The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 14, 1908.

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

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Honesty in public life.
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.

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A LIVE QUESTION

A citizen who is opposed to prohibition on the ground of personal liberty suggests that if a crusade were inaugurated against spurious liquors, which are freely sold, many of the more objectionable class of saloons would be put out of business. He sees no reason why a government officer should not regularly visit the saloons, armed with full authority, and select bottles of various kinds of liquor for analysis. In his view, much if not most of the evil of present day drinking is due to the poisonous liquid sold under false names. The law against impure foods is operative,—why not a law against liquor falsely labelled? This citizen asserts that though opposed to prohibition he and many of like mind would hold up both hands in favor of pure liquor.

It is perfectly true that much liquor sold, even in St. John, is not what it purports to be, and the liquor sent to Scott Act counties is always of the cheapest and vilest quality. A gentleman who was thoroughly familiar with the liquor business—indeed was connected with it—expressed similar views to this paper not long since. He would have a rigid supervision of licensed saloons, which should be conducted by men who would not stoop to the pracises of the unscrupulous dealer. His idea was to refuse license to the latter class, and make the business respectable. He added the significant statement that with a supply of alcohol and certain other ingredients he could produce all the various kinds of liquor sold by dishonest dealers as real brandy, Scotch or Irish whiskey or other well know drinks.

It is admitted by both of these gentlemen, both opposed to prohibition, that the liquor business has so degenerated that only the most drastic measures can restore it even to the status it held in former years. In this they agree with a leading New York dealer, whose statement was quoted in the papers last week. He said the business must be separated from vice and vicious developments or it is doomed.

The question, and it is one with which the people of this city will soon be confronted, is whether it is worth while to try to transfer the traffic to safer hands and have it conducted under more exacting conditions, or place upon it once for all the stamp of illegality.

The Times has been censured in some quarters for devoting any attention to this question, but it is the business of a newspaper to take note of what is going on, and he must be blind indeed who does not see that this province is moving rapidly toward such an agitation and conflict as it has not seen since the Scott Act campaign of a number of years ago. It would be extremely foolish to attempt to belittle the growth of sentiment, or the activity of the Temperance Federation. There is an issue to be faced, and that at an early day.

THE SCHOOLS

The school board is continually pressed by the problem of overcrowded schools. The city council turned down the proposition to have a new building erected on the Weldon Lot, on the ground that the proposed expenditure was too great. But this did not lessen the crush in the schools. Supt. Bridges reminded the board last night that for four years he had been submitting reports on the overcrowded state of the buildings, and the evil had been steadily growing. Today in a room that should only contain fifty children there are more than sixty. The community cannot afford to permit this condition of affairs to continue. It is true that the city debt is large and that the city finances are in rather bad shape; but the state of the schools is a primary obligation of such universal importance that the people must stand behind the board in its efforts to provide sufficient accommodation for all the children of school age.

BACK TO THE FARM

"Return to the farm, return to the old, honorable and noble work of tilling the soil, and forget the glamor of the city." Such, says a Picton, Ont., despatch, was the plea made by Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture for the dominion, in addressing the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association. at its thirty-first annual convention. Mr. Fisher dwelt upon the changed conditions of farming in Canada, and pointed out that the drudgery is rapidly being replaced by scientific farming. We quote:—

"But," the speaker said, "old conditions are passing. Canadian farming is getting more attention from your government than any other branch of industry. More is done for it in the way of experiment and free instruction than for any other. What was once the drudgery of the soil is becoming the science of the soil. Today, who is the man who is outrunning his competitors in industry but the farmer, who takes advantage of what the world is learning about seeds and soils and seasons, or who, perhaps, is a graduate of one of our agricultural colleges? The transition of agriculture into a profession is near at hand. I appeal to you, my hearers, remain farmers. To you who fain would give it up to live, perhaps, you think, more easily in town or city, stay in the country. To you who are educating your son or daughter at the city college, train him or her for this old yet new profession; bring them back to the farm."

There is much profitable suggestion in these remarks. There is still too great a tendency to regard urban life as more to be desired than life on the farm. The best service successful farmers can do for their country is to develop in their own communities a spirit of local pride in progressive farming, and of such accessories in educational and social advantages as will counteract the feeling that life offers too little to the man who stays on the farm. The successful farmer is the most independent and should be one of the happiest men, and his children may be reared under conditions most favorable for the development of what is best in their natures, undisturbed by the temptations and the pitfalls of the town.

The Potential Riches of British Columbia is the title of a handsome book just received. It contains a series of prize essays on the resources and possibilities of the province, and the means to be adopted for its further development. The production of these essays and their publication is due to the initiative of Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, who is said by the Vancouver Province to have done, perhaps, more than any other private individual to advertise the province. Among the essayists whose articles are printed in this book are ex-Governor Mackintosh, Agnes Deans Cameron, George Elley, J. B. Clearihue, Rosalind Watson Young, and L. V. Makovski. They discuss the subject from every standpoint, and the book is an admirable compilation that should be of much benefit to the province.

Of the state of trade in the United States, Bradstreet's says:—"Financial affairs show further marked improvement and money is more plentiful and easier to obtain, but the gain in trade and industry proper is still largely one of sentiment, because business is quiet the country over, railway earnings and bank clearings are below a year ago, collections are slow, though better than a month ago, and industry is ,as a whole, on short time, with the larger centres reporting a great number of unemployed. In trade lines the general report is one of backward business."

In relation to hockey and other sports one would like to feel that the organizations in various provincial towns were more jealous of their reputation for clean amateur sport than for victory on the ice or in the field. Such a feeling is not encouraged by the present unseemly wrangle among the hockey players of New Brunswick.

Why all this pother in the provincial government press about Mr. Flemming of Carleton county? Mr. Flemming challenged Premier Robinson to make good his charge that the former was guilty of what practically amounts to falsehood. The premier declined to accept the challenge. Who is afraid?

When respect for law becomes more general in this province there will not be such divisions in communities as mark the progress of Scott Act enforcement. The time will come when the violator of a liquor law will take his place in public estimation beside all other law-breakers.

Two horrible and real tragedies in theatres in two days should make the public generally more cautious about crowding places of amusement where there are possibilites of such events as those recorded today and yesterday.

It is estimated that concrete wharves will cost two and a half times as much as those constructed of timber. They will certainly cost as much as a government particularly friendly to contractors will permit.

There is a measure of consolation to the relatives of the late Mr. George V. McInerney, in their great grief, in the consciousness that he was deservedly held in so high esteem by friends throughout Canada.

With the G. T. P. officials inspecting the Central Railway, the St. John patronage committee getting busy again, and Hon. Dr. Pugsley expected in the city, the reader of signs and portents finds food for contemplation.

Mr. Lewis, M. P., wants the senate reformed or abolished. Many others want it reformed, but its abolition would be a radical step which the country would probably refuse to take.

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A. B. WETMORE, LOW PRICES 59 Garden St.

THE GRAVE

(London Academy.)

"How many guests this house receives!"
Said I, with wondering mind:
"As if in dream these children go
In by that hospitable door which leaves
Not one refused behind.

"Its windows glimmer clear and cold,
Lightless and comfortless;
Untended in its garden grow
Darnel and brier, and gnarled and old
Yew trees and cypresses.

"But plain it is to see how full
Of joy these children are.
Did ever yet so bright a hue
Burn clear in cheeks so beautiful
Or eyes outshine a star?

"And yet what tears each mother showers!
How lamentable a cry
Breaks from the heart when each hath passed
Into those still and shadowy bowers
Whence cometh no reply!

"Yet never saw I calmer night
Than arches o'er their peace;
Starless and still the dark leaves hang
Where sings the sad bird out of sight
Beauteous in loneliness . . . ."

Dark stool that house; solitary
Rose its unechoing wall;
Faint with faint hope Love seemed to cry,
Out of its vast obscurity;
Love's—else no voice at all.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

TOO MUCH MUSCLE.

The office boy was discharged. The mother sought his former employer and made the objection: "I'd like to know why you discharged my son. You advertised for a strong boy. Isn't he strong enough?"

"O'h, he's strong enough, madam," was the reply of the business man; "indeed, the whole trouble is that he's a little too strong. Since he's been here he's broken all the rules of the office and a great deal of the furniture."

LONG LIVES AND SHORT.

The average life of the mosquito is three days. Toads usually live to the age of about 15 years, while carp have been known to reach 150. Chickens live from 12 to 15 years, dogs to the age of 10 and occasionally 15, and parrots to extreme age. These birds have been known to pass the age of 200 years. Turtles are also frequently centenarians, as are storks, and elephants are said to reach the age of 300 years.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

"Do you see that girl in the chorus—the fourth one from the right end?"

"Yes, I see her; what of it?"

"Do you notice how she's carrying her spear? It gives her dead away."

"How so?"

"Why, anybody with half an eye can see that she's been a window washer."—Cleveland Leader.

JUST COUNTING

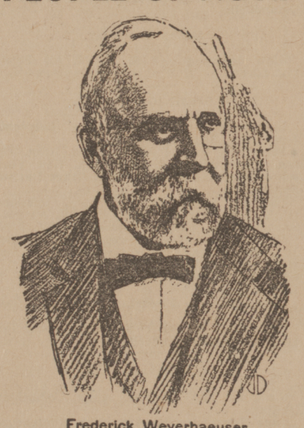
A dentist in Rochester was visited by a native of Dutchess county to be treated for an ulcerated tooth.

"That's a bad tooth," said the man of the forceps, "and I should advise you to spare yourself pain by taking gas, it will be only fifty cents more." And the dentist showed his machine to the doubtful person from Dutchess county, explaining its workings—how he would fall asleep for a minute or two, and then awake with the tooth and pain gone. At last the patient consented and took out his wallet.

"Never mind paying now," said the dentist, patronizingly.

"I wasn't thinking of paying," responded the Dutchess county person. "But I thought that if I was going to sleep I'd like to count my money first."—Harper's Weekly.

PEOPLE OF NOTE



Frederick Weyerhaeuser.

Frederick Weyerhaeuser, called the head of the lumber trust, is an immensely wealthy lumberman who came to this country from Germany in 1852 and who is today the head of the Weyerhaeuser Syndicate which is said to control more square miles of timber lands than any other single power in the United States. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was born in Germany on November 21st. 1834, and when he reached the United States he settled in Pennsylvania. He remained there for six years and in 1856 he removed to Illinois. It was not until 1891 that he went to St. Paul, Minn., to reside. He is married and has a beautiful home in St. Paul.

James Charlton

Death came with startling suddenness to Jas. Charlton Monday evening at his house, 28 Leinster street. He had just finished his supper when he fell to the floor and expired. Mr. Charlton was in his sixty-seventh year and was a much respected employe of the city. He worked as a carpenter for the city for the last twenty years. He leaves his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Frederick Watson, of New Hampshire, also two brothers, Francis, of Welsford, and William in Boston, and one sister, Mrs. Sarah Ann Currey, of Welsford. The funeral will take place on Wednesday at 2.30 p. m.

Coroner Berryman was called to the house after Mr. Charlton was stricken. He believed death was due to heart trouble.

STRAINED EYESIGHT.



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Full Set of Teeth, $4.00

Better than any $5.00 set elsewhere.

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Fine Roses, Carnations, Lilies, Chrysanthemums, Narcissus, Hyacinths, Violets, etc. Splendid Primroses, Hyacinths and other plants in splendid bloom, suitable for Xmas presents. Our Holly is the finest we ever had. Send your orders early.

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OIL GRAIN
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LEATHER LINED
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Laced Boots

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