreadnoughts? It cannot be for the protection of commerce, for Germany has no coaling stations in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Persian gulf, or Indian ocean. The building of the German Dreadnoughts and the construction of Emden create a novel and dangerous situation for England. I want to avoid war, but if war is forced upon us, to win it. For that reason in my humble sphere I seek to rouse my fellow-countrymen, especially among the working-classes and the non-conformists, to the fact that there is a red smoke on the horizon." To all of this, high German authorities reply that Germany has no designs upon England.

This sketch of General Castro is from the Toronto News. "General Castro was elected to the Senate of Venezuela in 1898 from a province in the Andes mountains. He saw one term, and decided that foreigners had too much influence in the government. He went back to his

province and raised a revolt against the collection of taxes, which were very burdensome. He gathered a small army of about one thousand and defeated the Venezuelan army. He took the capital and declared himself president. Before his time revolutions had been rather kind affairs. He made them bloody. The constitution exempts the property of revolutionists from confiscation. Castro ignores this and seizes the property of rebels. It is for these reasons it is so hard to get up a rebellion against his government. He has the ambition to become a second Bolivar, and to unite all the north-western states of South America into one confederation. Consequently he is always meddling with his neighbors and getting into trouble."

At the final meeting of the Presbyterian Board of Moral and Social Reform in Toronto last week, says the News, special stress was laid upon the church's relations to workingmen. The board recommended all delegates to follow the initiative of Rev. Dr. Shearer and Rev. Mr. Pidgeon, and arrange for meetings with the different workingmen's societies in their respective districts for the discussion of social problems. The board expressed itself as being in hearty sympathy with the workingmen's attempt to secure improved legislation regarding child labor, sweatshops and working more than six days a week. It was resolved to give all possible aid to those engaged in the work."

In an article on the general elections the Shareholder says:—"Every voter should give earnest thought as to what he considers best for his country, and having done so stand fast by his opinions. There is every need at the present time to obtain the best of representatives, men who will be an honor to the electors and to parliament as well, men who will be above committing a mean or dishonest action. Would every voter act up to this standard, the next house of commons would be a vast improvement upon any previous one. Let us have pure elections in any event."

The interest aroused in playgrounds for the children in the city of Ottawa is indicated by the following paragraph from the Ottawa Journal—"Controller Davidson, Alderman Keran and City Engineer Ker yesterday made a tour of the city in a motor car and viewed a number of sites which it is thought would make desirable playgrounds. There is a demand for them and it is likely that what is known as the playground committee will have estimates prepared as to the approximate cost of buying the property needed. If the council approves a by-law would then be submitted to the rate payers at the next municipal elections."

A recent judgment in the Liverpool police court is suggestive of a method of making prisoners who are able pay their own board. Two men who were convicted of theft were sent to jail for three months, and out of the money, amounting in all to £27, found in their possession, £6 was ordered to be appropriated to refund the out-of-pocket expenses of the prosecution, while with the balance would be defrayed the cost of their maintenance in Walton Prison.

The city of St. John has not sufficient school accommodation for its children. This statement was made at the meeting of the school board last evening. Additional room must be provided, and there is really need of the proposed new building on the Weldon Lot. To say that there is a need is to say that it must be met. The city must provide school accommodation for all its children.

There are some broad gauge patriots in Ontario. Note the following from the Toronto News—"Speaking to the General Reform Association for Ontario, Mr. Hugh Guthrie, M. P., declared that it was unwise to rely upon literature in a political campaign, and said that pamphlets which he had sent out had come back marked 'To hell with your budget speech; we want a postoffice.'"

Ontario and portions of Quebec province have lately been suffering from forest fires. The destruction of potential wealth in this manner emphasises the great need of effective national and provincial forestry laws and regulations, and a general awakening of the people to the folly and danger of setting fires carelessly in a dry season.

Visitors to the exhibition should carefully inspect the display in the women's art department, which is one of unusual excellence and a most interesting feature of the fair. Not least instructive is the display of work done on the supervised playgrounds by children who might otherwise have been playing about the streets and alleys.

What Chatham exhibition may have lacked in some other respects at the opening it made up in governors, who are occasionally objects of some general interest.

The Republicans have carried Maine by a reduced majority. The reduction, however, will not afford much comfort to the friends of Mr. Bryan. The issues were chiefly local.

The Big Clothing Sale

Continues All This Week

Prices almost cut in two on Men's, Youths' and Boys' Clothing and Furnishings of every description, including:

Overcoats, Raincoats, Suits, Pants, Underwear, Sweaters, Shirts, Ties, Hats, Caps, Trunks, Suit Cases, Etc., fall and winter weights

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AGAIN THE OYSTER

"Will you walk a little faster?" said the Oyster to the snail, "September's close upon us, and I really mustn't fall behind you. You have got an R. And I shall be assuredly the fashionable star!"

Quite probably they'll eat me, but supposing that they do, I don't care. I have a fastidious Four Hundred would scarcely look at you!

You're never in the fashion, and never out of it.

And by no strength of reasoning could be called a choice bit!

Of course, were we in Paris, you would But with any but frog-eaters the case would be absurd!

I don't suppose, moreover, that our gourmets, if they tried.

Could stomach you, no matter were you scalloped, creamed, or fried.

I have a dozen dainty points of cerulean but

(Very likely you don't know it, but an oyster's skin blue!)

But I make them very hungry whom most I satisfy!

So walk a little faster, snail, for surely you can see

Tabasco sauce, horse radish, salt, and pepper wait for me!

So get a move on, slugard, do hurry, if I'm really very happy now my time has come to die.

Here, in the next—do you hear that gulp?—is a, my small, good-bye!

New York Times.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

CORRECT.

Scene: Grammar class. Dialogue between teacher and Johnnie.

Teacher—What is the future of "he drinks?"

Johnnie—He is drunk.

IN THE RUNNING.

"What's your occupation, huh?" asked a writer at the Capitol of a bright boy who was in the corridor. The boy happened to be a page. "I'm running for Congress, sir," he replied—Christian Intelligence.

HOW HE WON HER.

Mrs. Newby—My husband admires everything about me; my voice, my eyes, my form, my hands.

Friend—And what do you admire about him?

Mrs. Newby—His good taste.—Philadelphia Press.

ITS GREAT DRAWBACK.

The Man With the Goggles—This airship class will never amount to much. Nobody'll ride in 'em.

The Man With the Goggles—Why not?

The Man With the Goggles—Because if anything breaks in your airship, what're you going to lie down on? I got under the machine with a basket wrench, huh!

A GENTLE HINT.

The sexton of a certain famous English church the other afternoon and conducted a party round, and, despite dropping more than one "gentle hint," appeared to be a section was to go unperceived in the porch the leader passed. "I suppose," replied the old man, "it's a werry strange thing as whatever I'm a-borin' a party out of the porch they allus asks me that question or with emphasis the other." "Indeed," smiled the visitor. "And what say the other boys?" "What I say question number two," replied the sexton calmly, "is 'Is this church, is this church?' and Samwell allus answers, 'Tis is allowed!' The hint was taken as was the tip.

BARGAINING WITH A BURGLAR.

(Kansas City Star.)

A group of friends were discussing William Winslow Sherman, the old banker, who died last year.

"He had the coolest nerve of any man I know," said one.

"He had," said another, "and he was partly crippled by rheumatism, and he was night to find a man in his bedroom late at night."

"The thief had a big gun trained on Sherman in a minute."

"The thief said with a tired hand, 'Put that matter like gentlemen.'"

"The burglar was so surprised he laughed."

"He said, 'If you want to go, and might get away with some little knock-knock,' said Sherman. 'But you might be caught, and there's a slight probability that you could escape of my toilet article perfectly. What would you consider a fair cash proportion to pay me?'"

"They talked it over in peace."

"The burglar then thought it best to have \$10, but Sherman, after inquiring into the man's habits, said he would pay \$250."

"Now, he said, 'you're a known thief. If this were your first offense I'd pay you \$100, but now the police have your picture you ought to be glad to accept any fair compromise and go no more.'"

"The burglar finally agreed to take \$250."

"Sherman mugged out a \$10 bill."

"The burglar said he had got it before he paid."

WILL IT EVER BE THE WINTER PORT?

Another Chapter in the History of a Prospective Rival to St. John.

(Montreal Witness.)

It is announced from Ottawa that tenders were opened in the exchequer court yesterday, before Judge Cassels, for the purchase of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway and the Atlantic & Lake Superior Railway. There was only one tender for each line, that of the Royal Trust Company of Montreal. The Baie des Chaleurs Railway tender was for \$1,050,000, and the Atlantic & Superior tender was for \$350,000. An order of the court was made accepting the tenders and requiring the Royal Trust Company to give a bond of \$200,000 as a protection against a claim by the Northern Banking Company of England, which has a claim that will come up for hearing on appeal at the next sitting of the supreme court of Canada.

For all practical purposes these two railways are now one, known under the general name of the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway. As the name will signify, the railway was started with rather ambitious intentions, the proposal being to build from Matapedia, on the I. C. R., along the coast of Chaleur Bay to Gaspé Basin, and to establish at the latter place a port which was to be Canada's principal winter port on the Atlantic.

Some 120 miles of line were built, extending from Matapedia to a short distance beyond Paspébeac, and the experiment was tried of making Paspébeac a winter port. Arrangements were made for running a line of steamers between the port and Great Britain, and the first steamer was actually loaded there. The vessel had gone but a short distance, however, when she remained for weeks. It was declared by many that the vessel took the wrong course, but this was as stoutly denied. The occurrence took all the heart out of the promoters and killed the scheme for the time being.

The line was built largely by British capital, but the Mercier government was prominently identified with the scheme; in fact, it is this very enterprise, which is held to be largely responsible for the downfall of the Mercier government.

Whether the scheme will be finished is an open question, but there are those who still hold fast that Gaspé Basin would make the best best port for Canada, although as a matter of fact the rail haul to St. John, N. B., is considerably shorter than it would be to Gaspé Basin.

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"W. L. Douglas" Shoes for Men, \$5.00 and \$5.50

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Special styles in Women's Laced Boots,

\$1.50, 1.60, 1.75, 2.00, 2.25

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AT 3 AND 9 P. M.

In front of Grand stand

Chafing Dish Demonstrations

at the Domestic Science Booth

AT 2.30 P. M.

LIBERAL PICNIC

AT MUSQUASH

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

The Liberals of the Parish of Musquash will hold a Political Picnic on the grounds of L. B. Knight, Esq., on Tuesday, September 22.

A special train will leave the New Brunswick Southern railway station West St. John, at 10 a.m., stopping at all stations.

During the afternoon the gathering will be addressed by

Hon. William Pugsley

Hon. H. A. McKeown and others

If the weather on Tuesday is unfavorable, the picnic will be held on the following day.

Blue Ribbon Tea

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Next term begins September 10th.

For illustrated calendar and other information, apply to the Head Master.