

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1904.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
Published every Wednesday and Saturday
at \$1.00 a year, in advance, by The Telegraph
Publishing Company, of St. John, a company
incorporated by act of the legislature of New
Brunswick.
B. W. MACDONALD, Editor.
ADVERTISING RATES
Ordinary commercial advertisements taking
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 18, 1904.

ADVICE FROM ROCKEFELLER.
When a man so fabulously rich through
his own efforts as Mr. John D. Rockefeller
takes the trouble to explain to his
sons the reasons for his success, it is not
surprising that the lecture attracts wide
spread attention. In addressing the young
men last Saturday evening, Mr. Rocke-
feller mentioned religion and religious
training rather incidentally, and dwelt at
length upon material success. In looking
back over the milestones along the road
from the position of a country
boy to that of the modern Croesus, Mr.
Rockefeller mentions that when he was
a child he learned to milk a cow.
There is, as he said, nothing very extra-
ordinary in that, but in it there was use-
ful industry in a small way. "Work" is
the secret of success as this billionaire
sees it, and he dwells with pleasure upon
the fact that when he was eight years old
he knew how to drive a horse properly
—regarding the animal's welfare and yet
getting a fair amount of work out of it—
while at eleven, he purchased wood for
his father, knew how much it took to
make a cord and would tell good fire-
wood from bad.
Money came to the boy's hand from
the first. There is in his narrative too
much insistence upon the value of money,
but none too much upon the value of
self-reliance and capacity for hard, honest,
useful work. His father gave him money
to loan. Soon he earned some money of
his own and loaned that. An ex-
tract from the homely story shows
that Mr. Rockefeller is not dis-
posed to forget his humble beginning
or hide the process by which he had the
foundation for the greatest private for-
tune known:
"Among the early experiences that were
helpful to me that I recollect with plea-
sure was one in working a few days
for a neighbor in digging potatoes—a very
enterprising, thrifty farmer, who could
dig a great many potatoes. I was a boy
of perhaps thirteen or fourteen years of
age, and it kept me very busy from morn-
ing until night. It was a 10-hour day.
"And as I was saving these little sums
I soon learned that I could get as much
interest for \$10 loaned at 7 per cent.—the
legal rate in the State of New York at
that time for a year—as I could earn by
digging potatoes ten days. The impression
was gaining ground with me that it was
a good thing to let the money be my slave
and not make myself a slave to money. I
have tried to remember that in every
sense. I think money is a good thing to
have if I know how to use it properly.
I think it is very harmful to many people,
because they do not know how to use it
properly."
He went to school occasionally until he
was sixteen, spent a few months in a com-
mercial college and then sought employ-
ment. He found a situation after consid-
erable difficulty. He kept it for two or
three years and then went into business
for himself, at nineteen. It was at this
point in his story that the rich man gave
the young men some old but invaluable
advice:
"I could not have done for myself bet-
ter than I did for my employer. How I
wish all young men could know that the
way to hold a position is to do just that
thing. They employ young men know-
ing that some young men expect to do
just as little as they can, and are much
troubled all the time that they do not
get an increase in the salary. That does
not make a very permanent relationship
with some business men. They look for
some other to fill the place. I was very
fortunate in my employees, especially the
man who had the accounts in the office,
and under whom I worked as an assistant
bookkeeper for the space of a year and
three months, and then, as he desired to
leave the position it was tendered to me."
He had saved \$800 or \$1000. His father
loaned him a few thousands—at ten per
cent.—and he secured a partner with
\$4,000 more. During their first year they
did a produce commission business of
\$50,000, prospering from the beginning.
The millionaire has, of course, been a
man possessing a marvellously keen judg-
ment in business matters. He gives much
weight to the fact that he could milk a
cow—well when he was seven years old
and drive a horse properly a year or two
later. One naturally wonders if he were
already lending pennies to other children
—at ten per cent.
Mr. Rockefeller's address to the Bible
class appears to have impressed the young

gentlemen considerably. Yet there was
much lacking. The Bible class must have
wondered why the brain which was coun-
ing enough to amass a fortune so
colossal has not devised a plan
to make of that fortune an unprecedented
engine for the amelioration of his fellow
creatures. Mr. Rockefeller is only famous
as the richest man in the world. A higher
fame would be his were he known—and
he might be—as the world's most bene-
ficial citizen. To create wealth so great
requires one kind of wisdom. To work
the greatest good by it requires another
and a higher kind. Mr. Rockefeller's will
may show that he had this kind also.

THE EMPTY SEATS.
Discussing the vacancies in St. John the
Carleton Sentinel, which supports the local
government, says: "For the vacant county
seat the government candidate is likely to
be either C. W. Lee of Simonsville, Lowell
of Lancaster, or Mr. W. A. Quinton. It
is known that Mr. F. M. Anderson has
no desire to again contest the county for
the opposition, but Mr. M. E. Agar, his
running mate in the last election, is said
to be anxious for another try. The seat
for the city is sure to be eagerly sought
by many in both parties. If Mr. W. H.
Frueman desired the nomination it might
be his for the asking, but he is probably
content to stay out of active politics for
a while. The name of Mr. C. N. Skinner
is favorably received, and if he can be in-
duced to run, will probably receive the
nomination. The opposition has plenty of
material from which to make a choice. Mr.
John E. Wilson, Ald. Macrae, ex-
Ald. Baxter, Mr. Wm. Shaw, ex-M. P.,
and even Dr. A. A. Stockton, may be
mentioned as likely men.
"An element of uncertainty exists as to
whether Mr. George Robertson will be
the surveyor-generalship. If he lands
the prize, there will be two seats to strive
for, and consequently a more lively inter-
est will be taken in the outcome. What
ever may be the result when the contests
are fully brought on, the government is
too powerful to be weakened by defeat, or
materially strengthened by victory. The
prospects for government success are fully
as bright as they were in February of
1903, when the whole administration ticket
was triumphantly returned."
This appears to be a fairly ac-
curate summary of the situation
except that the names of several
government men who would be acceptable
candidates in the city are omitted, notably
those of Mr. A. O. Skinner and Allan
Bullock. There is no lack of first class
material on the government side, and some
of the men mentioned by the Sentinel can
scarcely be regarded as in the running. The
administration should carry St. John, city
and county, easily on its record, and its
recognition of St. John's claims in several
important matters, including the coming
exhibition and Champlain celebration may
fairly be regarded as having increased gen-
eral satisfaction here with the govern-
ment's policy.
The opposition has available candidates
enough if its leaders decide to contest the
seats, but some advisers of Mr. Hazen
recently put forward the argument that the
better way to secure favors at the hands
of the government is to name them and
merely threaten to oppose the government
candidates if the favors are not granted.
The value of this course may not be gen-
erally acknowledged but its adoption
would at least relieve the opposition from
entering upon a contest which will look
more and more hopeless as it approaches.

A LOCAL STRIKE QUESTION.
The Telegraph has received from Mr.
Hugh Robinson, of Hamilton (Ont.), gen-
eral organizer of the Journeymen Tailors'
Union of America, a letter signed "The
Executive Committee of Branch No. 167
J. T. U. of A." The communication deals
with the tailors' strike in St. John, to
which reference has been made in the
news columns of the Telegraph. It also
deals with other matters which do not
press for mention now. The letter is not
published this morning because it contains
much not germane to the present question,
because much that is set forth as fact
is not known to be fact, and because in
an attempt to make alienate public support
from the merchant tailors who have
thus far refused to sign the scale of prices
fixed by the union and so unionize their
shops. The Telegraph does not know that
these men who refused to sign the paper
presented to them are not quite as good
citizens as those who deemed it wise to
sign and avoid further trouble.
It is not the purpose to discuss today
the justice of the claims made by the
striking tailors. Men organized to improve
their condition are justified in obtaining
the best wages they can command by legal
means. On the other hand the employer,
who pays the bills and invests the capital,
is entitled to use his own judgment in
matters affecting his business. His stand-
ing in the community is not necessarily
altered because he signs or refuses to sign
an agreement which he may fear the
ultimate effect. The man who employs
others has the right to employ or dis-
charge whom he pleases, and if he believes
that an agreement will bind him to pay
an incompetent or but fairly competent
workman the wages commanded by first-
class men, it is his privilege to withhold
his signature and abide by his own judg-
ment in reference to the employment of
union or non-union men.
It must be assumed that the present
difficulty is susceptible of amicable settle-
ment. The matter of wages is apparently
not the principal question at issue, as the
merchant tailors are understood to be will-
ing to pay the prices asked by the union.
If these merchant tailors simply stand on

the principle that they are not willing to
forfeit the right to exercise their own
judgment as to whom they shall employ,
it will be somewhat difficult to persuade
the public that their position is either un-
justifiable or untenable. The present
strike situation presents the fewer diffi-
culties because the wages which the union
asks for are apparently not regarded by the
employers as excessive, provided they are
permitted to select the men whom they
pay.
MERCHANTS AND UNDER-
WRITERS.
The Toronto branch of the Canadian
Manufacturers' Association has begun a
campaign of publicity against the Toronto
fire underwriters, having failed to induce
the latter to discuss the large increase in
insurance rates which followed the Toron-
to fire. Having been ignored by the un-
derwriters, the manufacturers appeal to
the public. They charge the underwriters
with having failed to keep promises re-
garding lower rates, and that the Toron-
to fire is being made to pay for losses
which the insurance companies have sus-
tained elsewhere.
The manufacturers say that while it is
the duty of the underwriters to recom-
mend improvements in the fire-fighting
equipment, not one recommendation has
been made within the past five years, the
assumption being that either they found
the fire department satisfactory or were
guilty of negligence. They allege that the
system of inspection is unsatisfactory, and
that the recommendations of inspectors are
not taken seriously by either insurance
agents or insured. A careful, scientific
inspection is called for. They speak of
"jockey promises of lower rates."
In speaking of the Canadian business
and what Toronto pays, the manufac-
turers say: "The companies are said to
have been taking out of Toronto annually
the sum of \$1,828,736, to pay profits and
expenses and losses elsewhere. The aver-
age annual loss here being only \$57,921,
while the average annual premium paid by
the city is \$2,100,000. The increase is
stated to mean an annual premium for the
city of \$3,800,000, compared with \$2,100,
000, and means that the city will pay in
insurance in three years \$11,070,000, or
\$1,070,000 in excess of the recent fire loss,
or three times the annual average loss in
the city."
This manifesto of the Toronto manufac-
turers is of interest here at a time when
St. John business men are desirous of
knowing just what decrease in the rate
will follow the projected improvement of
the water system and fire department
which are to give St. John better protec-
tion from fire than it enjoyed before the
rate was raised. Certain improvements
have long been necessary, and the pros-
pect is that they will be effected with as
little delay as possible. When they have
been made why should not the rate fall
below the old level? Like Toronto, St.
John has no desire to pay more insurance
because conditions in other cities are un-
satisfactory, and if costly precautions are
taken the city should reap very fair ad-
vantages from them.

UNWISE TRAVELERS.
Some travelers believe all they hear and
form wildly erroneous conclusions con-
cerning matters of which they have had
no valuable information. British travelers
in Canada are much in the habit of "sizing
up" this vast country after spending a few
weeks or a few days in some small
part of it, and expressing opinions for
which there is no excuse. The New York
Globe has discovered one of these gentle-
men and gives this account of him to an
eager world.
"I don't think Canada is as sincerely
loyal to the mother country as she is so
often cracked up to be," said Rolf W.
Boyle, manager of the Manchester Pottery
Company of Manchester, England, who is
in Canada. Mr. Boyle has just re-
turned from a six weeks' business trip
through the Dominion, and will sail for
home in a few days. "The whole atmos-
phere of Canada seemed to me to be per-
meated with the spirit of revolt against
British ideas," continued Mr. Boyle. "Even
the forms of politics in the country, al-
though they may be English, have their
ideals in America."
"The recent Alaska boundary decision
has certainly not helped to improve mat-
ters. Even at this late day Englishmen
visiting Canada are sure to have the ques-
tion cast up to them. I had to run the
gauntlet repeatedly, and the cross exam-
inations, I assure you, got to be mighty
tiresome."
"The French-Canadian are the most
openly antagonistic or disagreeable, call it
what you like, toward England. They oc-
cupy the same position as the Dutch in the
Cape, and their loyalty would no more
stand the strain of another war, such as
we had with the Boers, than a mosquito
could a ton weight on its back."
Mr. Boyle may or may not be a shrewd
business man, but if he made the state-
ments attributed to him by the Globe, he
has a singular capacity for imbibing un-
founded and wholly false impressions. He
will return to England and express his
foolish views to his circle of acquaintances
with all the authority of a man who has
seen over the whole ground and who
knows whereof he is saying. Yet, save for
the fact that there was and is in this
country much dissatisfaction over the
Alaska boundary decision, there is no
word of truth in any of the assertions he
makes. Great Britain is not likely to have
another war such as that with the Boers,
and Canadians would be glad if the Em-
pire had no more fighting to do, yet were
the sword drawn again in a just cause,
French-Canadians would "stand the
strain" and the mother land would have
the heartiest sympathy and support of all
the people of Canada.
Mr. Boyle doubtless found in Canada a
greater feeling of confidence in the coun-
try and a stronger spirit of Canadianism

than he expected, but when he read in
these hostilely to Britain he misinterpreted
strangely. How he got the idea that
our politics is like that of the Americans
he himself probably could not tell. But he
is sure he knows all about this coun-
try now, and the worst of it is that some
of the people he meets in England may
believe him. In reality his stock-in-trade
is a batch of foolish misconceptions.
IS RUSSIA BEATEN?
The Russians cannot go to Tokio. The
Japanese cannot invade European Russia.
But if Port Arthur and Vladivostok fall,
as they must, and the Russians are driven
beyond Harbin and kept out of Southern
Manchuria despite their efforts to retake
that region, Russia will have been forced
to abandon every port and every foot of
territory over which she either asserted
jurisdiction or usurped control, and of
which her occupation caused the present
struggle. How does it stand today, when
the war is not three months old?
Mr. Gilbert H. Grosvenor, editor of the
National Geographic Magazine, answers
this question with an air of confidence and
authority which will arouse much criticism,
but he also presents some facts in support
of his answer which are difficult to meet.
He states that when the Russians have
lost all the territory south of Harbin—
territory which is really Chinese—they
can never get it back. That they will
lose it he says is absolutely certain. To reconquer it they
must have men, guns and supplies which
they cannot transport to the front. "In a
word," he says, "geography, not history
or Russian might, is going to decide this
war. We have no war in history like this.
It is not a question of history repeating
itself, that is in Russian hands winning
in the end again, it is a question of ge-
ography, of unmountable geographic
conditions. If the Japs were inferior in
science, strategy and courage, the geo-
graphic conditions might be overcome,
but being at least the equals of the
Russians in these respects, the geographic
conditions handicapping the Russians will
inevitably defeat the latter, fight as long
and stubbornly as they may. One thing
more about the Japanese, they have been
preparing for the fight since 1895—nine
years. That is like them—no other people
would have been so patient, so careful and
so foresighted. In our admiration for Rus-
sian grandeur and invincibility in the past
we must not forget that the Russian has
met a different brain, under different con-
ditions. We have no precedent to go by
in the present war, but we have got cer-
tain indisputable geographic facts."
Russia was whipped in the early part
of two wars, by Charles XII of Sweden
and by Napoleon, but in the end she
rained both these famous captains, and
many observers have contended that when
she brings her weight to bear in the present
struggle, Japan must go to the wall.
Very good, says Mr. Grosvenor, but she
cannot bring the weight to bear. Against
Charles XII and Napoleon Russia was
fighting within her own country, but now
her battle-front is 5,000 miles away, in the
midst of millions of people who are al-
ready far from friendly and whom every
Japanese excess moves toward open and
aggressive hostility. The Russians are re-
garded as invaders in all the territory
which is of importance in the present
campaign.
Russia may have 10,000,000 soldiers and
\$150,000,000 at one end of her 5,000 miles
of single track railway, but as they are
at the wrong end of this line the geo-
grapher maintains that they are practic-
ally useless. As he expresses it: "All the
loyal to the mother country, and who every
field as Japan now can.
The London view of Russia's position
today is much like that of the American
geographer. A British cable to the New
York Evening Post says prevailing opin-
ion in England is based on the text:
"Russia has been found out." One re-
sponsible London journal even describes
Russia as "the most gigantic humbug that
modern history records." And British
satisfaction over the exposure of Russian
weakness is increased by the alarm in
European capitals over the progress of
Japan-Britain ally. As the Post corre-
spondent says, "The Russia whom Eng-
lishmen long have regarded as a standing
menace to Great Britain's hold upon India
and the Far Eastern markets generally, she
is, to-morrow, gone, gone where the old
moons go—gone, too, at the armed bid-
ding of Great Britain's own ally. And
European opinion is not less based on
the evidence which Continental corre-
spondents send, that among European
nations outside Russia the Russian bogey
is being speedily replaced by the Japanese
specter."
Much of this confidence in Japan would
be dissipated could General Kuropatkin
concentrate his forces, defeat one after

another of the Japanese armies in suc-
cession, and roll the flood of invasion south-
ward. Nothing short of that can rehabili-
tate Russia in the eyes of the nations;
but the Russian general, it is apparent,
has not men enough to turn the tide, and
must continue to fight virtually on the
defensive. It is not strange, under these
conditions, that Russia's case should be
regarded in London as desperate.
A SERIOUS SITUATION.
Fredericton, according to the Gleaner,
must speedily set about a very simple
change in its water supply or continue to
run a very great risk of drinking typhoid
germs. Some months ago when typhoid
was prevalent in the capital, The Tele-
graph expressed the view of some well-
informed Fredericton people, which was
that the water was drawn from the river
at a point made dangerous by the Vic-
toria Hospital sewer, and that the intake
should be moved farther up river, or even
to the opposite shore if necessary, so as
not only to avoid impurity from the hos-
pital sewer but to escape possible infec-
tion carried up stream by certain currents.
The Telegraph was then informed by a
Fredericton newspaper that the water was
pure, that analysis had proved its freedom
from deadly germs, and that all sugges-
tions regarding further precautions were
foolish and injurious to the good name of
the capital.
But now the Gleaner announces that
several citizens privately secured samples
of the river water last fall and sent them
to the Dominion and Ontario analysts, and
that "in all of the samples but one sub-
mitted to analysis typhoid bacteria were
found. The exception was in the water
taken half a mile above the intake. In
this vegetable bacteria only were in evi-
dence. The report of both the Dominion
office and the Ontario office upon the
analysis agree in nearly every particular.
The danger in the water as now supplied,
according to the gentlemen who have in-
terested themselves, is emphasized by the
fact that the guinea pig inoculated by the
typhoid bacteria found in the water died
from the effects. Those citizens have also
collected some statistics bearing on the
prevalence of typhoid in this city, and
while the facts are not given to the tele-
graph it is said that typhoid is on the in-
crease."
It is thought pure water may be secured
by removing the intake to a point about
half a mile above the Victoria hospital
sewer. The Gleaner, after making these
facts known, says of the situation: "We
do not wish to unnecessarily alarm our
people, but clearly the council must act
promptly, and it must be prepared at
once to face the problem of obtaining a
water supply of which not the slightest
doubt can be entertained." If the facts
are as set forth, and the remedy is as
simple as it appears to be, there can be no
excuse for not applying this remedy as
soon as possible. Fredericton has comprised
with typhoid long enough.

AN OLD SLANDER.
It repeats the interests of British farmers
to repeat the frequently exploded charge
that it is necessary to exclude Canadian
store cattle from Great Britain to pre-
vent contagion. This slander has been
disproved again and again, and the British
government has practically abandoned
the old ground for the exclusion of our
cattle and admitted that the discrimina-
tion against our herds is practiced in the
interest and at the bidding of the British
farmer. In some quarters the pretence is
still kept up that the exclusion is neces-
sary to the safety of British cattle, but
as a general thing the excuse is aban-
doned as too hollow to deceive any longer.
Recently there appeared in the Yorkshire
Herald an editorial containing the state-
ment: "It may be quite true that cattle
disease is not prevalent in Canada at
present, but we know that at one time the
Canadian stores were a fruitful source of
contagion." This elicited a prompt and
vigorous contradiction from Lord Strath-
cona, who wrote in part:—
"When the alleged cases of disease,
which led to the scheduling of Canada,
were found, the animals were traced from
the point of departure, the herds in that
district as well as in other parts of the
Dominion, were thoroughly and carefully
examined, and no symptoms of disease
were discovered. Since that time there
has been complete veterinary supervision
of the herds in the Dominion, and not a
single case of contagious pleuro-pneumonia
has been found. In addition, since 1892,
Canadian cattle to the number of over a
million have been landed in Great Britain
for slaughter in the lairages at the ports
of landing, under official inspection, and
yet not a single case of disease has been
reported. I think that these brief facts
are sufficient to dispose of the allegation
that 'at one time the Canadian stores
were a fruitful source of contagion,' and
I shall be much obliged if you will give
publicity to my reply."
The vigilant High Commissioner is de-
termined that if the British government
continues to obey the dictates of the Brit-
ish agricultural interests, it shall at least
deceive nobody as to the reasons for its
action.

MORE WATER IN THE RIVER.
Discussing Canada's future, Mr. E. W.
Thomson in a recent article, has a particu-
larly apt conception of the American
peril which some writers affect to have
discovered in our Northwest. "Where
will the river flow if more water be pour-
ed in?" he asks. Of the present and the
future he writes:
"Circumstanced happily, and with al-
ternatives which conduce to hope that

they may be predestined to an important
part in achieving an English-speaking or
Pan-Atlantic union, Canadians may well
think that their deliberate policy, if they
had to determine one, ought to be
—that of contented waiting accompanied
by active internal government. Any
change might be rash which would deprive
them forever of all but one of the more
or less agreeable alternatives. From Im-
perial Federation or American Union there
might be no retirement without grief and
possibly, violence. The fable of the wise
lion's den because he saw no footsteps
coming out of it might apply even more
perfectly against acceptance of lodgings
in the criss of the Eagle.
"It is thought by some that the rapid
influx of foreigners, American and Euro-
pean, will soon modify the mind of this
country to an important degree. But all
the considerations I have stated speedily
become apparent to the newcomers, be-
cause political franchises are open to them,
franchises that they must exercise in or-
der to improve their conditions. They as-
sociate inevitably with the organized par-
ties and are quickly educated by them.
Hence the political effect of joining them
to Canada would seem little less calcu-
lable than the problem, 'Where will the
river flow if more water be poured in?'
The course of the river will not be
changed. The current will become broad-
er, the cities along the banks closer to-
gether, the land more smiling with culti-
vation, the well-watered country more
populous and more confident—but the
course, however great it grows, will not
be diverted from its channel.

A CHANGED MAN.
There is considerable publicity follow-
ing the announcement of Mr. J. H. Haslam,
once a Conservative candidate for
Selkirk, that he has been converted to
the Liberal faith. The Winnipeg news-
papers, and many in other sections of Can-
ada, are dissecting a letter which Mr.
Haslam wrote to the Free Press, explain-
ing the reasons for his change of view,
and are drawing various inferences from
it. The fact that a prominent man makes
public confession of conversion from one
party to another is naturally pleasing to
that party whose ranks he joins, and dis-
pleasing to the other; but what must asto-
nish Mr. Haslam is the length to which
some of the editors go in exaggerating or
seeking to minimize the significance of
his announcement. The Free Press prom-
ptly regarded Mr. Haslam as of little
account. The Telegraph formerly thought
he was a wise and influential citizen. To-
day the Free Press speaks of Mr. Haslam
as a personage of great weight, whose
example must be catching, while the Tele-
graph affects to believe that he is
and always was rather small potatoes.
He may be somewhat
puzzled to read in one newspaper
how much his change of view means and
in another of how little importance it is
what he says or does. The value of these
widely varying estimates of Mr. Haslam
will be more readily determined after the
next election when his influence in his own
community can be demonstrated.

NOTE AND COMMENT.
Thirty tenement houses were burned in
a Montreal suburb yesterday. "The water
pressure was poor."
The Chefoo story that Port Arthur had
fallen and that 10,000 Russians had been
killed was but another "fake" from a
quarter where liars are numerous.
The business men are solidly behind the
movement for a first-class water system.
They realize that adequate protection will
be cheap in the end.
The Russians evidently will withdraw
to Harbin, and it is 645 miles from Port
Arthur—a great stretch of country to re-
conquer, that.
The Dorchester convicts who escaped
when their terms had nearly expired were
foolish to run away, and still more foolish
in committing new crimes which will
mean long imprisonment. One has been
recaptured and the other is not likely to
be long at liberty.
Hon. John Costigan has the inside track
for the senatorship according to the last
report from Ottawa. The other applicants

will believe that only when they see his
appointment officially announced. It is
really wonderful that so many men should
be willing to become senators.
In Halifax, where there has been a large
increase in the insurance rate, the insur-
ance companies are said to have lost busi-
ness. Some policies have been reduced,
some cancelled, others given to non-
profit companies. It is better to have a system
of protection against fire which gives no
valid excuse for increasing the rate.
The pious Car goes to Moscow to pray
for victory, but in an unjust case Mr.
Tarte's remark about elections may apply.
"Elections are not won by prayers."
Charlotte Town Guardian.
Which tends to recall Mr. Martin
Dooley's flippant remark that after costs
are off "munchin' bests prayin'" until
somebody has been defeated decisively.
The Russians are apparently gravely
concerned over China's attitude. It is
likely the Powers will cause China to re-
main neutral, but there may be disturban-
ces which will necessitate active police
duty by some of those who interests in
the Far East are extensive and who would
not greatly object to having some weak
members in that country later on when there
may be trouble over the terms made by
Japan and Russia.
The Russian cruiser Varang, which was
sunk at Chemulpo by her own men when
the Japanese had driven her into port in a
shattered condition, carried 1,000 tons
of coal. A correspondent of the New York
Evening Post who saw the wreck on April
2 found the Japanese engaged in removing
the coal. He says they will soon raise
and patch up the Varang and hoist the
Japanese flag over her. They are a thrifty
people, the Japs.
The Trades and Labor Council speaks
out for the opening of the park restaurant
all day Sunday and makes no bones about
it. The park directors thought to open
the restaurant during the afternoon would
be sufficient. The Evangelical Alliance
would not open it at all. The main thing
is that all parties to the discussion favor
an orderly Sunday and that St. John will
continue to have that kind whether the
restaurant be opened or closed.
The annual protest is going the rounds
of the Maritime Province newspapers
against the tendency of the people to do
business with the Montreal and Toron-
to department stores to the serious
loss of the local merchants. The fault is
easily corrected. Let the Maritime Pro-
vince merchants use printer's ink freely.
Merchants never grow poor making a live
newspaper prosperous by advertising in
its columns.—Montreal Gazette.
In the course of an editorial on the
senatorship the Globe remarks:
"However, some men are seeking the
appointment because they are of a particu-
lar religion, others because they are of a
particular origin. It is quite common
to have such claims put forward, even
though there is a sense in which they
must be regarded as unsatisfying, though
the fact must be acknowledged that they
always have considerable force."
This is a somewhat cryptic utterance,
but the probability is that it is intended
as a boon for Mr. Lantulum whom the
Globe assisted so eagerly when he be-
came a candidate for his present seat.

The Japanese fleet and captured
Port Arthur in about a month's time in
1904. The Charlotte Town Guardian notes
the fact that the invaders are now fight-
ing over ground with which they are familiar,
but notes also that while their force
is larger now they have much more to
contend with than they had ten years ago:
"In 1894 the Japanese were in less force
than in their present expedition. On that
occasion their numbers were about 27,000
men. They landed near Pitssevo, moved
down the coast to Talienwan (now Dalny)
seized the isthmus and then, as they
phrased it had Port Arthur 'in a bag.'
It took about a fortnight to get the men,
guns, ammunition, animals and stores
landed. It must take longer now with
probably double the force to be handled.
Nor can we expect that the forts surround-
ing Port Arthur and the city itself will
be so stormed as speedily as they were
ten years ago. Then the forts were few
and the garrison were Chinese. Now not
only has Port Arthur itself been made
almost impregnable, but it is sur-
rounded by a chain of outworks extending
over a circumference of forty miles. Armed
with modern guns and garrisoned by
stalwart Russians, Port Arthur presents
as formidable a stronghold as Se-
bastopol did to the allies fifty years ago."

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