

The Evening Times and Star

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TONIGHT'S MEETING

There is to be a final public meeting this evening to discuss the harbor commission act. Let nobody be deceived into thinking that the issue is the bill relating to a plebiscite which was framed by the city solicitor and passed in Frederickton. That is not the measure the city council has been debating since 1919. It is the second line of defence of the champions of the commission act. They retired to it when driven from the front line trenches by the publication of the commission act. Whose afterthought it was need not concern us now. The thing to do is to press on to victory against the commission act.

Nor will the people be wise if they permit any defender of the act to read into it the exact opposite of what it says. That may be a pleasant pastime for leaders of a bad cause, but it ought not to overcome the sane judgment of the people. It would be folly to do otherwise than take the act at its face value. No doubt we shall hear tonight of the dreadful condition of the wharves, and the huge expenditure needed to keep them where they are. The audience will want to know all about it, and the authority for every statement made. This terror has been used on the eve of the plebiscite. There will not be too much time to controvert assertions made. That is a favorite campaign device, but never very impressive. The doubting voter will wonder why he was not told about it at an earlier date.

As a matter of fact, the whole issue has been set before the people by the publication of the harbor commission act. That act can only be changed by parliament. Its terms cannot be varied by the city council or by the government. So far as tonight's discussion is confined to the terms of the act and the effect the carrying out of those terms would have upon the port of St. John, it will serve a useful purpose. As to what any speaker may say about other things the government will say for a port agent which it charges as a beginning three and a half per cent interest on its past expenditure here, the listener will reserve the right to do a little thinking on his own account.

LET US ALL BE SURE

The Globe says that "Mayor Schofield has made a very definite announcement of his position, declaring that he will not sign any conveyance that does not protect the city's rights, according to his interpretation of the commission act." Any conveyance that is made must be in accordance with the terms of the harbor commission act. If the people vote in favor of the act the mayor will have no choice as the city's executive officer but to carry out the declared will of the people.

But why is it necessary for the mayor or anybody else to make such a promise? Why is the issue not made so clear that there could be no ifs about it? Since ifs are permitted, let us ask if the mayor and council are justified in calling for a plebiscite on something so vague that they do not themselves understand what it may involve.

But there is nothing vague about the commission act. It is very clear and definite. It says the government guarantees the payment of the \$450,000 in harbor commission debentures, and then fixes the order of payments out of harbor revenue so that the government will not be called upon to pay. That is perfectly clear and definite. Also the act relieves the government of any responsibility for the \$1,340,000 which represents the harbor debt. If the harbor commission does not pay it the city is liable. The act is perfectly clear on that point.

The act is also clear in declaring that harbor revenue under commission must pay three and a half per cent per annum on the cost of the grain elevator and government wharves, including the marine wharf.

The act also declares in clear language that harbor revenue must take care of every dollar spent on the harbor. The government takes no chances. There is no danger that it will refuse to sign an agreement based on the act.

If Mayor Schofield thinks there may be an agreement containing some new features, will he ask for a plebiscite on them? If not, why not?

The safe and sane thing for the people to do is to bury the harbor commission act and demand a square deal. The

wharves will not fall in pieces in the meantime, or shipping be driven from the port, as it would be driven by excessive charges enforceable under the commission act. At the very outset the three and a half per cent interest and the increased cost of administration will lay on a burden which has been estimated at \$175,000 to \$200,000. If the government does not mean what the act says let us wait until a proper act is drawn. No interest will suffer in the meantime. Bury the act.

MURRAY AND FIELDING

No man accepts honors with greater modesty than Premier Murray of Nova Scotia, who was so signally honored on Wednesday by political friends and political opponents. A man of simple tastes and gentle manner, Mr. Murray has endeared himself to the people who for twenty-five years have followed his leadership in the provincial politics of Nova Scotia. It is a great record, and yesterday the prime ministers of Britain and of Canada joined the people of Nova Scotia in tributes of personal regard. It must have been a moment of great pleasure for Hon. W. S. Fielding, in the legislative chamber where he had been himself in former years so successful a leader, to extend congratulations to his successor. The province of Nova Scotia may well be proud of both of these her sons, whose public life has been free from stain, and who have nobly upheld the best traditions of the political life of the province and the Dominion. We appear to be approaching a time when there will no longer be two great parties in politics, but a number of groups. Some observers predict that the group system will not last, and that there will be a return to the two party system, but that is by no means certain. Mr. Fielding and Mr. Murray are fine types of the best the two party system produced. Mr. Murray, who has no chosen, might have followed Mr. Fielding into the wider realm of federal politics, but he preferred the quieter provincial arena, and the people have honored him by retaining him at the head of provincial affairs.

The citizens are asked to vote for the harbor commission act on the strength of what the mayor and city council will be able to do after the vote is taken. What have they been able to do in the last two years? What does the Ballantyne correspondence say on that point? By the way, why not publish that correspondence?

The harbor commission act will not reduce, but increase taxation. Under its terms the harbor charges on shipping would also have to be increased to provide interest and sinking fund charges and the three and a half per cent annual interest on the cost of the grain elevator and the government wharves.

Why should the city council discuss an act and then ask the people to vote on a theory?

Why do the advocates of the harbor commission act refuse to take the government at its word as expressed in the act?

BURDETT COUTTS, M.P., PASSES AWAY

Married Baroness and Assumed Name—Prominent in Empire Work.

London, July 28.—The Right Hon. William L. Ashmead Burdett Coutts, who had been a member of parliament for the Abbey division of Westminster since 1885, died yesterday at Holly Lodge, Highgate.

He had been ill for several months with arterial trouble. It had been arranged to amputate one of his legs on Wednesday, but on Tuesday night his illness took a sudden turn for the worse.

William Burdett Coutts was born in 1851 in the United States. He was the second son of the late Ellis Bartlett, of Plymouth, Mass. In 1881 he married the late Baroness Burdett Coutts, and assumed by royal license the surname of Burdett Coutts. In Turkey in 1877-78 during the Russo-Turkish war, Ashmead Burdett acted as special commissioner of Turkish compassionate fund. He was one of the originators of the fisheries exhibition and interested himself in the question of the food supply of the poor of London.

In the South African war he served as correspondent of the London Times and subsequent action in the house of commons resulted in drastic reforms in the army medical service. He had been closely identified with many other reforms in the British Empire.

Fire in Winnipeg. Winnipeg, July 28.—Damage estimated at from \$8,000 to \$40,000 resulted from a fire which broke out on the premises of the Union Clothing and Shoe Co., Main street last evening.

LIGHTER VEIN

A 100 Per Cent Golfer. "Well, you should be thankful your husband can't play golf at night," said the sympathetic neighbor to a golf widow.

"I don't know about that," she replied. "He can't talk about it at night."—Detroit Free Press.

The Connecting Link

One of the instructors in a preparatory school which professes to tutor youths desirous of entering college, recently had an interesting time with a lad who was tackling biology.

"What," asked the tutor, "is the connecting link, if any, between the animal and the vegetable kingdoms?"

"I think I know," said the boy. "It's sash!"—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Past Dare-Devils

"The game of dominoes has died out," according to a Daily Graphic writer. We suppose in these feverish days people are afraid of the dare-devil excitement of the past.—Punch.

Need to Be Humored

A groundsman, who had been a caddy in his day, was rather annoyed by a funny individual who bothered him with questions about the upkeep of golf courses.

"Are you a married man?" asked the groundsman.

"Yes," was the reply.

"Aweel," said the groundsman, "the links is just like the wives. Nobody has to manage them but them that's had to dace w' em. They need to be humored."—Andras Kirikaly.

DESTITUTION IN CITY OF TORONTO

(Toronto Globe.) City of Toronto relief has been cut down to food alone, and then only when families are in danger of starvation. No petition for the payment of bills for fuel, rent or funerals will be entertained.

Canon H. C. Dixon, rector of Trinity Church, King street east, who has had thirty years experience in relief work in Toronto, speaking to The Globe last night, said that unemployment for the summer months is the worst now he has ever known. He indicated many cases which have come under his notice. Some of them are returned men, who are absolutely without money to buy the necessities of life.

Canon Dixon has been interesting himself during the past week or two in getting the city or the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment to undertake some special form of relief to meet conditions which have arisen through unemployment. He has not been very successful, but has not yet given up hope. He intends to make known again the need of these deserving people to friends who have helped many times before, and he asks the help of all lovers who may be interested.

Canon Dixon related his experience at the City Hall, where he went in search of help, and was told that applications for food alone would be considered.

He intended to make known again the need of these deserving people to friends who have helped many times before, and he asks the help of all lovers who may be interested.

Canon Dixon talked with The Globe last night just after he had been in a house saddened by death, where there was no money in sight to pay for the funeral.

MR. PATERSON'S REJOINER

To the Editor of The Times: Sir,—In one of its editorial dealings with the harbor commission question The Globe makes the following remark: "Mr. Paterson admits that amendments may be made to the act, but under circumstances show the need."

Permit me to repeat what I did say on this point. In my letter I said: "The government has expressed its willingness to accept the transfer to itself of all public properties, rights and privileges of the city; has outlined in writing the terms and conditions under which the transfer may be made and has obtained the consent of parliament to these terms and conditions, excepting by consent of parliament. Such being the case, we should consider carefully at what price the terms and conditions outlined in the act passed by parliament, and in doing so it will be noted that the city's interests are not well protected."

And, further: "We refuse to accept the present act, (until repealed by parliament) subject to such amendments as we may get parliament to approve of, and surely the time to have the act made right is before it is accepted."

Having the knowledge that efforts had been made by the city council and through other channels to have the act amended so that the city's interests would be fairly protected, and that these efforts were of no avail, convinced me that the time to have the act made right is before it is accepted.

Yours truly,

A. P. PATERSON. St. John, July 28.

MANY FLORAL PIECES

The funeral of Mrs. Bertram H. Breen from St. Paul's church on Wednesday afternoon and was attended by many. The floral offerings were beautiful and numerous showing the esteem in which she was held. Some of them were:

Crosses—Husband and baby, Mr. Milne, Miss Milne, Mr. and Mrs. (J. Milne); Wreaths—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Dean and Miss Black, Brotherhood Railway Trainmen, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Mitchell.

Pillow—Mr. and Mrs. Roy Milne. Cereals—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Corbett. Mr. and Mrs. W. Coleman, Mrs. J. D. Breen and family.

Spray—Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Machum, Mr. and Mrs. J. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Dalton, Mrs. Fowler and Miss Dean, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ruske, Mr. and Mrs. A. Milne. Cut flowers—Miss Muriel Purdy, Mrs. J. J. Seely, Mr. Armstrong.

A NEW RADIO STATION AT SAULT AUX RECOLLECT

Montreal, July 29.—At Sault Aux Recollet work on the construction of a new radio telegraph station in the service of the Department of Naval Services has been started. This station, which is to be one of the largest in the place of the one at present situated at Tarte Pier, and the latter will be closed.

It is understood the new station will be operated on behalf of the naval department by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada. The new station will be five miles from the general post office of Montreal, and will connect Kingston and area on one side with Quebec and district on the other, with Ottawa forming the third corner of the triangle.

Said Mr. Ballantyne

Hon. Mr. Ballantyne said in parliament when the harbor commission act was under discussion:

"Before the city of St. John will be able to say whether they accept or reject the government offer (the harbor commission act), a referendum will have to be taken."

The referendum on Monday will be on the act. Do not let anyone fool you into believing anything else.

TOM MOORE ON MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

Labor Leader Predicts Extension in Next Few Years—Municipalities Union Meeting.

Ottawa, July 29.—At the morning session of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, yesterday, Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, predicted an extension of municipal ownership of public utilities in the next few years. He urged municipal representatives to start undertakings at a time when they would take up the slack from private operations. Thus, he said, municipalities would effect economy by providing employment at a critical time and by buying when the market would be in a favorable condition.

"The convention heard the presidential address from Arthur Roberts, K. C., of Bridgeport, N. S., a plea for good roads by A. W. Campbell, and a talk on the present status of the public service by C. R. MacKinnon, president of the Civil Service Commission in Philadelphia.

President Roberts said that largely through the work of the union, including the education of public opinion, reforms had been made and a better atmosphere created, so that there was not the same urgency in that part of their work, but careful watching and organized defence were still necessary in connection with proposed legislation, as well as before the off-shoots of parliament in the shape of boards and commissions. The recent successful fight of the union against increased telephone rates was cited as proof that the union as a fighting organization was necessary. The union had also proved a clearing house for municipal experience and ideas. A still more important work it had before it was to constitute itself a medium for the expression and cultivation of high ideals of the duties of Canadian citizenship. He intimated that a permanent while-time paid secretary, with office equipment, would also systematize propaganda. There was considerable sympathy and indifference among municipalities as to their aims as a union.

"The Pepperell and Laconia cotton mills in Biddeford, Me., announced yesterday that beginning today the plant would go on a five days a week basis because of a falling off in orders. They employ 3,600 operatives.

The Waltham Watch Co., announce a reduction of ten per cent in the wages of their 4,000 employees.

Harry Duryea, forty-seven years old, son of Hiram Duryea, one of the founders of the National Starch Co., yesterday fatally shot himself in his Madison avenue office. The police recorded the death as a suicide.

Prof. Judson B. Colt, aged seventy-two, of the faculty of Liberal Arts, Boston University, died yesterday at Melrose, Mass. He was professor of astronomy for some time and retired as professor emeritus at the close of the last school year.

SPOONS IN STOMACH. Litchville, July 29.—When Mrs. Rosie Tucker Cowan of Todd county, an insane woman, was operated upon, five spoons were taken from her stomach.

USE The Want Ad Way

PELLAGRA'S SPREAD CAUSES ANXIETY

100,000 Cases, 10,000 Dead in Cotton Belt—Surgeon General Cumming Says Above Estimates are Conservative.

(Harold Phelps Strikes in New York Evening Post.) Washington, July 29.—The Public Health authorities of the United States expressed deep anxiety today over the spread of pellagra in the cotton belt. It was announced that a conference of representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, state health officials, and the public health service would be held at an early date, either here in Washington or in Montgomery, Ala., to take steps to deal with the menace of this dreaded disease.

Surgeon General Cumming said that the estimates for 1921 of 100,000 deaths and 80,000 cases not resulting in death were by no means exaggerated. The figures were not official, he explained, as the disease is not always reported. They were based, however, on estimates made to the United States Public Health Service by local state officials, and were held by Dr. Joseph Goldberger, the department's pellagra specialist, to be conservative, and they are so regarded by his chief.

"Whatever the cause of the disease, deficiency of diet is what gives it a hold in any community," said Dr. Cumming. "Our experiments with the disease conclusively proved this some time ago. So when the present economic stress came to be felt in the South as a result of the situation in the cotton market we expected to see a rapid increase of pellagra. The facts confirm on a national scale the conclusions of our experiments. It is very difficult to get actual figures as to the disease because thousands of cases are not reported. Mild attacks probably never come to the attention of the medical profession at all. It is often only when the disease leads to insanity that it is reported to the nearest doctor. Thousands of these people are undernourished today, due to their inability to pay for adequate food. They live mostly on salt pork, corn, molasses, and rice. A more balanced ration is out of reach of their purse because of their failure to market the cotton crop."

Up to now no general appeals have been sent out. Such appeals, it is held by the Public Health Service, should come in the first instance from the states

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A PUBLIC MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN IMPERIAL THEATRE

TONIGHT AT 8.30

For Discussion of the Harbor Commission Question

As This Will Doubtless be the Final Public Meeting on This Important Civic Matter IT IS EARNESTLY REQUESTED THAT YOU ATTEND

E. A. SCHOFIELD, Mayor

MORNING NEWS OVER THE WIRES

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157-159 BRUSSELS STREET AND SAVE MONEY

Children's black hose, all sizes, 15c pair and 20c pair; children's white hose, 40c quality, all sizes, 25c pair; children's brown hose, all sizes, 25c pair.

Ladies' Hose, black, 25c pair, 40c pair; Silk 30c pr.; children's 25c, 30c pr.

Ladies' Vests 25c, pink bloomers 35c pr., rompers 95c. Sale of Middies at reduced prices, 65c, 95c, \$1.25, \$1.50.

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New China, cups, saucers, plates, fancy dishes, cut glass, ornaments. Headquarters for dolls, kid dolls, jointed dolls, all kinds of dolls as usual. Wall Paper bargains. Store open Friday and Saturday evenings, close Saturday afternoon, 9-2.

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Special Dinner Sets

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