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**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH THE EVENING TIMES**

New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers. These newspapers advocate British connection. Honesty in public life. Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion. No graft! No deals! "The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwined, The Maple Leaf forever."

Semi-Weekly Telegraph 714 The News ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 25, 1914.

**THE RAILROAD SITUATION.**

Apparently the Grand Trunk Pacific is not going to operate the National Transcontinental under the terms of the original agreement. Evidently the government has decided to force the Grand Trunk Pacific to accept the terms of the agreement, and this is more likely than not. The fact that the Grand Trunk Pacific is in a position to refuse to accept the terms of the agreement is a matter of great importance.

**A WAITING GOVERNMENT.**

There are many legislative activities that stop short of legislation. The Barren cabinet apparently has a prejudice in favor of these activities. One legislative avenue after another is closed against it. It is true that there is no proposal for the interference of the Senate. Mr. Borden would have introduced the whole German Empire before this. But although Germany does not emerge at present he still persists in leaving "bad enough alone" in domestic matters.

**THE COMMON GOOD.**

Professor Sumner says that "the history of the human race is one long story of the attempts by certain persons and classes to obtain control of the power of the state so as to win earthly gratification at the expense of others."

the civil organization—and he uses the poetry and romance of the state as a glamour under cover of which he may make robbery lawful. Using the powers of the state to secure exemptions for himself, he throws on others the burden and duties. The problem before him is to secure wealth without the exercise of industry and economy. To solve that problem he uses all the means, legitimate and illegitimate, that he finds ready at hand. A favorite method in modern democracy is to develop some high-sounding theories of nationality, patriotism and loyalty, with which to confuse and bewilder the masses. The one thing he always keeps in mind is the purpose of securing for himself a large fraction of the product of those who are seeking to secure the satisfaction of their desires through honest industry.

**BROADENING OUT.**

Several St. John churches are expanding their usefulness through the activity of brotherhoods and other organizations designed to carry on work of social as well as religious amelioration. The man in the street, who is not always aware of the extent and character of the work the churches already do, and who criticizes others for not doing work which in himself neglects and intends to go on neglecting, will find his ground for just and unjust criticism narrowing as the churches broaden their field of activity.

**DEVELOPING THE LAND POLICY.**

Mr. Lloyd George has outlined in a general way the reform that the government proposes on the question of rating. He did this at his recent meeting in Glasgow. This meeting in Glasgow was several times postponed, for one cause or another. It is said that the delay in opening the campaign in Scotland was due to the insistence of the land value group that it was fully to speak there until he was ready to make a definite pronouncement on the question of a land tax. At any rate the speech is one of great and historic importance.

The government is apparently going to give effect to Mr. Asquith's declaration that "he was as convinced as he was of any proposition in politics, that the next great step in the direction of a larger and fuller municipal life would be the opening out, as justice and reason required, of that new and hitherto untrodden source of taxation." The pronouncement is giving great joy to those who feared that the Whig and Socialist element had been able to influence the cabinet to leave the rating system as it was. This is the indispensable link of the whole land policy, and the definite statement of the Chancellor removed the elements of a big rumpus within the ranks of the Scottish Liberals. As Manchester is the centre of the tariff reform agitation, or Lansdowne the historic stronghold of free trade, so Glasgow is the home of the agitation for the taxation of land values. Lloyd George has now come down as straightly as the Scottish Liberals could desire him upon the land question in his pronouncement that land values was to be a subject of fair rating and taxation.

baths, hoping that something might happen on the dark, broad sea, or at least that he might escape the embarrassing and mortifications of silence.

Whether a policy of hesitation is congenial to Mr. Borden or not, he is committed to it, by his alliance with the special interests on the one hand, and by his unholy alliance with the Nationalists on the other. It is vain to expect any constructive legislation. The faculty of inactivity will do his floundering. When Don Quixote tested his helmet and showed a large part of it, he patted it with cardboard, and, like a cautious man, did not again try its strength. There is nothing Quixotic about Mr. Borden's party, yet even if there were, when a helmet is all cardboard it is essential to keep it out of the way.

The visit of Colonel Rogers in connection with the project to convert Fort Howe into a park, playground, and look-out station, should quicken interest in the plan. St. John is rich enough in matter of historic interest, and it has a great public breathing space in Rockwood Park, but in the city itself it has need of more parks and playgrounds, and Fort Howe, commanding as it does the finest prospects, and being of historic importance, will lend itself readily to the proposed treatment and return good value for the money.

**MEN, WOMEN AND MORALS.**

When a man who is given to plain speaking writes in a magazine which is willing that a space shall be called a space when occasion warrants, the result is likely to give offence to many even if it provide useful information for many more. While the newspapers of the United States and Canada, and to some extent civil and state governments in both countries, are discussing "the white slave traffic," Bryan Whitlock, Mayor of Toledo, writes on the subject in the English Magazine, in a vein likely to discourage reformers who busy themselves with symptoms and surface conditions, and who are disposed to be in too great a hurry to be content to deal with fundamental conditions which cannot be changed in a year or a day.

Mr. Whitlock does not offer this incident as a conclusive argument for or against any plan for stamping out vice, but he offers it as a concrete example of the difficulties surrounding the question. He has no remedy to offer other than one which reformers are apt to find distasteful. That is to say, he maintains that we must reform the race gradually, root out ignorance and poverty, and most of all, prejudices that we must establish at length one standard of morality—a single standard—for both men and women. He does not believe that poverty, or starvation wages, or drunkenness is the main spring of vice; though he believes, of course, that these are contributory causes. He blames the moral blindness and hypocrisy of the nation at large for the conditions, and he believes no quick remedy is possible. He is not at all concerned of the utility of vice investigations of publicity, or of "brutal laws" for the punishment of im-

morality. He would discourage the activities of all individuals and of all forces whose experience in these matters is based upon the mere desire for betterment without understanding human nature.

**EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW.**

The New York Evening Post, in speaking of the judges and United States courts, says: "In grinding out their daily grist of commonplace convictions and sentences, they act mechanically. It is only when there is some special appeal to the feelings that there is a chance to get the human sympathy and the sternness of the judge. And this can be done a hundred times for the man of wealth, the man of good standing in society, the man with powerful and respectable friends, to once that it can be done for the poor and friendless violator of the law. The feeling that has grown up with only too much basis, that there is one law for the rich and another law for the poor, owes its origin to the main not to corruption, not to legal chicanery, not even to any class partiality, but to the accessibility of men to the effective human appeal of any individual case. This being possible in the common run of cases, we have the spectacle of the notables and humble ruthlessly condemned to suffer the full penalty of the law, while those who in one way or another stand out above the crowd have a chance for some form or other of mitigation in their punishment."

It may be taken for granted that anything the city can do to facilitate the plan of the Dominion government in this connection will be done promptly and cheerfully. It will be the hope of the citizens of St. John that Colonel Rogers' trip here, and the inspection he is making, will serve to convince him of the soundness of the enterprise and that he may feel able to recommend to the government the wisdom of proceeding immediately with the improvements.

**CIVIC TAXATION.**

While St. John taxpayers are waiting their bills for the public services it is good news to hear that the assessors have discovered nearly two thousand additional citizens who are to pay taxes this year. The city has much important work to carry on, and it necessarily faces an increased expenditure for the next few years. It would be false economy to fail to provide money enough to carry on street improvements, to improve the water supply system, to supply a sufficient number of well-ventilated schools, and to carry through other necessary projects.

It has also been recognized as a fact that housing conditions are poor, but full discussion of the effect of reducing the rate of taxation on improvements has never been given its proper place in the consideration of these problems. If twenty years ago, Toronto had recognized that the way to stimulate building was to subsidize improvements, through a reduction in the rate of taxation upon improvements, it might not be facing today a condition where the city has been forced to furnish the capital for providing decent housing conditions.

have been taken up before the beginning of the present year. While the matter has been postponed, it must not be regarded as having been abandoned. As a matter of fact, the city's increasing demand for revenue is bringing about some change in the present method of taxation. Even if the city should not require any more money than it raises at present, assessment reform would still be necessary, for the present system is antiquated and unjust, and everybody knows it. Taxation reform is, undoubtedly, an awkward question, but it is not a question that may safely be shelved.

The Dutch have captured Holland again. That is to say, Mr. Guthrie was elected yesterday in York. The McLeod faction is evidently stronger than the Pinder faction. But there is a fine row brewing, and this election is only the first round.

The Toronto Globe, which had been looking into the case of Mr. Gutelius, has the following editorial reference to him: "Mr. Gutelius must have been seriously neglecting his duties on the Intercolonial while he was ripping up the Transcontinental and its engineers. The official record of the government railways for the year 1913 shows a deficit of \$288,300, although the earnings were the largest in the history of the road, over \$12,000,000. Mr. Gutelius is the most unpopular man in the Maritime Provinces today. An investigation of the investigators in order."

Vancouver has adopted two by-laws which give the Mayor \$50,000 a year and Aldermen \$1,200 each. One of the aldermen said that he had no objection to so many objects that he felt justified in accepting \$100 a month from the city and expected to have none of it left at the end of the year. The aldermen were almost unanimous in voting for the increase, and they were eloquent in telling why it was justified. Their constituents are yet to be heard.

Discussing the Gutelius-Stanton report on the Transcontinental, the Ottawa Free Press says: "On the day after the appearance of Hon. Bob Rogers' summary of the report, which by the way has not yet been seen by the members of Parliament. The Free Press discussed the thing as a joke. It becomes more and more of a joke as each day passes. The only serious thing about it is that it was described in our news columns yesterday as 'the C. P. R. shadow.' If the Senate wants to hold an enquiry of its own, as suggested by the Journal, it might do a real service by investigating this phase of the question."

The government subsidy to the ships engaged in the Canada-West Indies trade amounts to \$240,000 a year. This is incurred by the reciprocity treaty with the West Indies, the object of which was to divert the trade of the latter from the United States to Canada. The new tariff of the United States, however, gives greater advantages to the traders of the West Indies than even the preferential tariff of Canada. The sugar duties of the United States have been put on a sliding scale and will improve in 1916, whereas the Canadian preferential tariff remains a fairly high duty. Unless, therefore, the Canadian government takes steps to reduce the tariff on imports from the West Indies so as to offset the advantages offered by the United States, the steadily rising industry of \$240,000 a year will represent just that much waste of public money.

The Gutelius-Stanton report is recognized widely as a partisan document. The Hamilton Herald, independent Conservative, says of it: "It would be prudent to read this report in the light of the fact that one of the special commissioners at last—Mr. Lynch-Staunton, of this city—is a stalwart Conservative and an experienced political campaigner who might be tempted to make the most of any opportunity afforded him to discredit the Laurier government and its officials." Much of the excess cost is represented by what the special commissioners believe to be unnecessary expenditure which might have been saved by the construction of sharper curves and momentum grades and less expensive bridges. To this criticism the obvious reply is that although money could thus have been saved, the road would not have been so efficiently built and the cost of operation would have been greater.

**PUNCH ON "SMITHERS."**

The editorship of Punch may be regarded as having been taken up by Mr. Byre, a few weeks ago, at the same time that Mr. Byre became Viscount Bryce. It takes a large number of wide qualifications to be editor of Punch. Judging from Sir Owen Seaman's career, among other requirements being a first class in the Classics, Tippers and the captaincy of a college boat club, followed by thorough experience as tutor and professor of the ancient languages, and admission to the bar. The present editor of Punch joined the staff of that periodical in 1897, and succeeded Sir Francis Baring in 1906. Before he came to Punch he had won a reputation for his light verse, of which a sound classical education cannot stale the infinite variety. How a learned Grecian and ex-professor views some aspects of life may be gathered from Sir Owen's latest bit of medical reflection in Punch, under the heading "Smithers in my head began to play." Echoes of old romances, and all my feet fluttered responsive to the name's cheer.

I saw it on a map, most large and fine (I saw it with the naked eye—no Grand, but Pacific, run along by steam Right to Prince Rupert on the sea.) And there are brought up short.

Smithers! I saw it on a map, I say, A panoramic map in Cockspur street, I heard Alabaster's fountains blane; Echoes of old romances, and all my feet fluttered responsive to the name's cheer.

Smithers! The music of it filled my mouth. I saw Provence and that enchanted shore, And lotus-beds amid the dreary South, And champions out of mediæval lore Looking at large for ladies in distress Round started Lyonses.

I was a trottatore (with guttur); Venezia's airy domes above me shone; I heard Alabaster's fountains blane; and far; I broke the Kallipolis line at Caracosse; All kinds of lost chords latent in my Woke at the name of Smithers.

When I was in Avalon's vale I may not rest When cautious Time has worn me to the bone. Then let us go to Smithers in the West, And on my gravestone let these words be read: Attracted by its name in this fair scene, He died a Smithersene.

When milking cows are to strip the milk to draw as much milk as the udder at each milking are not properly stripped, the milk, and it is a great deal, is lost. The first, or fore milk, is of very poor quality and is little as five per cent of the milk or six from eight to ten per cent if the cows are milked. The milk will not keep.

Winter Care of Breeds. The winter is here, when a little extra great deal to the yield from the crop next spring, not been getting started. The cold nights since had a lesson, once, that a few extra milks of the flock. A will tone the sheep up they will begin the winter with better prospects, the spring will be a handful of grain fed to the bushels later on. Do not make the fatal mistake of neglecting the sheep. They have been accustomed to leisure during the summer, exercise now will prove them out every day for their winter quarters. Sheep will stand any provided they are kept dry, fresh air is essential, then warm quarters. The sheep are dependent largely on the sheep. If the flock is there is nothing better than a little extra milks of the flock. A will tone the sheep up they will begin the winter with better prospects, the spring will be a handful of grain fed to the bushels later on. Do not make the fatal mistake of neglecting the sheep. 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