

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 27, 1910.

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WHO IS AFRAID?

It would be idle to deny that yesterday's failure to secure the matter of the Main street pavement has further shaken public confidence in the board of works. Not for a long time has there been as much criticism in connection with a civic contract, or as much questioning of motives and conduct. It was of course a simple and expeditious method of shelving the whole matter to fall back upon the specifications and throw the responsibility upon the engineer, but that does not answer the assertion of Inspector Carleton.

The city is paying for a concrete foundation for the pavement, and the board of works is accepting a cheaper one. By the most charitable interpretation it would seem that the city is presenting the contractor with the difference between the cost of a concrete foundation and that which the engineer says is quite good enough—and which is being laid.

Why did the council specify a more expensive material if it meant to accept a cheaper? The tenders figured on the more expensive kind, and would of course make a profit thereon. How much greater is the profit on the cheaper material more quickly laid?

The Globe has written called upon Mayor Frink to act, and plainly intimates that certain civic departments would bear looking into. The feeling that there is something wrong about this paving contract is so general that it cannot be ignored, and suspicion will be deepened by yesterday's failure of the board of works to probe the matter. There will be other paving contracts, involving a large amount of money. The taxpayers ought to be able to assure themselves that sound business methods will prevail. They do not have that assurance at the present time.

If they were satisfied that injustice was being done to them the contractor and all concerned would have welcomed a full enquiry. It is not observed that they have shown any such desire. They have fallen back on the specifications, as men who would defiantly say:—"There it is—what can you do about it?" Mayor Frink should now act.

WHY NOT UNITE?

The new town of Melville, on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific, is trying a practical experiment in church union. The greater part of the people of that incipient town are organizing themselves into a single church, irrespective of denomination, except in so far as trustees are chosen from as many denominations as possible. It is stated that the plan meets with the approval of the two great churches most largely represented, and this should ensure the success of a plan that might well be adopted in many other communities.

There is a fine opportunity to put the spirit of union into practice in Campbellton. That town needs many things more than it needs a group of church buildings to emphasize sectarian differences in a time of common calamity. Whatever may be done at a later period the needs of the people could now be well met by a common place of worship. They do not insist that separate relief stations be provided so that Baptist may not eat with Methodist or Presbyterian with Anglican, or any of these with Catholic. It is reasonable to assume that they could all gather together and receive Divine blessings in the same way, until such time as they were in a position to build churches. And by that time they might discover that they did not need so many. To thrust denominational differences to the front at this moment is like saying:—"We may suffer alike from fire here, but not hereafter."

CROPS EAST AND WEST

Ontario, the banner agricultural province of Canada, will have, it is said, a heavier harvest this year than usual. In Quebec, also, the outlook is excellent. The introduction to the July crop report of the department of agriculture of the Province of Quebec makes pleasant reading: "The appearance of the crops, so, with but few exceptions, most satisfactory. The meadows and pastures are excellent, hay-making having begun July 1st. Under the influence of favorable weather the cereal and fruit look much better now than it was at one time thought they would." The

crops in the maritime provinces will also be good this year.

Thus, if the crops in the far west are not up to expectations, those of the east will be above the average. This is fortunate both for the farmers and the business community. The shareholder makes a remark that is worthy of the attention of those who may have been dazzled by the lure of the west:—

"Perhaps one reason for the better average shown by the Eastern farmer is to be found in the diversity of the crops grown. Mixed farming is safer and in the long run will prove more profitable than a one crop policy such as is pursued in the West. In the West, if wheat fails, they have little or nothing to fall back upon, while in Eastern Canada the farmers can rely upon the various grains, hay, fruits and vegetables, as well as dairying and cattle raising."

THE SPIRIT OF CANADA

What is the Canadian spirit? asks the Ottawa Citizen. And after noting the fact that each great nation has had its peculiar spirit and played its part in the great world drama, the Citizen declares that the Canadian spirit, dependent upon the selection of a supreme Canadian aim, must be something higher than that which has been dominant in national life heretofore. "Surely," it says, "by virtue of the evolutionary process that have taken place before Canada appeared there is the possibility of higher reach and larger attainment than have been possible to any people before." The Canadian spirit must not, it continues, be that of commerce, or of dominating power.

"The spirit of Canada must be infinitely higher. It must be the expression of that new power, which has come to rule the world—the power of brotherhood. It must be the spirit fraternal, the atmosphere altruistic, the aim helpful, the bond inclusive. Commerce must serve character. Business must yield priority to brotherhood. Factories and fields must be made tributary always and only to homes and families. Why shall we not set ourselves frankly and boldly to the creation of the new kind of country, eliminating, with strong stroke, the evils and imperfections that have found place in older nations? Why shall not we, sculptors of Canada, definitely carve out of the clay of this new country a nation nobler than any other, like unto the ideal that sets our souls a-thrill, a nation whose citizens are brothers all, whose highest production is high character, and whose spirit is fraternal? This is the spirit that shall make Canada."

AFRICAN MISSIONS

Mr. Roosevelt is a vigorous defender of Christian missions in Africa. He reminds those who lay emphasis upon the errors of missionaries and the shortcomings of their flock that even if the present light be feeble and gray "it has at least dispelled a worse than Stygian darkness." Then he goes on:—

"As soon as native African religions—practically none of which have hitherto evolved any substantial ethical basis—develop beyond the most primitive stage they tend, notably in middle and western Africa, to grow into malign creeds of unspeakable cruelty and immorality, with a bestial and revolting ritual and ceremonial. Even a poorly taught and imperfectly understood Christianity, with its underlying foundation of justice and mercy, represents an immeasurable advance on such a creed."

Where the natives are more intelligent, as in Uganda, Mr. Roosevelt declares that the results of missionary effort are astounding. The majority of the people are now Christian, either Protestant or Catholic, "and show their Christianity by putting conduct before ceremonial and dogma."

"Most fortunately," he adds, "Protestant and Catholic seem now to be growing to work in charity together, and to show rivalry only in healthy effort against the common foe; there is certainly enough evil in the world to offer a target at which all good men can direct their shafts, without expending them one on another."

This is valuable testimony. The Christian churches can do the best work where they put aside points of difference and unite to convert the heathen to a line of conduct based upon the teachings of the Founder of the Christian religion. Where those teachings are followed there is no room for religious strife.

Gov. Tweedie again appeals on behalf of stricken Campbellton. He asks the provincial government to propose to do in the matter? Mr. Hazen has not answered this question.

The dreadful news comes from Cuba that a general and twelve soldiers have taken to the bush with a determination to overthrow the government. Thirteen may be a lucky number—in Cuba.

Any disposition on the part of members of the city council to joke at the expense of the newspapers will be regarded by the press with due solemnity. The resignation of Inspector Carleton is not a joke, and the smile on the faces of members of the city council may presently fade away. The newspapers may still be doing business when there is a new city council.

The British Columbia government will establish three mine rescue stations in the coal areas, according to a Victoria despatch.

AT THE FRONT

Not the soldiers only are at the front today.

Not alone the boys in blue who face the stubborn foe,

In the tent and in the charge, and on the weary way,

There are unseen sentinels who watch with eyes aglow.

Mothers who have sent their sons to battle for the right,

Wives and sweethearts all day long,

Whose throbbing hearts are there,

A host of loyal loving ones who help the gallant fight.

By beating at the throne of God, with never-ceasing prayer.

These may not tread the jungle, nor storm the frowning hill,

They stand not in the rifle-pit, they man no sullen gun;

But they are with the army, and with strength their pulses thrill,

And theirs will be the victor's part, when once the strife is done.

Standing for the old flag, standing firm for God,

Standing for humanity, they meet the battle's brunt.

These women, who, for heart-ache scarce can see the path they've trod,

Since they kissed the lads they love so dear, and sent them to the front,

Margaret E. Sangster.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

WHAT CAME UP.

A young man wishing to have a bit of fun at a farmer's expense passed a few remarks about his cattle and his garden, and then said he had set some lettuce and cabbages which had not grown up. Then the farmer said:—"Oh, that's nothing. I set some carrot seed and what do you think came up?"

"Don't know," replied the young man.

Farmer—"Why old Brown's donkey, and ate the lot."—Brooklyn Citizen.

WILLING TO HELP.

Her Dad—"What! You want to marry my daughter? Why, I can hardly support her myself!"

Cholly—"C-can't we both chip in?"—Boston Record.

HER KIND OF PROPOSALS

Head of the Family—"Our firm is going to advertise for sealed proposals."

Popular Daughter—"Oh, don't pay it's a much better fun to get them personally."—New York American.

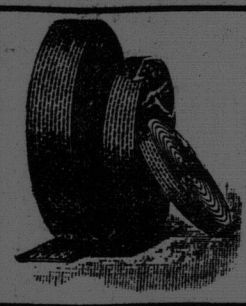
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EMPIRE MARKSMEN

Lord Roberts has issued the following appeal:

I am most anxious that every man and youth belonging to the empire shall attain a thorough knowledge of rifle shooting, and the best means of doing so is to begin with the miniature rifle. Some of the most famous shots of the day began in this manner, and I feel sure that if the movement became more general the day would not be far distant when his majesty the king would reign over an empire of marksmen.

At present there are affiliated to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs over 2,000 clubs, representing a membership of about 250,000. Great progress has been made since the formation of the society in 1903 but much still remains to be done.

As an incentive to further effort, The Daily Mail has kindly offered to present each year for competition a fifty-guinea cup and silver commemorative medals, and I sincerely hope that every miniature rifle club at home and abroad which is affiliated to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs will make a special effort to enter a representative team.

I would appeal to the editors of the imperial press to assist in this movement, and I would suggest that they can best be done by urging on their readers the great importance of rifle shooting and encouraging them to form miniature rifle clubs and affiliate themselves to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs in order that there may be one vast organization entirely devoted to the welfare and development of this particular branch of rifle shooting, which is the easiest and cheapest form of bringing instructional facilities to the doors of the people.

It is estimated from statistics that fruit trees and bushes will bear for the following periods: Apples 25 to 40 years, blackberry, 6 to 14 years; currant, 20 years; gooseberry 8 to 12 years, pear 50 to 75 years, plum 20 to 25 years, raspberry 6 to 14 years.

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The annual retreat of the Sisters of Charity opened here last evening. The sisters from all over the province who were unable to attend the first retreat are attending this one. Rev. M. J. Mahoney, S. J., of Holy Cross University, Worcester (Mass.), is conducting the services. The retreat will be brought to a close on Wednesday, Aug. 3.

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Announcement of reductions in Ladies' and Children's will follow.

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That evening he tasted his first slice of BUTTERNUT BREAD and just before retiring he saw a new moon over his right shoulder.

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