THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

local government to grant \$2,000 in aid of istration in this decision. The grant will be repaid ten fold in direct practical benefit to New Brunswick from the celebration, not counting that the pride and inberest of the country are engaged in this

The government's action gives us some

thing in the celebration purse, and when the Common Council has added a liberal event will be guaranteed. The aldermen, old and new, who will decide how much the city shall contribute, should weigh carefully the position in which St. John stands in relation to the coming festival. pieturesque spectacle ever had in this par of Canada. The material benefit of this ettraction, bringing, as it will, thousand of visitors to St. John and keeping them here for several days, is easy to estimate. largely for an exhibition here this year and it will contribute to the tercente an addition. Thus, altogether, a fairly A STRONG LOBBY large amount of money from the genera breasury is to be expended here. In these circumstances the aldermen, realizing the importance of the festival and sensible o the common desire to make it a great-suc cess, will be justified in contributing liberally to the perfection of the plans now

will be opened later on. First, however when the city has chosen its new board of aldermen, the question of the city's subscription should be settled without de-

There is now every prospect that the present summer will be a memorable one because of the number of visitors attracted to St. John and the united effort made by the citizens to carry out several enter prises which will advertise not only St. John but the province as a summer resort of compelling attraction. The tide of wisitors should reach an unusual height into his pocket. The taxes of every man this season, and those who come once will with few exceptions, will be in be inclined to come again and bring others for the success of the events planned, and has been, the more he has contributed to along. Sentiment and business alike make the aldermen who will be asked for a grant may well feel that in giving it they are not only responding to the general wish but are making a sound investmen of the people's money.

THE BLAIR MEMORANDUM.

The heated discussion between the party deaders at Ottawa Friday over Hon. A. tory to the banks, or to any particular G. Blair's railway memorandum naturally paper. It was submitted by Mr. Blair to that while it embodied the policy of the with matters of vital public import, it was intended to convert the cabinet to his consumption. The government assumes in several Conservative newspapers on vantage, but not a few are surprised-Wednesday and Thursday. How did they not to use a stronger word that they suc

have led to some warm passages is not to carry out the work of its various de pointed Mr. Bair to office and while they have apparently become accustomed to being bombarded with extracts from his justice, at Fredericton, that members of that they should betray fresh annoyance aldermen as a body desired, and whether other mines. These were so placed that they famous railway speech it is not strange shows how solidly he was opposed to their another, was satisfactory to the people whole railway policy in December, 1902, they represented. The aldermen, starting and which makes his appointment to the Railway Commission appear more than hesitate, contradict themselves, reverse

to his colleagues in the document which is now discussed so warmly, he repeated much of it in his address against the G. T. Pacific in the House, but the memor-

ort, with the Canadian Northern. This here should be government railway ex-

on the other hand:

"The ideal policy, as it appears to the undersigned, for the Government to acopt, so soon as it shall be deemed necessary to take up the subject of a third transcontinental railway, would be to insure, first, that the railway shall be wholly Canadian. That it shall not promote the carriage of our export products or our imports southerly by way of United States lines of railway; but to and from the St. Lawrence in summer and the ports of Halifax and St. John in winter. That the Quebec Bridge be utilized as a part of said line, and that the railway be pushed westerly from that point by degrees to the Peace River District, through the Rockies to the Pacific coast. In the meantime, it would be well to decline all assistance to railways to which Government is not all.

would be well to decline all assistance to railways to which Government is not already committed, and propose to Parliament that railway charters covering this territory be withheld.

"Such a policy as that above outlined, the undersigned believes would meet the hearty support of the Canadian people, would materially strengthen the government and would be regarded as both bold and progressive. The country is prepared and progressive. The country is prepared today, as it has never been before, to assume large responsibilities in order to insure its fuller development, and Government, if it fails to act, will lose a splendid opportunity of proving its capacity and courage to cope with and solve large

public ownership. They wen't their way. unearthed the hidden Blair document of December, 1902, and gave it to the country when the final vote on the G. T. Pacific scheme is only a few days off?

AND A WEAK COUNCIL.

be paid by the banks and toan companies and those St. John corporations whose annual meetings are held beyond city limits to evade taxes. The banks secured a compromise agreement at Frederictor which defeats the whole purpose of those citizens who demanded an equitable as sessment law which would reach with an equal hand every business and every citizen who should contribute to St. John's public expenditure. As the banks and similar institutions escape, and no action panies whose capital is here but whose headquarters is in another county, the result will be that the average citizen, who

has no pull, must go just so much deeper creased unjustly by the Frederic ton compromise. The more enterprising he the building up of St. John, the greater will be his share of the taxes which the banks have succeeded in shifting from

their own shoulders to the shoulders of been demanded at Fredericton, was an

equitable assessment law. What was re quired was not a law especially satisfac class of taxpayers. Yet the best that car whets public curiosity in regard to that be said in regard to the measure decided upon is that the bank managers are pleas his colleagues on December 10, 1902, and ed with it. The people do not elect alderwas a confidential document in the sense men and members of the legislature to then Minister of Railways and so dealt banks, or to be influenced by the banks. The unsatisfactory outcome of this as sessment struggle is due primarily to views and was not intended for public wabbly common council. It is due in no that neither Mr. Blair nor any other which worked for the banks as against all member of the cabinet made the paper other taxpayers. No one is surprised that public. It appeared, practically in full, the bankers sought every possible adget it? is the question to which Ottawa is ceeded in nullifying for the present as now seeking a reply. It is a question least, the very proper desire of this comwhich all persons concerned are at pres- munity for the enactment of legislation which would enable this city to justly That the debate on the subject should apportion the increased taxes necessary

> The council has been in a ridiculous position throughout. It has been said, with the legislature could not tell what the with an inadequate measure, proceeded to

This aldermanic confusion played into drew his battleships a terrible company. The regrettable feature of it all is that remedy for the assessment tangle.

minuo, of course, was framed before Mr. the hands of the lobby. The tampagers of has been reached. No method of reaching ing to the official report now sent ou been permitted and encouraged to evade their taxes has been arrived at. The city couring a connection, by water trans- years, certain favored institutions and individuals have again profited by the in competency of the aldermen as a body. Had the Common Council prepared a arriage of freight to Canadian seaports. details before the House met and consulted with the St. John representatives, Atlantic and its operation as part of the bill such as would have obviated the pres- Japanese cruisers, appears to have menace ent highly unsatisfactory situation could the retreating Russians in flank and cause The Grand Trunk Pacific scheme was jority of the aldermen, working intelligently with the St. John representative o any plan which would give lavish as- in the House, would have carried it no cilities to a private corporation. He said, been organized by those upon whom the law would have imposed the taxes they should pay.

THE BANK TAX COMPROMISE.

All of the bankers may be satisfied with most of the banks will not be paying as sury. It is not clear how Mr. Hazen than during the five years previous, dur- Mr. Blair is quiescent, but his anti-G. T.

lature yesterday, is that if the proposal ever clear that the blow which the forme to put license fees on branch banks be problems in a manner commensurate with twelfth of one per cent. on their business, from which it can never Canada's marvelous progress." ditional \$2,000, the city will receive \$13,456 of which the Bank of New Brunswick will contribute \$6,166, the Bank of Montreal \$2.160, the Bank of British North America and the Bank of Nova Scotia \$1,750 each, and the Bank of Commerce and the Royal Bank \$500 and \$300 respectively. As was pointed out in these columns some days ago, if the branch banks paid a fair assessment and an additional l'cense fee of \$500, and the Bank of New Brunswick received no special consideration, the taxes would be \$17,391 of which the Bank of New Brunswick would pay \$7,419, and

the Bank of Montreal \$3,720. An asse-sment law which will no lighten the assessment of the banks and increase that of the general taxpayer in has such a law, and one which will reac the private banks, loan associations and the city limits), which will escape altogether as the matter stands at present.

THE CRAFTY VICTORS.

In his own good time Admiral Togo g v s operations at Port Arthur, and the world now hears what it suspected from the first, that Admiral Makaroff was tricked to his with government extension and govdeath, and that the loss of his battleship, ernment ownership as its chief feathe destruction of a torpedo-boat destroyer and the crippling of a cruser, were that the minister had devoted all the result of a Japanere plot which has much study to the question and had propno parallel in the history of modern naval erly estimated public opinion in regard to warfare. The Japanese played upon the it. He had marked throughout the coundaring of the Russian Nelson. The man try a growing dislike to the system of givwho infused new spirit into the whole ing large aid to private railway corpora-Russian nation by his boldness and activity after he relieved Admiral Stark at and how much more important it would Port Arthur, is apparently to go down to be, to keep in the hands of the governposterity as a commander who lost life ship and reputation because he could no match wits with the yellow man who was and he pointed out, that public confidence pitted against him.

Makaroff's diminished fleet was most the mighty growth to come, and the trend valuable if there was always a chance that of public opinion, all pointed toward exit might leave the harbor and menace Jap- tended government control of transporta anese transports passing into the Guli of tion facilities as against corporation con-Pechili or the Gulf of Liaotung. Ouce it trol of them. He submitted a plan such was safely bottled up, Japan's freedom as it was the duty of the minister of of the seas would be complete. It was transportation to prepare. necessary that the Russian commander That plan, of necessity, struck directly show activity, therefore, but avoid battle at the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, which with a superior force. The Japanese knew he had reason to believe was then taking that it would be difficult, if not impossible, form. The cabinet opposed him to a man o get Makaroff into a position where and he resigned, pointing his resignation they could overwhelm him with their by the ablest of his public utteranced heaviest ships, but they did not despair that in which he shattered the railway of hitting him after they had studied him

Togo's report makes the various steps of their plan fairly clear. Each time the or not what they proposed at one time or would be encountered if the Russian ships should be returning to the harbor at un- cably? trap having been laid it was necessary to between these plans today there is little bait it. Makaroff was eager for action, doubt that they would reject that one and would lose no opportunity to damage by which the people are to pay for a railthey did not know what they wanted and great. He was brave, but he knew the which they fear will not prove an allagainst great odds. Therefore Togo with- winter and summer, to Canadian ports. she determined to secure.

The taxes derived from the Russan squadron could easily dispose of-

Such were the preliminary steps, accord craft which had bearded him. Farthe Togo that the game had begun. His battle ome control over rates and guarantee the just and adequate measure, completed the of these oncoming ships they knew that have been put through. Such a bill would ed them to steam through the water ension into the Peace River district- have appealed to the Legislature as essen which had been mined by Togo in the tially a St. John matter and a strong madarkness some nights previous. A mile struck something. She heeled over, settled and went to the bottom. Another ship istance and control of transportation fa- matter how strong a lobby might have reeled from a lighter shock and staggered on into port. The others escaped contact with the mines and steamed in under th batteries. An hour or so later Togo's hips were again bombarding the stricken

The world will be inclined to accept the Japanese story as accurate, and to wonder anew at the wonderful skill and initiative of these terrible Islanders Russia's admirals have been weighed in the balance of action and found wanting. What will the just scales say of her generals when

THE BLAIR ECHO.

policy adopted by the government he was

which Mr Blair outlined in that memor

bers of Sir Wilfrid's cabinet. His speeche and his letters, and his confidential meming which years the tax was admittedly Pacific words go marching on. Today, RETALIATION. promoters and their friends thought it was all over. But there were still obstacles on the rails. The deposit was not made in form and so the contract was vitiated. Then came a period of delay and uncertainty which was most unpleasant for those to whom the bargain meant everything. This mishap gave all critieism of the project new weight and new life. It became necessary to make new concessions to the Grand Trunk. These were of such a nature as to strengthen greatly the objections which had already been made to the contract. Somehow or in whose interest he moved. other, though the rails had been greased, the progress of the scheme seemed bound to be marked by unfortunate incidents.

Mr. Blair's memorandum is another case in point. The debate on the obnoxious came the revelation that, in December, 1902, before the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme took definite form as such, the then Minister of Railways, who had already spoken in favor of government ownership, had submitted to his colleagues a solution of the transportation problem tures. This memorandum .. proved tions. He knew how important it was ment some measure of control over freight rates and the routing of freight. He knew in the future of the country, evidence of

To say that the members of the legis lature who stood against Mr. Flemming tempt is simply to argue against the facts. Whenever the leak to the Maine mills becomes so large that it is worth while to stop it at all hazards, the present legislature, or another, will have plenty of

WHICH WILL WIN?

as well as at sea Russia must give way her weight to bear, at Harbin or beyond The important question today at Ottawa and in every province is not, How did will be fighting for some time to come, in important question is. How does the plan andum compare with the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme to which Parliament is now asked to commit the country irrevo-If the people of Canada could choose his enemy when the odds did not appear too road which they are not to control, and stall hold the railway to Port Arthur and they did not know what they wanted and great. He was clearly the street of the successors to Hon. I which has been one of the great prizes Keown and Dunn are named.

OUR SUPERB VALUES IN MEN'S SPRING CLOTHING.

For more than 15 years we've been selling clothing in Saint John, and almost from the very start we've been leaders in this line. Some of the stores selling clothing have been in existence as long and long. Why is it that we have outstripped them all? Way is a that despite the many new clothing stores which have sprung up within the past few years or so our business still grows bigger and bigger each season? The abover is because we've always sold the most satisfactory clothes that could be made-and always sold them for much estation such good clothes could be bought any where else. This is why we are at the op, and this is why we are going to stav there.

Now about Men's Spin Suits at \$80, \$8.50, \$10.00.

\$8.00 hen's Stylish Spring Sures, single breasted sack coars with rounded or blunt corners, of all-wool Tweeds in dark striped patterns, black and grey mixtures and light grey mixtures, also blue mixtures. Rqual in value to suits shown else where for \$10.00.

\$8.50 Men's Swlish Spring Suits, single breasted with the corners slightly rounded, of all-wool T seeds in a beautiful dark brown stripe, dark gree mixtures, light grey, mixtures giving a strip effect, and a mixed Worsted with a faint strip of red to form a plaid. Suits that compare with any in the city at from \$2,00 to \$3 00 more.

Send for our Spring Sample Book.

\$ 10.00 Mes Very Stylish Spring Suits with blunt and round corners, narrow collars pels. In all-wool Tweeds in mixtures effects of the newest colorings; Corn. weeds in brown having alternate white red stripe, light grey mixtures with over-ids; Oxford Tweed of stripe pattern; soft nish Irish Tweed in grey, blue and red stripe effects. Pants have loops in addition to buttons; Pancy Worsteds in checks and stripes Also single and double breasted suits in Blue Serge, Blue and Black Clay Worsteds.

Norfolk Style Suits in Tweeds in green with faint red and white strip , dark grey with brown stripe and red overpaid. We have the largest variety of suits at \$10 co to be found anywhere. Others sell such suits at \$13.50.

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choose but that the government proposes to force the scheme upon the country by the sheer weight of a subservient majority. churia which may be wrested from her

The action of the legislature in deciding against the legislation proposed by Mr. Flemming in regard to the export of unmanufactured logs from crown lands causes the Sun to shiver lest New Brunswick be regarded as living in fear of Ammately 300,000 men to take that base. And then the Czar's armies would only retire The action of the legislature in deciding erican retaliation, and to lament the cowardice which it thinks defeated Mr. give the Sun no concern. They cause no uneasiness in the minds of men who are both patriotic and independent, and who would be quick to resent any course such would be quick to resent any course such army in Harbin would not force Russia to already the content of the content as the Sun affects to believe was taken. Mr. Flemming himself was the only member of the committee who protested against the language of the report, and even he admitted that he believed it would be unwise to enact at present the merit the contempt of the continent, or even of those people in the river counties

Had Mr. Flemming, or anyone else, produced before the committee evidence showing that a very great quantity of logs from crown lands was carried into Maine and nanufactured there, the committee would success. have had before it some useful information. Had he produced figures showing, even approximately, the extent of New Brunswick's loss, through the export of round logs from government lands, the value of the legislation he advocated would have been apparent at once. But Mr. Flemming ceed in rolling the invading Japanese back did not produce any such information. It across the Yalu she could scarcely hope did not produce any such information. It was said by such witnesses as touched Japan has the freedom of the seas. So, if upon these points that the loss to New Brunswick was inconsiderable, if, indeed, the balance of trade in logs was not in New Brunswick's favor. Prominent lumbermen, who are recognized authorities, of American logs down the St. John river for manufacture here. They, with the pulp mill men, were certain that any gain to the province which might follow the suggested, would not be worth the risk involved by such legislation. These men were not willing to court retaliation use

courage to stop it.

Japan's initial successes have been of at least until such time as she can bring But on land Russia is now fighting, and territory which is Chinese. If Manchuria were taken from Russia could Japan hold it? An observer who has carefully weightions, Mr. Frederick W. Ford, contributes a page article to the Boston Transcript, in probable outcome of the struggle. It wil surprise some to read that he anticipate defeated and damaged in prestige, will so continue to control the ice-free por Japan, he is convinced, cannot now be

the people are not to be permitted to driven from Corea, but he attaches great down after the election flutter, weight to Russia's tremendous population and believes her superiority in men will the government's \$2,000, and "raise" it enable her to retake any part of Man-

to form a new base west of Hanbin, cowardice which it thinks defeated Mr. the concentration of troops could be con-Flemming's purpose. But the facts should tinued. An advance on Harbin would be

abandon the contest. The annihilation of the present Russian armies would settle nothing. Back of Harbin are other bases from which new Russian armies would advance next year or the year after, or whenever Russia was ready. Japan could not in the end hold the territory con- And the odds will be on the centipede. would be unwise to enact at present the legislation he had sought. Mr. Flemming, apparently, does not feel that the legislature has so acted in this matter as to anese are immensely superior to the Ru sians in strategy, tactics and fighting qualities, it seems likely that they will have to be content with something less likely translated as inducing premature sensitive. From what the world has heard lately it may be suggested that some such

than Harbin. If they can possess them lately it may be suspected that some such selves temporarily of Pont Arthur and illness has affected the officers of the Vladivostock, and hold southern Manohuria say on a line from Liao-Yang to the Yalu, they will have achieved a great success. Port Arthur they could hold hands, if they continue to hold the virtual of war with Japan. The Czar is reported mastery of the sea. Vladivostock most likely would eventually be retaken by Russia, though Japan might neutralize its brings us nothing but ill luck." It remains

the reasoning has been correct, Japan can- there is that it would be less damaging likely that Russia will cease to fight until her right to hold the railroad to Port

There comes by way of Moncton what

Eastern Railway, running from Fredericton to Chatham. The Moneton Transcript, which is regarded in some quarters as the mouthpiece of the Minister of Railwaye, says it will not be surprising if Mr. Emmerson suggests to the government the advisability of acquiring the road, and devotes some space to showing how foolish the administration would be to permit the Sunbury and run in St. John, Mr. Rob-C. P. R. to secure a line which is a natural complement of the Intercolonial. The Transcript's article would appear to indicate that the arangement may have been de-

The proposal is not a new one and there is something to be said for it, but it does not yet appear that the C. P. R. has dis-Canadian Eastern. How much is the road

NOTE AND COMMENT. The Russian mines are as disastrous t

thur again yesterday, and some fatalities naturally try to conceal the worst.

It is probable that the vacant seats i St. John city and county will be filled before the successors to Hon. Messrs. Mc MacDonald yesterday just the same. Some

take up the tercentenary matter, "see"

during the first stages of the war. He says to reform the army in India. Obsolete traditions and systems must be abandoned,

> Tokio appear more and more like the dimensions of the job he was undertaking. The Boston Herald says that as between

> Parker and Roosevelt "it would be a sort of a scrap between an interrogation and an an exclamation point." The New York Sun's idea is that it would be a race between an Edam cheese and a centipede

> St. Petersburg hears that a terrible disease is working havoc among the Japanese troops in Corea. This mysterious malady Russian navy.

Viceroy Alexieff is the man who told the Czar there was no immediate danger sit, though Japan might neutralize its military value by occupying and fortifying the adjacent islands.

"On the other hand, should Russia successful and the standard of the seen whether General Kouropatkin can change it.

St. Petersburg is coming to it gradually. to the nation's prestige if it turned out that the flagship was destroyed by a Japancse mine instead of a Russian one. It is bad enough either way. The Japs will get whatever fearful credit attaches to

The Mikado's ministers know what is due to him. In congratulating Admiral ship, the Minister of Marine writes that and adds that the courage and coolness do with it.

Mr. George Robertson's offer to Mr. Hazen is a fair one, but Mr. Hazen does fortune to the test. Mr. Robertson informed the opposition leader in debate that if he would leave ertson would resign and contest the constituency with him, without the advantage of a portfolio.

A report published in the Montreal Witness (Lib.) to the effect that Hon. Messrs. Cartwright, Sifton and Fisher are played any feverish desire to obtain the will be replaced by Hon. Mr. Hyman, of London Mr. McCreary of Selkirk (Man.). worth anyway? And how much is asked and Mr. Robert Bickerdike, of Montreal. is ridiculed in government circles at Ottawa. Mr. Bickerdike, however, has been quoted as saying he had heard of the possibility of a rearrangement of portfolios.

Just notice how effective the postal system of the Empire it, no matter what difhighlands of Scotland wished to write 10 a man who sailed for this port sometime ago on the steamer Marina. The writer addressed the letter as follows: "John Mac-Donald, steamship Morena, Send Johes." That was all. The letter reached Mr. one figured it out that the Hielandmor The Common Council, when it settles Jones," And there you are.