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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 21, 1906

**THE ELECTIONS**

Probably there has been no civic election in thirty years in St. John which created so much general interest as did the contest of Tuesday. The number of candidates was unusually large and the many instances the fighting was keen. The motives operating among the voters were many and varied and the crossing-fire was fast and furious. Generally it may be said that though the new Council is not a particularly strong one the outlook for civic economy and progress is not bad, so evident is it now that the taxpayers have shaken off for the time at least the spathy that ruled them.

As for the mayoralty, ex-Mayor Edward Sears, quite ran away with the prize, signally defeating his opponents, both of whom had been regarded as formidable. Even had there been but one candidate it is apparent that Mr. Sears would have won handsily. The vote is one of which he may well be proud of, which may mean that he has won a splendid opportunity, and if he but displays sturdy independence and exercises good judgment a conspicuously useful term is before him. Truly his future is now in his own hands. His friends have given him a great chance. The rest lies with himself. Friends and opponents, now that he is elected, should unite in giving him strong support, for long as it is evident that he is placing the interests of the taxpayers above all else.

The aldermanic contests were extremely lively in many instances and brought forth a few surprises. Chief among the features of the day must be noted the high confidence the electors displayed in some of the old aldermen, notably Ald. Baxter, and among the new candidates, Mr. Lockhart. Ald. McArthur, after a hard battle the final details of which were not disclosed until a week ago, won down before him. Mr. John Willet, K. C., who came late into the field and had little organization. The defeat of Ald. McArthur is one of the most striking features of the election. The reason it teaches need not be emphasized here. It is clear enough and no explanation is needed to reinforce it.

Two deaths had rendered vacant Lansdowne and Dufferin wards. In place of the late Ald. Christie comes Mr. Rowan, with a big vote at his back, while Mr. Willet succeeds the late Ald. Munroe. Ald. MacRae's retirement in Wellington gave that ward to Dr. W. A. Christie without opposition. Ald. Bullock and Ald. McGoldrick were in by acclamation. There were two new aldermen, Mr. C. B. Lockhart, who was among the leaders at the poll, and Mr. Hamilton, who also polled a big vote. Though he came out at the last minute and ran against Ald. Vanwart who was thought to be pretty well entrenched, Mr. S. S. DeForest apparently lost by a narrow margin in Dukes, though there was some doubt until a late hour. Ald. Lewis, Giammi, Tiley and Pickett all ran well. The two-cent vote was cast 225 electors favored it, while the vote against it was 1492. That tells the story.

**MR. ROOSEVELT AND BIG FORTUNES**

The late Thomas B. Reed is credited with the remark that Theodore Roosevelt had rediscovered the Ten Commandments and was making a great hit by paraphrasing them in his public speeches. There was propriety as well as truth in the Reed epigram, for it was framed before Mr. Roosevelt had won a great national reputation, and today the president is even more given to sermonizing from popular texts than he was when Reed analyzed his forensic methods. Mr. Roosevelt's latest speech on "The Man With the Muck Rake" contained much wholesome sense sermonizing on general questions like national honesty, courage and fairness, and this part of it has been widely applauded notwithstanding the fact that the doctrine was far from new. It is the forcible and picturesque presentation and the American public seems by no means disposed to criticize it because it was an expansion of the decalogue.

But one portion of the address—that relating to federal regulation of large private fortunes—has been sharply challenged in many quarters as revolutionary. After warning the nation against mere spasms of reform and misguided emotionalism, the president used these words:

"It is important to this people to grapple with the problems connected with the use of those fortunes, both corporate and individual, in business. We should discriminate in the sharpest way between fortunes well-won and fortunes ill-won; between those gained as an incident to performing great services to the community as a whole, and those gained in evil fashion by keeping just within the limits of mere law-honesty. Of course no amount of charity in spending such fortunes in any way compensates for mis-

conduct in making them. As a matter of personal conviction, and without pretending to discuss the details or formulate the system, I feel that we shall ultimately have to consider the adoption of some such scheme as that of a progressive tax on all fortunes, beyond a certain amount, either given in life or devised or bequeathed upon death to any individual; a tax as framed as to put it out of the power of the owner of one of these enormous fortunes to hand on more than a certain amount to any one individual; the tax, of course, to be imposed by the national and not the state government. Such taxation should, of course, be aimed merely at the inheritance or transmission in their entirety of those fortunes evolved beyond all healthy limits."

Of course Mr. Roosevelt avoided definitions. He did not say how big a fortune must be in order to be regarded as "evolved beyond all healthy limits," and he did not tell what methods of acquiring wealth he regards as improper. On both these points there is room for much difference of opinion. But has the federal power any right to say how much money a citizen shall acquire and what he shall do with it? The New York Commercial describes the president's proposal as it is referred to as "advanced Socialism." The Commercial is disposed to think Mr. Roosevelt is attacking the constitution, and it adds:

"Had that instrument 117 years ago (in Washington's day) essayed to clothe the federal government with the power to limit wealth-getting and to control the disposition of property, does the twenty-sixth president of the United States have the right to suggest the use of such a wonderful national growth to describe or anything in particular worth pointing out in the District of Columbia beyond the wooded waste along the Potomac that Washington looked out upon from the Capitol's foundation wall in 1793?"

"No! It is this very freedom of individual effort, this freedom of disposition, this wide restriction on federal power, that has made great wealth, great men, and a great nation possible here in America. It is a late day to suggest the destruction of a cornerstone of our constitution. It will be an evil day if we ever lay violent hands on it."

**BIRTHS AND DEATHS**

The fourth volume of the 1901 census, recently issued, has led a Western reviewer to compare the vital statistics of the different sections of Canada. The death rate in the various provinces and territories is given as follows:

Manitoba	12.21
Alberta	11.13
Assiniboia East	12.17
Assiniboia West	11.70
Saskatchewan	13.47
British Columbia	9.78
New Brunswick	11.13
Nova Scotia	23.98
Ontario	15.24
Quebec	11.54
Prince Edward Island	11.59
Atlantic Provinces	23.98
Canada	12.21

**LEND A HAND**

Ruin and death from earthquake and fire have been at work in San Francisco and surrounding towns, since daybreak yesterday morning, and unpeopled horror and suffering have followed. Those who read in our news columns of the frightful catastrophe with which the great California city has been afflicted will realize quickly how great is the need to aid the sufferers.

The Telegraph and The Times are starting this morning a relief fund, and desire to solicit subscriptions today from all persons in this city and province whose humanity moves them to assist the homeless, the hungry, the injured and the distressed. The Telegraph and The Times are leading the relief fund with subscriptions of \$1,000 each, and their earnest hope is that humane readers will help to swell this list to generous proportions.

"He gives twice who gives quickly." Money can be quickly transmitted to the San Francisco authorities in charge of relief operations, and it is urged that those willing to aid shall send in their contributions as promptly as possible. The amounts will be acknowledged immediately by these newspapers.

The latest despatches received this morning indicate that the disaster is of even more appalling proportions than was surmised from the earlier reports of the earthquake and the subsequent conflagration. It is feared now that the fire will sweep the entire city, which would mean that a great proportion of the population would be homeless or otherwise affected. Already Gen. Funston says 100,000 are homeless.

It is unnecessary to remind this community of the aid which came to St. John when our own city was laid in ruins by the great fire. It is remembered by most residents that the assistance received then was both prompt and generous. The people of San Francisco have had the horrors of the earthquake as well as those of fire, and the memory of St. John's terrible plight in that June of lamentable memory will assist St. John people in picturing for themselves the misery that rules today in the city of The Golden Gate.

Doubtless churches and other organizations as well as individuals will desire to add to the relief fund now started by the Telegraph and The Times, and the co-operation of all in this good work is most earnestly solicited.

**TO SECURE INDUSTRIES**

In another column is given some account of the action of the Halifax Board of Trade in connection with the organization of a joint stock company which will promote and assist new industries for the city. The company is to have a working capital of \$250,000. The officers of this organization are to advertise Halifax as a suitable location for factories, seek out enterprises suited to Nova Scotia, and look into and report upon the nature and outlook for such enterprises as may appeal to the investing public of Nova Scotia.

It is believed the money to set this civic promotion machinery in motion can be obtained readily in Halifax, and it is

asserted that it will pay a fair return from the first, though this, of course, remains to be demonstrated. Men who take stock in the company, and citizens generally, are reminded that the establishing of new industries in Halifax will increase the wage-earning population and swell the volume of business in a way of benefit to all.

The plan is part of the "forward movement" launched in Halifax more than a year ago by the Board of Trade. Toronto has organized an industrial bureau and will maintain it by assessing from \$2,500 to \$5,000 a year. Some time ago St. John made a move in the same direction, but thus far the work has been voluntary and no step has been taken to organize a paid department to carry on the important work.

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**THE RIVAL ROUTES**

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St. John naturally favors the Valley route as better calculated to serve a settled country, needing, and ready to support, transportation facilities. Nova Scotia, for some reason not easily placed, has become convinced that any departure from the central route is going to rob the sister province of some of the advantages it expects to derive from the new transatlantic line. There is really nothing to support this Nova Scotia idea. Halifax will profit quite as much as has been pointed out in the recent debate at Ottawa, whatever heavy freight is to come past Quebec must gravitate toward St. John as being the nearest winter port. Hauling freight is a matter of distance and grades. St. John will have very appreciable advantages as regards both grades and distance as compared with Halifax, and these will not be materially affected whether the line be the central or the Valley route be selected.

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If, upon examination, the commissioner is of the opinion that any insurance company is insolvent or is in a financial condition such as to require the intervention of the government, he is authorized to suspend the company's business and to appoint a receiver. The bill also provides for the appointment of a bureau of supervision in the district of Columbia, which shall be under the control of the commissioner. The bill also provides for the appointment of a bureau of supervision in the district of Columbia, which shall be under the control of the commissioner.

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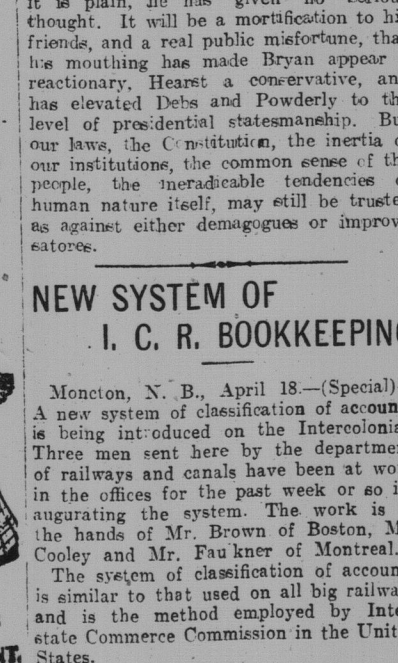
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Men build structures of steel and stone and all their steeple. The San Francisco of today is their answer. Fear of fire, and particularly of future earthquake, has led to the construction in the stricken city when its people come to rebuild.

Toronto reports a civic deficit of \$200,000 for the last year. St. John's will be about \$200,000 less than that. Toronto has a new assessment act, but St. John must get along this year with the present system, which could scarcely be worse.

"In all the history of graft," says the Montreal Gazette, "no more nauseating example has ever been exposed than that now under the limelight in Buffalo, where men who contracted to remove the bodies from an abandoned cemetery, at a certain price per body, increased the profit to themselves by dividing each body into several parts and buying each part as a separate body. The American public is generally tolerant of graft, but it will certainly never condone this instance in the slightest degree. There should be a law in some jail for these vandals."

Mr. Roosevelt's proposal to limit and tax big fortunes receives somewhat caustic treatment at the hands of the New York Post.

Mr. Roosevelt, says the Post, has become a domesticated body a little too suddenly to be entirely credible in that guise. He did, indeed, run his carefully prepared speech on the Man with the Muck Rake by a committee which made him look to the unwary like the Man with the Crowbar, ready to prize over the pillars of society. As a mere jester in taste, this was deplorable enough. His speech was wholly sacrificed to one intention. It was much as if the preacher of a temperance sermon had wound up by inviting all his hearers to go out and take a drink with him. We do not expect any terrible results from the president's happy-go-lucky remark about a subject to which it is plain, he has given no serious thought. It will be a mortification to his friends, and a real public misfortune, that he mentioned his name Bryan approvingly. Heard a conservative, and since the evening Debs and Powerfully to the level of presidential statesmanship. But our laws, the Constitution, the integrity of our institutions, the common sense of the people, the ineradicable tendencies of human nature itself, may still be trusted as against either demagogue or improvisator.

**THE RIVAL ROUTES**

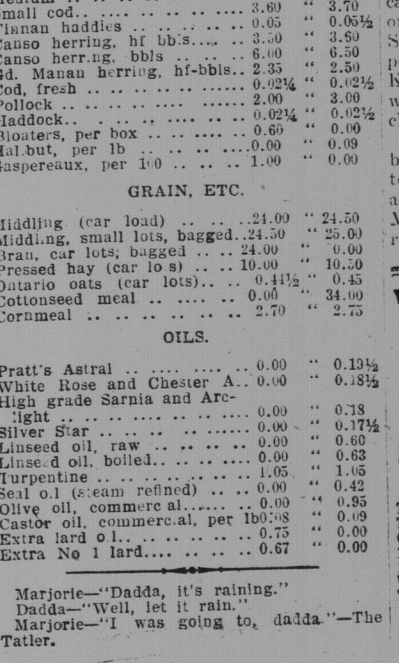
Hon. Mr. Fielding's statement that the choice of a route through New Brunswick for the Grand Trunk Pacific is a matter for the engineers and that the government will build by the line they select is enough to put to rest the line to be selected is under the contract, to be the shortest and practicable route for a low-grade road from Quebec to Montreal, and that is evidently what the engineers must seek, whereas much of the recent New Brunswick oratory in the house has really been advocacy of the shortest practicable route not to Montreal but to tide-water, which in this case is another name for St. John.

St. John naturally favors the Valley route as better calculated to serve a settled country, needing, and ready to support, transportation facilities. Nova Scotia, for some reason not easily placed, has become convinced that any departure from the central route is going to rob the sister province of some of the advantages it expects to derive from the new transatlantic line. There is really nothing to support this Nova Scotia idea. Halifax will profit quite as much as has been pointed out in the recent debate at Ottawa, whatever heavy freight is to come past Quebec must gravitate toward St. John as being the nearest winter port. Hauling freight is a matter of distance and grades. St. John will have very appreciable advantages as regards both grades and distance as compared with Halifax, and these will not be materially affected whether the line be the central or the Valley route be selected.

St. John's new Council will be confronted by a very obvious duty in this connection. The big steamers must have ample

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**ROOSEVELT FRAMES UP A MODEL PLAN TO CONTROL INSURANCE**

Bill Introduced Into Congress Providing for Bureau of Supervision in District of Columbia That Will Be Up to Date.

Washington, April 17.—Following President Roosevelt's insurance message to Congress today a bill recommended was drafted by amending the measures introduced in Congress by Representative Butler Ames (Miss.). It provides for the establishment of an insurance commission in the Department of Commerce and Labor, and for the appointment of a commissioner who shall have no official connection with any insurance company or who shall not be interested in the business of any company except as a policyholder. The commissioner is required at least once a year to examine all companies doing business in the district of Columbia. Forms are prescribed for the issue of annual statements and the commissioner is authorized to demand other information from the companies if he believes it necessary.

If, upon examination, the commissioner is of the opinion that any insurance company is insolvent or is in a financial condition such as to require the intervention of the government, he is authorized to suspend the company's business and to appoint a receiver. The bill also provides for the appointment of a bureau of supervision in the district of Columbia, which shall be under the control of the commissioner. The bill also provides for the appointment of a bureau of supervision in the district of Columbia, which shall be under the control of the commissioner.

**CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES**

Professor John Cox, M. A., L. L. D., professor of physics at McGill, who is quoted at some length in regard to the San Francisco disaster, answers a question that has been asked frequently during the last few days, namely, Was there any connection between the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the seismic disturbance in California? There might well be some connection, he says, adding:

"When the earth is disturbed in any part it might lead to disturbances in other parts. When a disturbance takes place, it generally sends a wave through the earth which is perceived in all parts of the world. When a big eruption occurs there are generally two waves of disturbance—one traveling along the surface of the earth and the other through the solid interior. Those waves which have traveled with different speeds and by-paths of different lengths arrive at any other place at different times, and by means of the interval between their arrivals it is possible to estimate the distance of the earthquake. In this way Professor Milne, from observations made in the Isle of Wight, has more than once given notice of earthquakes occurring in Japan and other foreign countries some hours before any telegraphic news had arrived."

**NOTE AND COMMENT**