

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1922

A CLARION CALL TO THE ELECTORS OF KINGS COUNTY

Sounding a clarion call to all supporters of the honest and progressive government in Kings county to endorse the candidature of the government standard bearer, J. D. McKenna, at the by-election polls on Saturday next, Premier Foster and five other government speakers, Hon. W. F. Roberts, Hon. Peter J. Veniot, Hon. David W. Macneil, Dr. D. H. McAlister and Mr. McKenna himself, addressed three remarkably enthusiastic and splendidly-attended meetings at Rostesay, Hampton and Jeffries' Corner, last evening.

Premier Foster's speech before an audience numbering nearly 150 persons in the Rostesay Consolidated school, was an inspiring and compelling lucid effort to present to the electors the record of legislative achievement by the government, and the reasons why that record should be endorsed.

Hon. Peter J. Veniot, minister of public works, and Hon. Dr. Roberts, minister of health, delivered two of the most effective campaign speeches yet delivered before a packed audience in the Agricultural Hall, Hampton. They made a smashing attack on the opposition canvasses, particularly against the health act and they justified the beneficial policies which have been announced and put to fruition since February, 1917, by the Foster administration.

LILLIAN RUSSELL

**Seminences and Tributes
by Lew Fields—Her Influence
on Those About Her.**

(Mail and Empire, Toronto.)

Lillian Russell was one of those women who are to be written about only in terms of affection and esteem, except the writer happens to be a hard-boiled dramatic critic. Her death has been followed by an outpouring on the part of the players who were at one time or another associated with her that we have never seen equalled in similar circumstances. She seems to have been almost the perfect woman. She was acclaimed as the loveliest woman on the American stage, perhaps the most beautiful in America. She was also a wit. These two qualities were sufficient to make her famous, but when we read tributes to her by Lew Fields and Francis Wilson it is not upon the loveliness of her face or figure or the nobility of her mind that they dwell. They might be trying to describe some good-natured cook, some homely spinster, whose noble character distinguished her above others. "Queen Lillian," they call her, and they "if someone will make a tent for me with sheets." What was good enough for the

to take her place, and that the position she occupied on the American stage was never held before by an actress and may never be held again.

Her beauty was of that rare type that when one looks at her in the costumes of twenty-five or thirty-five years ago it still challenges. She never was subjugated by her clothes. In a crinoline, in curling papers, she still appears beautiful and original. Nor did she ever seem conscious of her looks. Much of her value as a theatrical attraction was due to the wonderful regularity of her features, the lure of her eyes, and her graceful figure. But these were things that she could easily forget. She did not trade on them. She was without small jealousies. Her good nature was such that the other actresses in the company who might have imagined themselves as her rivals insofar as voice, the histrionic art or beauty were concerned, were easily conquered and acquiesced in the title, "Queen Lillian."

Lillian Russell was without temperament. The easiest job of the day was the job of her managers. Lew Fields relates that once the company was sojourning in one-night stands at a time of year when most of the theatres were closed. They had frequently to use halls. In one city they were billed for a hall that had no dressing rooms. The women members of the troupe were non-plussed. Lillian alone was cheerful. "I'm going to dress in the hall," she said. "If someone will make a tent for me with sheets." What was good enough for the

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famous star was good enough for the others, and the managers surmounted what might have proved a formidable obstacle but for her lead.

Fields says that when Miss Russell was a member of his company, Pete Daley, a famous comedian, never could be induced to attend a rehearsal. He was so highly valued a piece of bric-a-brac that nobody dared give him orders. Gentle remonstrances and periphrastic urgings were all that could be addressed to him. Finally he promised to attend a rehearsal at ten a. m. the next day, dropping in "on my way home." In the interval the time of the rehearsal was changed, but there was no way of notifying Daley. So when he turned up the next morning, there was nobody there but a writhing manager. "I'll never attend another one of your rehearsals as long as I live," said Peter, who felt that he had wasted some hours of necessary sleep. Not long afterwards a change was made in the lines, and the problem was to get Pete to attend the rehearsal so that he might have his cue for the night. It was solved by Lillian Russell dragging him down, almost by main force.

Pete was an original comedian, of something the same stamp as Will Rogers. He was noted for his somewhat disconcerting gift of improvising dialogue of a humorous character. It is said that neither Daley nor any other actor so gifted could discount Lillian. She was right there with the appropriate comeback. Fields tells us that other actors used to ask that they be put in scenes with her, because she was so stimulating. Other tributes are from girls and men who played humble roles and who testify to her unflinching kindness and the strong interest she took in their welfare. She settled quarrels, showed how unfounded were jealousies, assisted the management, and left, as one writer says, "a legend of loveliness" that will not fade from the American stage for many years.

LOSES WATCH LEFT IN CARE OF POLICE

Fellow Prisoner Answers to
Ryan's Name, Gets En-
velope at Desk and Vanishes.

New York, June 15.—Michael Ryan of 19 the Bovey, Manhattan, wants to know where a man's watch and money are safe if they aren't safe with the sergeant at the desk in a police station.

Ryan wants to know because he lost his watch and \$8 by giving them into the safekeeping of the sergeant when he was locked up in Hoboken for interfering Sunday night. Ryan and several detectives started out yesterday to find the man who got his property. It all happened through a transfer of identities of which Ryan knew nothing.

A man who gave his name as George Murphy, and his address as 132 Willow avenue, Hoboken, was locked up on a similar charge by the same policeman who arrested Ryan. Murphy and Ryan fraternized and together entered the prisoners' cage at police court yesterday morning. The policeman who arrested them was busy elsewhere and turned their arraignment over to Policeman John Lawrence.

While awaiting his turn to plead, Ryan asked the sergeant to look after his watch and money. When Lawrence appeared at the cage and called for Ryan, Murphy answered "present," the police say. He was arraigned and received a suspended sentence. Then he went to the desk sergeant for his valuables.

"Well, what did you have?" asked the sergeant, reaching for the envelope marked "Ryan."

"Oh, nothing much, sergeant," Murphy replied, forgetting for the moment his new identity.

"Well, here it is," and the sergeant handed over a gold watch and chain and \$8.

Murphy thus faced the alternative of admitting the joke he had played on

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Ryan and the court, or of walking off with another man's property. He walked, the police declare.

Then Lawrence again appeared at the cage and called loudly for "Murphy." Ryan awoke, looked around and announced that Murphy had gone.

"Your name is Murphy," insisted Lawrence. Then explanations followed. Ryan also got a suspended sentence and then search for his watch, chain and money began.

NAVAL SQUADRON CANNOT COME

The North Atlantic squadron of the British navy will not visit St. John this summer. Admiral Sir William Fakenham, in command of the squadron, writing from his flagship H. M. S. Raleigh, at Bar Harbor (Me.), under date of June 12, gives notice to this effect. The ad-

miral expressed his thanks for the kind invitation to visit the city and added: "As St. John has a reputation which guarantees a pleasant stay for any who have the good fortune to go there, it is with regret that I find it will not be possible to arrange a visit during the present cruise." The letter is a reply to the invitation sent by R. E. Armstrong, president of the N. B. division of the Navy League of Canada.

MCCORMACK NEARLY WELL.

Singer Writes Archbishop Curley His Voice is Unimpaired.

Baltimore, June 15.—In discussing plans for his trip to Europe this summer, Archbishop Michael J. Curley said that while abroad he would pay his respects to the Pope and that he would also call upon Cardinal Mercier in Malines, Belgium. The archbishop will start from Baltimore for his voyage abroad on June 28.

Archbishop Curley expects to meet John McCormack, the celebrated Irish tenor, one of his closest friends, while he is abroad.

McCormack is now recuperating at his country place in England, and in a letter to the archbishop, received a few days ago, he said that he was recovering rapidly from the illness that threatened to destroy his voice.

"John writes me," the archbishop said, "that he consulted a famous London throat specialist, and that after a careful examination he was told that his voice was in perfect shape and that the disease had not touched his vocal cords. He is getting well fast and is waiting for me."

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