

THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES

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DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

In this land of plenty we read with something like surprise that portions of Ireland are again threatened by famine. No doubt political agitators are making the most of the situation, but the distress either appears or promises to be very real. As might be expected, the Irish parliamentary party has adopted a resolution condemning the Government for existing distress in Ireland, demanding that immediate steps be taken to relieve and also demanding that powers be given for the distribution of land in the poor districts.

The local government board had taken steps, before this meeting was held, to relieve tenants affected by the failure of the potato crop, and Sir A. P. MacDonnell, under secretary for Ireland, in a letter to the boards of guardians in the West of Ireland, promises that should the relief of the existing distress there prove an excessive burden on the ratepayers, the Government will make a grant from the public funds for the purpose. A London cable of yesterday's date reads: "With reference to the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Irish Parliamentary party in Dublin on Dec. 16, calling upon the Government to extend aid and institute works to afford employment for those in the west of Ireland who have been rendered destitute by the failure of the potato crop, the Irish office here informs The Associated Press that while there has been a partial failure of the potato crop in Ireland, Government returns show that the distress, if it occurs, will not be acute before the end of January. Meanwhile the Government is taking steps to prevent a famine."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

A London correspondent in a recent letter gave this entertaining picture of Hon. Joseph Chamberlain: "Mr. Chamberlain had a hearty welcome back to Birmingham, when he presided on Wednesday at the dinner of the present medical students of the new University of which he is the chancellor. The speech of the evening was made by Sir Frederick Treves, the great surgeon, but Mr. Chamberlain centricuted some remarks which will be of interest far beyond university circles, for they referred to his own methods of keeping up his wonderful energy and his youthfulness. While doctors tell us 'it is a miracle we are alive,' Mr. Chamberlain coolly confesses that for over 50 years he has consumed freely most of the forbidden things, even food, when he could get them; he has smoked when he had nothing else to do, and when he was busy, and consumed liquor in moderation, and his digestion is as good as ever. He is, perhaps, the most youthful looking man of his years in the House of Commons, and yet he does not, as Mr. Gladstone did, live by rule, neither does he take open air exercise. Mr. Chamberlain owes as much to his digestion as to his genius for politics, for his great position in the strenuous arena of parliament."

THE SHIP SUBSIDY BILL.

The question of building up the merchant marine of the United States is to be discussed at the present session of congress. A ship subsidy bill has been prepared by a joint committee, and if its recommendations are carried out a great stimulus will be given to American shipping interests. For several years there has been an agitation in favor of substantial assistance to American shipping interests. It has been pointed out, over and over again, that a very small portion of United States trade is carried in United States ships, and congress has been urged to provide a remedy. It has been a favorite argument with high protectionists that the republic should carry its own trade. There is, however, a strong objection to direct subsidies to steamship companies, and a scheme has been drafted which would not entail a direct charge on the treasury, the cost being met by an increased tonnage tax and higher port charges on foreign vessels. What is good for the American shipping interests will thus be bad for those of other countries whose vessels are engaged in the carrying trade from United States ports. The main provisions of the proposed new bill are said to be as follows: First—Generous grants to vessels carrying the mails on proposed new postal routes. Second—A subvention with the object of creating a naval reserve force. Third—Liberal payments to vessels engaged in the foreign carrying trade. The bill provides for the establishment of a corps of sailors to be known as the naval reserve. It requires that a certain proportion of this corps shall be carried on certain vessels engaged in foreign trade. Every superior officer of this reserve shall be paid from \$60 to \$100 per year, minor officers from \$30 to \$60 per year, and seamen \$25 per year. These payments will be restricted to men shipping on vessels engaged in foreign trade. Bounties are proposed for steam and sailing vessels, as follows: Steam vessels, five cents per ton

per year and proportionately less according to shorter service. Sailing vessels, four cents per ton per year.

The owners of these vessels must agree to sell them to the United States, when required for war, at a fair price; to carry the mails when called upon to do so, and on behalf of their crews are to be American citizens.

The payments on account of the naval reserve and the ten new postal routes are to be met by diverting profits accruing from foreign mail carriage, which now amounts to about \$2,500,000.

An interesting feature of the bill is that providing bounties for mail routes to China and Japan. The sum of \$500,000 a year will be paid to one going by Hawaii, and \$350,000 a year to a route direct from Pacific coast ports to China and Japan. These contracts will be let under the competitive plan.

NEVER WOULD BE MISSED.

The Moncton Times and Transcript, to the great amazement of their readers, have discovered a point of agreement. The position is this set forth by the Times:—

It is not every day that the Times can agree with The Transcript, but we heartily endorse its argument that it would be well to abandon the practice of speech-making at the nomination day proceedings. In fact, The Times has already urged that such proceedings be abandoned. There is, in our history, when the nomination day speechmaking was necessary and calculated to enlighten the people on the questions of the day. But in these days of ready communication and newspaper reading such discussions are not so necessary and the nomination day gathering like some other institutions, has degenerated. Now it is largely composed of men who are out for a drinking bout, or to howl down the candidate whom they have condemned in advance and to whose arguments they are not willing to listen. This time honored custom has come to be a by-word, and might well be abandoned everywhere, by mutual consent if not by legal enactment as in England.

So far as St. John is concerned, the nomination day speeches, unless the parties engage a theatre or rink, have to be made to so small a crowd that but for the newspaper reports they might as well not be made at all. It is not a bad idea to bring the opposing candidates face to face during a campaign, but that could better be done in some other way than by a custom which compels the electors to be packed like sardines into a stuffy and ill-ventilated court-room, to listen to four or five hours of more or less pointless oratory. The Times and the Transcript are right. Nomination day speeches are of no more effect than the speeches of other days.

Several of the larger savings banks in New York City have announced that their rate of interest on deposits will be increased from 3 1/2 to 4 per cent. of January, and Bradstreet's observes that if all the savings banks do the same, the result will be of some importance, in view of the fact that the deposits in these institutions in greater New York amount to \$800,000,000.

A liquor dealer declares that the license law is not enforced. The prohibitionists declare that the statement is an argument in favor of a prohibitory law, which they believe could be better enforced than the license law. It is an interesting situation.

Confidence in the money market and in the country's financial standing, says the Montreal Witness, was never better displayed than during the past few weeks when so many securities have been offered to the investing public.

In Montreal the board of assessors has recommended a tax on all large boarding houses. If anything escapes in that town it will not be the fault of those who make suggestions.

The Times today presents itself in a new dress of plainer type than heretofore, as another instalment of the improvements which will from time to time be made in this paper.

Marcus Antonius had just finished his address to the Romans. "Your speech was all to the good," remarked one of the admiring populace, "but wasn't it a little over imaginative having Caesar's wounds cry out against his murderers?" "Oh, no," replied Marcus, "blood will tell."

LAST NIGHT IN THE THEATRES.

The Dailey Company's New Man Scores at the Opera House--At the York Theatre.

There was a double reason for the interest displayed in the production of Joaquin Miller's five act western drama "The Danites" by the Dailey Stock Company in the Opera House last evening. There was a certain curiosity to see what the Daileys would make out of the play that has won largely to the fame of such actors as McKee Rankin and E. M. Holland to say nothing of others who have found in the well known characters of Sandy, the parson, or the judge, an opportunity to add to their histrionic laurels. There was an equal curiosity to see Mr. Booth, the Daileys' new leading man for it was a foregone conclusion that the role of Sandy would be entrusted to his hands. It was, and in it Mr. Booth made a most effective debut. He is an actor happily endowed with a more than ordinarily pleasing stage presence, a full, rounded, well modulated voice, a considerable talent of expression in features and tone and most important of all he is not stiff.

The audience last night was prepared to make every allowance for Mr. Booth. He was practically in a strange company, in a strange role, for it requires more than a few rehearsals to make an actor feel at home with new companions in supporting parts. Consequently they were prepared to deal generously with him but he did not require their generosity. He came prepared to make good and he did, for better treatment of a character has seldom been given at the opera house stage than that of Sandy, the moralist, received at the hands of Charles E. Booth last evening. He was manly, and sympathetic all through and in his one big scene at the close of the fourth act he displayed an intensity of dramatic power that merited the very hearty reception it got. Mr. Booth's future work with the Dailey Company will be watched with interest. From present indications it would appear that he is a very decided acquisition to their ranks and his advent has materially strengthened them in a department where, hitherto they were woefully weak.

"The Danites" is a western piece the most essential feature of which is its distinctive atmosphere. Joaquin Miller never touched pen to paper without producing something that breathed an individuality of its own. "The Danites" is no exception. Its action is in the mountain ranges and mining camps of California, its characters are manly men, everyone of them and it has a wholesomeness that is most refreshing. And the atmosphere is there—that indefinite something that is hardly tangible yet contributes so much to artistic success in either dramatic or literary fields. It is by a considerable margin the most ambitious effort the Daileys have yet made and that they did not fail is giving them ample credit.

Although Mr. Booth had the centre of the stage most of the time and the majority of the opportunities yet the other members of the company merited the appreciation of the audience. Mr. Mullaney was especially happy as the judge with a fondness for "the glorious climate of California." Mr. Barringer played the parson with the same careful attention and ability that has marked all his work while Mr. Robinson was excellent as Tim. Mr. O'Malley did some clever character work as the Chinaman while Mr. Brown, Mr. Tabor and Mr. Young, appeared in minor parts.

Of the ladies Miss Ray and Miss Carr fairly divided the honors. Miss Ray's part called for the heavier emotional work and she did it well, but Miss Carr invested her role with a winsome sweetness which the audience was not slow to note. Miss Hartley and Miss Blake had character parts that gave them fair opportunities.

The play was well staged and presented and although it does not call for elaborate scenery yet each scene was set in excellent taste. Altogether the performance was a most meritorious one and should do good business during its continuance. It will be again produced tonight and tomorrow evening and at Wednesday's matinee.

The Myrtle Harder Co.

The Myrtle-Harder Company opened their second week's engagement at the York Theatre last night, with a four act play, entitled "The Tide of Fortune." There was a large audience present and they fully enjoyed the production. The play deals first with rural life in the middle west and afterwards shifts to Washington. The different parts were well sustained, but the favorites of the evening were Emma Myrtle as Miranda, and W. A. Harder as Tommy Chumpty, "the

man that helped to make Milwaukee famous." The work of Chas. Carruthers was also very good and the other members of the cast looked after their parts in an able manner. The specialties were as usual much enjoyed. There will be a change of bill every night this week. This afternoon the Fisherman's Daughter will be the bill. Tonight The Slave Girl, a Southern production, will be played. There will be a change of specialties at each performance.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CASH BUYING.

A Contributor to the Times Points Out the Gain to the People.

(Contributed to the Times.) Everybody cannot be millionaires but, by a careful looking out for themselves in various ways, the great majority of wage earners may be far better off than they have been.

Every once in a while, some successful manipulator, or financier, will tell the public how they may become rich with the result that very many ruin themselves in their endeavor to follow the gratuitous advice given by these people, often ending in dabbling in gold mines, or other get-rich-quick methods. But the writer of this is going to pen a few words on how to become better off on the stock-in-trade of the wage earner, without holding out any inducement that will lead them to the conclusion that they will become "bought aristocrats," on the sum earned by them. Now, to begin, my contention is that when people drop the habit of dealing with grocers, dry goods merchants, &c., on the credit system they will have solved one of the most difficult problems with which they have had to contend, and the result will prove to be of such a satisfactory nature, that they will contract the cash habit, and stick to it.

The advantage for paying cash for everything is that they may go where they like, when they like, and how they like, and may rest assured that the cash demands a respect from all dealers, that credit fails to command—except of course in exceptional cases.

When one pays cash for an article, if that article is not up to his ideas or requirements, in quality for instance, he can take his cash elsewhere, and obtain the exact article required.

If he deals at a store, he often has to take an inferior article, because he is not in as good a position to argue the point. Again, if cash is paid, the purchaser has the decided advantage of looking around, to see where he can purchase the cheapest and best goods, as it certainly looks to me that a dealer can sell cheaper for cash, than if he books the order and gets maybe only a percentage of his bill when pay day arrives. And if a man can wait some time to be paid for stock, he must naturally receive a higher price for them if he kept no books on outstanding debts.

If everyone knew how much can be saved by the cash system, very many would take advantage of it who are still running accounts. Another advantage of this system is that to one who has been in the habit of dealing on credit, and changes off to the cash system, a spirit of independence creeps in that was quite foreign to the individual prior to his conversion to the latter method. And there is no feeling equal to this from a citizen's standpoint. It also creates incentives for the better, that could not possibly exist while in the thrall of debt, because debt is what the credit system means; and although one may be punctual in payments at the different stores, yet the fact that goods are booked prevents the purchaser from exercising his privilege of trying elsewhere, if goods etc. are unsatisfactory.

If anyone doubts the advantages of the cash system, over the credit one, let him try it, and by keeping a faithful and accurate account of expenditures, and comparing with the accounts kept by the dealers of the past, he will come to the conclusion that he will keep it up, as he will find that cash speaks up everytime to his advantage.

A Study of Old Age

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