

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 15, 1922.

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### THE COST OF HYDRO.

The following extract from the annual report of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, regarding water powers in New Brunswick and the policy pursued for their development, is of particular interest just now:

"As to the benefits to be derived by the average consumer from this policy, it is not claimed that they will duplicate those of the Niagara peninsula of Ontario, with its world-famous water power serving 1,800,000 people. It can, however, be reasonably expected that the greater portion of the province can be placed in a position with respect to electric energy to compare favorably with those districts of Ontario not on the Niagara system but supplied by the Hydro-Electric Commission from water power developments comparable to those under consideration in New Brunswick. "One of these Ontario developments which typifies those proposed in this province is that of Engle's Falls. This depends upon artificial storage for its regulation of water supply, and is on a small stream. The results obtained within this Ontario district can be duplicated in New Brunswick provided the same degree of co-operation shall exist between the provincial commission and the municipal distributing agencies. This co-operation must be gradually developed and extended for the complete attainment of desired and possible results. We have the power sites that will produce electric energy at a wholesale price equal to that of the smaller systems of Ontario, and there is no reason to suppose that it cannot be distributed to the ultimate consumers as cheaply as in the systems in Ontario served by those smaller systems and comparable in population to the communities of the districts to be developed in this province."

The report gives a table showing what the municipalities served by power from Engle's Falls development paid for light and power in 1919, and we may quote the figures for Owen Sound, the largest centre, with a population of 12,218. The rate for domestic light was 8 cents; commercial, 27; power, from 2 cents down, with a service charge of one dollar per month and ten per cent. for prompt payment. Even if St. John cannot do nearly as well as Owen Sound there is evidently room for a very large reduction in rates when we get the current from Musquash.

### BASIC CONSIDERATIONS.

A consideration of some basic facts in connection with hydro should assist in clearing the atmosphere and reducing the matter to a simple business proposition.

1.—The provincial government is not an enemy of the city.

2.—The provincial government is not seeking to take advantage of the city or make a profit at its expense.

3.—The city is offered a stated quantity of electricity at a sub-station at the city line at a stated maximum cost.

4.—The only problem before the city is that of distribution.

5.—Successful distribution and satisfactory results depends, as Mr. Phillips has pointed out, on public spirit, courage to go forward, financial ability, and no interest to be served but that of the people.

6.—If the city does not avail itself of this opportunity it will go on paying such prices for light and power as will continue to prohibit the expansion of industry, while other localities will reap the benefit of the Musquash development. Can the city afford not to seize the advantage offered?

But what about the New Brunswick Power Company? Some ask. Well, what about the New Brunswick Power Company? Did it develop the Musquash and offer cheap power? Does it now offer cheap power? How does it enter into the consideration at all unless it has a more attractive proposition to offer than the city can get in any other way? Does its past record assure the people that it would prove a beneficent partner in business? Does it command public confidence to such an extent as would make people desire to invest in manufacturing enterprises and so enlarge the market for hydro—which enlargement is the first essential of success?

The interests of the people are paramount in this affair. The New Brunswick Power Company would not be discussed at all if the civic authorities had not by their course created an impression in the minds of the people that they took it for granted that they must first go to the company, when they should have gone steadily about their business. It would be quite time enough to talk to the company when they knew what a civic distribution system would cost, and its probable effect upon the cost of light and power and upon the future growth of the city. If in the affair there should appear to be any clash of interests, whose interests should prevail? All talk about co-operation and getting together may easily be traced to the source. Perhaps because it is a new experience it may tickle some palates, but the citizens have before them a plain business proposition and nothing else.

### THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

The large number of women and the few men who heard Mrs. Tronson in the Natural History Society's rooms last evening on the political status of women were given a wealth of information. It must have been intensely gratifying to the women present to learn how many of their sex now sit in legislative halls in different countries, the continents of America, Europe and Africa all affording illustrations. But the gifted speaker also told her audience of certain countries, such as New Zealand and the state of Colorado where the giving of the franchise to women has resulted in exceptionally liberal legislation to improve the status of women and children. The status of women in Great Britain has been wonderfully improved, since they may not only serve on a board or practice a profession formerly closed to them, but many sit in the House of Commons, or the House of Lords. The woman brings to a legislature the woman's viewpoint, and Mrs. Tronson truly asserted that there is no legislation which benefits women and children that does not also benefit men. There are still countries such as France, Italy, Spain and some others where women are fighting for their rights, and these can not long be withheld. The favor with which the newly elected pope regards the women's forward movement cannot but have a powerful influence in many countries. Mrs. Tronson called attention to certain anomalies, even in countries like Great Britain, which call for legislative remedy in the interest not less of the state than of women. The distinguished visitor will find in Canada, outside of Quebec, that the women have secured their political rights in great part, and that they are beginning to take a real interest in the use of the franchise for the public good. We may fairly anticipate that among the matters to which they will give early attention in New Brunswick will be the best possible results from the public health act, the appointment of a provincial superintendent for neglected and dependent children, a better educational system for the feeble-minded; the establishment of juvenile courts, a square deal for the unmarried mother and her child, equality of the sexes to a greater extent than now prevails, the creation of a healthier public sentiment, and hearty co-operation with men in purifying public life and awakening a keener sense of personal responsibility in all who serve in any public capacity. The women of Canada who have the pleasure of hearing the clever and earnest representative of the International Suffrage Association cannot but receive from her a fresh incentive to active effort for the promotion of community and national welfare; and she in turn cannot but gain freshness and a brightness of outlook from her contact with the women of Canada, who were so well represented in brief addresses last evening by Mrs. E. Atherton Smith and Mrs. Richard Hooper.

The defeat of the Manitoba government was unexpected, but it did not have a majority over all parties after the last election, and no other group is strong enough to form a stable government. No doubt there will be another appeal to the people, and the view is expressed that the Farmers will win.

Hon. Mr. Crerar makes it clear that the Progressives stand for continued public ownership of the national railway system and for a downward revision of the tariff.

The Standard, which supports Hon. Mr. Meighen, who stands for public ownership of railways, is a pronounced champion of private ownership of the utility which supplies light and power.

The people of Canada have more faith in Sir Adam Beck than in American private interests which are opposed to public ownership of electric utilities.

The results of public ownership and development of hydro in Ontario are in the pockets of the consumers of light and power. That is the real test.

If Nova Scotia changes the rule of the road New Brunswick will at once follow suit. It ought to be done this spring.

The Standard has discovered which side it is on. It is on the side of the New Brunswick Power Company.

The situation in regard to possible coal strikes on both sides of the border presents a rather ugly aspect.

Canada Will Support Claims. Ottawa, March 15.—Assurance that the Canadian representatives to the Genoa conference would be instructed to support the Carpatho-Russia claims at the Genoa conference was given by Premier Mackenzie King, yesterday, to R. N. Samllo, president of the League for the Liberation of Carpatho-Russia.

The boy scout Troop of the Coburg street Baptist church under the leadership of M. F. Patnam, gave a programme last night. Those who took part were F. and R. Horncastle, M. Chittick, R. MacKenzie, E. Kirkpatrick, F. Brigidon, H. Hughes, and Miss A. Hughes.

### DOWN IN DEVON

Oh, were I but in Devon! Down in Devon I would fain be roaming, Over moor and tor in Devon, Where the salted breeze comes homing.

Rich and red's the soil in Devon! Down in Devon, I can well remember, By the coast, south-sloping pastures Still are green in mid-December.

There are shady lanes in Devon, Down in Devon, where I would be straying; Through thick tangled leaves and grasses Small shy pixie folk are playing.

How the sea comes up round Devon! Misty headlands faintly white with flying spume; How the Channel lides best loudly On the beach at Ilfracombe!

And the sea is in my being; Ocean rovers of dim by-gone ages, Restless phantoms, dwell in Devon; Calling when the west wind rages, Florence E. Westcott, 145 Lansdowne avenue, Toronto.

### LIGHTER VEIN.

Answer Ready. "My good friends," began the temperance orator, "drink is the yoke of the world. All the crimes, all the wars, all the headaches of the universe can be laid at the door of intoxication."

He paused significantly and gazed round at his audience. "Oh, my friends," he continued at last, "what causes more misery than liquor?"

Not receiving any reply to his query, he repeated the question, adding, "Can anyone tell me that?"

The silence was broken by the little man at the end of the hall. "There's that," he yelled.—Pearson's Weekly.

Blissful Ignorance. He was unfamiliar with the domestic contrivances of town life. To his mates on Monday morning he confided that his Sunday dinner had been only half-cooked, because his wife could not get the oven hot enough. He told him about the advantages of a gas stove, and he had one fixed immediately.

On Saturday night, over a friendly glass, he became enthusiastic about the gas stove. "We lighted her on Wednesday after the men had gone," he said, "and the darn thing hasn't gone out yet!"

Never Too Late to Charge. "Young man," a lady said to a chemist's assistant, "I want about a pint of glycerine, please."

"Yes, madam," answered the assistant. "That will be 6s. 6d.—six shillings for the glycerine, and sixpence for the bottle."

"But a month ago," the lady objected, "I got some glycerine here, and you did not charge me anything for it."

The chemist's assistant looked shocked. "Really, madam," he replied promptly, "then that will be seven shillings in all!"

### LIGHTS ON HYDRO

To The Editor of the Times:—Sir:—It appears that at last there has been uncovered one point upon which Mr. Ross and the citizens of St. John might agree. To quote the Mayor, "Mr. Ross looks seriously upon the matter of erecting a distribution system in addition to the present system."

Some citizens among them the writer, have been looking serious on this very question for some time and have tried to speed up negotiations so that some solution may be arrived at as early as possible.

strengthen the position of the power company and lessens our chance of being properly equipped to handle the power at the proper time.

His Worship the Mayor at a meeting last evening mentions a mass of data which he claims have on the subject of the cost of a civic distribution system. We trust this consists of something more tangible than the guess made by Mr. Ross. If so, why has it not been given to the public through the press? Does every individual citizen have to take the initiative on his own account to get information that should be given that he may be able to form his judgment of the merits of the case?

According to the hydro act the city will get the power only on condition that the distribution will be controlled by the municipality. We take it that this means the ownership of the system. There are just two ways to acquire a distribution system; buy the existing system or build a new one. Gentlemen, we can build our own system and, even supposing we pay for it the unreasonable figure suggested by Mr. Ross, we can still save a paltry few hundred thousand dollars per year. Is it worth while?

The public is bound to look with disfavor and distrust on any deal that will permit the power company to participate in the profits to be derived from hydro. Those profits—or savings—belong to the people.

JOHN W. FLOOD, St. John, N. B., March 14, 1922.

### REINDEER HERD ARRIVES.

Two Liners in Hurricane Heard Calls From Sinking Grontoft. The Canadian liner Saxonia, from Hamburg, and the Norwegian American liner Bergensford, from Christiania, arrived at New York last week bringing reports of extremely rough weather in the Atlantic. It took the Saxonia more than thirteen days to reach Halifax.

"It was one continuous storm, rising at times to hurricane force," said Captain Hossack. At 10:30 o'clock on the morning of March 2 the Saxonia received a call for help from the sinking steamship Grontoft, relayed from the Holland-America liner Ryndam. She broadcasted the call for help until word came several hours later that the Grontoft had ceased to call.

Captain Ole Bull of the Bergensford said the voyage was one of the worst in his experience. On one day a 100-mile hurricane and great seas kept the vessel constantly awash. The barometer fell as low as 28, the lowest he had known in fourteen years, he said. The Bergensford passed over the spot where the Grontoft was last reported, but saw no wreckage.

Dr. Halstan Christensen of Sten, Norway, arrived on the Bergensford with a herd of fifty female and ten male reindeer in charge of two woman Lapps from Pinnmark Province. The shipment will form the nucleus of a herd in Michigan. The experiment is the first of its kind to be made in the United States for commercial purposes.

W. M. S. Knox Church, will hold a pantry sale at Imperial Lobby, Friday, March 17, starting two o'clock. 22810—9-17

## LOCAL NEWS

At the Seamen's Institute tonight, songs lately composed by John Sears will be sung.

GRAND CONCERT. By Jordan Kiddies, East St. John, Community Hall, Thursday, March 16, 1922. Tickets 25 cents.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN. Samuel Ruby wishes to announce to his former customers and friends that his store at 608 Main street, has been completely remodelled and renovated and that he is now open for business once more with a large and more complete stock of suits and men's furnishings than ever before. 22808—9-17

Confetti Shower, "Studio," Saturday. Confetti free.

## MANY YEARS IN EASTERN LANDS

Lieutenant Smith of Salvation Army, in City at Present, Talks of People and Their Beliefs.

Lieutenant G. V. Smith, of the Salvation Army, arrived in the city recently from Quebec where he has been doing immigration work for about a year and a half following about sixteen years spent in missionary work in the Far East, including India, Persia, China, Arabia, and Japan.

Lieut. Smith tells a very interesting story of his work in these countries. He was born in London, England, and received his schooling there, leaving for the East as a young boy. He returned to England but soon left again and spent nearly sixteen years in mission work in the countries of the East. At first he worked as a free-lance man, but in 1914, seeing the good work done in India by the Salvation Army, he joined that organization and has been connected with it since. During the war he was for a time with General Townshend's expedition at Kut-el-Amara and also for a time with the Persian Rifles, a body of British, mostly picked up during the expedition of the Kurds. At the start of the sixteen years he had a partner, a doctor, but by his death, Lieut. Smith took over his instruments and did medical work in connection with his other duties. He speaks fourteen native languages, mostly picked up during his sojourn in the eastern countries.

India's Trouble. The natives of the East, especially those without high caste, he says, are slow to accept and doctrine advocated by a good leader. This is one of the reasons for Ghandi's great success, he says, and the cure for the trouble in India is to Christianize the natives and destroy Ghandi's power. The work of the Salvation Army was only a part of what was being done, he said, the Salvation Army seemed to get closer to the people through their method of working. They dress in native costume and, as far as possible, live with the natives, showing them always kindness and courtesy, to which many of them are susceptible. Native helpers are used in the work, and this is a great factor in reaching the people.

Lieut. Smith tells of seeing fifty-six natives in a single day at a little village near Poona, in India. Lieut. Smith's Hindu name is Dhanraj Singh, meaning "Triumph of Religion."

Among the interesting things the lieutenant tells are extracts from some of the more prominent of the religions of the Eastern peoples, of which there are thousands, embracing nearly a million gods and teachers. These most popular are Mohammedanism, Buddhism, Taoism and the worship of Brahma, Vishnu and Shentü.

The legend of the forming of Japan is interesting. It is said that a sun goddess, while resting one day, put down her sword from Heaven and the drops that fell from it formed Japan. After a time it became too large for her to rule and she sent her son to earth with the promise that so long as he ruled faithfully and well, the destiny of Japan would be assured. In honor of this goddess, all the temples have a mirror, a sword and a piece of cloth.

The Buddhists are believers in the re-incarnation of the soul and it is supposed that the spirit of Buddha was born into 770 different bodies before it became perfect. They will never needlessly kill any animal, however small, for fear that the soul of some ancestor may be dwelling there.

The worship of Shentu is a very simple one. The devotees for prayers is to go to the temple, where a tasseled rope hangs from a bell, ring the bell, clap their hands, bow their heads and the prayer is finished. There are no verbal prayers whatever.

To Benzuri, the god of healing, are attributed miraculous powers. If a baby is sick, they take the bib from the child and hang it around the neck of the god. This is supposed to cure the sickness. In the case of adult sickness, the person rubs himself and then rubs the god. A special prayer or plea is written down on a piece of paper, the paper chewed up and then thrown at the god. If it sticks all will be well, if not, their prayers will not be answered.

The worshippers of this god, he says, sometimes blind their children with blows on the temples in order to make them good beggars. In a case of eye disease they apply red pepper or spice in an effort to cure the affliction, an effort which usually results in total blindness.

Some of the Arabs, he says, worship a species of large fish and it is not an unusual sight to see the eyes of a child badly injured by these fish on account of the fear of the people to brush off their gods.

The initiation into the Hindu religion is rather a complicated process, involving the making of three gods from clay. Sacrifices are necessary in order to have the god in a good humor, to make a sacrifice of the head of a goat which must be killed by a single stroke of the sword and neck of the person desiring to be admitted to the religion and some of it is drunk. After death, bodies are put on an altar around which a fire is built and kept going until the child explodes with a loud noise. This is supposed to be the soul escaping. The custom of a wife's throwing herself on her husband's funeral pyre has been discontinued by the authorities but is sometimes carried out unless a strict watch is kept.

Lieutenant Smith will spend about four weeks in the city before returning to Quebec. He says that he feels the "call of the East" and is anxious to get back to his work in that part of the world.

SACKVILLE PERSONALS. (Sackville Post.) Mrs. W. C. Robinson went to Boston yesterday to spend several weeks.

Miss Lilian Sprague, who has been spending several weeks in Boston, New York and Fall River, has returned home.

Mrs. Donald S. Fisher and little daughter, Ann, who have been visiting friends and relatives in Quebec have returned home.

Miss Gussie Mahoney, of Melrose, who has been seriously ill for the last two weeks, is now improving.

Capt. Blair Carter and family will leave Amherst next month for a tour of the Annapolis Valley where he and his brother-in-law, George Fowler of Halifax, have purchased a fruit farm of 125 acres.

William Knight of Amherst, who is on a business trip to Montreal, expects to leave on his return on a several month's visit to Great Britain. He will be accompanied by his daughter, Miss Beatrice.

Mrs. A. B. Copp, Sackville, has arrived in Ottawa and will spend the session with her husband, Hon. A. B. Copp. They have taken a residence at 803 MacLaren street.

Miss Dorothy Woodhall of Calgary, daughter of Mrs. P. S. Woodhall, president of the Calgary Local Council of Women, which entertained the National Council last year, is attending Mount Allison Ladies' College.

HON. DR. KING HAS 1,000 MAJORITY. Fernie, B. C., March 15.—Return from sixty-three polls out of a total of sixty-nine in the East Kootenay constituency late last night indicate that Hon. Dr. J. H. King, minister of public works in the Ottawa government, has been elected to parliament by a majority of at least 1,000 over his Labor-Progressive opponent, H. Bronston of Cranbrook. The figures for the sixty-three polls, which include all the larger centres of population, stand as follows: King..... 3,016 Bronston..... 1,855

The election of Dr. King complete Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King's career and gives British Columbia one representative in that administration.

GRAND BLACK CHAPTER AND ONTARIO SCHOOLS. Smith's Falls, Ont., March 15.—The forty-sixth session of the Grand Black Chapter of Eastern Ontario of the Orange Order convened in the Orange Hall here yesterday.

The proctor, Fenton, said that an agitation raised by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church, by which a concession was proposed that would deprive the public schools of vast sums of money, was one that should command the attention of every Canadian who had any appreciation of the rights of the child to a proper and liberal education.

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Continues to bring many youthful, smart models to this shop. Have you seen the delightful new frocks? Do you know that the new topcoats are being selected? And the hats—why we've replenished the stock already.

FROCKS—\$24.00 to \$62.00 TOPCOATS—\$24.00 to \$50.00  
HATS—\$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00 to \$10.75

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SINCE 1859 ST. JOHN, N. B.

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## Slip-ons

That's the name given to the Spring Topcoats that hang loose from the shoulders; made in single-breasted style and with patch pockets. They are here in grey herringbone tweeds, in Lovat green mixed tweeds, in fancy mixed tweeds, tan coverts and all wool grey chevots.

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