

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 14, 1919

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MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

The building committee of the municipal council will ask the council to call for competitive plans for a new municipal building. Doubtless the council will do so, and will ask for plans of a building large enough to be worthy of a city the size of St. John. The city has an opportunity to rectify the blunder of eighty years ago when the court house was built thirty-five feet over the street line, spoiling ever since the appearance of King street east. It has also an opportunity to centralize all the city and county offices and save considerable expense that is at present incurred. St. John must go forward and not backward. No patchwork restoration of the old court house on its present site would meet present and future needs.

There is now a prospect that the city council may proceed next year with an extensive street-paving programme. It is presumed that in the meantime the question of the proportion of cost the abutters should pay will be settled once and for all. We must have better streets, and there is no reason why a plan successfully operated in other cities should not be adopted in St. John. Indeed it was adopted, on a permissive basis, and working well; but was very foolishly abandoned.

The city council does well to give vocational training a fair start by providing the grant asked for by the vocational training board. Money to be wisely spent for educational purposes any city can well afford to provide.

The request of the G. W. V. A. for a grant of \$10,000 to wipe out the mortgage on their home is one the council may very well consider favorably, as it had already agreed to give \$15,000 toward the cost of a memorial building. The Veterans would gladly accept the \$10,000 in lieu of this, so that their present fine home, which cost \$25,000, might be cleared of the mortgage. It would not be a gift, but an instalment on the great debt the city owes to its soldier sons.

BASEBALL PROSPECTS.

In special correspondence of the Times Mr. Joe Page, who has attended the conference at Springfield, Mass., and has interviewed those most concerned, says that there is an opportunity for St. John to link up with the New England Baseball League.

This is an opportunity which should not be lost. To put St. John on the baseball map in that way would be a kind of publicity this city ought to have. Mr. Page has arranged that St. John may be represented at the meeting of the New England League. Of course it would be necessary to secure grounds, grandstands and all appurtenances; but business and professional men would not doubt welcome the opportunity to take stock in an enterprise which would prove a great asset of the city. The city that patronizes good baseball gets far more than a local reputation. This paper believes that an effort to get St. John associated with the New England League would be a most popular move, and that it would meet with a measure of general support such as would surprise the promoters. The pioneer work done by Mr. Page should be followed by definite organization and such guarantees as would make St. John a real baseball city. This would in no way interfere with but rather give an impetus to the development of amateur sport. The line would be sharply drawn between amateur and professional competition, which has not hitherto been the case. If St. John can accomplish that for which Mr. Page has paved the way it will be a genuine forward step.

The solution of the Russian problem, says Premier Lloyd George, is essential to the reconstruction of the world. An American observer declares that unless the problem is rightly solved Germany may gain more in the east than she has lost in the west. Meantime Lenin and Trotsky are making some headway against Admiral Kolchak, although the hope is expressed that Gen. Denikin may yet reach Petrograd before winter sets in. An international conference will presently deal with Russian affairs, and may find a way out of a very serious situation.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Times says the view is expressed there, in relation to future Grand Trunk traffic, that St. John and Halifax are sure of getting all that originates in Canada. We would be glad if that were really to be a part of the development of the new policy, but it has not been so in the past, and there will still be a tendency on the part of some exporters to choose Portland rather than the maritime province ports. The question is by no means settled. St. John and Halifax must fight now as in the past to get business which rightly belongs to them.

The construction of a large baggage shed at West St. John is about to begin; it should have been built during the summer instead of at the beginning of the winter port season. But St. John is accustomed to great deliberation in all matters of this kind.

DISREPUTABLE TACTICS.

The Fredericton Gleaner says: "The provincial government has decided not to proceed further in its action against the Hon. J. K. Flemming through which it sought to have certain moneys returned. This is the natural result of a long drawn out affair which had its start in the efforts of the present government to play politics. Now that the purpose cannot be further served, action is abandoned."

The reason the government decided not to proceed further at present with the action against Mr. Flemming is given in the affidavit of Mr. Flemming's physician, who said: "He is now confined to his bed in a very weak condition and is unable to care for himself and the prospects of his again arising from bed are almost gone."

The Gleaner knew all about this affidavit, but with utter shamelessness attempts to convey the impression that the government was merely playing politics when it stayed its hand. Mr. Flemming's counsel delayed the case by every possible means, and then his illness intervened. For that reason, and that alone, action was deferred, and for the consideration it has shown the government is now subjected to gross misrepresentation by a newspaper which got ten thousand dollars of the money made available by the Valley Railway deal.

But the Gleaner has gone further and insinuates that there has been something shady in the transactions of the present St. John & Quebec Railway Company. This has been challenged promptly by Mr. E. S. Carter, the company's secretary, who invites the Gleaner to produce his evidence. If it knows of "weaknesses and irregularities" now is the time to tell the story.

An Ottawa special intimates that the visit of Viscount Jellicoe to Ottawa may be followed by a declaration of naval policy at the session of parliament, but that the growing influence of the farmers may discourage any ambitious plans in that direction. It may be taken for granted that whatever is done will be in line with the Liberal policy of developing a Canadian navy. Had that policy been carried out by the Borden government it would have made Canada more effective in the late war.

An interesting side-light on the effects of prohibition is found in the following from the Toronto Star: "That the coming of prohibition has had its effect upon the success of the loan is shown from day to day by incidents reported by canvassers. This morning a lady walked into District 'A' headquarters and bought \$150 worth of bonds, paying in one dollar bills. She explained that in one dollar money she had saved from the extra allowance received from her husband since old King Alcohol was dethroned."

Sir Frederick Lewis thinks St. John does wonderfully well with the shipping facilities provided, but says there should be more piers, and the breakwater should be extended to Partridge Island. If we could only impress this view upon the authorities at Ottawa we might get somewhere. And we ought to know what the government plans to do before a vote is taken on the question of harbor commission. Past experience should teach that lesson.

The London students who carried on American prohibition advocate through the streets on a plank, after subjecting him to personal injury had a strange notion of what is meant by British fair play. The same students would permit a rank anarchist to speak in Hyde Park or elsewhere. Their action last night will merely create the more sympathy for the cause of prohibition.

If the living conditions known to exist on Navy Island in St. John harbor were described as existing in Chicago or New York we would be shocked at the evidence of public indifference, but year after year passes and the same apathy exists in regard to Navy Island.

It is very gratifying that New Brunswick as a whole has subscribed more than its quota of the Victory Loan. St. John has not yet gained its objective, and a special effort is therefore necessary.

The Schoolteacher

St. John people must subscribe still more generally and generously for Victory bonds or the city will not attain its objective in the campaign.

The Schoolteacher

If she is strict, people say she does not allow the children to exercise their individuality. If she is not strict, people say she cannot maintain discipline. If she pays great attention to her appearance, she is merely looking for a husband. If she does not pay great attention to her appearance, she is a bad example for the children.

If she enjoys theatres, cards and dances she is a disgrace to her profession. If she refrains from such pleasures, she is a crank. If she sticks to her subject, she is a fanatic. If she diverts from her subject, then she is talkative and rambling. If she gives up her position to marry, she is a fool. If she does not give up her position to marry, she is a fool.



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

SOME SWEET DAYS.

Some day I will reform the world, and make the crooked places straight, then every evil will be hurled to outer darkness, sure as fate. But now I have to do my chores, and keep the well known wolf away; I have to fix the cellar doors, and lay in coal, and flour and hay. Some day, with you, I'll take the stump and talk from noon till night arrives, send old abuses to the dump, and brighten up men's darkened lives. But now I have to raise the price of things we need—it takes some roll—and pay the chap who brought the ice, and fother guy who brings the coal. And sometimes, as I pay my bills, I think perhaps that helps as much as swooping up and down the hills, demanding things, to beat the Dutch. And often, as I do my chores, I think that helps the world along as much as raising raucous roars, and showing that all things are wrong. Some day I'll leave my useful tasks, forsake my simple, homely joys, and stand on boxes and on coals, and wave red flags, and make a noise. Then you will know, if you are near, that something's wrong beneath my thatch, and you may take me by the ear, and lead me to the booby hatch.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

LORD SELKIRK.

When Nov. 14, 1803, dawned, it saw on his way to the great unknown west of Canada a sturdy figure who was to play a great role in its development in the years to come. He was a dreamer so many thought then, but Lord Selkirk, the intrepid pioneer, was sure his vision was to be realized. The best and bravest blood of Scotland ran in his veins and as for fear he did not know the meaning of the word. That characteristic stood him in good stead in the years to come.

In 1802 he wrote the British authorities asking permission to establish a colony in America; the only response was a statement that the home government did not favor such a plan. But undaunted, he began to prepare for the time when he could come to America. In 1803 he came to Montreal, where he was received with great honors and entertained lavishly at the club of the day. The Beaver Club membership was composed almost entirely of fur trade officers who knew the west. The west called him after carrying a time at the Grand River he answered the call of the wild. Then his real work began and the establishment of colonies on the Red River and fur stations even farther followed west. A colony at Fort York was one part of his work.

In those days the Hudson's Bay Company was the power in the wilds. It was but natural that the young lord should come into conflict with it. There were charges and counter charges and wild and troublesome days. But he continued his work with the result that strong cities stand now where he established colonies. He died in the south of France, where he had gone to seek renewed health, in 1820. It is only in recent years, however, that the full value of his pioneer work has been appreciated.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Not At All Unusual.

Church—"I see it has just leaked out that the fountain-pen-makers are on strike."

Gotham—"Oh, well, you know there always is something leaking out about a fountain-pen."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Senator, here is a man for whom we positively must find a job."

"All right. What's his size? Will he be satisfied to be a doortender, or will you put him on an investigating committee?"—Judge.

After years of patient strap-hanging he had ceased to complain, and had resigned himself to the inevitable. He did not expect a seat in exchange for his fare as he journeyed home by subway from the city.

However, one evening he felt bound mildly to expostulate with the individual who was sitting in the seat below the strap which he was pattingly clasp.

"Excuse me, sir," he said in a gentle voice, "but would you be so kind as to move up? This is my seat."

"Is that so?" was the reply. "Then perhaps you would be kind enough to pile them one above the other."

"What is your explanation of the high cost of living?"

"I haven't any," answered the man who is trying to produce, \$7,000 a year, that some of it isn't due to time wasted in over-explanation."—Washington Star.

A matter-of-fact gentleman one day met a friend.

"Hallo!" was the greeting from the matter-of-fact gentleman. "How do you find yourself today?"

"I'm mighty bad," was the reply. "This weather'll be the end of me. I know I'll be a dead man before very long."

"You've been saying that for the last five years. I've no patience with you. I tell you what it is, you want firmness of mind. Fix a day for your dying and stick to it."

MORNING NEWS OVER THE WIRE.

The matter of having "punch-clocks" installed for civil service employees is now being considered at Ottawa.

Reports show a smaller increase in the net debt of Canada for October than in September. The net debt now stands at \$14,351,792.

Wm. E. Johnson, "Pussyfoot," an American prohibition worker, was roughly treated in London last night. He had arranged a debate in Essex Hall. Some English medical students seized him and rushed him through several streets on a plank. He was rescued by the police.

Chicago saloon-keepers, expecting a federal court decision on the enforcement of war-time prohibition to be favorable to the liquor trade, are preparing to resume selling liquor.

The Canadian War Board announces an agreement with railway employees numbering 10,000 in Canada, whereby they would receive an increased wage of four cents an hour for locomotive workers and nine cents an hour for car repair shop workers. The men had asked for seventeen cents increase.

HOTELS CHARGE "CORKAGE"
Tax Those Who Supply Themselves With Liquor.

New York, Nov. 14.—In the future those who have carried their own liquor in hip-pocket bottles will have to pay for the privilege. Walter Guzzardi, manager of the Hotel Majestic restaurant, announced that he had placed a line on each of his menus reading, "Corkage, \$1." It was said the Waldorf, Claridge, Astor and Pennsylvania were already making the charge.

Mr. Guzzardi said that few realized the extent to which private stock is being used by diners. He cited the hip-pocket and the vest-pocket flasks and the fact that many women were carrying cocktails in little tubes attached to their vanity cases. Some, he said, even carried the ingredients in little handbags. Many of the hotels find there is as much drinking as ever without the revenue and therefore the "corkage" tax.

A FINE OLD HOMESTEAD.

(Fredericton Gleaner.)

Nelson W. Brown has sold his fine property, Maple Farm, at Middle Southampton, a Scotch gentleman who came out to this country fourteen years ago and homesteaded in Alberta, where he made considerable money as a dairyman and rancher. Two years ago Mr. Brown sold the lumber off his farm to Messrs. Phillips & Creighton, of Woodstock, for \$30,000, and he has now received for the farm proper about \$7,000. It is a beautiful country home and has been in the family for three generations. Mr. Brown's grandfather, the late Abram Brown, coming from New York at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, when he took up 200 acres, felled the first trees and built a house. His two brothers, Malcolm and Edward, left New York at the same time and settled in Ontario, the former being the father of the Hon. George Brown, one of the fathers of Confederation. Mr. Brown still retains his father's mill property in Southampton, the land of which is among the finest in the settled valley of the St. John. He has one son, Waldo, with the C. P. R. at Guelph, Ont., and with his wife and three daughters, has moved to Fredericton, taking up their residence on Carleton street.

GERMANS BUYING COTTON.

For the first time since the civil war spot cotton was sold in Texas on Oct. 14 at forty cents a pound. This price, the culmination of a series of recent advances, is reported to be due to heavy purchases for German account. According to some authorities in the trade, Germany's purchases during the last two months have been heavier than those of any other country except England, and the buying is of the best grades. An estimate places Germany's purchases since August 1 as in excess of 500,000 bales. So far as is known no large credits in favor of Germany have been arranged here, and it is supposed that these shipments are being financed through credits secured by Germany in neutral European countries. For some months the Germans have been doing business with Holland and the Scandinavian countries on a barter basis, and it is believed that the balances in their favor are already considerable.

RESCUED FROM QUICKSAND.
Sunk to his neck in quicksand, near Long Island City, New York, Alexander Bologh of Lorain, O., was rescued by Patrolman Prazek. Thomas Graham, a Nulenburg, a Mount Zion cemetery guard.

It was 2 a. m. when the patrolman heard cries from the swampland. He walked into the swamp and sank to his knees. He blew his whistle. Graham and Nulenburg ran up and helped the policeman out. The three then found a leaky rowboat and paddled about the swampland for nearly two hours before they located Bologh. In attempting to get him out Prazek lost his balance and fell beside him. The patrolman tied a rope under Bologh's arms. Prazek with the assistance of his two companions, got back into the boat and they pulled Bologh to safety. He was taken to St. John's Hospital, Long Island City, where it was said he would recover. He could not remember how he had got to the swamp.

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