

The Evening Times and Star

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**THE EVENING TIMES
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**
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 Thriftie, Shamrock, Rose
entwine, the Maple Leaf for
ever."

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

An analysis of the returns of any election will reveal at once how defective is the electoral machinery of most countries. In the British parliamentary elections of 1903 the Ministerial group had fifty-six per cent of the votes and elected seventy-two per cent of the members. The Conservatives had forty-four per cent of the votes and elected only twenty-eight per cent of the members. So that the huge ministerial majority of 236 ought to have been only sixty-eight.

The evil has been aggravated in this country by the practice, so effectively introduced and used by the Conservative party, of manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts. In the Province of Ontario particularly they "hived the Grits," by applying what the Germans call the geometry idea to electoral districts. Some districts they cut up to resemble a salamander, and the whole country they gerrymandered. But even if dishonest electoral districts were never created there would still remain a high percentage of unrepresented voters. The whole system of electing representatives as now practiced the world over cannot be made to produce accurate results.

The system is hopelessly faulty. By mere accident it sometimes approximates fair results as between the two great parties, but it is always unjust to the small parties. It is evident that radical reforms will soon be demanded—reforms that shall make the vote of every elector effective by applying the principle of proportional representation. An American congressman said some time ago: "In my judgment it is the weak point in the theory of representative government, as now organized and administered, that a large portion of the voting people are permanently disfranchised. Take my own district for example. I have never been elected by less than 9,000 majority. Sometimes the majority has exceeded 12,000. There are about 10,000 Democratic voters in my district and they have been voting there for the last fifty years without any more hope of having a representative on the floor than of having one in the commons of Great Britain."

Sir Richard Cartwright, for some time has been working on a scheme of proportional representation in Canada. No details have as yet been announced. The various systems proposed are all based on what is known as the electoral quota. Suppose that in one province 40,000 votes are cast for the election of four representatives on the proportional principle. Now, if 40,000 can elect four, then one-fourth of these, that is, 10,000 can elect one. Thus 10,000 is the electoral quota in such a case. Every candidate who obtains 10,000 is sure of his election, and every party is entitled to one representative for each ten thousand votes.

Many specific systems have been devised for the working out of the quota principle in contested elections. The late Mr. Thomas Hare, of England, who was styled "the father of proportional representation," worked out the most complete system. He calculated that ordinarily no less than two-fifths of the electors were unrepresented in Parliament, while curiously enough, Mr. Ditcher found the same proportion to be true of the forty-first, forty-second and forty-third Congress of the United States.

WHAT WILL HE DO?

Is the new finance minister a friend of the trusts? He has said that he is not. But the test is coming at once, a sharp decisive test that cannot be evaded, and the result cannot be concealed or misinterpreted. The Toronto Star tells the story very well in an article headed "A Chance for Mr. White." It says: "There is a law on the statute book of Canada providing that when a combine exists and unduly enhances prices, the duty may be removed or reduced. The idea of the minister of customs is that when a combine exists the duties shall be increased for its benefit. There is a lumber combine in the west, which removes the last dollar out of the homesteader, or drives him to build his little house out of sods. This combine met in the city of Calgary in October, and decided to put an end to all competition. It was announced that dealers could buy only at the head office in Calgary, and at one price. It was easily seen, says the report, that independent owners will not have any chance against the association, which would put the lumber in at a cut price, and put independent men out of business in short order." Nearly 200 travelers were dismissed, for it takes very few travelers to handle a business in which there is an absolute monopoly.

The members of the combine then went

to Ottawa and complained that cheap American lumber came into the country and interfered with their control of the Canadian west. The plea was that the customs ruling previously given was wrong, and admitted free a sort of lumber which ought to have been taxed. "Rather than assume the responsibility," says the minister of customs, "I referred the question to the board of customs and they unanimously decided that lumber placed on two sides must pay the duty." So the combine is happy, and the poor homesteader must pay what the combine pleases.

Dr. Reid overlooks the fact that much of the lumber which the combine is trying to exclude is not placed on two sides, but that on one side a line saw is used. In every case where this is done the combine wants the importer worried by a sort of detective inquiry into the question whether the side is saved or planned, and the combine's request is granted.

We think that Dr. Reid made a mistake when he shifted the whole responsibility upon the customs board. He missed a splendid opportunity to tell some plain truths to the combine. He could have told them that whatever the legal interpretation of the tariff might be the government had control over the tariff, could frame the tariff so as to relieve the farmer, and would do so.

However, the mistake can still be repaired. The government can change the tariff whenever it pleases, at all events while parliament is sitting. The minister of finance is Mr. White. We accept Mr. White's statement that he is not a friend of the trusts and combines, and we look to him to right this wrong, and to stand up for the western farmer against the greedy lumber combine.

The government ought also to bear in mind one of the arguments against reciprocity: that it would allow the Americans to make use of the great natural resources of Canada, especially its forests. This is a chance to beat the Americans at their own game and use their forest resources to keep the Canadian farmer and his family warm.

The smog storm mercifully hides the neglect of those who didn't clean the streets.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

A subscriber who has kept a record tells The Times that there have been twenty-seven civic investigations of one kind or another and that "nobody was even fired or fined by the council." Well, what's the use of being blood-thirsty?

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Board of Trade does well in deciding to boom immigration and to make the movement province-wide. There is a marked stir here in the great year this year than ever. One big project assumed, like Cootenay Bay, and the province would begin to get into its stride.

A New York orator told a story so funny that one of his auditors laughed himself to death. We hand out this lovely tale as a warning to those speakers who tell humorous stories at public or social functions in St. John. They ought to be careful.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Lords today passed the Lloyd George insurance bill. Two things of importance are thus settled. One is that the work of social-political regeneration in Britain is fairly launched. The other is that the Peers have learned their lesson. The House of Commons rules the country.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Standard this morning credits Alderman McGoldrick with certain un-Canadian-like remarks about The Times and The Telegraph. Mr. McGoldrick today said that he did not give any interview. The alderman and the editor of the Standard are hereby appointed a committee to clear the matter up. If it should appear later that The Times has a duty to perform in relation to either member of the committee this newspaper will attend to the job with alacrity.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Certain eager gentlemen who desire to become commissioners are canvassing quietly for pledges. It would be well for electors to see the whole list of candidates before selecting any. Commissioners should not be elected through sympathy, religion, politics, or spite, but because they will give the city honest, fearless, progressive service. This town wants a new deal from a fresh deck.

WILLING TO PAY.

The morning had been long and the arithmetic lesson particularly severe. Little Tommy had laboriously worked his way through a tantalizing maze of figures till his small head ached, and he now stood before his master with the result.

"Return to your desk and do it again," Tommy glanced at the clock. It wanted but a few minutes to dinner time.

"Please sir," he asked, "how much am I out?"

"Your result is two cents short of the correct total," was the reply. "Go and—"

Tommy's hand sought the pocket which contained his most valued possession. Swiftly he separated two coins from a piece of string, some marbles and a pocket knife. "Please sir," he said, "if you don't mind I'll pay the difference."

CLEVER YOUNGSTER.

A superintendent of a city Sunday school endeavored to give the summer meeting added attractiveness. Upon a certain warm Sunday in August lemonade was served. At the close of the service the superintendent announced that slips of paper would be passed around and the pupils allowed to make suggestions as to methods of making the meetings still more attractive. One youngster wrote: "Put more sugar in the lemonade."

CHRISTMAS CANDY

No one thinks of Christmas without candy—we could not—See the big stock we have and you will know what Candy and Christmas mean.

PORTER'S DRUG STORE
Cor. St. Patrick and Union Sts.**A BALLAD OF CASTLES IN SPAIN**

I carry not your belted ears and knights,
Your barons, blue of blood and old of line,
Rich in the legends of a thousand fights,
Nor those who dug their titles from a mine.

Sor yet your country magnates superlative,
Whose towers ancestral crown a proud domain,
Founded on potted meat or tonic wine:
I have a hundred palaces in Spain.

Some lift their pinnacles on sky-lashed heights,
Frank to the sun their marble arches shine:
Ancient are these, and built in fairy nights:
The storm have pierced their roofs and undermined.

A staircase here and there: But do I pine?
Bah! There are others that withstand the rain:
Not six weeks old, of excellent design:
I have a hundred palaces in Spain.

No peacocks ever trespass on my rights;
I have no need of trap or board or sign.
And would I take a tool among my sties
Or broach a goodly bottle with the Nine:
I have a hundred palaces in Spain.

Prince, I am dogged by creditors malign,
And Fortune's smiles are something on the wane.
For half a crown my all I will resign!
I have a hundred palaces in Spain.

—London Daily News.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

WHERE ARE THEY?

Where are the gifts of the olden days,
The home-made mittens and slippers warm?
The worsted mufflers in red and grey,
The scarves, the shawls, the cozy woollen yarn?
Where are the socks and the brawny foot,
The kerchief white and the new round comb?
The big glass case with the two stuffed
And the gay yarn motto, "God Bless Our Home?"

It's a gold mine now, or a city block,
An aeroplane or a motor car,
A brown stone front or some mining stock—
So who cares a rap where the old gifts are?
(Browning's Magazine)

A MILD REQUEST

While a visiting physician was inspecting the city insane hospital, an inmate, a mild case, approached him and said: "I beg your pardon, sir, but have you a piece of toast?"

"No," said the doctor, in surprise, "but I can get you a piece if you want it badly."

"Oh, I wish you would. I'm a poshoned egg and I want to sit down."

OBLIGED TO QUIT BUSINESS

So Dreadful Was the Suffering from Itching Piles.

After Twenty Years of Pile Torture Relief and Cure Came With DR. CHASE'S OINTMENT

You take no risk and you make no expenditure when you use Dr. Chase's Ointment for piles. Many doctors still cling to the idea that nothing but an operation will effect a cure. But operations are expensive and dangerous, and often fail in their results. Some have been cured by Dr. Chase's Ointment, after operations had failed.

Dr. Chase's Ointment truly is a wonderful remedy for piles. It is a case which was reported recently in the Times.

Mr. J. P. Marshall, 14 Barnes Road, St. John, N. B., writes:—"The upward of twenty years I was troubled terribly with itching piles; at times so bad that I was obliged to lay up my whole life to attend to business."

"I tried many treatments without benefit, until I accidentally used Dr. Chase's Ointment, and found at last a cure by using this ointment. I only used one box and part of a second one when I was completely cured, and have had no return of the piles. That was eighteen months ago, and, needless to say, I attribute this cure to Dr. Chase's Invaluable Ointment."

Many sufferers from piles have tried so many scores of treatments that they cannot believe that cure is possible. In order to convince the skeptical we are always willing to send a sample box free to anyone who encloses a two-cent stamp to pay postage.

Dr. Chase's Ointment, 60c a box, at all dealers, or Edmanston, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

In choice package of
High Grade Chocolates
Perfumes, Toilet
Articles, Etc

W. Hawker & Son
Druggist
104 Prince William Street
We Solicit Your Kind Patronage

Table Kettles
The newest and most exclusive designs—but not expensively exclusive

Brass and Copper Kettles
With Spirit Lamp \$1.00 to \$2.75
With Spirit Lamp and Stand \$2.00 to \$9.00

T. McAVITY & SONS, Ltd., 13 KING ST.**Two Suggestions of Interest to Shoppers who Are Looking for Attractive and Useful Gifts****NICKEL-PLATED TEA AND COFFEE POTS**
These articles are very popular and most acceptable as Xmas gifts. They're made of copper, and are heavily nickel-plated. While they are made to be put right on the stove, at the same time they are attractive enough to be brought to the table.

PRICES \$1.25 to \$6.50.
A very large range to select from.

EMERSON & FISHER LTD.
25 GERMAIN STREET.**XMAS FURS!****Mink Stoles and Muffs. Black Persian Lamb Throws and Muffs.**

BLACK WOLF: This Fur is becoming very popular on account of its natty appearance and wearing qualities, having the appearance of Black Fox, but at about half its price.

FANCY STOLIES \$12 to \$25.00. LARGE MUFFS, \$19.50. LADIES' FUR COATS AT SPECIAL PRICES.

F. S. THOMAS, 539 TO 547 MAIN ST.
OPEN EVENINGS**Hair Brushes**

EBONY and ROSEWOOD Backs, 50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00 each.

E. Clinton Brown
DRUGGIST
Cor. Union and Waterloo Sts.

DIAMOND**RINGS**

are available gifts. They last a life time and continually increase in value, and as to the price of the ring you can have your own choice as we have a splendid assortment at prices ranging from \$8.00 to \$125.00. Compare our prices with others.

A. POYAS, Jeweler, 16 Mill Street.

Xmas Greening!

Fir and Pine in 10 Yard Rolls -- Order Now.

Jas. Collins,
210 Union Street -- Opp. Opera House

Xmas Time is the Time for Good Confectionery

Come in and look over our line of about 30 different kinds. Candy, 10c. to 25c. per pound. Chocolates from 20c. to 60c. per pound. Special price on 5 pound boxes and 5 pound bottles.

COLWELL BROS., 61-63 Peters Street.

Coffee Percolators
The up-to-date utensil for making uniformly good coffee, clear, rich, full-flavored, beautiful

Coffee Percolators
Copper, Brass and Nickel Plated \$6.50 to \$13.50
Percolating Coffee Pots Nickel Plated \$4.25 to \$9.00

T. McAVITY & SONS, Ltd., 13 KING ST.

These articles are very popular and most acceptable as Xmas gifts. They're made of copper, and are heavily nickel-plated. While they are made to be put right on the stove, at the same time they are attractive enough to be brought to the table.

PRICES \$1.25 to \$6.50.
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FANCY STOLIES \$12 to \$25.00. LARGE MUFFS, \$19.50. LADIES' FUR COATS AT SPECIAL PRICES.

F. S. THOMAS, 539 TO 547 MAIN ST.
OPEN EVENINGS**Great Values in Watches**

We are offering this season an Exceptionally Fine Line of Watches both in Ladies' and Gentlemen's Solid 14k Gold as well as Gold Filled, Silver and Gun Metal.

Also a Beautiful Assortment of Ladies' Gold Bracelet Watches

Wrist Watches also for Misses' and School Girls'. Repeater, Chronographs, Split Seconds and Timers. Presentation Watches, Railroad Watches.

Prices The Lowest For Equal Qualities.

FERGUSON & PAGE
Diamond Importers and Jewelers

THAT LONG PROMISED PHOTO WILL BE APPRECIATED

ON CHRISTMAS MORNING -- COME IN NOW

THE REID STUDIO
Corner Charlotte and King Street.

Now is the time for Christmas Shoppers—Fancy Goods and Novelties Selling Fast. Try us for Dainty Handkerchiefs, Belts, Collars, Etc. All in Fancy Boxes. White Silk Handkerchiefs 25 cents up.

Store Open Every Evening
A. B. WETMORE, 59 GARDEN STREET

We Want Your Business

We need it to finish strong. The early business has been above expectations. Our goods are new, they are priced right. We guarantee you a fair trade and one price.

NEW OPENINGS THIS WEEK OF
DIAMONDS, DIAMOND RINGS, SIGNET RINGS, BROOCHES AND SILVER GOODS.

Our Diamond Values Will Save You Money.

ALLAN GUNDRY -- 79 King St.

Some Quick Selling Cold Weather Specialties
Molasses Cream Cheering Bar, Ice Cream Bar, Buttercup Paragons, Cocoa Confit, Glazed Cocoa Bon Bars, Etc., Penny Goods bought from us still afford you the same profit—we have not raised our price.

Emery Bros., 82 Germain St.

Men's Slippers**Useful and Most Appreciated Christmas Gifts**

New roomy neat fitting lasts, splendid shoemaking, plain, rich appearance.

Every pair flexible and easy as a glove.

Finest black or brown kid, plain or colored facings.

All the approved and new cuts.

Prices from 80c to \$3.00 per pair.

Francis & Vaughan
19 KING STREET

Just Received ;

Another shipment of

THE CAMPBELL KIDS

The Latest Sensation in Dolls.

DOLLS CARRIAGES

20c, 30c, 60c, 75c to \$2.95 each

TREE TRIMMINGS

Glass Ornaments, 10c dozen; 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 7c, 10c each

Tinsel, Snow, Icicles, Bells, etc.

Store open every evening

ARNOLD'S DEPARTMENT

STORE

83--85 Charlotte Street

BUY BUTTERNUT BREAD BECAUSE BETTER Than Home Made Bread

We have perfumes of all kinds. English, French and American, in dainty boxes, just the thing for a nice Xmas present. Prices from 25 cents to \$4.00. Come in and see them; no trouble to show goods.

"Reliable" Robb

The Prescription Druggist

137 Charlotte Street

Phone 1320. House Phone 1131.

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DO YOU WANT CLEAN COAL

Our Coal is Automatically Screened and is Loaded Into the Coal Cart.

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American Nut and Egg.

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GEO. DICK - 46-50 Britain St.

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Coal!

Scotch and American Anthracite, Broad Cove and Reserve Sydney Soft

All Orders Promptly Attended to.

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