

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1920.

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THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

The Times desires to refer again to the civic elections now so close at hand. There are already nine candidates in the field for the two vacant commissionerships, and there may be more. It will be necessary to make a choice. There will be primary and final ballots taken. It is the duty of every voter to cast his or her ballot. The best available men should be chosen, and chosen by majority in a full vote. If only a handful of the electors go to the polls that there is useless thereafter to assert that there is any public spirit in St. John or any general desire to improve conditions. The Commercial Club was formed to "make St. John a better city to live in." Possibly the Club may not have the endorsement of the Board of Trade, Rotary Club, Canadian Club and Trades and Labor Council should all urge their members not only to exercise their franchise but influence others to do so. If every elector does his duty fairly, choosing not for any partisan reasons but with a view to getting the best administrators, there will be no ground for complaint as to the result. The city council will have a great deal of important business to transact during the next two years. Men of sound judgment should be elected. Possibly all of the candidates may lay claim to that quality, but it is certain that opinions will differ regarding their capacity. Let the electors be registered at the polls. The people will get as good or as bad city government as they themselves choose. There will not be another opportunity to choose for a term of two years. Let everybody weigh the candidates and vote. Make it a record vote.

SHIRKED RESPONSIBILITY.

The Allies postponed action in regard to Turkey in the hope that the United States would do its duty in the matter. In the Commons last week Mr. Lloyd George made this plain. A report of his speech says: "Mr. Lloyd George said the delay in completing the Turkish treaty was due to American political difficulties. He had hoped that America would share the burden of the oversight of Turkey. 'Supervision of the Turkish Empire will strain the resources of the Allies to the utmost,' said Mr. Lloyd George. 'But if the United States had been ready to come in, America might have undertaken the protection of the Armenian population, not merely in Armenia proper, but in Cilicia and some of the adjoining provinces.' Great Britain also hoped that the United States might have undertaken a mandate for the Dardanelles, and possibly for Constantinople, and might have controlled from there the activities of Turkish officials throughout the whole of Asia Minor. Colonel Murray, former assistant military attaché at Washington, interrupted, asking on what that hope was based. Mr. Lloyd George answered, 'I have not the right to say, but the House may take it that I had good reason.'"

The United States, however, contented itself with sending notes expressing its views without assuming any responsibility in the matter, and the Allies, having waited until it was clear the Senate would reject the peace treaty and accept no mandate for Armenia or Cilicia or the Dardanelles, had to make shift to solve the very grave problem themselves. The American people in the future will not look back with any degree of satisfaction upon the course pursued by Congress since the close of the war.

C. N. R. TERMINALS.

It was announced just after the members of parliament from the west arrived in St. John that President Hanna would soon visit St. John. The report does not appear to have been well-founded. If, however, Mr. Hanna is not coming to St. John, then St. John should go to Mr. Hanna and the government in relation to needed harbor terminals here for the C. N. R. We are now in the month of April. Providing additional berth accommodation in a harbor is not a simple task, but one requiring preparation and a great deal of work. If anything is to be done at St. John this year the work should soon be in hand. If nothing is to be done, and more steamships for the government service are to be launched, then the conditions in this harbor next winter will be worse than they have been this season. The question of C. N. R. terminals is still the big issue, and it means a great deal more than enlarged track space. It means berths for steamers. St. John's effort to get such action here as will prevent government steamers from using foreign ports next winter must not end in a whim. The enlightening process and the pressure must be continuous until action is secured. It is assumed the supplementary estimates that cannot be affirmed as a certainty. Hence the City Council, Board of Trade and Commercial Club must not regard the present as a time to rest on their oars. Parliament is in session.

If France needs twenty million dollars' worth of the products of Canada the fact should stimulate production, and the export of so great a quantity of products would mean a good deal for Canadian railways, ports and steamships.

AGAINST PROHIBITION.

As an Easter offering the Standard gives its readers a three column article against prohibition, and editorially commends it to the public. When the referendum takes place the friends of prohibition will have to reckon with the Standard's influence against them. Its friends who passed the prohibitory law find themselves deserted at a critical period in the struggle for complete prohibition. On Thursday the Standard even criticized the proposed amendments to the Election Act, and said: "This, we presume, is the result of the agitation gotten up by the Temperance Alliance, on behalf of the women who did not register when they should have done so. Scores of women, nay hundreds, did not register, simply because they did not want the franchise, and have no use for a vote. As their vote is considered necessary to carry the forthcoming referendum some method has to be found to get their names on the list. And the government, lamb-like, provides it at the instance of the busybodies."

Possibly the attitude of the Standard will have the effect of making busy those who had counted on its continued support of the prohibition law. If they were not busybodies before they may now regard it as the part of wisdom to fight the insidious influence exerted from day to day by the new mouthpiece of the liquor forces. The referendum is expected to take place in June.

It is now expected that neither the parliamentary session at Ottawa nor the legislative session at Fredericton will be prolonged. So far as Ottawa is concerned the uncertainty which prevailed when the session opened has been removed. The government majority will probably be safe for the session, and it is expected Sir Robert Borden will return next month to confer with his colleagues regarding the political future of the Unionist party. At present the indications seem to point to another session of parliament before the house is dissolved. There is always, of course, the possibility of some new development, but the government is getting on very well with the business of the session.

It is a habit of street railway corporations to make very large claims. The property of the Winnipeg Street Railway Company has just been valued at \$20,000,000 by the engineer of the Public Utilities Commission. The company says this is too low a valuation by at least \$8,000,000. It claims that there should be added to the engineer's figure an amount approximately \$1,000,000 for the value of the property before the house is dissolved. There is always, of course, the possibility of some new development, but the government is getting on very well with the business of the session.

It is announced that the Industrial Development Association, organized in Calgary to promote a colonization scheme, will establish an office in St. John to direct colonization from this point of Canada of lands in the west. The west is nothing if not ambitious. The eastern provinces cannot afford to lose population, and must develop the western spirit to the extent of going after settlers. They cannot be got in the west, and we must look to the United Kingdom. Joint action by the three maritime provinces is necessary to secure the best results.

Easter is a festival of pleasure. The character of its observance has changed as the centuries passed, and for many it has lost something of its old-time religious significance; but it is still a season of rejoicing. Tomorrow the churches will be filled, and the flowers, the music and the sermons will all breathe the spirit of a festival which to the devout commemorates the resurrection, and to all marks the change from the severity of winter to the vivifying forces of the springtime.

Toronto Globe: A few weeks ago a representative delegation from the Philippine Islands visited the United States to ask for self-determination for their country, but the senate sent them empty-handed away. Self-determination, unlike charity, seems to begin everywhere but at home.

A campaign will be put on in Toronto in May to raise \$650,000 for the Y. W. C. A. Of this amount half a million will be devoted to the work in the city itself. The Association has conducted four boarding houses for lonely girls, and ten girls' clubs, in addition to many other activities.

Higher prices for anthracite coal for next winter are predicted by the Ontario fuel administrator. The more announcement develops here—but not of the right sort.

The trouble in the Ruhr district in Germany appears to be over. The government has overcome what threatened to be a very serious situation.

Even the rate of burglar insurance has advanced in New York. Next thing we know the burglars will be demanding a bonus.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

APRIL.

With April comes the feeling that winter's hit the ceiling, and spring at last is here; we are not always freering, or catching cold and sneezing, and its germs disappear. The winter's grim and dreary, it makes us sad and weary, it fills our bones with aches; but April is enchanting, and we begin our planting, and plying hoes and rakes. The winter's knell is tolling, and naught is more consoling than is the breath of spring; there's solace in its breezes, and men are simply cheery who do not bumble, the grass is getting green; this fact appeals to reason: there is no better season for burning gasoline. Oh, April is a hummer, she is the cheerful comer who gets the welcome sign; though sometimes wet and windy, inclined to raise a shindy, her curves are mostly fine. She shows that winter's ended, for she is not attended by snow and ice and sleet; with cold she's never stung us, and so she lands among us with both her kindly feet.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Journalism. Happenings of Other Days

ACADIA FOUND.

Friday, April 2.

The fur trade was the envy of all the nations and traders in the early days of the land. At last it fell into the hands of a French gentleman named De Monts, who had a great colonization scheme for Acadia—the name by which at that time the present provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and a large part of the state of Maine were known. Champlain was sent out from France with the expedition of settlement which De Monts had personally. On board the little fleet, in addition to the French gentlemen and their followers and laborers and church workers, were some Protestants for it was the intention to establish the new colony on the platform of religious toleration. Nearing the shore of what is now Nova Scotia, a trading ship, working in breach of the monopoly given to De Monts by the King of France, was taken prize. Monsieur de Monts, one of the noblemen on board, was so much impressed by the appearance of the country in Annapolis Basin that he persuaded De Monts to give him the surrounding land.

The colony itself was started first on the rocky island of St. Croix at the mouth of the River St. Croix, which forms part of the present boundary between New Brunswick and the state of Maine. Here, after some pretentious array of forts, houses and barracks were erected. Here, too, after a summer spent in the construction of the colony, the little band became a prey to scurvy and nearly half of them died before the first spring of the settlement. After a long search along the New England coast for a spot that seemed more desirable, the colony removed to Port Royal, where it remained for the next two years.

HARD PIONEER DAYS.

Saturday, April 3.

When De Monts' settlers decided in 1604 to leave the island of St. Croix, where so many had perished, and settle at Port Royal, they thought the hardships of the pioneer experiences were at an end. The summer of 1607 was spent by the great explorer, Champlain, in making charts and maps of the new land and in preparations for the winter. A "Good Times Club" was organized by the pioneers and they prepared to pass a pleasant winter in anticipation of a season of prosperity the next summer.

But spring brought them a disaster. De Monts' monopoly had excited the envy and opposition of others in France and had collapsed before the attacks of the merchants of St. Malo. As the profits of the monopoly were the basis of the colony, there was nothing for it to do but abandon all its plans and return to France. Port Royal became once more a scene of great activity and everything was prosperous again. But a blow was no fall sooner than the English claimed the land by virtue of the discovery by Cabot more than 100 years previously, and so now the English from Virginia uprooted the colony and destroyed its buildings. So Port Royal had to abandon its idea of settlement and quit the place, but with his own and a few of his followers he remained in the country to trade in furs with the Micmac Indians.

MY PEACE.

"My peace I leave with you," the Master said, And yet we find it not! Disquieted and weary and afraid, And staid with many a spot Of sin that doth so easily beset, Thy blessed promise, Master, we forget.

"My peace I leave with you," Oh, Thou whose word Remains through earth and heaven Shall pass away, grant us, dear, pitying Lord To find what Thou has given, The greatest of all good, Thy priceless gift That shall our burdened souls to Thee uplift.

Oh, help our stumbling feet among the press, To find that hidden way, Among the crowding cares, the strain and stress Of this our earth-bound day, Ere life's conflicting shadows make us blind, Help us the secret of Thy peace to find.

Among the clamor and the wild acclaim Of wonders newly wrought, Men give not Thee the glory, and Thy Thy worship is not sought. O help us, ere the tumult close our ears, Help us the promise of Thy peace to hear!

LIGHTER VEIL.

The little man approached a saleswoman and spluttered: "You got me into a pickle, you did." "I don't understand," the girl replied, timidly.

"You remember when I came in here to pick out a silk dress for my wife, don't you?" "And you remember we asked the

assistance of the lady who was buying a little skirt for her little girl?" "Yes—yes."

"Well, you got the parcels mixed, that's what you did, and I took that little skirt home to my wife."

"You awfully sorry, sir, but, of course, we can put that right."

"How?" "I can change the skirt."

"I know you can, but that isn't the trouble. My wife opened the parcel while I was away, thought it was the latest style and wore the wretched thing to church on Sunday."

Mabel was a modern maid. She knew a lot of things her mother had not found essential in life. One evening after a visit to the movies with her "intended," she came home alone.

"Where's Harold?" asked her mother. "I—er—we—er—I gave him his things this evening, mother," replied Mabel, as she glanced at her fingers left hand.

"And I should think so, too," replied the old lady, not wishing to display her ignorance of the word. "You'd no right to take it from him in the first place."

The car guards worn by some football players greatly puzzled two young ladies who saw them for the first time. "Whatever is that man wearing those funny flaps over his ears for?" one of them asked.

The other had not a ghost of an idea, but as she desired to convey the impression that she knew all about the game, she replied at once: "Oh, that's so, when he won't hear what the others say, that he kicks them!"

Gossip is the mother-in-law of slander. "If I ask you to marry me, I s'pose you'll say yes."

"I will if you make your approach in that feeble way. That ain't salesman's talk, George."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

KOLCHAK WAS DEFEATED BY PROPAGANDA

Not Bullets Which Led to His Final Collapse, Says General Thord-Gray.

New York, April 3.—(By Canadian Press)—Propaganda, not bullets, led to the final collapse of Admiral Alexander Kolchak, supreme ruler of Russia, who served with the All-Russian army under Major-General Thord-Gray under Kolchak from early in 1919 until the final catastrophe this winter. Major-General Thord-Gray went to Siberia in November, 1918, as a staff officer in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Siberia), with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and no one member of that force saw more of the thrilling events that marked the struggle against the Red armies in the Siberian area. When it was announced that the Canadian troops were to be withdrawn, he obtained permission to join the Russian army, and was given the rank of major-general under Kolchak. He served in the latter's armies from Vladivostok to Ekaterinburg, and on one occasion was taken prisoner, and before he finally escaped from Siberia a two attempts were made to assassinate him.

Two days after the All-Russian forces under Kolchak had evacuated their capital city Omsk, Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik minister of war, delivered a "propaganda" address to a group of All-Russian prisoners, who had been taken in the fighting, said General Thord-Gray. Calling those men "comrades," Trotsky said they would be welcomed by the Red Army if they wished to join. Captive officers, he said, who wished to return to Kolchak would be given a safe escort and 2,000 roubles each. A number of the prisoners accepted this offer, and, returning to their own lines, told what Trotsky had done. Within two weeks, said General Thord-Gray, Kolchak had practically no army.

In the last weeks of the fighting, said General Thord-Gray, the Bolshevik troops showed better morale than those of Kolchak, and they were better armed. The Reds had one machine gun for every twenty men, while the Kolchak troops had but three to each battalion of six hundred men. During the 2,000 mile retreat of the All-Russian armies they were driven before machine gun, not rifle fire. General Sakharoff, the All-Russian minister and chief of staff, "lost the army at Omsk without a fight," said General Thord-Gray.

General Thord-Gray is a veteran of upwards of twenty wars and campaigns. In the great war he commanded a British battalion until wounded. He was later connected with the British Recruiting Mission in the United States, and served in many African campaigns, and at one time held a commission in the Mexican army.

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LOOKS LIKE BOOM IN CANADA'S "WET" VACATION LAND

Expect Slump in Summer Cottages Across Border — "No Prohibition Restrictions," Is Bait of Cottage Advertiser.

New York, April 3.—(By Canadian Press)—"It looks as though there was going to be a slump in summer cottages on this side of the line in spite of the scarcity of housing accommodation," a local real estate man said recently. "Why should a man spend a totally 'dry' vacation in some American summer resort when he can go up to Canada and enjoy the same expense and enjoy cooling summer beverages of the good old-fashioned kind?" he asked. "It was not the same expense and enjoy cooling summer beverages of the good old-fashioned kind?" he asked. "It was not the same expense and enjoy cooling summer beverages of the good old-fashioned kind?" he asked.

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