

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 14, 1914.

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THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.

IBLE.

The Borden government is not as severely opposed to "truck and trade with the Yankees" as its members were during the election campaign of 1911. Although there is an abundance of coal in Nova Scotia the government, through its representative Mr. Gutelius, has been buying American coal for the Intercolonial Railway, and it is said to be negotiating for large purchases this year, having rejected the tenders of the coal companies of Nova Scotia.

Let us not make any mistake in this matter. Mr. Gutelius can only do what he is permitted to do by the minister of railways, and the action of the latter of course is approved by his colleagues. The responsible parties therefore are the members of the government. That portion of the Conservative press which realises how badly the Intercolonial Railway has been managed would like to fix public attention upon Mr. Gutelius as the man who is responsible, but the really responsible parties are the members of the Borden government, and Mr. Hazen of St. John is one of them. Keep the fact in mind.

IN A SCHOOL BUILDING.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Council is being held in the assembly hall of the high school building. This is a recognition of the fact that the school buildings should be made available for other purposes than merely the work of the day schools. The hall in which the ladies have been holding their meetings yesterday afternoon is admirably suited for such purposes, and there is no reason why it should not be frequently put in use for the public benefit. What is true of the high school building is true of all the others. The people of St. John have not less than \$500,000 invested in a school plant, which is entirely idle for almost three months of the year, and during the other nine months is only open for a few hours each day for five days of the week. An exception should be made of certain evening classes which have been conducted this winter, and the occasional use of an assembly room for a public lecture under the auspices of the Woman's Canadian Club.

The time has surely come when the people should make greater use of their own property. The school buildings should be social centres for working girls and teaching mothers, and this aspect of their public use should appeal to the members of the Woman's Council, and influence them to throw the weight of their advocacy upon the side of the appeal for a wider use of school buildings. Such use would not immediately change human nature or get rid of the social evils which give so much concern to the Woman's Council and other organisations, but it would at least place in the hands of those who desire better social conditions a means of improving conditions very materially through the development of the community spirit in the different neighbourhoods where the school buildings are located.

PROVINCIAL BRIDGE WORK.

The Foundation Company, Limited, appears to have fared very well in its dealings with the provincial government. The cost of the sub-structure for the bridge, which was carried away last spring, amounted to \$84,486. The company got fifteen per cent on the cost of the work. It is said that the company originally estimated the cost of the work at \$80,000. The Frederickton Mail says that the temporary span cost \$2,240.37, and that the super-structure, which is not yet completed, will probably cost \$15,000, which would bring the total cost of replacing the drawn span at more than \$84,000. The Mail says that the old pier which was carried away cost only \$9,000, and it claims that if this pier had been protected by an ice-breaker it would have been there yet.

Moncton Transcript, commenting on the same subject, with special reference to the Foundation Company, Limited, says that for different works throughout the province the company has received \$887,928.02; and it expresses surprise that the government when asked in the house replied that it had no knowledge concerning the president and directors of the company, or whether any of them resided in this province, or if any official of the government were in any way financially interested in the company. One fact appears to be quite clear, and it is that the Foundation Company is doing a good business.

OPPOSITION NEEDED.

One of the disadvantages, so far as the people of this province are concerned, in not having a strong opposition in the legislature is that there is no such scrutiny of the public accounts as would be made by an alert and active group opposed to the government. A few men of experience in dealing with the public accounts could ask such questions and demand such returns as would throw light upon transactions which are passed over without comment by government supporters. The fact that no revelations

are made under the political conditions which now exist at Fredericton is no guarantee at all that the Fleming government has administered the affairs of the province with prudence and economy, or that its relations with contractors for large public works have been such as would in every case guard the interests of the province. Members supporting the government are not at all anxious to prolong the session of the legislature, or to become intipolstorial in relation to the public accounts. The government is well aware of this fact, and knows that it has practically a free hand so far as public expenditure is concerned. The feeling grows that in the affair of the Southampton Railway and of the St. John Valley Railway the government has not safeguarded the public interest, and that contractors have had entirely too much their own way while the matter of the new bridge span at Fredericton and the new bridge across the Miramichi at Newcastle would bear looking into by those who are more concerned about getting value for the expenditure of the public funds than the members of the present government. Mr. Fleming and his colleagues may be as strong in the house as they were just after the elections, but they are very far from being as strong in the province at large.

A clinic for women smokers, to treat them for the cigarette habit, has been opened in Chicago. If Dame Rumor is at all to be relied on such a clinic might find some business in St. John.

The Motor Show next week will be an event of very general interest and will no doubt attract to the city a great many visitors.

There are rumors of several important building projects in the city, some of which it may be hoped will prove to be well founded. This should be a very active year in building operations in St. John.

Of the inmates of Kingston Penitentiary 118 were total abstemious, 184 were very temperate and 208 were intemperate. This does not quite bear out the statement that 75 to 80 per cent of crime is due to the use of liquor.

Merely to be amused in their leisure time appears to be a growing desire among the people of the present day. What is needed in every city is a growth of the desire to do something worth while. He spoke truly who said: "Absence of occupation is not rest. A mind quite vacant is a mind distressed."

A decline of nearly \$2,000,000 in the value of exports by the winter steamships from St. John, compared with the like period last year, is a fact which should prompt the citizens to take vigorous action to ensure the return of the Empire steamships to this port next winter.

Each day the papers furnish new evidence that moral and social conditions in the city of St. John are not improving. They will not improve until there is a greater development of the community spirit, which brings the people together to promote social welfare in such a manner as it has never been done in this city.

Mr. C. H. Cahan says he is a Tory of the Tories, but he believes in playing the game fairly, and he considers the conduct of the Borden government, in connection with the Transcontinental Railway report of Mr. Gutelius, as scandalous and unworthy of the government. The remarks of Mr. Cahan are worthy of the serious attention of the St. John Standard.

There was some discussion in the legislature yesterday concerning the appearance of the American flag in motion pictures in Canada. What about the use of American coal on the Intercolonial Railway, and the enormous increase of trade between Canada and the United States? Why do any business with a country whose flag is so objectionable to patriotic members of our legislative bodies?

The Standard represents Mr. James R. Brown as asking the city council for an opportunity to address them on the subject of taxation. It is quite true that Mr. Brown is not only willing, but eager to talk on the subject of taxation wherever he may be, but it is also true that the city council some time ago decided to ask Mr. Brown to appear before them when he again visited the city. They, as well as Mr. Brown, are interested in the subject of tax reform, which is really a serious one. In fact the Standard itself announces that Mr. Brown will address the Conservative Club on the subject of tax reform. Perhaps there are no single taxers in St. John, but there are very many thousands of persons who would like to see a better system of taxation than we have at present, and any man who can throw any light on the subject should be regarded as a welcome visitor.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 14.

Thomas Cooper Boville, deputy minister of finance and the man who actually figures out the dominion's surpluses or deficits, enters upon his fifty-fifth year today. He has risen to his present position from humble beginnings, starting in as a junior clerk when quite a young man. His appointment as deputy minister was made eight years ago. Mr. Boville's chief distinction outside the achievement just recorded is his skill as a rifle shot. He was quite a famous marksman in his younger days and on several occasions had a place on the Canadian teams for Wimbledon and Bisley. Once he came very nearly winning the Queen's prize and he still cherishes the special badge which was given him then.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15.

Colonel "Mars" Joseph Eugene Pluet, who has been deputy minister of militia and defence for the last eight years, is celebrating his fortieth birthday today. He belongs to a distinguished French-Canadian family and is a native of Rimouski. Studying medicine, he obtained his doctor's degree at an early age and began to practice in his home town. But he had a love for soldiering and the South African war gave him his opportunity. He went to the front with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, and during the war he was mentioned three times in despatches. On his return to Canada he remained with the militia department and gradually rose to his present position as deputy minister and vice-president of the militia council.

STARTING THE DAY RIGHT

Do you begin the day with a "grouch"? Are you tired in the morning? Do you fail to benefit by the restorative effects of sleep, which should make good the energy and vitality consumed by the day's work? Then you are rapidly becoming bankrupt so far as health is concerned. You should look to your habits of eating, make sure that you get lots of fresh air in your sleeping apartments, and restore wasted vitality by using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

This great food cure does not induce sleep by any drugging effect, but when used it gets the nervous system into condition you find yourself resting and sleeping naturally and healthily. By keeping up this restorative treatment you will be able to make good the waste and fill the exhausted nervous system with new vigor and energy. This means thorough cure of such symptoms as headache, sleeplessness, indigestion and tired, listless feelings.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Costs Nothing to Ask. Caller—But you would not charge me anything for the little legal question I asked you.

Lawyer—I didn't; what I've charged you for is the answer.

Kind Stepmother. "Do you like your new mama, Harry?" "Yes, like her awful much."

"That is nice. Do you like her because she is pretty?" "No, I like her 'cause I broke her nicest vase yesterday and she blamed it on the maid."

Two Views of It. "So you don't call on Miss Bute any more. Quarrelled?" "Well, I told her I preferred to have her kiss me before and not after she kissed her pet dog."

"And what did she say?" "She said I evidently forgot that the dog didn't have his preference too."

Main Thing. Madge—Chas. wanted that new time last night. "Do you remember how it goes?" "No, I don't, but I can dance it."

An insurance agent was filling out an application for a policy. "Have you ever had appendicitis?" he asked.

"Well," answered the applicant, "I was operated on, but I have never felt quite sure whether it was appendicitis or professional curiosity."

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Recently will result in obtaining them in the larger communities at least. The failure of women to be the school is due to their apathy to take an active part in public affairs, although three cities, at least, have women on school boards.

The average wage of domestics is \$4.00 a week, \$8.00 in office, St. John. While the above, personal knowledge tends to show a higher wage. Most of the girls are in good condition, with separate quarters for women and with police matrons in cities.

Charitable institutions for the poor, aged, blind young men and women, are maintained in cities; the state providing for feeble-minded, insane, blind, deaf, and house of correction for boys and girls.

John McManus, of Chambers Settlement, Kings County, passed away on March 2. He was 75 years of age.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a Bill will be presented for enactment at the next session of the Provincial Legislature entitled "An Act to Amend 'An Act to provide for the Government of the City of Saint John by an Elective Commission,' 2 George 5, Chapter 46."

The Bill is desired to be obtained by this Bill, are:

(1). To provide for filling a vacancy in the office of Commissioner should such vacancy occur within three calendar months before a municipal election.

(2). To authorize the Common Council from time to time to redistribute the services mentioned in sub-section (1) of Section 18 of said Act.

Dated Saint John, N. B., 14th February, A. D. 1914.

HERBERT E. WARDROPER, Common Clerk.

2087-L.

CHILD WELFARE IN MAINE

At the meeting of the Maine Daughters of the American Revolution in Waterville this week Mrs. E. T. Emerson of Bangor told of the work being done by committee on welfare of women and children. In brief it was:

That the general conditions of schools are excellent, manual training and domestic science being taught in all the lower cities with marked tendency in smaller places to adopt later.

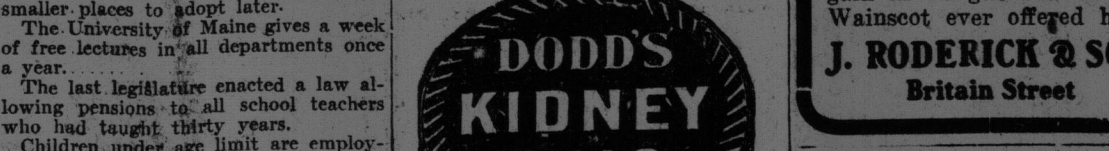
The last legislature enacted a law allowing pensions to all school teachers who had taught thirty years.

Children under age limit are employed in manufacturing and stores in about one-half of the cities.

The curfew law is not rigidly enforced in many cities or towns. While enforcement is not as essential in rural towns it should be enforced in cities, and is a subject that should be agitated by city chapters.

Free medical examinations are given to school children in most cities and towns.

The subject of public playgrounds is being fostered by the leading papers and



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23 THE PR.

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