

The Daily Gleaner



PUBLISHED BY
THE GLEANER, LIMITED
Managing Director, JAMES H. CROCKETT

DAILY SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
By mail outside city of
Fredericton \$1.00 per year.

The Gleaner Telephone Calls:
Business Office 138
Subscription and Advertising De-
partment 215-11
News Department 48
Mechanical Department 215-21

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1921.

THE VALLEY RAILWAY SERVICE.

There will be general satisfaction as a result of the announcement today that the daily express train service is to be restored on the St. John Valley Railway division of the Canadian National Railways, and there will also be a widespread feeling that the traffic on the line between Fredericton and Centreville will amply justify the return to the satisfactory service which has been given since last June until the order of a few days ago to put a tri-weekly service into effect between this city and Centreville.

There was ample reason for the complaints which local organizations, headed by the Transportation Committee of the Board of Trade, registered against a curtailment of the service, and when the City Council and the York County Council joined so wholeheartedly in what was sincerely felt to be a just cause, it was generally believed that, with the co-operation of the press, the movement for the restoration of the daily service was certain to meet with success. As predicted in The Gleaner yesterday, the suggestion for a mixed train running on alternate days at uncertain and unsatisfactory hours was not acceptable to the organizations which had the matter in hand as representing the business interests of the city and the rural communities served by the Valley Railway, and the announcement by Chairman Chestnut of the Transportation Committee today that there would be a complete restoration of the daily express train service, although very pleasing, was therefore not much of a surprise.

The St. John Valley Railway, as The Gleaner has often stated, was built at an expenditure of between six and eight millions of dollars by the province of New Brunswick in order that one of the richest sections of this province might have the railway service to which it had long been entitled, and the railway, after construction was given over to the Federal Government railway system for operation under a long lease, and as such became part of the Canadian National Railways system. The people of Fredericton and the territory which the St. John Valley Railway was built to serve are not unreasonable in their demands, but they can be counted upon to take a bold and determined stand when what they properly regard as their rights are so unceremoniously interfered with.

CARPING OPPOSITION.

The impression one derives from listening to the speeches of the Liberal Opposition in Parliament is that they are not a bit concerned about the difficulties confronting the country; their only motive and aim appear to be to play their political cards so that they will get into office. It is a somewhat sad spectacle, the remnant of the Liberal party, after the debacle of 1917, seems to be afflicted with a mania for taking the narrowest possible view of their responsibilities. Like the Bourbons, they forget nothing and learn nothing. Instead of trying to lead the country towards clear and right thinking, instead of being constructive in their criticism, instead of helping to solve the admittedly serious problems of finance and taxation, instead of sympathetically towards the restoration of real peace and the removal of unrest, they are pandering to every destructive agency and listening sympathetically to malcontents of all kinds. Their criticism is carping rather than constructive; they have no practical ideas about taxation, upon which they are united. On the big question of the discount of our dollar in the United States, they simply bury their heads in the sand and hold up ineffectual and impotent hands. They hold out no hope of betterment of the country's condition; they do not grapple with the nation's problems and declare definitely how they should be solved. Their tactics are hopelessly small and pitifully childish. It is difficult to treat these men seriously. They are not worthy of it at a time when the main objective of the Canadian people is how to make bread and butter and keep the nation alive, how to pay interest on our war debt, pay pensions and bring our dollar back to par, the leaders of Liberalism, if they were true to the principles about which

they are so fond of prating, would join hands like real men and statesmen to pull the country through. But, alas, alas, instead of that, they present the appalling and deplorable spectacle of men who think more of their small, selfish political ambitions than they do of their country. If that be their idea of patriotism, it is impossible to understand their psychology.

"It fares the land, its public men in Opposition are either too lazy to understand public questions, or too engrossed in the advancement of their own narrow ends to care about their country's crying needs."

Official Liberalism has made many mistakes in recent years. Their gravest blunder was committed in 1917, when they showed themselves to be little Canadians of the narrowest kind. Since then they have gone from bad to worse, until today the Liberalism, as interpreted in action, spells blindness, self-infatuation, bitter partisanship and disregard of country. It is lamentable, yet only too true!

MAKING PEACE WITH TURKEY.

An extension of the area of peace in the world is welcome, yet not with unmixed joy can the news concerning Cilicia be received, remarks a contemporary. It is reported that the French government and the Turkish Nationalist government at Ankara have come to an agreement, and that their forces in Asia Minor have been ordered to cease fighting. This is not unexpected. Gen. Gouraud and Mustafa Kemal Pasha have been in communication from time to time for several months, and some time ago it was stated that they had concluded an armistice. The validity of a treaty concluded with the insurgent leader and not with the Constantinople government seems rather doubtful, but there may have been no other means of securing peace, the authority of the Sultan not being recognized anywhere east of the Dardanelles.

The French made a mistake when they rushed north from Syria into the Adana district. After trying to extend their control over Cilicia, and after assisting the Armenians against the Turks at Antab and other points of attack, the French had to retire, and now they agree to permanently evacuate Cilicia. The evacuation is right, the invasion having been a blunder, but the desertion of the Armenian inhabitants, after the temporary raising of their hopes by military assistance, is lamentable. It never was likely that they would obtain undisputed possession of the ancient Lesser Armenia, lying so far south of the republic whose independence the Allies acknowledged, and the people should not have been encouraged to believe that they could remain in the country. The evacuation is a disappointment, and unprotected from Turkish reprisals.

CANADA'S FORESTS.

Excluding the worthless tundras of the far north, eight acres out of ten of Canada's habitable area are designed as permanent forest growing land.

Canada's total area of over three million square miles is so enormous, however, as to provide abundance of fertile farm land for millions of new population.

There is a widely prevalent belief, inherited from our Canadian great-grandfathers who faced totally different conditions, that the destruction of forest areas almost invariably means that farms will follow, says the Ottawa Journal. This proved true a century ago when the fine agricultural soils of Southern Ontario and Quebec were tree covered, Canada had now reached the stage when only a trifling percentage of the land area now covered with timber growth is of any agricultural value. The whole aim of the forest conservation movement, now gaining such headway, is to retain the non-agricultural sections of the country as a timber-producing estate. To do this effectively the annual plague of forest fires must be fought and overcome, for it is not generally known that forest fires have destroyed ten times as much land as has fallen by the axe of the lumberman.

Montreal Gazette: "While reports from Russia contradict each other, they give ground for thinking that the rule of Trotsky and Lenin may not long continue. A rule that is maintained by terror and that leaves everybody in misery creates enemies even faster than they can be removed, while it can make few or no friends. Thus other revolutions have been destroyed; and few have presented less worthy records than that of the Russian soviets at Moscow and Petrograd."

HARTLAND BRIDGE
OPEN FOR TRAFFIC

Hartland, March 7.—The restored Hartland bridge is open for traffic. Communication was cut off last spring by a heavy frost carrying away two of the piers and other parts. Last spring the contractors started the work of restoration, but in September frequent rains of water came so that fully six weeks work went for naught. Besides this, the company suffered financially to the extent of nearly \$20,000, but in spite of all setbacks the work was completed exactly on time.

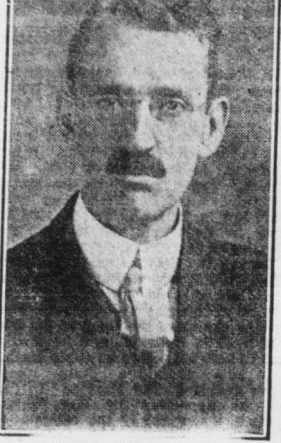
It is better to be enthusiastic in a mistaken cause than apathetic in everything.

MAYOR RE-ELECTED
BY ACCLAMATION

Only Two Contests in the Civic Election in Fredericton Next Monday

Mayor John A. Reid was elected by acclamation for a second term yesterday, when no other candidate put a nomination paper for the mayoralty.

There are eight candidates for school positions at the council, five for two year terms and one for the year of the unexpired term of the late Ald. Thomas S. Wilkinson. Those elected by acclamation are: Kings ward, Ald. C. W. Hall (re-elected); Queens



MAYOR JOHN A. REID.

Ward, George H. Clark; Wellington ward, Ald. Judson Barker (re-elected); Carleton ward, H. P. Baird (re-elected). The season for cars has been a marked degree. The building of the City Council for the next year as a result of the election and Monday's election can assure the G. O. A. control for two years.

Rev. Mr. Franchette came to the Aberdeen-Brighton Anglican charge eight years ago and has been constant in his efforts to build up and strengthen the congregations over which he has had care. In this he has been successful and so far as the church in Hartland is concerned, successful to a marked degree. The building of the beautiful new edifice is altogether due to his optimism and untiring energy, while the spiritual life of the members has been strengthened and the numerical strength of the congregation has grown in a most encouraging manner.

NEW RECTOR FOR
HARTLAND CHURCH

Hartland, N. B., March 7.—Rev. W. Franchette, who has left on a trip to the West Indies for his health, will become rector of Edmundson on his return. He will be succeeded here by a young clergyman who is coming from England.

ICE RUNS OUT IN
MAGAGUADAVIC

St. George, March 7.—The ice in the river has run out, leaving navigation clear, and a schooner is expected soon to load pulp for Norway. One by one the cars have been taken out of the roads and quite a few offenders have already been called on to pay fines. The season for cars has been a marked degree. The building of the City Council for the next year as a result of the election and Monday's election can assure the G. O. A. control for two years.

WOMAN KILLED
BY C. N. R. TRAIN

Bathurst, March 7.—A sad fatality occurred yesterday morning at the railway crossing near the Pettit Rocher station, when a special train, running at a high rate of speed, ran into Mrs. J. B. Roy, causing her instant death. Mrs. Roy was a very highly respected resident of Pettit Rocher and was on her way home from church when the accident occurred. The approaching special was in plain sight of the crossing, but Mrs. Roy was deaf, and it is supposed that she failed to look up the track as she neared the fatal spot. The unfortunate woman's body was badly mangled and when she was picked up from the track by the accident crew it was seen that death must have been instantaneous. She was about sixty years of age and leaves a large grown-up family.

ROUTINE WORK
IN PARLIAMENT

Gas Meters and the Quality of Natural Gas Was Discussed at Length

Ottawa, March 7.—In Parliament today an act to amend and consolidate the acts respecting the inspection of gas and gas meters was given second reading and discussed in committee. The committee reported progress at 6 o'clock with the bill unfinished.

The quality of natural gas as supplied by different companies was discussed at length. Hon. Charles Maclellan (Bonaventure) asked that some provision be made to protect the consumer, and J. E. Armstrong (Lambton) said that some of the natural gas being distributed in Ontario consisted of common air pumped through the meters and burned as illuminating gas. Sir George Foster said it was generally understood that the quality of natural gas was a matter to be considered by the purchaser and the distributor.

Clause six of the bill, which provides that the contractor may enter the premises of any purchaser, of whom he has been supplying gas, in order to inspect shipping or apparatus to ascertain the quantity of gas consumed, and to change or remove piping, fittings, meters, or other apparatus belonging to the contractors, met with some opposition.

After much discussion, consideration of this clause was postponed. A clause providing for compulsory reporting of gas pressure was carried. There was considerable opposition to a sub-clause relating to the appointment of inspection officers in the hands of the civil service commission. The general feeling seemed to be that the matter of gas inspection should not be left to the discretion of the commission, but should be provided for arbitrarily in the bill.

In the evening the house gave second reading to the bill to amend the executor court act giving the commissioner of patents the right of appeal. This bill passed the committee stage and stands for third reading.

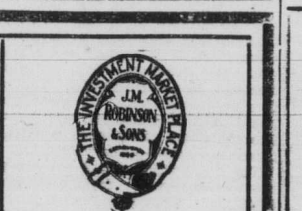
THE ACCUSED MAN
TAKEN TO BRISTOL

Woodstock, March 7.—The preliminary trial of Charles Steeves, of Steeves Mountain, Westmorland county, the Pentecostal minister charged with a serious crime in the case of a young girl, will be held before Stipendiary Magistrate Noble at Bristol tomorrow. In charge of Sheriff Foster, the prisoner was taken there tonight. Woodstock members of the sect raised money to pay legal expenses. He was visited at the jail by several of the brethren, who urged him to keep up his spirits as they were all praying for him.

APPEAL SENTENCE
QUEBEC ROBBERS

[Canadian Press by Leased Wire.] Quebec, March 8.—Armand Lavigne, K. C., has announced that he will apply for writs of habeas corpus for the liberation of William Buckley and Joseph Caulfield, who were yesterday sentenced to prison terms of twenty years, respectively, on the charge of robbery with violence and burglary, on the grounds that there were certain irregularities in connection with their trial.

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