

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1914

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 15, 1914.

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## THE ROYAL COMMISSION

The Royal Commission began its work tomorrow, and the public will not have long to wait in order to learn the extent of the eagerness of the provincial government to make the inquiry full and complete. The Standard intimated on Saturday that Mr. W. H. Berry, who is an official of the government and a very important witness, might not be present when his name is called. If that should happen the public will know where the blame lies. There is only one way in which the government can prove its anxiety to have all the facts brought out, and that is to produce those of its officials who may be needed as witnesses, and to encourage the Royal Commission in every way to probe to the bottom both in the matter of the alleged timber land blackmail and the alleged graft in connection with the St. John Valley Railway. Mr. Dugal and those associated with him desire a full and complete inquiry, and if the government is equally desirous there will be no hitch in the proceedings.

## MR. PELLETIER FAILED

Because Hon. Mr. Pelletier, postmaster general, could not get control of the postal rates on newspapers and all other second class mail matter he abandoned the whole of his amendments to the postal bill, including salary increases to about fourteen hundred railway mail clerks and other postal employees. The senate refused to concur in that part of the measure which would take away from parliament the control of the postal rates referred to and place arbitrary power in the hands of Mr. Pelletier. The postmaster general was so angry that he abandoned the whole measure and is sending out a circular telling the railway mail clerks and others that the Liberals in the senate are to blame for the failure to give the salary increase, for which a provision had been incorporated in the bill. Mr. Pelletier's course does not commend itself to the St. John Standard, which says:

"By defeating the bill intended to give to the postmaster general the authority to regulate newspaper postage the Canadian senate did a good turn to the newspaper interests of Canada and, at the same time corrected an error of the lower house."

It is pleasing to observe that the senate has done something which meets with the approval of the Standard. The senate has given more than one evidence of its usefulness during the parliamentary session which has just closed.

## BETTER BUSINESS OUTLOOK

The Financial Times of Montreal anticipates that the passage of the Canadian Northern relief bill will have a prompt and important effect on industries turning out rolling stock for railways. We quote:

"This \$45,000,000 release, coupled with the \$16,000,000 G. T. P. guarantee, will have a good effect upon all lines of business. The Financial Times understands that equipment orders approximating between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000 will be placed within the next thirty days. The Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern systems are very much in need of equipment for the expected heavy requirements of the north-west."

The Financial Times points out that the release of this amount of money must benefit business in general, and it concludes its article with the following very cheerful statement:

"We believe that with the aid of the government and the thorough liquidation of goods throughout the country, together with the undoubted strength of the Canadian banks, a new era of prosperity is awakening for the Dominion. We cannot look for a great impetus to the volume of trade during the months of July and August because those months are normally the quietest months of the year, but by the fall we look for a great uplift in the general trade of the country."

## FIFTY YEARS AGO.

The Times has received a copy of the St. John Morning News published in 1864 by Mr. Edward Wilks. A great deal has been said and written about New Brunswick as a centre of manufacturing industry, and the advantages it offers for the development of great industries. That such advantages are possessed by the province has been amply demonstrated, although the growth of new industries has not been as rapid as the people had hoped. It is interesting to note that fifty years ago, or some three years before Confederation, the St. John Morning News, in an editorial strongly advocating the union of the provinces, predicted that one of the results following the union would be a great development of manufacturing industries, resulting in a substantial increase in population. We quote:

"New Brunswick, occupying an intermediate position, being rich in resources and having large advantages for manufacturing within her borders, is destined to occupy an important position in the great Federation. The new markets which the union will open up will give a new impetus to manufacturing. The success of our manufacturers will of course help all branches of trade, and bring into the country the chief elements now mostly needed, capital and population. The increase of population consequent upon the increase and ex-

pansion of manufacturing pursuits will add to the general business of the country. It is folly to say that Canada can ever compete with New Brunswick as a manufacturing country. The natural advantage which we have at hand gives us the predominance. Capital will seek investment in manufacturing pursuits where there is the greatest gain at the least expense. Union will remove the restrictions which hitherto stood in the way of our obtaining a remunerative market. This, the chief barrier to our progress, the great hindrance to the establishment of manufacturing, thrown down, capital will flow in, our incipient fields will be opened, our mines will be worked, our manufacturing facilities will be brought into use, our fertile lands will be ploughed and tilled by an industrious race, and prosperity will everywhere reign."

Mr. Wilks' prediction of half a century ago has not been fulfilled, but the fact that New Brunswick manufacturing industries are today shipping their products throughout Canada, in successful competition with the products of upper province factories, proves that it has rather been lack of capital than of other advantages which has limited the extent of our industrial growth.

The Borden government has borrowed nearly \$100,000,000 in the last ten months. Canada is paying a stiff price for having placed that government in power.

The most influential newspaper in Athens regards war between Greece and Turkey as inevitable. The Turk is an angry customer, and always ready for a fight. Greece may be committing a blunder in bringing on another war so soon after the recent deadly struggle in the Balkans.

The English polo players defeated the Americans with great ease in the first game of the international match. The English ponies were faster, and the team work of the English players was greatly superior to that of the Americans. It is pleasing to note that when the American polo players had recovered from their amazement at seeing their favorites going down to defeat they very heartily applauded the brilliant play of the Englishmen. Next to a victory is a graceful acceptance of defeat.

The Conservative party throughout Canada is humiliated by the course pursued by the Borden government in connection with the National Transcontinental. When the Gutelius-Staunton report was issued Conservatives all over Canada assumed that the Laurier government had been wasting millions of dollars in building a much more expensive road than was at all necessary; but the Borden government has now decided to abandon the policy of degrading the Transcontinental and go back to the policy which was being carried out by the Laurier government. The followers of Mr. Borden are bewildered. That of which they approve today they may be called upon to condemn tomorrow.

## TARDY EXPLANATION

Then He Probably Smiled, but It Must Have Been a Sickly Effort

A woman with 15 bundles boarded the street car the other afternoon when I was on my way to my suburban residence. She was a very pretty young woman. I felt sorry for her. She was returning from a shopping tour. Being a man with a kind heart I helped her with the car and piled her bundles about her. A man got on at the same time and took a seat on the other side of the young lady.

When the car came to my street I was surprised to see her rise and begin to pick up her bundles. Instantly my sense of chivalry prompted me to help her off the car and, as I was going in the same direction, I asked permission to carry her 15 bundles. The man got off also and started on ahead.

I was loaded down like a camel crossing the desert. In those packages she had everything from an electric fan to a five pound bag of prunes. We trudged along about half a mile. The man turned in at a gate.

When we reached this gate the young lady thanked me and said: "This is as far as I go. I live here. Thank you very much."

"But the man ahead of us, the man who came out on the car with us, turned in here too."

"Yes," she said. "He is my husband, but he likes to carry packages through the street."—Brooklyn Eagle.

A well known surgeon was imparting some clinical instruction to half-a-dozen students who accompanied him in his rounds. Passing at the bedside of a doubtful case, he said:

"Now, gentlemen, do you think this is or is not a case for operation?"

One by one the students made their diagnosis, and all of them came to the conclusion that it was not.

"Well, gentlemen, you are all wrong," said the wielder of the scalpel, "and I feel quite sure of it."

"No, you won't!" exclaimed the patient, as he rose in his bed. "Six to one is a good majority. Gimme my cotch."

A schoolboy was given a sum to do. When it was done he took it to the teacher, who looked at it and said:

"This answer is wrong by two cents; go back to your seat and do it correctly."

"If you please, mam," said the youngster fishing in his pocket, "I'd rather pay the difference."

## LIGHTER VEIN.

## A Woman's Opinion

Misses—Haven't you any references? Maid—I have, but they're like my photographs—none of them do me justice.

## The Test

"What made you think Mr. Lovetwet had been drinking?"

"Why, when the charlotte russe was set before him he tried to blow off the foam."

## Logical

Wife—I can read you like a book, John.

Husband—Then I wish you'd do more reading and less questioning.

## Superfluous

Mrs. Nurox—Our new building is descended from the canine aristocracy. Little Willie Nurox—I thought so, mother from the way he turns up his nose at us.

## Knowing They'll Be Waiting

"Your husband would rather play golf than eat, wouldn't he?"

"I wouldn't say that exactly. But he would rather play golf than get home to his meals on time."

## Accomplished Foremothers

"Bless—Our forefathers had wives that were of some account. They could do everything from the family sewing to driving oxen."

## Very Good

"Her Father—Want my daughter, eh? Who are your ancestors?"

Her Lover—I don't know. I've never had time to look them up.

Her Father—Take her. You'll be able to support her all right.

## A Useful Geop

"You don't mean to say your garden is already a success?"

"Yes, sir."

"But a garden is not supposed to produce so early."

"Mine does. I have dug six cans of the finest fishing worms I ever saw."

## Phonetic Spelling

Willie was struggling through the story in his reading lesson. "No, it was not a sloop. It was a larger vessel. By its rig I judged it to be a —"

The word was new to him.

Still Willie hesitated, and looked bewildered.

"Barque! Barque!" repeated the teacher, this time sharply.

Willie looked as though he had not heard a word.

Willie looked around the class, he shouted, "Bow-wow!"—Detroit Free Press.

## Not a Flirtation

The principal character in the following dialogue was not engaged in flirtation, but merely questioning a few young ladies (reading from list)—"Engaged to be married?"

Librarian (referring to shelf)—No, madam.

Lady—"Then Art the Han?"

Librarian—Yes, madam.

Lady—"Thank you. 'Two Kisses'?"

Librarian—No, madam.

Lady—"After Dark?"

Librarian—Yes, madam.

Lady—"Thank you. 'Love Me Forever'?"

Librarian—No, "Wood and Married?"

Lady—"No, thank you. 'Under Love's Hula'?"

Librarian—No, madam.

Lady—"Goodbye, Sweetheart?" Thank you very much.—From "Library Jokes and Jottings."

Librarian—No, madam.

Lady—"Goodbye, Sweetheart?" Thank you very much.—From "Library Jokes and Jottings."

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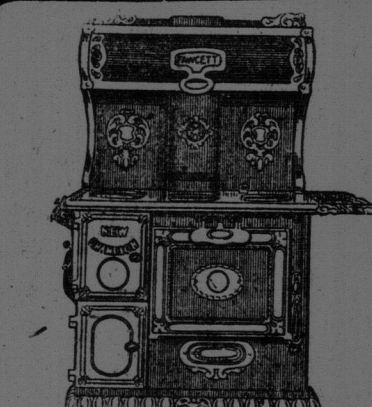
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## SPITEFUL WILLS AND SOME OF OTHER KIND

(London Daily Mail)

The warning given this week by the probate judge to testators not to indulge in slanderous and libellous statements in their wills throws a sidelight on one aspect of human nature. Posthumous spite about living persons, once the will has been admitted to probate, can be read by the whole world. The only protection the libelled person has is the chance that the defamatory portion of the will may not pass the eye of the registrar, or will be struck out by the judge, as was done by Mr. Justice Baggallay Deane on Monday.

A "Human Vinegar Cress"

It is not always so. Human nature does not invariably show itself under kindly aspects. The family traitor, who perhaps alone knows what the voice is going to say, has not infrequently managed to mitigate its acerbity. One recalls a classic instance of late years when a testator referred to his eldest as a "perambulating human vinegar cress" and wonders what a soothing effect on his last moments the contemplation of this piece of posthumous spite must have had for the gentleman who coined it.

Cases where testators have taken all possible precautions against the remarriage of their widows are numerous. It has to be done with care, as any direct restraint of marriage is against public policy, and the stipulation might be found to be bad in law. It cannot be claimed that such a desire on the part of a testator is a spiteful one. It is more charitable to ascribe it to an over-protective volume of love which demands perpetual widowhood or to an active benevolence which desires to shield a vulnerable second husband from an evil fate.

Precatory wills, or, rather, precatory clauses, are of the kind which leave it to the discretion of the legate to follow out certain wishes of the testator, thus: "I leave all my fortune to my sons, fully relying on their kindness of heart to carry out as in my own lifetime, the assistance which I gave yearly to such and such a hospital." It is safe to assume that such a wish, when it can be performed do not fall on deaf ears.

Conventional Ornaments

But whether the general observations be malicious or benignant or merely commonplace, very few wills of any importance are made which do not contain something of a general character. They are not repeated in the general press simply because they are so usual. Thus, when the public learn that Mr. X. has left £200,000 all of which goes to his family, they are not informed this will probably leads off with words

of thanks to Providence for having enabled Mr. X. to leave so much; nor do the public see the very conventional preamble that Mr. X. bequeathed mentally (a necessary condition for a valid will), has thankfully enjoyed robust health for so many years that he feels it about time that he finally arranged for the ultimate disposal of his property.

These phrases are the stock-in-trade of your old family solicitor, who loves these tags and would as soon make a blunder in a vital passage as omit them. Kindly Wills

On the other hand, during the last few weeks there have been made known a couple of wills, returned Waterbury to an atmosphere of posthumous kindness, in one case towards an individual, in the other towards a whole town.

"I leave my love," says the latter will, "to my fellow-townsmen of Brighton, especially my poorer friends and I ask the richer ones to remember the following quaint but solemn words:—

"That I spent I had;  
That I gave I have;  
That I left I lost."

Doubtless the good lady whose testamentary utterances are embodied in the above kindly sentence was illustrating in herself quite unconsciously, the craving deeply implanted in all human nature "to have the last word." There is something so final and unanswerable in that voice which comes from the grave. The living cannot gainsay it, cannot dissect or criticize the "quaint but solemn words," which, spoken by the living, might be proved to be rather more quaint than solemn. At any rate, "having the last word in this particular case meant last word of benign kindness, just as the concluding paragraph of Lord Wimborne's will—the other of the two referred to above—is possessed by the same spirit of final and posthumous acknowledgedness."

"I thank God that He has given me a wife so sweet, so loving, and so capable." Even more recent is the kindly reference in Lord Suffield's will, the "nearest hope that my wife may be suitably provided for after my death, she having

done her utmost to help me in my difficulties and to make my life as happy as it could be."

The Impulse of Vanity

One comes to yet another aspect of the human mind demonstrated so vividly in many a posthumous utterance. An overwhelming desire at last to say something which shall be listened to; to do something which shall compel attention. An example pleasing to his descendants but no longer possible in law was the will of an English merchant named Peter Thellusson, who directed that the income of his property, some £955,000, should be accumulated during the lives of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren living at the time of the death for the benefit of the survivor.

It is hard not to detect in some wills, the voice of vanity, little as one would wish to speak ill about the dead. Otherwise how explain the testamentary disposition of a Frenchman who, some years ago, proposed to leave some £200 to a hospital on condition that the whole building was named after him? And it must be vanity which inspires a testator to leave £5 per annum to his old school in order to found an annual prize in some subject which he was certainly not an adept in to be called after his name. This sort of thing has been done not infrequently, and the schools are put to the disagreeable duty of having to refuse a dead man's wish. Testators so minded will be well advised to make a gift inter vivos, when the suggestion of the name as an addition to the price may be respectfully rejected.

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