

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 18, 1912

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ST. JOHN AN EXAMPLE

Mr. W. F. Burditt, in the last issue of the Canadian Courier, tells the story of the struggle for and adoption of the commission plan of government in St. John, and sets out in a very clear manner the way in which the civic administration is now carried on, receiving the daily attention of the five members of the council.

Mr. Burditt states the reasons which led up to the agitation for a change in the system, and expresses the view held generally by the citizens that the change is decidedly for the better. On this point he writes:

"The commissioners find business enough in plenty to occupy their whole time, besides keeping the permanent officials more actively employed than they were ever before. In fact, it is no uncommon thing to hold an evening meeting of the council, to discuss some special matter, or dispose of some business, for which time could not be spared during the day. So far there has been little or no adverse criticism, partly due, no doubt, to the fact that even opponents, since the new system has been adopted, are willing to give it a fair trial. But, apart from this, there is a prevalent impression that the city's business is being attended to as never before, and, whatever the ultimate results may be, there is undoubtedly at the present time a general feeling of satisfaction throughout the community, with city government by elective commission."

The Courier, in an editorial on the subject, says: "Evidence multiplies that our present system of yearly-elected aldermen is absurd and indefensible. Every large city where the system survives is positive, but they all hesitate at taking the plunge as St. John and some western cities have done. They know that commission government is their only hope, but they are reluctant to give up hoary village systems." After a reference to the unsatisfactory conditions in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, the Courier says: "The only remedy is that which St. John has adopted—commission government; and even that will be a success only when the citizens realize the necessity for electing as commissioners business men instead of politicians and jobbers."

LIBERALS AND CODRRE

The candidate who is opposing Hon. Mr. Codrre in Hochelaga is not receiving any support from the Liberals. The Montreal Herald says that he does not advance any reasons which would justify his election at this juncture. It points out that he is "so outspokenly opposed to any participation by Canada in the naval defence of the Dominion and of the Empire that he cannot expect to receive support from any citizens who believe that we have a duty to perform in this respect." Moreover, in the hope of establishing the labor vote he is putting forward what the Herald describes as an impracticable policy, opposed to common sense. Hence the Herald supports Mr. Codrre. It says: "The Liberals of the riding, acting on the advice of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, have refrained from putting a candidate in the field. Mr. Doyon's candidature, if it is not actually farcical and factions, cannot commend itself to the Liberals. Yet it is the duty of every voter to vote, because there must be a choice between the two men, or between their platform. Under the circumstances, it would appear to be the duty of the Liberals of Hochelaga to support Mr. Codrre as the candidate best qualified to represent the district."

APPLY THE PROBE

The methods by which Rogers and Roblin carried the constituency of Macdonald in Manitoba in the recent by-election is to be probed both at Winnipeg and Ottawa. It will be remembered that leading Liberals were arrested and thrown into jail without cause, and for the simple purpose of getting them out of the way on election day. It was found when the cases came up that there was no evidence whatever against them. A petition has been filed against the return of the two candidates, and it involves not only the Hon. Robert Rogers, but Premier Roblin and other Manitoba politicians. The question will also be brought before the privileges and elections committee of parliament at Ottawa, with a demand for thorough investigation. There is every reason to believe that the most scandalous methods were adopted to win this election and that there are men "higher up" whose connection with the affair should be thoroughly exposed. It is also suggested that an enquiry may be demanded in regard to the Richelieu by-election, where it is claimed there was gross intimidation of government employees in the forest shipyards. These investigations will have a tendency to inject the fighting spirit into the opposing ranks in the session of Parliament which opens this week.

FARM HELP

The question of farm help was discussed at a meeting of the Ontario Beekeeper's Association last week. One of the most successful members of the association, who got almost incredibly large returns from twenty-five acres of land last year, made some remarks on the general subject of hired help. He declared that properly managed it was the best investment a farmer could make, and that the farmer who neglects to hire efficient help is generally losing \$5 a day in order to save \$1.50 a day. When asked what he would do if he could not get men, he replied that he knew farmers who could not get

men because they would not pay a living wage. There would be no difficulty in getting good help if the farmer would advertise and pay good wages. Another member asked if pick and shovel men had brains enough to be of any service to a beekeeper. To this he replied: "I use the brains and let the men use the picks and shovels. The solution of the help question lies in organization. A man should have his work so arranged that a laborer of ordinary intelligence can carry out his orders."

This appears to be an admirable statement of the case.

The London correspondent of the Montreal Witness says that Lord Lansdowne's tariff reform declaration, of what the Unionists would do if returned to power, has made a great stir in the country, since it implies taxation of the food of the people.

The Ottawa Journal says: "Sir Percy Girouard, who has faced the problem of extending the means of communication in many countries in the far East, and has travelled widely, says that the Canadian roadways are the worst in the world. He points out that more money is spent on the roads of England than on the British navy."

The western way is thus set forth by the Edmonton Bulletin, and contains a suggestion for St. John: "The city of Edmonton plans to spend next year the sum of twelve millions of dollars. The sum is a large one, would be a large one for a city double the population. But the needs of immediate expenditure are also large, the assured future of the city is large, and the work necessary to provide for this future is correspondingly vast and costly."

It is announced that the son of Sir Hiram Maxim has devised a plan to overcome the noise of motor-boat engines. If he could put a muzzle on the steam whistles which make an infernal din at St. John in the early hours of the morning he would be hailed in these parts as a public benefactor. Why should the connections at Courtney Day be criticised for explosions at their works any more than the owners of mills who split the silence with the din of steam whistles?

A Winnipeg despatch says that the terminals at Buffalo are so badly congested that there is great delay in loading vessels and that wheat is arriving very much faster than it can be taken away. The despatch says that thirty-five per cent. of export grain from Canada goes through the port of Buffalo. The conditions as described are very serious for the western farmers. It is very important that the facilities for handling Canadian grain through Canadian channels should be increased as rapidly as possible; and it is therefore, the more disturbing to read what has lately been said about the desire of the Grand Trunk Pacific to divert a large proportion of its traffic to American channels. The whole question must receive the attention of parliament at the coming session.

Criticizing the recent speech of Lord Lansdowne, the Montreal Gazette, Conservative, says: "Lord Lansdowne has been advocating that Great Britain should meet the colonies half-way in regard to reciprocal preferential trade, and has promised that when the time comes, if necessary, the British government and parliament will not be deterred from considering even the imposition of a duty on foodstuffs, if it is sought from overseas. This may be generous, but it may hardly be called politically wise. Great Britain, just as much as if it was a city, needs cheap food in abundant supply and of every kind. Unless her people get it their industrial strength will be weakened. To suggest that, even for the highest purposes, such supply may be restricted is to put a weapon into the hands of the Liberals and Radicals. Too much has happened since Sir Robert Peel's day to make what looks like a tax on food a vote-getter among the masses of Great Britain's industrial workers."

CANADA'S BRILLIANT FUTURE

What a British Official Says of the Possibilities in the Dominion

(Times' Special Correspondence)

London, Nov. 5.—Sir George MacCrae, vice-president of the Local Government Board, has arrived home after a two months' visit to Canada and the United States, and is highly enthusiastic as to the possibilities in Canada. He says: "I was simply astounded with what I saw in Canada. There the possibilities of future development are beyond description. To go right away as I did from the track of the train—although to travel these 2172 miles from Ottawa to Vancouver by the Canadian Pacific is itself an educational experience of the greatest possible value—into the really virgin part of the country is indeed an experience one can never forget."

"The rapid growth of Saskatchewan and Edmonton is only symptomatic of a development every member of parliament and every business man could see with his own eyes what there lies waiting the magic touch of the hands of man."

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One ounce bacon.
One egg maple sirup.
One dozen dozen eggs.
One half dozen potatoes.
One pennyweight butter.
One bushel turnips.
One hundred pounds cornmeal.
One pinch granulated sugar.
One soup bone.

FOOLISH QUESTIONS

Bates (at phone).—Hello! Is this Main 2077?
Voice at other end.—It is.
Bates.—Mr. Jones there?
Voice.—Yes; do you want to talk with him?
Bates.—No, you idiot! I want to hand him a cigar.—Boston Transcript.

THE ONLY REASON

"So you won't give me a kiss?"
"No."
"I suppose you think it would not be proper?"
"It is not that."
"Think your mother wouldn't like it?"
"No; it's not that."
"Think I'd tell?"
"Oh, no."
"Then, why?"
"Because you are not another young man whom I know."—New York Evening Sun.

HER GRIEVANCE

The other day a child said to her mother: "I wish I had a new doll, mamma."
"But your old doll," her mother answered, "is good as ever."
"So am I as good as ever," the little girl retorted, "but the doctor brought you a new baby."—Exchange.

LAWYERS

Gimme—"My word is law."
Gimme—"So is mine—but wife always reverses the decision."

WHAT'S THE USE?

"I can write a letter without looking at the typewriter," boasted the young man who was taking a course at a business college.
"So can I," answered the prosperous broker, "but why should I? She's worth looking at."

"Monte Christo" Wednesday and Thursday at Gem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR HORSES

Boston, Nov. 18.—The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals believes the horse, just as much as man, should have a Merry Christmas. In every large department store in Boston placards will be placed bearing the following inscription:

CHRISTMAS FOR THE HORSES

Won't you assist us in relieving the strain on the faithful horses engaged in the delivery service of this store during the Christmas shopping season by making your purchases as early in the day as possible and carrying with you all small packages? Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

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CANADIAN PAPERS FOR LONDON

(Times Special Correspondence)

London, Nov. 5.—The establishment of a Canadian Library in London is a very urgent need. With the exception of the Royal Colonial Institute and the various Canadian offices in London, to which the average man does not go, there is no place where daily papers and magazines of Canada can be read. Of course, at the British Museum one can get newspapers from all over the world, but what is required is that at every library, there should be available at least one or two Canadian newspapers.

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Marvels of London Life

The immensity of the world's greatest city is strikingly illustrated by the facts and figures published recently in a report on London life issued by the London Council.

It is estimated, for instance, that \$7,000,000 is paid every week in rent and \$2,100,000 in taxes. Altogether no less than \$5,000,000 worth of property belonging to Londoners is insured.

It is remarkable that while fifty years ago only half the people living in London were born in the capital, today we are approaching the time when three-quarters of the population of London are natives, the figures being 68 per 100. Most people are under the impression as they notice the new streets of houses springing up in all directions in the metropolis, that London is growing bigger every day, but, as a matter of fact, last year \$25,000,000 less was spent on house building than in 1902.

There are 7059 weddings in London every week, while the weekly average number of inquests is 100. Postmen, deliver every day 4,000,000 letters, post-cards, circulars and newspapers.—New York Sun.

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