

Twice-a-Week Times

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AN ACUTE MUNICIPAL SITUATION.

In another column of this issue of the Times a correspondent, "A," deals in an instructive and interesting manner with the ever-perplexing question of efficiency and integrity in municipal government. He advances the old and yet ever new proposition that a "stream cannot rise higher than its source." In other words, "the people get the kind of government they deserve." The source of all political power is in the electorate under modern democratic institutions. If the stream be polluted you cannot purify it by turning it into new and untested channels. "A's" contention is that it is not the machinery of municipal government which is at fault, but that the hand which is entrusted with control of the machinery is either incompetent or worse. Of what avail would it be to set up a new system if the same old management were maintained?

The idea is certainly worthy of the most serious consideration. The municipal institutions of British Columbia are modelled after those of Eastern Canada and of Great Britain. There may be a slight variations to suit the local conditions; but the guiding principles in all are similar. Municipal government in Great Britain has not been a failure. Neither has it been in Eastern Canada except in a very few isolated instances. And in every case where there has been failure events have proved that it was not the system, but the administration of the system, that was at fault. Given the right kind of men, and almost any system of government, democratic or autocratic, will achieve the end for which it was designed.

There is no disputing the fact that the municipal administration of Victoria for many years has been a failure from the point of view of the taxpayer who desires to see civic improvements which are imperative made with efficiency, celerity and economy. There have been bungling and inefficiency in connection with most of the public works of importance which have been undertaken, while the rate of taxation has risen year by year. These are facts which have merely to be recited to be admitted. The question to be faced, therefore, is whether it is the elective part of the municipal machinery or the administrative and permanent part that is to blame for the acknowledged breakdown.

One thing is quite plain. There is a cog broken somewhere. Some critics go farther than that, and maintain that whole wheels are stripped.

We do not know that anyone would care to say that the council of 1909 is particularly to blame for the conditions which have reached an acute stage during the present year. The situation is simply a culmination of events that have been impending for several years. Each succeeding aldermanic board has passed the matter along to its successors, lacking the courage to deal with it firmly. And that is one of the weaknesses of the system of annual elections. The question to consider is whether an extension of the term of members of the council and a revision of the system of administration as proposed in the constitution of a Board of Control would have the effect of eliminating this weakness.

The opinion of the Times is that the existing system, which is a growth of long experience and experiment—a development from the despotism to the democracy—would be found to work as well as any other system if the administration were in strong and determined hands dominated by a fearless head.

Are not the existing heads of the various city departments permanent controllers who are supposed to have a special knowledge of the works they control? Would elective and highly-paid controllers controlling them be likely to make matters work more smoothly, more economically and more efficiently? These are the questions for the ratepayers to consider.

VALUE OF "ORGANIZATION."

Comments of Eastern papers on the result of the elections in British Columbia are interesting chiefly for the reason that they indicate a complete lack of understanding of the elements which combined to assure the success of the government. The railway policy was of course the most enticing item in the bill of fare placed before the people by the McBride government. But back of that was what is known in political parlance as a "superb organization." As details of the methods pursued by that organization come in from the various constituencies the public will be in a position to better

appreciate the important part it played in the elections.

In the meantime it is significant to note that the Conservative party of Canada is making a most persistent demand for the elimination of "patronage" from the political arena as something that is degrading and demoralizing, and may be destructive to the true interests of the country. Yet we find that the McBride system, which is so generally eulogized by the Eastern Tory press, is based upon patronage in its most extreme development. There is not a service, inside or outside, that is not worked primarily with a view to entrenching that government more strongly in power. All the administrative machinery is run with a single view to its political effect, not with an eye to the true interests of the province. Even the electoral system is poisoned at its source—the voters' lists—and the command of a campaign fund of practically unlimited proportions in the hands of "workers" void of conscience enabled the party at the recent elections to turn the lists to fine practical account from a partisan point of view.

The late elections marked a great triumph for the McBride government. Whether the people of British Columbia will have as good reasons for congratulation when the day of settlement arrives is a question. It is estimated that not less than a quarter of a million dollars was expended in the various constituencies in procuring the practical annihilation of the Liberal party. What was the source of that fund? And out of whose pockets will it be extracted, with interest, in the end?

Our readers will observe that Mr. Dan Mann was greatly interested in the election, and that he was one of the first to congratulate the Premier on his magnificent victory.

IN THE ROLE OF WATCH DOGS.

The Victoria Board of Trade, it appears, is going to maintain a "lobby" in the legislature during the coming session. This proposed action is said to be based on a determination to see that the interests of the capital of the province shall be fully protected in any measure brought down for the encouragement of railway construction in the province. Yet we have four representatives of the city in the legislature elected as supporters of the government, and one of these representatives is the Premier of the province. All of these members-elect have pledged their word that if the deal with Mackenzie & Mann does not contain provisions for the construction of a line of railway from Vancouver to English Bluff, the operation of a passenger, express and freight ferry equal to the best on the continent between the Bluff and the point on Vancouver Island, and the construction of another piece of railway between that portion of the Island and Victoria, they will resign their seats. Under such circumstances, and in view of such a solemn obligation, the task proposed to be assumed by the Board of Trade would appear to be entirely supererogatory. Can it be possible that there is a suspicion in the minds of the members of the Board of Trade that the word of the Premier and his followers is not to be trusted—that lack of confidence in such solemn assurances is already beginning to manifest itself? Our idea is that the time for the maintenance of the interests of the city will arrive when the Canadian Northern proposition has passed the paper stage and the actual work of construction has begun. The paper part of the undertaking is the simplest part of it. Experience has proved that Mackenzie & Mann, under certain conditions, are quite willing to relieve governments of paper responsibilities.

THE LIEUT.-GOVERNORSHIP.

Hon. James Dunsmuir, who since May, 1906, has filled with general acceptance and satisfaction the high position of Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, has resigned, and Mr. T. W. Paterson, of Victoria, has been appointed in his stead.

The circumstances attending the retirement of Mr. Dunsmuir and the designation of his successor are somewhat unusual, if not absolutely extraordinary, in connection with the tenure of positions of high honor, dignity and responsibility in this country. The retiring Governor had not served his full term and was relieved on his own urgent request. His successor was not an applicant for the post.

Mr. Paterson was selected because of his freely-acknowledged qualifications for the position of Lieut.-Governor. Coming from a stock in which Liberalism is bred in the bone, it was constitutionally impossible for him to do otherwise than identify himself with the Liberal party of Canada. Yet T. W. Paterson is too big a man in every sense to be a violent, unreasoning partisan. Broad of mind, tolerant in natural temperament, courteous in his treatment of all who do not accept his views on public questions, Mr. Paterson has always commanded the respect and esteem of those with whom he did not agree in politics. He will approach the delicate duties of his new office absolutely devoid of party prejudice. But at the same time he is so thoroughly informed upon every subject pertaining to the constitution and government of the country that any government which may hold power in the province during his regime, be it Conservative or Liberal, will hesitate before making any recommendation that might be

GOT \$595, WITH \$1 WAIST

New York, Dec. 6.—A young woman walked into the store of Mrs. Anna Wassermann, 279 Grand street, and purchased a shirt waist for one dollar.

Mrs. Wassermann was making up her bank deposit and had \$410 in cash and cheques amounting to \$185, on the counter.

These she wrapped up with the waist. As soon as she discovered her loss, Mrs. Wassermann reported it to the police, but no trace of the young woman could be found.

It is much more difficult to recover lost money than it is to recover lost health, Constipation, Biliousness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Lame Back, Aching Limbs, Bladder and Skin Troubles quickly disappear under the curative influences of "Fruit-a-tives."

"Fruit-a-tives"—the famous tablets made from fruit juices and tonics—have given the most gratifying results even in the most serious cases of Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Bowel Troubles. Fifty cents a box for \$2.50, or trial size, 25c. At all dealers or from the Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

prejudicial either to the interests of the people as a whole or to the cause of the minority of the people. The new Lieut.-Governor will hold the balances evenly and at the same time be guided constitutionally by the counsel of his Ministers.

THEY MADE A MISTAKE.

Newspapers holding briefs for the McBride government protested most ferociously at the bare idea of Mr. Wade, one of the Liberal candidates in Vancouver, while carrying in his pocket the appointment to the Lieut.-Governorship of British Columbia, campaigning throughout the province against the candidates of that government. They were quite sure that Mr. Wade had the commission in question in his pocket and that just as soon as the contest was over he would step across the threshold of the gubernatorial mansion. It was surely a most unheard-of thing, they said, that an avowed partisan, fresh from the conflict and bearing the scars inflicted by his political opponents, should be selected for a position of such responsibility. Their wrath rose to the boiling point at the very idea of a man who had been assailing the McBride government with such bitterness being assigned to a position of confidential and delicate relationship with that government, a position calling for the sinking of all partisan political feelings, etc. How could such an one be expected to receive the advice of his ministers in the spirit which ought to govern all such important communications? If Mr. Wade carried the warrant in his pocket, by what process of legerdemain was it transferred so quickly into the hands of Mr. T. W. Paterson? Mr. Paterson was not even an applicant for the position of Lieut.-Governor. The first intimation he received that his name had been placed before the Ottawa government was a telegram announcing his appointment.

There is no question that the selection was made because, while there were doubtless many applicants for the post who would have filled it acceptably, even with honor to themselves and satisfaction to the public, the qualifications of the appointee were considered pre-eminent. Mr. Paterson took some part in the late elections, we consider a most effective part; but will any of the organs suggest that his relations with his constitutional advisers will be affected in the slightest degree by any political differences of opinion there may have been between them? The fact is that a politician of the type of T. W. Paterson is just the kind of man best qualified to adorn the position of Lieut.-Governor. And the organs which raised the issue in connection with the name of Mr. Wade will freely acknowledge the fact.

NEGOTIATING WITH RAILWAYS

(Continued from page 1.)

General Manager Slade, of the Northern Pacific, said freight was more or less tied up along the system on account of the snow, and especially so in Northern Minnesota and North Dakota. Passenger trains are being run with two engines.

It is said the Northern Pacific has all the men here that it needs, and that new arrivals are being shipped west. General Manager Gruber said that the Great Northern had moved between 60 and 100 cars of wheat into Minneapolis yesterday, and that freight was handled at the Minnesota Transfer today for the first time since the strike began. He said that heavy snowstorms at Sioux City, Grand Forks and Devil's Lake are interfering with traffic, and that the work of switching is necessarily slow. Snow delayed traffic in Montana, he said.

SNOW BLOCKS ROADS.

Gretna, Man., Dec. 6.—A terrific storm has been raging here since Friday. The roads are all blocked, but fortunately it is cold.

ZELAYA READY TO FLEE COUNTRY

OPPOSING ARMIES

LINE UP FOR BATTLE

Position of Government Troops at Greytown is Reported Critical.

(Times Leased Wire.)

New Orleans, Dec. 6.—A private cablegram received here to-day stated that President Zelaya is planning to escape from Nicaragua late today on a Pacific mail liner from Corinto.

The cable stated that the dictator plans to flee with his family to Salina Cruz Mexico or to Amapala, Honduras. It was further reported that his secretary, Julian Rios, would be left to prosecute Zelaya's plans in Nicaragua.

Ready for Battle. Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 6.—(By wireless to Colon.)—The crisis of the Nicaraguan revolution is believed to be approaching. With every road and highway leading to Rama underlaid with mines, Provincial President Estrada to-day awaits Zelaya's attack.

The vanguard of the dictator's army is said to be within a few hours' march of Estrada's outposts and desultory fighting may begin at any moment. Zelaya claims to have 10,000 men in camp, while Estrada's force is said to number but 5,000. This numerical discrepancy, however, probably will be offset by the superior condition and equipment of the rebels.

According to messages brought to this city from Greytown, which is besieged by the rebels under General Chamorro, the situation there is critical. The defending forces under General Toledo are reported to be under fire and poorly armed. Chamorro probably will attack the moment the result of the impending battle at Rama is brought to him.

The outcome of the revolution, it is believed, depends almost wholly upon the result of the Rama engagement. If Estrada is successful at Rama, it is thought that both armies will combine and concentrate upon Managua, the capital.

Estrada Takes Field. Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Senator Salvatore Castilio, representative here of the insurrectionary forces under General Estrada, president of the provisional government, has received a message that General Estrada has left Bluefields and has taken the field.

POSTS LETTERS IN A FIRE ALARM BOX

Farmer, on Honeymoon, Makes Mistake and Calls Out Brigade.

(From Monday's Daily.)

George Cooper, a farmer, of Yellow Pass, Sask., who is spending his honeymoon at the Dominion hotel, didn't know the difference until yesterday between a fire alarm box and a letter box, and as a result he had the whole of the Victoria fire department apparatus out at Bridge and John streets, on a false alarm, because he tried to post some letters in a fire alarm box.

Mr. Cooper went out for a walk with his bride yesterday afternoon, and while near Bridge and John streets found he had overlooked posting some letters home. Seeing a little white box on a telegraph post he opened the little door, thinking it was a postal box.

Finding he could not deposit the letters in the little box he shut the door again and continued his walk, but shortly afterwards was startled by the arrival of the fire department in charge of Chief Thomas Davis.

He did not hesitate to explain that he thought the box was for letters, and did not know he had rung in an alarm. He told Chief Davis he was a farmer and was now for the first time in a city. Having heard of postal boxes he thought he had found one and tried to post the letters. As his explanation was straightforward and evidently true from the man's surprise, no action was taken, but Chief Davis said the letters and saw they were safely deposited in a letter box. Next time Mr. Cooper says he will know the difference. This morning he visited the city of police and his explanation was accepted at police headquarters. The fire brigade was called out yesterday afternoon to a small fire in the St. James church, St. John and Quebec streets, where a small blaze caused through overheating the furnace was extinguished. The damage was about \$75.

SEATTLE DIAMONDS LACK LEGAL OWNER

Alleged to Be Two Hundred Years Old and From Australia.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Detective Carlisle and H. G. Redfern have returned from Seattle where they went to inspect the stock of diamonds held by a Seattle jeweler and thought to be part of the haul made from C. E. Redfern's store, and find that the diamonds are not those which were stolen from the store.

The diamonds in Seattle are valued at between \$1,500 and \$2,000 and were taken to the store by two men who were told to return for the money. On their return they were surprised by the police but got away without being caught.

It was thought the jewels were part of the Redfern property and Detective Carlisle and H. G. Redfern went over to inspect them. The jewels stolen from Mr. Redfern's store were valued at between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

The diamonds in Seattle were only eight in number but were very valuable stones, one of them weighing

Xmas Gift Suggestions in Rugs

Nothing more suitable than one of these beautiful Hearth Rugs or Carpet Squares.

Axminster Hearth Rugs

HEARTH RUGS, heavy Axminster, in a fine range of beautiful colorings and designs—
Size 54 x 27 inches. Special, each.....\$2.50
Size 60 x 36 inches. Special, each.....\$3.75

HEARTH RUGS, heavy Axminster, in a beautiful assortment of Oriental, conventional, floral and two-toned effects. Sizes 27 x 54 inches to 36 x 72 inches, each, \$3, \$3.50, \$4.75, \$5, \$6 and\$7.50

MOHAIR HEARTH RUGS—These rugs have a soft, silky finish which adds greatly to the appearance of the rug. They come in solid shades of green, crimson, gold, blue, cream, black and grey. Sizes 27 x 50 inches to 36 x 72 inches. Each, \$4, \$6.75, \$9 and\$12

Carpet Squares

We are now in a position to supply any requirement in Carpet Squares, as we have just received a shipment of new Axminsters, Wiltons and Brussels Squares in all the stock sizes, varying in prices from \$12 to\$75



Shoes That Stand Service



That is the one certain test of superiority after all is said and done.

When you combine this feature with style, variety, good workmanship and correct designing in last and pattern, you have a shoe that is perfect.

Every one of these things is true of "Queen Quality" shoes for women. There are 35 styles in stock. Prices range from \$4 to \$5.50, and we stand back of every pair we sell. Here are a few—

- A GOOD WALKING BOOT, gun metal calf-skin, medium toe and heel\$4.00
- A DRESS BOOT—Patent leather, blucher, dull kid top, Cuban heel\$4.00
- A POPULAR STYLE—Glazed kid blucher, patent tip, Goodyear welts\$4.00
- A BOOT FOR COMFORT—Soft, glazed kid, cushion insoles, very flexible\$5.00

- PATENT KID LACE BOOT—Plain toe, short vamp, high Cuban heel\$5.50
- PATENT COLT BUTTON BOOTS—Dull kid tops. Very dressy and good style\$5.50
- GUN METAL CALFSKIN, on very smart last, Cuban heel and narrow toe\$5.00
- OLD LADIES' COMFORT BOOT—Of soft, pliable kid, light turn soles and common-sense heel\$4.00

Southall's Accouchement Sets

Containing the following carefully selected assortment of necessary appliances and adjuncts for use in confinement cases:

- 1 Sanitary Wool Accouchement Sheet, 28 in. x 25 in. in
- 1 Sanitary Wool Accouchement Sheet, 28 in. x 22 in.
- 3 Packets Southall's Sanitary Towels.
- 1 Packet Infants' Nappies.
- 1 Obstetric Binder.
- 1 Packet Cotton Wool.
- 1 Packet Absorbent Dressing Pads.
- 1 Large Mackintosh Sheet.
- 1 Small Mackintosh Sheet.
- 1 Box Linen Thread.
- 1 Box Boracic Powder.
- 1 Tube Southall's Special Antiseptic Jelly.

All Patent Medicines and Toilet Articles at Reduced Prices

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

PETRIANA BOUND FOR THIS COAST

Number of Other New Steamers to Leave United Kingdom in Near Future.

Vancouver, Dec. 5.—The first of the new steamers to be used on this Coast is reported to have left Greenock on December 2nd. She is the steamer Petriana. Her dimensions are not yet to hand, but it is understood that she will inaugurate the service of the new company, the Northern Steamship Company, which was started by Mr. A. Eadie, of Liverpool. It is further understood that Mr. J. Galt, of the Union Steamship Company, will act as agent on this Coast.

Other steamers which are to leave shortly from England are two for the C. P. R., two for the G. T. F., one for the Coast Steamship Company, a trawler for the B. C. Packers, a second trawler for the Pacific Coast Fishing Company, a steamer for the Boscowitz Steamship Company, and a steamer for Captain Mortimer. It is thought that there will be others to come, but no announcement has as yet been made public.

PICKETING PERMITTED.

New York, Dec. 8.—Commissioner Baker has issued orders to the police forbidding them from interfering with the women pickets in the shirtwaist workers' strike so long as they are orderly. Baker also said that he will make an investigation of the charges made by Rose Pastor Stokes, who says she has evidence against twenty policemen guilty of brutality.

The Manufacturers' Association states that the largest employers have refused to recognize the union and the situation is serious.

AVIATOR KILLED.

Nice, France, Dec. 6.—M. Fernandez, the aviator, was killed instantly to-day when an aeroplane which he was following the motor races near fell 1,000 feet. He was one of the less important aviators who participated in the Rheims meet.

RAILWAY SURVEYORS ARE FROZEN OUT

Joined Steamer at Sombrio and Came to Town for Winter.

The surveyors who have been working on the Victoria & Barkley Sound railway have found the weather so severe that they decided to come to town until it moderates. They arrived on Saturday evening on the steamer Tees. Other passengers on the steamer were Harry Brown and wife and Mrs. W. P. Garrett.

First Mate Miliken, of the Tees, who came out from the Old Country on the Princess Charlotte, has resigned his position and is on his way to England.

ORIGINALITY.

"Why did you accept George?" "He was so much more original than the other fellows."

"In what way?" "He was the one that asked me to be his wife."—Puck.

The "Bon Ami"

Large shipments to hand of OLD COUNTRY BLANKETS, EIDER-DOWN QUILTS, HOSIERY, LACES, RIBBONS, and a large selection of NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS from, per pair 90c. to \$5.50

A visit cordially invited to The "BON AMI" Late Co-op.

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