

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 16, 1910.

THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

The people of the St. John Valley will share with Hon. J. K. Flemming the satisfaction he expressed at a recent meeting of the Junior Conservative Club at Woodstock, that the practical steps taken by the local Government give promise that a railway down the valley will be under construction at no distant date. Mr. Flemming pointed to the fact that the survey had been completed and that Mr. Maxwell, the engineer in charge, was now preparing the report to be presented to the Government. He was able to assure his hearers further that when the report giving the estimated cost of the road was submitted to the executive there would be no waste of time in taking the necessary steps to have the work undertaken. Never before had he as much hope for the accomplishment of that great object as he had at the present time, as the local Government had provided for the construction of the railway in a practical way.

In contrast to this evidence that the Hazen Government was grappling successfully with the problem, Mr. Flemming referred to the attitude of the Dominion Government and Mr. Carvell in failing to co-operate. The member for Carleton County, he pointed out, was at no pains to conceal his opposition to the project. A year ago Mr. Carvell told an audience at Woodstock that the road could be built for \$31,000 a mile. He knew of a man who would like the contract at that figure. He had the promise of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that it would be operated as part of the I. C. R. Mr. Pugsley knew of two railway contractors who were competing for the chance to build the road for \$31,000 a mile.

What has happened? No practical move of any kind has been made by any of these gentlemen to show that they were in earnest. As Mr. Flemming was able to show the survey has been made, the second section of the act providing for the road being operated by the I. C. R. is still on the statute book, but not a word has been heard from the Federal Government, from Mr. Pugsley, Mr. Carvell, or the two alleged railway contractors who were anxious to do the work under this section. Neither is it likely there will be. The Valley Railway has been a political plaything for Mr. Pugsley and his friends for a quarter of a century. Now that the Hazen Government has taken hold of the project and the opportunity is at hand to give some practical assistance, it ceases to be of interest.

A NEW SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"Public Opinion" recently celebrated its fiftieth birthday by giving its readers in a brief compass a history of the progress of ideas in many fields during the years of its existence. The history is set forth in a series of articles written by distinguished men. Sir W. Robertson Nicoll, editor of the "British Weekly," considers that the greatest change he has seen during his life is the growth of the civic conscience—the new sense of responsibility for the poor, the degraded, the hungry, the hopeless.

Fifty years ago, and even thirty years ago, Christian churches sent their missionaries into the slums to visit the inhabitants, to preach to them, and to help them in their need. But they scarcely faced the problem of the existence of the slums. They took it for granted as a general thing that these conditions of life must persist, and that all that was possible to do was to save the victims. But nowadays a worker in a slum becomes usually a vehement social reformer. "Not content with alleviations and individual deliverance, he arraigns the system under which such environments are permitted to linger."

As the editor of the "British Weekly" says, the inhabitants of a city do not now regard slums as inevitable. They look upon them as blots on the town, and, while they may not yet be ready to face the cost of annihilating them, they yield to the demands of an ameliorating and transforming policy with more or less willingness. Evidence is multiplying that this social conscience will continue to grow, to be more imperative, to be more radical in its demands, until at length every child, every man, every woman has at least a chance.

MUSICAL TASTE.

The popular taste in music runs to simple things. It is open to question if many of the more involved musical compositions ought to be rendered before public audiences, even by the most accomplished artists. The object in a musical performance is to give pleasure, not to show what the artist is able to do. A story is told of a German musician, who was taken by a friend to hear someone render a certain production on the piano. The musician refused to be impressed, whereupon his friend said:—"Think how difficult it is," and the musician replied:—"Difficult, it certainly is; but I would to God it were impossible." There are some of us who are unartistic enough to feel just that way when some artist keeps us listening for twenty-five minutes to something which we never heard before and no one could hope to understand without study.

To appreciate music we must understand something of the composer's thought, and only a very few people are able to catch the thought embodied in an intricate composition on first hearing it. There are those whose musical intelligence is so acute that they can anticipate what a composer has written almost from the opening passages, who know beforehand whether the movement is about to quicken or be retarded, who realize when a musical conception is complete, who

understand what movements ought to be used to balance other movements and to whom a composition conveys a definite impression. But such persons are not in the majority, and it is very doubtful if they can sit in a public hall and derive much satisfaction from hearing even a great artist render something absolutely unfamiliar.

It is a fact that intricate music is very much more enjoyable in a studio or a drawing room than in a public hall, and perhaps one reason is that there is less to distract attention under the former conditions than under the latter. A composer devotes a long time to the production of something; he has studied every phrase over and over again; possibly he has written some of the phrases several times before they are satisfactory to him. The artist takes the composition and studies it; he may change his rendition of it until it suits his exacting taste. Then the result of months of study by a composer and possibly months of study by an artist is given to an audience who never heard even the name of the production before, and some people wonder why it does not arouse enthusiasm, when the same audience five minutes later will break into tumultuous applause at the first bar of some simple familiar air. The explanation of it is that people like music they can understand.

It may be asked how is the musical taste of a community to be improved if they only hear the things they know already? No one says it can; but there are hundreds of simple compositions, that are simple in the sense of not being involved, which for their proper execution call for great study and yet can be taken in at once by a mixed audience. In producing such compositions true artistic sense can be expressed by the performer and cultivated in the hearers. It happens more often than not that the numbers in a great artist's repertoire which win the greatest applause are those which the artist regards as a minor effort. In their simplicity lies their appeal.

A MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM.

The question of submitting matters of national importance to a referendum, it is of interest to note, has been extended in San Francisco to municipal affairs. The working of a referendum was tested in that city in a special election on November 15, and apparently with most satisfactory results. Thirty-eight proposed amendments to the city charter, of varying degrees of importance, were submitted to a popular vote. Some forty-five thousand voters, or about 50 per cent. of the electorate, participated, in spite of the fact that there were no offices at stake. Every voter had to discriminate and act separately on each of the thirty-eight proposals. There were no party emblems to help him. Yet there is nothing in the result to indicate that the decision was not arrived at as carefully as it would have been had the amendments been submitted to a representative assembly. Eighteen of the proposals were carried and twenty were rejected.

Practically all the so-called reform proposals were accepted. Among these were the adoption of an effective system of initiative, referendum and recall, direct nominations for municipal offices, the elimination of all party designations from the ballot, the publication of candidates' statements on the sample ballots, and a step in the direction of the "short ballot" by increasing the length of terms of office to four years and providing that half shall be elected every two years. The franchise rights of the city were safeguarded by the passage of amendments forbidding a monopoly of subways and tunnels and permitting the city to recall a franchise whenever it decided to buy the property of the traction company.

It is noteworthy that practically every proposal that would have had the effect of raising salaries was defeated, as was that increasing the powers of the supervisors, and the one which sought to place the library patronage in the hands of the Mayor. Business interests opposed the proposal for the initiative and the recall, and a hard campaign was made against the franchise amendments, but both were carried, although by closer votes than those on most of the other proposals. San Francisco may be boss-ridden, but apparently her voters know how to decide important public questions intelligently.

Current Comment

(Topeka Capital.)

Sam Young, who owns a sixty-acre orchard south of Atchison, is making 500 sheet iron stoves, which will be placed in his orchard next spring. Mr. Young has twice saved his orchard from frost by the use of smudge fires, and believes the stoves will be more effective. They will cost him about 40 cents each to construct, not counting his own labor, and he figures it will take five men to keep them going. Other orchard men in this locality are being won over to the theory of protecting their orchards from frost. Ben Stuart, who sold \$5,000 worth of apples this year, figures he has saved several crops this way, but Young is the first man to introduce stoves on a large scale.

(Chatham World.)

"A solid Liberal victory begins to emerge from the election wester in Britain." So says the St. John Times, in its editorial, not in its New Reporter space, which shows that it is an all-over humorous paper. Many more Conservatives than Liberals have been elected, Conservative majorities have been generally increased and Liberal majorities decreased, and the Government will be absolutely dependent in the next Parliament, as in the last one, on Nationalists, Socialists and Laborites for a majority. And yet the Times, with unconscious humor, tells us that a "solid Liberal victory begins to emerge from the election welter."

(Toronto Globe.)

Prince Edward Island is talking of rebellion if membership in the Dominion Parliament is reduced. A province that gives a man four years for stealing whiskey and two years for biting somebody's ear will certainly punish rebellion with becoming seriousness.

(Winnipeg Tribune.)

In all the heat and bitterness of the British election fight it must be wonderful to the practical politicians of our country to read the election reports. Seldom, if ever, is there mention of unfair play, and corruption is almost unheard of.

(Toronto News.)

The Free Trade Government at Ottawa may be the farmers' friend, but if so, why does it secretly advance the duty on farm implements from 17½ to 20 and 25 per cent?

(Hamilton Times.)

A Chicago doctor now comes forward with the theory that graft is a disease. Perhaps; but we notice that the grafters exhibit no anxiety to be cured.

(Canadian Farm.)

The one thing that will help to bring about a better condition in the farmer's orchard is co-operation.

(Vancouver World.)

Procrastination is the thief of the best choice in Christmas presents.

BUDGET FROM SACKVILLE

School Closed at Upper Sackville as Result of Death from Diphtheria—Smallpox at Amherst—Other News

Sackville, Dec. 14.—The ladies of the Presbyterian church, Port Elgin, gave an enjoyable "old time tea" in Hickman's Hall last week. The best local talent of the village delighted the large number who were present with several old-time favorites in songs and readings. The sum of \$55 was realized.

The Mission Band of Middle Sackville Baptist church held a concert and fancy sale on Thursday evening. The band's mite boxes were also opened and contained \$25. Gratifying results were the outcome of the entertainment.

Rev. Jabez A. Rogers, D. D., pastor of the Methodist church has resigned his position. Dr. Rogers came here by invitation at the beginning of the conference year, and has already made many warm friends. It is understood his reason for resigning is that the work of the circuit is too heavy for his strength, he being a man well advanced in years.

Miss Lillian B. Milton, of Dorchester, was the guest of honor at a variety show on Friday evening. She will soon become the bride of A. W. Chambers of Roxbury, Mass.

A death from diphtheria occurred at Upper Sackville this week. Miss Cora Babcock, daughter of Daniel Babcock at the age of 15 years. The public school has been closed in consequence.

A wide circle of friends in different parts of the province will hear with sorrow of the death of Miss Hannah Dobson, which occurred at her home in Bayfield on Tuesday. The deceased was in her 80th year, but had been an invalid since her childhood. She bore her sufferings with cheerful resignation, being of a bright and amiable disposition and was always ready to sympathize with others in trouble. Her last illness was the result of a severe cold. One brother, George J. Dobson, of Bayfield, with whom she resided, survives and one sister, Mrs. Margaret Kinear, formerly of Moncton, but who now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Grant, wife of Judge David Grant, in Vancouver, B. C.

Work was begun this week by the Victor Wood Workers, Amherst, on a new curling rink at Macaan. The building will be 155 feet long by 36, which will be a record for the province.

E. S. Hennigar, G. W. P. of the Sons of Temperance, has been rejuvenating the different organizations of the order in this part of the county by stirring enthusiasm, telling of the increase of temperance sentiment in all parts of the province.

Rev. Dr. Borden left last week on a business trip to the Bermuda Islands.

An entertainment was given in Hickman's Hall, Dorchester, by the Dorchester Dramatic Company last week. The play was "Phyllis the Beggar Girl." The play was a three act melodrama and was full of fun from the start to the finish. A select orchestra rendered excellent music. The proceeds were for the benefit of the Dorchester Band, and amounted to over \$35.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fillmore, an aged couple of Westmoreland Point, left this week for a trip to the West. They will visit a daughter residing in Winnipeg, and a son in Vancouver. Ishabod Beth, of Wallace, N. S., has just celebrated his 97th birthday, and is as active as many of his neighbors who are 20 years younger.

Three cases of smallpox are now reported at Amherst. The homes are strictly quarantined.

Charles McKenzie, of the Bridge street meat market, has had an addition to his family this week of a pair of twins, a boy and a girl.

Miss Mabel Smith was called to New Brunswick today from the Ladies College by the sad accident which befell her aunt, Mrs. Steeves.

Two Westmoreland County teachers have been found eligible to re-ceive pensions. Messrs. William Barnes and Hippolyte LeBlanc.

The marriage took place in Dorchester on Wednesday of Miss Eva Rhodes of Birmingham, England, and Whittier Fowler, son of Mr. Fowler, E. H. Fowler, of this town. Rev. D. E. Hatt performed the ceremony.

Rev. Mr. Crosswell, pastor of the Episcopal church, Amherst, is returning this week from a trip to England. Rev. Mr. Milledge, who has been taking his appointment, has left for his home in St. John.

The home of John Gille was thrown into the deepest gloom on Friday last by the sudden death of Mrs. Gille. She had been ill with an attack of pleurisy and was thought to be recovering today from the illness. The deceased was in her 50th year and a daughter of the late Samuel Hutchinson. Beside her husband, two daughters and three sons survive, all of whom reside at home. Mrs. W. H. Tracey of Sackville, is a sister, and the brothers are Messrs. Robert and Edward Hutchinson, of Moncton.

L. R. HETHERINGTON GOES TO NEWCASTLE

Richibucto, Dec. 15.—L. R. Hetherington, Grammar School teacher, has resigned and will go to Newcastle as principal of the Harkins Academy. Those who have a sincere desire for the best of everything for our schools will regret the resignation of Mr. Hetherington, who by his untiring zeal and efforts has made our schools second to none in the province. The consensus of opinion is that the retiring principal is an up-to-date, energetic and skilled educator, and in their selection the Newcastle school authorities have made a choice that will contribute much to the success of their schools. Mr. Hetherington assumes his new duties Jan. 9th.

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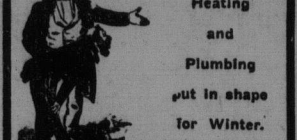
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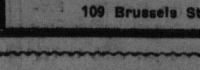


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Osborne—At St. Martin's Dec. 13th, in the 54th age, Mrs. Samuel C. Osborne, her husband and son to mourn.

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Funeral Friday afternoon from Church of England

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