

FOUR

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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 14, 1909.

FOLKING IN CIVIC AFFAIRS.

In an interview printed in yesterday's Star, Mr. John Keefe voiced a sentiment entertained by numbers of citizens but seldom openly expressed. He feels that the introduction of party politics into civic government would produce a council composed of more capable men than are secured at present, as under such conditions the two political parties would assume the responsibility for their respective candidates, and would nominate only as deserving support. Mr. Keefe also contends that civic government along party lines would create an active and healthy opposition such as usually has a beneficial effect on any administration. There is no doubt that Mr. Keefe is correct in his method of reasoning these conclusions, but he has followed apparently only one line of reasoning, and has not made sure of the soundness of his original grounds. It would be of interest were Mr. Keefe to undertake to prove that party government, one of the greatest curses of our civilization, has ever been beneficial. If he can find that in the history of nations, provinces or cities, the supremacy of one half the electorate has resulted in more satisfactory results than might have obtained through the application of coalition principles, then the suggestion of partisanship in civic politics may readily be given serious consideration. It is true that through the gradual working of natural economic laws party rule eventually produces results, but it is not apparent that such a form of government brings any particular advantages excepting to those who may be on the winning side for the time being. The North-west territories got along more satisfactorily under a coalition government than they now do as provinces under partisan administrations even though the ruling parties are progressive Liberals. Many United States cities, in fact the majority of them, are governed by party, yet it is not distinctly noticeable that they are any more wisely or economically governed than our Canadian towns in which political parties are not yet down. In fact the reverse is true in most cases. Yet it is the tendency of the day to extend partisanship in every direction, and no doubt through time all candidates for the Common Council of St. John will be classed as Liberals or Conservatives. But even though there is an underlying current of opinion favoring such a distinction it can scarcely be regarded as judicious to hurry into existence such a state of affairs. Certainly Mr. Keefe's proposal would be productive of some good results, but undoubtedly the disadvantages attending it would be regretted, the cure would be worse than the disease, for in reality party politics should be a thing apart from the prosperity of mutually interested citizens.

OLD KING COAL.

Coal operators of Nova Scotia evince some surprise in the realization that at times the Canadian customs tariff can be exercised in the interests of the people as well as for the profit of wealthy producers. They do not specifically complain against the first named function, but the delegation which waited on Mr. Peckham in Halifax yesterday endeavored to impress upon his mind the fact that a certain select circle of capitalists are not making as much money as might possibly come to them were it not for the extreme unkindness of United States shippers who are taking advantage of the opportunities created in their favor by the Canadian Government for the benefit of the Canadian people.

The sale of Nova Scotia coal in Upper Canada is being reduced, it is claimed, by United States competition, so that the production is slightly affected. It is an easy matter to get over this difficulty, but the remedy involves a smaller percentage of profit on a greater output which of course will scarcely be considered by the Nova Scotia operators who desire larger sales with increased profits.

THE S. P. C. A.

Reports presented at the annual meeting of the S. P. C. A. held today indicate creditable activity on the part of the society in St. John. It is also noted that several branches are carrying on good work but there is apparently a lateness in some sections which leaves room for improvement. The S. P. C. A., however, is, as a whole, preventing a great deal of suffering which, were there no such society, might possibly be inflicted either through man's natural cruelty or disposition or by carelessness. The secretary of the branch in St. John has been called upon to investigate a large number of cases. Mr. Wetmore is an ideal man for the position, bringing to his work an earnest, sympathetic temperament combined with sound common sense, and achieving the desired results by his appeal to the humane instincts rather than by recourse to the courts.

MUSICIANS' SENSE OF HUMOR.

Musicians are not often witty; but some of the composers and performers of the last few years have shown themselves to be possessed of a keen sense of humor or genuine wit.

Though Anton Rubinstein, the eminent pianist and composer, was usually too serious for a play of the light-fancies, he once said a clever thing. When travelling in Germany he was obliged by a delay of trains to take luncheon at a small country hotel, where the only other guests in the dining-room were some Lutheran ministers on their way to a conference. An acquaintance asked Rubinstein afterwards how he felt in such a company.

"I felt," he said, "like a lion in a den of Danieles."

Again, Rubinstein was told that von Bulow, who was famous both as a conductor and a pianist, when conducting the Hamburg symphony concert, and seeing the "Ocean" symphony of Rubinstein at the programme, had contemptuously exclaimed:

"To conduct such music, one must have long hair like its composer. I have not."

Whereupon Rubinstein wrote to von Bulow, "In saying that, since you have found opportunity to measure the length of my hair, I have not had chance to measure the length of your ears."

PADEREWSKI'S JOKE.

Ignace Paderewski, the pianist, is a practical joker, as well as a wit. On one occasion he was persistently pursued by a woman seeking to obtain a lock of his hair, he tore a wad of hair out of a mattress and sent it to her, saying, "If it is hair that you desire, here is a plenty."

When Paderewski was dining out one night he met a young society man who had won for himself a reputation for his skill at polo. Being praised by the pianist for his clever playing, he said it was different indeed from Paderewski's performance.

"Oh," replied Paderewski, "the difference between us is perfectly clear. You are a dear soul who plays polo, while I am a poor Pole who plays polo."

PAITI WANTED HER MONEY.

One of Adelina Patti's peculiarities was that she never sang a note until she had her salary either paid or so fully assured that there was no doubt as to her getting it. When she sang at the Academy of Music, in New York, at one time, the manager was sorely put about to find money to pay her, but she stood stoutly refused to sing until she had her salary.

One night at a quarter past eight her representative went to him and said, "Madame is all dressed except her shoes. She will put those on when she gets the money."

The manager, half distracted, rushed about the house and succeeded in raising one-half the amount due the prima donna, and then a smile spread over his rough features. "Are you the feller what put 'Phafore' together? Well, then, I'm mighty glad to meet you just the same."

Sir Arthur Counted this as one of his greatest compliments.

SULLIVAN'S BEST COMPLIMENT.

When Sir Arthur Sullivan, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame, was travelling in the western states, a man rushed up to him and, grasping his hand, said, "You are a great man, Mr. Sullivan. I'm mighty glad to meet you. When I heard you was a-comin', I couldn't wait, hardly. But say, you ain't very big, are you? How much do you weigh?"

"About a hundred and fifty pounds," answered the astonished composer.

"Then how on earth did you come to knock out Ryan?"

"I never knocked out any Ryan. The man stood steady for a few minutes, and then a smile spread over his rough features. 'Are you the feller what put 'Phafore' together? Well, then, I'm mighty glad to meet you just the same.'

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A SAD SUICIDE.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 15.—Bludgeoned her friend who had been apprehensive of her safety, Miss Blanche Edgson, of 413 Lexington Avenue, New York, committed suicide by jumping from a sixth story window at 48 West Concord street in the south end of town. Miss Edgson was carried to the city hospital but died upon reaching there. She had been mildly insane for the past week and had several times shown a tendency to be violent.

ALBANY, Feb. 15.—

New Yorkers are dying at the rate of from 60,000 to 90,000 a year, as shown by the statistics compiled by the state department of health. Scrutiny of the record shows that in the last ten years nearly 100,000 residents of New York city have been killed, have committed suicide or met death in some unnatural way.

For 1908 the health department gives New York's death rate per 1,000 inhabitants at 18.4 and holds this up as an annual average. The annual birth rate, based on returns from December of last year, is 30.6.

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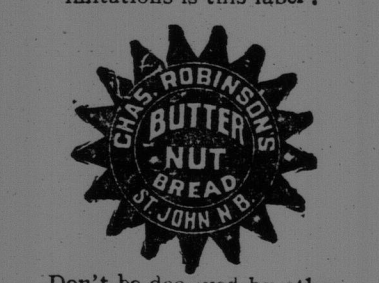
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DEATHS

LYNCH—At 203 Pleasant street, Feb. 14, of bronchial pneumonia, Clair Atrewe, infant daughter of E. B. T. heard on all sides on the excellence of the rooms.

Store open till 7 p. m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1909

MEN'S TWO BUCKLE OVERBOOTS, Sizes 6, 8, 9, - \$1.75

Women's One Buckle Overboots, \$1.35, \$1.50, \$1.75

Men's Rubber Boots, Knee Length, \$3.75, \$4.00

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SPECIAL—Captain Dreyfus got a new trial so does Carter, asking you to come in and see the bargain for five days only, in the line of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Clothing, Boots and Shoes, that will satisfy you, style and price. Remember the place, opposite Eastbrook's Tea Factory, 45 Mill St. Everything is guaranteed or money refunded. J. CARTER'S, 45 MILL ST. Phone 1604

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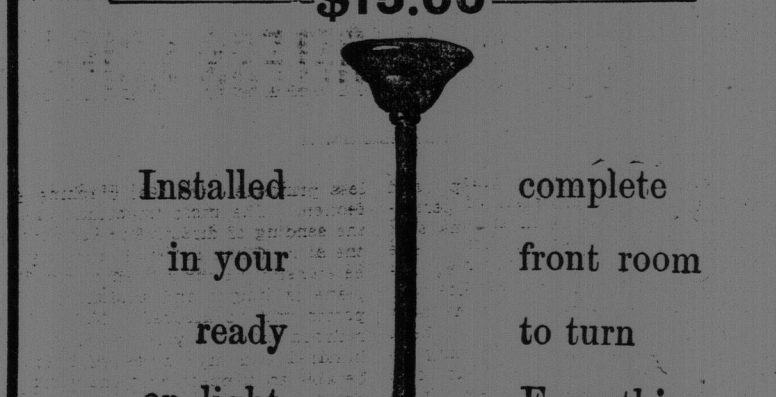
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OPEN THEIR CLUB ROOMS

Fine Quarters for Young Liberals Young Liberals' Club Now a Social Institution

Last evening marked the re-opening of the Young Men's Liberal Club rooms in the Fraser building. There were a large number present during the evening, and words of commendation were heard on all sides on the excellence of the rooms.

1. These rooms shall be open from 7 p. m. until 10.30 p. m.

2. Some members of the executive of the club will visit the rooms each night, and all complaints will be reported to him. He shall have full control while in the room, and in his absence the janitor will have charge.

3. The janitor shall be subject only to the command of any member of the executive.

4. Profanity of every nature and kind is strictly forbidden, and if continued by any member permanent expulsion from the rooms will result.

5. Card playing is strictly forbidden and will be punished by permanent expulsion from the rooms.

6. Any member desirous of playing pool will write his name on the blackboard used for such purposes, and members will play in turn. No member shall be permitted to play more than two games of pool while any other member of members is waiting.

7. Members are requested to place all papers, magazines, etc., and all games in the places allotted to each.

8. The smaller room shall be used for reading rooms and committee meetings only.