

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 5, 1907.

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"UNMORALIZED WEALTH"

The phrase "unmoralized wealth," used by Rev. Dr. Huntington, president of Boston University, in a baccalaureate sermon on Sunday morning last, aptly defines colossal fortunes that are used merely for the selfish gratification of the possessors, or to promote their personal aims and ambitions.

"Unmoralized wealth in great aggregations," said Dr. Huntington, "is not at all hesitant to attempt to control legislation, to buy its way into senate chamber and legislature, and thus trench itself in the very sources of power, making statutes subservient to selfish bidding, making legislators its tools, and so becoming the political dictator in the very midst of our boasted government 'of the people for the people and by the people.' The growth of fortunes of gigantic proportions in America in the last 40 years has been one of the marvels of the period; and consternation is already felt—not simply among the thronging laboring masses, but among thoughtful men who are thinking of the perils that are lurking in the very abundance of national prosperity. It is clear that the multi-millionaire is not exerting a wholesome influence as a social factor. His example is not good in a nation already too much under the spell of avarice. He rarely gives in any fit proportion to his income, and the temptation is overwhelming that he spends extravagantly for merely personal gratification. But it is not only wealth in vast amount in private hands that is an unbalancing and feverish social power, but the wealth of corporations has even greater perils as we look at the bearings of such money power on political well-being."

Dr. Huntington takes care to point out that all corporations and all millionaires are not without an ethical motive in the control and distribution of wealth, but adds that "there have been appalling disclosures of late sufficient to convince any wayfaring man who is not a fool that moral power is not always equal to the awful strain and temptation of measureless wealth; the tendency of the corporation is to beat down rivalry and establish itself in as secure a monopoly as possible."

Recognizing, however, that corporations have come to stay, the speaker sees hope of reform in universal regard for law—the majesty of the state—assuming that laws are made which will "adjust the relations of vast economic money power to individual well-being so that the rights of the poor, the rights of the person over against the corporation, the freedom of individual initiative over against the absorbing movements of great combinations of men, shall be recognized and respected."

In the speaker's opinion the governmental system has not yet solved this problem, and he sets forth the fact in this striking way:—

"An immense fortune towering over a population of working people, a millionaires rising out of a condition of comparative penury where the dwellers in the huts have helped to build the palace, remind one of the feudal conditions, and we wonder whether we have advanced much in social betterment in the last 500 years. We begin to ask whether there is not some serious defect in a governmental order, which permits such mediaeval injustices, inequalities and monopolies to go on, with no remedial agencies strong enough to right the wrongs. Whether it would be possible for the powers of government, state or federal, to reduce by taxation the vast fortunes that are transmitted by inheritance, so that these great, unmanageable lumps shall in some measure revert to the people, remains to be seen."

In the final analysis the whole problem resolves itself into a question of personal and individual responsibility. Dr. Huntington pressed this thought home in the following words:

"The great safeguard against all dangers from wealth in political and in the social spheres is to be found in the righteous use of money. If there is any powerful touchstone for character, it is to be found in money. No better index to a man's character is to be found than in his way of handling his money values, big or little. Some things are not to be put on the market, and those that pertain to the affairs of state, relate men to government, and help to make up that majesty which should clothe the whole being and function of government ought to be among the unpurchasable things—as sacred as is the life and good name of our country. A statute that passes a legislature simply because it has been bribed through is vicious legislation, and likely to make trouble. A lawmaker who helps make that kind of law is first cousin to a traitor."

However difficult it may be to prick the conscience of the man who is under the spell of the money-getting habit, and however dominant in the affairs of the nation the selfish multi-millionaire may be, there is a rising note of protest, voiced by many men of light and leading. Dr. Huntington finds an ally in no less a personage than President Roosevelt, and in every state and in every city eloquent voices plead and denounce, seeking to impress upon the minds of the people a sense of the evils that must follow a continuance of the gross social inequalities of the present time. Therein lies the source of much hope for the future.

The Halifax longshoremen have won in their fight for higher wages. They do not yet receive so much as is paid in St. John.

WAGES AND EFFICIENCY

President Mellen, of the New York, New Haven & Hartford road reports to the stockholders that the demands of organized labor will cost the road about \$800,000 next year in increased wages. He adds: "I regret to say . . . that I am meeting constantly a decreased efficiency with every increase in wages."

If President Mellen's statement is correct, the outlook for railroads is not bright. If the like were true of industrial operations generally in the United States, nothing short of financial disaster could result. There is a continuous demand for higher wages, and if with it went a decreased efficiency, or less careful and painstaking and faithful work by the employees, successful competition would be out of the question. President Mellen makes out a serious, and we may hope, an unfounded charge against wage-earners.

The time has come in the industrial world, with nation competing against nation for business, when the capitalists and the wage earners of any country, instead of being at war, should be working together to strengthen the position of that country as a factor in the world's industrial progress. We are on the eve of great changes. The far east is coming into the field on its own account. One Canadian journal, the Montreal Witness, takes a more serious view of the case than most of us would perhaps be inclined to endorse, but there is food for serious reflection in what it says of the coming struggle between Christendom and the Orient: "All the exclusion laws in the world will not prevent competition between those workers and ours. There is bound to be in the next twenty years such a development of industries in China as will break down all barriers. No protectionism and no unionism will be equal to the situation. We shall have to meet them on equal terms or be beaten. The only way to contend with the orientals will be to excel them in intelligence. Our whole energies should therefore be bent, not on forcing prices to figures that will handicap our country in the race, but on fitting ourselves and our successors for the mighty competition that is before us and them. If we do not wish to be wiped out as full privates, every man among us should prepare to be a commissioned, if not a field officer in the world's service."

Northern new Ontario is at present one of Canada's great regions of adventure. The lure of the silver mines induces men to disregard hardships. We get a suggestion of what is happening in that wilderness from the following paragraph in the Toronto Globe:—"That twelve hundred canoes and three thousand men went up the Montreal River this spring is the estimate of Mr. A. Crawford Craig, formerly of Toronto, but now a silver-seeker in the north country. Mr. Craig said that for days the river was simply dotted with canoes. It was a great prospecting boom, and so far Latchford had been the place to reap the benefit. An instance of how far men have travelled to reach the new silver lands was given by Mr. Craig, when he said that a few days ago he met two Austrians who had come from mining camps in Patagonia, South America, to prospect."

The days of the Oklahoma land rush are recalled by the wild scramble at Regina, Yorkton and Prince Albert for the Doukhobor lands thrown open because these people did not comply with the conditions of settlement. The possibility of such a struggle for land in the Canadian northwest would, not many years ago, have been scouted by the world, and even by most Canadians.

The report of the flying survey of the St. John Valley Railroad route is favorable, although a portion of it presents considerable difficulty from the standpoint of cheap construction. That, in a transcontinental railway, does not count, and the early construction of the line is therefore expected.

The trial in progress at Boise, Idaho, promises to be one of the most sensational in the history of the western states of the union. The charges are startling in their character, and if proven will effectively put a quietus for a time on Socialistic agitation in the United States.

The interstate commerce commission will force Mr. Harriman to answer questions about his railroad operations. If he imagined himself greater than the state and superior to the law the commission will endeavor to deceive him.

A beer license in Woodstock costs a hundred dollars. In St. John it costs a dollar. Woodstock, in civic wisdom, beats St. John a hundred to one.

Henry Maxwell

ST. STEPHEN, N. B., June 5 (Special).—Henry Maxwell, a well known farmer of Old Ridge died at his home in St. Andrews this morning. The deceased sold his farm a few years ago, moving shortly after to the shire town. This spring he was brought to Chipman hospital for an operation, never rallying from the same. He leaves a widow and two sons who are in business in Pennsylvania.

Rev. Alfred Wardrop, vicar of All Saints church, Islington (Eng.), is visiting his cousin, Herbert E. Wardrop, common clerk.

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St. John, N. B., June 5, 1907.

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THE VALIANT

Not for the star-crowned heroes, the men that conquer and slay. But a song for those that bore them, the mothers braver than they. With never a blast of trumpet, with never a surge of cheers, They march to the unseen hazard—pale, patient volunteers. No hate in their hearts to steel them—with love for a circling shield. To the mercy of merciless nature their fragile selves they yield. Now God look down in pity, and temper Thy sternest law. From the field of dread and peril bid Pain his troops withdraw! Then unto her peace triumphant let each spent victor win. Though her life be hushed and trembling—yet, lit from a flame within Is the wan sweet smile of conquest, gained without war's alarms. So not for the star-crowned heroes, the men that conquer and slay, But a song for those that bore them, the mothers braver than they! M. A. DeWolfe Howe, from Woman's Home Companion.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

THE MEAN THING
Miss Oldgirl—Yes, I am single entirely from choice.
Miss Pert—Whose choice?—Philadelphia Record.

THE NEW AILMENT

Hubby—Wife, what makes the baby scream so furiously?
Wife—I think the little dear is suffering from brain storm, dear.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

THEREFORE USELESS.

Borrowell—It doesn't pay to strike a man when he is down.
Harduppe—No; the chances are he hasn't anything, anyhow.—Philadelphia Record.

IT WAS HORRIBLE

Fatigued Philip—Did dat lady t'row boilin water on youse?
Wandering Walter—Worse'n dat, Phil; worse'n dat. It wuz soap-suds.—Cleveland Leader.

OF COURSE NOT

Bacon—Does he recognize the eight-hour law in his business?
Egbert—Oh, my, no! He couldn't. He's a professional chess player!—Yonkers Statesman.

A CUSTOMS JOKE

First Tourist—These customs officials seem to take positive delight in their work.
Second Tourist—Yes, they combine duty and pleasure.—Philadelphia Record.

IT WAS USEFUL

"When do you expect to get that question settled?"
"I don't know that I want it settled," answered Senator Sorghum. "My very best speeches are made on that question."—Washington Star.

RECOGNIZED HER

Fortune Teller—Beware of a short, dark woman with a fierce eye. She is waiting to give you a check.
Victor—(desperately)—No, she ain't. She's waiting to get one from me. That's my wife.—Baltimore American.

HER VIEW MIGHT DIFFER.

"Old Man Pilkinton candidly admits that his wife made him what he is."
"Yes; but, I have noticed that he is always careful to assure himself before admitting it that she isn't present to put in a denial."—Judge.

MORNING LOCALS

A. F. Stewart, assistant chief engineer, and G. G. Ruel, solicitor for the Canadian Northern Railway, returned to the city last evening after a flying survey of the valley route. They report the traffic prospects as excellent. From the exception of a small section of the route between Fredericton and Westfield they found that the line could be constructed at moderate expense. Messrs. Stewart and Ruel have left on their return to Toronto.

Rabbi Rabinowitz has been called to Brooklyn, N. Y., to take charge of the congregation Ahavath Scholom Beth Jacob, South Third street. He lectured there Saturday and Sunday on probation and made such an impression that he was asked to remain and accept the invitation by signing a three years' contract. Dr. Rabinowitz will be greatly missed in this city.

The new Kennebecasis ferry "Premier," was launched yesterday afternoon and it was a joyous crowd that witnessed the event at Clifton. From the dock Hon. Wm. Pugsley congratulated the company on the excellent boat they had furnished. He stated that he was always ready to do all he could for Kings Co., and said that the valley line could cross the river and connect with the I. C. R. at Rothesay. Mrs. Harry Gilbert broke the bottle of champagne over the prow.

F. W. Holt, of this city, has received an interesting letter from his son, Wm. D. Holt, who is draftsman for one of the engineering parties for the G. T. P. in British Columbia. The letter, dated May 23, describes a trip up the Skeena River from Port Essington to Copper River with a party to which he is attached, and who are to start the preliminary survey there. The trip was made on a stern-wheeler owned by the Hudson Bay Co. The current runs from eight to eighteen miles an hour, and the water was boiling around them all the time, but good progress was made. The country is infested with bears, the tracks of which can be seen everywhere. Mr. Holt also sent a copy of the first number of the Sun issued in Port Essington.

According to the Hoopeson, Ill., Herald of June 1st, the Hoopeson Horse-nail Co. (of which Elen Perkins, formerly manager of the Maritime Nail Works here, is manager) has been asked by an English syndicate to locate a plant in England for the manufacture of horse nails under the improved process now in operation in Hoopeson. The English syndicate offers to finance the proposition. The Hoopeson company will take the matter into consideration and may decide to enter the British field. Mr. Perkins is the inventor of the Hoopeson process of manufacturing horse nails and his many St. John friends will be glad to learn that the merit of his invention has been so generally recognized.

Wall Paper.

We still have a good assortment of Wall Papers at 2c., 4c., 6c., 7c., to 20c. Roll. Some old lots have been reduced in price. Lace Curtains, 22c., 50c., 75c., 95c., to \$2.10. White Curtain Muslins—7c., 10c., 12c., 15c., 22c. yard. Blue and Red, 5c., 8c., 10c. Curtain Poles, 25c. and 40c. Hosiery, Gloves, Underwear, Corsets, etc.

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