

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1914

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HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The report of harbor expert Swan on the harbor of St. John should result in vigorous action on the part of the public works department at Ottawa to carry out his recommendations. He favors the immediate extension of the breakwater to Partridge Island, and the construction of the proposed short breakwater on the other side of the island. He would have more dredging done in the main channel leading into the harbor and would make a diversion in the channel leading into Courtney Bay. He says the area behind the new wharves at West St. John should be filled in as rapidly as possible. He favors the construction of two new wharves in the basin above the sugar refinery. He points out that a steamship berth could be made available near the ferry terminus on the west side. Other berths could be provided at the head of the harbor, but it would be difficult to get space for railway sidings and other needed facilities. If what he suggests is taken up promptly by the government, the harbor will be a very busy place next summer. Mr. Swan favors a bridge at the head of the harbor, or some such arrangement as would give all the railway companies direct access to the new wharves.

It is worthy of note that Mr. Swan is going to the St. Croix next week, with representatives of three North-Atlantic shipping companies, to make a thorough examination of that harbor and its approaches. The boards of trade of St. John and St. Andrews are naturally much elated, and hope for good results in the development of an ocean sea-port on the St. Croix.

THOSE CONCRETE WHARVES

Mr. H. F. McLeod, M. P., the victim of dreams and hallucinations? He told the citizens of Fredericton the other day, according to a verbatim report of his speech in the Chamber, that Hon. Robert Rogers had promised to provide two concrete wharves on the Fredericton water front. He went further and said that instructions had been given to prepare the plans and specifications so that a contract might be entered into and the work completed at the earliest possible date. Mr. Rogers has no recollection of having made any such promise to Mr. McLeod. Mr. F. B. Carvell succeeded in getting this information from the minister yesterday. Parliament is naturally interested in such a statement as that made by Mr. McLeod, because there is a by-election in York county, and the promise of federal public works to gain votes for a candidate in a provincial by-election naturally draws attention to Mr. Borden's solemn pledges of former years, that if he ever got an opportunity he would put an end to the bribery of constituencies. After Mr. Rogers had informed the house that he had no recollection of a promise to Mr. McLeod, Sir Wilfrid Laurier inquired if it was possible that he might have made such a promise and have no recollection of it. Mr. Rogers would not say that it was not possible. For the purposes of the by-election, however, the story of the concrete wharves has lost its moving power. It may not be amiss to direct the attention of some of the Fredericton critics of the Ministerial Association to the story about the concrete wharves. As an illustration of the story of election reform, what do they think about it?

GIVE THEM WORK

Mr. J. J. Kelso, who is so well known throughout Canada as the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children for the province of Ontario, recently expressed his views on the subject of charity. What he says is of special interest in connection with the discussion in St. John relative to the treatment of such persons as find shelter at the Salvation Army Metropole in this city during the winter season. Mr. Kelso perhaps goes to the extreme when he says that purely charity efforts should be confined to the sick, aged and children. In the main, however, he takes the right view of the case. He claims that work is the only proper basis of relief effort, and urges that nothing more should be paid for work done under such circumstances than is sufficient to sustain life and strength until more permanent employment, not of a relief character, can be obtained. This is a perfectly sound rule to apply in the case of the floating element found in this city in winter, composed of men who are not tax-payers, and have no one dependent upon them, and who, by getting from someone the price of a bed, and in one way or another getting meals also at another person's expense, continue to subsist. Since this problem is presented every winter it is obvious that some solution should be found, and a system adopted by which the citizens would be relieved from the constant drain upon those who are charitably disposed. Work should be provided, and every delinquent getting relief should be required to do a certain amount of it in return for the assistance given.

TAX REFORM.

In an article commending the objects of the Tax Reform Association of Nova Scotia to its readers, the Maritime Merchant says that "one may have as many and varied ideas about taxation as he pleases, but he must agree with the principle of placing the burden of the property tax on land values, by the progressive elimination of the present tax on improvements and personality." The Nova Scotia Association proposes to conduct a vigorous campaign of education, and is confident that the necessary legislation to reform the assessment system will be secured.

New Brunswick is beginning to move along the same line. The city council of St. John will shortly hold a conference with Mr. James R. Brown, touching the matter of taxation in this city. Mr. Brown is also invited to speak again in Moncton, and has received invitations from the boards of trade in Fredericton and St. Stephen. No doubt other boards of trade will want to hear him when he returns to the province, and there appears to be an excellent prospect of an educational campaign which will result in a substantial measure of tax reform in New Brunswick. The statement made by the Maritime Merchant that there should be a gradual removal of taxation on improvements expresses the views of a steadily growing number of people in every community.

The board of trade of St. Stephen has followed the example of that of Charlottetown in refusing to ask the dominion government to place an embargo on potatoes from the United States.

The town of Truro has installed a municipal system of ornamental street lighting. A company also provides lights, so that the principal streets at night present a brilliant appearance.

King George told the head of the Church Army yesterday that in his opinion the work was good for people. King George himself sets an excellent example, for he is one of the busiest men in England.

The partisan report on the National Transcontinental Railway has fallen flat. It is a great disappointment to those Conservatives who expected startling revelations of graft, and everybody else measures it at its true value as an unsuccessful attempt to bring wrongdoing to the door of the late governor.

According to a return brought down in parliament yesterday the revenue of the Intercolonial Railway from April to June inclusive last year showed an increase of \$845,666, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. For the same period the operating expenses showed an increase of \$380,229. Tory management of the I. C. R. makes the expenses grow much faster than the receipts. Mr. Gladstone, however, draws a large salary, and will soon have an elegant private car. This latter assurance gives great satisfaction to the suburban folk at St. John, a very large number of whom were at the depot last night until about one in the morning waiting for a train to take them home.

The Playgrounds Association, in electing Miss Mabel Peters, who is absent from the city to the office of honorary president, paid a well deserved tribute to the most active spirit in the development of supervised playgrounds in Canada. When the playground movement was regarded as a mere fad, Miss Peters lost no opportunity through the press and in the Woman's Council and in other ways to bring about a change in public sentiment. She more than any other has reason to be gratified with the splendid progress the movement has made, not only in St. John, but throughout the country. The question of social centre work was referred to at the annual meeting of the association, but as it lacks funds to carry on this work, there seems little or no prospect of any wider use of school buildings under its auspices this winter. This is to be regretted.

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BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17.
W. R. Brock, head of the W. R. Brock Company, one of the largest wholesale dry goods houses in Canada, reaches his seventy-eighth birthday today. His career has been a long and interesting one. Owing to the death of his father when he was quite young he had to give up his purpose of becoming a lawyer and enter commercial life instead. He started at the very bottom rung of the ladder, being at one time simply a clerk in a village dry goods store. By hard work he gradually climbed higher and higher, until at last he had become a partner in a wholesale dry goods firm in Toronto. Eventually he founded a business of his own and this he has conducted with great success and is now reckoned a millionaire. His interests are widespread and at one time he represented one of the Toronto ridings in the House of Commons.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15.
This is the natal day of Sir Rodmond Roblin, premier of Manitoba, who is now sixty-one years of age. Sir Rodmond, who comes of German descent, was born in the county of Lennox and Addington, and when still quite a young man set out to make his fortune in the west. He took up farming near Carman and later moved into Winnipeg, where he went into the grain business. He had not been long in Manitoba when he entered politics, first as reeve of his home municipality, then as warden of the county and then as member of the legislature. On the defeat of the Greenway government in 1900, he was called on to form a government and for the last fourteen years has been the dominating power in the province. He was knighted in 1912.

LIGHTER VEIN
Wouldn't Argue
"What's the shape of the earth?" asked the teacher, calling suddenly upon Willie.
"Round."
"How do you know it's round?"
"All right," said Willie; "it's square, then. I don't want to start any argument about it."

The Wall of a Swan
That the boys of today should be taught to say no
Is all right; but I'm free to confess
That I think it were better if teachers
Would show
Our young women the way to say yes.
—From Judge.

Benevolent Individual—Yes sir, I hold that when a man makes a little extra money his first duty is to make his wife a present of a handsome dress.
Stranger—You are a social philosopher I presume?
No, sir, I am a dry goods merchant.

"Please, sir," said the maid to the head of the house "there's a gentleman here to see you on business."
"Tell him to take a chair."
"O, he's already taken them all, and now he's sitting at the table. He's from the instalment house."

Why Not Take It to Gundry!

Have you a watch from which some bolts has stolen the tick!

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Men's "Harts" \$7.50 and \$7.00 Black or Tan Leather Lined, Double Soled Boots. \$6.00
Men's Winter Calf \$6.50 and \$6.00 Black or Tan Waterproof Boots. \$5.00
Men's Box Calf and Dull Calf \$5.50 and \$5.00 Double Soled Boots. \$4.00
Ladies' Knee Length \$1.50 Jersey Leggings, all sizes. \$1.00
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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a Bill will be presented for enactment at the next session of the Provincial Legislature entitled "An Act respecting the Fisheries in the Harbour of Saint John," the object of which is to enable the City of Saint John to sell the Fisheries below high and low water mark along the east and west sides of the Bay, River and Harbour of Saint John either on the FIRST TUESDAY in January in each year or on such other day as the Common Council may, from time to time, direct, with power to post such sale from day to day.
Dated at Saint John, N. B., the 30th day of January, A.D. 1914.
HERBERT E. WARDROBE,
1856-H. Common Clerk