The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 8, 1908

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ATHLETIC SPORTS

The progress that has been made in the last two summers in reviving interest in St. John in clean amateur athletic sports has not been rapid, but some progress has been made. Yesterday afternoon the sports on the Every Day Club grounds were probably as interesting as any held in the provinces this season, outside of championship contests. There was a fine field of competitors, and in no event was there the least evidence of anything but the most friendly rivalry. The visiting athletes were among friends, and were made to feel themselves at home. Despite the fact that because of the weather the sports had to be postponed until afternoon, and there was some uncertainty as to their being held then, there was a fairly large attendance, though very small compared with what is seen at such events in other cities and towns. As a matter of fact, the receipts at the gate were not sufficient to pay for the prizes and the other expenses connected with these sports. The same was true of two series of evening sports held in July. In the face of this evidence of public apathy the Every Day Club has gone on improving its grounds and encouraging the young men and boys to get in training. The past summer has shown a marked increase in interest among the athletes, and another year or two of similar advance should bring this city to the front again as a leader in clean athletic sports, with representatives who would be formidable competitors at all meets in the provinces. Some very promising material is being developed. It is worthy of encouragement. There are many citizens who could do much to promote clean athletic sport by manifesting a little personal interest. Some of the citizens are shocked when they read that fifteen hundred persons gather to see a slugging match. They are not, however, found among the patrons of a higher class of athletic competitions. To the young men and boys who are doing so well on the running track and in the jumping contests, the Times would say a word of encouragement and commendation. "We are not pot-hunters," said one of them yesterday, when told that the club could not afford costly prizes, "we are here for sport." Young men who display that spirit are of the sort that make for good citizenship.

PULP AND PAPER

Paper made in the United States from Canadian pulpwood competes against Canadian made paper. The conditions are set forth in the following from the Toronto News:—

"Figures generally make dull reading, but when the figures concern what is going into and coming out of a man's pocket they assume a different character. It is now pretty well understood that Canada furnishes in the form of pulp and pulpwood a large proportion of the raw material used by United States paper manufacturers. This raw material, which Canada sends out freely to keep United States mills running, turns up later in the form of paper in England to complete with the product of Canadian mills. In other words, Canadians by furnishing the United States with free pulpwood put a club into the hands of a competitor which is used to club them in Canada's best markets. This is the point where the figures come in. If the United States were a good customer for our finished product there would be some reason in giving the country raw material. It would not in itself be good business but it would be giving a favor to one who was giving us good business. But the United States pursues the policy of taking our raw material, selling us as much finished product as it can, and buying no more than it cannot possibly help. In fact, there is no doubt we buy back in the form of finished paper our own raw material which we had kindly furnished to keep United States workmen busy. The United States must feel happy in having such a good neighbor, not to say such an easy mark, on its border. The statistics of five or more years might be quoted, but they would all tell the one story, so the year 1906 may be selected as typical. In that year Canada imported from the United States paper to the value of $2,324,194, while from Great Britain we bought $615,945 worth. Great Britain in the same year bought from us the handsome amount of $1,150,649, and our Australian and New Zealand cousins $534,079. Surely the United States deal with us in equally handsome manner? But, no, the poor United States was so exhausted in selling us goods that all it could buy was $172,590 worth. It sold us $2,324,194 worth and bought $172,590 worth. Great Britain sould us $615,945 worth and took $1,150,649. Thus this generous neighbor of ours is worth to us as a customer only about one-third what Australasia is and about one-seventh what Great Britain is. Even to Newfoundland we in some years sell one-third as much paper as we sell to the whole United States. Canada has the largest supply of paper-making raw material in the world. We have the water-powers, the mechanics and the capital. Is it not about time we kept these benefits for our own citizens?"

OUR BRANCH BANKS

In a review of the Canadian banking system the Shareholder strongly commends the branch bank system, as contrasted with the system prevailing in the United States. We quote:

"On September 1 there were 34 incorporated banks in operation in Canada. These have their head offices and branches distributed throughout the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. The extent of the operations of these 34 banks, which is a very wide one, may be gathered from the fact that they have 1,912 branches in all, of which 1,864 are in Canada, the difference between the latter and the total number of branches being made up of 5 in Newfoundland and 43 elsewhere. During the month of August fifteen new branches were opened and five were closed, making a net gain of ten new branches for the month. Of the fifteen branches opened six were in the province of Quebec, three in Saskatchewan, two in Ontario, two in British Columbia and one each in Alberta and Prince Edward Island. Of those closed two were in the province of Quebec, two in Ontario and one in Porto Rico. It will thus be seen that the opening and closing of branches is a simple matter. If the prospects of opening new branches are good the directors decide the matter, and so also if the prospects which led to the opening of new branches are not realized, then closing is an equally simple matter. The object of opening new branches is to meet the wishes of localities and to obtain deposits which can be utilized in other localities where there is a demand for more circulation. The advantages of the Canadian banking system which allows of the establishment of bank branches wherever an opening presents itself is fully apparent and contrasts favorably with the system prevailing in the United States. When a bank closes there it is wound up and ceases to have an existence, the creditors, including the shareholders, being subjected to loss and inconvenience, whereas under the Canadian system when closed no winding up is called for; the directors simply close the branch and continue their business as if no such branch had ever existed. It will thus be seen that the system of branch banks as we have it in this country suits itself remarkably to the requirements of localities which spring rapidly into existence and have not the means of establishing a bank of their own. Localities have grown up rapidly and will continue to grow. To them the establishment of a branch bank is a great convenience, especially when the capital required to carry it on is furnished by the localities which are able and take advantage of the opportunities for safe investment which bank stocks invite and furnish."

The Montreal Gazette says:—"Professor Ridgeway, before the British Association at Dublin, declared that 'no attempt to eradicate the tendency to imbibe alcohol in northern latitudes could succeed, because the usual love of strong drink there was not the mere outcome of desires, but of climatic law.' It may be scientific treason to say that a professor and a member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science may make a mistake. Still, in northern latitudes many men do eradicate the tendency to imbibe alcohol. The noble army of teetotallers lives largely within the winter snow belt."

The Ottawa Journal says: "Mr. Bourassa is reported as having said that he will take no part in the Dominion election campaign. That is as may be. The responsibility of his quasi-leadership of opposition in the Quebec Legislature may have given him already something of that accuracy of poise which is one of the things he lacks, but if anything that offers an opening for a born fighting man happens anywhere in his neighborhood when the federal party leaders are settling their differences, it will probably not take Bourassa long to peel off his coat."

The Toronto News says: "Mayor Oliver will represent the city at the Playgrounds Convention in New York. There are few questions more important to civic municipalities than the care of children. Boys who have an opportunity for healthy play are not so likely to run into evil courses."

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ALIEN.

When twilight comes,
And all the fluffy, twittering birds are cuddled in their homes,
I wonder if the cuckoo's child
Feels strange among the rest,
And longs for her own mother's wing in her own mother's nest.
When midnight falls
Upon the glooming branches which flank the forest walls,
I think the baby owl who tries
To flutter helpless wings
Must tremble at those other nests so filled with sleeping things.

When morning breaks
And all the radiant summer world of tree and hilltop wakes,
I know that where the tiny roads
Beneath the grass-roots run,
A little eyeless mole is sick with longing for the sun.
—Pemberton Ginther in Lippincott's.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

A FEMININE VIEW.

"One-half of the world doesn't know how the other half lives," observed the moralizer.
"How provoking!" exclaimed Mrs. Gossyp.—Lippincott's.

THE MAN WHO GIVES ADVICE.

"You wants to look out foh de man dat's always givin' advice," said Uncle Eben. "De chances are dat he's one o' dese folks dat likes to watch experiments while some one else takes all de risk."—Washington Star.

WHY?

A certain spinster was being condoled with because she had no husband. "Why," she said, "I don't need a husband. I'm just as well off. You see, I have a dog and he growls; I have a parrot and he swears; I have a cat and she stays out nights. Now, why should I get married?"—Lippincott's Magazine.

BLAMED ON PROHIBITION.

The sea serpent had neglected to make his annual appearance.
"It's nothing but this prohibition," he grumbled. "It's put me out of business."—Philadelphia Ledger.

DARWIN SUSTAINED.

"I give in," said the anti-Darwinist. "We're related to the lower animals all right."
"What changed your mind?"
"Fellow over in New York who ate fifty ears of corn at a sitting."—Philadelphia Ledger.

IMPROVING THE WATERWAY.

On board one of the Scottish steamers, which have been built with exceedingly light draft to get over the frequent shallows of one of the rivers in Scotland, a Yankee tourist remarked to the captain, a shrewd old Scotchman:
"I guess, skipper, that you think nothing of steaming across a meadow when there has been a heavy fall of dew."
"That's so," replied the captain, "though occasionally we hae tae send a man ahead wi' a watering can."—Tit Bits.

A GENEROUS CONCESSION.

(New Orleans Times-Democrat.)

"Gents," said the bookkeeper on Labor Day, "I approached the boss last week and said humbly: 'Sir, I have been in your employ now six years, sir. I have worked diligently, and have taken the liveliest interest in the welfare of the firm. My salary, however—'
"The boss patted me on the shoulder and smiled in a kindly fashion.
"'Have no fear, James,' he interrupted; 'if you continue to do your duty faithfully your salary will not be reduced.'"

HISTORICAL REVIEW

(Victoria Colonist.)

In Halifax on August 19th there was unveiled in the Province Building a tablet commemorative of the establishment of representative government in Nova Scotia a century and a half ago. This anniversary is of more than usual interest. We are accustomed to speak of the claim of self-governing dominions, with which Britain has girdled the world, and it is worth remembering that it was in Halifax in the year 1758 that the first of these was established. It ought not to be forgotten that the eastern province has proved itself true to the British principles of self-government, which found expression in the legislative body then established, for Nova Scotia has always been true to the heritage of constitutional liberty. It was there that the fight for Responsible Government was waged with the greatest keenness, but always along constitutional lines, wherein the provinces of old Canada exhibited a marked difference. It may be mentioned that the early settlers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick showed a resolute determination to maintain the right of self-government. The first important debate in the New Brunswick legislature took place in the year 1786, if our memory serves as to the year in which the first legislature met, and the subject was the pay of members. In the course of this debate the whole subject of representative government was discussed, and several long resolutions were tabled. In the end those who stood for the representative nature of the legislature triumphed. Nova Scotia led the way in the demand for Responsible Government, but it may be mentioned that as then understood it did not imply party government, as most people seem now to think it does.

A TRIAL IN ABERDEEN.

A Scotchman stood beside the bed of his dying wife, and in tearful accents asked was there anything he could do for her.
"Yes, Sandie," she said; "I'm hoping you'll bury me in Craeburn kirkyard."
"But, my lass," he cried, "only think of the awful expense! Would ye no be comfortable here in Aberdeen?"
"No, Sandie," I'd no rest in my grave unless I were buried in Craeburn."
"It's too much you're askin'," said the loving husband, "and I cannot promise ye ony such thing."
"Then, Sandie, I'll no give you ony peace until my bones are at rest in my native parish."
"Ah, weel, Maggie," said he, "I'll just gie ye a three months' trial in Aberdeen, an' see how ye get along."

THE WISE 'POSSUM.

De trouble 'bout de 'possum,
De 'possum up de tree,
He sleep wid one eye open,
An' he got dat eye on me!

I tell him "You ketch col' suh,
A-stayin' out all night,
Better come ter my house
Whar de fire burnin' bright."

"Ef I go down ter yo' house,"
He say—an' wink his eye,
You'll put me on de fire,
An' laugh ter see me fry!"
—Atlanta Constitution.

DAD'S FAILURES.

(Chicago News.)

An ambitious politician who has at various times been a candidate for public office has a son, a lad of eight, who, meditating upon the uncertainties of kingly existence, at last asked his mother:—
"If the King of England should die, who would be king?"
"The Prince of Wales."
"And if he should die, who would be king?"
His mother turned the question off in some way, when the boy, with a deep breath, said:—
"Well, anyway, I hope pa won't try for it."

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