

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1926

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 3, 1926.

AMENDING THE CHARTER.

The Common Council has decided to ask the Legislature to amend the Commission charter so that the double election for Mayor and Commissioners will be done away with. This proposal will create no wild popular excitement, such as would follow a substantial cut in the tax rate, for example, but it is likely to excite little opposition.

When a modified form of Commission government was introduced here the dual election system was included in the charter, chiefly because it was regarded as a sort of safeguard against the demagogue. It was said that if some candidate whose success might be dangerous to the public interest should be elected Mayor, the Commissioners would be assured of victory, electors supporting other candidates would have a chance to unite upon some one of them, and so bring about the defeat of the man who appeared objectionable. Thus the dual election was set for two weeks after the primary or eliminating election in order to give the people time to think it over, to compare the leading candidates carefully and to make sure which one, or ones, they wanted as Mayor or as Commissioners.

It has been said of the American constitution that it is a system of "checks and balances," and Commission government is marked by some of those elements. In practice it has been found that the high man for Mayor in the primaries usually wins in the final. In fact that has always been the case, though in the case of the Commissioners it has frequently happened that a candidate who appeared very formidable at the first election was beaten at the second.

It has been argued in some quarters that the dual system is unfair to minorities. Perhaps the chief objection to it is that of expense, which many think is not justified by the results. In Saint John's experience since the Commission charter was adopted it would be difficult to point out an instance in which the second election has prevented any calamity or even any injury to the public interest.

The recall provision is in itself a protection against bad actors, and it will remain.

So long as the Council has decided that a little tinkering with the civic election system is in order, it would be well if it would ask at the same time for an improvement in relation to the ballot. There should be an official civic ballot, printed by City Hall and containing the names of all the candidates. Moreover, there should be a uniform system of voting and marking ballots in civic, provincial and federal elections.

As matters stand, the voters are expected to follow a different system in each. In the Dominion elections there is an official ballot and the elector is supposed to make a cross with a black lead pencil opposite his selections. In the civic election candidates provide ballots, and the elector draws a line through the names of the candidates whom he desires to eliminate. In provincial elections there is no official ballot, though one is needed, and the system of marking should be the same in all three. Uniformity would not be difficult to achieve, and it would save a great deal of confusion and avoid many spoiled ballots.

The civic elections come in April, and citizens should already be thinking about candidates, particularly for the mayoralty. It will be recalled that when Commission government was introduced many definite advantages were claimed for the system. One was that owing to the form of government and the class of rulers it would produce, they would not be continually tied down by the routine of their departments, but would be able to devote much time and thought to promoting the city's larger interests, to securing new industries, to be vigilant and active regarding port expansion, to guard against high taxes, and, generally, to be active promoters of the city's growth and prosperity. The people had particularly in mind at the time the likelihood that they would secure a succession of Mayors who would be men of vision and who would afford the type of civic leadership that is so necessary. In some instances we have been fortunate.

Perhaps never in the history of the city was wise and progressive leadership more needed than at the present day. Who is the man for Mayor?

THE LONGEST STRIKE.

Another parley between the mine owners and miners in Pennsylvania has failed to produce peace, and the warring forces have set no date for a resumption of the discussion.

The anthracite strike has now entered its sixth month, and takes rank as the longest in the history of the industry. Two former strikes lasted nearly five and a half months, but the present one establishes a long "stand record, and even if peace were to come within a week or two—and there

is no prospect of that—it would scarcely be possible to have the terms ratified and the mines reopened before March. When work was stopped in August it is probable that few on either side contemplated a struggle lasting throughout the winter. There was a general expectation among the warring elements that the coming of cold weather would cause a tremendous strong public demand for anthracite, and that there would be some form of government intervention leading to a compromise such as that brought about on a former occasion by Governor Pinchot, which gave the miners and the mine operators some more profit and passed the bill along to the consumers. That has not happened. The winter has not been unduly severe, and there was considerable anthracite on hand in the late autumn. Those who formerly used anthracite, if they were not able to buy in a supply early, have turned largely to substitutes, including a considerable amount of fuel from the British mines.

With the back of the winter pretty well broken, it would appear as though the miners and operators had overplayed their hand. That they have done a lasting injury to the anthracite industry is not to be doubted. The public, also, is more resourceful than they supposed.

The British Prime Minister, at the opening of Parliament yesterday, made it known that Great Britain had been obliged to assent to the postponement of the preparatory disarmament conference at Geneva, five nations having asked for delay. It appears that Russia had been invited to take part in the conference, and has not yet made up its mind. Mr. Baldwin regards Russia's participation as a matter of grave importance, saying it is practically impossible for Western Europe to make real progress toward disarmament without the cooperation of the Russians, and, of course, of Japan. Russia to-day maintains the largest standing army in the world, which is necessarily a source of uneasiness to Japan as well as to Poland and other small European nations.

Odds and Ends

Questions

- (L. H. in Manitoba Free Press.)
- Do they ever give away janitors with husbands, and, if so, where?
 - Is there any country in the world where the marriage service contains a reference to the care of fumes?
 - When a man carries out ashes in his dinner coat and wears his oldest suit to the theatre, can you get a divorce for that?
 - Should every man be compelled to attend a certificate of furnace tending at the altar?
 - Is this freedom all it is cracked up to be? Or is it better to be dumped on a winny (and heavily mortgaged) farm with benefit of clergy and a dishpan?
 - When the baby swallows 25 cents worth of stamps, a lump of floor-wax, a piece of laundry soap, the paint off a tin soldier and three-quarters of a wrapper from the tomato can, whom do you call first—the doctor, plumber, or postman?
 - Has the enfranchisement of women bettered their condition? Or were they happier in the days when backbone had to be reinforced with whalebone, skirts with wire wheels and Jole de vivre with eau de Cologne? Why?

A Radio Hoax

(Edmonton Journal.)

There was a time when newspapers lent themselves to putting hoaxes over the public, but they have long since abandoned the practice. The last famous instance of this kind was when the New York Herald printed a story about the escape of all the wild animals in the Central Park menagerie. The whole city was thrown into a state of great commotion before it was explained that it was merely an April fool's joke that had been perpetrated. It is a perverse sense of humor which leads to the circulation of such reports. It was manifested the other day when a man who was doing some broadcasting from Edinburgh sent out a tale of a labor rising in London. The House of Commons, the National Gallery and the Savoy hotel were said to have been blown up and many of the bourgeoisie massacred in St. James park. The indignation that the incident caused was such that nothing of the kind is likely to occur again.

An Invaluable Book

(Boston Transcript.)

J. A. W. has discovered this "Mannequin" Fanny Hurst's \$50,000 prize story. "Mark Delano read a poem out of a priceless edition of Shelley."

Deserving Case

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Lower Flat: "Who is the chap who rings your doorbell so vigorously every morning?"

Upper Flat: "He's a piano tuner, trying to collect a bill."

Lower: "Why don't you pay him?"

Upper: "He ruined the piano so my daughters can't play on it."

Lower: "Send him down to me. I'll pay it."

Just Fun

MANY dangerous rumors start from silly jokes.

A MUSICAL comedy producer is advertising for a chorus of long haired girls. He doesn't want to produce a musical comedy—he wants to start a museum.

MRS.—Does my gown look like it's slipping off my shoulders?

Mr.—No, let's go.

Mrs.—Well, you'll have to wait. It's supposed to look that way.

THE poor idiot who tries to keep up with his rich neighbors we also have with us always.

THE man who wants little here but low usually finds it difficult to get his wife to share his desires.

THE penalty for stealing a woman's heart is worse than a life sentence; it means a life-time of sentences.

A FELLOW in Fairville had the hay fever dreadfully, but he married a grass widow and now he's cured.

COMPANION Wanted, to cook and lift lady.—Ad. in Temple, Tex. Telegram.

RECENTLY triplets came to the home of a family in St. Catharines, Ont. They named them Faith, Hope and Charity. In the order of their arrival. Had they been quadruplets, the fourth probably would have been christened Calanity.

Timely Views On World Topics

"If self government is to endure in the United States the law is looked to be executed, or we will have the rule of force in defiance of the law," warned Federal Judge James H. Wilkerson in a recent address.

"We boast of our free institutions of government and our system of laws designed to secure individual liberty and to protect life and property. 'We call ourselves a free democracy. Yet the time has come when we must answer the questions: What are all these, if they fall in the great ends of government—the administration of justice and protection of individual rights?"

"It is strange that we have lost respect for law? When we speak of something to be avoided if we can, is it strange that we have reached a point where we must deal with the insecurity of life and property as one of the pressing problems of our time?"

"Parole and probation laws have been declared a hindrance to the adequate enforcement of law. I agree that too much weight has been placed on sentimentalism that would treat crime as a disease. But this is merely a manifestation of the basic spirit of disregard for law."

Answering those who say we have too many laws, the judge pointed out:

"Perhaps there are more laws than necessary, but a great number have been made imperative by the modern industrial and social development. The spirit of defiance prevails in regard to the prohibition amendment, averred Judge Wilkerson, and if the law is nullified by inability to enforce it, the effect is the triumph of lawlessness which is felt in the breakdown of other laws relating to protection of life and property. 'If we concede that the right to traffic in intoxicating liquor is being nullified, the rights of freedom of thought and speech, still there is no place among the self-governing people for the doctrine of the tyranny of majorities.'"

"Lawyers must lead the way in the restoration of respect for law."

Other Views

CHICAGO'S CUNNING

(Detroit News.)

It should be obvious, even to Chicago, that the way to regulate the flow of water in the Mississippi is not to drain Lake Michigan and reduce the levels of the Great Lakes, but to impound and hold back and control this volume of flood water in the Mississippi basin itself. Let not the Mississippi valley be taken in by Chicago. She is far less interested in navigating the Mississippi—the natural outlet for her foreign trade, which chiefly with Europe, being the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence waterway—as in using it for a sewer.

FOREIGN TRADE AND DEBTS

(New York Times.)

Our continuous stake in the development of our commerce across the seas

SAILINGS TO Europe

Port of Call	Ship	Agent
Portland-Halifax-Liverpool	Doric	Feb. 22 Mar. 22 Apr. 17
Canada	Mar. 10	
Regina	Apr. 3	
White Star Line		
Baltic	Feb. 18 Mar. 13 Apr. 3	
Doric	Feb. 22 Mar. 17 Apr. 10	
Cedric	Feb. 25 Mar. 20 Apr. 14	
N. Y. Cherbourg-Southampton		
Olympic	Feb. 28 Mar. 23 Apr. 17	
Salestia	Mar. 12 Apr. 7 May 1	
Homeric	Mar. 15 Apr. 10 May 4	
RED STAR LINE		
N. Y. Plymouth-Cherbourg-Antwerp		
Pittsburgh	Feb. 18 Mar. 13 Apr. 3	
Zeeland	Feb. 22 Mar. 17 Apr. 10	
Minneapolis	Feb. 25 Mar. 20 Apr. 14	
Minneapolis	Mar. 12 Apr. 7 May 1	
108 Prince William Street, Saint John, or Local Steamship Agents.		

WHITE STAR LINE CANADIAN SERVICE

Geneva Calling



UNCLE SAM (listening in): "Sure thing! In disarmament I guess I'm always ready to help my neighbor!"

(The United States has accepted the League of Nations' invitation to the preliminary conference on Disarmament. The Republic has itself large plans under consideration for increasing its fighting efficiency.)

—From the News of the World.

Poems That Live

CASABLANCA.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
Whence all but he had fled;
The flame that lit the battle's wreck
Shone round him o'er the dead.

Yet beautiful and bright he stood,
As born to rule the storm—
A creature of heroic blood,
A proud, though child-like form.

The flames rolled on—he would not go
Without his father's word;
That father faint in death below,
His voice no longer heard.

He called aloud: "Say, father, say
If I may I am gone!"
He knew not that the chieftain lay
Unconscious of his son.

"Speak, father!" once again he cried,
"If I may I am gone!"
And both the booming shots replied,
And fast the flames rolled on.

Upon his brow he felt their breath,
And in his waving hair,
And looked from that lone post to death
In still yet brave despair;

And shouted but once more aloud,
"My father! Must I stay?"
While o'er him fast, through sail and shroud,
The writhing fires made way.

They wrapt the ship in splendor wild,
They caught the flag on high,
And streamed above the gallant child
Like banners in the sky.

There came a burst of thunder-sound—
The boy—oh! where was he?
The "little daily dings" that far around
With fragments strewn the sea!

With mast, and helm, and pennon fair,
That well had borne their part;
But the noblest thing which perished there
Was that young faithful heart!

—Mrs. Hemans.

The Best of Advice

BY CLARK KINNAIRD

BALANCING THE SCALES OF HAPPINESS.

WITH most of us it is not so much great sorrows, disease, or death, but rather what John Lubbock calls the "little daily dings" which cloud over the sunshine of life.

How many of the troubles are INSIGNIFICANT in themselves, and might easily be avoided!

How happy home might generally be made but for foolish quarrels, or misunderstandings, as they are aptly named.

WE do not need philosophers to tell us that most of what we are querulous or ill-humored; nor need we, though this is less easy, allow ourselves to be made unhappy by the querulousness of ill-humors of others.

La Bruyere says that "most men spend much of their lives in making the rest miserable." Goethe has expressed the same idea in poetry:

Careworn man has, in all ages,
Sown vanity to reap despair.

It is greater far than any conceivable interest payments which we may temporarily get on the debts which European nations owe to our treasury. Ask any shrewd American engaged in large affairs to put his finger on the chief element of uncertainty in our industrial outlook, and he will point to the export trade. This covers both the products of our soil and mines and the ever-selling output of our standardized manufactures. Without expanding and secure foreign markets, we should be in danger of being forced back to live off our own fat.

FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRECLAY FOR LINING YOUR OWN STOVE

Sold by Hardware Dealers.

Do It Electrically



LET US WIRE YOUR HOME

Think of the enjoyment it will bring to you and your family.

"Electrically at Your Service"

The Webb Electric Co.

80-91 GERMAIN STREET, Phone M. 2162. Res. Phone M. 4094

Twenty Years Ago Today

From Times' Files.

FEBRUARY 3.

THE Telegraph and Sun hockey team, "The Morning Glories," defeated the "Twilights," chosen from the staff of The Times and Globe, by a score of 8-1.

THE sloop yacht "Now Then" of Belyea's Point arrived at Indian-town with a cargo of beef, butter and eggs. She also carried four passengers, and made the trip down in an hour and 35 minutes.

"THE man from Galway," C. R. Devlin, M. P., was in town and spoke on the "Nationalist Party's Activities in Ireland."

ALDERMAN CHRISTIE was reported as resting more comfortably.

Who's Who IN THE DAY'S NEWS

EDWARD N. BROWN.

BEHIND the proposed consolidation of the Rock Island and Frisco railroad lines into a 12,000-mile system, is the guiding hand of Edward N. Brown, a figure in affairs for three decades.

He was born in Barbour county, Alabama, in 1862, and was graduated from the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Auburn, Ala., at the age of 20. After serving as assistant chief engineer of the Georgia Central road, he went to Mexico in 1887 as assistant chief engineer in charge of completing construction on the main line of the old National railroad of Mexico.

Brown succeeded in building 302 miles of the line and in 1888 opened up a through route from the American border to Mexico City.

In recognition of his work Brown was made chief engineer in 1889. From third vice-president in 1890 he rose to president of the National railroad of Mexico and Mexican International railway in 1908. After a merger of all the railways in Mexico had been effected in 1908, Brown became president of the Mexican system.

In 1920 he was made chairman of the board of the Pre Marquette road, one of the lines figuring in the proposed Van Sweringen consolidation, now before the Interstate Commerce Commission for approval.

He is a member of the American Railway Union, and has been president of the board of the Pre Marquette road, one of the lines figuring in the proposed Van Sweringen consolidation, now before the Interstate Commerce Commission for approval.

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Wonderful New Bordered Silk Dress Lengths

These represent the very choicest of new dress fabrics for spring frocks. Crepe Back Satins, Canton Crepe, Tussah Silk and Silk and Wool Moricains—they include the very choicest colorings in brocaded and printed designs. Choose your new dress lengths from these new arrivals. Note the remarkably low prices.

\$3.25, \$5.95, \$6.50, \$11.50

Per Dress Length

F.A. DYKEMAN & CO.

THE SILK HOUSE OF THE MARITIMES

fault may lie with the music, which is really barbarous. Have you any idea who composed it?"

"Yes, madam," replied the other, administering yet more embarrassment. "I did."

How Can You Judge Sight?

No man is a judge of his own Sight. He cannot try out a normal pair of eyes to learn how much easier their action than his own. To say he can read fine print or see things clearly is likewise an impossible test. Because a man may see clearly and yet drain the reserve eye strength—all without knowing it.

The only way and the sure way is to have an Optometrist produce a combination of lenses that show the difference. Then you'll want Glasses. Four in five need them to correct strain as much as to see clear.

Sharpe's

Opp Oak Mall

DOWN WEEKLY

Condensed Annual Statement

	1925	Increase over 1924
New Business issued (Ordinary)	\$ 71,516,357.00	\$ 8,341,1