

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1922

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MONDAY'S DECISION.

On Monday the electors of St. John will make a decision which will very seriously affect the interests of the city for many years to come.

They are offered cheap light and power, which would become cheaper as the market expanded, until in the end and for all time the rates would remain so low as to enable factories in St. John to compete with those of other places served by hydro-electric power.

To get this cheap light and power they must compete with the present occupant of the field, whose high rates have prevented industrial expansion and the growth of the city. They must compete by civic distribution, making it certain that none of the profits of the new development will be reaped off by a private corporation. If that corporation secured control of the current there would be no hope of cheap light and power.

There is absolutely nothing in the assertion that civic distribution means increased taxation. The experience of hundreds of towns and municipalities in Canada that have accepted hydro gives the lie to that assertion, which is made in the interests of the New Brunswick Power Company. The expenditure necessary to get civic distribution would be paid out of profits within the first few years, while the rates to the consumer would be away below the rates now paid, and as the market expanded they would go still lower. Who has so little faith in St. John as to assert that the market, with cheap rates, would not expand?

The electors are sufficiently intelligent to estimate at their true value the blue-ribbon stories spread broadcast in the interests of the power company. St. John is not dead or dying. It is going forward to brighter and more prosperous times and larger growth as a result of the acceptance of cheap light and power. The defeat of the power company advocates on Monday should be the first step. The interests of the people are supreme.

THE REAL ISSUE

Not what the government of New Brunswick would do to the city of St. John, but what the New Brunswick Power Company would do if it got the chance to be the thing the citizens must guard against next Monday.

The government embarked upon its hydro-electric policy with the hearty approval of the people, including some who are now loudly demanding that the benefits of the Musquash development be handed over to the New Brunswick Power Company.

The government entered upon the development of Musquash power for the benefit of the people of St. John and vicinity, Moncton, and points between. It offers the hydro-electric current at cost. Mayor Schofield had no reason to assume and maintain, as Hon. E. A. Smith says he did, "an attitude of suspicion and distrust." The government was and is acting in good faith for the major's attitude is clear. He was never anxious to buy the Musquash current. In the back of his mind always was the New Brunswick Power Company as the only possible distributor of that current. He was always seeing difficulties that were not apparent to others. In the end he has come out flatly against civic distribution.

There is only one safe course for the citizens to pursue. If they elect Mayor Schofield the city loses and the power company wins, and so far as the people of St. John are concerned the development at Musquash will be no benefit whatever.

When Mr. Schofield's friends began to picture him as a safe, sane and reliable, dignified and model business man and mayor, they should have stipulated that he remain silent. During the last two weeks he has fallen far below specifications, and conducted a campaign of his own that leaves much to be desired in point of dignity and fairness.

The citizens will not permit themselves to be frightened. They have one fear that is amply justified, and that is that the New Brunswick Power Company may get a chance to pay for its own folly upon the city. To trust Mayor Schofield is to trust the power company which so ardently supports him. A vote for Mayor Schofield is a vote for the power company.

The business man who wants more business will vote on Monday for the policy that will provide cheap light and power, encourage the establishment of many small industries, increase the number of his customers, and add to the number of taxpayers in the city. That business man will not vote for Mayor Schofield, behind whom stands the New Brunswick Power Company.

It is important that the majority for civic distribution of hydro should be larger than it was in the primaries. Every voter who then went on record against giving the New Brunswick Power Company a new and stronger grip on the city should both vote and work on Monday to make the verdict more emphatic than before.

HE STOOFS, BUT NOT TO CONQUER.

Mayor Schofield has done what would have been regarded as an incredible thing for the mayor of a city to do, if it had not been done by him. He has gone to the civic records to show that Mr. McLellan was late in paying his taxes, and of Mr. Phillips he says:—"In the case of Mr. Phillips we had carried him for his 1919 and 1920 taxes up till February of 1922."

There are some five thousand people whose taxes are not paid. Messrs. McLellan and Phillips paid theirs. Are any of the five thousand given publicity by the mayor? Not at all. What do the citizens think of a mayor who makes distinctions of this sort?

But what does Mr. Phillips, who is thus described as a tax-dodger, say about it? He says:—"In 1918 I paid my taxes in the parish of Greenwich, Kings county. In 1919 I paid my taxes in Westfield. In 1920 I paid my taxes in the city of Fredericton, and in 1921 I paid my taxes in the city of St. John, in time to get the discount. It happens that for three months in 1918 I came into the city and worked here only for that time. In January, 1919, I went to England, returning in May of that year. I never received any notice of assessment or tax bill in St. John. For 1918 or 1919 or 1920, but in February, 1922, a tax collector came into my office and told me he had a bill for 1918 and had been unable to trace me. While I was not sure that I should have been taxed here in 1918 I paid the bill—with interest."

How many votes will the mayor gain on Monday as a result of his treatment of Mr. Phillips in this matter? If the spirit of fair play operates he will be taught a salutary lesson. Hydro is the issue, not Mr. Phillips's taxes—and Mr. Phillips's taxes are paid.

TO WOMEN VOTERS

The Times has already referred to the canvass being made among women who are property owners by the friends of the New Brunswick Power Company. They are telling the women that civic distribution of hydro will result in such an increase in taxation that owners will have to sell out. This is utterly false. It is a shameful attempt to deceive women voters and get their votes for the New Brunswick Power Company.

In the first place, the users of hydro will pay for it. Bonds would be issued for the cost of the distribution system. A short term loan could be made to cover interest and sinking fund for these bonds, until the sale of the electric current was large enough to take care of both. There would be no new taxes on the people.

The hydro-electric distribution would be managed by a commission. It would be the same as the water distribution, the user paying the cost, and while the market for current was being built up the consumer would still be getting light and power at least forty per cent cheaper than at present. Of course money would have to be spent the first year or two, but it would be provided for by bonds and by loan, to be taken care of without calling upon the taxpayers to contribute at all.

Under Mayor Schofield's scheme there would be no appreciable reduction in the cost of light and power, and no assurance that it would not later be increased. The city would be helpless in the hands of the power company. If the women voters want cheaper light and power without increased taxation they will vote against Mayor Schofield.

To read some of his advertising matter one might almost be led to believe the city to be on the verge of a great betrayal, from which Mayor Schofield alone could rescue it. Really it is not quite so bad as that. The danger is that the city might lose the benefit of the Musquash development, which would be a genuine calamity.

Occasionally one hears a voter express doubt as to what he should do on Monday. The choice is simple. Either the city or the power company wins. Which should win? Is there any room for doubt on that score?

Those who believe in the principles of fair play will not support Mayor Schofield on Monday. His campaign has hopelessly degenerated in the last week.

Speaking of people looking for jobs, if we get cheap light and power there will be more industries, more business, more jobs, and more taxpayers.

Monday's vote will decide whether the citizens of St. John or the New Brunswick Power Company will profit by the Musquash development.

If this campaign lasted another week, how much more mud would the friends of the New Brunswick Power Company throw?

Get out the full vote on Monday. Make it a smashing victory for hydro.

THE BANNER OF ST. GEORGE.

It comes from the misty ages, The Banner of England's might, The blood red cross of the brave St. George.

That burns on a field of white; It speaks of the deathless heroes, On fabled pages encircled, And his great England ne'er forget The glorious deeds of old.

O'er many a cloud of battle, That Banner has floated wide, It shone like a star o'er the valiant hearts.

The dashed the Armada's pride; Forever amid the thunders The sailor could do or die, While tongues of flame leaped forth below.

And the Flag of St. George was high, O'er many the flag beloved, Until in a stiff unblest, But ever gave strength to the righteous arm.

And hope to the hearts oppressed; It says through the passing ages—"Be brave if your cause is right." Like the soldier saint whose cross of red Still burns on your Banner white;

Great race whose Empire of splendor Has dazzled a wondering world; May the flag that floats o'er thy wide domains

Be long to all winds unfurled; Three crosses in concord blended, The Banner of Britain's might; But the central gem of the ensign fair Is the cross of the dauntless knight.

SHAPCOTT WENSLLEY.

LIGHTER VEIN

Saving Material. "How do you like my new frock?" asked Eric's sister, when dressed for a dance.

"It's—quite simple," stammered the young man. "Simple?" she laughed. "Do you know what it cost? Do you know that twenty golden sovereigns wouldn't cover it?"

"Perhaps not," said Eric; "but thirty might, well spread out."

Why She Chose George.

Mabel—Why did you make up your mind to marry George instead of John? Netta—Because I went out with each on a dull day. John said: "It looks like rain, but we'll take a chance!" George said: "It looks like rain, so we'll take a taxi!"—London Mail.

Settled. Two fussy traveling salesladies were riding, in opposite seats in the train. One thought the car was too hot, the other said it was too cold.

Just then a dumpy porter came through. "Commanded the first lady, 'I wish you'd open that window. I'm nearly smothered.' " "Don't you do it!" snapped the other. "If you do I'll freeze to death." The porter scratched his head. "What you 'posse Ah should do in a case like dat?" he asked a portly looking traveling man, about two seats to the rear, trying to enjoy a little reading. "Open it a while and freeze ones; then shut it and smother the other."—Forbes Magazine (N. Y.).

SHOCK ABSORBERS.

A vote for Schofield means cheaper light and power and no increase in rent and taxes.

Did you ever run into a business deal and win you had found out more about it first?

If not Schofield—who?

Schofield says: "Mr. Taxpayer, don't saddle the city with greater financial burden until you're sure of beneficial results."

"My suggestion as to power distribution would mean a saving in your light bills immediately."

"I have no intention of being stampeded into pre-election promises which cannot at the moment be carried out by any candidate."

It will take a year and a half to work out civic distribution with a duplicate system, with no difference in price in the meantime. Why not wait and save money? scheme for two years and save money?

I will make no promise to get votes. Civic distribution means an initial expenditure of more than a million—the taxpayer will have to face the music.

Vote and bring a voter with you on Monday. See Schofield's advertisement on page 2.

F. A. CAMPBELL TO MAYOR SCHOFIELD.

To the Editor of The Times: Sir—Referring to Mayor Schofield's circular in which he states that he has in his possession a letter signed by me endorsing anything he may have done for labor and expressing gratification for his attitude at all times towards labor, I deny that he has ever received a letter from me in my official capacity as president of the Trades and Labor Council, in which I ever approved of his actions where labor was concerned.

The letter he refers to is of a personal nature and is simply expressing thanks to him for something he did and which was not asked of him, but suggested by myself and believed at the time by me to be of a purely friendly and Christian character, and never dreaming that I was being framed for his future political ambition.

Labor owes Mayor Schofield nothing and the contest on Monday, April 24, will no doubt find labor supporting civic ownership and distribution, and those who supported the principle before they had learned what the majority of public opinion was to be.

Enough for the present. (Sgd.) F. A. CAMPBELL. St. John, April 20.

The New Brunswick Power Company could do a good deal of valuable work for itself in two years, if given the sanction and support of the city in that enterprise. It might bring that \$2,000,000 of common stock appreciably nearer a dividend paying basis. Do the people want to see \$5,100,000 chucked up as the value of the company's plant? And if they had to provide the running expenses, the money for sorely needed improvements, and the dividends—would they ever get any reduction in rates or any expansion of industry?

Give some time and effort on Monday to get for the city cheap light and power.

—Ads.

OUTSIDE VIEW OF ONE PHASE OF THE ELECTION FIGHT

A Norton correspondent, writing to The Times, says:—"If a rank outsider may be excused for butting into a St. John conflict, I would appreciate the opportunity of using some of your valuable space to protest against a subtle and dangerous policy that is being instigated into the mayoralty contest. In the covert issue, which strikes at eye-long Anglo-Celtic ideals of government, I find justification for this letter."

"The matter referred to is the side-swiping appeal, seeking to glorify one man because of his business success, and deriding the other candidate as being out of employment and seeking a job. This is direct insult to every wage-earner in this country. It would seem to me that the man who is in a position to give all his time to the city—other things being equal—will make a better public servant than the man whose time and energy are divided between private business and public duty. We cannot serve masters! It is a two thousand year old truth."

"Moreover, this is introducing a dangerous form of class appeal, that the Bohemian movement will react to, and in the highest public interest it should be rebuked. Neither is it a good criterion of the probable success of a candidate's administration. U. S. Grant had not succeeded in business, was out of a job and seeking employment when he obtained his commission in the federal army and began the career that saved the republic."

"If the exaltation of a man in public life on account of his business standing, irrespective of the policy he advocates, is permitted to prevail, this country will soon be the counterpart of Germany under the domination of Hugo Stinnes. We will be divided into two distinct classes, a business ruling class rolling in wealth, and a working peasant class. In the interest of the children of the wage earners, morally, mentally and physically the equal of the children of the successful business men, I trust this German nobility idealism will be smashed forever on Monday."

"If public welfare is of any importance it is time to consider the human equation in our collective activities, and to be concerned about measures that will enhance the comforts of the working man at home instead of giving weight to the personal business achievement of some aspiring candidate for public favor."

"It is only necessary to make a casual visit to some establishment dealing in electrical appliances to see how cheap electricity will ease the housewife's burdens and add to the attractiveness of the children's homes. Hydro-electricity distributed at lowest cost has demonstrated its utility as a home-improving factor par excellence in Ontario. Is there not sufficient intelligence in St. John to make it accomplish the same results here? Frictionation is the big business thief of the workingman's home comforts."

"Thanking you in advance, I remain, 'NORTON.' "April 22, 1922."

You cannot take Mayor Schofield without also taking the New Brunswick Power Company, for he has declared against civic distribution.

Hydro will not mean more taxes but cheaper light and power—if it is kept out of the clutches of the New Brunswick Power Company.

ELECTION CARDS

Thoughts for The Electors

To Commissioner Bullock must be given the credit for having consumed an agreement whereby the C. P. R. for \$7,715.06 on the past season's operations. This agreement will save the city a very large expenditure and one of the best deals put through in recent years. It takes time, tact and patient perseverance to work these things through.

Commissioner Bullock has proven his solidity in civic affairs. The opportunity is here through hydro and civic ownership. Why should St. John continue to pay \$22,000 per year per light for street lighting? Vancouver only pays \$30,000 for similar services.

SANDY CORBET'S PLATFORM

CIVIC CONTROL OF HYDRO

The slogan now is—If not Sandy—What?

If not civic control of Hydro—What? I did not wait to be hit by a landslide on April 10th before I declared for civic hydro. I was not misled, but was able to form my own opinion after I read the reports of our own engineer.

Those candidates who were unable to form their opinions or who were forced to declare for hydro after April 10th should not be considered, because they are apt to change their opinion again. Why were they in favor of the Power Company handling Hydro before the primaries?

Why are they now in favor of civic control?

Any city father who has to be hit over the head by a ton of ballots to bring him to his senses should not be given a chance to fall back again into a state of coma. It is evident these candidates were not listening to the voice of the people, but to a small group of so-called business men (P.).

Candidates who had arguments strong enough to stand at the meeting in Pythian Castle and declare against civic control must regard their arguments as bad now, so they jump over the fence. Too late.

We are not sure but that they will jump again.

Play Safe—give your vote to me and be sure of getting complete civic control.

—Ads.

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Exclusive Agency "REGAL" Shoes for Men.

WIEZELBROS SUPERIOR FOOTWEAR

243 Union Street

"LA PARISIENNE" Shoes for Women.

DANCERS OF CAMBODIA.

From the time they are eight years old the dancers who compose the harem of the King of Cambodia begin to work. Each day for at least a year, from 9 o'clock in the morning to 11 and from 2 to 5 in the afternoon they exercise under the direction of women teachers, themselves former dancers. The preparation is long and painful. The rehearsals hall is gloomy, the air often stifling. Seated on the ground, they bend and rotate the torso above the pelvis; or else, sitting one, opposite the other, each turns back the fingers of her companion until all the phalanges crack. Finally, one dancer takes the arm of her neighbor and bends it backward over her knee as one bends a branch.

The aim is to modify the articulation of the elbow and to arrive at the over-extension of the forearm that astonishes the European and that makes it possible for the bare arm, floating on musical waves, to undulate from the shoulder to the extreme unfolding of the lamed-back hand.

The difficulty of the Khmer dances does not lie solely in this. The over-extension must be possible for the hand, for the wrist, for all the phalanges; and the articulations of the legs must also be modified. Finally, these over-extensions must be, as largely as possible, simultaneous.

But none of the movement provokes the uneasiness that one feels at the sight of the contortions of acrobats. They melt together and dovetail. There is a profound undulation for the whole person. The gesture does not stop. It gets lost. The charming body of the actress becomes in some fashion insubstantial. The angels, even the fleeciness, and nothing remains but soft curves, vague profiles, airy glidings, and unsuspected grace.

To realize such an esthetic ideal the dancer must exercise stubbornly; she must exercise stubbornly if she wishes that, one evening, the enchanted King will desire her and the people will applaud. When her body is sufficiently flexible and she is able, bending her quickly, to make it crack in an uncommon reversal, then only will the little dancer study her role.—Asia Magazine.

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