

# MC 2035 POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1915

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 14, 1915.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canalside 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 branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier \$5.00 per year, by mail \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Representatives—Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Building, New York; Advertising Building, Chicago.

British and European representatives—The Canadian Publishing Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

### A GENERAL ELECTION?

The manifest eagerness of the Hon. Robert Rogers and that wing of the Conservative party which he represents to bring on the general elections in Canada very naturally leads people to ask for a reason for such a course as they propose. The government not only has a very large majority in the house, but its war measures have been assented to without question by the Liberal leaders and its supporters. The Liberals do not fear the issue of a general election, but they have objected to the proposal to throw this country into the heat and turmoil of a bitter political campaign in war-time, when so many young Canadians are on the battlefield, and when the daily list of casualties will be bringing mourning into an ever growing number of the homes in this country. In England the leader of the opposition early in the war expressed the hope that the Mother Country would not be thrown into a political conflict during the war, and the leader of the government promptly gave assurance that the government desired political unity in the face of a great national crisis, and it was not their intention to bring on a political campaign. The view expressed by the leader of the opposition in England has been the view of the opposition leader in Canada, and it is well known that Sir Robert Borden himself was disposed to agree with this view. Not so, however, the Hon. Robert Rogers and his following. They want to be assured of another lease of power for themselves and their friends, and everybody knows why they want it. The recent revelations at Ottawa tell the story. There has been nothing like it in the previous history of Canada. To them power means patronage and patronage means graft. All over Canada the grafter has prospered since this government came into power. The government, however, does not propose to appeal on its record. It hopes to win by defaming Sir Wilfrid Laurier, assailing the loyalty of the Liberal party, and trying to persuade the people that the issues of former years are the issues of today. Yet, this government, led by Sir Robert Borden, is the government which was to purify Canadian politics. We were to have done with grafters. Civil service reform was to be of such a drastic nature as to leave no further room for reform. Judged on its record the government stands condemned. Therefore, it will endeavor to run a flag election.

Sir Robert and his friends are very doubtful about the future of the Conservative party in Canada. Its record in the province of New Brunswick appears in the reports of Royal Commissions. In Manitoba also a Royal Commission is to probe a scandalous transaction. The government tried to shut off the inquiry, but the lieutenant-governor stood in the breach. In the province of Ontario the Conservatives have been steadily losing ground, and have lost the powerful personality of the late Sir James Whitney. The situation is not more hopeful in British Columbia, and Conservative prospects in Quebec are not nearly as bright as they were. The state of affairs in the different provinces is worrying Sir Robert Borden and his friends, and the insistent demand of the Rogers' wing for a general election appears to have been acceded to by the prime minister. He has been warned, however, by the Toronto World and number of Conservative newspapers that he must try to clear the skirts of his government in this unsavory matter of military supplies. How can he do it? The grafting was done while a Conservative government was in power, with power to prevent the scandalous operations which have been exposed in the inquiry by the public accounts committee. It is useless to plead, even if it were true, that there had been other sinners in other times. This government had a free hand, and a splendid opportunity to prove that it was loyal, not only in urging young men to fight for the Empire, but in seeing to it that there was no fraud in connection with the purchase of army supplies. The young men have done their duty. They have gone to the front or are in training in preparation to go to the front. Why has the government failed to do its duty? Simply because the grafters who have been waxing fat at the public expense in connection with domestic contracts since this government came into power saw a larger opportunity in connection with the supply of materials for the militia department, and hastened to take advantage of it in the usual way.

If there is to be a general election the Liberals will see to it that public attention is not diverted from the real issue.

### THE RETAIL MERCHANTS

The Dominion secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association says it is the aim of that organization to make it as easy as possible for the retail merchant to do right in business and as hard as possible for him to do wrong. With such an aim, definitely pursued, there must be universal sympathy. Fully realized it would protect the consumer against undue inflation of prices, adulteration of goods, fraudulent representation of the quality of goods, and other things concerning which there is sometimes too much ground for complaint. We should

also expect in all retail meat, grocery and produce stores and market stalls to find the goods thoroughly guarded against flies and dirt and infection. Working along these lines the association could not but commend itself to public sympathy and support.

The Dominion secretary also referred to what such an organization might do and has done in Toronto in the matter of civic politics. An organization of all the retail merchants in the city of St. John, having made up its mind not to vote for any candidate because of party or lodge affiliations, but purely on the ground of ability and integrity, could probably guarantee to the city the very best kind of city government. There seems, however, very little hope that such unanimity could be secured. Nevertheless it is well to have high ideals; and the new organization in St. John has entered upon its labors without prejudice, and with a fair field in which to demonstrate its usefulness, not only to its own members, but to the great body of consumers, without which there would be no retail merchants. There was perhaps a natural tendency in the remarks of the Dominion secretary to emphasize the importance of the retail merchants, and to tell of their numerical financial strength. The real strength, however, both numerical and financial, lies with the consumers, who of course include also the merchants themselves.

It is evident that the Retail Merchants' Association in the province of New Brunswick has appealed to men in the retail trade, and the present convention is proof of the fact. The association cannot change human nature, but wisely directed it can do much to keep the better side of human nature in evidence.

The war news takes second place. President Wilson formally opened the baseball season in Washington today.

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The government at Ottawa is making great professions of a desire to punish the grafters, and all over Canada the grafter continues to do a thriving business.

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If Mr. Townshend can give the citizens of St. John a little valuable information as to an equitable assessment law for this city, his visit will prove of the greatest value. Even if he can make every retail merchant in St. John a vigorous advocate of taxation reform he will have rendered this city a great service.

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There appears to be no further doubt that Italy is soon to enter the war. Today's cables practically state that German efforts to ensure Italian neutrality have failed, and that it is now a question of weeks, perhaps only of days, when the strength of Italy will be added to the powers drawing the cordon of steel ever tighter around Austria and Germany, and crushing also the power of the Turk.

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The St. John Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis is doing a most valuable work in a quiet way. Its dispensary is a boon to patients, and its visitors bring much brightness into the homes of people suffering from the disease. When the new hospital for advanced cases is ready to receive patients, it will be possible to take much more vigorous and effective steps to stamp out the white plague in this city. In the meantime the association deserves the hearty support of the people.

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The German government professes to be horrified by the charge that the crews of German submarines and warships refused to rescue the crews of torpedoed vessels. It "repudiates with loathing" such an insinuation. Yet it was a German general in a Belgian town who demanded three million francs in gold, and who said:—"The town of Ware will be burned and destroyed if payment is not made at the appointed time, without regard to persons. The innocent will suffer with the guilty." German protestations, in the face of German acts, are unworthy of the slightest attention.

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Commissioner Chandler has declined to investigate the charge that Mr. W. H. Berry, while superintendent of scales, received for his personal use from lessees of crown lands amounts ranging from \$100 to \$5000. The bold invitation to everybody who had any charges to make, or who even entertained a suspicion of wrong-doing, to come forward and speak, in order that the matter might be investigated, was therefore not intended by the government to be taken seriously. In the present precarious state of the health of the Tory party in Canada a too careful diagnosis might be bad for the patient. Hence the ardent inquirer is not receiving that encouragement which a robust and confident government would give to him.

### MARINE NOTES.

The steamer Grampan arrived in port yesterday from Liverpool. She was fourteen days in passage to Halifax. On the voyage the steward, Giuseppe Ongero, aged forty years, was lost overboard, the fatality occurring yesterday morning in the Bay of Fundy just a little while before the ship reached harbor.

### LIGHTER VEIN.

Hyde Park Orator—My friends, if we were each of us to turn and look ourselves squarely in the face what should we each find we needed most?

Voice From Crowd—An India-rubber neck, mister.

Bilton (in Judge)—What's the reason that young man stays so long when he calls?

Miss Bilton (demurely)—I am, papa.

"In many ways," answered Farmer Squash, as he applied a match to his corn-cob pipe. "I have found them quite different in some respects. For instance, a horse is worth more after he's broke."

Judge.

"As a matter of fact," said the lawyer for the defendant, trying to be sarcastic, "you were scared half to death and don't know whether it was a motor car or something resembling a motor car that hit you."

"It resembled one all right," the plaintiff made answer. "I was forcibly struck by the resemblance."

Gertie—"Is Billy's wife very much in love with him?"

Tabby—"Very. She still believes it is the other fellow's fault when he stays out late at night."

"Really, I assure you, Miss Winterbloom, if you were my wife I could die happy."

"That sounds very sweet and lovely, Mr. Batch, but the question is would you?"

She—"If you insist upon knowing, there are two reasons why I can't marry you."

He—"And they are?"

She—"Yourself and another man."

The Family Man—The cost of everything is increasing at a terrible rate. The Military Expert—Not everything. According to statistics, in former wars it cost \$2000 to kill a man, but now, with improved ordnance and ammunition, it can be done for one-third of that.

## Silver Announcement

We have recently replenished our stock of Sterling Silver by adding a large number of pieces. These are especially suited for Wedding Gifts. Each piece will be suitably boxed, and a fashionable presentation card with envelope will be provided as well.

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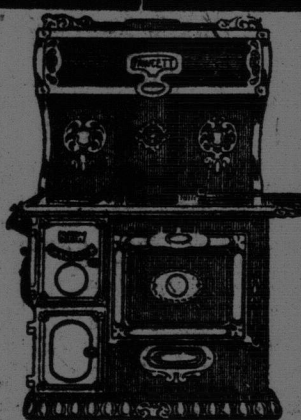
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**COLONEL GORGOS TO SERVE IN SERBIA**

Will Direct Campaign by Rockefeller Foundation to Stamp Out Epidemic of Typhus Fever

Washington, April 14—Major-General William C. Gorgos, U. S. A., who eradicated epidemic diseases in Cuba and Panama, has decided to resign his commission to accept an offer of the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation to take charge of the organization and conduct of the medical relief expedition that is to be sent to Serbia to stamp out the epidemic of typhus fever which is raging there. General Gorgos will resign next week and sail for Europe.

It is understood that the compensation that has been tendered General Gorgos is \$50,000 a year, together with an agreement that after the completion of the work in Serbia he shall be pensioned for life with an annual salary of \$10,000. General Gorgos is a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation and has been a member of the board of directors since 1911. He is a native of New York and has been in the service of the United States Army for 35 years. He is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association.

## That Awful Ache of Lumbago Rubbed Away for All Time

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committee and also on behalf of the mothers' meetings committee, made reports. She told of the appreciated visits that had been made to the hospital and related in detail what work was done in each month of the year. As convener of the other committee she submitted a very satisfactory report, also.

Mrs. George A. Henderson submitted a report on behalf of the food and fuel committee in which department unprecedented success was met with, a great amount of charitable work having been done.

The report of the house committee showed that the total expenditures for the year amounted to \$128.92; total income, \$2,607.42; leaving on hand a balance of \$448.50.

Reports from the various circles and minor committees were received.

The report of the general secretary, Miss Pratt, in connection with the traveling aid work was especially encouraging, and showed splendid results from the efforts expended to render assistance to newcomers in the city.

