

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH. An eight-page paper and is published every Wednesday and Saturday at 11.00 a.m. in advance by the Telegraph Publishing Company, St. John, a company incorporated by act of the legislature of New Brunswick.

ADVERTISING RATES. Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the rate of the paper. Each insertion \$1.00 per inch. Advertisements of Weds, Fri, Sat, etc., at one-half rate. Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths \$1.00 for each insertion.

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FACTS FOR SUBSCRIBERS. Without exception, names of no new subscribers will be entered until the money is received. Subscribers will be required to pay for papers sent them, whether they take them from the office or not, until all arrearages are paid.

LETTERS FOR CORRESPONDENTS. Write plainly and take special pains with names. Write on one side of your paper only. Attach your name and address to your communication as an evidence of good faith.

AUTHORIZED AGENTS. The following Agents are authorized to canvass and collect for the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, viz: Allison Whirlart, Wm. Somerville, W. A. Ferris.

Subscribers are asked to pay their subscriptions to the agents when they call. Semi-Weekly Telegraph, St. John, N. B., March 2, 1901. A FREE FRANCHISE.

It is not probable that Mr. McKeown will pay serious attention to the attitude of the legislative committee of the board of trade concerning the proposed act relative to the city charter. The report submitted to the board at Monday's meeting indicates a belief on the part of those who framed it that because a certain state of affairs has existed for a long period of time no change should be made, and that the wisdom of the past is to be the invariable standard to bind the present.

The idea of increasing the members' sessional indemnity is not a new one. It has been advocated for years, but has gained new strength in the two latter sessions of the last parliament, owing to the duration of those sessions being prolonged several months beyond the average time. To increase the sessional indemnity, in our opinion, has a tendency to perpetuate long sessions. The experience of the past has shown that there is no advantage to the country in the blocking tactics of an opposition, or in the making of interminably long speeches for campaign purposes, which are the common sources of prolonging the session.

As to the proposal to increase the salary of the first minister of Canada, while we frankly admit that the man who holds this responsible position should be, and nearly every one of our premiers has been, a man capable of earning very much more than his salary in his profession. Yet there seems to us to be a much better way than the one proposed to compensate the man whom the people of Canada honor with their confidence, for the pecuniary loss to which he subjects himself by the acceptance of the premiership but onerous responsibilities of the premiership. It is true that each premier of Canada has perhaps laid down the seas of office poorer than he was when he accepted them. And it is to the credit of

our public men that this is so. With all their faults, our public men of both parties have been remarkably free from the greed for money, which alone could tempt them to enrich themselves at the public's expense. But instead of increasing the premier's salary which, in our judgment, only means increasing the cost of doing the job, a more practical suggestion would be that Canada should grant a pension of say \$5,000 a year for life to every premier who occupies the position during at least one parliament, and in case of his death, the pension or one-half of it to be paid to his widow during her life. This would remove the fear of the future from the man who, for the time being, guides the destinies of Canada, and would also prevent the necessity of our premier being forced, on a change of government, to depend entirely upon their neglected business or profession as a means of livelihood. This seems to us the democratic solution of a very real difficulty.

NEW BRUNSWICK COAL. In the speech from the throne the government announces that it proposes assisting in the thorough development of the coal fields of Queens-Sunbury. The true extent of the coal area of this district is not exactly known but is placed by geologists and engineers at from fifty-five to one hundred and fifty million tons. The coal, in the past, has not borne a good name but this was entirely due to the primitive and unscientific methods of mining by which much dirt and slate was associated with the coal. The clean coal shows by analyses that it is in no way inferior to the Nova Scotian coal.

It is a very good coking coal with a small percentage of a non-fusible ash. The Grand Lake coal has been extensively employed by manufacturers in various parts of the province and all speak in the highest terms of its heating efficiency. We understand that it has also been used in the manufacture of iron, which is one of the severest technical tests which can be applied.

The whole coal area requires proper scientific investigation and, once having established the extent and value, the next step is the introduction of methods of mining. With the "Long Wall" system of coal mining and washing machinery there is no doubt that a coal equal in value to that produced in Nova Scotia could be placed on the market. The coal district is admirably situated for easy shipment. In summer there is an excellent opportunity to ship by water both to St. John and Fredericton and in winter the coal could be sent over the Central Railway to this city and points along the I. C. R. In order to facilitate winter shipment to Fredericton it would be necessary to extend the Central Railway to that city. It is probable, if the mines of Queens-Sunbury were properly developed and worked, that the I. C. R. would purchase large quantities of this coal as it has been found to be an excellent locomotive fuel.

We trust that the government will proceed with the development at as early a date as possible and that its efforts may be crowned with success.

GO SLOWLY. There is a movement on foot to increase the sessional indemnity of the members of parliament from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per session, to increase the premier's salary, and to make an allowance of \$3,000 or \$3,500 per year to the leader of the opposition in addition to his sessional indemnity. The Conservative caucus last Friday was understood to have unanimously agreed to the first proposition, and it might readily consent to the second as a quid pro quo if the third were accepted. There is a reasonableness about all three propositions which, in our judgment, makes them the more dangerous. They are three distinct and separate ideas, and to our way of thinking, there is no reason to consider them in any other way than each on its own merits.

The idea of increasing the members' sessional indemnity is not a new one. It has been advocated for years, but has gained new strength in the two latter sessions of the last parliament, owing to the duration of those sessions being prolonged several months beyond the average time. To increase the sessional indemnity, in our opinion, has a tendency to perpetuate long sessions. The experience of the past has shown that there is no advantage to the country in the blocking tactics of an opposition, or in the making of interminably long speeches for campaign purposes, which are the common sources of prolonging the session. We believe the business of Canada can be transacted to better advantage by parliament in a three months' session than in one of twelve that is now the case. The most powerful restraint at present on the useless talk of many members is the small sessional indemnity. The men who serve the country the best in parliament are the men who talk the least. The strongest argument in favor of an increased sessional indemnity, is that men of business or members without private means are being more and more debauched from active political life on account of being unable to go to Ottawa for perhaps five months, for a sum which does not cover their actual living expenses there. But we think this argument takes the question at issue at all. We have no account of any town or city which has adopted the change, ever complaining that it produced the effect apparently feared by the committee of the board of trade. No such complaint has ever been made because the restriction was struck out of the Municipalities Act. The great majority, if not all, the important cities in Ontario, which have no such restriction, have given no testimony to the effect that their taxes could not be as easily collected under the one system as under the other. Our sister city of Halifax, which has adopted the proposed change, makes no such complaint, and we are of opinion that the fear expressed, arises from the timidity of the change, rather than from any well grounded apprehension of loss occasioned thereby.

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We would be strongly in favor of the proposal to allow the leader of the opposition a proper maintenance allowance, to partially compensate him for the neglect of his business or profession caused by the demand made by politics upon his time. But there is one very serious objection to the proposal. Under our present system of party politics, which there are usually only two parties with any important following, yet from time to time there is found to arise divisions of one or other of these, it may be only temporarily, but yet the third party for the time being has its rights, which must be respected. For example, for some years up to the present parliament, there has been a Patron party in Canada, represented in parliament at times by six, seven, eight or more members under a recognized leader. We do not quite see, if the principle of the country making an allowance to the leader of the opposition is adopted, how the claims of the third party leader could be ignored. It might be argued, of course, that the strongest objection would be considered, and a good might result in preventing parties splitting into more than two sections. For it is admitted that party government is only practical under two party form, unless as it has happened in Great Britain, that the one party was fortunate enough to control more votes in the house than the other two combined. Even then the opposition is considered less effective from the general point of view than the third party will vote on any subject.

Our idea, therefore, is, that the government, and parliament as a whole, will do well to go slowly in making the changes suggested. Keep each proposition distinct from the other two, and weigh each on its own merits. Hasty legislation on such subjects ever brings its own retribution from the people, especially upon the government who rightly or wrongly will be held responsible for whatever action is taken.

Mr. McKeown's Franchise Bill. To the Editor of The Telegraph: Sir,—The parallel which is drawn by the Globe in its discussion of the proposed franchise bill, between the proposed bill and a joint stock company, is faulty and incomplete.

There is no similarity of position between the members of such a company and a joint stock company, as a body of citizens. Everyone who joins a stock company does so of his own volition. He is free to enter into the association or to remain outside. If he chooses to invest his capital in such enterprise it is to be presumed that he will bear the financial burdens incident thereto, if not, his stock is forfeited in most instances, but I know of no cases in which companies whereby he can be summarily apprehended without benefit of trial, and whereby his property can be immediately levied upon for his default; nor do I know of any company into whose membership a whole community is dragged, and which appears to assume that those who, by the operation of the present law, are excluded from voting do not pay their assessments. This assumption is incorrect. It is not a question between those who pay and those who do not pay. All, with very few exceptions, do pay, but the payment is delayed. Those who delay the payment are eventually compelled to pay with added costs, so it is not, as assumed by the Globe, a case of such persons being voted away merely because they have had no share in contributing. They are compelled to contribute, and as a rule they are the most able-bodied and energetic of the community, and who are most interested in the selection of cautious and prudent men who will not squander the public funds or unnecessarily increase the taxation. Under such circumstances it seems a double hardship that the civic rulers should create, or endeavor to create, a state of affairs which bears heavily on the resources of such people and, while compelling them eventually to pay these taxes with added costs, excludes them from the franchise. To make similarity between the city inhabitants and members of a stock company there should be some way pointed out whereby those who are deprived of the right to vote may be relieved from taxation altogether, in the same way that a delinquent member of a company can relieve himself from its obligations. Neither do I agree with the proposition that, unless the civic council asks such legislation, none such should be introduced. Our representatives in the legislature are the ones to whom the city looks in such matters, and with the sphere of provincial government, which is rightly chargeable with such responsibilities, while the members of the common council have their well recognized scope of activity. I do not think our civic representatives in the legislature will ever consent to degrade their position to the simple registration of the names of the common council. Certainly those electing them never anticipated such a degrading of their office. They are not very long since made an civic government, they will remember that changes have been made in such matters in opposition to the views of the city council as their constituents. But the present council

is not known to be in opposition to Mr. McKeown's bill. They probably know it is a most popular, progressive and just measure.

Yours faithfully, FRANCHISE.

Wants Better Railroad Service. To the Editor of The Telegraph: Sir,—We hear a great deal lately of great calamities which, according to some of our Tory friends, is about to fall upon Canada, namely, that the C. P. R. is likely to be bought by Americans, or even changed by the Hon. A. G. Blair, Well, Mr. Editor, the people living along a certain part of the Atlantic division of the C. P. R. would not have the least objection if such a catastrophe would happen, for we could not be worse off in the hands of Turks than we are in the hands of the C. P. R. on this particular section of the line—I mean from Aroostook Junction to Edmundston—the company do not seem to think that the people are civilized, to judge by the mean time they are running the light of the 20th century has just dawned upon us and we intend to make an effort to get fair play. This section of the C. P. R. runs an express from Aroostook to Presque Isle where there is a thickly settled agricultural and lumbering country, there is necessary a great deal of traffic all along this part of the line. Now the C. P. R. runs a daily train over this part of the line, which is neither an express nor a freight. I hardly know what it should be called. Passengers are kept waiting very often hours at certain points on account of freight trains. Expresses are kept waiting two weeks and weeks before they could get cars to ship their produce. Now I would like to know why we are treated in this manner by the C. P. R. runs an express from Aroostook to Presque Isle where there is not half the traffic there is from Aroostook to Edmundston. But it is very easy to understand in one way, because the B. and A. all through Aroostook county is absorbing nearly all the traffic which formerly was monopolized by the C. P. R. Undoubtedly if we, too, had another line, running in opposition to the C. P. R., we would not be treated as we are by it. But in the mean time surely something can be done to get better service for this important section of the C. P. R.

And his majesty's mails! Did you ever hear, Mr. Editor, how they were carried over this part of the line? Well it would be worth while to take a trip over this road to see how things are done. I have heard that the government is that the government allows the C. P. R. to run this part of the country. I was not surprised at it under Tory rule, but I thought it here that will turn out 25,000 tons per year; further that \$100,000 be offered as a bonus for the establishment of the engine and machine shops necessary to build a line before the city council on Friday coming and before the board of trade on Tuesday.

The committee will also recommend that a committee of seven, three from the council and three from the board, be appointed to conduct negotiations with parties willing to build a yard here. Montreal, Feb. 27.—(Special)—There are no new developments regarding the reported purchase of the Dominion Iron and Steel Works at Sydney by the American syndicate. A message was received today from President H. M. Whitney, at present in Boston, stating that no negotiations are proceeding, and that the company would not join any syndicate, but go on as it was. Those who are in a position to know, however, state that it is most improbable the syndicate will allow such formidable competition to exist without an effort to absorb it and a great deal of interest is being taken in the result of the meeting to be held here on Friday.

Halifax to Offer Bonus. Two Hundred Thousand Dollars to Secure the Steel Shipbuilding. Halifax, Feb. 27.—(Special)—At a meeting of the joint committee of the board of trade and city council yesterday the steel shipbuilding matter was considered and the committee took up the idea of bonusing.

INTERESTING TRURO NEWS. Truro, Feb. 27.—From the annual statement of the town of Truro, just published, the valuation of property in town, as shown by the assessment roll for 1900, was \$2,438,000. When the town was incorporated in 1876 the total valuation of property was \$855,150. The total funded debt amounts to less than \$200,000 divided up as follows: Educational, \$20,000; water works and fire department, \$96,200; income for the poor, \$7,500; current debt, \$8,000; sewerage, \$27,000. Of this latter sum \$12,000 or so has not yet been expended. This total debt bears interest as follows: \$11,200 at 5 per cent; \$11,000 at 4 1/4 per cent, and \$146,700 at 4 per cent.

FRERICTON NEWS. Fire Last Evening—Death at Salem—The Missing Boy. Fredericton, Feb. 28.—(Special)—The house of Mrs. Goodine, Carleton street, was slightly damaged by fire this evening, caused by lamp explosion. It is reported that the lad Harry Albert, reported missing from his home for the past 10 days, had been seen on the street last night on which he disappeared upon a team going towards Newcastle, Queens county. It is thought he may have voluntarily gone home and gone to some house lock in the country. The death occurred last evening at Salem, Mass., of Miss Sarah G. Colby, of Fredericton. She leaves a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn her loss, among whom are her three sisters in this city, Misses Sophia and Jennie Colwell and Mrs. F. J. Todd.

NOT FOR GEORGE EULAS. West Hastings Member Will Not Resign in His Favor. Toronto, Feb. 28.—(Special)—Mr. Harry Corby, M. P., en route to the south for his health, said today: "If I had any assurance from the government that they would open the constituency without delay I would resign for West Hastings at once. If I resign Geo. E. Foster is not at all likely to get a Conservative nomination in West Hastings." Continuing, Mr. Corby said: "In any event, I have no intention of resigning in his favor and his name is not mentioned at all in the constituency. West Hastings has never had an outside representative and does not appear to want one. There are three or four capable local men available."

Girl Swallows Half Dollar. Winsted, Conn., Feb. 27.—Physicians are alarmed over the case of Margaret Martin, 13 years old, of Thomaston, who swallowed a half dollar Wednesday while in school. She held the coin in her mouth, and during a coughing spell it went part way down her throat. Miss Beach, the teacher, persuaded the girl to back while some of the school's attendants after Dr. O'Connell. Before he arrived she had swallowed the coin. There is talk of using an X-ray to ascertain its location.

Separate Trousers.

Your coat and vest may be a little dingy, but still by shaking well and dusting thoroughly they can be made to do. A pair of new trousers will stimulate the suit wonderfully. We'll help you to select a pair that will blend well, in color and quality.

- At \$1.25—All-Wool Canadian Tweed, light and dark greys and browns in stripes. Strong and serviceable.
- At \$2.25—A nice neat Stripe in browns and blueish grey—a good business trouser.
- At \$1.50—A heavy All-Wool Canadian Tweed in fine patterns; also, a line of Etoff Trousers. These make exceptionally fine working pants, and an extra value for the price asked.
- At \$1.75—All-Wool Grey and Brown Homespun in stripes of various widths. They are durable and would be cheap at twice the money.
- At \$2.00—All-Wool Tweeds in browns and greys, with a smooth finish, and can be worn for business or dress-up occasions; also, a line of finest quality Etoff and a line of extra heavy Homespun hard twill with a smooth finish.
- At \$2.50—Fine All-Wool Canadian Tweed in neat stripes and patterns, an extra large assortment.
- At \$3.00—An English Hairline of good quality in fine stripes. You have paid \$5.00 for trousers not as good.
- At \$3.50—Another line of Trousers of English Hairline Cloth of exceptional value. Extra heavy weight for winter wear.
- At \$4.00—At this price we can give you a fine Striped Worsteds Trousers, and a very fine all-wool Tweed. These you will find really first class value. A large assortment.

BOYS' ODD PANTS, 3 to 10 years, 50c. to \$1.25. BOYS' ODD PANTS, 11 to 17 years, 60c. to \$1.50.

GREATER OAK HALL, SCOTTYL BROS. & CO., St. John, N. B.

King Street, Corner Germain.

RHODES, CURRY & CO. MEETING. Dividend of Seven Per Cent. Declared—A Big Year's Business. Amherst, Feb. 27.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Rhodes, Curry & Co., Limited, was held yesterday afternoon, President N. Curry presiding. There were present from outside Hon. Senator Wood, of Sackville, N. B.; J. C. Robertson, consulting director, St. John; Ald. McGoldrick, St. John; Hon. T. R. Black, M. P., from Halifax. Mr. J. M. Curry, secretary-treasurer, presented his annual report showing one of the most prosperous years in the history of the business. The volume of business done during the past year was about one and a quarter million dollars or about half a million more than the previous year. A dividend of 7 per cent was declared. The old board of directors were reappointed and at a subsequent meeting of the directors the old officers were all reappointed. The present year promises to be an exceptionally good one, large orders having been booked. The car works are working constantly night and day. Six box cars per day being the output and within the next two weeks it is expected that eight a day will be turned out. Digby News. Digby, Feb. 27.—The board of trade met last evening to consider matters of interest to the town. Among other things dealt with was a recommendation to the council for sewer extensions to low water. The high water sewers have been a great nuisance in the past. There was also a recommendation for town street widening during the dry season in summer; also the matter of advertising the place as a summer resort through the United States and Canada by letters and otherwise. The meeting was well attended and interesting throughout. Another church will be built at Digby this year. This is certainly a growing time among the new denominations which are constantly springing up in our town. Carpenter work is commencing early around town this spring. Beside the number of buildings now under construction new ones will be erected before the season is over. Large quantities of logs are being placed at the Racquette for the repairs which are required on the Shore road.

Colds on the Chest are dangerous; they weaken the constitution, inflame the lungs, and often lead to Pneumonia. Cough syrups are useless. The system must be given strength and force to throw off the disease. Scott's Emulsion will do this. It strengthens the lungs and builds up the entire system. It conquers the inflammation, cures the cough, and prevents serious trouble.

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Ferry's Seeds are known the country over as the most reliable seeds that ever were sown. They have a nickel on cheap seeds and lose a dollar on the harvest. 100 Seed Annual free. D. M. FERRY & CO., Windsor, Ont.

Customs Increase. Ottawa, Feb. 28.—(Special)—Canada's customs revenue continues to grow. The customs revenue for the month ending today was \$2,325,635, or \$149,724 in excess of February of 1900.