

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 8, 1902.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
Is published every Wednesday and Saturday at 11.00 a year, in advance, by The Telegraph Publishing Company, of St. John, N. B., a company incorporated by act of the legislature of New Brunswick.
O. J. McLEOD, Manager.

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Write plainly and take special pains with names.
Write on one side of your paper only.
Attach your name and address to your communications as an evidence of good faith. THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 8, 1902.

FAILURE OF THE COAL STRIKE CONFERENCE.

There will be widespread regret in Canada and something akin to panic throughout the United States today when both countries read that the conference at Washington called by President Roosevelt to end the coal strike proved a flat failure.

Unable to discover in the federal laws any clause to the effect, and unarmed with any authority to intervene as president, Colonel Roosevelt was forced to rely upon his personal force in attempting to prove to the chief negotiators and the strike leaders that the strike was an impossible task, and that the miners must be reconciled before the cold weather sets in and the already anxious misery due to the strike takes rank as a mighty public calamity. The idea was to concentrate upon the leaders of both sides the tremendous force of public opinion regarding the absolute necessity of a general resumption of work by strikers and operators.

The operators had their answer ready. "Pacify the coal regions," they said, "give every man a chance to earn a living regardless of the Mine Workers' Union and without fear of violence, and forthwith we will mine all the coal the country needs." They insisted that anarchy reigned in the anthracite country, and that the first duty of the federal authorities was to subvert that condition. They asked no more. They explained that they would not make terms with the miners now, only to be broken up and lose their present advantage, knowing that they would soon find they had to fight the ground all over again.

In the face of this position it was idle to urge the miners' grievance, since first of all the president must have peace in the country before he can talk about terms. Mitchell, the great strike leader, dwelt upon the justice of the miners' position, the desperation of their situation, the appalling suffering which it brought them and their helpless families, and declined to urge concessions on their part sufficient to permit a general resumption of work. Thus the matter is as it was, except that the element of definite hope, which was general before the Washington conference, has been eliminated for the present at least. The Washington meeting was practically a conference of hostile generals, who tried to agree upon terms while their forces were resting on their arms. And now the conflict has been renewed. It is a situation well calculated to justify the gravest apprehension.

OUR MINERAL WEALTH.

The announcement of the annual meeting in a few days of The New Brunswick Petroleum Company at Moncton is a reminder of the development of New Brunswick's oil fields which in the past year has been conducted to a point where even the more faint-hearted of the promoters of this industry have become satisfied from optical demonstration of the existence of petroleum in paying quantities in the counties of Westmorland and Albert. The operations of the company are directed to the practical demonstration that a sufficient number of producing wells can be sunk within close range for the economical working of the property. Two years ago the matter was treated as an election dodge by many who could not understand that here in New Brunswick

a kindly Providence has deposited such mineral wealth as to change the plans and revolutionize the fiscal theories of even the wisest of our legislators. If the future development of these oil fields bears out the promise of the past and the present work on them. Three wells have been sunk and shot in close proximity to one another, all good for an average of a barrel of splendid oil per hour, while the fourth well nearby, which was torpedoed two days ago, has already proven itself capable of much greater producing power. It will not take many more such wells to demonstrate, beyond the range of peradventure, that here in this province is a great deposit of petroleum wealth. Such a demonstration will change the destinies of Westmorland county and of the entire province.

Nor is petroleum the only source of our latent mineral wealth. At Dorchester, in the same county of Westmorland, the Intercolonial Copper Company have passed the experimental stage, and are

crushing from their almost inexhaustible deposits of copper ore and depositing under their new electrolytic process refined copper in sheets of a fineness of quality hitherto unknown in the metallurgical world. At St. Martins Head, too, a practical miner is exhibiting his faith in the old Vernon copper mine by the expenditure of his own money in the practical development of the copper beds of that portion of St. John county. In Kings, twelve miles back of the pretty village of Hampton, work has been going on all summer on the development of the anthracite coal deposits, and the other day an American expert passed through the city on his way to Hampton to see for himself and the capitalists whom he represents if the story of this find is really as represented. In conversation with a St. John man, the expert stated that the promoters had been prospecting along an eight-foot seam of anthracite coal of good depth, and if half the body represented by the promoters had actual existence, there would be no difficulty in procuring all the capital necessary for its being made a shipping mine.

These are but a few instances of what is quietly being done for the development of New Brunswick's latent mineral resources, but it is sufficient for the suggestion that a brighter future is in store for the province along lines which have scarcely been realized by our own people.

CIVIC TAXATION.

There has been for some time past a consensus of opinion—so far as any opinion has been expressed—that the basis of our civic taxation could with advantage to our citizens, be amended. At present St. John raises its revenue, apart from water assessments and its share of liquor licenses and from taxes imposed on three great classes of property, viz., real estate, personal property and income. While there is a unanimity of opinion that an improvement can be made in the principle of our civic taxation, there has been a diversity of view as to the best method to be adopted. Some of the citizens are in favor of a single tax, placing all the burden of taxation on the real estate owners, while not accentuating this phase, others, the imposition of poll or income taxes, while a third party favors the retention of the tax on real estate and income, and suggest in place of taxation on personal property a system of business licenses and occupation taxes, both based on real estate values.

While all forms of taxation may be regarded as a necessary evil and that it is in the general interest that the burden should be as light as is consistent with the proper maintenance of the city's services, it may be further conceded that the most important question is not the amount of taxation actually levied as this revenue should be obtained in a manner the most equitable to the various interests. The tax rate on St. John is not exorbitant compared with other cities in the maritime provinces so far as a comparison based on this uncertain ratio is possible. But the method of taxation and the principles by which it is regulated are condemned by many of our business men as unsound and illogical in theory, and such as not only to unduly burden certain interests, but even to seriously handicap St. John in its competition with other cities.

The theory of the present tax law in St. John is that property of every description, whether real or personal, and all personal incomes should contribute equally to the maintenance of the city's various services. And while in theory this seems most equitable, in its practical working out it is productive of great unfairness. In fact it is openly admitted, and this without any charge of wrongdoing on the part of anyone, that the present assessment law can only be endured because it is not carried out in its full harshness. Particularly is this true in regard to the taxation on that form of personal property known as merchandise stocks, which in the case of wholesale concerns would be taxed out of existence if the assessors were to carry out the law in all its harshness. The idea of exemption from taxation of small incomes meets with general acceptance, although there may be a difference of opinion as to the limit of such exemptions.

Last year legislation was obtained by the city authorizing the appointment of a committee of three persons to examine into this whole question and draw up a new assessment act for St. John. Three

names were suggested at a recent meeting of the common council as the personnel of such committee, and the whole matter is now under advisement by our city fathers. The Telegraph therefore feels that a general discussion of this important question of civic taxation would be of interest to all its bearings. We would also invite a general expression of opinion from our readers to whom our columns will be open. The only restriction we impose is that all letters must be courteous in tone. It is a question of interest to all, and from a full and free discussion of our mode of civic taxation in all its bearings and from the standpoint of our various interests, it may be possible to gain some suggestion for a new taxation law which shall at least not be so faulty as that from which St. John and its citizens are at present suffering.

OUR WINTER'S COAL.

The people of St. John, facing winter under unprecedented conditions, want coal at a fair price—fair, all things being considered. They are likely to get it because it will be made impossible for any man or combination of men to force fuel upon the city's population at an outrageous figure. There is no evidence today that the local dealers intend to act unjustly as such matters are regarded in the business world, but it is of prime importance that no one shall be allowed to do so over their heads if foresight can prevent it. The local dealers may not be in a position to act as they would wish, later on. The price of coal is already alarming. The strike, already of appalling proportions, is not likely to be settled at once, and even should terms be agreed upon, it will be long before the operators can make up for lost time—and the public must pay for the delay. The consumer through his representatives must look out for himself. Even the most charitable view of the man who has coal to sell is not fairly represented by him as being in the business for his health.

The city council in deciding to find out if Welsh anthracite coal can be delivered here at a fair price and if it is a good substitute for the coal we have been accustomed to use, has done wisely. While it is not a good plan for the city to undertake purely mercantile enterprises as a rule, the present situation justifies the action taken Monday, if, as is evidently the case, the idea is to prevent the poorer consumer from being squeezed in moderately. Even if a great quantity of Welsh coal is arranged for at once, no loss can result to the taxpayers, for the price must be greater a month hence. Moreover the action of the council will have a tendency to keep prices more nearly normal than they would be had no move been made in the matter. The aldermen will be criticized no doubt but with winter upon us the most important thing is that we shall have at hand a supply of coal which will enable the people to feel the pinch of the famine as slightly as possible.

There is no telling how much more grave the situation may become. President Roosevelt is being urged to send federal troops into Pennsylvania to restore the order which Governor Stone has not restored, and the New York Commercial even discusses the advisability of the operators locking-out the bituminous miners, stopping the output of that sort of coal at once and preventing the bituminous men from contributing to the support of the anthracite strikers and making longer opposition possible. This action, unquestionably, would cause great public indignation, yet the mere fact that it is mentioned shows what desperate remedies are being canvassed. A week of severe weather might plunge the United States into a disturbance of a kind which even the present terrible situation would be of trifling danger.

Meantime we who watch wish to be warm this winter, and as cheaply as possible, and all measures looking to that end are commendable.

THE PORTLAND ROLLING MILLS.

As a plain matter of fact there has been too much beating about the bush in this business of the Portland rolling mills. The council stands on its dignity and says its members are not supposed to go about fawning upon the directors of any industry or making overtures to them until the city has heard of the matter in proper form. There is some justice in this position and The Telegraph is glad to note that on Thursday the directors of the mills are to say plainly what they want. After they have done so the city will be in a position to deal with the question intelligently, as it has been unable to do thus far. But the city is more interested in retaining the industry than in preserving the dignity of any alderman.

There is no doubt that public opinion favors the retention of the mills in St. John if the industry can be kept here without pledging the city to a course of action which will bring upon it all sorts of demands from similar enterprises. First and foremost the concern must stand on its own bottom. The council should not be asked to carry out a course of action which may not be granted to other enterprises equally valuable to us, it must enterprises successfully without privileges which may not be granted to other enterprises. There will be, we know, no demand such as that made by the candlemakers of Paris upon a famous occasion when they asked that the shopkeepers be forced to put up their shutters in the daytime and use candles instead of sunlight in order that the candle industry

might not be ruined. St. John is not prepared to foster any industry to that extent.

The Telegraph is hopeful that an arrangement may be arrived at which will result in keeping the mills here, without injustice to the taxpayers, or to any other employers of labor, and it hopes the aldermen will go about the matter uninfluenced by any consideration save a desire to do all for the city and the mills which can be done on a sound business basis.

THE AUTUMN CARNIVAL.

The suggestion that St. John might take a week off and entertain itself and its visitors seemed so good that it has been promptly acted upon and from the 8th to the 14th of this month we are to hold a carnival of athletic sports and other amusements. An energetic citizen's committee has the affair in hand, and from the programme outlined, our people and the thousands of visitors who will take advantage of the cheap excursions prevailing on all the railroads intend to celebrate. There is something for everybody who cares to come. If you are not interested in horse races or base ball games there will be aquatic sports and track athletics. If you do not care for any of these, the St. John stores will be worth your inspection, while suitable amusement features will pass your evenings pleasantly. Next Sunday special services have been arranged for General Booth, the founder and head of the Salvation Army, who is perhaps the world's most interesting personality today.

The idea of a week of sport at this pleasant season of the year when even the weather, fickle at other seasons, can be counted upon with a fair degree of assurance, is a good one. One criticism which is often made by visitors of our exhibitions is that we combine so many amusement features with our excellent show that it is somewhat difficult for a stranger to take in all the features. And there is something in the criticism. In providing a week of sport this argument is met in a satisfactory way. The people who care to come get the advantage of cheap fares and a chance to be amused in whatever way their fancy leads them. For those who come on business the city extends a double welcome for back of all the sport and fun of the Autumn Carnival will be, we trust, a satisfying business gain to the merchants of the community who have combined to make possible the pleasant event.

A LESSON FOR THE BOER DELEGATES.

The Boer delegates are in Canada and they are coming to New Brunswick to get ideas on improved farming. They can learn much about up-to-date agriculture in some of our counties; but here, and in Canada generally, there is a lesson of greater value awaiting them.

They will see a great people, contented, prosperous and free in the best sense of the word. They will see a people who have all the Boer love of freedom without the narrowness which has marked the burghers' search for it from long before they crossed the Vaal. Here they will see a people glorying in their great heritage, unshamed among the nations, turning a smiling face to the future—a people enjoying all the advantages of a republic without the evil features which have been seen in the United States—their trust in the too mixed population, the constant strikes, the corruption in congress, the ever increasing distance between the very rich and the very poor.

If they come with receptive minds and are willing to profit by what they observe, the Boers must go to South Africa again ready to tell their brothers there that with hard work and breadth of view they too may move on pleasantly to fulfill their destiny, strong, fearless and unoppressed.

The Boers will learn much of improved farming methods while they are here, but this other lesson is of far greater importance.

WHERE IS THE MAIN BODY?

The Telegraph has been aware of a few opposition leaders here and there of late, and from time to time the raucous cries of several more or less distinguished journalists have been heard in the political underbrush, apparently cheering on inviolable hosts.

There has been noise altogether out of proportion to the apparent nearness of a local election, yet no large force of citizens pledged to the opposition leaders has appeared anywhere.

Hence arises the very pertinent question, Where is the main body? What has become of the vociferous rank and file, the serried masses of voters marching shoulder to shoulder and crying as one man—aye, as one Sun editor—"Give us Hagen or give us death!"

The country has seen the Sun man standing astride the Oromocto bridge and sounding the onslaught, yet even by peering over and beyond and around this portentous colossus we have detected no great mass of men girding them for the red fray.

Where is the main body?

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Not that we love the coal dealers less but that we love our comfort more.

"All is not coal that glitters," exclaim several exchanges in a breath. It's all a question of dust though.

It is not the laboring man but the labor agitator who doesn't work who

Men's Fall Suits.

Comparisons prove we give you more or better for your money than any other store gives you.

Don't we scour the markets for the best goods and the smartest patterns? Isn't every piece of Cloth that goes into Oak Hall Clothing carefully tested for wear—worth—and color? Don't we keep our eyes upon the makers and see that every stitch measures up to our standard? Don't we give better value for the money than any other clothing store? Don't we sell more clothing than any other store in town? Men know what they want—and they come here for it.

See the Suits at \$8.00
See the Suits at \$10.00
See the Suits at \$15.00

Single or Double-Breasted Coat, any cloth; any color
There, now; aren't you coming to see em?

Boys' Real Good Clothing.

Good cloth—good wear. Pshaw! Others say the same and advertise suits at similar prices. So they do. But go back of their words and ours—compare cloth, make-up, style. Whose are slighted at every point? Of course—and we shall never do that—it doesn't pay. The largest clothing business in own proves it.

Two Piece Suits (In Norfolk Jacket, Pleated and Double Breasted)	\$1 50 to \$5 00	Three Piece Suits	\$3 00 to 10
Sailor Suits	75 to 12 00	Russian Blouse Suits	\$5 00, 5 50, 6 00
Vestee Suits	2 00 to 3 00		

GREATER OAK HALL,
King Street, Cor. G. Main.
SCOVIL BROS. & CO.

causes most of the trouble in the United States.

Will the lady have one or two lumps in the furnace? Is the way the Toronto Telegram's cartoonist puts it. Yet it's no small matter, in one sense.

Isiah knew about it according to the London Advertiser man who quotes:—
"There shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it."—Isiah xlviii, 14.

Before everything else Governor Stone must pacify Pennsylvania or Roosevelt must do it over his head even if it takes the regulars. Until that is done other questions cannot be settled.

Considering that at the present moment a comet twenty times the size of the earth is coming at us at the rate of 3,000,000 miles a day we take an amazing interest in the price of fuel.

Everybody admits that the miners have grievances, but everyone knows that a state of anarchy is not to be tolerated. To tolerate it is to invite and ensure a double dose later on. Peace first.

The London correspondents of Canadian newspapers who cabled the assertion that the action of Britain in giving the Cunard subsidy was a fatal blow to the Canadian direct fast line, did not know what they were talking about.

The frequency of poisoning cases in Ontario leads us to believe a time is coming when parents who have their lives insured for the benefit of their children must do well to carefully conceal the fact that they have done so. Youth is so impatient!

Speaking of fair reports of the Tory opposition meetings, it is noteworthy that the reprint in its headlines over the Gagetown failure, says "All parishes represented," while in the report itself it is admitted that this was not the case. It's a nipping frost, all right.

George W. Fowler, M. P. for Kings, is on his way home to Sussex. He says Mr. Borden got a great reception in the west. Unfortunately he is unable to say as much for himself. The impression Mr. Fowler made in the west is not one which he can contemplate with any overwhelming degree of complacency.

The City Council will do well to go carefully over the police situation. Some of the beats to which policemen are assigned are so long that the men can do no more than make a bluff at covering them. The city should or should not be patrolled at night. Which is it? If it's worth doing at all it's worth doing well.

Two Strong Leaders!
THE E. B. EDY CO.'S
HEADLIGHT-PARLOR MATCH,
TELEGRAPH-SULPHUR MATCH.
A Pair of Matches Hard to Beat!
12 CTS. A PACKAGE EACH. EVERY GROCER HAS THEM
SCHOFIELD BROS.
Post Office Box 33. SELLING AGENTS, ST. JOHN, N. B.

Home Insurance Co'y.
NINETY-EIGHTH SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT, JULY, 1902.

Cash Capital	\$3,000,000.00
Reserve Premium Fund	5,405,511.00
Unpaid Losses	718,795.65
Unpaid Re-insurance, and other Claims	675,454.43
Reserve for Taxes	35,000.00
Net Surplus	9,835,861.08
Cash Assets	\$15,918,449.43
Surplus as regards policy holders	\$9,068,687.35

KNOWLTON & GILCHRIST, General Insurance Agents, St. John, N. B.
Applications for agencies solicited.

Those excitable journals, the Halifax Chronicle and the St. John Sun, made some outcry because the British journalists were not brought to the maritime provinces. Since the visitors began to mix up our geography so woefully we haven't heard so much about it. Likely enough they would have informed their London readers that St. John was on the Oromocto.

Mr. H. A. Powell, ex-M. P., might kindly explain what he meant by the statement which the Kootenay Mail, of Revelstoke, credits to him in its report of his speech there, that "the Intercolonial Railway service was stuffed with the scum of the country." He was surely not referring to the "shingle" shipments over the I. C. R. under the late administration.

It is of little consequence that the Sun had no report of that Gagetown meeting, but somehow we will not be surprised to hear that a literary looking gentleman carrying the Oromocto bridge under one arm and a carload of those famous stomach-bitters under the other has been found wandering about Queens county. If he is found we can identify him.

If some of the aldermen who kicked about the decision to retain the four extra policemen until further notice had to patrol some of the impossible beats for a

few nights this winter they might take a reasonable view of the matter thereafter. It is of importance that the policemen be forced to do their work. No doubt of that. But it also is of importance that the force be large enough to make the city an unprofitable field for thieves which it is not at present. St. John lives in a fool's paradise as far as the police situation is concerned, yet lessons have not been waiting.

Winter's Enchantment.
Emblazoned on the tapestry of Night
Are bolts of stars, like jewels, turquoise-set,
Gleaming which each tree stands out in silhouette;
The fields are spread as with the sport of spirit,
The river mirrors brilliantly the skies be-
neath;
The moon like burnished dome of minaret,
Or like some lustrous regal coronet,
Reflects its rays o'er every plain and height.
O Winter night—so calm—magnificent!
What scenes can equal or what dreams
eclipse?
The fairies melt their sorcery have lent
To build a magic world. E'en Fancy's lips
Can scarcely frame its praise. Here, heav-
en-sent
Imagination moors her splendor ships!
Man Walks the World.
For like a child sent with a fluttering light
To feel his way across a gusty night,
Man walks the world. Again and yet again
The lamp shall be by his of pensive sight,
But shall not he who sent him from the
door
Relight the lamp once more, and yet once
more?
—Edward Fitz Gerald.