

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 4, 1913.

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THE LITTLE CHILDREN

The county court judge, the police magistrate, and the council for the S. P. C. A. were unanimous in saying at the meeting in Trinity school room last evening that a Children's Protection Act is needed. Ministers who are also personally familiar with conditions were of the same mind, as was the adjutant of the Salvation Army. The representatives of the Women's Committee, the King's Daughters and other organizations gave expression to the same feeling, that such a law is greatly needed to improve conditions, especially in this city.

That which these citizens plead for is a measure designed to aid in elevating the standard of citizenship. It is really not they who plead, after all, but little children, who are otherwise voiceless in the councils of the city, and who are not getting a fair chance in life.

It is said in some quarters that this legislation would interfere with the home. That is true. It would make the home better. Is not that desirable? No Children's Aid Society is ever eager to assume the burden of caring for children. It is only those who have no home in the true sense that are placed in foster homes. Every effort is made to encourage or induce delinquent parents to do their duty as parents before extreme measures are taken, and for every child removed to a Children's Aid Society's shelter the home life of scores is made more endurable by the kindly intervention of officers and members of the society who have the power of the law behind them.

It has been said that if parents and others did their duty there would be no need of such legislation. That is quite true, and the statement might be broadened to say that if all people did their duty there would be no need of police or prisons or reformatories or charitable institutions of any sort. But so many people, parents included, fail in their duty that society, in self-protection, and to prevent a lowering of the standard of intelligence, rigour and morality in later generations, enacts laws, provides institutions, and really, in the broad sense, a struggle for existence, for the welfare of the coming generations. But the Children's Aid Society are not organizations thirsting to do police duty. Their members are men and women who give freely of their own time and means to make the conditions of life better for children who are being degraded and brutalized. It is said there are some people who doubt the efficiency of this method of dealing with the situation, and it would be interesting to get their point of view. If they have a better method, and it is feasible, the public ought to know it. Up to the present time the Children's Protection Act and the Children's Aid Societies represent the best thought of the best men and women in Canada, as a practical means of giving a larger proportion of certain children who are General Booth says, are "damned into this world," an opportunity to get into better environment and develop their manhood and womanhood along right lines.

The St. John S. P. C. A. is at this moment confronted with the necessity of re-mov-ing to the Municipal Home a whole family. Only five years ago this family should have been broken up, for it was not a family in the real sense, nor its place of sojourn a real home. The inevitable has happened. Instances could be multiplied to prove the utter need of legislation to cope with certain conditions which are otherwise beyond control, and under which the unfit are being multiplied and the interests of helpless little children daily sacrificed. Let those who are the friends of the children declare themselves.

AN INSPIRING MEETING

One of the speakers at Keith's last evening declared that no city in Canada had brighter prospects than the city of St. John. This is not a careless assertion made in a moment of enthusiasm. It was only necessary to look upon the screen last evening and see the evidence of progress, and listen to the statements made in connection therewith to realize that this speaker was merely stating a fact. The people of the city are themselves the slowest to grasp the magnitude of the change that has come about in five years, and especially in the last two years, in relation to the development of St. John. Those visitors who had not had an opportunity to see for themselves all that has been going on in St. John during the past year were amazed at the exhibit last evening, and every one of them will do the city good service whenever and wherever he enters into a discussion of the question of progress and expansion in the maritime provinces, now so universal a topic of conversation.

It was a happy inspiration that suggested the choice of Rev. Dr. Campbell as the orator of the evening. He raised the general discussion to a high plane, made a powerful appeal to the patriotism of his hearers, and very forcibly directed their attention to that highest of national duties, the building of national character. With great opportunity he linked great responsibility and a high sense of duty for the people of Canada.

Mr. Pidgeon's allusion to the man who at a similar smoker three years ago observed that all he got out of it was some cheap cigars and higher taxes, and how since increased the price of his property in St. John in much larger proportion than the rise in taxes, ought to convey a lesson to "knockers" in general.

There has been, unfortunately, too much skepticism in this city, and a certain kind of conservatism has almost become a religion with some people. They should all be pretty thoroughly converted to the larger and more generous and hopeful view by this time, for the facts are all against them.

The Board of Trade is to be congratulated on the success of last night's event. The new president, Mr. J. M. Robinson, was very heartily received, and in his remarks gave expression to the progressive spirit which will mark the policy of the Board this year. Mayor Pink and commission government were evidently in high favor, and the mayor made some observations relative to city development which will no doubt receive a good deal of consideration in the immediate future. Mr. Fenton's contrast of the city of today with that of ten years ago was very striking, and his enumeration of the things accomplished and those to be accomplished in the near future were a sufficient warrant for his enthusiasm and that of his audience. The Board of Trade for 1913 is off to a good start, and what it and a progressive city council will together be able to do for St. John during the year, with the hearty support of the citizens, will be a cheerful story to tell at next year's smoker.

PLAYGROUNDS AND SCHOOLS

The report of the secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America shows, says the Bangor Commercial, that supervised playgrounds were opened for the first time in forty cities in the past year and that forty-eight cities are using their schoolhouses as recreation centers. The report shows further that in nineteen cities bond issues for recreation purposes were authorized to the amount of \$1,445,500 and that \$2,750,000 was expended during the year 1911-12 for administration of playgrounds. Interest in the movement is nation-wide. Cleveland, Ohio; Atlanta, Ga.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Portland, Ore.; Oakland, Cal., and Tacoma, Wash., are among the places showing particular activity during the past twelve months, and many others in different parts of the country might be added to the list. The present tendency, the report says, is to form in each city a recreation association which shall bring together representatives of all the organizations interested in the subject and give moral support to the recreation commission or other municipal body which manages the recreation, cent-ers. New York has formed a federation known as the Recreation Alliance of New York City, and Boston and San Francisco have formed recreation leagues.

If Mr. Matthew Lodge and his company can provide St. John with natural gas at a low rate the city will reap an enormous advantage.

Unless Turkey gives up in the peace negotiations, next week may witness a resumption of hostilities. The situation appears to have reached a very critical stage.

The movement to encourage sheep raising on a larger scale in these provinces is one which aims to give them another asset of great and increasing value.

The decision of the city council to pursue a still more progressive policy in its public works department this year will be welcomed by the citizens.

The statement made at the Board of Trade smoker last evening that St. John people are glad to hear of expansion and development in Halifax was not only in good taste, but it is true.

Several thousand additional workmen will probably be employed in St. John and its suburbs next summer. There will be a demand for more houses, and many of these workmen will become permanent residents. This should be a great building year.

The very representative meeting in Trinity school room last evening, in spite of the storm, was not a gathering of sentimentalists seeking to shift responsibility. They are ready to accept a greater task, if the tools are provided, and the municipal council will no doubt sympathize with their point of view.

A REGULAR ORATOR

A young man who recently got married insisted that it was his duty to make a speech at the wedding breakfast.

And this is how he did it:

"My dear friends, I—er—it gives me great pleasure to tell—that is, to inform you that I shouldn't like to be a widow."

Er—I cannot sit down—I mean I cannot resume my seat without thanking you for the birthday—er—I mean wedding presents which you have showered upon me with such confusion—er—profusion. You have made us every happy with your gifts, which we value for more than your presence—er I mean—that is—I should have said that I mean—I—er—rather—we—said—"

Here he gave it up and as they traveled to Hastings to spend their honeymoon the young bride told him his speech was splendid, and that any one with his gift of oratory ought to be an M. P.

Vegetables which grow under the ground, such as potatoes, turnips, etc., are all cooked with the lid of the pan on; those which grow above ground, such as cabbage, etc., are cooked with the lid of the pan off to let out all poisonous gases.



LIGHTER VEIN

A FITTING REBUKE

An American tourist was having his boots polished by an Irish shoeblick and as the latter was administering the finishing touches his patron rudely tossed two coppers on the pavement as a reward. This insult added to, no doubt, by the fact that the reward was the more recognized two-pence, caused the shoeblick to exclaim:

"Thank ye, air. The only polish you have is on your boots, and I gave you that."

ACCEPTED.

"So you want to marry my daughter?" "I do, air."

"Are you able to support her in the style to which she has been accustomed?" "New York has formed a federation known as the Recreation Alliance of New York City, and Boston and San Francisco have formed recreation leagues."

"I could easily, but I won't."

"I guess you can take care of her, all right, my boy. She's yours."

PROOF POSITIVE.

Lawyer—"Perhaps I can get you off on the insanity plea. Have you any insane relatives?"

Friend—"Well, my father and mother retained you to defend me, didn't they?"

THINKS HE KNOWS.

Cynic—"He must be younger than he looks."

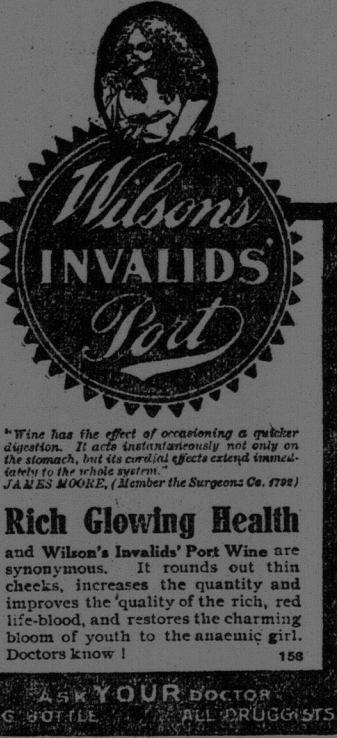
Sillius—"What makes you think so?"

Cynic—"He thinks he understands women."—Philadelphia Record.

THE ETERNAL IMPULSE.

Fair Suffragette—"And now, if any one who has heard my speech wishes to ask a question, I shall be happy to answer."

Masculine voice (from rear of hall)—"If you haven't any other company, may I see you home this evening?"—From Gleaner.



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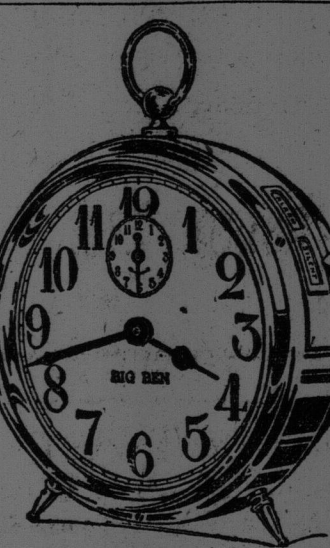
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MORNING LOCALS

L. R. Unsworth, second engineer of the government steamer Stanley, received a handsome gold watch yesterday from the officers and members of the crew of the Stanley. He left yesterday afternoon to join the S.S. Minto, having been transferred to that ship.

At a meeting of the New Brunswick Automobile Association last night, it was decided to have a booth at the coming automobile show. Details for the show were further discussed, and it was decided to hold a meeting on the first Friday of each month. Arrangements will be made to have the association affiliated with the Automobile Association of America.

The second inspectors of the province met here yesterday in semi-annual conference with the chief superintendent, W. S. Carter, in what proved to be an important and profitable session. Several resolutions were passed which will be presented to the board of education at its next meeting.

The committee of the Girls' Association wish further to acknowledge contributions of money from the following: Charles Watson, C. F. Holmes, Rev. J. A. MacKeigan, H. C. Scott, Mrs. H. McCallan, Mrs. Charles Henry Peters, W. G. Smith, Mrs. R. M. Hawn, Dr. Otto Nae, Mrs. Robert Thompson, David Pigeon, Hon. J. D. Hazen.

SAD SPECTACLE

Of all the sights the saddest one, When all is said and all is done, Is that poor chap whose simple class In social muster will not pass, Who has big feet and clumsy hands And etiquette misunderstands— Who sits out in the kitchen while His wife gives teas and puts on style— Washington Star.

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TWO OF A KIND.

Uncle Hiram—"If yer want ter have good dogs, yer must educate 'em to it. I took as much trouble to rear my dog thar es I did with my son Ike."

"But that dog is no good."

Uncle Hiram—"Neither is Ike."