

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1923

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

THE CIVIC PAY ROLL

If salaries were scientifically scaled at City Hall according to the responsibility of office and the service performed there might be an argument in favor of advancing all or none. It will hardly be contended that such is the case. There are some officials upon whose knowledge, ability and integrity the safety of the city's finances largely depends. They should be well-paid. There is no comparison between the service they render and that of the average employee. On general principles the city should pay as much for service as private concerns do, and it should insist upon getting as good a return in service. The contention that each Commissioner should have a free hand is open to the objection that padded pay sheets or a staff larger than is necessary might some time be discovered. If there is to be a study of the subject, let it take full account of the amount and value of the work done by each employee, to make it certain that three salaries, let us say, are not paid where two would suffice. There is always a tendency, in federal, provincial or civil affairs, to load up a department, because there are so many persons clamoring for a place, and bringing to bear influences which a business man would not consider for a moment. The real question to be decided is not so much whether one man is getting as much as another, as it is whether there is real work for all who are on the pay-roll. The taxpayers do not know. They are not in a position to judge fairly; but there are ways of ascertaining the facts, and an authoritative report would remove all doubt, and put an end to all concerned. If it be not unfair, there is more reason to get at the facts. The recent discussions over salaries have not been at all of a convincing nature.

NOT THE WEST ALONE

The Toronto Globe sees in the resolution sent to the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan, asking for a referendum on the question of seceding from Canada, an evidence of discontent with present conditions rather than a real desire to secede. The Globe agrees that the difference between what the western farmer gets for his products and what the ultimate consumer pays gives cause for just complaint, and that every effort should be made to relieve the situation. In conclusion the Globe says: "While secession could not be considered, the Eastern attitude toward the West should be sympathetic. The Western farmer is not a chronic grumbler, complaining without cause. They present for our consideration, not fanciful grievances, but real troubles. The troubles are ours as well as theirs, for Canada cannot prosper unless the people of the vast region between the Lakes and the Pacific are prosperous and contented."

Our friends in Ontario and the west must eventually learn that there is also a problem of the east, meaning the Maritime Provinces. No one hereabouts has as yet suggested a referendum, but never since confederation has there been so general a feeling of dissatisfaction. We are not helped by the tariff, we lack markets, our merchants meet with stiff competition from the big houses in Quebec and Ontario, who find this a convenient place when they want to unload, our ports are not developed and traffic that should come this way is diverted to foreign ports. If our troubles are also the troubles of the rest of Canada, as the Toronto Globe says those of the west are, it is time something was done to remove them.

The provincial opposition party is to hold another convention. These events occur at intervals and are quite lively affairs. No doubt the one announced for the latter part of February will be no exception to the rule. A party with a super-abundance of members eager to lead is never quite harmonious. The present leader has been sent in the house, where the leading will soon have to be done.

We have been told that France to a man is behind the Ruhr policy of the Poincare Government, but the French Federation of Labor has passed a resolution of protest against that policy. The only justification for the policy would be its success, and that is not yet assured.

Premier Mackenzie King meets Parliament today stronger in support and in popular estimation than he was a year ago. The session promises to be one of great interest to the whole country.

The Foster Government will resign tomorrow and Hon. P. J. Veniot will become Premier. The announcement of his cabinet and policy will be awaited with very keen interest throughout the province.

NEW HOPE FOR ITALY

In Our World for February, Prince Caetani, Italian Ambassador to the United States, sets out to explain why the Fascist rule in Italy. Since the war, he says, the various political parties in Italy had sought for a solution of her problems, chiefly with the aim of satisfying some selfish interest, with the result that there was endless agitation and unrest. Subversive elements grew more powerful and threatened the ruin of the country. Of what finally came to pass the Prince says:—

"When the national conscience awoke and rebelled, all that was best in the country, the youth yet uncontaminated by selfishness, the middle class, the soundest elements among workmen and peasants, tired of illusion, and those of all classes who, fighting strenuously for the victory of the Italian arms, had forged the common bond of devotion to their country, united in the so-called 'Fasci di Combattimento' (which can be translated 'Bands of Veterans') and bravely faced the red danger, not hesitating, when necessary, to shed their own blood. Not only Bolshevism had to be fought, but it was also necessary to rebuild the economic, social and political structure of the country at the cost, if necessary, of new personal sacrifices."

Under the flag of Fascism and the guidance of Mussolini and other high minded men, the Italian people have fought also against those base methods of politics which, by splitting the country into numerous and useless parties, were making public affairs chiefly a means to advance personal ambitions. The victory is a lasting one because it has brought to the surface some of the fundamental qualities of the Italian people, which were latent as far as its political life is concerned but which anyone acquainted with the soul of the people and with their thrifty strenuous efforts to combat economic difficulties could not ignore as among the best assets of the country. Party divisions are fading before the broader and deeper conception that the welfare of Italy must predominate over any personal consideration, before a high ideal of national discipline and before the acknowledgement that the leadership of strong and capable men will bring about the ultimate prosperity of all classes of society. It is a return to the full consciousness of national duties; it is a first example of a genuine promise to do all that is humanly possible to restore an era of peace and of prosperity to our tormented world."

Making all due allowance for the patriotic enthusiasm of Prince Caetani, the news from day to day indicates that there has been a remarkable change in Italy, and that there is something about the movement so successfully and fearlessly led by Mussolini which makes a very powerful appeal to the people. Italy, with her limited natural resources and large population has grave problems to solve, and it has become perfectly clear to the people that Communism is not the solution.

A commission on finance in Boston has made a very interesting discovery. A company was awarded a contract to clear certain water mains. It received \$34,847.20 for the work, and the commission says the actual cost was \$6,277, so that the contractor appears to have got a profit of 871 per cent. The average American city is meat for the contractor who knows how to charge. Perhaps Canadian cities are not always proof against his blandishments. At all events his tribe does not decrease, nor will it do so while 300 to 400 per cent. profits are to be had for the asking.

The Free State Government in Ireland has many troubles, arising out of the crimes committed by the rebellious element in various parts of the country. The strong hand would seem to be the only remedy.

If the New Brunswick Power Company really gets some new cars it will merely be doing what it should have done long ago. The citizens are under no illusions where the New Brunswick Power Company is concerned.

Charles Gorman won another victory yesterday, when he captured the 220 at Seaside Lake. Frank Garnett made a fine showing in the final heat of the mile. The St. John skaters are making a most creditable showing.

CALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE WOMAN SCREAMS AS MAN DIES

New York, Jan. 31.—The Mount Vernon Fire Department was called out when Rocco Thomas dropped dead while working on an automobile in the rear of his home at 238 South Seventh Avenue.

John Farkas, "Devil Boy," Awe Peasants With Mysterious Powers



PETER HORVATH'S HOUSE PARTLY DESTROYED.

Budapest, Hungary, Jan. 30.—Is John Farkas, a 14 years old, a "devil boy," gifted with supernatural powers, or can the strange happenings that go on whenever he is near be explained by natural causes?

Hungary cannot decide—and the great mass of its people incline to look upon John Farkas as a "superhuman."

Mysterious fires which burn without flames and had destroyed several houses in Keskemet, a nearby village, had been explained by geologists who came from distant parts of Europe to investigate the mystery.

The young woman is now in the Emergency Hospital in a serious condition. A passerby discovered her lying semi-conscious on the sidewalk in front of Lacombe's apartment.

When Lacombe made advances to her, she ran into his arms and then dragged herself to the pavement. The police declare that half an hour elapsed from the time she fell to her discovery on the sidewalk.

Mrs. Agnes Rhodes, the mother of the young woman, said that she had forbidden Lacombe to her home, and that when he persisted in his attentions and her daughter continued to see him she had complained to the Women's Bureau of the Police Department.

She asserted that her daughter had jumped from Lacombe's window to resist attack.

Police took a statement from Miss Rhodes in the hospital. Her story, according to the police, was that she had forbidden Lacombe to her home, and that when he persisted in his attentions and her daughter continued to see him she had complained to the Women's Bureau of the Police Department.

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After geologists had thus disposed of the matter, however, it was discovered that the fires were ignited only when John Farkas was about, and when he had a headache.

Investigators who took the boy in hand on suspicion of being an occultist, took him to Peter Horvath's house, where he was suddenly seized with a "head-ache," became suddenly weak, and had to sit down.

The curtains in the room burst into flame. Dishes jumped on the tables, and bottles on the bureau leaped to the ceiling and fell with a crash.

On other occasions window panes crumbled as he passed, and once as he approached a door it fell on the ground.

Now investigators from the Society of Physical Research are in Budapest working on the case, which is occupying much space in the Hungarian newspapers.

Philadelphians, Jan. 31.—Dusty records showing the land title granted by William Penn and his Commissioners in the early days of the founding of Philadelphia have been brought forth at the City Hall in an effort to convince Chief War Eagle and Chief Amos S. Bear of the Onondaga tribe of Indians that the Six Nations, that a plot of ground in Second Street below Chestnut does not belong to the Indians.

The chiefs, who came here from Wisconsin to establish Indian ownership of the land, contended that it belonged to the Six Nations under a wampum agreement with John Penn, grandson of William Penn, when the former was Governor of Pennsylvania. The wampum belt, they declared, was in the possession of the Onondaga tribe at the reservation in Wisconsin.

The records at the City Hall showed that the land was clear and that it was the property of the Keystone Telephone Company. They trace the title from its sale by Thomas Lloyd, James Claypole and Robert Turner, Commissioners for William Penn, to Robert Greenway on Dec. 18, 1844.

Two chiefs appeared to be satisfied that under the law there was no chance for the Six Nations to gain possession of the land.

The regular police court session was held yesterday afternoon when the magistrate returned from St. Stephen. Several cases were before him. Albert Melish was remanded to jail following the hearing of evidence given against him by Policemen Young and McInnis on a charge of being drunk, having liquor in his possession other than in his private residence and with endangering lives and property of citizens.

Charles Lynch pleaded guilty to being drunk and was fined \$5 or two months on each charge. Michael Murray pleaded guilty to stealing milk from the residence of Thomas James, 219 Germain street, and was remanded for sentence. In the case of Samuel Lean, charged with selling overstrength beer, E. S. Ritchie, who appeared for him, entered a plea of guilty and the \$200 which had been put up as a deposit was taken as a fine. W. M. Ryan conducted the prosecution in the latter case.

The anniversary of the birthday of Robert Burns was celebrated last evening by Clan MacKenzie in the Clan rooms in the Orange Hall. Chief J. MacGowan presided and those who took part in the programme were: Mrs. Jack Simpson, Mrs. Bell, Miss Dunachie, Mrs. Rutherford, Rev. James Dunlop, Jack Rossley. Dancing and refreshments were enjoyed.

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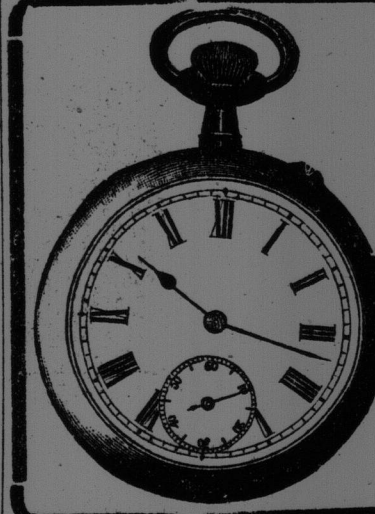
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PLANS MADE FOR CITY DECORATION

Matter of Ice Arch Before the Carnival Committee—The Torchlight Parade.

Further arrangements for the erection of an ice arch at the head of King street were made at a consultation held last evening between the central executive and George Lawson. Plans are being prepared so that construction can commence as soon as permission is received from the city officials. The plans call for four hollow pillars illuminated from within. Around the top rows of lights will be strung and surrounding all will be small trees. It was reported that the New Brunswick Power Company would supply all electricity needed for the illumination of the arch and around King Square.

Parade Matters.

A meeting of the parade committee was held last night in the Retail Merchants Association rooms, with H. Everett Hunt in the chair. Mr. Hunt reported that permission had been obtained from John Thornton, commissioner for public safety, to hold a torchlight parade. Mr. Hunt reported that it was planned to have three bands supply the music for the procession, which would be lighted up with about 500 torches. The New Brunswick Power Company has promised to place at the disposal of the committee two street cars, artistically illuminated. It was decided that the procession form up in Market square not later than 7:30 on the night of the parade, which is Feb. 14. Bert Watson was elected chairman of the band committee.

The central committee has been requested to have Miss St. John and Miss Montreal in the parade as well as the skaters taking part in the meet. Lieutenant N. P. MacLeod has been chosen as marshal of the parade, and it was decided to ask Commissioner Thornton for permission to have a body of mounted police head the procession.

Entry forms will be published in local papers and can be filled in by those desiring to have floats in the big parade. They should be sent to H. Everett Hunt, chairman. It is hoped that private floats will also be entered. A prize of \$100 has been offered for the best private float.

INDIANS SEE PENN RECORDS.

Papers of 1684 Convince Chiefs Land Claims Are Untenable.

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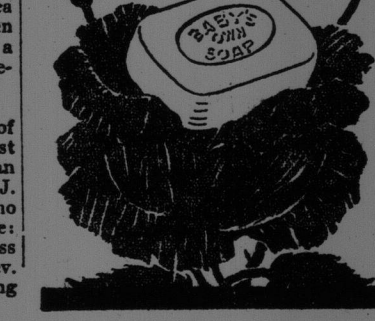
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ST. JOHN FOLEY CANADA

Y. M. C. I. OBSERVES 7TH ANNIVERSARY

Occasion is Celebrated by a Smoker and Social Evening—Some Fine Addresses

The seventh anniversary of the Y. M. C. I. was celebrated last evening, Dr. W. P. Broderick, chairman of the literary and dramatic committee, presiding. Following his address of welcome he gave a brief review of the year's work after which he called on J. E. Quinn, president of the Y. M. C. I. executive, to address the gathering. Rev. Wm. M. Duke, spiritual advisor of the Institute, spoke of the increase in membership since the founding of the institute. He also referred to the coming international speed skating championship and pointed out the value of athletics in the making of clean upright citizens.

Addresses were also given by Richard Sullivan, M. E. Agar, Dr. Broderick and B. P. McCafferty. Solos were given by E. J. Henneberry, David Higgins, H. E. Richard and J. McDermott. Since its inauguration, seven years ago, the Y. M. C. I. has increased in membership until at the present time it has a membership of about 800. Weekly meetings are held every Sunday, and all branches of the institution are in a flourishing condition. The officers for the coming year are: President, J. E. Quinn; vice-president, Dr. W. P. Broderick; secretary, B. P. McCafferty; treasurer, Joseph Harrington; financial secretary, Richard Sullivan; spiritual adviser, Rev. William Duke; general secretary and physical director, Ernest Stirling. Those in charge of last night's anniversary were: Dr. W. P. Broderick, A. Bardsley, J. E. Quinn, Joseph Harrington, B. P. McCafferty, S. P. Mooney, E. J. Wall, Paul Quinn, P. Killeen, Ernest Stirling, Gerald Keane, T. Mahoney. Refreshments and cigars were served.

B. V. Gaudet, teller of the Provincial Bank Branch in Moncton, has been transferred to the Charlotte street branch here.

The Indian town circle of the Ladies' Aid of the Portland Methodist church, held a most successful banquet supper in the Y. M. A. hall last evening and a satisfactory sum was realized for the Aid's church funds. The supper was attractively served and a large throng of patrons attended. Mrs. W. M. Iron and Mrs. James F. Ferguson were the convener and they were assisted by Mrs. Charles Cowan, Mrs. R. A. Corbett, Mrs. D. G. Lingley, Mrs. W. H. Codner, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. J. Tapley, Mrs. Warren Williams, Mrs. H. Ring and Miss C. McIntyre.

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