

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1920

## The Economic Philosophy of John Paul

(From Maritime Merchant.)

Absorbed in the production of an essay, the purpose of which was to make every reader an incurable optimist, the Merchant man became gradually conscious of an odor of the forest. It seemed to pervade the whole atmosphere

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of the office. It was suggestive of spruce boughs and a campfire, and an after-supper pipe before drawing up the blankets for the night.

Raising his head, the essayist was a bit startled to see at his elbow the erect figure of Mr. John Paul, Micmac, whom he had last seen during the hunting season, on the reservation. With noiseless footfall, a habit passed down to him from generations who hunted game and scalps without snapping a twig in the forest primeval, the red man had entered. If he had so desired, and there had been an idea of any value under the scalp of the essayist, Mr. Paul could have got away with both. That he did not do so may have been a tribute to his discernment. Be that as it may, there he stood, with folded arms, and an inscrutable expression—also the gift of his ancestors, as described in the annals of Leather Legs the Famous Scout, and other heroes whose exploits stirred our imagination in boyhood and sent us into the nearby woods to see a painted face behind every other tree.

The Merchant gave his hand, and was rather glad to get it back again, for the grip of Mr. Paul also had an ancestral motive, and is easier felt than described.

"You startled me," said the Merchant.

"What in the world are you doing in the city?"

"Axehandles," replied Mr. Paul—"no sellum—nobody wantum this winter."

"Ah! your order book is not full, then," said the Merchant.

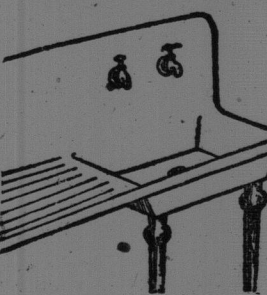
"Can't grum away," replied the red man. "Nobody goin' in woods. Everybody want to sell me axes. What I kin do with axes. My squaw she want do with axes. My squaw she want do with axes."

"Dear me!" said the Merchant. "How in the world are you going to live this winter? I had no idea things were so bad. You and Mrs. Paul can't eat axes—on axehandles. What in the world will you do?"

"Rabbits ain't all dead," replied Mr. Paul.

"But you must have other things,"

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said the Merchant—"yes, tobacco, flour, potatoes, and things to wear."

"We kin make baskets," said Mr. Paul. "White man's squaw want basket go to market. White man want snowshoes—want canoe next summer. White man's pappoose want moccasins—want sled. Mebbe we can't sell heap stuff this winter. 'Nother winter come bimeby. We'll get along. I seen heap hard winters. Good times come some day. Don't be 'fraid. My gran'father he told me bout winter people died like flies. Spose we live where they had that big fight. My squaw he make nice little baskets to sell to help get Red Cross nurse for them papposes 'way off there. Man all dead—squaw sick—pappoose starve. What you holler 'bout round here? Anybody starve? You got takin' wire—devil—waggon—flyin' machine—jazz house—plenty horse—cow—pig—pancakes—bread—fur coat—more'n you kin eat an' wear."

"Ah!" said the essayist, "but we have been so prosperous—so rich. We had had so much to spend and we had such fun in spending it."

"Huh!" said Mr. Paul. "Just like Injins when plenty moose. Great fun killum off. Now eat rabbit."

"But do you think," queried the essayist, "it's better times will come again—with all this fighting and these labor troubles and soviet and that sort of thing?"

"This world," said Mr. Paul, "is like man. He get sick—get well. Go down hill—climb up. Lose money—get it back. Best place in world now is right here. Bluenose don't lose his head. Got heap sense. When times ain't good—he kin wait. What makes them other people want to come over here? Man told me more want to come than we got now. When they come Injin sell more baskets—more axehandles—more canoes—get more things we want."

"You are not worrying then, over the fear of hard times," said the Merchant.

"Ain't got no time," said Mr. Paul. "Spose you want to go over to Liscomb river. You set down an' think 'bout the bad roads an' the hills an' woods. How long fore you get there, if you set down like that?"

"But what can you do?" asked the essayist. "You talk about baskets and you kin wait, and canoes, but suppose nobody wants them?"

"I kin ketch rabbits and wait," quoth Mr. Paul.

"I know it has been said of the Indian," observed the Merchant, "that when he couldn't get food he tightened his belt and went on."

"Till he got it," supplemented Mr. Paul. "That's why white man couldn't kill off all them Injins. Bluenose same way. He kin take up 'nother notch. Bimeby them big chiefs havin' pow-wow way off there make peace. Then tribes all go on big hunt—have big feast. Don't be 'fraid. Any man starts talk 'bout hard times—tell him 'bout good times bimeby—send him to tell other people. Spose I cut down ash tree. Spose he's no good. I hunt good one. Spose my squaw, he make poor basket—he sell it cheap—make good one next time. You tell all them white men in 'our paper John Paul ain't goin' round hollerin' 'bout hard times—he kin ketch rabbits an' work all winter."

"I was sitting here," said the Merchant, "trying to call up the picture of an optimist—and lo, he appears in the flesh. He bids me turn my face to the morning, and be of good cheer. He sees the good times that are waiting in the forest, in the mine, in the sea, in the soil, in the falling waters that drive the wheels of industry, and in the brain and brawn of the people of Canada. John Paul—I thank you."

## PARLIAMENT MAY MEET FEB. 4

(Canadian Press Despatch)  
Ottawa, Dec. 10.—Thursday, February 4, is regarded as the earliest possible date for the meeting of parliament, with the probability that it is more likely to be summoned on the Thursday following, February 11.

## QUEBEC IS EXERCISED

Rumored R. C. A. Will Be Removed From City.

Quebec, Dec. 11.—Excitement spread throughout the city when it was rumored that the Militia Department was contemplating the elimination of Quebec as an artillery station in Canada's permanent force. This will include the removal of the R. C. A. and band from this city.

Some citizens met and decided to enter a strong protest against the removal of the Royal Canadian Artillery from this city.

Ageneral meeting will soon be called to appoint an important delegation to go to Ottawa and consult the government on the question. It is also likely that a public meeting will be held to enter a protest against the removal of this excellent corps from the Ancient Capital.

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## TO EDUCATE MENNONITES.

Manitoba Will Spend \$100,000 on New Schools.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—With the completion next year of sixteen new schools, to cost approximately \$100,000, in the Mennonite districts of Manitoba, the government's building programme, instituted two years ago, to force Mennonites to educate their children in the public schools of the province, will be completed.

This new construction will make a total of 46 schools in the Mennonite districts of the province.

It was learned today that the Mennonites now hold 460,800 acres of land in Manitoba.