

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1918

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ABOLISHING PATRONAGE.

That it is really the desire of the union government at Ottawa to abolish patronage was shown in the debates in parliament yesterday. Mr. D. D. McKenzie of Cape Breton drew attention to the fact that a government announcement was appearing in Conservative papers only. Hon. Mr. Meighen replied that it was part of contracts expiring with the month of March, which would not be renewed. Mr. McKenzie also cited instances where he claimed political influence was used in appointing fishery guardians. To this Hon. Mr. Ballantyne replied that he was taking the only possible course. He was holding the district inspector responsible for recommendations of candidates.

"If," Mr. Ballantyne added, "it can be shown to me that the inspector is not acting fairly and is making appointments on a political basis, I will guarantee the instant dismissal of the inspector. I do not care how long he has been in the service."

The country will receive this assurance with the greatest satisfaction. Only a union government could have taken such a stand successfully and it is one of the things the new government was pledged to do. There had been so gross a misuse of patronage and political influence under the old government that the whole country recognized the need of a complete abandonment of a vicious principle in government. To the extent that it carries out its pledge the union government will have earned the gratitude of the country.

A JUST APPEAL.

The Times yesterday quoted from an address by Mr. D. F. Wilcox, franchise expert, of New York, a paragraph describing the "buzzing" of promoters around legislatures, seeking power to over-capitalize public utilities and sell securities for a much larger sum than the amount really invested. Another quotation from the same expert, telling of the "heads I win, tails you lose" policy of public utility corporations, is equally interesting to St. John readers at this present time. Mr. Wilcox says:—

"They have been used to receiving gifts from the cities and are not ashamed to be public beneficiaries. We find them at this moment engaged with their eminent counsel and engineers in attempting to prove to the satisfaction of the court that whenever a public utility has lost money in the operation of its plant, its property is thereby made much more valuable, either in a rate case or a purchase case. But these same eminent counsel and engineers are employed to prove also that where a utility has made lots of money it is likewise thereby made much more valuable, either in a rate case or a purchase case. The companies ask the cities to pay them a premium equally for their losses or their profits. This is the old game of 'heads I win, tails you lose.' It seems incredible that this double play should be made successfully before the regulating authorities of the country. And yet in many cases it is being done. When the companies have lost, they protest vociferously that they have been made public agents, spending money for the benefit of the city and its citizens. But when they have won, they forget this agency theory entirely, and fall back upon the entrenchments of private property and contractual rights. They have been doing business strictly on their own account, and the city will interfere at its peril." And again Mr. Wilcox says:—

"Aside from the fact that it is logically preposterous for cities to make good the speculative losses of the past, such a course would be financially disastrous. It would mean the acceptance and guarantee of the over-capitalization which has brought many utilities into bankruptcy under private management." And again he says:—

"When we acquire utilities or recognize their capital value in rate regulation or franchise contracts at a figure double or treble the value of the physical property, and pay for them in bonds or impose upon the rate-payers the perpetual burden of supporting this inflated valuation, we do not secure municipal ownership or public control. If we fix rates on the basis of an inflated valuation, our position may be much weaker than if we had not fixed rates at all."

What the people of St. John demand to know is the amount of real money invested in the New Brunswick Power Company's plant. They object to over-capitalization and a scale of charges based upon it instead of upon the real investment. They want the whole matter probed by an independent commission clothed with ample powers. They will appeal to the legislature for such an investigation before any action is taken on the application of the company for authority to increase its charges. Their appeal is just and fair to all parties.

When the people of England are reduced to careful rations the people of Canada should feel it an imperative duty to conserve food and join in the greater production campaign.

WAR OUTLOOK BRIGHTER.

The next great move on the western front is awaited with growing confidence. The German offensive has broken down for the moment and the Allies once more have the initiative. Whether the enemy will attempt another drive or whether the Allies will bring up their reserves and take the offensive; or whether there will merely be a resumption of trench warfare on the present lines, is now a question the answer to which is awaited with eager interest. The German losses have been very heavy. It is claimed some divisions lost seventy per cent of their effectives. They have not gained enough to compensate for the loss of man-power. On the other hand it is claimed that the Allies have conserved their reserves, and with the addition of the American troops now in the line are in a position to meet all eventualities. The tenor of all the dispatches is more cheering, but the fact must not be overlooked that more and more men are needed and that the cry for more ships and more food is insistent. The enemy is still far from being defeated, and the western front must bear the brunt of the battle for months to come.

THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

The finding of Mr. Justice McKeown in the case of Gould against the Valley Railway is that Mr. Gould has no claim either in law or equity for the huge sum he claimed in the arbitration proceedings. The province is therefore relieved of that threatened burden. A portion of the finding to which the St. John Standard makes no reference is that which relates to the bribe of \$100,000 paid by Mr. Gould to Mr. J. K. Flemming, then leader of the government. Incidentally it may be observed that neither the Standard nor the leaders of the Conservative party have yet publicly repudiated Mr. Flemming. He is still, in their view, a model statesman with the possible reservation that they regret the publicity given to some of his political transactions. The Foster government received a legacy of debt and mal-administration which makes it difficult to carry on as they should be carried on the ordinary public services of the province. The cost of the Valley Railway has been far beyond what it should have been, and the whole transaction was stained with graft and favoritism and political rascality. And the province pays.

UNCLE SAM'S PROBLEMS.

The United States has suffered from the evils of graft, inefficiency and pro-Germanism. Facts that have come to light have roused the nation. The airplane fiasco has been joined to failures of the shipbuilding programme. Now that an American army is joining the Allies in actual fighting on the western front the people at home are waking up to a keener sense of their own responsibility. As one result, the shipbuilders have been bluntly told they must explain why their March output fell behind schedule. They had the money, the material and the men, and ships, not excuses, are demanded.

Sir George Adam Smith has further stirred the American people by his message that men and ships are sorely needed and by his appeal that America supply them. The United States has been compelled to suffer continually from the machinations of pro-Germans and pacifists, and it is not surprising that many plans have fallen short of fulfillment. As time passes, however, and the casualty lists come over the cable, there will be a more general determination to brush aside every obstacle that stands in the way of the fullest participation in the great struggle for democracy.

The steps taken to restore quiet in Quebec city last night were effective, but the ringleaders in the riots must be taught a severe lesson or there may be further trouble.

The Standard, in advance of the budget speech at Fredericton, has already convicted the Foster government of terrific waste of public money. That was to be expected of the Standard.

MANY MOB ATTACKS UPON GERMANS AND DISLOYAL AMERICANS

Washington, April 3.—Since the great battle in Picardy began reports to the department of justice of mob attacks upon Germans and disloyal Americans have increased many fold. They are reported by the dozen daily. Officials pointed to this situation today as evidence of the urgent need of new legislation to permit the government to deal drastically with disloyal utterances and actions.

Irvin Beatty was sentenced to serve three months for stealing a case of liquor from the express office at Chatham, Ont., and \$200 and costs or three months for having liquor in a place other than a private dwelling.

Gould and Partners Have No Claim, Decides Mr. Justice McKeown

Supreme Court Justice Harrison A. McKeown, who conducted arbitration proceedings regarding the claims of Arthur R. Gould and associates against the provincial government on the old Valley Railway contract, has decided flatly against Mr. Gould and his partners, deciding that they have no claim either in law or in equity, and that there is no amount due them from the province. Justice McKeown in his report, after dealing with the legal aspects of the claims advanced by the Gould interests, and deciding against them, also deals strongly and at length with the payment of \$100,000 by Gould to James K. Flemming and says that the contract is void by reason of the act of bribery committed by Mr. Gould during the negotiations for the building of the road between the province and the company. The arbitrator's report was submitted to the legislature last evening.

After the old government took the contract out of the hands of Gould and his associates because of their inability to proceed and complete the road within a reasonable period, the Gould interests put in a claim, or rather two claims, one for the ordinary contractors' profits of ten per cent of the expenditure on the railway, this claim amounting to \$445,560. The second, or alternative claim, was for \$334,230, representing the alleged value of the stock of which Mr. Gould and his associates were deprived by the action of the government. This stock was held as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| J. W. Gould | Shares |
| H. E. Macdonell | 50 |
| Ross Thompson | 50 |
| C. A. Barnard | 25 |
| A. R. Gould | 62½ |
| F. J. Lisman | 62½ |
| Total | 251 |

The claim, Justice McKeown says in his report, was presented in two ways: First, from the standpoint that the claimants, having been prevented from carrying out their contract, should be recompensed for the work they actually did; and secondly inasmuch as all the stock of the railway company was taken from them under the act of 1915, recompense should be made to them for the value of such stock. The arbitrator finds both claims untenable. He reviews the history of the enterprise and the evidence taken in connection with it and decides:

- (1) That the government carried out all its obligations arising under and out of the contract with the railway company.
 - (2) That the railway company defaulted.
 - (3) That the defaults so made justified the government in terminating the contract and in taking over the stock of the company and vesting it in His Majesty.
- F. B. Carvell, K. C., M. P., who represented the province in these proceedings, is upheld on all the main points.

LIGHTER VEIN

New Kind of Sleeper.

A sleeping car berth has been devised which has space for the occupant to stand while dressing. This removes the last excuse for the person who tries to sit in the hammock—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Seraph of Scanty Creek.

Miss Laura Gaston Young, the belle of Scanty Creek, dropped in on Ye Scribble last Saturday, and left a mass of arthickies, a persimmon-fed possum, enough red peppers and sweet taters to trim and season the varmint. Call again.

Real Help For Tired Feet

A busy day and on your feet most of the time—a long tiresome trip or a hike in the country—new shoes to break in—all these mean tired feet. Soothe and rest them by applying a few drops of Absorbine, Jr. Or, if you are very tired and your feet burn, ache or swell, soak them in a solution of Absorbine, Jr., and water. Relief will be prompt and lasting. You will like the "feel" of this clean, fragrant and antiseptic liniment. It penetrates quickly, leaves no greasy residue, and is intensely refreshing. Only a few drops needed to do the work as Absorbine, Jr., is highly concentrated. You will find dozens of uses for Absorbine, Jr., as a dependable first-aid remedy and regular toilet adjunct; to reduce inflammatory conditions—sprains, wrenches, painful, swollen veins. To allay pain anywhere. To spray the throat if sore or infected. To heal cuts, bruises, lacerations and sores. Absorbine, Jr., \$1.95 a bottle at drug-gists or postpaid. Liberal trial bottle mailed for 10c. in stamps. W. F. Young, P. D. F., 817 Lyman Bldg., Montreal, Can.

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wingless seraph, call again!—Correspondence Memphis News.

His Exact Words.

A friend of the poet Bryant chanced to be alone in his study when a cabinet-maker brought home a chair that had been altered. When Mr. Bryant returned, he asked, "Miss Robbins, what did the man say about my chair?" "He said," answered the visitor, "that the equilibrium is now admirably adjusted."

OFFICERS AND MEN ARE PUT ON EQUAL FOOTING

No More Two Months Leave Home for Officers' Convalescing

London, April 3.—The Canadian Association Press learns that important alterations are being made regarding officers' sick leave to Canada. Hitherto officers pronounced by the medical board as unfit for service for two months were allowed to proceed to Canada at their own expense, with the result that in many cases, owing to the want of medical supervision and lack of perhaps personal control, officers have returned here and at the end of two months were in a worse physical state than before, or were even lost to the service altogether. This naturally involves a waste of both money and strength, and particularly involves increased burdens on the pension fund.

For the future officers and nurses required to be six months' or more hospital care will be invalided to Canada to complete their hospital treatment. Leave in Canada on medical grounds will not otherwise be permitted. The officers, instead of being discharged from active hospital treatment to go on leave, will be transferred to Canadian convalescent hospitals in England, except those ranking lieutenant-colonel or higher. The new arrangement places officers exactly on the same level as men.

CLOSE 3,400 SALOONS

Indiana Bone Dry; Thirty Breweries and Some Distilleries Affected

Indianapolis, Ind., April 3.—Indiana became "dry" from border to border last night. The state-wide prohibition law, so written that intoxicating liquor may not be manufactured, sold, given away or shipped into the state, except for medicinal and sacramental purposes, took effect at that hour.

Members of the Indiana anti-saloon league estimated that 3,400 saloons in the state closed their doors. They estimated that thirty breweries in the state were affected and possibly twelve to fifteen distilleries. Chicago, April 2.—Gains for the prohibitionists were recorded in today's township elections on the "wet" and "dry" issues, throughout Illinois. Of the larger cities of the state, Bloomington gave a dry majority of 2,119 which was attributed to the overwhelming dry vote of the women. Rock Island, which has been the centre of a campaign by government agents to eliminate vice conditions, voted out 41 saloons, by a majority of 800. The saloon proprietors, however, are not giving up. In more than fifty townships. The returns from the first five "wet" townships showed all had changed to the dry column, and given away or shipped into the state, except for medicinal and sacramental purposes, took effect at that hour.

By this election Massachusetts becomes the first of the northeastern states to ratify the amendment and the eleventh in the entire country. The states that had previously ratified it are: Mississippi, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Dakota, Maryland, Montana, Texas, Delaware and South Dakota. To carry the amendment twenty-five other states must vote in its favor.

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IN THE LEGISLATURE

Fredericton, April 2.—The report of the auditor-general, that of Chief Justice McKeown as arbitrator in the claim of A. R. Gould in connection with the Valley Railway, and that of the factory inspector were presented to the legislature this evening. The auditor-general's report was referred to the public accounts committee and the provincial secretary announced that the budget would be brought down on Wednesday or Thursday.

Half a dozen inquiries were answered by members of the government and the brief consideration of an Albert county marsh land's bill completed the business of the evening.

The first session after the Easter recess was rather slimly attended, about a third of the members being absent. Only an hour was needed to dispose of the business presented to the house and adjournment was made at an early hour.

The public accounts committee will meet to organize on Wednesday morning.

The following bills were read a third time and passed: An act to amend the act to erect the parish of St. Paul's, St. John; an act relating to paving the streets in St. John; an act relating to the children's shelter in St. John; an act to correct an error in the sale of tax lots in St. John; an act relating to the General Public Hospital, St. John; an act to enable the Moncton city council to sell certain lands; an act respecting cheese and butter manufacturing associations, and an act to incorporate the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception.

The report of the auditor-general differs from previous reports, inasmuch as it follows out a new line of bookkeeping, and the balance sheet on October 31, which is the end of the fiscal year, shows the capital assets and the capital liabilities of the province and the current assets and current liabilities. There is also a valuable table which shows, in the total expenditure of the year 1917, the amount of all the bills which had been incurred previous to the end of the last fiscal year and had not been settled. In this column it is noted that there are some large amounts, such as nearly \$6,000 of agricultural accounts, some \$88,000 interest accounts, nearly \$100,000 on account of public works, an even \$8,250 on account of collection of succession duties, and other amounts varying from \$200 or \$300 to several thousands.

Sciatic Pains from Exhausted Nerves

SCIATICA or sciatic rheumatism is attended with pain and tenderness along the sciatic nerve in the hips and thighs, and indicates an exhausted condition of the nervous system.

Relief is sometimes obtained by external applications or the use of heat, but at the slightest provocation the distressing pains return and from time to time become more severe as the nervous system becomes more exhausted.

The only way to obtain actual cure is by a reconstruction of the wasted nerve cells, and this is best accomplished by Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. It need not cost you much to restore vigor to the nervous system, but it will take a little patience, particularly at first. After you have used a few boxes and got the building-up process established you will find improvements from day to day which will encourage you to keep up this treatment until the nervous system is completely restored.

Nervous disorders do not right themselves, but naturally, become more acute as the system becomes further exhausted. It is only wise to be warned by sleeplessness, headaches, neuralgia and sciatic pains and to take immediate action to restore the depleted nerves before paralysis, locomotor ataxia or some form of helplessness is developed.

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