

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 10, 1916.

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NINETY-THREE DAYS

This is the ninety-third day since Hon. P. G. Mahoney was appointed Minister of Public Works. He is still Minister of Public Works—the big spending department—though rejected by the people. How much longer will Lieut. Gov. Wood permit this gross violation of the principles of responsible government to continue?

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

There is not an intelligent citizen of New Brunswick who does not realize, and all but the grafters will admit, that a political house-cleaning is imperatively needed. There has arisen, however, a feeling of skepticism, and it is nourished by the party in power. The effort is made to persuade the people that to make a change would merely be to go from bad to worse. Nothing could be more unfortunate than that such a feeling should prevail. It is the duty of the opposition to overcome any such feeling as far as possible by choosing candidates who are known to be honorable men, and whose record as citizens will commend them to the confidence of the people. The struggle that is coming is not a struggle between old-line parties. So far as The Times is concerned, it would prefer to see the opposition defeated than to see them win with candidates upon whom the province could not rely for better government than it has had in recent years. This newspaper has demonstrated its ability to live without the patronage of any government, and can speak, therefore, from a disinterested standpoint, so far as business matters go. It would, however, be desirous in its duty to all the people if it failed to insist that above and beyond the question of party ascendancy is the public interest; and that therefore the party which appeals for support should supplement a strong platform by candidates worthy of confidence and capable of reforming the provincial administration. There are still a number of constituencies, St. John city among them, which have not yet nominated opposition candidates. In order that whole-hearted support may fairly be sought after, the candidates should be good men, selected for their ability and honesty rather than by any nice balancing of interests for vote-getting purposes. It would be better to lose with worthy candidates than to win with those who could not be relied on to cut loose from graft and give the province honest government. The Times knows that the desire of the leaders of the opposition party is to have in the new legislature, whenever it is constituted, a group of representatives from all parts of the province who will place the public interest before every other consideration. It is up to the electors in each constituency to nominate and elect men of this calibre, and so bring about a complete reform in the provincial affairs. If they fail to choose such men they cannot expect that support from the press which would be gladly given to men of the right stamp. The opposition candidates now in the field are worthy of support. Let all the others be equally worthy of confidence.

TO THE YOUNG MEN

The revision of the voters' list is a very important matter. The names of large numbers of young men should be added. The first list is to be posted between Sept. 1 and Sept. 10, and although names may be added up to Oct. 5 it is desirable that all names appear if possible on the first lists. Any young man who is of age before September 1st, and who is a British subject and has resided six months in the province can have his name added by applying to his parish councillors who are revisors or to the chairman of the revising board. An article dealing with this matter will be found in another part of today's Times. Every young man entitled to vote should take the necessary steps to get his name on the list. As a matter of fact, the present law is not fair. If a provincial election were held this fall all the young men in the province who became of age between September 1, 1915, and the day of election would be unable to vote. It is a part of the platform of the opposition that young men who become of age at any time up to say within ten days of an election can register their vote with proper officials and be in a position to exercise their franchise; and if they are successful in the next elections that reform will be made. In the meantime all who are qualified should get their names on the list.

WORKINGMEN'S HOMES

The business men of Elmira, N. Y., have united in a movement to provide better housing for workmen employed in the various industries of that city. In May last the needs of the situation were presented at the regular monthly luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce, and the secretary, in a letter to The American City for August, tells the result. He says: "The Chamber decided to undertake the work of providing homes, and for that purpose a company has been incorporated by the Chamber of Commerce, with a capital of \$200,000. It is the intention to sell one-half of this stock at once to provide a working capital. The building operations will be commenced

as soon as the stock has been subscribed. The company plans to build several hundred homes that can be rented for \$15 or \$16 per month, or that can be sold on payments of about that amount." Evidently the workmen of Elmira can afford to pay the rental suggested, or the project would not be undertaken. There are many families in St. John which would find such a rental too high, and yet at the present cost of material and labor a tenement that could be rented at a rate much lower than \$15 would either be small or poorly constructed. It would be possible in the group plan of tenements to save a little, but it is really a very serious problem to provide a comfortable accommodation at a rental which would leave the average working man's family enough for other legitimate expenses throughout the year. There is of course a benefit derived from the construction of more houses to rent at a moderate figure, for this relieves congestion and tends to improve the general average of tenements in the city.

It is at least a good beginning when the business men of a city make up their minds to deal with the problem in a practical way. The companies in St. John which are erecting a number of comfortable cottages each year are contributing in a very practical way to the solution of the housing problem, but the work must be undertaken on a larger scale. Doubtless an effort to improve housing conditions will be one of the important questions to be dealt with locally after the war.

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LIGHTER VEIN. Simply Terrifying. An old lady was in the same railway car as a party of golfers. "I found fearful trouble this morning," said one. "At the first I fell right into the middle of a blackberry bush and at the second I was stuck up on the top of a tree. I pitched out of bounds into the farmyard at the third, got caught by the wire at the fifth, found myself buried in mud at the sixth. I was lying in a heap of rough stones at the seventh, got lost at the eighth, and finished up at the bottom of that dirty ditch at the last hole."

Yes, Willie Did It. O-o-o-oh! Bo-o-o-hoo-o-o!" As the childish wail rang through the house the anxious mother sprang to her feet. Rubbing into the hall she met her little daughter coming in from the garden and carrying a broken doll by the legs. "What's the matter, darling?" she asked tenderly. "O-o-o-oh, mo-o-ther, howled the child. "The naughty boy! How ever did he do it?" "I hit him on the ear with my fist," was the slow response.

A teacher in a big elementary school had given a lesson in an infants' class on the Ten Commandments. In order to test their memories she asked: "Can any little child give me a commandment with only four words in it?" A hand was raised immediately. "You may answer, John," said the teacher. "Keep off the grass," was the reply.

The man of great financial prominence had met with an accident. "Well, have to probey," said the doctor. Just at that moment the man recovered consciousness and exclaimed: "If it's another investigation give me an anesthetic!"

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Revision Of Voters' List

An Important Matter For All Young Men Who Wish a Voice in Provincial Affairs

The attention of all the electors interested in better government for New Brunswick is directed to the fact that the revisors of the voters' lists should according to law, make up and post their first lists of voters between September 1 and 10.

Any young man who is of age before September 1, is a British subject and has resided six months in the province can have his name added by applying to his parish councillors who are revisors or to the chairman of the revising board. If application is not made before the first lists are made up and posted the same may be done any time before October 5. The applicant must be prepared to make oath then before the revisor (who is authorized to take his affidavit for this purpose) that he was 21 years of age before September 1, that he is a British subject and has resided in the province for six months previous to August 24, 1916.

When elections are announced young men who have not attended to this important matter are often surprised and indignant that they are unable to vote. If the provincial elections are held this fall under the law as it exists at present any young man, even if he became 21 years of age on the second day of September 1915, whose name is not on the voters' list, can vote, but if the elections are postponed until January 1, 1917, it is an important matter for those who wish to vote for better government that they should insist that their names be placed upon the voters' list at the revision this fall. Any further information with respect to this matter will be gladly given to any person who inquires of E. S. Carter, Provincial Opposition Organizer, Fair Vale, Kings county. CITY OF ST. JOHN

Young men and others entitled to vote are invited to send their names to the secretary of the St. John City Provincial Opposition Association, Wm. M. Ryan, barrister at law, Ritchie Building, telephone 193-21, or the assistant secretary, J. McMillan Trueman, barrister at law, Canada Life Building, Prince Wm. street, Telephone 726. COUNTY OF ST. JOHN Please make application to Parish Councillors on the revising boards and notify Frank V. Hanna, Fairville, Telephone W. 122-21. When Miss Isabelle A. McCaffrey of Washington, D.C., married John S. Horn of San Jose, Calif., at Indianapolis, Md., the entire wedding ceremony was performed in Esperanto. This is supposed to be the first time the "universal language" has ever been used in a wedding.

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