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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1922

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 23, 1922.

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WHOSE VOICE IS THIS?

A long "contributed" article in the Standard sets forth the alleged perils confronting the city if it accepted the assurance of the provincial government that the latter will supply a stated quantity of hydro-electric power at a fixed maximum price. That would be "a gamble," we are told, and the city cannot afford to gamble. It is finally suggested by the writer of the article that a committee of business men commission and the New Brunswick Power Company to work out a scheme of distribution. Of course, the New Brunswick Power Company. That is the milk in this coconut. And then the writer goes on—

"Drop personalities, forget past grievances, remember only what is best in the interests of the city and in the interests of invested capital. Be an optimist. Believe there is power at Musquash that will benefit St. John, but for heaven's sake do not gamble on it. If Ross is right, Phillips is wrong. If Phillips is right, Ross is wrong. It would be a mistake for the city to say who is right or wrong when by patience and a simple inexpensive experiment, the city can find out who is right or wrong. Get the interested parties together, imbue them with the spirit of civic service, pro bono publico, and a way can be found out of a situation at present apparently hopeless, which might result in estimable benefit to the city and province."

Where have we heard this voice before? Its allures are not new to the citizens of St. John. They are to forget the past, they are to be optimistic, and they are to let the New Brunswick Power Company get its books in.

The citizens of St. John are not to be fooled in this way. The "interests of invested capital" means dividends on watered stock. The invested capital the people are thinking about is that which is invested in industries, and to be invested in industries when we get cheap power. Without that investment St. John will never grow. It is now offered the cheap power, and the people do not propose to hand the benefits over to a corporation that has never considered the public interest, and is now seeking an opportunity to get dividends on stock that was described by a commission of enquiry as "water."

The course to be pursued by the city is plain. It has already delayed too long, for reasons which are not yet clear. Just as soon as the hydro-electric commission offered the power at a fixed maximum price the city council should have taken steps to secure it, and to arrange for its distribution in such a way as to give consumers the full benefit. It has not done so, and is not doing so. Why? This question is being asked with increasing insistence by the citizens. The New Brunswick Power Company has no place in this affair, unless it is prepared to give the consumers the full benefit of an expenditure made, not by it but by the provincial government. The longer the council delays action to take over the power offered the stronger will grow the feeling that it does not fairly represent the citizens or desire to carry out their wishes. Nor have the citizens yet been told why an engineer employed by the city went out of his way to discredit all the other engineers and practically charge the provincial government with inability to fulfill a contract with the city.

The passing of Mr. John T. Hawke has brought forth such a number of eulogies of his character and career as one seldom reads about a man who apart from his newspaper work and the performance of his duties as a citizen of Moncton was not active in public life. For several days the Moncton Transcript has devoted a great deal of space not only to comments by newspapers but personal tributes by his fellow citizens and by public men bearing testimony to the extent and value of his great service and his eminent qualities of mind and heart. It was worth while to have lived such a life and to have so impressed those who knew his work and were best qualified to estimate the measure of his contributions to public welfare and in private life.

The work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty is quietly but efficiently performed, and is of great value to the city and province. It is not long enough for lack of funds. The work of this society is not confined to the care of the lower animals, for Secretary Wetmore is from time to time called upon to render valuable service as a co-worker with the agent of the Children's Aid Society. There is need of an organization empowered by law to protect animals from brutality, and it should receive the hearty sympathy and support of all good citizens. They can also help by bringing promptly to the attention of the officials any case of brutality that comes under their notice, and by striving to instill into the minds of children a love of animals and a desire to treat them with kindness.

IT MISSES THE POINT.

Referring to the demands of the maritime provinces in regard to the Intercolonial Railway the Winnipeg Free Press says:

"There may be complaints as to the operation and management of the Intercolonial section, but these should be capable of adjustment under the present system, especially after the reorganization and tightening up of the whole national system has been effected. The question of the basic for fixing the rates on the Intercolonial might be a subject for consideration, but there would have to be a very strong case to justify any deviation from the policy of running the government railways on a business basis and charging rates to cover at least the cost of operation."

The Winnipeg Free Press misses the whole point of the argument. Perhaps that is not surprising, as there was practically no Winnipeg at the time of confederation. The Intercolonial Railway was not built on "a business basis" except as a pledge of confederation. The route was not chosen for business, but imperial reasons. The purpose of the railway was to give the people of these provinces, who had given up their natural market, a market in the central provinces. They are now so penalized by freight rates that they have no market. For years after confederation the Intercolonial Railway deficits were absorbed by the country as a measure of justice to these provinces. That national obligation has not ceased. The appeal now made is based on justice and is in accord with the spirit of the confederation agreement. The west has not yet grasped the real significance of the situation, and apparently it is not fully comprehended in Ontario. It will be the duty of representative men of these provinces to carry on such a campaign of education as will make it clear that we are not beggars at the back door but the keepers of the eastern portals of Canada, with rights that must be recognized.

At the Liberal meeting at Glen Falls last night Premier Foster declared that he was prepared to justify at the proper time the expenditure on hydro-electric development, and dwell upon its value to the city and province. The government stands ready to provide St. John with cheap power. Are the interests of the citizens to be sacrificed for the benefit of a private corporation? That is the question now before the city council, and its action is being awaited with anxiety, for upon that action depends the industrial growth of the city. There are only two parties to the negotiations—the hydro-electric commission and the city. The former offers the power, the latter has only to provide for its distribution in such a manner as will give consumers the full benefit.

The sporting editor of the Moncton Transcript asks why any amateur should be invited to prove his innocence of professionalism, and why the maximum that an accused is innocent till found guilty should not apply. The A. A. U. of C. is not making charges against anybody. It holds affidavits involving the amateur standing of a great number of professional athletes. It hopes many of them will be able to clear their skirts of professionalism, and is withholding the names of all. Desperate conditions call for desperate remedies, and no amateur who values his amateur standing and wants clean sport will hesitate for a moment to make the required affidavit and help the A. A. U. of C. to clear the atmosphere.

So far as the record goes no organization in St. John, after full discussion, has decided that the present is a good time to reopen the question of harbor commission, upon which the citizens pronounced judgment late last summer. It is, however, certain individual citizens are of opinion that it should be discussed before any understanding is arrived at with the new government at Ottawa concerning its policy in regard to the development of this national port, it would seem reasonable to suggest that the meetings be open to the press. The question is undoubtedly one of some public interest.

On his return to Ottawa after his tour of the C. N. R., the minister of railways said: "I found the lines in good shape physically and traffic is increasing in volume. This confirms the general opinion that business is picking up."

The New Brunswick Power Company would be very glad to distribute Musquash power on its own terms. This time, however, the city will dictate the terms or itself distribute the current.

The decision of the Sinn Fein convention to adjourn for three months gives southern Ireland another breathing space, and the provisional government a clearer field for action.

Acadia Defeats Dal.
Halifax, N. S., Feb. 23.—Acadia University basketball players defeated the Dalhousie team here last night, 35 to 27.

LIGHT TRIUMPHANT.

(Rev. George Scott.)
Glory of the sunbeams flashing on the seas,
Oh, my soul, for wonder bend adoring knees,
Weary was thy vigil but the healing light
Springs in splendid triumph from the womb of night.

Deepens now the glory on the green hillside,
And the eyes and hollows where grim shadows bide,
Sweeping back dull slumber with its finger tips,
Let no treason silence seal thy thankful lips!

Glory of the moonlight flashing free and far,
Aureole of beauty round the things that are,
Temple porch and hovel, woodland lake and bird,
Oh, that men were singing praises to the Lord!

Glory of the sunset on the ocean's breast,
Flood of gracious healing, tide of gold—
Little breezes sighing far across the foam,
Soothe our harsh unkindness in the thought of home.

Shadows gather round thee, rest beside the way,
From thy fretful bosom banish thoughts of day,
Standing on the threshold of thy secret place,
Bow in self surrender, seek thou God's dear grace.

Glory of the starlight mystical and high,
Lo the splendours gleaming from the wintry sky,
Mocking all the fever of our foolish dreams,
All our vain endeavors and ambitious schemes.

Midnight may be darker, fiercer the troubled main,
And the cry of suffering grip our hearts like pain,
Tempests may surround us, rend the leaden skies,
Yet shall dawn triumphant light for weary eyes!

LIGHTER VEIN.

Some Reason.
On returning after a party, Mrs. Brown turned angrily to her husband and asked: "Whatever made you tell the Thomsons you married me for my voice, when you know that I can't sing a note?"

John (usually a tactful man, tripped this time)—"Well, darling," he replied soothingly, "I had to give some reason, and that was the only one I could think of at the time."

Exchanges.
"Mr. Sophie—Well, Willie, your sister has given herself to me for a Christmas present. What do you think of that?"
"Well, Willie, what she did for Mr. Bunker last year, and he gave her back before Easter. I expect you'll do the same."

A country farmer walked into the little general store in the village with a firm and decided step. "I want," said he, "that tub of margarine and that lot of bacon, and all the other foodstuffs." "Good gracious!" said the recently bearded widow who kept the store, "but, you know, we want with all them things, Mr. Giles?"

"I dunno," replied the worthy farmer, "but, you know, I'm the executor of your husband's will, and Lawyer Sillies said I was to be sure and carry out all the provisions."

The Guild of St. Monica has presented to the Mission Church of St. John a fine hardwood floor laid in the sanctuary and the church as a gift to the church. The money was raised by members of the guild.

The C. G. I. T. were the hostesses at an enjoyable social held last night in the First Presbyterian church, West St. John. Those in charge were: Mrs. B. Gregg, Miss A. Bailey, Miss L. Macaulay, Miss L. Cossey, Miss G. Baird and Miss M. Newcombe.

A horse driven by William Kenney ran away on Carleton street last evening. The driver was thrown out at the corner of Carleton and Coburg streets, sustaining an injury to one of his eyes. The pung was a wreck. The runaway was stopped by Policeman Donahue.

Mayor Schofield and Commissioner Bullock yesterday inspected the wood-cutting operations at Musquash. Eight men and three double teams are engaged in hauling and yarding the cordwood. The mayor said that chopping operations would be resumed if sufficient applications were forthcoming from the unemployed.

At St. David's church, last evening, a committee of sixty was appointed to survey the church in Canada with a view to obtaining information which would be helpful in securing a minister to take the place of Rev. J. A. MacKinnon, who leaves for Moose Jaw, F. F. Burpee, S. F. Jamieson and J. M. Barnes were elected to fill vacancies on the trustee board.

CHEESE AND BUTTER OUTPUT OF P. E. ISLAND SHOWS FALLING OFF
Charlottetown, P. E. I., Feb. 23.—Owing to drought last summer, decline in price of dairy products, and high cost of manufacturing, the net value of cheese and butter manufactured by the co-operative associations on the island in 1921 was \$480,000 short of the value realized in 1921, according to figures submitted at the annual meeting of the dairy association today. The net value of cheese in 1921 was \$222,000 and of butter \$400,000. Shortage of feed will adversely affect the prospect for 1922.

James Brown Potter.
The death of James Brown Potter, of New York, occurred suddenly yesterday at the home of Frank Powers, in West Hampton, Va. He leaves one daughter, Mrs. Pitt Potter Stillman of New York.

Miss Blakeney Buried.
The funeral of Miss Ludo Blakeney, formerly of Harwick, N. B., who was asphyxiated by gas on last Sunday, was held yesterday in New York.

LEAGUE TO FORM GENERAL PLAN OF ARMS REDUCTION

Summarized Work of the Washington Conference and Showed League of Nations Might Help Results.

Paris, Feb. 23.—The Disarmament Commission of the League of Nations has decided it was unqualified to prepare a general treaty for the reduction or limitation of armaments as requested by the last meeting of the assembly.

The commission decided, however, to proceed with the elaboration of a general plan of reduction of armaments in accordance with the resolution of the assembly.

The commission met in the Luxembourg Palace under the presidency of former Premier Viviani, to prepare for its work in accordance with the assembly's resolution, which, besides a general plan of a treaty on the limitation of armaments, asked the commission to consider the question of prohibiting the use of poisonous gases and prepare for an international conference on the control of private manufacture and trade of arms.

M. Viviani delivered a short address, in which he briefly summarized the work of the Washington conference, and pointed out how the results obtained there might be supplemented by the League of Nations.

Count Longare, Italian ambassador to France, headed the Italian delegation in the absence of Carlo Scianca, and Lord Esher replaced Hon. H. A. Fisher for Great Britain. M. Matsuda represented Japan, Leon Jouhaux, France, and M. J. Oudegeest, Holland, and were the principal representatives of Labor at today's meeting.

The committee decided to ask the council of the league to enlarge the commission's membership by adding representatives from Switzerland, Spain, Holland and one South American state. Subcommittees were named to indicate separately what police or other forces were considered necessary for the maintenance of order in their respective interiors.

SHIPPING

ALMANAC FOR ST. JOHN, FEB. 23.

High Tide... 9.36 Low Tide... 3.39

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived Today.

Star Canadian Conqueror, 8366, Foy, from Liverpool.

Coastwise—Gas schrs Lavinia, 50, from St. Andrew's; Linwood, 23, from 23, Hawkins, from a fishing cruise.

Cleared Today.

Coastwise—Star Empress, 612, MacDonald, for Digby.

MARINE NOTES.

The steamer Canadian Conqueror arrived in port this morning from Liverpool. She will load out for Liverpool.

The steamer Canadian Conqueror will sail for Glasgow on February 28.

The steamer Canadian Mariner will sail for Avonmouth on Saturday.

The steamer Canadian Navigator, from London, and Canadian Explorer, from Liverpool, are due in port tomorrow.

The steamer Kwarra is due in port from Cardiff on Saturday. She will load out for South Africa.

The steamer Manchester Brigade is due in port the last of the week.

The R. M. S. P. Chicomote is due to sail from Bermuda for St. John tomorrow, with passengers, mails and general cargo.

The steamer Rapidan sailed from London for St. John on February 18.

The collier Langan sailed last evening for Liverpool.

The steamer Calmvalona sailed last night for Portland, to complete cargo for Newcastle and Leith.

The steamer Digby arrived at Liverpool from Halifax on Tuesday.

The steamer Lord Downshire sailed from Belfast for St. John on February 17.

The steamer Grey County sailed from Havre for St. John on February 18.

The steamer Skanderborg is discharging coal at the Pettigill's wharf.

The steamer Bolingbroke sailed from London on Monday for this port.

The steamer Dunbridge sailed on February 18, from London for St. John.

GIRL LOSES RACE, BUT COURAGE IS ADMIRABLE

Ashton, Idaho, Feb. 23.—The grit and endurance of a twenty-year-old girl stood out today in reviews of the American dog derby run here yesterday. Tui Kent, U. S. champion, repeated his achievements of last year, when he covered the twenty-five mile course first in two hours and thirty-five minutes.

The girl, Lydia Hutchison, drove the entire course, but flinched exhausted, too weary even to care for her dog. Friends lifted her from her sled and placed her under the care of a physician. Her time was a little more than three hours.

U. S. DOLLAR OF LESS VALUE IN SWEDEN

Stockholm, Feb. 23.—The United States dollar is approaching par value in Sweden's currency. It has dropped from 4.50 krona last year to 3.75 krona and a further decline is expected. The normal value of the krona is 24-25 cent.

Demonstration of Marlin Rifles, Repeating Shotguns, Etc.

Special representatives of the Dominion Cartridge Co. will be at our store on Friday and Saturday, the 24th and 25th inst. and would be pleased to show sportsmen the full line of Marlin Firearm Corporation's products.

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