

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 28, 1905.

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THE WATERWORKS

The day after the meeting of the board of works at which it was decided to offer McArthur & MacVay \$15,000 as a bonus to enable them to finish their contract on Sec. 2, the Times recited at length the reasons leading up to that step. It was pointed out that the city originally gave the contract to this firm because they were a local firm and the lowest tenderers, and the council felt it could not justify itself in doing otherwise, since the firm was a responsible one with good securities. It was further pointed out that the city stood by its contract until the contractors declared they must have a new arrangement, and this led up to the negotiations that resulted in the offer and the virtual refusal of the \$15,000.

The board has been criticised for making any offer, or doing anything at all in the matter except to stand by the contract. The engineer's report on McArthur & MacVay's letter, which appears on the first page of today's Times, throws new light on this part of the subject. The board took no action until it was faced with McArthur & MacVay's letter and the engineer's comments thereon.

Opinions may differ with regard to the course then pursued, but since the contractors refuse to accept the terms of the contract, it is apparent that they expect more than \$15,000 above the contract price for Sec. 2.

The point that is made clear by the engineer's report is that action of some sort seemed necessary as a result of that report, if the water was to be brought to the city this year. If the contractors had not sent that letter to the council, there would have been no negotiations, and the board took no action until it had heard from its own engineer. If the report had been published when it was submitted, the public would have been apprised of the facts that much sooner, and there would have been less conjecture. Publicity in such cases is the wiser course. The people who pay have a right to know.

THE PRESS AND OTHERS

The newspapers appear to have been guilty of some indiscretion in connection with the waterworks extension, although they are neither the contractors nor those who awarded the contracts. They have been censured by aldermen and also censured by contractors. It has been asked why they have not sent representatives out to study the situation, the inference being that if they did so they would understand the whole matter.

It may be doubted if such would be the actual result. If a newspaper man went over the ground with one of the contractors he might conclude that the contractor's views were correct. If he went with an alderman he might arrive at a different conclusion. If he went with both, his mind would be in a whirl. To go alone, with satisfactory results he would, perhaps, need to be an engineer. As a matter of fact newspaper men have looked over the ground, and have not escaped censure, either from aldermen or contractors.

But are the newspapers at fault? Contracts were entered into by the contractors, and the work was to be done at a certain time, for a certain price. The newspapers neither dictated the terms of the contract nor interfered with the work. The numerous meetings at city hall were not called by the newspapers. They did not propose a bonus, or ask for any new agreement. They insisted, it is true, that the work should be completed and the water brought to the city. They printed what aldermen had to say, and what contractors and their counsel had to say, and in a general way kept the public informed concerning the progress, or lack of progress at the works.

It must be clear to both the contractors and the aldermen that if the work had gone smoothly along and the contracts were completed at the proper time without friction or without lack of extra or bonus, the newspapers would have chronicled those cheerful facts instead of the new cheerful ones that have developed.

Moreover, if there had been less secrecy in connection with recent negotiations there would have been less anxious speculation on the part of the taxpayers. The business of a newspaper is to give the news. Publishers try to discriminate between what it is wise and what it is unwise to print, and in that they must of course consider the general public as well as individuals. If now all the clouds have rolled away and the waterworks extension is to be satisfactorily completed in good time, the newspapers will cheerfully herald the fact.

By the way, it was not a newspaper which said that a good deal of the digging in connection with this work was being done around city hall.

WALL STREET

The Wall Street Journal dissects from the view of a writer who compares the gambling resorts of Saratoga with Wall street and says there is very little difference between the methods of the Wall street financier and the kings of faro and roulette. "The object of both," this writer says, "is to separate the gullible citizen from his money. Many men of good minds are deceived into believing that the system of Wall street methods, which largely controls the monetary situation, is on the square. The country banker and the small dabbler in stocks look gravely at the stock market reports each day and feel that they are well informed. Recent newspaper and magazine

investigators have revealed much of the truth of this false system."

This indictment, the Wall Street Journal declares, is too broad. Its reply is worthy of note:

"There is a great difference between Wall street and the race track and roulette tables. There is gambling, there is manipulation, there is concealment; there is stacking of cards; there is dishonesty and graft; there is all manner of financial chicanery in Wall street; but in proportion to the volume of its transactions there is as much of these things there than there is in any other department of business in any part of the country. The world hears most about the sensational, the crooked, the gambling, side of Wall street, because, first, these things make the most interesting reading, and, therefore, serve the purpose of newspaper stories; second, because they are dwelt upon and used by agitators who desire to inspire hatred of wealth; and, third, because there are many in Wall street who for the good of the street are constantly seeking to stamp out these evils, and therefore talk a good deal about them."

The Journal points out that, though the church is a great moral agency, commercialism enters into it, and asks if for that reason the church should be abolished. Applying the same reasoning to Wall street, it goes on:

"Wall street is the centre of finance upon the American continent, the great clearing house of our commerce, the great market for investments. Shall we then abolish Wall street because there is gambling in it, and manipulation of stocks, and because some people misuse the wonderful mechanism of credit developed for the benefit of the extension of trade?"

"The immorality of Wall street consists in the misuse of a mechanism that is constructed on an absolutely moral basis. The same men who gamble in Wall street are likely to gamble on horses and at roulette tables. The same men who manipulate markets are quite likely to be in league with men who corrupt legislatures. A dishonest director is no more than a dishonest public official. Graft is no more odious in Wall street than it is in Washington. In judging Wall street, it is necessary to discriminate between the true and the false, the good and the bad. It is the bad which does so much to fill the columns of sensational journalism; it is the good which is turning the wheels of commerce."

The reasoning of the Wall Street Journal is sound enough. The difficulty the outside speculator has to encounter is to determine which is the gambler and which the legitimate trader. Sometimes he pays a high price for the information. But he does not have to speculate on Wall street, any more than he has to bet on horses or patronize the roulette table.

AT PORTSMOUTH

The press correspondents who are conducting the peace conference at Portsmouth are having a lot of trouble with Witte and Komura. The latter persistently disregard the programme submitted by the enterprising representatives of the Associated Press and of various American and European journals. The correspondents announce that a certain point will never be yielded; Witte or Komura yields it. They fix a day for the crisis; Witte and Komura postpone the crisis. The expression on Witte or Komura's face is interpreted to mean one thing, and the reverse happens.

All this must be somewhat discouraging, but it must be said of the correspondents that they do not lose heart. The crisis did not come on Saturday, and now they have fixed it for Tuesday—or perhaps Wednesday or Thursday. The peace envoys were all to have left Portsmouth by the end of last week, but they will remain a little longer. However, possibly the three correspondents may be with regard to peace, they are ardent optimists when they assume the role of prophecy. If what they predict today is not fulfilled, they predict again, and again.

In the meantime the real actors in the great drama are going soberly and seriously about their business, earnestly seeking some basis of agreement that will put an end to the war. They may not succeed, but this paper is very reluctant to believe that they will fail.

ARTISTIC GARDENING

Excellent Results Obtained on the Dufferin Hotel Lawn.

One of the most artistic pieces of landscape gardening to be found in the Maritime Provinces is on the lawn terrace of the Dufferin Hotel.

The word "Dufferin," the name of the hotel, is found in letters composed of a plant called Erythronium or Golden Feather, bordered by beautiful Lobelia and Alyssum, making a very striking piece of floral decoration. Great credit is due to Arthur King, an amateur botanist, in bringing this truly artistic piece of gardening into existence, and also for beautifying the spot, as it is very conspicuously located on the most travelled street in the city.

This example should incite the citizens who have lawns to attempt landscape gardening, not only as a beautifier but as a study and a pastime. A few minutes each day could easily be devoted to this work, and the result would be most gratifying, not only to themselves but to the visiting public.

Ernest McCaw, who has charge of the Dufferin lawn, is putting it in great shape today by trimming the plants. A visit to this beautiful spot will repay you.

The use of tobacco is said to make a man forgetful. But there are so many things in one's life that one likes to forget. "John, run out and buy me a quarter's worth of cigars."

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OPPOSED TO RACE SUICIDE

Apostle Dowie Will Have None of it in Zion City—Young Lovers Must Be Circumspect.

CHICAGO, Aug. 28.—A new baby every year for every family in Zion's holy cohorts—over-time work for the stark—away with race suicide!

That's the latest advice by Apostle John Alexander Dowie, for the ruler of the north shore colony wants to see the birth rate figures go soaring skyward in a way that will make the statisticians sit up and sharpen their pencils. But in the same breath the master of Zion sets forth another command that is held by many of the young women in his flock to be a contradiction, for it is commanded that there shall be no kissing—nor hugging—in courtship.

Apostle Dowie always has expressed great admiration for President Roosevelt, and has opposed race suicide, though he himself has been the father of but two children. Now, however, he has taken a practical step toward putting his ideas into effect by the issuance of a formal order that hereafter every couple married in his flock shall lead a little ham to the baptismal font every twelve months.

It is Dr. Dowie's hope that from now on his flock will know the size of a Zionite's family all that is necessary will be to know how many years the Dowie has been married. The members of the Christian Catholic Church community at Zion City, following the command of the first apostle in all things, say they will now show the stark away, and in a few years every household is expected to be filled with laughing, tumbling cherubs, arranged chronologically according to a step ladder plan, with equal steps of a year each. That will mean new schools and an addition to the Sunday school room at the big tabernacle.

The first apostle's new order is part of a supervision which he recently began to exercise over marital affairs in his church. The first step was in the form of an order that all faithful members of Zion who marry must first have the chief's written consent, else the marriage would not be recognized by the church. Another injunction was that no marriage performed by justices of the peace would be considered legally correct.

But now the avowed and blushing maidens are under still further restrictions, the time relating to their love-making. "Never a kiss until after the wedding ceremony is over," says the apostle. And he means that young couples are not to kiss "just for fun" or for mischief, but the rule goes further. So Zion is to be a race of unlovers after the example set by young Gladstone Dowie.

THE CHURCHES ARE CALLED TO ORDER

Dr. Campbell Morgan Warmly Criticises the Worldliness of the Modern Christian.

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—A criticism of the American Protestant churches was voiced by Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, who has been working in the late Rev. Dwight Moody's place at East Northfield, Mass.

When on the point of sailing for Europe on the steamship Baltic, Rev. Dr. Morgan said: "The American church does not seem to be much more than a social organization now. Its members devote more time to social life along social lines than they do along spiritual lines. The businessmen, the influential Christians and the people who are in position to their duty, are wrapped up in their own affairs or busy in the pursuit of pleasure or frivolity; they lose track of the way and forget the pledges they made to their church."

"The fires of old time spirit are lacking and without this what can be expected by social clubs but a leading away from God and the path. How can a business man expect to have an influence with his employees when they know his life, its methods and just how far he practices what he preaches?"

NEW ZEALAND PROSPEROUS

Mr. F. W. Maddox Talks of Development in That Colony.

(Toronto News)

Canada is not the only country that is booming, according to Mr. F. W. Maddox, of Auckland, New Zealand, who is at the Rosten House on his way to England. "Although we have not the great immigration and rapid development that Canada is experiencing just now, New Zealand has been developing in a very satisfactory manner during the past few years. There were only 170,000 assisted immigrants last year, but they were good settlers, bringing with them some \$500,000."

"One important development in our trade," he continued, "is the wonderful increase in export butter. New Zealand is a splendid country for grazing and dairying, and our butter commands a price on the London market second only to Denmark, and the amount exported is steadily growing. Gold was one of the chief exports, but now the value of the butter exported from one Province exceeds the total export of gold for the whole colony. Wool is the chief export. The high price of this article in London last year was a great boon to New Zealand. The colony is admirably adapted for sheep farming, but the influx of settlers now accomplishes the breaking up of the sheep farms. If the owners refuse to sell, the Government steps in and fixes a price at which the land must be disposed of."

"The export of mutton, of course, is another important feature of our trade. Our colony was the first to ship mutton in the frozen state, and it is today the best meat in the kind, and the mutton market being superior to the Australian or Argentine product."

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

The School for the Blind at Halifax will reopen on Saturday, September 2nd. Upwards of one hundred and thirty pupils are expected to be in attendance. During the progress of the provincial exhibition, daily concerts will be given in the assembly hall of the school at 4 p. m., Saturday excepted. Admission free. A cordial invitation to visit the institution is extended to all who purpose attending the exhibition.

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