

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1918

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SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

Mr. Hopper, general manager for the power company, told the Public Utilities Commission yesterday that when the assets of the old company were sold in 1895 for \$96,000 they were worth at least half a million. The thought in his mind appears to be that even if the property only cost the company \$96,000 it should have the right to demand from the people interest on \$500,000 forever after. By the same process of reasoning, the New Brunswick Power Company could invest \$8,500,000 or less, and be justified in asking the people to pay interest and dividends on \$5,000,000 for all time. In other words, no matter how little the property cost, the company, by asserting a certain value perhaps many times as great, should be permitted to compel the public to provide dividends on that valuation. This will not do. The people are willing to pay a fair profit on a real investment, provided they get satisfactory service. That is all they should be asked to do. The power company is not a private corporation working under competitive conditions. It has a monopoly which could only be secured by consent of the people. It has no right to speculate and make them pay enormous profits to a favored group of individuals. The whole matter of power company finance must be probed to the bottom and the people's rights protected.

THE LEGISLATURE.

For many years, the speech from the throne at the opening of the New Brunswick legislature has been a very barren document. The Foster government has instituted a healthy change, that will be appreciated by the people. The speech which is printed today tells of real work in progress and in prospect, and of policies which if properly pursued will be of great benefit to New Brunswick.

The proposed legislation in regard to public health takes precedence in importance, for this matter has been too long neglected, and it is time the consideration of life assumed its proper place in the field of progressive politics. The Hall report furnishes an excellent basis for action and for the introduction of an enlightened policy designed to safeguard and promote public health from the earliest childhood of the future citizen.

St. John will be especially interested in the paragraphs relating to steel-ship-building, and whatever measure may be proposed to co-operate with the federal government and secure the establishment of a plant in this province. It is rightly said that this province possesses ideal advantages for the building of steel ships, and these have been recognized by great shipbuilding firms of the mother country. But for a change of government at Ottawa at a critical time St. John would be building steel ships today. The federal government having decided upon a broad policy for the creation of a fleet of steel vessels, New Brunswick should do its part to ensure the establishment of a plant on the shores of the Bay of Fundy.

A new highway act is announced, and this measure will also be of universal interest and importance, for the need of improved legislation has been urged year after year without getting satisfactory results. The Foster government made an excellent beginning last year in constructing some portions of permanent road, and doing a great deal of needed repair work. It is understood that Hon. Mr. Veniot has made plans for a continuance of this policy on broader lines, and so far as financial conditions will permit the policy of good roads should be carried vigorously forward.

With regard to the settlement of soldiers on the land there has been a good deal of doubt as to whether any considerable proportion of the returned men would care to settle down on the land. In Ontario and the western provinces, however, the governments appear to be confident from what has already developed that it will be well worth while to make provision for a goodly number of soldier farmers, and New Brunswick cannot do less than provide the most favorable conditions for such settlement in this province.

Reference is made in the speech to the great need of increasing food production, and in this the agricultural department, which did so much valuable work last year, is organized for still more effective work in the present year. The legislature will endorse the policy, and the people throughout the province should give the fullest measure of co-operation. Food will win the war.

Of course the St. John Valley Railway comes in for a share of attention. The assurance is given that this road will be completed by next fall. It is believed that in the carrying out of the new railway policy of the Dominion government the province will be relieved

of the burden of this line, and that is the goal to which the legislature should press forward. In the meantime the line must be completed. In this connection the house should certainly endorse the government policy of endeavoring to secure the return of moneys wrongfully obtained from the company by exponents of high finance. A salutary lesson is needed if we are to have an end of grafting in New Brunswick. Reference is made in the speech to the beneficial results of prohibition, and these will be still more apparent after the first of April, when the importation of liquor from Quebec and elsewhere is entirely prohibited. The measures relating to workmen's compensation and amendment of the forest laws will be of much importance. It is to be regretted that woman suffrage is not added to the list of government measures. Surely the session will not close without the passage of an act giving the franchise to the women of New Brunswick.

THE EGG PROFITTEERS.

The Toronto Globe tells a story that ought to have some effect at Ottawa. It says:

"A little over two weeks ago a citizen of Toronto purchased some eggs at a local grocery, paying for them sixty cents a dozen. Pencilled upon some of the eggs he discovered the name T. J. Urton, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. With the idea of finding out something as to the history of the eggs he wrote to Mr. Urton. The reply was rather startling. The eggs in question were shipped east fourteen months ago from a store in which Mr. Urton was at that time employed, and were sold for twenty cents per dozen. 'You can tell your grocer,' added the Duck Lake man, 'that he is sure making use of the high cost of living.' He is. But there must be others. The retailer did not get the two hundred per cent profit all to himself. Who participated in it? Where were the eggs held during the fourteen months that elapsed between the time they were shipped from Duck Lake and their appearance in the Toronto grocery? That man O'Connor might find out something worth while as to the ways of egg-storage concerns by following the trail of the Duck Lake eggs across the continent."

What is wrong with the food-control department? It has taken some action—but the profiteer is still doing business.

The Y. M. C. A. campaign for funds yesterday was another wonderful success, and a splendid tribute to the generosity of the people of St. John. The Y. M. C. A. has shown great activity in the last year or two, and has got closer to the people. President Barbour and the other directors are to be congratulated on the open road to greater service now before them. Mr. George L. Warwick, who captained the teams in yesterday's drive had marshalled his forces well, and the clever publicity campaign directed by Mr. F. G. Spencer was not less effective. St. John people have got the habit of giving, and every worthy cause finds quick and responsive sympathy.

There is infinite pathos in the confession of Mr. John E. Redmond that he died a broken-hearted man. All his hopes for a happy future for Ireland, to whose welfare his life was devoted, were not only unfulfilled but in the hour of his death the forces of disorder were gathering themselves to make less hopeful the deliberations of the Irish Convention. Come what may, the name of John E. Redmond will rank high in Irish history, and when brighter days dawn the value of his services will be more clearly seen by his fellow-countrymen.

Winnipeg Tribune. We have too long accepted the private interests cry of public incapacity. A people with faith in themselves are on the high road to a solution of many national problems. That public confidence era is with us and the goal is public ownership all along the line.

When the St. John Railway Company owned the plant there was a burden of \$113,900 on the business. When the New Brunswick Power Company took it over this was increased to \$182,000 annually. The public got no additional value. The poor public.

Sir Eric Geddes says that one out of every four or five U-boats that Germany sends out is destroyed. The other three or four, however, do a lot of damage.

The Russians are not taking as kindly as was expected by the Bolshevik leaders to the new order of things. There is a growing disposition to fight the Germans. With no central authority, however, the situation is very bad.

Roumania has followed Russia into the maw of the rapacious Hun.

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The Department of Agriculture has ordered 56,000 bushels of oats and 18,000 bushels of wheat. Oats will be sold for \$1.82 per bushel, in bulk, car lots, or \$1.88 in bags in car lots, laid down. Wheat will be sold for \$8.00 per bushel in bags, car lots, or f. o. b. distributing point for smaller orders. Local freights will be paid by purchaser. County Councillors and Agricultural Societies should place car lot orders immediately stating destination for cars. Delivery not guaranteed unless orders placed within three weeks, because of transportation difficulties. New Brunswick is expected to breed herself for the duration of the war. EVERY farmer should grow some wheat. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FREDERICTON, N. B. 3-18.

WORK OF CANADIAN CORPS FOR MONTH IS REVIEWED

Eight Raids B. Enemy, Only Three Party Successful

THEIR LINES ENTERED

Four Satisfactory Incursions Made by Our Men, Enemy Killed and Prisoners Captured—Big Guns Have Been Active

Ottawa, Mar. 6.—The following report of the operations of the Canadian corps at the front during January, 1918, has been received by the militia department. "Trench warfare has been continued

during the last month and, except for a small gain of ground on the night of January 3-4 in the neighborhood of Avion, without special incident other than occasional raids on either side, and patrol encounters. The break up of the front has entailed much work in the maintenance and repair of trenches. In addition, the general improvement of our positions and communications and the strengthening of our defenses have been pushed energetically.

"On the night referred to, parties were sent out into No. 10's Land to gain possession of positions overlooking the German wire, and to deny the enemy ground which, at night, had been found continually occupied by his patrols. The operation was entirely successful, two posts being established and connected with our front line.

"In the course of the month parties of the enemy have endeavored to enter our forward posts and trenches on eight occasions, but only three times were they met with any measure of success. On the evening of January 1 a large hostile raiding party attacked our front line south-west of Mericourt. The raid, which had been carefully practised by the enemy for four weeks, was delivered under cover of an intense artillery barrage, and succeeded in reaching our lines. In the fighting which followed the raiders sustained several casualties and left three prisoners in our hands. Four of our men were found to be missing.

"On the morning of January 12, a hostile raiding party entered our trenches between two of our posts at Avion and captured one of our men. At the same time a second party attacked another of our posts in this locality, but was driven off with the loss of one man taken prisoner by us. Early in the morning of January 23, the enemy again succeeded in reaching our trenches under cover of an intense artillery barrage, and secured several prisoners.

"All of the enemy's other attempts were uniformly unsuccessful. In more than one instance his losses are believed to have been considerable, while a few additional prisoners fell into our hands. "During this period four successful raids were carried out by us, besides several occasions on which patrols and small parties of our troops entered hostile posts or trenches without encountering the enemy.

"The first of these raids was carried out on the night of January 8-9. Our troops entered the German lines south-west of Mericourt, but were unable to secure prisoners, as the enemy's guard-post had fled. Identifications were secured, however, and two machine guns were brought back. Except for a few men slightly wounded, our parties sustained no casualties.

"Two prisoners were taken by us on the night of January 11-12, east of Loos. Fifteen German dead were counted in the enemy's trenches, and it is estimated that at least twenty others were killed in bombed dugouts. Our losses were again confined to a few men wounded.

"Early in the night of January 18-19, another highly successful raid was carried out by us north of Lens, in which, without loss to our forces, eleven German prisoners were captured and many of the enemy killed. On the following night two more prisoners and a machine gun were captured by us in another raid north of Lens, at the cost of one man wounded. Thirteen Germans were killed, and an occupied dugout was bombed. "Our artillery, trench mortars and machine guns have continued their activity throughout the month and in addition to the usual harassing fire and bombardments in connection with raids many targets have been effectively engaged. Our snipers again claim many hits, and our aircraft have been active and aggressive whenever the weather has been at all favorable for flying."

GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Chatham, Ont., Mar. 6.—"Litigation connected with Regulation 17 drags along," said H. C. Hocken, M. P., grand master, at the opening of the Grand Orange Lodge of Western Ontario, here today. In the meantime these schools were not obeying the law as they should. In some districts fairly satisfactory progress had been made; but taking the province as a whole, there was reason for disappointment. The provincial government had not receded from its position. Still it had not secured the results that the speaker had reason to expect by this time.

The explanation for this state of affairs was that the French school trustees had appealed to the courts, and by doing so held in abeyance the enforcement of the regulation. It was to be hoped that the government will find a means of the compelling the observance of its regulations by the recalcitrant trustees. It had been worked out in Manitoba by the appointment of an official



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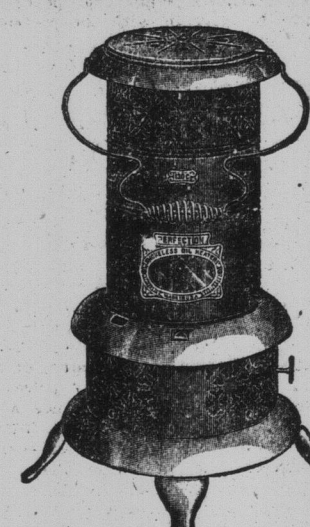
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trustee. It might be wise for the grand lodge to secure the preparation of legislation to assist the government to solve this problem.

ADDRESS TO Y. W. C. A. Miss Winifred Thomas, eastern student secretary of the Y. W. C. A., gave a very interesting address yesterday afternoon in the German street institute on "The Spirit and Ideals of the Young Women's Christian Association."

The meeting was held under the auspices of the St. John Y. W. C. A. Mrs. John A. McAvity presided. There were present by invitation members of the Daughters of the Empire, the Girls' Association of Netherwood School, the Y. W. P. A. and other young women's societies.

Women ambulance drivers in London wear steel helmets for protection against flying fragments of aero-bombs.

Senator Lafolette is suing the Madison Club of Madison, Wis., which expelled him on account of his war attitude.

Over one hundred thousand laborers are to be imported into the U. S. from Porto Rico and the Virgin Isles.

Claude C. Thomas of Florence, N. J., a deserter, was sentenced to fifteen years' hard labor by a court martial.

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