

WEEK-END NOTES.

(I. C. MORRIS.)

THE PREMIER AND HIS PROBLEMS.

It is somewhat reassuring to find that Premier Warren, upon whose shoulders great responsibilities have unexpectedly fallen, has displayed such a spirit of frankness in all he has done, and that to all the questions which have been put to him he gave satisfactory answers. For this we congratulate the Premier, and we feel assured that he has the respect and the confidence of all who love their country; and whether he continues the government, or whether he dissolves it, there will abide that feeling that he has done his best in a great emergency, and has displayed an open hand in the discharge of his duties.

The closing of the House will not mean for the Premier any relaxation whatever, because facing him will be the possibility of falling revenues, as well as that of unemployment. The problem that stares Newfoundland in the face at the present moment is that of employment for its people, and it is but natural to suppose that the people will look to the government for some outlet. This may be a false position, but it is the way that we have fallen into.

Since the passing of the Humber deal, the people have realized that the Humber cannot employ more than half the number of persons who expected employment. Five thousand was the number quoted, during the election, but half of this number are being disappointed, nor could it be otherwise, because at best the Humber will scarcely afford employment at the present season for any more than are now engaged.

To those who were not carried away by the heat of the election, it was apparent that a mistake was being made in stating that five thousand men would be needed. However, such are the tactics of elections, and whether these cries are used for mere party purposes, or whether they are used in good faith, is a matter of opinion for people of independent mind. But we all acknowledge, and perhaps regret, that these extreme cries are used, because such cries are sure to bring disappointment and dissatisfaction in the end.

The industrial situation we say at present is very grave, and it is especially so here in the city. For who can look at our harbour, or visit our waterfront without being concerned. Our shipping has departed, our water-side premises are semi-deserted, and our tradesmen are walking the streets, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the earning power of St. John's as a seaport has decreased fully fifty per cent. of what was a

few years ago. This is caused partly by world conditions brought about by the war, and because of the impoverished conditions of our European customers; but that there are local causes for some of this depression all fair-minded men will agree. But this phase of it we will leave others to discuss. The point we wish to make is, that unemployment is facing the people, and therefore we say that for the Premier and his colleagues a strenuous task seems to be before them.

Since taking office the Premier has done well, and because of his attitude our confidence in him is strengthened, and there is room to hope that whatever emergency may arise he will measure up to the occasion and meet the conditions of the situation. He has not sought the position he now occupies. He has very modestly stated he is not a statesman and he is not making any pretensions to do the impossible. Hence there is room to hope that he will prove the right man in the crisis, and that in due time he will bring the ship of State into safer waters and more prosperous days. This is our wish to Premier Warren, and we believe that all true men of Newfoundland will to it say "Amen."

It is indeed to be regretted that our public life is continually being marred by such manifestations of extreme party criticism and censure. At the present moment it is difficult to know or even to guess where we really stand but it is very certain that our public debt is rapidly increasing, and at the rate it has gone during the past sixteen years, it will not be long before we reach the hundred million dollar mark. What this will mean is as plain as A.B.C. Looking at our various administrations for a term of say about twenty years, it cannot be said that they have done well. Each administration in turn has added its quota to the indebtedness of the country. They all fall in making two ends meet without borrowing. It has been simply a system of collecting the taxes and spending them, and then floating a loan to meet the annual deficit. If this be statesmanship then all the principles and ideals which we were taught of statesmanship, must have been false. However, the past cannot be recalled, nor can its mistakes be remedied; but now that Premier Warren has shown such frankness, there is room to hope that a better day is dawning upon us, and that there is yet a possibility of our parliament becoming dignified and our public life being elevated, and of economic business principles being adopted.

Sachem's Passengers.

S.S. Sachem, Capt. Fournier, arrived in port from Halifax at 4 p.m. yesterday, bringing the following passengers—J. Bowdoin, Miss Bowdoin, J. T. Brooks, Mrs. Dawe, J. E. Hodgkins, Mrs. Hodgkins, Miss M. Kennedy, Mrs. Mucello, Master Mucello, Mrs. E. R. Nuselle, Mrs. N. F. Putney, W. Pierce, E. Saunders, J. Slattery, J. Clouston, Miss K. M. Davidson, Lady Squires, Miss K. M. Davidson.

OUTWARD PASSENGERS.

The Sachem sailed for Liverpool today, taking the following passengers:—Hon. Sir M. G. Winter, Mrs. F. Marshall, and 2 children, Mrs. M. McLeod, Mrs. J. Pike, Miss M. O. Hoop, A. E. McLeod, R. Squires, Mrs. Silverlock, Sir Wm. F. Lloyd, Mrs. J. Henry, Miss J. Henry, Mrs. J. B. Mitchell, W. D. and Mrs. Corse, A. Johnson, T. Greenfield, H. Clayton, T. P. Cochran, F. S. Cotton, T. K. Breakell, Mrs. T. E. Tipton, Mrs. C. Frower, T. Butler and E. Tebbis.

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Personal.

Commandant Hurd, who has been visiting points in Conception Bay in the interest of the New Maternity Hospital, returned to town Wednesday night. He held special services all day Sunday at the S.A. Citadel and on Monday night, gave a lecture on the Salvation Army around the world, at Bay Roberts. On the Tuesday he went to Harbor Grace, where at night he gave his lecture to quite a large audience. At the close of his lecture, an elderly lady who lost two sons in the war, came up to Commandant Hurd, and contributed \$100 to furnish a bath room in the hospital, in memory of those two heroes. He was accompanied by his two sons, who contributed musical items at the different meetings.

BOY SCOUTS' SPORTS

(Under the distinguished patronage of H. E. Sir W. L. Allard, K.C.M.G., Chief Scout, and Lady Allard, Island Commissioner Girl Guides).

ST. GEORGE'S FIELD, 29TH AUGUST

FIRST EVENT: 8 P.M.

100 Yards, 440 Yards, ½ Mile, 1 Mile and Hurdles Open Races. Handicapping by N.A.A.A. Brigades and Scouts' Races (Active Members only); Girl Guides, Scouts and Scouts' Relay Races; Costume Football Sixes, Wolf Cubes' Race, Lady Club Race, Rabbit Race, Skin the Snake, etc.
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MARKET REPORTS

indicate that there is no surplus of Anthracite Coal in the U.S. The shortage caused by the strike of Anthracite Miners last year has not been made up, and American hard coal will, in all probability, be hard to get and high priced. Coke is an excellent substitute for hard coal, and we have on hand a stock of same that will soon be disposed of, because a shortage of hard coal invariably creates an increased demand for our product.

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