THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 6, 1907.

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BRIGHT HOME TALENT

The Times has urged with some insistence that St. John people should do more to encourage the development of interest in athletic sports, so that her sons should take their proper place in competition in important events, whether national or international. The development of home talent is worth the effort and the encouragement extended.

The like is true in other realms of activity, and it was very gratifying last evening to see the opera house crowded at a benefit performance by local talent for a worthy institution. Very pleasing also was the announcement that it will be repeated for the benefit of the supervised playgrounds.

The young ladies and gentlemen who appeared in the cast of the play, or in the musical specialties, revealed talent of so high an order that a number of them at least would beyond question succeed on the professional stage. It was to be expected that local performers would receive evidences of good-will, but those of last evening received a well deserved ovation. A smaller organization, which recently gave two performances on a smaller stage, in aid of the Every Day Club's playground fund, showed equal merit, the event lacking only the stage settings and the larger opportunity. Clearly St. John is not deficient in dramatic talent.

SITUATION IN INDIA

Yesterday's despatches brought alarmist reports from India. It is said the insurrectionary spirit is spreading, and lawlessness prevails in the disaffected districts in Bengal. Military aid has been summoned to reinforce the police, and the situation is described as serious.

There can be no doubt about the firmness of the British government in dealing with the situation. The determination to maintain order in India was made clear in the recent speech of Mr. John Morley, Secretary of State for India, a speech that provoked widespread comment because it had been supposed Mr. Morley's views were not so decidedly imperialistic. The concluding portion of that famous speech is worth quoting again at this time:—

"I do not intend to make any dogmatic assurances as to the secrets of the future in India. But anybody who takes part in the rule of India, whether as a minister or as a member of the house of commons participating in discussions on the affairs of India—anybody who wants to take fruitful part in such discussion will, if he does his duty, found himself on the position that the British rule will continue, ought to continue, and must continue. There is a school who say that we might wisely walk out of India, and that the Indians would manage their own affairs better than we can. Anybody who pictures to himself the anarchy—the bloody chaos that would follow from such a withdrawal would shrink from any such position. We at all events are bound to take a completely different view. Certainly the government, and I believe certainly this house, in all its partizan groups, are determined that we should face all those mischiefs and difficulties and dangers. We know we are not doing it for our own interests, but for the interest of those millions committed to us, and we should face it with a clear conscience, with sympathy, with kindness, with firmness, with a love of justice, and whether the weather be fair or foul, in a valiant and hopeful spirit."

CIVIL SERVANTS

The Civil Servants' Association of Ottawa, in a memorial asking for an increase in salaries generally, set forth in tabulated form statements to show how the cost of living has increased. Statements of prices, with the names of the authorities for these statements, are given, as well as a schedule showing the increase of wages for skilled and unskilled labor outside of the civil service. The purpose of the data submitted is to prove that while the civil service salaries have remained at a standstill for 40 years wages generally outside the service have increased, and the cost of living has increased about 35 per cent. in the last ten years, with no prospect whatever of it materially decreasing in the future.

Without entering into a discussion of the question whether the civil servants at Ottawa are not well enough paid for the work they perform, it is interesting to read the evidence submitted to show the increased cost of living. An Ottawa paper summarises it as follows:—

"A conservative analysis of the various tables published would indicate an average advance of from 30 to 35 per cent. in the cost of living in Ottawa since 1897. After giving the figures in regard to rent, real estate, food, clothing, fuel, and so forth, an estimate is made of the average weekly expenditure for a family of five living on an income of $750 per year in 1897 and 1907. The most minute details of expenditure are entered into with the result that whereas ten years ago the cost of living was $9.06 per week, it is now $12.17 per week, equal to 34.3 per cent. This does not include clothing or any other expenses than rent, food, light and fuel. The deduction is that the rate of advance is from 30 to 35 per cent. In other words, a family with an income of $750 a year would expend $650 in rent, food, light and fuel, leaving only $100 for clothing and all other necessaries and luxuries. Another example is taken of a family of five with an income of $2,000 a year, whose cost of living has increased from $116 to $148 per month, the estimates being based on the data in the tables presented. This would only leave a margin of $200 for clothing and all other expenditure, exclusive of the four essentials mentioned.

"That the above estimates are conservative is shown by a reference to retail prices as recorded in the schedules. Meat and bacon have increased from 45 to 50 per cent., poultry from 40 to 116 per cent, fish from 30 to 50 per cent, and dairy produce from 20 to 50 per cent. Rentals have increased from 25 to 36 per cent., and in some parts of the city as high as 50 per cent., the average being 36 per cent. Real estate has increased in value 44 per cent. in four years. Board has advanced 25 to 35 per cent."

The same journal adds: "The lengthy schedule showing the increase of wages in all branches of trade and in unskilled labor will be something of a revelation. In several instances it is as much as 100 per cent. The lowest record is 15 per cent, and the average would be from 40 to 45 per cent at least."

There will be no general sympathy for civil servants at Ottawa which does not apply also, and perhaps more strongly to civil servants outside of Ottawa. The Ottawa folk are suspected, not perhaps without some reason, of having very little sympathy for, and regarding themselves as somewhat superior to their poor relations of the outside service. Perhaps an Ottawa civil servant's yearning to be recognized in high social circles has something to do with the cost of living in his case. The question is not one of relative increase as compared with wages in other vocations but of reasonable remuneration for the hours of labor and the service actually performed. If there is to be any comparison, let it first be between the position of the Ottawa civil servant and the civil servant in the outside service.

The Saturday half-holiday will be pretty generally observed in this city for the next two months. So many citizens spend the summer in the country that the half-holiday is much more appreciated than in years before the exodus was so general. Those who still reside in town also appreciate the opportunity to spend a few hours by the shore or in the park, or at some suburban resort. As Wordsworth wrote:—

The world is too much with us, late and soon,
Getting and spending we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

One cannot but regret the wanton destruction of a valuable dog, and the indiscriminate poisoner of dogs deserves punishment. When this much is conceded one may go further and assert that there are too many worthless curs in this city. On Monday afternoon last the writer counted seventeen dogs of all sizes and no particular breed, snarling, yelping, barking and fighting together on Germain street, north of St. James street. The uproar continued for a long time, though now and then interrupted for a few minutes by some irate householder. Not one of these dogs wore a collar. They made the street dangerous for children, as it was in this vicinity a boy was so badly bitten in the face last week that the physician was compelled to put stitches in the wound. It is surely time the authorities took decisive steps to abate the dog nuisance, and reduce the peril of children from the vicious moods of ownerless curs.

The Times publishes today a portion of a letter received from a member of the teaching staff of the North Dakota state normal school, not for the purpose of encouraging young Canadians to leave their own country, but chiefly to show how much our young men are appreciated when they go abroad. The lesson is obvious. If we would keep them at home we must find something for them to do, and pay them for doing it. North Dakota knows what it wants and goes after the thing it needs. While Canada is gathering in some farmers from that state, it is gathering in some very promising young men of education from Canada.

The despatches of late have told of fatal collisions in the Yukon between the forces of the Guggenheims and rival mining interests. An article on another page of today's Times tells of the enormously valuable interests in the Klondike region now controlled by the first named capitalists, one of whom, by the way, is now a United States senator.

Japan has a wheat crop of over a million bushels, and a larger crop of barley than that of last year. With good crops and general business activity the wounds of war will be healed and prosperity prevail in that country of wonderful vitality and resource.

Illustrative of the growth of Canada's trade was the experience recently of Commercial Agent Maclean in Tokio. Walking down the main street he observed several loads of paper bearing the name of a well known Ottawa manufacturer.

A cable from Belfast states that there is grave danger of a general strike in sympathy with that among the ship-laborers.

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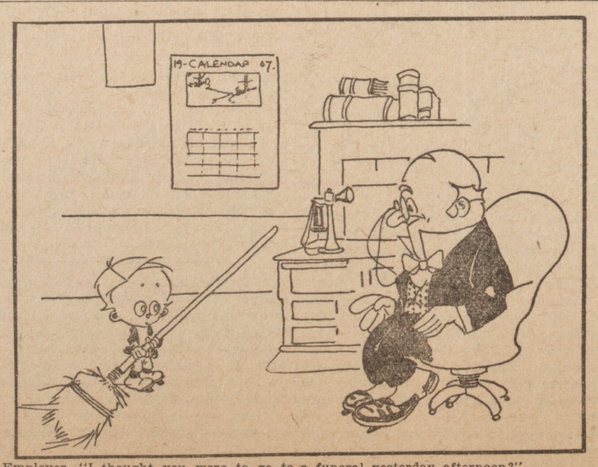
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Employer—"I thought you were to go to a funeral yesterday afternoon?"
Office Boy—"Well, it come pretty close to being one when de umpire give that bum decision in de sixth inning!"

A MEMORY

The fire upon the hearth is low,
And there is stillness everywhere;
Like troubled spirits here and there
The firelight shadows flutter'ing go.
And as the shadows round me creep,
A childish treble breaks the gloom,
And softly from a farther room
Comes, 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'

And somehow with that little prayer,
And that sweet treble in my ears,
My thought goes back to distant years
And lingers with a dear one there;
Again I hear the child's Amen,
My mother's face comes back to me;
Crouched at her side I seem to be,
And mother holds my hand again.

Oh, for an hour in that dear place
Oh, for the peace of that dear time,
Oh, for that childish trust sublime!
Oh, for a glimpse of mother's face!
Yet as the shadows round me creep,
I do not seem to be alone—
Sweet magic of that treble tone—
And 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'

—Eugene Field.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

SHE GOT BUSY.

Boy—My mother bought some slippers last week.

Man—Felt?

Boy—Yep. Three times already.—Denver Post.

* * *

ART ITEM.

Friend (to artist)—Well, were you successful at the salon?

Artist—No, they rejected my picture, the wretches.

Friend—Why?

Artist—How should I know? The oil was bad perhaps.

* * *

ATHLETIC GAMES.

A young fellow, one of a coterie in a cobbler's shop, turned to an old man and asked him if he ever played cricket. The veteran replied:

"Nay, lad, I've never played at nooan o' them athletic games, 'cept dominoes."

* * *

FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE.

Rosenberg, the Clothier—Little Abie found a big roll of bills on der sidevalk?

Mrs. Rosenberg—Vill you advertise der money?

Rosenberg—Vell, I'll put der money in new stock an' advertise der goods!—Puck.

* * *

BREAKING IT GENTLY.

"If you please, ma'am," said the servant from Dublin, "the cat's had chickens."

"Nonsense, Gertrude!" returned the mistress of the house. "You mean kittens. Cats don't have chickens."

"Was them chickens or kittens that master brought home last night?"

"Chickens, of course."

"Well, ma'am, them's what the cat has had."—Liverpool Daily Post.

* * *

TWO OF A KIND.

A certain peasant supplied a baker with three pounds of butter daily, and after some time the baker noticed that the butter never weighed three pounds. At last he summoned him.

"Have you no scales at home?" the Judge asked.

"Yes," said the peasant.

"Have you weights?"

"Yes, but I never weigh the butter with them."

"Why?"

"Because since the baker buys my butter, I buy his bread, and as I always buy three pounds at a time I weigh the butter with the bread."

He was acquitted.

TELLS OF CURES AT SHRINE OF STE. ANNE

Returning after the pilgrimage to the shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, Quebec, about fifty St. John people reached home yesterday. Father Maloney, C. S.S. R., who represented Bishop Casey on the pilgrimage, will not return for a few days, and a few others remained behind the larger body.

Among those going from St. John were: Mrs. Michael Quigg, Miss Andrew Heenan, Miss Annie O'Donnell, Miss McDade, Miss Higgins, Miss Flood, Misses Collier, Miss Heenan, Mrs. Murphy and daughter, Mrs. Trainor and son, Miss Maggie McGerigle and Miss Morgan.

Mrs. Quigg was asked by a Telegraph reporter to say something as to the pilgrimage. She said "There were nearly 1,000 persons at Ste. Anne's, and this was considered a very large number. We arrived at 2 o'clock on Wednesday, and the accommodations at Ste. Anne's were such that the stay was very pleasant. Yesterday morning, at 7 o'clock the St. John party attended service, high mass being celebrated and Father Maloney preaching a sermon."

Asked as to whether she had observed any cures being wrought, Mrs. Quigg said "Yes, there were two cases which I noticed particularly. A woman whose name I do not know, as she was not from St. John, was cured of a bad attack of rheumatism. A man was also cured in a remarkable way, and a man from Apohaqui told me that he had been much benefitted. All did not go expressly to be cured and very few were helpless cripples. I noticed only one of our party with crutches."

LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

At the opera house last evening an amateur dramatic performance, far superior to many professional ones on the same stage, was applauded by an audience that crowded the house and lingered after the curtain fell on the last act to call it up again and give the company one more round of hearty applause. In short it was a dramatic hit of the most pronounced kind.

Some idea of the relative value of criticism may be gathered from the following comments in the morning papers:—

(Daily Telegraph.)

There was no uncertain verdict at the Opera House last evening, as to the success of Caprice, the drama presented by Theodore H. Bird and some of the best amateur talent in the city, in aid of the School for the Deaf. The play was staged and acted in a manner which reflected the greatest credit on Mr. Bird and all those who assisted him. So great was the demand for the seats that it was announced last evening that the performance would be repeated next Wednesday.

(Daily Sun.)

The general opinion among those who attended the performance of Caprice given in aid of the Deaf and Dumb School last night, was that if the parts had been taken by the pupils themselves, it would have been more highly appreciated.

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