

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 19, 1908.

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THE LEGISLATURE

That Mr. Robinson's reply to the provincial budget speech was weak and ineffectual is not to the discredit of Mr. Robinson as a debater. The trouble was with the case he had to present. No man could rise in the face of the revelations made in the budget speech and make an effective reply. As Solicitor-General McLeod remarked, however, the blame for the conditions revealed does not lie so heavily upon the ex-premier as upon some other gentlemen who preceded him in office. There has been, ever since he became premier, a degree of sympathy for Mr. Robinson, because of the burden which he assumed, and which bore him down to disaster at the polls. He committed the fatal error of continuing the old policy instead of cutting loose from sinister influences and pursuing a policy of reform. As a result he went down to defeat, and the reforms are being instituted by a new government. Necessarily, he was heavily handicapped, therefore, in the budget debate.

In striking contrast was the vigorous speech of Hon. Mr. McLeod, who is a hard hitter, and who in this case found weapons ready to his hand. Mr. McLeod's exposure of such matters as the interest charge, the \$47,000 bill for the Central Railway, the fees of Dr. Pugsley, the Victoria county lands mortgage and the political game warden of Restigouche was clear and complete. He pointed out, moreover, in reply to opposition criticism of proposed expenditures by the new government that they were bound hand and foot by the extravagance of their predecessors, and must meet the obligations incurred in the latter. Next year's budget speech will show a different state of affairs, although for some years to come the province must continue to pay the penalty for continuing so long at the head of its affairs the men who are responsible for the present very undesirable change.

PROF. ROBERTSON

No other man has done as much in recent years for the development of agriculture in Canada as Prof. James W. Robertson, who will address the New Brunswick legislature this week, and may also speak before the Canadian Club of St. John at a noon luncheon.

One of the great benefits which the Conservative government in the days of its vigor and activity conferred on Canada was the engagement of Prof. Robertson as a counsellor and instructor in regard to dairying and general agricultural development. Mr. Robertson is not a mere enthusiast, but a practical man with a thorough knowledge of his subject and the ability not only to impart knowledge in a direct fashion but to arouse the enthusiasm of his hearers. His public address speaks with terse sentences which present important truths in the most impressive manner. Therefore the New Brunswick legislature does well to hear him, and the government will do well to take counsel with him in connection with its agricultural policy. No man is better qualified to speak upon this subject and none is more willing to exert himself to advance the interest of that calling upon which so large an extent depends the real progress of the country.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

A leading wholesale business man informs the Times that there are signs of a slight general improvement in trade conditions in this province. The volume of trade thus far this year has been fairly satisfactory. Money, owing to the action of the banks, is still rather scarce, but conditions are slowly improving in that respect. It is true that the lumber industry is still awaiting a turn for the

better, but nobody anticipates any turn for the worse. The lumber market is one that responds quickly to improved conditions. It is at least satisfactory to note that the log drives in many streams have been brought into safe water with much greater rapidity and therefore less expense than usual, and the prospects are said to be favorable also for the long drives.

It has been generally conceded that this will be a rather quiet year in business, but conditions are healthy. The railroad construction work will distribute a large amount of money and to a large extent offset the dulness in the lumber trade. The weather has been somewhat backward for the farmers, until the last week or so, but the prospects are now favorable. On the whole, the province has come through a general financial depression remarkably well—much more so than many localities which make great pretensions to enterprise and progress. Business generally in Canada is improving, and with a good crop year there will be the assurance of continued prosperity.

CONCERNING SPORTS

General interest will be felt in the effort of St. John four-oared crews to get a place in the Olympic games. There are two crews in Carleton, and it is proposed by one to have a try-out in the harbor and that the winning team go to Halifax. Whether the other agrees to this course, which seems to be the most reasonable one, or whether both teams go, there will be a general feeling of satisfaction that we have young men who take an interest in the revival of aquatic sports, which once brought fame to St. John. The Times pointed out a year ago that the time had come for a revival of clean athletic sports, and there are evidences that the present summer will be marked by an awakened interest in many directions. There has been too much apathy since professional baseball usurped the place of amateur sports and then collapsed itself. But a new generation is coming up, and St. John should regain its place among Canadian cities as the home of clean athletes in every branch of clean sport. The Times might be charged with talking shop if its editor referred to what the Every Day Club is doing to encourage general sport, but that organization at least offers a medium through which athletes may get together and work together for the promotion of sports of various kinds. In taking steps to send its crew to compete in the trials there, the club is doing aquatic sports a genuine service.

THE DEADLOCK

Premier Roblin of Manitoba is even more emphatic than Hon. Mr. Rogers in his denunciation of the Aylesworth election bill. He points out that in Greenway's time an effort was made to force a similar measure through the Manitoba legislature. He charges that after the passage of that bill the Manitoba lists were loaded with thousands of names which should not have been there, and that this iniquitous course was endorsed by men who are now clamoring at Ottawa for the Aylesworth bill. Mr. Roblin appeals to the men of eastern Canada to secure for the western provinces the same rights with regard to the federal franchise as are enjoyed by the eastern electors. This is a reasonable appeal and should be endorsed. The hysterical utterances of certain portions of the government press concerning the alleged obstructive tactics of the opposition will not deceive the people. A fair and honest ballot is demanded by the opposition. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is so little in love with the Aylesworth bill that he has offered compromises rather than appear as the champion of so unjust a measure. That for which the opposition fight in this case is the honest ballot. That and nothing more.

MARINE NOTES

A silver watch was presented at Whitehead (N. S.), recently to Captain Alden Munroe for services rendered to the crew of the schooner Ada Mildred, which stranded on Gammon's Lodge on Jan. 20, by Enos L. Munroe, customs house officer, at the request of the dominion government.

West India steamer Ocaso, Captain Buchanan, sailed last night at 12 o'clock for Halifax and the West Indies with a general cargo.

Captain Iverson and Mate Reitter of the abandoned bark Strathmore arrived by the West India steamer Ocaso last Sunday on their way home to Nova Scotia. The bark Strathmore was owned at Matland (N. S.), and left here on Dec. 17 for Rosario and was dismantled on Feb. 4 in a gale off the British West India Islands. She put into St. Vincent for repairs. Captain Gan, of Yarmouth, underwriter's agent, went to St. Vincent to look the vessel over, and decided to send her to Halifax. While on the voyage to that port the bark was abandoned at sea and set on fire, and the crew were rescued and taken back to St. Vincent. Her cargo of lumber when she left this port was worth \$20,000.

Vessel and cargo was insured for \$75,000. Zwicker & Co., of Lunenburg bought the vessel and she was on first trip for new owners.

Saturday's Yarmouth Times says: "The Liverpool steamer J. S. Brewster made a trip to that port in 2 1/2 days from Philadelphia. She is commanded by Captain J. E. Firth of Lockport."

THE REBELLION IN CHINA.

Hong Kong, May 19.—According to advices received here the rebellion in Yunnan province is becoming more serious. The revolutionists have captured a railway and have defeated the government troops. They are continuing to advance and urgent requests have been sent to Pekin for reinforcements.

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1908.

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THE SCOFFERS

What if the scoffers stand and wait To sneer when you set out to try? Proud Caesar heard scoffers at the start Each heard the clown's cheap ridicule, And had to pass the grinning fool Who pitted him, down in his heart.

Dare not to hope till critics rate You as a wackling till the score Of little-minded men is plain. That you possess the strength to gain A place among the nobly born.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

DIPLOMATIC.

(Baltimore American.) How do you suppose that vulgar millionaire will ever manage to get in the society of such exclusive women? "I believe she always loses at bridge."

A SURE SIGN.

(Exchange.) Mrs. Wiggins—Our daughter Mary is in love. Wiggins—How do you know? Mrs. Wiggins—She refers to twilight as the gloaming.

QUALIFIED SUCCESS.

(Washington Star.) "Was your show a failure?" "Not entirely," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "The public didn't like it at all, but we are still managing to convince the public that it is all right."

A PABLE DISCREDITED.

(Ulster Globe.) "You know the story of the hare and the tortoise?" "Yes," answered the jockey, "but it doesn't point any more than I can see. At any respectable track that rabbit would have been outwitted for pulling the race."

HARD TO WEATHER IT.

(Chicago Tribune.) Inquiring Friend—So your last play was a failure. Well, it won't make much difference to you, I presume. You have something laid by for a rainy day, haven't you? "Tragedy, yes, but I'm not, I'm not prepared to meet a continuous frost."

SPARED THE OLD MAN.

"Does your father know I love you?" "No, Papa isn't very well, and we've kept it from him,"—Barry's Weekly.

WASN'T HE JUST THE MEANEST THING

How Inventor Brewer Fooled His Wife When She Went to Look for Evidence.

New York, May 18.—William S. Brewer, publisher and inventor, will probably be afforded another opportunity tomorrow to recite the details of the clever ruse by which he outwitted detectives employed by his wife, Edith Annie Noble Brewer, and turned the divorce suit instituted by that lady into a roaring farce. At the former hearing Justice Pitlake declared a mistrial and the suit is scheduled for retrial tomorrow.

At the previous hearing Brewer recounted a tale that should make the shade of Boccaccio and his modern French imitators hang their heads in shame at their lack of imagination and literary finesse.

According to Brewer's story, he made a trip to Pittsburgh last January, and expected that he was being followed by spies in the employ of Mrs. Brewer, who was anxious to secure evidence to be used against him in a suit for divorce. Being of an obliging nature, he decided to furnish the "evidence" to order, and wrote to his lawyer in New York outlining a plan which for sheer audacity and originality has seldom been equalled in literature or life.

The details of this scheme are told in the letter from Brewer to his attorney, Harry Eckhard: "My Dear Eckhard:—I have seen several parties that seem to be travelling with me, and I have tried to detect if they are following me. I have a scheme to find out, which I hope will meet with your approval. I will go to New York arriving at 8 o'clock Saturday evening. I will meet a lady in the parlor of the Astor House. Cedric, my son, will be there with the lady and will introduce you. When I come, I will not recognize you, but will speak to the lady, and say, 'U. S. Beal and wife,' which means 'you are a fool.' I'll register so it won't be very plain.

"The lady will go on the elevator with me, and go down another way, when you and Cedric signal that no one can see her departure. Now, Cedric, arrange for a room for me that has a connecting room, so that you and Cedric and any witnesses you want can be in the connecting room while they (the detectives) watch or break in on me."

Brewer's little plan to confound his wife's detectives worked like a charm. The fly-cops, it is alleged, secured a room opposite that of Brewer and stood watch during the night, while Brewer and his friends made merry and waited for the grand denouement. The spies did not break into the room, however, but a short time later the divorce suit was brought.

During the previous hearing, which ended in a mistrial, an attorney for Mrs. Brewer testified on oath that he had seen a woman coming from the room occupied by Brewer. The latter, however, produced a large number of witnesses to prove that he had spent the night with male friends and that the "woman in the case" had been escorted out of the hotel immediately after playing her part in the little drama of domestic intellect.

FELL TO HIS DEATH

John Haley Killed on Donaldson Liner Indrani Yesterday.

John Haley, a longshoreman, fell through a lower deck hatch on the Donaldson liner Indrani yesterday afternoon and received injuries from which he died later at the General Public Hospital. The hatchways were being replaced on No. 4 hatchway on the lower deck, the work of unloading coal having been completed. Haley stepped on a part which was insecure and fell to the bottom of the hold, a distance of twenty-three feet. The piece of board falling on top of him. He was picked up unconscious, and Dr. Berryman was hastily summoned. He ordered the man's removal to the hospital, where, in spite of every effort, he expired between 6 and 7 o'clock last evening. Dr. Berryman had the board too short for safety. C. H. Graham, father-in-law of the deceased, intimates that action might be taken against the steamship company.

Who Said Linoleum for the Kitchen and Bathroom?

Most men take endless delight in discussing politics. Women derive an equal pleasure in talking over the question of home furnishings. Both are important subjects, the latter being of especial interest while housecleaning is going on—that's to-day. We are showing exclusive patterns of English oilcloths and linoleums, pretty designs, from

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This is your store for low priced Wall Papers. We have bought 20,000 rolls at a big bargain, prices 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c to 15c. roll, be sure to see these papers before you buy. Window Shades on Rollers 15c. to 65c. each. Lace Curtains 25c. to \$4 pair. Curtain Poles complete 25c and 40c. Curtain Muslins 7c. to 25c yard.

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