

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1923

The Evening Times and Star

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year.

The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 361 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg.

The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

GET ON WITH THE WORK.

When did the Federal Light and Traction Company of New York turn philanthropic?

It is here to get interest and dividends on \$3,000,000, along with a return on whatever it paid for the common stock of the New Brunswick Power Company—and any pickings that may be within reach as time goes on.

One was almost tempted to regret being compelled to live in this doomed city as one and another of the delegation at City Hall yesterday afternoon painted the city's future in awful shades of gloom—unless it handed over the Musquash current to the Federal Light and Traction Company. Once there it was the sad lot of listeners to hear the old story that the power is not at Musquash in sufficient quantity; that it will not be constant; that it costs too much money that public ownership is a failure; that the City Power Commission is not competent; that if the city competes with the company in electrical energy the gas will not come down and the street car fares will go up; that competition spells high taxation if not ruin; that there was no popular mandate for a city distribution system; and by inference, that the City Council is rushing the city heading to disaster.

But of course there was another side to the picture. There was the street railway extension to Lily Lake; the continuation of that priceless bond, the one dollar ticket; ten new street cars; the possible realization of the dream of a new city on the Millville road; co-operation, the golden key to that wonderful progress; and an end to the horrible nightmare of competition and taxation.

Let this glorious picture should fail to attract attention a shock was administered to focus the universal gaze upon it. If the city refused to hang the picture on its walls up would go the street car fares, to add to the terrors of taxation, and by inference the ten new cars might go elsewhere. And there you are.

But while Mr. Sanderson and others were telling about the wonderful things the Federal Light and Traction Company would do, they neglected to stress the fact that while pouring these benedictions upon a happy people they would be gathering in the interest and dividends on well up to four million dollars. They have great faith in Musquash. Shall the people of St. John have less?

The City Council did not want to waste time, but to bring the matter to a head this afternoon. Indeed the Council threw out the proposition made when it turned down the sub-section which provided for handling over the Musquash current to the company; for the second sub-section, "to purchase energy from the city in such quantity as the city is required to take and pay for," means the whole amount contracted for by the city, and that would give the company control of the distribution. The people have three times promptly do so again; and the Council would be showing an utter disregard for public opinion if it made any such deal. It is not possible at this time of writing to say what will be done this afternoon, but if the Council is to go on hearing delegations it may expect some whose views do not at all agree with those expressed yesterday. What the people want it to do is to get on with the civic distribution system, since the company has made it clear that its system is not for sale. As to threats of higher street car fares, the city can cross that bridge when it comes to it, and may even have something to say about the quality of the service for which it pays.

Mayor Fisher exposed the real purpose of the Power Company's latest drive when he pointed out that they were after interest and dividends on \$3,000,000 and a return on what the Federal Light and Traction paid for control of the \$2,000,000 of common stock. This is the reason for the company's eagerness to get control of the Musquash current.

What the Federal Light and Traction Company wants from St. John is a fat return on a capitalization of \$5,000,000. Does any citizen believe that much real money is invested? Give the company control of Musquash or the distribution of the current and it will have the city by the throat again.

The real get-together that is needed in St. John is one that would inspire those who are now shedding gloom to have a little more faith in themselves and their city. They really do not need the Power Company as a crutch to lean upon.

If with control of Musquash the Power Company can do so much, the value of Musquash becomes all the more obvious. What we have held,

DO THE PEOPLE RULE, OR NOT?

A public meeting in the interests of the New Brunswick Power Company is to be held this evening. It is called by citizens who are opposed to a civic distribution system. Some of them perhaps are interested in the Power Company. Some are avowed enemies of public ownership. All of them apparently want the city to surrender to the company, as the latter has declined to sell its distribution system, and the only offer made is one that would hand over to the company the distribution of hydro.

All this talk about getting together and co-operating merely means handing the Musquash current over to the Power Company and confining that city to its own affairs. Three times the people have declared their purpose. They are now told that they are not competent to judge in such matters and that their will must not prevail. Slighting referees were made to them at the City Hall meeting yesterday. Commissioner Frink pointedly referred to it when he said: "Why should I stand up here and say that fifteen hundred of my fellow citizens are merely misbegotten mountebanks?" The fifteen hundred were merely the majority. Aspirations cast upon that number are also cast upon all who voted for the Fisher platform. And these aspirations are cast in the face of the fact that the action taken by the people has already brought down the price of light and power until one of the gentlemen responsible for tonight's meeting admitted yesterday that his bill had been cut in two.

The "misbegotten mountebanks" who accomplished that much, in the teeth of the bitter opposition of those who are now clamoring to have the Power Company put back in the saddle.

It is useless to attempt to argue that the action now sought by the Power Company advocates is in the best interests of the city. Entirely too much is being made of the dangers of competition. The city can still do the power. It has contracted to take from Musquash, whether there is competition or not. If there is to be competition what St. John man will care to stand up before his fellow citizens and tell them they will be beaten?

The people are not losing sight of the real meaning of this agitation. It should be understood that they would again be at the mercy of the Power Company which would think first of its interest and dividends, including a return on watered stock.

There must be no delay. The city begins to pay for Musquash. Mr. Sanderson assures us that the company will assume that responsibility if—what? If his company gets its own way. That is the milk in the coconut. The proposition of offers he makes is the best evidence that he wants control of the situation, and he would rely on his own astuteness to take profit for the company as soon as that control was assured. The course of the City Council is clear. It must get on with the civic distribution system.

WHAT THEY HAVE PROVED

If the Power Company can do all the things it says it can, and return a profit to those who have money invested in its securities, how much better can the city carry them out than it is not compelled to "take and pay for" the service any more than is necessary for the actual cost of the service?

This new message from the Power Company is a most complete endorsement of the Musquash development, an unintended endorsement that the city is not for sale. As to threats of higher street car fares, the city can cross that bridge when it comes to it, and may even have something to say about the quality of the service for which it pays.

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The Marriage Game

The Snappiest of Pastimes As Played to a Decision Every Day By Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hutton

THE SUTLE STRAIN.

Her Play—Behold, man, the superior—ah—animal! Well, don't glare, my dear—you are forever patiently explaining to me that man is the superior animal. I am only repeating your own expression, you know! I can't help but wonder, though, where you men get that superior idea. Why, for example, does a man have a really profound aversion to the true comradeship of a woman? He wants a woman to be either a toy or a tyrant—yep, that's the truth. A man is willing that a woman should be either his superior or his vassal—but he never can bring himself to consider her as a real equal, a comrade. Well, I'm waiting for your defense.

His Counter-Play—Defense? Bah! The reason a man treats a woman as a toy or as a tyrant is that he is actually a woman himself. He is a woman who finds herself treated as if she were a little sugar-plum has indicated by her behavior that she prefers to be so considered. And a woman who plays up to the party of the second part, even if he does assume the role with his tongue in his cheek, means that most luckless men wink the other eye when they are out on parole from the home front. He is a man, and she is a woman, and that's the way it is. Oh, well, I guess it's because he is a man, and she is a woman, and that's the way it is. The Referee—It's a bit subtle today—but he wins!

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WHY RECOGNIZE RUSSIA?

(New York Tribune.)

Secretary Hughes's reply to the latest appeal for recognition of the Soviet dictatorship is the only one which a responsible and self-respecting government can make. This appeal, which came from Leslie, He is too crafty to expose himself to another public reminder that the Red regime has no right to be recognized. He is too crafty to expose himself to another public reminder that the Red regime has no right to be recognized. He is too crafty to expose himself to another public reminder that the Red regime has no right to be recognized.

The Soviet government has been a leaf from the German book. It has appropriated the German psychology. Treaties, rules of conduct, international obligations of all sorts, may bind others to Russia, but they must never bind Russia to her own detriment. The Soviet dictators have confiscated the property of American citizens and decline to restore it. The United States loaned the Kerenky revolutionary government \$187,000,000. If there is to be competition payers are meeting the interest on the \$187,000,000. They may have also to make good the principal. If Russia's policy does not change, Moscow has not come forward with a proposition to fund the debt or even to restore it. It is treated as something which does not exist.

What the United States is asked to do is to recognize a defaulting nation as it is to the company of nations who keep their engagements and are willing to do as they are done by. That would mean compounding criminality and weakening the basis of international good faith.

It is urged that other countries have been foolish enough to try to do business with Moscow on Moscow's terms. He who signs the deal needs a sharp spoon. The British government made a commercial treaty with the Soviet. It was signed on the condition that Moscow should refrain from hostile propaganda, direct or indirect, against British institutions and should refrain "from any attempt by military action or propaganda to encourage the people of Asia in any form of action hostile to British interests or the British Empire."

Lemire broke his word. His government is still working for "the revolution." It has spent enormous sums maintaining revolutionary propaganda in Great Britain, France, and the United States. It has intruded against the British in Turkey, Persia, in Afghanistan, and in India. Its bond is worthless. The Lloyd George maneuvers of 1921 felt that British propaganda value of the Russian treaty, because Russia never intended to give anything of value.

Here is a lesson which should be studied by foolish advocates of American recognition. Our government has not missed its import. It stands where it has always stood. Russia has done nothing so far to earn recognition. It is for her to demonstrate a change of heart and some qualifications for international comradeship before the appeal appears as a prodigal before our gates.

Dangerous doctrines are being propagated by Hillaire Belloc during his lecture tour in Canada. Gen. Sir Arthur Currie says.

During the war, Sir Arthur had little respect for Mr. Belloc. "He was a bad prophet then and he is a worse one now," Sir Arthur says. "Of all the piffle written during the war, he wrote the worst, and I believe he is talking worse piffle now than he wrote then." Especially does Sir Arthur attack Mr. Belloc's prophecy given in his lecture at the Mount Royal Hotel last Sunday that "there can be no such thing as a peace by understanding between nations." "Such a view destroys all the ideals we have cherished that by understanding, international good will and tolerance, nations can live together in harmony with each other," he says. "Mr. Belloc appears to indicate that nothing but brute force remains as a way of settling differences."

As I understand Mr. Belloc, he sees a great religious war coming in which the issues will be practically that of Protestantism against Catholicism. If there can be no peaceful understanding between nations without force then apparently in this religious war there will be bloodshed. For Mr. Belloc to get up and voice such doctrines in Canada and especially in Montreal where it is so necessary if Canada is to reach her high destiny that Protestants and Catholics should dwell together in harmony is to voice dangerous doctrines." Sir Arthur paid Mr. Belloc the tribute of saying he had much enjoyed reading some of his books as a recreation.

THE RETURN OF RELIGION.

(New York Tribune.)

Statistics standing alone long ago lost their power to convince, but common observation confirms the declaration of the Federal Council of Churches that the religious bodies of America made an unprecedented growth last year. It is a matter easy to ascertain that a new interest in religion is abroad in the land. It would be natural to find it reflected in the figures of church membership.

Such large turns in the outlook of mankind are hard to judge justly from a near view. A long perspective will be needed before it will be possible to say with assurance why this return of religious interest came in the year following the war—or what it will lead to. The most that can be done now is to note the facts and suggest possible explanations between which time must select the true from the false.

Undoubtedly the great emotional explosion accompanying the war played a considerable part in the change. For the world was not ripe for the revival of religion and whether it would not have come in some degree, war or no war. The dry, dusty rationalism of the nineteenth century could not long satisfy man. In his excitement over the marvelous strides of science and invention he became puffed up with pride in his reason and over-confident of his power. He forgot the vast spaces of his ignorance in fixing his eyes upon the small point of light that shone before him.

From such an excess there was bound to be a reaction. That the war was the real agent that helped to tumble him out of his basket of wisdom is a theory that has been too much to support. It is sooner or later he will have fallen.

STATISTICS SPEAK FOR PROHIBITION.

The Bellman in Halifax Chronicle.

There was an interesting debate in the Province of Alberta recently between the Rev. Hugh Deane and Michael Clark, ex-M.P. of Red River. In the course of the debate, when Dr. Clark was engaged by significant statistics in favor of the effectiveness of prohibition, he defended his position in opposing prohibition by speaking of the "statistics" of the population. That argument has been heard in high quarters, among those who are in the habit of being with a big "B" back. And there is no wonder these special pleading. The statistics of the population, for they give comfort to the special pleading for booze.

In general, it may be said with perfect truth that whenever we have a workable law and an honest attempt to enforce it, it is commensurate with the results. The Bellman has recently quoted the Rev. Hugh Deane, who is a very clearly prohibitionist. The Bellman has recently quoted the Rev. Hugh Deane, who is a very clearly prohibitionist. The Bellman has recently quoted the Rev. Hugh Deane, who is a very clearly prohibitionist.

Names of Canadian places, the picturesque of the Mounted Police and other types broadcasted through the world by means of the subject of some remarks by a writer in the Boston Transcript, who says:—

"We have made a good start in several states with the constabulary, but it will be a long day before the Mounted Police are as numerous and even though they are in the United States, we can be glad of this picturesque figure. The fact is that they have arranged for names up north there so that they can't help sounding like war bonnets even in the States. Look at the weather predictions and records in the Calgary Herald. It is clear at Kamloops, but cloudy at Medicine Hat, and indeed, it is at Swift Current and Moose Jaw. It is fair weather at Saskatoon, and we are glad of it, because we think the name has a tremendous swing to it. Between West Wind and the Mounted Police, we do not like to decide, but we will say we think Saskatchewan is a splendid name. "Hello Yank!" "Hello, Saskatchewan!" and both of them understand each other. It is clear at Kamloops, but cloudy at Medicine Hat, and indeed, it is at Swift Current and Moose Jaw. It is fair weather at Saskatoon, and we are glad of it, because we think the name has a tremendous swing to it. Between West Wind and the Mounted Police, we do not like to decide, but we will say we think Saskatchewan is a splendid name.

THE LENGTH OF THE AERIAL.

When the aerial is too long (over 150 feet), wave lengths may be reduced to better value by putting in a variable condenser in series. For the aerial that is too short (under 75 feet), it is advised to turn up the filament more brightly than is necessary to give satisfactory signals; (2) Never use so many plate batteries that a "blue glow" can be seen in the detector tube; (3) Never leave the filament burning when the outfit is not in use.

Increasing Life of Vacuum Tubes.

There are three cardinal principles which auditors should bear in mind in order to keep their tubes operating as long as possible. These are: (1) Never turn up the filament more brightly than is necessary to give satisfactory signals; (2) Never use so many plate batteries that a "blue glow" can be seen in the detector tube; (3) Never leave the filament burning when the outfit is not in use.

Thomas Mullett and Franka Woods both pleaded guilty yesterday afternoon in the police court to violations of the prohibition act by having liquor in their possession illegally, and they were each fined \$200. Mullett said his fine but Woods was unable to do so and he was taken into jail.

PONCE DE LEON.

(Associated Press.)

With a touch of historic sentiment, St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States, will celebrate the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon on April 4, 5 and 6. The celebration to be presented this spring is the first since the World War and into there is to be crowded all the gaiety, beauty and charm of sixteenth century romance.

Plans for the Ponce de Leon celebration are unique and essentially a part of St. Augustine, for the programme is designed to portray famous historical happenings of which the city has been the centre during the centuries gone.

It was near St. Augustine, historians declare, that Juan Ponce de Leon, seeking the fountain of eternal youth, stepped upon the shores of Florida on Easter Sunday, 1513. Flowers bloomed, birds sang and it was in truth a Pasqua Florida, or Flowering. Ponce de Leon, weary of his search and gladdened by the sight of the beautiful country, it seemed indeed that the veritable fountain of his quest must lie within its borders.

The first day of the celebration will portray the coming of Ponce de Leon. The Knight of Leon and his retinue, richly clad in the picturesque costumes of medieval days, will sail the blue waters of Matanzas Bay on their Spanish caravels, ancient high-popped craft, which brought the gallant cavalier to this alien shore.

Pedro de Aviles Menendez, explorer and colonizer, a hardy and brave soldier, but cruel and relentless, founded the city of St. Augustine in 1565, and the second day of the celebration will be devoted to the commemoration of this event.

The third day will come the change of flags, and the different banners which in turn have floated over the city of St. Augustine in 1565, and the second day of the celebration will be devoted to the commemoration of this event.

The banner of Spain and the Union Jack of Great Britain will float on the April air, detachments from the Spanish and English companies taking part in the pageants, raising the pennants only to lower them again. Then, commemorating the change of flags when Florida became a part of the United States, the stars and stripes will show their colors and will remain to float from the flag-staff.

Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, heiress to the estate of the late Henry M. Flagler, will preside over the closing ceremony by Ogilthorpe's forces from the British colony of Georgia, an historic event of the early times. An attack on an Indian village by the Spaniards will be another interesting night event.

WESTERN PLACE NAMES.

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GOOD SAMARITAN ARRESTED.

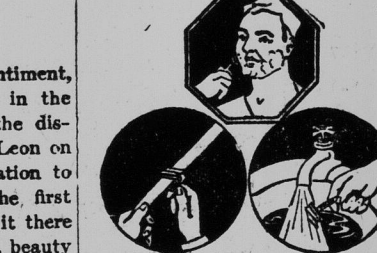
Accused of Driving Without a License When He Takes Injured Boy to Hospital.

Orange, N. J., April 4.—Playing good Samaritan to an injured boy recently launched the arrest of John Federici of 220 Scotland Road, Orange. He saw a delivery truck on Scotland Road, driven by Peter Morelock, run down Edward Rosso, sixteen, of 476 Scotland Road. Morelock went away in quest of a telephone, and Federici, who thought the boy was dying, decided to get him to hospital as quickly as possible. He put the boy in the motor truck and drove to the Orange Memorial Hospital.

Morelock, meanwhile, returned and found both boy and car gone. He notified the police and Federici was arrested on a charge of driving without a license.

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GENERAL AGENTS

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sires to announce the opening of the Spring Term on Monday, April 9. As applications are coming in rapidly and capacity is limited, those intending to enter on this term should get to once to the

Standard Business College

MISS JOHNSON, Principal, Standard Bank Building,

St. John, N. B.

ed at the hospital on a charge of driving without a license. Rosse was severely cut and bruised and one leg was broken.

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