

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 21, 1908

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No deals!

"The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwined, The Maple Leaf forever."

THE DEGENERATES

Students of social degeneracy will find in the Extell family an interesting subject. It appears that this family drifted to St. John some years ago, and almost immediately became to some extent a burden upon the public. More children were born, but no provision was made for their sustenance. As the family increased, there was a corresponding increase in the responsibility thrust upon the community which maintained them. Dependence upon the aid of some one of the churches, along with begging by smaller members of the family, kept the family together in some sort of way. They appear to have displayed a fine catholicity of spirit in dealing with the churches. They were willing to accept aid from any. No doubt some money was earned from time to time, but there was a general thriftlessness which prevented any improvement in their condition. The sequel is told in a morning paper. The father has been sent to the Provincial Hospital for Nervous Diseases, two of the boys have been sent to the reformatory, and the mother and six small children to the Municipal Home. Some day, society, in its own defence, will be compelled to take measures to prevent marriages which produce such results as this. It is stated that there are in this city a number of families not much better equipped, mentally or otherwise, for the battle of life than the Extell family. The problem is a very serious one, and society is extremely unwise to regard it with indifference.

NEEDED OBSTRUCTION

"In spite of obstruction," says a local government organ, "the government (at Ottawa) did splendid work."

To the uninformed reader this statement would present the picture of a zealous and patriotic government endeavoring to advance the interests of the country, while a diabolical opposition amused itself and wronged the people by grossly obstructive tactics.

It is not so declared by the record. The opposition during the session which has just closed did greater service than oppositions ordinarily do, not only in forcing the government to modify some of its projected legislation, as the elections bill, but in turning the limelight upon transactions which reveal the government in its true light as the friend of the grafters. The lands deals, the scandals in the marine and militia departments, the Quebec bridge, and other matters fresh in the public mind, tell the story. The opposition has its weaknesses and its faults, but they are largely excused in view of the diligence with which its duties have been performed, and especially in contrast with the sins of the government. That Canada is a great and growing country does not warrant gross extravagance, or a policy which enriches government favorites at the expense of the public.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES

The question of co-operative stores has excited considerable interest of late in commercial circles, and an effort to make it the subject of legislation was defeated in the senate. The view of it that is taken by mercantile firms generally is no doubt fairly stated by the Montreal Shareholder. We quote:

"We believe that the senate, which is not influenced by a desire to pander for votes to any society or body of men, has done wisely in rejecting the co-operative Companies' bill, which had been previously passed by the house of commons. Co-operative companies prevail in Great Britain and elsewhere, and have been

found to work satisfactorily. They have been tried in this country and have proved to be complete failures, their methods of operation having been found unsuited to this country, notwithstanding the fact that the circumstances under which they were started were of the most encouraging. The management was entrusted to men from Great Britain skilled in their operation, but after a short trial bankruptcy was the result. Their introduction at this time would act as a disturbing factor to the business of this country, and, useful as they might possibly be made to those who were directly interested in their operation, the general effect would be injurious to those who had already established themselves in similar branches of trade. Men who have been induced to invest their cash, their credit and their reputations in the establishment and conduct of the business in which they are engaged are entitled to some consideration, and should not be driven to the wall by establishments conducted on principles which fail to meet the approval of the experienced business man, as Canada's experience in the past has shown."

The mayor of one of our provincial towns, says the Maritime Merchant, calls the attention of the citizens to the matter of keeping the streets and sidewalks clean. "If every individual would exercise ordinary care in the matter of throwing rubbish and scraps of paper on the street," says the mayor, "every other citizen would reap the benefit in the better appearance of the whole town at a season when we are visited by strangers upon whom we wish to make good impression." The last point, says the Merchant, is a very important one, for certainly we ought to put our best foot forward if we have many strangers among us. There is no reason in the world why we should not have a reputation of neatness and tidiness, to achieve which need not cost a cent of money, but only a little thought and care.

The popularity of the Imperial preference idea extends, says the Toronto News, Australia proposes to take advantage of Canada's standing offer of mutual trade concessions. The South African federation movement makes towards similar commercial arrangements with the other States of the Empire. Great Britain herself seems to be progressing towards the adoption of a measure of fiscal reform, including a preference to the colonies. And now the Barbadoes in the West Indies offer the people of the Dominion a twenty per cent. reduction in the duties on many of our products in return for a material cut in the import duty on sugar.

Lord Cromer is said to have startled the British House of Lords last evening by predicting that a European conflict would probably be forced upon Great Britain before many years. His lordship did not give any more definite reason for his belief than that the adoption of the old age pensions bill would involve a policy of protection, and widen the breach between Great Britain and other countries. There are many, and the number is increasing, who believe that Great Britain has more to gain than lose by adopting a protective policy, associated with imperial preference.

A Montreal despatch to the Sun quotes Dr. Pugsley as saying that the plans and specifications for the new wharf to be built by the government in Rodney ship have been completed, and that tenders will be called for in the very near future and the work undertaken without delay. This will doubtless be accepted as another evidence that the elections will be held this year, which is also the view expressed by Senator King and Dr. Daniel M.P.

When the printers in the government bureau at Ottawa declined to pay excessive dues to the International Typographical Union, and seceded from that organization, the government did not agree to become a collecting agency for the union. The men continued at work. It was not a matter with which the government could fairly be asked to deal.

The Victoria Colonist says:—"An Ottawa correspondent says signs are multiplying to show that the general elections are imminent. British Columbia is ready. Of all the provinces of the Dominion, none is better prepared to do its duty and give practical effect to the opinion that 'It is time for a change.'"

The report that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will run in Toronto is denied. The denial does not come with the shock of a great surprise. Sir Wilfrid would be very unwise to run in Toronto.

If the harvest excursions should have the effect of making room for ladies on the King Square benches the result would not be regarded as wholly unsatisfactory.

Speaking of free trade as it is in England, it is announced that the embargo on Canadian cattle will not be removed.

"I'll trouble you for another" dose, please," said an experienced boarder, passing his teacup. "But this is your 4th," remonstrated his landlady. "I know," was the reply. "My doctor has advised me to drink plenty of warm water."

Stores close at 6 p.m.

St. John, July 21, 1908.

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THE JOY OF LIFE

It wakes in the throat of the woodland bird
In the rose-bush of the morning
It gleams in the gold of the following wheat
And the tawny pride of the corn;
It follows the feet of beauty and love,
It stirs in the strength of the strong;
And its light leaps up on the tramping field
Where brave battles with wrong;
It sings through each dead that is nobly done
But sweetest, most undecorated,
It shines to the world in the world-old way
From the face of each little child.

—The Outlook.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

TOOT, TOOT!

A woman in the train entering Grand Rapids, asked the conductor how long the cars stopped at the Union Station.
He replied: "Madam, we stop just four minutes, from two to two, to two two."
The woman turned to her companion and said: "I wonder if he thinks he's the whistle on the engine?" —Outdoor Life.

OTHERS KEEP OUT.

A cat belonging to Mrs. Jones had caused great annoyance to the small boys of the neighborhood by killing some of their pets, so they decided to set a trap for it. Dwight, a little boy of seven, with a very tender heart, was much afraid of the innocent cat would suffer, so printed the following notice and placed it on the trap:
"This is for Jones's cat only." —Delineator.

AN ASTUTE MAN.

"You saw a great many paintings while you were abroad last year?"
"I did," answered Mr. Grafton Grabb.
"What brings you back?"
"The old masters did not become rich."
"That's what I'm telling my boy, who wants to study art instead of helping me run the ward. There's more money any day in being a new boss than an old master." —Washington Star.

IT WAS A STEADY JOB.

A lady philanthropist was applied to for charity by a well-dressed woman.
"Are you married?" was the question.
"Yes."
"What is your husband?"
"Out of work."
"But what is he when he is in work?" asked the philanthropist.
"You don't understand, miss," was the reply. "He's a regular out-of-work." —London Chronicle.

HOME MISSION FIELD.

A certain Sunday school class in Philadelphia consists for the most part of youngsters who live in the poorest districts of the city. One Sunday the teacher told the class about Cain and Abel, and the following week she turned Jimmie, a diminutive lad, who, however, had not been present the previous session.
"Jimmie," she said, "I want you to tell me who killed Abel."
"Ain't no use askin' me, teacher," replied Jimmie. "I didn't even know he was dead." —Harper's Weekly.

FORCE OF HABIT.

Touched by his sad story, a Harrisburg woman recently furnished a meal to a melancholy-looking hobo who had applied there for the back door.
"Why do you look out the middle finger of your left hand so straight while you are eating?" asked a compassionate woman.
"Was it ever broken?"
"No, mum," answered the hobo, with a smile. "But during my halcyon days I snuffed a diamond ring on that finger, and old habits are hard to break, mum." —Harper's Weekly.

THE CANNY SCOT.

A Scotchman, wishing to know his fate at once, telegraphed a proposal of marriage to the lady of his choice. After spending the entire day at the telegraph office, he was finally rewarded, late in the evening, by an affirmative answer.
"If I were you," suggested the operator, when he delivered the message, "I'd think twice before I'd marry a girl that kept me waiting all day for my answer."
"Na, na," retorted the Scot. "The lass who waits for the night rates is the lass for me." —Everybody's.

NEW DESIGNS FOR SUMMER CURTAINS

While lace curtains are being used to some extent the artistic printed linens and lightweight fabrics are most in vogue this season. The lightweight, grass cloth is a very attractive material, while madras and the plain and printed linens fill a long-felt need of the small apartment housekeeper. These fabrics are not so expensive as are the lace curtains, and they are decidedly more in harmony with the furnishings of small rooms.

Very effective and unusual are the mission hangings, so called because of their rough finish. The hems of these are left on the outside, while the edges are left rough. The printed linens which have just come in have cream-colored backgrounds on which the bright floral designs are displayed to fine advantage. In most instances the figures are in soft reds, deep blues, dark greens and are most effective in the conventionalized designs of roses, tulips or lilies, which are not crowded close together.

Not a few of these designs are very elaborate and have charming soft shades worked into the pattern. There is a design in soft green which will harmonize with furniture done in the fumed oak finish; it has a green ground, with large leaves and flowers in soft purple and golden brown.

Many of the newest designs in madras are very quaint and attractive, and they may be bought by the yard and made up at home. It is so much the fashion now to have applique that we find not only heavy curtains trimmed with it, but also the sheer materials trimmed with applique braids.

The casement window obviates many of the difficulties formerly met with in home-building. They are artistic of themselves, and are very easily embellished as well. They should always open inwards, so that fly-screens can be used, for the latter are difficult to adjust when the windows open outwards. They can be more easily washed when opening inwards, but this is quite an advantage. The recessed bay window, with a seat below, is one of the most attractive of the casement windows. Some of these seats have a high wainscot back, and the casements appear seven or eight feet above the floor. At this height they let in the light, but are not of much use otherwise. For this reason they may be used with good effect in a room whose outlook is not especially attractive. This kind of casement also gives an opportunity for using leaded glass.

Windows of this sort may be curtained in several very good ways; a sash curtain can be hung on a rod, made expressly for the casement window. It is securely fastened at one side, and has at the other end a rough rubber disk, making it unnecessary to take the curtains down every time the window is washed. As shades are not used with these windows, the curtains should be wide enough to cover the window entirely when drawn; these can be drawn aside in the daytime. The plain, solid color curtains in the deep shades can sometimes be found among the oriental fabrics, and these hold their colors in a way which no domestic material seems capable of doing. Some of the flowered muslins are very good for the casement windows, only one must be careful to get good designs and quality, as there are many poor fabrics in goods of this class.

BEATRICE CAREY.

Professor Stone—"To the geologist a thousand years or so are not counted as any time at all." Man in the audience—"Dear me, and to think I made a temporary loan of two pounds to a man who holds such views!"

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