

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 25, 1918.

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. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments. Main 2417. Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 301 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association B'ys. British and European—Frederick A. Smyth, 20 Ludgate Hill, LONDON, E. C., England.

The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

A LIVE LEGISLATOR.

Mr. Fred Magee is to be congratulated on an expedition piece of work. At the last session of the legislature he asked for and secured a small grant for an enquiry on the subject of vocational education. He got the grant, had a committee appointed, settled down to his task, and yesterday had the pleasure of seeing a bill framed by the committee introduced in the house. The bill is based on the findings of the committee, and provides that the province may encourage, by substantial financial aid, the introduction of vocational education in New Brunswick.

The bill will doubtless pass. It is strongly supported by Dr. Campbell, who was a member of the committee, and the leader of the opposition spoke forcibly in support of the general principle. The most ardent supporter of vocational education would hardly have predicted a year ago that so comprehensive a bill would now be welcomed in the house.

Mr. Magee, despite his large business interests, found time to devote to this subject, and he was fortunate in having the services of Mr. Fletcher Peacock, so well versed in the subject, and having such an admirable capacity for practical investigation and clear presentation of results to the committee. He was also fortunate in having the hearty co-operation of Dr. Campbell, who went not only to Halifax but to Massachusetts to gather information of value to the committee.

It is interesting to note that in the plans for reconstruction in Great Britain education takes a high place. A bill has been introduced in parliament which is thus summarized by an exchange:—

"All children must attend school till the age of fourteen years, which may be extended to fifteen. All children under the age of eighteen years must attend continuation schools in the daytime for 200 hours in the year unless they have received full-time education till the age of sixteen years."

"No child under twelve years of age may be employed at all. No child over twelve years of age may be employed on school days except after school hours and before 9 p. m., and on other days except between 6 a. m. and 8 p. m."

"No fees may be charged in public elementary schools or in continuation schools. Provision is made for nursery schools, holiday and school camps, playing fields, physical training, and the medical inspection of places of higher education."

It will thus be seen that provision is made for continuation of the training of children until they are sixteen years old, or until they are eighteen if they have lost time at school before reaching the age of sixteen. Experience has proved, as the Toronto Star observes, that child-labor "tends to drive children into what are called blind-alley occupations—occupations which lead nowhere and which prevent the child from becoming an intelligent, efficient man or woman."

"But," adds the Star, "the stronger answer is that men and women are of more importance than industrial efficiency—that the human producer is more important than the product. Under the present system—and this is applicable to Canada and the United States as well as England—the school education of the vast majority of children ends in the early teens, and in the midst of a critical and formative period. Between fourteen and eighteen influence may determine whether a boy is to become criminal or useless, or is to become a good and intelligent citizen. In these years he is totally neglected by the state, except as regards the small percentage of children who attend secondary schools."

It is to correct this vicious system that the bill to provide for vocational training is introduced in the legislature of this province. It does not go nearly as far as the proposed English law, in regard to the age of study, but it opens a way for any community in the province to make such provision as will keep children longer in school, and send them out better equipped to enter the industries and engage in gainful occupation. The great mass of them must go into the industries, and it has been proved conclusively that young people who have had vocational training earn higher wages at an earlier age than those who have not been so trained. From the plain business standpoint, therefore, as well as from that of intelligent citizenship, we need a system of vocational education.

The New Brunswick Power Company has broken out in a new place. Having failed in the legislature it returns to the public utilities commission with a cool demand for a further increase in the price of gas. This emphasizes the fact that the fight with the company has only begun. The citizens must organize effectively to back the city council in meeting every new attempt made to get dividends on watered stock. They may be sure the company will leave nothing undone to accomplish its object, and that it will not worry about the expense.

After being annihilated every day by the Standard it is amazing how the Foster government hobs up serenely the next day to carry forward some useful measure of legislation.

COMPARE THE TWO.

People with a habit of making comparisons will find interesting material in the record of the former and the present provincial government. The former government, for example, has to its credit:—

- The crown land scandals.
- The Valley Railway scandals.
- The patriotic potato scandal.
- The famous flirtation with the liquor dealers.
- And others now of common knowledge.

The Foster government, on the other hand, can point to:—

- A modern highway act.
- The forestry commission.
- The public health measure.
- The vocational education measure.
- The workmen's compensation act.
- Exposure of Valley Railway iniquity and action for return of money.
- The prompt decision to investigate charges made by the opposition.
- Better book-keeping and an honest statement of provincial finances.
- A more progressive agricultural policy.
- And much more that is also common knowledge.

Mr. Potts suddenly appeared on the horizon at Fredericton yesterday as the champion of the workingman. It was news, even to the workingman, who had no idea that he was to be represented as only able or willing to patronize a five cent show at a moving picture house. Those who go to the moving picture houses find the workingman and members of his family at all of them, and they also find at the cheapest houses many people who could as well afford to pay ten or fifteen cents as five cents.

The only purpose of the government in imposing the tax is to get revenue. The act as framed is equitable, and New Brunswick is the last province, with one exception, to adopt this method of getting revenue. So far as the record shows, no real representative of the workingman has asked for any discrimination. Mr. Potts believed he saw an opportunity to make a little capital for himself and against the government, and that is the whole story.

Addressing one hundred and twenty-five Girl Guides in Toronto last week, one of the speakers made a plea for workers on farms and in gardens, and suggested the organizing of camps of workers in Muskoka and Haliburton in order to save the immense crops of wild berries that are to be found there. She also advocated that girls should learn the art of packing apples, this being a necessary and remunerative accomplishment. There are great quantities of wild berries in New Brunswick. Why not gather them?

New Brunswick is particularly well adapted to sheep-husbandry. Visitors from the old country have over and over again expressed surprise that this industry has not been developed. The Foster government has taken a practical step to encourage and assist farmers to raise more sheep. This of course means that there must be an end to the dog menace, and that should not be hard to accomplish.

The opposition at Fredericton charges that the government is favoring the lumber interests. It does not yet appear, however, that the premier has set out to gather in a fund of a hundred thousand dollars or thereabouts from the lumber operators in return for anticipated favors. That record belongs to the old government.

An Associated Press cable from French army headquarters today says that even if the Germans captured Amiens the effort would be useless from a military standpoint. Thus far the German success has been very limited. It is not at all certain that they will reach Amiens, and if they do the French and British armies will still be unbeaten.

The city of Halifax has decided that the only way to get a square deal from the Halifax Power Company is to secure a controlling interest in its stock. Without municipal control a public utility becomes a money-grubber, and there is no guarantee of adequate service.

The result of today's heavy fighting, on the western front is awaited with keen anxiety. The French have been forced out of Hangard, and the pressure against the British line is very severe. The Americans are also heavily engaged.

Further news comes today of the ill-treatment of prisoners in German camps. They are ill-fed, ill-used, and the camps swarm with vermin. Germany will have a long score to pay.

The union of Calvin with St. Andrew's church, following the union of Brussels street church and the Central Baptist is a source of strength to the congregations involved.

With Ulster organizing to oppose home rule and the rest of Ireland, opposing conscription the situation is very difficult, and the government's task very serious.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Told in Texas.
(From the Washington Star.)
"That story," said Representative Gardner at a Providence reception, apropos of a hyphenated explanation of a German sabotage plot, "is very fishy. It reminds me of Texas."
"Once in Texas I came upon a tall chimney, like a factory chimney, rising in an arid waste."
"Friend," I said to a native, "what is that chimney doing there?"
"That ain't no chimney," said the native. "It's a well!"
"A well?" said I.
"Yes," said he. "It's old Jeff Thatcher's well. A cyclone turned her upside down and inside out."

Already Gifted.

(From Answers.)
Old Farmer Hopkins always would spring surprises on the village, and one day he bought a barometer. He was singing its praises to one of the village "duds," and explained:
"I bought that barometer to tell when it's a-goin' to rain, ye see."
"To tell when it's a-goin' to rain!" echoed the "dud" in surprise. "Why, I never heard of such extravagance! What d'ye suppose the good Lord have given ye the rheumatism for?"

NEWS NOTES ABOUT PROMINENT BAPTISTS

(Maritime Baptist.)
Pastor Greenwood of the Cambridge, N. B., field has been engaged in special services with encouraging results. He has had the valued assistance of Pastor W. E. Scott of Wickham.
Prof. Allen Hoban has been given leave of absence from his duties at the University of Chicago and will proceed overseas to assist in Y. M. C. A. work for the American soldiers in France. Dr. Hoban is a New Brunswick boy whose brilliant career has brought much gratification to his friends here.
Rev. F. H. Wheeler of St. Albans, Eng., has been mentioned for the second time in General Haig's despatches for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field. He is deputy principal army chaplain in France, and holds the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In recognition of his gallant conduct he has been awarded the coveted D. S. O. He is a brother of Rev. A. E. Wheeler, pastor of the church at Summerside, P. E. I.
Rev. H. B. Boyer, district secretary of the Canadian Bible Society, left St. John on Monday for a trip to Newfoundland in the interest of the Bible Society. He expects to be absent from home a month or six weeks.
Rev. Neil McLean, who recently resigned the pastoral oversight of the churches on the Arthurville field, has accepted a unanimous call to the New-castle, Queens, pastorate. With the development of the work at Minto a fine opportunity is presented here, Mr. MacLean will begin his work on the new field the first week in June.
A further misfortune has befallen the Ardver church and its afflicted pastor. On Saturday, April 13, flames were discovered on the roof of the woodshed. Before the fire could be subdued woodshed, barn and kitchen had been destroyed. Loving hands bore Pastor McFadden to the home of a neighbor, and we are glad to state that his illness was not apparently rendered more serious by the experience. But an automobile in the barn was consumed and other losses were sustained.
Harvey Nobles, honored father of Rev. B. H. Nobles, late pastor of the Victoria street church, St. John, and of Rev. B. N. Nobles, Woodstock, passed to his reward on April 11. For more than half a century he had been a member of the First Springfield church, at Hatfield's Point. A worthy life has been crowned by a triumphant entrance into the eternal glory.
To those of our readers who may have relatives in Halifax in uniform, it should be interesting to know that two of our ministers, J. B. Hogan and P. C. Reed, are at present on the staff of the military Y. M. C. A. there.
Frangelist E. W. Kenyon's mission at the Central church, St. John, is being greatly blessed. The Holy Spirit's work is more particularly manifested in a wonderful quickening of life in the members of the church. A large number have declared themselves as separated from the world, while a number have accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord for the first time. At a meeting of the church Friday evening it was unanimously decided to invite Brother Kenyon and his singing helper, Professor Duffy, to continue with the church another week.
All former students and many friends will hear with regret of the death of Prof. Ernest Haycock, professor of geology at Acadia, which occurred at Wolfville on April 11. Some months ago he was laid aside from work by a serious attack of heart trouble, and this finally caused death. He graduated at Acadia in 1896, pursued a further course at Harvard and was appointed professor of geology and chemistry at Acadia in 1898. His death at the early age of fifty years will be a loss to the institution he served and to the whole denomination.

UNION OF ST. ANDREW'S AND CALVIN CHURCHES

Matter Sanctioned at Meeting of Presbytery—Students Placed for Summer

At a meeting of the St. John Presbytery, held in St. Andrew's church, the basis of union between St. Andrew's and Calvin churches was approved. Those present were Revs. W. M. Townsend, F. S. Dowling, J. A. MacKeigan, James Ross, H. C. Fraser, F. M. Thompson and Elders Murphy and Everitt of St. Andrews. Rev. W. M. Townsend was chosen moderator pro tem.

A call to Rev. R. Murray of Prince Edward Island to the Sheldice church was sustained and Rev. T. P. Drummond was appointed to preside and induct, Rev. F. G. McIntosh to deliver the charge to the minister and Rev. A. V. Morash to the congregation.

Students were placed for the summer vacation as follows: G. R. Sutherland, St. Francis; C. Y. Lewis, New Maryland; H. S. Bumbagh, Prince William; F. Simons, Cabot; B. V. McLean, Riley Brook; F. H. Anderson, Andover; D. C. McLeod, Grand Bay; L. Legant, Glasville; L. H. Knight, Gaspe; H. A. Raynor, one year at Waweg as ordained missionary. Revs. W. M. Fraser and G. Grant to have charge of the ordination of Mr. Raynor. Miss Emma Murphy was appointed for children's work at Minto.

Delegations from St. Andrew's and Calvin churches were heard in connection with the union of those two bodies. C. B. Allen spoke for St. Andrew's and F. A. Murphy for Calvin and told that both congregations had approved the basis of union.

The presbytery adopted a resolution approving the union and will meet with church to consummate the union. Rev. the two congregations in St. Andrew's

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F. M. Thompson was chosen to deliver the charge to the united congregation. Following is the basis of union adopted:

1. The members and adherents of Calvin church become members and adherents of St. Andrew's church.
2. The members of Calvin church session become members of St. Andrew's church session.
3. The trustees board of Calvin church name three of its members to become members of St. Andrew's church trustee board.
4. The members and adherents of the united church are to continue their payments for church sustentation in the same way as at present.
5. The allotment of sittings for the additional families and individuals will be placed in the hands of the present pew committee of St. Andrew's church, assisted by two members of Calvin church, with directions to arrange the necessary changes and assign sittings with the least possible delay and friction.
6. The superintendents of the Sabbath schools and the chief executive officers of each school to be joint superintendents and chief executive officers of the united Sabbath school until otherwise decided by the united church.
7. All property movable and immovable belonging to Calvin church and to St. Andrew's shall become the property of the united church and be held in trust by the trustees of St. Andrew's church.
8. St. Andrew's church shall assume any and all liabilities of the uniting churches from the date of union.

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