

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 15, 1907.

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

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Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.
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THE ALBERT TRAGEDY

Little more than a year ago three persons lived together under one roof at New Ireland, Albert County. They were the parish priest, his housekeeper, who was also his relative, and a young man who was hired to work about the place. Today the three are dead. The housekeeper was brutally murdered. The priest, her uncle, soon after died, his death doubtless hastened by the shock of the tragedy. The young man who committed the murder was hanged this morning. The house wherein the three lived together can never be dissociated from the memory and the shadow of a great crime—the tragedy of three human lives.

It is the law of this land that the convicted murderer must pay with his own life the penalty of his crime. There is much controversy in the world today over the question of the right of the state to commit the irrevocable act of thus taking a man's life, and in some communities capital punishment has been abolished. No thoughtful person questions the right of the state to do that which is for the good of its people, even to engagement in war, which costs many lives. The question to be decided in regard to capital punishment is solely that relating to the public welfare. Is the fear of death a deterrent? Do statistics show more or less murders committed in states where the death penalty is not inflicted than in those which destroy the murderer? It is not hatred of the criminal nor a desire for vengeance that prompts the punishment. If the man Collins, ingrate and murderer, had been given his liberty, and his life at some future time should be in jeopardy, even a man who believed him guilty of the murder would risk his own safety to save that crime-stained life. It is only because it is still accepted as true, in the present state of social development, that the death penalty does protect lives which might otherwise be sacrificed to the murderous instincts of ignorant and brutal persons, that this penalty is inflicted.

It is impossible to contemplate the fate of Thomas Collins and his victim without a profound feeling of pity and regret. In our sparsely settled province such tragedies are happily not of frequent occurrence. What may happen when there is a larger population, with a larger proportion of immigrants from the old world, we cannot foresee; but the supremacy of law must be maintained, and sorrow for the criminal must not be permitted to develop into that maudlin sentimentality which forgets the crime in its eagerness to save the criminal from the result of his unbridled passions. All who have regard for the welfare of their fellows regret that juries must convict and judges sentence men for crimes committed; but their deepest source of regret is the sad fact that criminal instincts survive in human society, and are perhaps developed by the failure of society to do its duty to all the units of which it is composed. The early life of Collins, the influences to which he was subjected, the temptations surrounding him, all had their share in the development of a murderer. To make a local application of this truth, how many youths in St. John today are being encouraged by the indifference of society to develop the least desirable side of their nature—and how many criminals of one sort and another have we in the making? It is true that persons with the best opportunities for education and moral culture go wrong—yet how much farther wrong would they go but for the restraining influences of a healthful early environment?

COASTWISE SHIPPING

"Save Our Coastwise Shipping," is the title of a pamphlet received by the Times from Mr. Alex. G. Baillie of Port Hastings, Cape Breton. It is a plea for the amendment of Canada's coastwise navigation laws, and gives specific instances to show the need of reform. This subject has been vigorously discussed by the maritime board of trade, and the need of a change in the law set forth in strong terms. The pamphlet before us says on this point:

"The stage has been reached in regard to the coastwise shipping, and it is not a whit too strong to state that something must be done at once if our valuable coastwise marine is to be saved from total destruction and the business of hundreds of small dealers and tradesmen rescued from ruin, and many mechanics and seamen retained at home. The salvation of our shipping and restoration of our foreign merchant-marine constitute a national duty which no true Canadian should fail to investigate fully. One local captain recently expressed the opinion if nothing was done inside of three years, there would not be one hundred Canadian sailing vessels left in Canadian waters."

These are serious statements, that require serious consideration from the people of Canada. The coastwise business of the country creates much business and provides much work. If it goes to foreign bottoms and a foreign flag the country becomes a loser in the sense that it deprives its own people of employment which should be theirs by right.

SLOW COUNCIL

It is stated that the harbor improvement committee is held up in its work because of the failure of the city council to supply it with a statement of the value of certain properties. The council undertook to supply this information and has failed to do so.

The charge made against the council is a serious one. It has been urged over and over again that the harbor committee prepare its report before parliament meets. It is in the interests of winterport development that this be done. There have been complaints that the committee itself was not as active as the importance of its duties demanded, but now it appears that the city council is at fault.

No city council of recent times has displayed less desire to deal with its work than that now in office. The citizens are taking note of the fact. Whether they will apply the remedy at the next civic elections is a matter of doubt, but there is certainly great provocation.

A Toronto despatch says:—"Hon. Dr. Pyne, the minister of education, still believes that the federal authorities should aid the provinces in their effort to provide technical training schools for their people. The Dominion, he argues, creates a tariff which excludes the manufacture of other countries. It should, therefore, provide facilities for their production in the Dominion." The Dominion surplus could well be devoted in part to the purpose of advancing the cause of technical education.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, speaking in Bristol yesterday, endorsed the All-Red route. In time, no doubt, we shall be told what this phrase means. Perhaps when parliament meets the government will explain. At present everybody is apparently expected to endorse something they do not fully understand. The idea is all right, but the scheme has not yet been submitted.

If, as is expected, Mr. George Robertson should shortly resign his seat in the legislature, the difficulties of the government in the coming session or the elections, whichever comes first, will be somewhat increased. Apparently the premier is still undecided whether to face the house or the province.

It might simplify matters if an official of the public works department at Ottawa remained at this port for a week or two and directed the dredging operations in such a manner as to produce desired results in preparation for winter business.

The effect of the financial depression in the United States has reached Cobalt, and threatens the industry of supplying ores to American smelters. In many ways the slowing down process in the states will be felt to a small extent on this side of the border.

Collins and his spiritual adviser appear to have been in cordial agreement in their estimate of certain newspapers. This was not wholly unexpected.

The high school alumnae reading club had a very pleasant evening's entertainment at Dr. Thomas Walker's residence last night. The programme was in charge of Miss Skinner and Miss Hannah. The opening number was a piano duet by Miss Skinner and Miss Gilchrist. The rest of the numbers were Spanish in their character. Miss Moskowsky gave a Spanish dance. This was followed by a series of short papers descriptive of a tour through Spain by Miss Hannah, Miss B. Foster, Miss Myles, Miss Godfrey and Miss Fotheringham. A piano duet by Misses Gilchrist and Skinner brought the evening to a close.

The United States schooner Jessie Lena, Captain Carter, cleared yesterday for Barbados with a cargo of lumber and cedar shingles.

The C. P. R. steamer Empress of China arrived at Yokohama on Nov. 12.

Stores open till 8 p. m.

St. John, Nov. 15, 1907.

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CONCERNING GOLF

(Westminster Gazette.)
The man who plays a golf must be, I fear, To put it mildly, not a little queer, And if you doubt the truth of what I say, Mark how he spends his so-called holiday! He singles out some wide expanse of shore, Heak hills behind him and the sea before, And sandwiched in between—he knows them well—Some ugly villas and a gaunt hotel, Post in the latter when too dark to play He issues forth at the break of day: Armed with a hydra-headed bag of sticks, His changes and unvaried way he picks With any kindred soul that may be found To share the daily task and common round. He strikes the ball, pursues it, strikes again, How simple, how delightfully insane! He prospers well, his strokes are cleanly hit, But if his chosen weapon misses fire He first grows pensive, then is moved to ire. His nose, too easy temper ill controls And loses patience as he loses holes! "Play one off two," he growls, "that's off the line!" You're fooled your approach, as I did mine. The like of this odd-two used!" he cries, appressed. In language, mark you, like himself diseased! So, too, not only he, but thousands more, On island commons and on every shore Wherever earth has spread her carpet green The vast and selfish army may be seen, Their weapons brandish'd and their voices shrill, Their lives, 'twould seem, depending on their skill! And we who do not thus, who still are sane, What can we do save bitterly complain And sigh, as did the poet in distress For lodges in some godless wilderness!

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AWAKENED.
(London Opinion.)
The Colonel—"Do you believe in dreams?"
Little Jones—"No, I married one!"

THE WRONG STREET.

(Chicago Tribune.)
Amelia—"Herbert, dear, your office is on Orange street, isn't it?"
Herbert—"Yes, why?"
Amelia—"That's what I told papa. He made such a funny mistake about you the other day. He said he'd been looking you up in Brad street."

WHAT HE NEEDED.

(Lippincott's Magazine.)
A very baldheaded man went into the barber shop in the American House in our town and, plumping himself down in the chair, said: "Haircut!"
Ed, the barber, looked at him a moment, and replied: "Why man, you don't need no haircut—that you want is a shine."

DEFINITE.

(New York Times.)
Martha (replying to invitation)—"If any ladies go out then I must stay in; but if they keep in then I can't go out; so it all depends."

BY DEFAULT.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)
"Did your case go by default, Sam?"
"Yassir. De fault ob de jury, yassir."

A BAD PITCH.

(New York Times.)
"The autumn," said Ellen H. Emery, New York's weather forecaster, "is by far our finest American season. Foreigners visiting us should invariably come in the autumn."

Suddenly Mr. Emery smiled.
"I am reminded of an old autumn song," he said. "A thousand leaves are falling, is the way it begins."

"A lady at the church concert rose to sing this song.
"A thousand leaves are falling," she caroled, and then her voice broke into a scream, and she had to stop, for she had pitched the song too high.
"Start her at 500," shouted an auctioneer from the gallery."

A LAWYER'S LUCK.

(Lippincott's.)
A North Carolina lawyer says that when Judge Buxton, of that state, made his first appearance at the bar as a young lawyer, he was given charge, by the state's solicitor, of the prosecution of a man charged with some misdemeanor.

It soon appeared that there was no evidence against the man, but Buxton did his best, and was astonished when the jury brought in a verdict of "guilty."
After the trial one of the jurors tapped the young attorney on the shoulder.
"Buxton," he said, "we didn't think the fellow was guilty, but at the same time we didn't like to discourage a young lawyer by acquitting him."

TEMPLE OF HONOR

At the meeting of LaTour Section, No. 3, J. T. of H. & T., held in their hall, Market Place, West End, last evening, S. E. Logan, D. G. W. T., officially visited the section and, after the initiation of two candidates, installed the following officers: Roy MacKenney, P. W. A.; Stanley Humphrey, W. A.; William Maxwell, V. A.; Hunter Parsons, 1st Asst. Governor; Arthur Estabrooks, 2nd; John Belyea, 3rd; Joseph Maxwell, Recorder; Kenneth Carleton, Asst.; Reuben Carleton, Fin. Rec.; Stanley Fitzpatrick, Asst.; Wm. Brown, W. M.; Frank Robson, Asst.; George Craft, L. M.; Charles Callahan, O. P.

The section is in good condition and the boys intend to put in some good work this winter. Occasionally they will have mock trials and debates on various subjects. The grand worthy templar, George T. G. Blewett, will officially visit the section next Thursday evening.

Ottawa, Nov. 14 (Special)—P. McCaskill, head of the provincial detective force of Quebec, who was here attending the trial of the Buckingham strikers, which is going on at Hull, while boarding a street car, fell on his back on the street and was severely injured. He was taken to the hospital and did not recover consciousness for more than an hour. His spine appears to be injured.

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FANCY ODD PIECES for the parlor or reception room.

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