THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEB. 19, 1906.

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JOHN RUSSELL, JR., President. A. M. BELDING, Editor.

SOCIALISM

Mr. Jack London, whose socialistic writings have caused some stir in the intellectual world of late, but who is so frankly one-sided that his message falls upon rather unsympathetic ears, tells in the Cosmopolitan for March "What Life Means to Me."

He was born, he tells us, in the working class—at the bottom of society. Above him towered "the colossal edifice of society," into which he resolved to climb. He expected to find there "all that was fine and noble and gracious." At ten years he was a newsboy. At sixteen he was an "oyster pirate." But the other pirates stole his gear, and he sought other pursuits. He worked, and grew tired of work, because the employer got so much and he so little. At eighteen he was a tramp, down in the cellar of society. These are the lessons he had thus far learned, as they are stated in his own words:—

"Life was a matter of food and shelter. In order to get food and shelter men sold things. The merchant sold shoes, the politician sold his manhood, and the representative of the people, with exceptions, of course, sold his trust; while nearly all sold their honor. Women, too, whether on the street, or in the holy bond of wedlock, were prone to sell their flesh. All things were commodities, all people bought and sold. The one commodity that labor had to sell was muscle. The honor of labor had no price in the market place. Labor had muscle, and muscle alone, to sell."

It must have been a strange and unreal world in which young London moved, or he saw it through the medium of a distorted mind. The man who looks for what is described in the above paragraph finds it in every grade of society, from the cellar up, but he may also see, if he will, the virtue of that divine self-sacrifice and helpful service which ennoble human life.

But Mr. London tells us that he made the discovery that brain as well as muscle was a commodity, and he proceeded to exploit that field. He sought knowledge. He studied sociology, and learned that other and greater minds had worked out all he had thought, and more. These were socialists and he discovered that he too was a socialist and a revolutionist. In socialistic circles he found really great men.

"Here," he says, "I found warm faith in the human, glowing, idealism, sweetness of selfishness, renunciation and martyrdom — all the splendid, stinging things of life. Here life was clean, noble and alive. Here life rehabilitated itself, became wonderful and glorious; and I was glad to be alive. I was in touch with great souls who exalted flesh and spirit over dollars and cents. All about me were nobleness of purpose and heroism of effort, and my days and nights were sunshine and starshine, all fire and dew, with before my eyes, ever burning and blazing, the Holy Grail, Christ's own Grail, the warm, human, long suffering and maltreated, but to be rescued and saved at the last."

This is all very pretty, and as untrue as such rhapsodies usually are. But Mr. London tells us that he expected when he rose higher in the social scale to find things even better. Apparently he had not learned all he might have learned from the brilliant coterie he so eloquently describes; for surely they could have given him much valuable information on the point. But he went into society on his own account. He met the men and women of society in their own parlors. The women "were of the same clay as all the rest of the women I had known down below in the cellar." They were worse, for they were materialistic and selfish and "wore beautiful clothes bought out of dividends stained with the blood of child labor, and sweated labor, and of prostitution itself." And when he protested they called him "an agitator." The men were no better. "I went about amongst the men who sat in the high places, the preachers, the politicians, the business men, the professors, and the editors. I ate meat with them, drank wine with them, and automobiled with them, and studied them . . . . It was the same everywhere, crime and betrayal, betrayal and crime—men who were alive, but who were neither clean nor noble, men who were clean and noble, but who were not alive."

And so on. Mr. London was bored and sickened. He remembered his socialist friends—his "unfrocked preachers, broken professors, and clean-minded, class-conscious working men." He went back to them and will stay with them, he tells us; and this is what he expects will happen:—

"Some day, when we get a few more hands and crowbars to work, we'll topple it (the edifice of society) over, along with all its rotten life and unburied dead, its monstrous selfishness and sodden materialism. Then we'll cleanse the cellar and build a new habitation for mankind, in which all the rooms will be bright and airy, and where the air that is breathed will be clean, noble and alive."

This is an interesting programme, but Mr. London does not tell us by what process he is to change human nature so that the conditions of one day will be the conditions of the next day in a socialistic world. Let us conclude by quoting a saner man, Mr. Alfred Henry Lewis, who, in the same issue of the Cosmopolitan says:—

"I have found the rich as ignorant as the poor. I have found the poor as thievish, as mendacious, as tyrannical within their narrower power as are the rich. Everywhere, and not at all dependent on either poverty or riches, I have found good and bad, happiness and misery, love and hate, laughter and tears. . . . You speak of the threat that lurks in a popular discontent, and when questioned that popular discontent would appear to be an individual eagerness to make money and better the individual's financial condition. You say that socialism would do away with that discontent—a discontent which in its analysis turns out to be no more than just a fierce spirit of competition. To my thought this competition, this discontent, so far from being a disaster, is the seed of health and strength and final human purity, like the current of a stream. You would eradicate the discontent, paralyze the current with socialism. What would be the outcome? Stagnation, and the rottenness and falling to destruction which attend it as inevitable corollaries."

There are social conditions which call for the unsparing lash of a Jack London, but Socialism does not offer an effective remedy. The first revolution must be effected in the heart of humanity. When that has been accomplished, the heart will regulate the pocket and the conduct.

IN ONE SHORT YEAR

John A. McCall is dead. James W. Alexander is in a sanitarium, a victim of paralysis. Richard A. McCurdy is in a mental condition which is said to alarm his family. A year ago all three were in the enjoyment of health and high reputation. That exposure should have killed one and incapacitated the other two within a year proves at least that they were not wholly callous. One would like to believe, for the sake of human nature, that there is something in the following comment of the New York Globe:—

"The common element in the three tragedies is that these men, doing wrong, failing to measure up to the responsibilities of great trusts, and perverted by the foul financial atmosphere surrounding them, did not know that they were being untrue. By slow processes, to the growth of which the public contributed, they were educated into the belief that the great companies of which they were the heads were their own private property. Cannot a man do what he will with his own? If they were worse men they would not suffer; if more wicked they would have been more callous, would have viewed with cynical indifference the investigation and its results. So, paradoxical though it may seem, the net result of the ill-doing of these men is to throw into high relief the fact that men of high finance are not always the sordid, feelingless pachyderms described in the public prints, but thin-skinned and sensitive. We find, a fact not without ethical significance, that the very cup bearers to Mammon are the victims of their environment, and are not deliberate, designing villains. We thus can perceive a basis on which to rear a new and purer business temple. McCall, Alexander, McCurdy — as long as these names are remembered, and they will be remembered long — they will point the old, old moral, prone to be forgot, that the corollary of power is increased moral responsibility—that the leader must not only be as good as but better than his fellow men."

It appears that Mr. John Mitchell is not the only representative of labor who has the gift of caustic expression. Mr. Patrick Dolan, who opposes the present agitation for a general coal strike, makes these observations concerning Mr. Mitchell: "Circumstances have made him. The tide has always been in his favor until lately and now he does not measure up to his job. It takes something besides a Prince Albert coat and a carnation in the buttonhole to make a real labor leader. It takes common sense and courage, and the man who lacks either ought to hire somebody to tell him of his shortcomings and retire from his job."

The government will no doubt give a sympathetic hearing to the medical men and others who, tomorrow at Fredericton, will present their plea in behalf of the sufferers from the white plague. The need of a sanitorium is universally conceded, and such an institution would be a centre from which would radiate educative influences of vast benefit to those threatened or afflicted with tuberculosis. The sanitorium plan has passed the experimental stage. Its value has been amply proved.

The new British government presents a radical programme of legislation. It has a great majority at the outset, and should be able to carry its measures at this session without much difficulty, although there will doubtless be some keen debates.

As Policeman Scott, about 1 o'clock this morning, was turning from King street into Prince William street, his attention was attracted to a well dressed man who dropped something he had been carrying and then ran. When the policeman reached the spot he found one of those large white enamel thermometers which are used for advertising purposes. This was evidently taken from the door of a book shop and as the one that was hanging at McMillan's door was gone it was probably lifted from there. It had evidently been wrenched off in sheer wantonness as the eye was twisted and broken.

On Sunday afternoon the Y. M. A. of St. Peter's held their monthly debate in their rooms on the following question: "Resolved, that Reciprocity Would Benefit Canada." S. Mussenden, F. Mahoney and W. Harrington spoke in the affirmative, with Mr. Mussenden as the leader, and E. Black, L. Donnelly and W. E. Egan spoke in the negative with Mr. Black as leader. The debate proved to be very intersting and instructive, probably one of the best the association yet enjoyed. After a lengthy argument the judges decided in favor of the negative. C. C. Coughlan, F. Buckley and C. Morgan acted as judges.

Close evenings at 6 o'clock. St. John, N. B., Feb. 19, 1906

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And quite a number have taken advantage of our sale of size 9 boots.

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REMEMBER the liberal discount we offer is on brand new goods only—no shop-worn stock or stickers.
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No Razor Troubles Possible when you own a "Carbo-Magnetic" Razor, because it retains its original keen edge for years —always ready for *instant* use.

Send for Book, "Hints to Shavers" It not only tells the "why" of "Carbo-Magnetic," but tells how to select and care for a razor, and explains fully the essential points that go to make shaving a pleasure.

No Honing; No Grinding.

The secret lies in our exclusive method of tempering by electricity, which gives a *flint-like hardness*, insuring an absolutely even and perfect temper. No other razor at any price can compare with it.

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Men's Box Calf Boots, Blucher Cut **$3, $4**

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Great Bargains!

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Gentlemen's Linen Collars, Two for 25 Cents, good shapes.
White Shirts, at 48, 65 and 90 Cents each.
A Choice Lot of Derby Ties at 25 Cents each.

WETMORE'S Garden St.

AT THE THEATRES

THE DEVIL'S AUCTION

This year Manager Yale announces the twenty-fourth edition of the Devil's Auction.

The comedy element of the performance has been well taken care of in the engagement of George M. Topack—a very clever comedian and pantomimist, and Miss Leonie Pam, a very clever young singing and dancing comedienne and mimic. Mr. Topack will appear as "Toby" the transformed donkey, and Miss Pam as Janet, the milk-maid.

William H. Lorella, the clever character comedian, will enact the part of Pere Andoche.

Another notable engagement is that of Miss Sadie Stephens, whose statuesque appearance and magnetic singing has already established her as the leading exponent of "heroic boys." Miss Stephens will appear as "Carlos" the shepherd, and in conjunction with the Junoesque Helen A. Gilmore as the Count Fortuno, Miss Edna West as the heroine, Madeline and Marie Ebner as Chrystaline the Fairy Queen, form an unusual quartette of most beautiful women.

There will be three new grand ballets arranged by Monsieur George Mercier, a leading ballet master of Paris, France, all of which are new in idea and costuming.

The Devil's Auction will be the attraction at the Opera House Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday matinee.

ELLIS' COMPANY TONIGHT

Old Nick had no objection whatever to young Nick bringing him a daughter-in-law as popular as Alice Roosevelt. That part of Germany called Cincinnati, Ohio, has turned out several big marriages, notably Miss Zimmerman and her little duke. But the greatest and most popular marriage of all is, the one at the Opera House of the "Rajah." Edward Ellis and his company open tonight in that popular play, and will give it three nights and Wednesday matinee. Thursday night they present "A Strenuous Time," for that night only, as they have to lay off Friday and Saturday nights, owing to the Opera House being previously engaged, but commence again Monday, the 26th, for a two weeks' farewell season. "The Power of Money" will be the first play, followed by several of the latest, and it is not improbable that Mr. Ellis will yield to the many requests and give his masterly rendition of "Sherlock Holmes" before the company return to New York. The house tonight will be packed, if the advance sale of seats is any indication.

STAR COURSE TONIGHT

Edward P. Elliot will be heard in his popular rendition of David Harum at the York Theatre tonight, as the fourth number in the Star Course. There are fully one hundred seats still to be sold, and subscribers who have not yet secured them can do so at the door.

A WOMAN'S FRIEND

Because Ferrozone Brings Good Health It Brings Good Looks, and is Invaluable on This Account.

Many women look old and lose their beauty, not through age, but through disease, ill-health and suffering.

If you don't feel your best, of course you won't look your best; and as long as your blood remains impure, your nerves unsteady, don't expect to feel tiptop.

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Nothing can possibly do you so much lasting good as Ferrozone. It will enable you to go through life with pleasure and assurance, free from sickness and worry. We are quite sure you need Ferrozone, and know it will do you immeasureable good.

Price 50c. per box or six for $2.50, at all dealers or by mail from N. C. Polson & Co., Hartford, Conn., U. S. A., and Kingston, Ont.

FOUND IT NOT SMALLPOX

Acting under instructions from the local board of health, Dr. W. L. Ellis visited Milford on Saturday afternoon to investigate a case of suspected smallpox.

He reported to the board that there was no smallpox, but merely a rash, brought on, he believed, by certain drugs which the suspect had been taking for illness. The man is a French Canadian named Bredau, and he has been working in the lumber woods.

About a week ago there was another smallpox suspect in Kingsville, near Milford. A French Canadian named Thibedeau, also a lumberman, became ill and as there were suspicious points about his sickness the authorities were notified. Dr. Ellis was sent by the board and he diagnosed Thibedeau's illness as chicken pox. The patient has nearly recovered now. Bredau's complaint is not looked upon as at all serious.

The members of the board of health here say that they are uncertain concerning the report that Moore and Carr, the men who worked about a month ago in a Westfield lumber camp, have smallpox at their homes in Clones, Queens county. It is probable that Dr. Fisher, of the provincial board of health, will investigate the matter personally.

In a list of camps mentioned some days ago as being quarantined, was McLaughlin's. It was stated Saturday that there was no quarantine placed on that camp.

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WALL PAPER.

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May 1st, we remove to Robertson, Trites & Co.'s old stand, 83 and 85 Charlotte street.

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