

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 14, 1913.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 127 and 129 Canterbury Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2117.

Subscription price—Delivered by carrier \$1.00 per year, by mail \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Representative—Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Building, New York. Advertising Building, Chicago.

British and European representatives—The Glasgow Publishing Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar Square, England, where copies of this journal may be seen and to which subscribers intending to visit England may have their mail addressed.

Authorized Agents—The following agents are authorized to canvass and collect for The Evening Times: H. Cecil Edwards, Miss J. L. Barker, Miss Helen W. Hallett, Miss V. E. Giberson and J. E. Cogswell.

MR. ALEXANDER GIBSON

The news of the death of Mr. Alexander Gibson brings to mind the career of one of the most remarkable men the industrial life of the province of New Brunswick has produced. Beginning in the humblest way, as a lad employed in a saw mill, he became the lumber king of New Brunswick, the founder of a town, the successful proprietor of a great cotton mill, and a man whose career was the subject of comment far beyond the confines of his native province. A man of the highest personal honor, he was universally respected. He was without something of an autocrat, but of the benevolent order; and, if he insisted upon controlling the affairs of the town which he built, it was for the benefit of the people and not for the gratification of his own pride. The town of Marysville stands today as Mr. Gibson's monument. When he first went to the Nashua, there was not a tumble-down mill which had not been a successful industry, and a few houses. He provided the river with driving dams to ensure his log supply, built one mill after another, built homes for the work-people, built a cotton mill, built a church, conducted stores, and provided his people with everything necessary for their convenience and comfort. He was for many years a political power in York county, although he always refused for his own part to enter public life. He met with business reverses later in life but remained the same sturdy, strong-souled man to the end. His example may well be an inspiration to young men in this province, who may now have no higher position than he had in his youth, but who have before them as great opportunities as those which he embraced, and which enabled him to carve out a great industrial career. That community is indeed fortunate which can boast of men of the type of Mr. Alexander Gibson.

A SERIOUS AFFAIR

The labor trouble at Nansimo and Ladysmith, B. C., has developed a most serious situation. The mob is responsible for at least one murder, and martial law has been proclaimed. Special policemen sent to quell the riot were driven out of Nansimo and the militia have been called out.

We do not like to read of such conditions in a Canadian city. Labor agitators of one kind or another have been more busy on the Pacific coast than perhaps in any other part of Canada, and in the towns which are the seat of the present trouble there appears to be a great deal of inflammable material. Labor disputes are of common occurrence, and often accompanied by strikes, but we have not yet grown accustomed in Canada to such happenings as are recorded in today's news from the Pacific province. The strikers have committed a blunder and a crime, and the majesty of the law must now be upheld.

The emissaries of the Industrial Workers of the World have no doubt been busy in British Columbia, and their leaders encourage them to show an utter disregard for all law, or for anything that stands between them and the accomplishment of their aims. It is not, however, by such methods that men will secure their rights, or industries will be assured. The wretch who threw a stick of dynamite with fuse attached into a man's home, causing his death and placing the lives of his family in jeopardy, deserves no sort of sympathy, and no longer possesses any rights worthy of consideration.

MR. HAZEN'S EXPLOITS

With joy the Standard takes up again this morning the story of the great deeds performed by the Hon. J. D. Hazen in the west. Its Vancouver correspondent, after telling of the many speeches made by Mr. Hazen before he fled north, says: "He made the announcement while here that harbor commissioners will soon be appointed to conduct Vancouver harbor. The duties of the board will be similar to those of the Montreal Harbor Board. Dredging and dock building will proceed at a much faster rate than heretofore, as until the present government came into power very little was done to aid Pacific coast ports. Site for a pier in Burrard Inlet has been bought. False Creek, which splits Vancouver as Courtney Bay will presently seem to cut into Greater St. John, is being dredged to a 35 foot depth. The Fraser River, which is the southwestern boundary of Greater Vancouver, is being dredged, and jetties will be constructed at its mouth to make the channels permanent. Wharves and docks will be constructed at intervals from the mouth to New Westminster."

The Times a few days ago directed attention to the great deeds to be performed by Mr. Hazen for the benefit of the harbor and port of Victoria. The whole coast of British Columbia is evidently to be dotted with monuments to his seal and energy.

In the meantime Mr. Hazen's constituents in St. John are still waiting to learn whether those grain conveyers are to be constructed at West St. John, and the Borden Club is still waiting for a reply from Mr. Hazen to its memorial

concerning the Valley Railway, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the terminals at Courtenay Bay.

In the meantime, also, when there is some "pointing" to be done on the part of public buildings, such as the post office, in Mr. Hazen's constituency, a work which St. John men, it is believed, are amply qualified to do, it is done by men imported from Montreal or that vicinity.

It is most desirable that the south side of King Square be paved. With an excellent pavement on three sides of the square, the fourth should certainly receive singular treatment.

The citizens were assured by a then member of the provincial government that the new bridge at the falls would be completed fully a year ago. It now appears that we may have to wait until 1915 for its completion.

If the St. John Railway Company had earnestly desired to extend their line to East St. John they would surely have ere this time discovered a way to do it. Apparently, however, the city is utterly unable to discover a way to make the St. John Railway Company do anything which it is not disposed to do.

It is announced that the industrial situation in New England is showing many signs of improvement, and that many industries which have been idle since last spring are about to resume operations. The financial situation is evidently improving with the assurance of good crops.

Congratulations to Mr. F. B. Carvell, M.P., whose birthday this is, and who is so able and vigorous an exponent of the policy of the Liberal party in Canada. Mr. Carvell has filled an important place in the public life of this province and the Dominion, and his friends entertain no doubt whatever but that the future holds more distinguished honors in store for him.

There is delay in providing facilities which are urgently needed at West St. John. It is said there will be delay in the construction of the new bridge at the falls. There is delay in the completion of the armory. There is delay in the dredging and other work at Courtenay Bay. When the tories are in power, the citizens of St. John must accustom themselves to delay, and make the best of it; but they cannot be prevented from the wish that it were otherwise, and that they had a live representative in the government at Ottawa, as they had prior to the national blunder of September, 1911.

"All St. John, and clever," was the phrase used the other day by an influential citizen, who takes no active part in politics, in describing the work of Hon. Wm. Pugsley. It will be agreed that Dr. Pugsley has been and is for St. John first, last and all the time, but the word clever does not fitly characterize his work. It required more than mere cleverness to devise the plans which Hon. Mr. Pugsley set in operation for the benefit of this port. None but a man of genius and rare foresight could have seen as Dr. Pugsley long ago saw the relation of St. John to the transportation interests of Canada as it appears to everybody today, and carried forward the plans which, if they had been properly followed up by the Borden government, would have placed the port of St. John in readiness to handle all the traffic that will offer at West St. John and at Courtenay Bay.

AFTER A DESERT STORM

Almost in an Hour Sands Are Covered With Green Plants

On our way we encountered that terrible experience, a desert storm. It came down upon us with hardly any premonition, save of an oppressive stillness of the air and a stifling temperature. Then all of a sudden the whole Sahara seemed to rise into the air and pelt us with its sands and pebbles. Within five minutes my mouth was parched with thirst and my watch choked with sand. The din of the storm was indescribable, and the flying particles stung like whip lashes on hand and face. Our horses were nearly mad with fright. For four hours the insufferable choking wind blew with its scorching breath, and then the heavens opened and emptied what seemed to be half the Mediterranean on our devoted heads. From parching heat the temperature sank to a little above freezing in a few minutes, and then the rain came down like a sluice, and the drops splashing the sand back up to our horses' bellies.

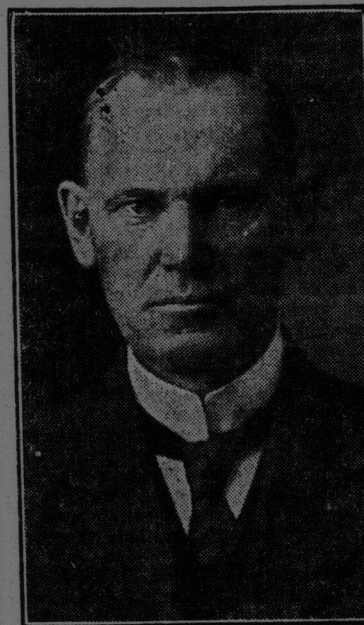
Finally the storm vanished as quickly as it had come, and the sun came out and smiled at our plight. Without a word we all stripped to the buff and wrung out our water-logged garments. As we sat on our poor horses like centaurs, waiting for the sun to dry our clothes, I caught Abd-er-Rahman's eye, and for the first and last time I heard him laugh aloud. For a full minute we sat rocking in our saddles with mirth, until gradually our wits and our bodily warmth came back to us. I do not pretend to know how these things happen, but almost within an hour or two the desert all about us was green with little plants springing into life, and in the pools formed by the water in the hollows frogs were croaking the miraculous fact of their existence to a sun-blight world—Wide World Magazine.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

This is the sixty-eighth birthday of the Hon. Walter Caswell, judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada. He is a native of Quebec City and for many years he practiced law in Toronto in partnership with the Hon. Edward Blake. He became a judge in 1908.

F. B. Carvell, M. P., for Carleton county, N. B., is fifty-one today. He,



F. B. Carvell

too, is a lawyer, practicing in Woodstock, N. B., and has taken a prominent place in parliament.

Ernest Thompson Seton, a famous Canadian nature writer, celebrates his fifty-third birthday today. He was born in England, came to Canada at the age of five and spent his earlier years in Toronto. He now resides in New York.

LIGHTER VEIN

UNPLEASANT

A young man at a party was boasting about his knowledge of human nature and his insight into character, adding: "I can tell at a glance what other people are thinking of me."

Universal astonishment reigned—until a lady broke the silence with the words: "How very disagreeable that must be for you!"

School Teacher—Now, Master Thompson, tell me the denomination into which the money of the United Kingdom is divided.

Master Thompson—Don't know.

School Teacher—Don't you know how the money your father brings home every Saturday night is divided?

Master Thompson—Taint divided; mother takes it all.

Bobbie—I heard you got a letter from your brother.

Joey—Indeed, I did.

Bobbie—Was there anything important in the letter?

Joey—Well, I didn't open it, for on the outside of the envelope was printed: "Please return in five days," so I sent it back to him.

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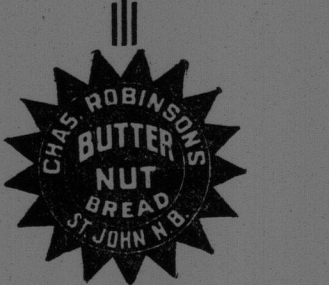
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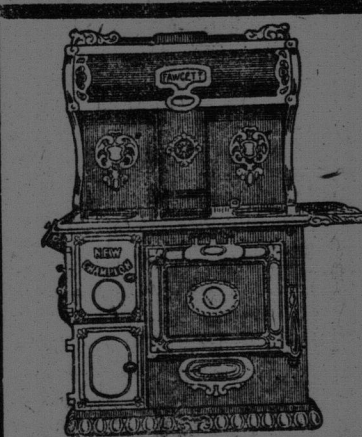
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CLEVER LAWYERS

A suit was brought some years ago by the people of a certain quarter of Montreal against a manufacturing company. The vile odors of the chemicals used in the works, they alleged, had made the neighborhood untenable and seriously lessened the value of their property.

The judge and the jury were disposed to turn a deaf ear to the complaint. The company was rich and powerful and "an alleged smell" as their counsel declared, "was too intangible a grievance to grasp."

"But," said the counsel, "the company mixes them!" He suddenly poured the contents of one of the reports into the other and nauseous fumes of hydrocyanic acid or sulphuretted hydrogen filled the air. Judge, jury and spectators choked for breath. It was necessary to adjourn the court until the next day, when heavy damages were at once awarded to the plaintiffs.

In a murder trial before a western court the prisoner was able to account for the whole of his time except five minutes on the evening when the crime was committed. His counsel argued that it was impossible for him to have killed the man under the circumstances in so brief a period, and on that plea largely based his defense, the other testimony being against his client.

When the prosecuting attorney replied he said: "How long a time really is five minutes? Let me see. Will his honor command an absolute silence in the courtroom for that space?"

The judge granted the request. There was a clock on the wall. Every eye in the courtroom was fixed upon it as the pendulum ticked off the seconds. There was breathless silence. We all know how time which is waited for creeps and halts and at last does not seem to move at all. The keen-witted counsel waited until the tired audience gave a sigh of relief at the close of the period, and then quietly asked:

"Could he not have struck one fatal blow in all of that time?"

Dramatic effects, however, are hazardous agencies to men, as it is not impossible to sop them by an antitoxin, as a member of the English parliament found when at the close of a fiery adjuration to the government to declare war he cried out: "Unsheath the sword!" and drawing a dagger threw it on the floor.

"Ah!" coolly said an opponent, "There is the knife, but where is the fork?"

A shout of laughter was the result—Green Bag.

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