

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1922

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WHY THIS DEBATE?

Letters from bond dealers and hoteliers, in behalf of the New Brunswick Power Company might be interesting subjects for purely academic debate if the members of the City Council had ample leisure to indulge in this pastime, but they are understood to be busy men. Why, therefore, debate? The people settled two things at the November elections. One was the price to be offered the New Brunswick Power Company, and the other was to be final. The company rejected the offer and there is nothing to debate. The people also declared against arbitration when they endorsed the Fisher platform. Why, therefore, does the City Council waste any of its valuable time in discussing these matters? Surely it does not contemplate any such action as would over-ride the expressed will of the people. Why bring these matters up at all? Why not table them at once and let them lie there? A brief but emphatic statement could make it clear to all-comers that the people themselves have spoken and there is no more to be said. Every day's delay in getting on with the hydro programme, every hesitant word spoken at City Hall, gives new courage to the Power Company to keep up its agitation to defeat the will of the people. Every member of the City Council is as well aware of this fact as the man in the street. Moreover, the time until the first of May is short. This is a time, not for words, but for action.

WHY FARMERS COMPLAIN.

The Toronto Globe quotes from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics some illuminating figures to show how the farmer has been hit since 1918. Prices which were used in the different years in estimating the value of the total value of crops in Ontario on Dec. 1 are quoted. We may omit all but those for the years 1918 and 1922, and the comparison cannot but convince any reader that the farmer is confronted by a serious problem, in view of the fact that while that which he has to sell has so greatly declined in value there has not been anything like such a drop in the price of the things he buys. Here are the figures—

Crop	1918	1922
Wheat	\$2.06	\$1.00
Oats	.78	.40
Barley	1.06	.50
Rye	2.10	.78
Peas	2.24	1.40
Beans	4.66	2.60
Buckwheat	1.40	.70
Hard grains	1.09	.40
Flax	8.41	1.50
Flouring corn	1.72	.78
Potatoes	1.26	.54
Average Price Per Ton.		
Hay and clover	\$16.50	\$12.40
Louder corn	5.73	4.35
Sugar beets	10.28	7.88

THE PERFDIOUS TURK.

Referring to the latest promise of the Turks to protect the Christian minorities the Boston Herald remarks that the public quickly forgets, and gives the following very striking review of past promises and performances—

"This particular promise, protection for the Christians, was made by the first conqueror of Constantinople, and has been repeated by every Sultan since 1453. Abdul-Hamid promised it just before the great horror of 1895, though he hinted that his subjects might get out of hand if he tried to introduce reforms. After these subjects had carefully fulfilled his secret orders and some 100,000 Armenians had been slain, this same Abdul, 'the Damned,' fervently made the same promise over again, as he looked into the guns of the warships of Europe and America, which lay in the Bosphorus. Twelve years later the remarkable career of Enver Pasha began. Threatening the life of Abdul-Hamid, he secured the proclamation of a constitution which secured not only protection, but equal rights, to these Christian minorities. The promise of this new constitutional government was so bright that even the experienced missionaries halted Enver as a messenger of freedom. Then came the Adana massacre, where not only thousands of native Christians but two American missionaries were slain in cold blood. Enver blamed this on Abdul-Hamid and secured his overthrow, promising again perfect equality between Christian and Moslem subjects of the Ottoman empire. It was a painful process of undecieving which brought the Americans who again trusted Enver Pasha to realize what he really was as he, with Talat, directed the wholesale extermination of the Armenians during the world war. When he was over, however, Enver and his bloody band were banished, and a weak and chastened Sultan once more promised, at Mudros, perfect protection for the Christians. So far as his puppet power extended this promise was not flagrantly broken but the common sense of Enver and Talat started a Turkish government, at Angora

which has far surpassed the barbarities of Abdul-Hamid, and whose record of violence almost equals that of Enver." The Herald goes on to say that there was a disposition to trust Mustafa Kemal, but "since then have come the Smyrna atrocity and the wholesale deportation of all remaining Christians from Anatolia at the orders of this Nationalist government"; while it is clearly the present Turkish policy to drive 400,000 Christians from Constantinople. It is well to be reminded of the record of Turkish perfidy, in view of the truculent attitude of the Turkish delegates at Lausanne. The European powers would like to do business with Turkey on a basis that would insure protection for Christian minorities, but the need of the strongest safeguards is obvious.

THE PEOPLE WAKING UP.

St. John is not the only city where people have been made to suffer by stock manipulation of public utility services. Comptroller Craig of New York said to the members of the Bronx Board of Trade last week:

"Not so long ago some friends of mine invested to provide for their families in stock of the Metropolitan Street Railways Company. They paid in the vicinity of \$200 a share for their holdings. Within three years from the time they bought it it had dropped to a point where the stock was not worth 250 mills a share. Not only has the public purse paid its tribute to stock manipulation by the traction interests, but in addition it has paid many times over for a public service that does not exist."

But Comptroller Craig made some other interesting observations. He said he expected Governor-elect Smith and the incoming Legislature to enact legislation creating a department of transportation for the city, and thus transfer the powers held by the Transit Commission to the municipal authorities.

"When that takes place," he said, "the profits of the transit companies will have to come from service rendered and not from stock manipulation."

A report of the speech of the Comptroller says further:

"The Comptroller predicted that before the Legislature of 1923 finishes its work it will give to the city virtually all the home rule powers the authorities have needed and have been denied since 1857. The full realization of home rule authority would not be possible, however, until 1925, he said, because a constitutional amendment would have to be passed before the Legislature could be wholly effected."

Hitherto the transportation interests have been safe because the right of the municipality to have control over the property was denied, and they have had to deal only with a Transit Commission. The way out for the city is for the city itself to assume control.

New York Tribune—"The European nations must cut their military expenditures" was the demand of certain Senators upon reading the figures presented to the Senate by the State Department giving the expenditures of the various nations for national defense. As usual the chief criticism fell upon "militaristic" France, but the United States, separated from the nations of Europe and Asia by an ocean east and west, is seen to be spending from two-fifths to three-fifths more for defense than is France, with deadly enemies at her gates. Is it not time that the Pharisees of America ceased this particular brand of self-righteous untruth?

All of us sympathize with the boys and girls who were forbidden by the weather man to try out those new skating boots the day after Christmas. They should ask Santa Claus to fix the weather man next year.

HELD IN \$43,000 POKER CASE

Richard Manden's Bail on Common-Gambler Charge \$500.

New York, Dec. 27.—Richard Manden, 215 West Ninety-second street, charged with being a common gambler, is being held in \$400 bail for examination on Dec. 29, after being arraigned in West Side Court before Magistrate Peter A. Hattling on complaint of Charles F. Meyers of White Plains, who accused Manden and another man of winning \$68,000 from him at poker.

John Brockhagen of 334 West Forty-fourth street, Frederick Oberhaugh of 383 West Forty-fourth street and John Kelly of 189 West Sixty-second street, employees of the Active Republican Club, 166 West Forty-fourth street, were held by the same magistrate in \$800 each for examination on Dec. 27. The three men were charged with keeping and maintaining a gambling house. They were taken with twenty-seven others in a raid on the club. The others were discharged when arraigned on charges of disorderly conduct. Officials of the club entered protests against the raid.

The cost of government in San Francisco has increased 142 per cent. per inhabitant since 1904.

Deserted, Feet Frozen, 8-Year-Old Lived on Wind-Swept Roof 3 Weeks



New York, Dec. 27.—How much is a friend worth? Eight-year-old Johnny Miller can tell you, for Johnny has been found crawling across a tenement roof on which he had slept for three weeks.

"Only I didn't sleep much," Johnny confesses. "My shoes had holes and snow got in under my feet. My feet would wake me up."

From his warm bed in the Hecksher Foundation Hospital, where the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is now keeping him, Johnny sings a psalm of praise for his friends, Fisly, Natie, Johnny and Pashie.

"I got good friends, anyway," he beams. "They told me about the tank. Fisly fixed it for me to wash in his hall with soap. Natie gave me his lead now. Not everybody is good like her. My friends I got, anyway."

INTOLERANCE.

(Ted Olson in Forbes Magazine, N. Y.)

I've a neighbor from a country overseas; His skin is of a slightly darker dye; His language has a foreign sound to me.

So I watch him with a most suspicious eye. He minds his business carefully; He never gives offense. His manners are impeccable—and yet it's all pretence.

I am sure he plots my downfall with a deep and dark design; You see, he must be wicked—since his customs are so mine!

There's a country on the other side the world, A strange vast with boundaries flung wide; On every sea her banners are unfurled; Her commerce circles home on every side.

She pretends to be unselfish, but we know it's all deceit; She's a hungry jackal stalking close her unsuspecting meat. She will dare the basest treachery to win her money's worth.

For you know that we're the only honest nation on the earth! If you see a fellow walking through the town With a hat unlike the kind that you prefer, You can take your little book and mark him down.

As a dangerous and dark adventurer, You must view him with dark misgiving every soul that dares to tread In any path except the one by which your steps are led.

For since your ways are always right, And his are wrong, he must be true; The foulest crime in all the list is difference from you!

LIGHTER VEIN.

Her Sympathy.

For hours they had been together on her front porch. The moon cast its tender gleams down on the young and handsome couple who sat strangely far apart. He sighed. She sighed.

"I wish I had money, dear," he said. "I'd travel."

Impulsively, she slipped her hand into his; then, rising swiftly, she sped in the house.

Aghast, he looked at his hand. In his palm lay a five cent piece.

Bad Any Time.

Dad—Son, there's nothing worse than to be old and broken.

Young Hopeless—Yes, father-to-be young and broke—Punch Bowl.

A Point of Resemblance.

"That new man I hired reminds me of a steam engine."

"Good worker, eh?"

"No, good whistler."—New Haven Register.

Relative Rewards.

"Do you know," said the earnest person, "that there are men renowned in literature, art and science whose annual incomes are not large enough to give them the ordinary comforts of life?"

"I don't doubt it," said Mr. Gawker, "but if nature gave them sound bodies to start with and they've enjoyed reasonably good health, it seems to me that it's their own fault if they haven't gone in for athletics and acquired proficiency with a pair of eight-ounce gloves."—The Birmingham Age-Herald.

LOCAL NEWS

The Civic Power Commission will hold a meeting this evening at City Hall, Major McAvity announced last evening.

The captain, officers and crew of the Steamer Minnedosa held a dance at the Studio on Christmas night. Music was supplied by an impromptu "jazz" orchestra from the steamer. This is the first of a series of dances to be held here this winter.

Thomas B. Reynolds and George Frith, proprietors of the Bank of Montreal, were remembered by the staff of the hotel on Christmas day, when they were given a mahogany parlor table and a handsome card table, while Mrs. Frith received a silver boudoir clock. Members of the staff were suitably remembered by the proprietors.

The patients in the Home for Incurables had a very enjoyable time yesterday when the annual Christmas tree and entertainment was given by the ladies of the board of directors. Two trees were stripped of their presents and refreshments of ice cream and cake were served to all the patients. There are now thirty-one in the home.

A family gathering of twelve was entertained at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Campbell, Leinster street, on Christmas evening and the same company was entertained at dinner last night at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. MacDonald, Douglas Avenue. Of the many family dinner parties this season none were more heartily enjoyed.

The annual Christmas entertainment for the children of the Waterloo street Baptist church Sunday school was held last evening and was largely attended by scholars and their parents and friends. A three-act play entitled "All Honor to Jesus" was staged under the direction of Miss Agnes Pooley and occasioned very favorable comment. During the play Santa Claus arrived and distributed the presents.

The Minnedosa "wafters" presented an enjoyable programme at the Seamen's Institute last evening. The party was under the direction of R. P. Burton, and Captain A. J. Mulcahy, port warden, occupied the chair. Among those who participated were: Frederick Brooks, Charles Olden, Mr. Escott, Messrs. Higman, Brown and McDougall, Mr. Stanton, Messrs. McDowell and Coles.

The collier, Coban, which has been carrying coal between Parrishboro and this port during the last few months, arrived in port yesterday afternoon from Halifax, with the barge Louisa in tow. This barge was towed from Halifax to this port to be used here this winter as a coal transport around the harbor. The barge was docked at the Pettigrew wharf, after which the Coban ploughed in the stream. The Coban will resume her regular trips to Parrishboro to bring additional coal supplies here.

Miss Margaret S. Belyea, daughter of Mrs. Thomas M. Belyea, of King street east, chief nurse at the Iowa University Psychopathic Hospital, has been granted leave to fill an appointment to the instructional staff of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital at Washington, D. C. Miss Belyea graduated from the Massachusetts General at Boston and from the McLean Hospital. Her work will be under the auspices of the United States Veterans' Bureau. She will aid in instructing neuro-psychiatric nurses in an intensive training course.

Dr. H. A. Farris, superintendent of the St. John County Hospital, East St. John, and Dr. Taft, also of the hospital, were the recipients of gifts from the patients in hospital on Monday morning. Dr. Farris received some very fine handkerchiefs, while Dr. Taft was given a gold pencil.

Mrs. W. H. Shaw and Mrs. P. B. Ellis, the Red Cross visitors to the Military Section of the St. John County Hospital, each received a fine hand woven work-bag Friday last from the soldier patients. The bags were made by the patients at the hospital, even to the weaving of the material.

Dull times in the movie district have brought wages down from \$10 to \$12 a day for extras to \$3 and \$4.

The deepest oil well in the United States is at Fairmont, West Virginia.

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EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS BY THE RED CROSS

Some very pleasing messages were received by the Red Cross Society during the exchange of Christmas greetings. Preparations are being made at the depot for the annual meeting of the provincial division.

The president of the Canadian Red Cross, Colonel Noel Marshall, telegraphed his greeting to R. T. Hayes, M. P., president of the New Brunswick division, and said: "On behalf of the central executive, may I congratulate you on the good work done by the provincial division during the last year, and wish for you and your members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with growing success in your work."

Dr. James W. Robertson, in his greeting which was sent to Miss Ethel H. Jarvis, the provincial secretary, writing as chairman of the central council, said: "Wishing you and the other Red Cross workers a happy and satisfactory New Year."

Greetings were also received from the presidents or secretaries of most of the local branches throughout the province, and a letter of good wishes was received from the general secretary of the Canadian Red Cross, Dr. Albert H. Abbott.

Tornadoes have been known to carry children a mile.

MINISTER 66, HIS BRIDE 60.

Rev. Benjamin F. Kidder of New Canaan, Conn., Weds Miss Kelly.

New York, Dec. 27.—The Rev. Benjamin F. Kidder, 66, of New Canaan, Conn., was married last week to Miss Mathilda J. Kelly, 60 years old, at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. William H. Kelly of 107 Vermilyea Avenue. The Rev. Robert Kelly, a brother, performed the ceremony. Immediately after the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Kidder went to the home of the minister's son, Raymond S. Kidder of 221 Wiloughby Avenue, Brooklyn.

PLAYER'S

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