

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1922

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 14, 1922.

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THE CASE SQUARELY PUT.

Last night's discussion at the Commercial Club brought out the fact that a committee consisting of Messrs. Phillips, Kirby and Vaughan is gathering information relative to the cost of city hydro distribution system. The most important address delivered was that of Mr. Herbert Phillips. He pointed out in the first place that the cost of light and power depends very much more upon distribution than upon generation. The real problem, therefore, is that of marketing the product. Under what conditions can the marketing best be done? When the distributors are public-spirited, courageous, financially capable and with no other interest to serve than that of the public. Is this a description of any private corporation we know of? And Mr. Phillips further made it clear that the distributor must be able to command public confidence, or people will not invest. They want to know with whom they are dealing, and that the current they buy will be safe from intervention. Would it be safer under public or private control?

Mr. Phillips next dealt with the supposition that the distribution of power would be handed over to the New Brunswick Power Company, and pointed out that they could not be expected to work for the expansion of the market and the growth of the city unless they made a good profit out of it. How would that profit be regulated, and what effect would it have on the cost to the consumer?

The whole trend of the argument of Mr. Phillips was in favor of civic distribution, and those opposed will have some difficulty in finding an effective answer. He admitted that the question of the cost of a civic distribution plant was complicated by the existence of another system and would be affected to some extent by the attitude of the New Brunswick Power Company. In this connection, his desire to be fair made him, in the opinion of many hearers, magnify the difficulties; but there was no escaping the conclusion to which his whole argument pointed, and it is that if the citizens want the full benefit now and for the future of the great expenditure at Musquash, they will not be turned aside by any specious appeals made to serve the aims of private interests instead of the interests of the people.

A RINGING CHALLENGE.

The challenge thrown down to the Rotary Club yesterday by Miss McKeljohn of the public health service is a challenge to every citizen of St. John, but especially to those who have the influence to bring about the needed reforms. Whether we relish plain speaking or not the time for plain speaking has come. Why talk about bringing in immigrants when we let 187 out of every thousand infants die before they are a year old? In London, Ontario, the rate is about 80 per thousand, and in New Zealand 42, with as low as 32 in some cases. Associated with and responsible for the conditions in St. John Miss McKeljohn mentions the slums, the lack of a system of destroying garbage, impure milk and the lack of proper nursing care of infants. The baby clinics of conferences have done much for infant welfare, but must be increased in number and the public nursing service so enlarged as to enable the clinics to reach the infants of whom only a comparatively small proportion are now treated. But the clinics cannot cope with the housing conditions, the garbage question or the milk supply. It is for the men of the Rotary Club and the citizens at large to deal with these matters. Miss McKeljohn protests against a pessimistic spirit which she finds in this city. Every man who has talked with her seems to have said that the housing conditions cannot be improved. Her advice is for these and other men to make a tour of the slum areas, and she is convinced that if they do they will assert that the conditions must and can be improved, as has been the case elsewhere. The placid complacency which says that things are not so bad after all is a source of grave injury to the community.

Referring again to the urgent need of infant welfare work and the care of children generally, a speaker before the Toronto Rotary Club recently said that 70 per cent of the 70,000 children attending school in Toronto had defective teeth, and that 75 per cent of men forty years of age have physical defects that could have been overcome in childhood. The disregard of the physical state of the child costs the state far more than the most expensive health department. It may be hoped that the Rotary Club of St. John will not disregard the appeal made. The Commercial Club gathered data with regard to housing and might well pursue the enquiry and make recommendations. The questions of pure milk and garbage disposal should interest the members of the city council, and regarding the latter Commissioner Frink made some timely observations yesterday.

If St. John does not take the Musquash power, Lancaster might profit thereby. Mr. John O'Brien intimates that Lancaster is willing.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The importance of having the birth of every child recorded is shown by two illustrations quoted by Dr. Kendall, state health commissioner in Maine. The first is as follows:—
"A young man and wife came from Switzerland to Indiana. They were hardy, honest, and industrious, the very kind of people needed to make a nation. They settled in South Carolina. The father was thrifty and intelligent and within three years became a foreman in a sawmill. When his child was about two years old the father was accidentally killed by a log rolling over him. Time had not been sufficient for him to accumulate property. So the wife struggled with wash tub and needle to support herself and child. One day the new came that a brother of the father, the child's uncle in Switzerland, had left \$12,000 to the issue of his brother. Great was the rejoicing, which on account of the neglect of a physician to record the birth, was to become bitter sorrow. Before the Swiss government would turn over the property it must have proof that the little child was the issue of the dead. Neighbors knew the birth of the child but could not testify except as to their belief of the fatherhood. The testimony of the mother was not admissible in her own country, for she could lead any child into court and declare any man to be its father. It was the physician's birth certificate made at the time of birth and presumably in the presence and by the authority of the father, that the law demanded. It could not be produced and the helpless infant whom the physician should have been eager and happy to protect and serve lost its inheritance."

The second illustration deals with the case of a girl who had to prove her age in order to secure a valuable legacy, but there was no record, and it was only through the testimony of a neighbor who remembered that a valuable cow had given birth to a calf on the same day, and his farm books corroborated his sworn evidence that the girl got her inheritance without having to wait two years longer.

Requests for birth or death records are constantly being made, and in some cases much depends upon getting the record. But this is only one of several important reasons why a complete record of vital statistics should be available.

ANOTHER RED HERRING.

Interests in the United States which are opposed to public ownership have had an elaborate report prepared and published with the object of showing that public ownership is a failure. A comparison is made between publicly and privately owned electric utilities, and the conclusion reached that these should all be under private control. Unfortunately for the cause, the author of the book made some comparisons regarding hydro in Ontario which Sir Adam Beck has promptly declared to be both misleading and incorrect. The St. John Standard has gleefully pointed out the American publication and announces its intention of serving it up in sections to its readers. The latter, knowing its source, and the purpose it is intended to serve, will hardly find in it any reason why St. John should not get cheap power from Musquash. If the citizens will disregard all the red herrings drawn across the trail and pursue a plain business proposition to its logical conclusion, they will need no instruction, either from New York or Montreal.

At the recent meeting of the National Assembly of Free Church councils in Liverpool the Bishop of Manchester declared that "if ever it appeared that the Church of England as the established church was the only or chief bar to the unity of Christian churches in this land he would agitate for church disestablishment." Rev. R. C. Gillie, ex-president of the National Free Church Council, said "it was a mistake to suppose that free churches had not responded to the Lambeth Bishops' appeal." A resolution favoring church reunion was adopted. This movement is undoubtedly one that will gain force from year to year.

It would serve the interests of the New Brunswick Power Company if the impression could be created that "a ring" or group of persons were pursuing the company with ill-intent and a desire to do it injury. There is no such ring. Those who want civic distribution of hydro believe it to be in the interests of the public. They do not want the benefit to go to a private corporation. It was designed to give the people cheap light and power, and they have as yet no assurance from the company that it is eager to meet their wishes. Nor from past experience would they expect any display of such eagerness.

The city needs no partner in getting cheap light and power. It has a right to all the benefits on its own account.

Use the Want Ad. Way

SONGS FOR MUSIC.

No. 1—Dorothy Darling.
I'm healthy and happy, yet oft times I sigh
For something, for something;
A little black cloud seems to darken the sky.
There's something, Ah! something,
Something I need, alas! something I miss.
Something with golden hair, eyes that
We've lost about here.

Dorothy darling, Dorothy darling,
Dorothy darling! That "something" is
You.

A score of gay bachelor friends round me press;
That's something, was something;
But still my poor heart fondly yearns to possess
This something, sweet something,
Something to lighten the cares of the day
Something to brighten life's evening of grey.

Dorothy darling, Dorothy darling,
Dorothy darling! That "something" is
You.

HOPE A. THOMSON.

LIGHTER VEIN.

High Aims.
First Shorty—You ought to be thankful to have a wife with such high aims.
Second Shorty—I am. She has never hit me yet!—New York Sun.

More Than Enough.
"I don't see why you should kick. You got half a million with your wife—wasn't that enough?"
"Oh, the money was enough, but the wife was too much."—Boston Transcript.

Rad of Perfect Day.
The baker was finishing lathering a customer and was talking volubly as usual.
"Yes, sir," he said, "we have to mind when we're lathering. Every time we put a customer we are faced a dime and if we make an ugly guess it costs us a quarter."

Then, picking up and brandishing a razor, he added: "But I don't care a hang today. I've just won a dollar!"

She Knew Him.
Milliner—I know that hat would please your husband.

Customer—Not unless you took \$10 off the price.—Boston Transcript.

OVER-ROLED THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Correspondence Tabled in the House of Commons Relative to Treasury Board Action.

Ottawa, March 14.—(Canadian Press).—Correspondence relating to the over-riding of the auditor general by the treasury board in regard to the payment of \$500,000 to the Dominion Iron and Steel Corporation, is set forth in the first volume of the auditor general's report tabled in the commons yesterday by Hon. W. S. Fielding. The payment of that amount was recommended by the minister of marine and the report concerned in by the justice department last fall.

The auditor general protested, giving as his three reasons:—
1. That he could not legally anticipate the finding of the exchequer court, which was the question of whether or not the company should be offered \$4,500,000 in full settlement of its claim, which had been recommended to the government.

2. That this was not a proper charge against the demobilization vote, from which it was proposed to take the money.
3. That there was no parliamentary authority for the payment.

On December 14, the objections were overruled by the treasury department and the question of whether or not the company should be offered \$4,500,000 in full settlement of its claim, which had been recommended to the government, was allowed to stand over for a month to allow the new government to act in that matter.

The treasury board also overruled objections to the payment of money in connection with ships at Prince Rupert, where the shipbuilders' plant went into bankruptcy, and the payment of \$839,000 to the Ottawa Car Co. for utility vehicles constructed during the war in which account there was a disagreement between the government and the company.

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REDUCED RATES ON FEED FOR STOCK

The following has to do with a matter referred to in a Fredericton despatch yesterday:—
Moncton, N. B., March 13, 1922

M. Mitchell, Department of Agriculture, Fredericton, N. B.

Arrangements have been made effective today, 13th, to reduce the rates on feed for stock to be shipped to the various stations Ontario to following sections in New Brunswick: Campbellton to Moncton, Loggieville to Fredericton, Bathurst to Tracadie and Shippegan, Moncton to Tracadie and Shippegan, Moncton to Tracadie and Shippegan, Moncton to Tracadie and Shippegan.

On receipt of the certificate duly signed by the department will issue a certificate of release.

With the reduced rates the freight is equal to the tariff prevailing previous to August 1920, which means about one-third off on straight carloads of hay, corn, oats and elevator screenings.

Electric Shock Kills Physician.
Arcadia, Fla., March 14.—Dr. I. T. Law was killed by an electric shock in his office while making an X-ray examination of the fractured arm of a patient. As the physician was adjusting the machine his arm came in contact with a high voltage wire. Death was instantaneous.

FREDERICTON AND MR. COVEY

Baseball Prospects Discussed Last Night.

Favor Independent Ball—Say There is Handicap in Lack of Definite Charges—Golf Professional—Horse Racing.

(Canadian Press.)
Fredericton, N. B., March 14.—Discussion expressed over the prospects of good baseball there this season under the present unsatisfactory existing conditions in amateur sport at an open meeting here last evening to discuss baseball prospects resulted in a general expression of opinion favoring independent baseball in Fredericton and vicinity.

W. Covey, with a view to discussing the present, representing Fredericton and Devon, a committee was appointed representative of the Fredericton players to act with representatives of Devon and Maryville, providing the latter club concurs in the decision of the local gathering, in securing a conference with A. A. U. Covey, with a view to securing his propositions regarding amateur baseball in the maritime provinces, and definite action regarding Fredericton players whom Mr. Covey has indicated are included among 247 athletes under charges.

The general feeling of the meeting was that local players were faced with a situation they were unable to handle owing to the lack of definite accusations regarding Fredericton players listed for suspension and the vague and indefinite nature of charges which may have been preferred against these players. It was also shown by the discussion that Fredericton wanted the best brand of baseball and that Fredericton players were willing to provide this brand of sport even if it was necessary to break away from the supervision of the A. A. U. to do so. It was felt that the players were being forced into this by the action of Mr. Covey in not revealing the nature of the charges against players and thus enabling them either to clear themselves or accept the situation.

The maritime branch of the A. A. U. came in for some severe criticism over lack of financial statements showing the receipts and expenditures of the league and the fact that the players were being forced to pay into the treasury by the various clubs, the numerous demands for these fees which have been made recently also proving a source of contention.

Fredericton, N. B., March 14.—Fredericton will be represented at the meeting of the Maritime and New Brunswick golf club which has been accepted by the A. A. U. He is a Scotchman and comes with a good playing record both in Scotland and Canada. He acquired his experience of club management and also of teaching under J. R. Skinner, late of Galt, but now in charge of the course of Algonquin Club, St. Andrews, Scotland. He is expected to take up his duties here about the middle of April.

A meeting of the directors of the Fredericton exhibition last night adopted a resolution authorizing the Fredericton Park Association to have the use of the track for the usual Dominion Day "carnival" raising meeting on June 30 and July 1, for holding the event and also fall dates during the same week in September.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

The annual meetings of the Women's Auxiliary branches were held yesterday in four of the Anglican churches.

In the Mission Church of St. John the Baptist, service in the church was under the direction of Rev. J. V. Young.

Mrs. W. D. Foster presided at the business meeting. The treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Blair, reported receipts of \$257.41. A list of members was presented to Miss Dole. The election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary president, Mrs. J. V. Young; president, Mrs. W. D. Foster; vice-president, Mrs. Helen Ramsay; second vice-president, Mrs. E. E. Blair; corresponding secretary, Miss M. Dole; recording secretary, Mrs. R. Frith; junior superintendent, Mrs. C. C. Kirby; Little Helpers' secretary, Mrs. Richardson; treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Blair; delegates to the diocesan annual meeting, Mrs. W. D. Foster and Mrs. E. E. Blair; substitutes, Mrs. R. Frith and Mrs. William Horsman.

In St. John's (Stone) church, Rev. A. L. Fleming gave an inspiring address. The senior branch of the auxiliary was reported to have received \$1,117.55. The work of the mothers' meeting and the girls' association was spoken of highly.

Officers elected were as follows: Honorary president, Mrs. A. L. Fleming; honorary vice-presidents, Mrs. George F. Smith and Mrs. J. A. McAvity; president, Mrs. Alfred Morrissey; vice-presidents, first, Miss J. G. Sadler; second, Miss Louise Murray; third, Mrs. I. C. Golding; treasurer, Mrs. C. F. Fisher; recording secretary, Miss E. O. Skinner; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. Crawford; Dorcas secretary, Mrs. C. W. de Forest; leaflet secretary, Mrs. H. G. Wetmore; superintendent of juniors, Miss Celia Armstrong; babies' branch secretary, Mrs. Likely; president of senior W. A. section, Mrs. James F. Robertson; delegates to the diocesan annual meeting, Mrs. Alfred Morrissey, Mrs. F. H. Nichols, and substitutes, Mrs. George Murray and Miss Wilcox.

At St. George's church, holy communion was held in the morning, with an address by Rev. W. H. Saum.

The business meeting was held in the evening. Total receipts were reported as \$611.28. The election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary president, Mrs. W. W. Sampson; president, Mrs. Correy Green; first vice-president, Mrs. Fred Belyea; second vice-president, Mrs. F. McIntyre; Dorcas secretary, Mrs. F. Waring; Little Helpers' secretary, Mrs. Walter Bagnell; E. C. D. treasurer, Mrs. Hatfield; mite box treasurer, Mrs. Millington; recording secretary, Mrs. A. Rawlings; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. Kindred; treasurer, Miss S. Carleton; leaflet secretary, Mrs. Mager; delegates to the diocesan annual meeting, Mrs. Green, Mrs. A. Rawlings, and substitutes, Mrs. William Emerson and Mrs. Martin; recorders' representatives, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Emerson.

The girls' branch of the W. A. at St. Luke's held their meeting last night. A very successful year was reported, and

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HATS—\$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00 to \$10.75

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Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Lester Mowry; first vice-president, Mrs. E. P. Wright; second vice-president, Mrs. H. Usher Miller; recording secretary, Miss Helen McManis; treasurer, Miss Daisy Belyea; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. A. Munro; leaflet secretary, Miss May Davidson; E. C. D. treasurer, Miss Allison Daves; Dorcas secretary, Mrs. Emery; delegates to the diocesan annual meeting, Mrs. Mowry, Mrs. H. Usher Miller, and Mrs. E. P. Wright and Mrs. H. G. Harrison.

PREMIER ACCEPTS.

Taschereau Takes Up Challenge of Leader of Quebec Opposition.

Quebec, March 14.—(Canadian Press).—Following exchange of heated repartees between Premier Taschereau and Arthur Sauve, leader of the opposition, in the provincial house last night, the premier accepted the latter's challenge to address a meeting of workmen in Montreal after the present session.

The discussion arose on the supplies of the department of public works and covered a wide range, extending from the Quebec printers' strike to the labor congress in Geneva.

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