

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1921

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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, \$5.00 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, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

DODGING THE ISSUE

Parliament is dissolved and the prime minister has issued his manifesto. This document contains nothing that is new in regard to government policy. It misrepresents the attitude of the Liberals and Farmers toward the tariff, and seeks to make an issue of that which is not an issue. It does not tell the people what the government proposes to do, even in regard to the tariff. There is only the vague assertion that if only the people will stand by the government the country will be safe. Let us consider one paragraph from the manifesto. It says: "Already there is unemployment of business conditions resulting in unemployment and loss to all classes. A persistent anti-protection campaign, resulting in uncertainty and lack of confidence, has so disturbed and curtailed production as to account for many thousands being out of work today. A decisive verdict by the Canadian people will be the signal for returning confidence, for renewed productive activities and for better times."

If what Mr. Meighen here asserts be true, why has he so long delayed the business of getting a decisive verdict? If there has been unemployment of business and unemployment and loss to all classes as a result of uncertainty, why did not Mr. Meighen end it by going to the country as soon as he was made premier, instead of leaving the decision to be made in December, 1921? According to his own argument the country would now be on the road to renewed prosperity, if he had got a popular decision in his favor when he assumed the reins of power. Instead of that, by an exercise of autocratic power he has refused to a free people, he held on to office and is only giving the people an opportunity to speak now because his party saw that to delay longer meant worse defeat.

Mr. Meighen is not discussing the questions of taxation, railways, immigration, unemployment and other matters of vital importance to the country. He pins his faith to the tariff and to the hope that he can persuade the people to believe the things he is saying about the Liberals and Farmers. His own policy, even in regard to the tariff, is utterly vague, except that the tariff is to be a high one. The people of the Maritime Provinces are not impressed. They do not want the tariff destroyed, but they want it improved. They want their resources developed, and the Conservative policy is not having that result. They do not desire to see an industrial colony in Central Canada forcing Canada west to pay constant tribute that it may be enriched. They want a tariff for all Canada that will serve the interests of producers and consumers. When Mr. Meighen asserts that the issue is between protection and free trade he is dodging the real issue, and no amount of artful dodging will enable him to evade the judgment of the people upon the government and its record.

BENEFITS OF TORY RULE

The province of New Brunswick does not need to be told what happens when a Tory provincial government is in power. It has had the experience and the records of royal commissions have embodied the story for the benefit and the warning of the people. Ontario has had a similar experience. They had a lumber scandal in that province also.

The Drury government has already collected from various lumber concerns a total of \$234,111 which, except for the government probe would never have reached provincial coffers.

Amounts collected up to date by the government are made up as follows:

G. E. Farlinger	\$18,000
James Horrigan	14,104
L. Lambert	4,218
Marshall Lumber Co.	57,559
Russell Lumber Co.	55,000
Total	\$134,111

And the end is not yet. There are several smaller concerns to be dealt with, and it is understood that some entirely new ground is still to be broken by the attorney general, who has acquired fresh information regarding operations in the north country. In province after province the Tories have been driven from power, and their turn at Ottawa has now also come.

An exchange says: "Mr. Bennett is a very able addition to the platform strength of the government, but he must feel pained as he recalls the number of species in which he attacked Mr. Meighen and which will be disintegrated from the dusty pages of Hansard. The introduction of men like Dr. Edwards is convincing proof of the disintegration of the Liberal-Conservative party."

THE TARIFF

When Hon. Mr. Baxter shouts: "Canada for Canadians, now and forever," he means Canada for some Canadians. The Liberal policy calls for a square deal for all Canadians. Mr. Meighen's assertion that the tariff is lower than it was in 1911 is quickly disposed of by Mr. Fielding. We quote from the Toronto Globe's report: "In his nomination speech at Shelburne Mr. Fielding referred to Mr. Meighen's claim that the tariff is lower today than in 1911. A tariff cannot be judged by the percentage on the whole body of imports. It must be taken item by item, and the true test is whether it bears lightly or heavily on the necessities of life and industry. Mr. Fielding says that before the tariff was revised in 1907 duties upon common articles of clothing ran as high as 40, 50 and 75 per cent, and these were reduced to 24 and 33 per cent. Tariff revision should aim at the lowest possible taxation of the necessities of life and also of the instruments of production. It should as far as possible remove the burden of taxation from industry and from the home."

THE KU KLUX KLAN

Last night's despatches, referring to disturbances in a small town in Texas, said that the people favored the Ku Klux Klan. A congressional committee in 1917, after investigating outrages in the south, declared that Ku Klux Klan law was put above state law by its members, and that the skull and cross-bones were put above the flag. Nothing in the history of the Klan, which now has hundreds of thousands of members scattered through the United States, would lead to the conclusion that it is more law-abiding or patriotic now than it was half a century ago. It is a convenient cloak for cowards who strike in the dark and who are a disgrace to the patriotism they profess. The only hope of civilization lies in law and order, duly respected and enforced by the authorities. Those who take the law into their own hands may find sympathizers among the ignorant or prejudiced, and failure to secure a proper observance of law may lead to individual or collective action to impress the law-breakers, but the result is always of doubtful value. The mask, the rope, the gun and the torch are not the right instruments of justice, and can never take the place of an enlightened and active public opinion. The Ku Klux Klan seeks to enforce laws by defying the law, and should be exterminated.

During the unemployment relief period of last winter in Winnipeg a staff of thirty-six visitors or investigators were constantly employed. They were under the direction of trained social workers, and the relief is said to have been handled more satisfactorily than in other cities. Every case was properly investigated. In Montreal for the past two years workers for the Montreal Settlement have been trained by the McGill department of social service. In the social service of the Presbyterian Church of Canada no one can be admitted to a permanent staff position in their social settlements without a certificate from a university department of social service.

The Chicago Journal's proposal of the Kiwanis Clubs to celebrate a "Canadian week" in this country and a "United States week" in Canada is a gracious idea and is entirely in order. There are so many outstanding features in the history and relations of these countries that much good, and nothing but good, could come from directing public attention to them by a series of varied and appropriate exercises. There have been times when feeling ran a little high between these close neighbors, times when neither saw eye-to-eye with the procedure and policy of the other. But all's well that ends well; so let there be a celebration of good neighborhood worthy of such peaceable peoples.

Up to Friday last 3,446 persons had enrolled in the Ottawa technical school evening classes, or eleven hundred more than to the same date last year. The Journal says it has been necessary to extend greatly the organization, obtain additional equipment and accommodation. Many more students are expected to register. St. John should have evening vocational classes and they should be established with as little delay as possible.

A high church Anglican clergyman in the diocese of Ottawa opposes church union on the ground that there is a fundamental difference between the religion of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the religion of the Protestant churches of today, and says it is the duty of the one that distinguishes the Protestant from the Catholic church. If the founder of the real Christian faith were on earth today, it would not take him long to discover why the cause does not flourish as it should among the sons of men.

It will be necessary to have workers and automobiles to get out a large vote for prohibition next Monday. There should be many volunteers. The time for preparation is short.

THAT NURSE



—Alley in the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

PARTING SONG.

(Rev. George Scott.)

So hardly the robin pipe,
Where clustered nuts are brown and ripe,
And cherries crown the pasture wood,
So saucily he jerks his head,
As chiding at a noisy tread,
Breaking upon his reveries.

I almost doubt the summer days
Are past, the season seems so brief
Since first we heard his merry lays,
Since last we saw the budding leaf.
The ice has scarcely left the streams,
Or, looking back it seemeth so,
Lo, now, the mellow autumn gleams,
Lo, now, the autumn breezes blow.

High thanks good friend for all thy cheer,
Till farewell benediction
Shall keep our courage warm and clear
When murky days of tempest be.

And thanks to every feathered friend,
Dear brethren of the cloistered wood,
Whose precious minstrelsy shall blend,
And lift us to the highest good.

So mellowly the autumn tide
Dreams in a calm blue monotone
On the far hills where echoes hide,
Scarce can we deem the summer flown.

LIGHTER VEIN.

"Your references are satisfactory," observed a clerk, "but can you write shorthand?"
"Yes, sir," answered the applicant for clerical honors, meekly.
"You understand double entry and can correspond in French and German, I believe?"
"Yes, sir."

"Humph! Do you smoke or drink?"
"No, sir," was the reply, "but I could soon learn if you want me to."

It is not all roses being a dramatic critic. One sometimes—when a show is bad—has to choose between offending the public or the artist.

A certain youthful and sarcastic dramatic critic had been particularly severe upon the efforts of an actress, and upon whom he had scored unmercifully more than once.

A little later the two met, and the actress, with well-affected humility, said:

"Really, Mr. Jones, I think it is cruel for you to roast me like that, especially when it is to be remembered that I have three children and a husband, who is a dramatic critic, to support."

Not His Idea of Holiday.

Thompson came back to the office looking very brown after his fortnight's holiday. To the amusement of his chief, however, he went straight in to him and asked for a few extra days off.

"Why, you've only just had your holiday," ejaculated the amused employer. "What do you want the extra days for?"

"I want to get married, sir."

"Why didn't you get married during your holidays?"

"I didn't want to spend my holidays in that way," replied Thompson.

Misanthropic Lady.

A New Yorker was talking about the late Lady Randolph Churchill.

"She grew embittered," he said, "as she grew older. She was especially embittered in her attitude toward men."

"Once, at a dinner party, I heard a young matron define an egotist as a man who thought he was cleverer than any one else."

"No, no; that definition is quite wrong," said Lady Randolph. "An egotist is a man who says he is cleverer than any one else—every man thinks he is!"

A dealer in stuffed animals who also kept a few live creatures for sale gave his shop boys a permit to sell the stuffed specimens, orders to call him a customer asked for any of the live animals. One day a man called and demanded a monkey.

"One of these?" asked the boy who was in charge. He pointed to the stuffed specimens.

"No, I want a live monkey," answered the customer.

The boy stepped to the back of the shop. "You're wanted, sir," he called to his master.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

PLAN TO HOLD PAN-PACIFIC OLYMPIAD

The Hawaiian Islands do not propose to wait much longer before getting themselves on the athletic map. A Pan-Pacific Olympiad has recently been announced by the Pan-Pacific Union, to be held at Honolulu in 1923. The proposed Olympiad would include, among other sports, competition in swimming, golf, baseball, polo, rowing, soccer, track and field games, tennis, bicycle races, a marathon race and trapshooting. Athletes from every country bordering on the Pacific Ocean are to be invited to take part.

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