

# FLOOR COMMENT

## M.C. 35

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1921

### The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 21, 1921.  
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#### TONIGHT'S MEETING.

The hundreds of students who began taking a course at the evening vocational classes with the expectation of being able to finish the course are waiting to see whether the city really means to break faith with them. The city is morally bound to finish what was begun when the season's classes were opened. It has no justification for closing them.

Those citizens of St. John who do not need vocational training but are public spirited enough to desire such training for those who do need it should attend this evening's meeting in the high school assembly hall.

The facts will be set forth. Even those who may have been influenced by what they heard in the street, or where gossiping most together, should go with an open mind and hear the other side.

This is not a matter of small importance. It is a vital relation to the progress of St. John and the education of the boys and girls and men and women of St. John. It also affects the province at large, which is keenly watching the turn of affairs here.

Every friend of vocational training should be deeply interested, and their presence at this evening's meeting is required in the public interest. Upon them rests a responsibility which ought to be accepted with a determination to see this thing through.

The city council will carry out the wishes of the people. That wish should be declared this evening by the presence of the citizens at a meeting at which the whole situation will be clearly defined. A glance at the list of speakers shows that this is no factious attempt to foist upon the city something that should be thrown away.

And yet if the citizens show a lack of interest vocational training in the city and province will be set back as a result of the misinformation now broadcast concerning the whole subject. St. John has an opportunity this evening to show that it is awake, that it is progressive, and that it stands for a square deal. Hundreds of students who were in evening classes ask for a square deal. Will it be denied to them, and to other hundreds eager to make themselves more efficient at a time when efficiency means so much? The money spent on these classes is not wasted. Hear the speakers tonight.

#### WAR DECLARED

The Standard today calls upon Hon. Mr. Wignome to explain how it came about that "Mr. J. A. McDonald of Annerst" was appointed to succeed Senator Mcweeney of Moncton. In the course of its article on the subject the Standard says:

"Mr. Wignome should lose no time in making his position clear to his constituents even if that explanation involves his resignation from the ministry. It is clear that the objectionable move was made either with Mr. Wignome's consent or without it—that is he must have been favorable to the appointment or on the other hand his recommendation to the prime minister was ignored."

If Mr. Wignome protested, the Standard argues, it is clear he has no influence in the cabinet. If he did not protest, his influence is gone."

This is a sad state of affairs. It is really difficult to see how Mr. Wignome and the government can satisfy the Standard. On the other hand, Mr. A. R. Mosher, representing the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, announces that Mr. McDonald was backed by that organization, and stoutly defends the appointment. Mr. Mosher also points out that Mr. McDonald is a native of Shediac and has a home there. The Standard, however, has burned its bridges. Either the Meighen government or Mr. Wignome, or both, must go.

At a time when a deliberate and continuous effort is being made in the United States to keep alive and to extend prejudice against England it is pleasing to hear such words from an American as were spoken in Ottawa last week by Major Putnam of New York. He declared that "if the English-speaking people will stick together, the peace of the world is assured"; and in a reference to Canada and the United States said further: "If the English-speaking people of these two countries, having so much to do with each other, can preserve the peace for a century, as they have done, the forty other nations of the League of Nations—where the United States should be and soon will be, I hope—must realize that a combination of English-speaking people could maintain the peace of the world."

In a bulletin by the Public Health Service of the United States this sentence appears: "The race is not to the swift but to the healthy—keep fit."

#### MY LITTLE LADY

A friend has sent the Times the following copy of a libretto unpublished poem by the late H. L. Spencer:  
My little lady! My little queen!  
My little lady! My little love!  
As long as the grass in the spring grows green  
As long as the stars shine out above  
My heart will turn to you 'neath below  
The summer daises—the winter's snow.

"Neath each dainty bonnet I looked for your eyes,  
All the day long till the sun went down  
And then I reflected—"My lady is wise  
To keep away from the dusty town  
My lady is wise—her acts declare it;  
But her wisdom, ah me, it is hard to bear it."

My little lady has hazel eyes,  
My little lady has wild rose lips;  
And on her cheeks I recognize  
Clover blossoms and sunshin' tips;  
And the foam of the sea could be  
Shamed if she were so prettily laced.

My little lady 'tis very good  
That in you of women I see a queen!  
I bless the stars that so guard you  
Better than you could ever have been,  
And I bless the stars that a soul so  
From the taint of the world is known to me.

#### H. L. SPENCER.

#### LIGHTER VEIN.

A Harsh Critic.  
The gentleman dining at the table nearest to the orchestra got up from his chair and approached the orchestra leader.

"Do you ever play by request?" he asked.  
"Certainly, sir," replied the delighted musician.

"Then," said the diner, "I wonder if you and your orchestra so good as to play a game of dominoes until I've finished my lunch."

Bed and Board.  
A Pennsylvania weekly paper published this advertisement, according to a subscriber who writes to the paper, regarded as a "classic" of its kind:

"As my husband, L—H—, had me advertised in the paper, I am a bed and board. It is a mistake. The bed belongs to me, and the board we got at my home. But for me to make any bills for him to pay I could expect him to pay for my now, as my folks bought my clothes while we were living together."—The Outlook.

Then You Call Up the Observatory.  
Another example of the kind is furnished by the telephone company, which will not allow its operators to tell you the time of day, as it wastes too much time.

"Tashed of saying, 'Eight o'clock,' the operator saves a lot of time by saying, 'We are not permitted by the rules to tell you the time of day.'—New York Evening Mail.

A lecturer had been describing some of the sights he had seen abroad during his tour in many countries.  
He described the Pyramids of Egypt, Niagara, the boiling springs of Hawaii, and one called generally:

"There are many spectacles in the world that one never forgets."  
"I wish you would tell me where I can get a pair of spectacles like yours," said the audience. "I am always forgetting mine."

This Practical World.  
He (warned)—The mere fact of my giving the door in the strongest face, which money is I am making now.  
She (faltering)—Do you think that will be enough?

A young man went on one occasion to call at a farmhouse to make inquiries after his sweetheart, who has charge of the dairy. The farmer opened the door, and her lover asked him timidly:

"How is the milkmaid?"  
The farmer angrily replied as he slammed the door in the stranger's face:  
"Our milk isn't made; it's got from the cow."

A Considerate Woman.  
Hostess—Now, professor, I want you to have numerous platinoid passages in your selection for the museum.  
Professor Pounder—You are fond of the sentimental, then?  
Hostess—Not especially, but my guests will want to hear themselves talk once in a while.—Boston Transcript.

#### MORNING NEWS OVER THE WIRES

Ignatius Tzibich Lincoln, famous as an international spy, has been arrested in Vienna after his former Austrian subject but later a naturalized Englishman and a member of parliament and spent three years in prison being finally deported.

General Hans von Boehn, famous during the war as the German retreat specialist and at one time commander of an army, is dead in Berlin.

Captain Thomas George Wallace, Conservative member of parliament for West York, Ontario, died yesterday. He was born in 1879 in Ottawa. He was first elected to parliament in 1908.

In a statement issued in Ottawa last evening by A. R. Mosher, grand-president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees of which J. A. McDonald, newly appointed senator, is a member, Mr. Mosher praises the administration for the appointment. He says that the brotherhood is proud to state that Senator McDonald is a member of the organization and that the organization backed him to the limit.

On Saturday afternoon hearing was continued at Dalhousie in the Recti-gouche election case with Sheriff Craig on the stand. He testified as to the appointment of deputy returning officers and as to what instructions he had given them and what he had omitted to tell them. Hon. H. F. McLatchy gave evidence of attempting a recount which he found impossible because of the irregular condition of the ballot boxes.

Mr. Mann, a deputy returning officer, testified that he had added five names to the voters' list, as there was no objection by the agents of the candidates and he thought the men should have the vote.

QUEBEC SAWING WOOD (Manitoba Free Press.)  
The Province of Quebec is to establish demonstration farms in every county. Quebec may not be saying much these days, but there is a good deal of evidence that she is going ahead sawing wood at a pretty lively clip industrially and agriculturally.

#### A LIGHT THAT FAILED.

(Canadian Finance.)  
About two years ago the Non-Partisan League started out in North Dakota to put a very attractive theory into practice. The league controlled the political machinery of the state and made full use of it. It created a state bank, owned, operated and controlled by the state government and christened its offspring "The State Bank of North Dakota."

This bank was to be the source from which new industries owned by the state, farm loan schemes fostered by the state, and home builders' associations fostered by the state were to be financed. The brief history of the institution to date is full of interest for those who believe in democracy, and each for all and all for each association.

When the bank was created a law was passed compelling all public authorities to deposit public funds with it. All the towns, cities, villages, counties, etc., were compelled to do public business through the State Bank of North Dakota. Money received on its deposits on thirty-year Non-Partisan League projects and at the present time the bank has loaned \$200,000 of its deposits on thirty-year farm loan mortgages; \$2,700,000 to small local banks in various parts of the state; \$100,000 in state-owned industries—a grand total of \$3,000,000 tied up in long term loans. Incidentally, the bank has no capital. It was originally proposed to finance the institution by the sale of bonds but no market has been found for the bonds and the bank is depending on its deposits to carry on business with.

At the recent elections a bill was put forward and passed by the legislature which does away with the compulsory depositing of public funds in the state bank. The passing of this bill has thrown the proverbial monkey wrench into the financial machinery of North Dakota. When the bill became law the industrial commission, which controls the bank, adopted a resolution prohibiting any public authority from withdrawing funds from the state bank for the purpose of re-depositing them elsewhere, thus nullifying the effect of the new law for the time being. In other words, the State Bank of North Dakota is refusing to pay its depositors—its suspended payees.

The Non-Partisan League is endeavoring to secure a foothold in Western Canada, but we doubt whether Canadians have any desire to experience a demonstration of Democracy as practised in North Dakota.

#### THE LESSON OF HISTORY

(New York Evening Post.)  
The many expansionists cite the "indisputable lessons of history." But the lesson of history that knocks at the door, the lesson that speaks out in a world commercially prostrate, in crushing budgets, in the lesson of history that the masses everywhere will not tolerate such another agony of strife as that from which we are painfully struggling back to health—that lesson is overlooked. The need for an insurance of peace recognized in a League of Nations or association before kings and courts. For the argument champions nothing has happened between 1914 and today.

It is that reasonable opinion asks? Not a stripping or arms, not a surrender of adequate defence against any conceivable foe, but only on economic arrangements that shall be effected by common agreement and that shall leave the nation just where they are today.

The alternative is a programme of armaments that will not make us any safer than we are today, but for which we shall pay in huge sums of money and an intensified international bitterness. From Japan the reply has already been given: "The Japanese Diet has refused by an overwhelming vote to cut down naval armaments." In the lesson of history that might well be learned by a nation qualified as no other, in its resources it has been his undivided task.

To tend the homely, slighted shepherd, trade And strictly meditate the thankless Muse.

That of the Aedon who is revisiting his native country, which always has been the fount of his inspiration.

THE OTTAWA PRESS GALLERY ELECTION  
Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The annual meeting of the parliamentary press gallery took place yesterday with the following election of officers:

President, H. E. M. Chisholm; Manitoba Free Press, and Toronto Star, vice-president, Thomas H. Blacklock, Montreal Gazette; secretary, W. J. Jeffers, St. John Telegraph and Toronto Globe; executive, Ernest Blodden, the retiring president, and M. G. O'Leary, Ottawa Journal; Claude McLennan, La Presse, Montreal; Omer Langlois, Le Soleil, Quebec; Charles Bishop, Citizen, Ottawa; M. J. Shea, Canadian Press, Limited.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT.  
Ottawa, Feb. 21.—In parliament today the debate on the address will be continued by Captain P. McGillivray of Muskoka. It may be adjourned so that amendments to the dominion elections act providing for use of the provincial lists in the referendum of April next may be considered.

There will be no sitting of the senate until tomorrow.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.  
The Presbyterian church in Canada supports eight Theological Colleges, situated in various parts of the Dominion, under the dominion, namely: The Presbyterian College, Halifax; Queen's Theological College, Kingston; Knox College, Toronto; the Presbyterian College, Montreal; Manitoba College Winnipeg; Vancouver Theological Seminary, Vancouver; Robertson College, Edmonton, and Saskatoon College, Saskatoon.

The year before the war, 1918, 195 divinity students were enrolled in the eight colleges of the church. In 1914, the number rose to 224, but during the war they were reduced to 193, 117 and 109 respectively. The reason was wholly honorable, but the effect has been temporarily to deplete the church of the service of many who are urgently needed in the ministry. Since the war there has been a recovery in enrollment reaching 169 in 1919. It is to be hoped that the pre-war figure approximating 200 will speedily be reached.

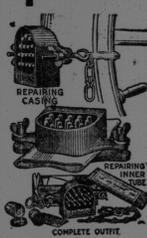
The Missionary and Deaconess Training Home, the training school for women workers, has long since proved its value and won for itself an unqualified place among the agencies of the church.

BOON OF DAYLIGHT SAVING.  
(The New York Commercial.)  
The Merchants' Association of New York has issued an appeal to the business men of the state to rally to the support of the Daylight Saving law, the repeal of which is now threatened. The arguments used by the Merchants' Association in favor of daylight saving are that it benefits business by lettering the conditions of employes, it promotes health, it makes for increased efficiency in industry, it relieves eyestrain, it reduces bills for lighting, it conserves coal, it promotes healthful recreation, it encourages home gardens. It is a boon to the industrial worker and it is a factor for good in any business. Experience has demonstrated the truthfulness of every one of these assertions. The cities contain most of the population of the State of New York and the cities want daylight saving. As to the rural communities, it is doubtful if it really makes much difference to them one way or the other, so that the opposition is largely a matter of personal prejudice.

UNCLE SAM'S DUTY.  
"Somebody has to start things," says The Congregationalist of Boston. "The United States is the one nation which can and should initiate a world-embracing movement for curbing armament."

This greatest of all questions now before the world slumbers down to this: Can we embody Christian principles and ideals in our relations to other nations? If we cannot do it or at least begin to do it, let us quit talking about applying religion to life and frankly confess that the religion of our mighty Master who claimed dominion over the kingdoms of this earth is after all only an affair of the closet, of the prayer meeting, and the death-bed.

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#### A GREAT CANADIAN POET.

(Toronto Globe.)  
Bliss Carman is discovering Ontario long after Ontario had discovered him. Mr. Peter McArthur was happily inspired when he persuaded Mr. Carman to emerge from his shy seclusion and revert to the traditional role of the poet by reading from his own works. In the Homeric age and the Feudal period the bard sang or recited their compositions before kings and courts. Mr. Carman's method is adapted to democracy, which has its own way of honoring its singers.

One of Mr. Carman's lines, "The sad solace of a little name," carries the delicate implication that a little fame has been the more profitable pastime of prose before kings and courts. Mr. Carman's method is adapted to democracy, which has its own way of honoring its singers.

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