

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1912

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Is it the intention of the Borden government to spend millions to provide St. John with terminals to handle traffic and then spend other millions to carry that traffic to another port? The Standard has an Ottawa despatch stating that "plans for the development of the Intercolonial system are in the making." It is proposed, according to the Standard, to have a new fast trans-Atlantic service, largely subsidized by the Dominion government.

In this connection it is proposed to complete the Intercolonial from Moncton to Halifax, and construct a loop via Parrsboro to Truro. The Standard adds:—

"These alterations would, it is stated, be followed by an arrangement under which running rights into Halifax would be given to three transcontinental company owned railways. If this project is carried out, it will be necessary to greatly extend the terminal facilities at Halifax, to construct new and larger docks, etc., involving an expenditure of many millions. Appropriation for the beginning of this work at Halifax will probably be made in the estimates to be laid before parliament next session."

If this programme is carried out, without reference to St. John, which is the best available port for both freight and passenger business, a gross injustice will be done. The people of this city ask nothing to which the situation and the merits of the port do not entitle them. If there is to be a fast Atlantic steamship service, heavily subsidized, they have a right to ask that St. John be given a fair trial as the terminal port.

LOANS TO FARMERS

The plan of providing a system of state loans to farmers is attracting attention in other parts of Canada as well as in New Brunswick. The Victoria Colonist reports:—

"The associated boards of trade of the Okanagan have forwarded to the government here a strongly worded resolution in favor of the government organizing a loan department, and advancing money to actual settlers at low rate of interest. This system, it is declared by President Bennett of the Penticton board, has worked out advantageously in New Zealand, of which dominion he was formerly a resident."

The Times quoted the other day, from the "Magnum Transcript," some statements relative to this subject. Here is another paragraph from that journal which is worthy of attention:—

"Germany's agricultural progress in recent years has been quite as remarkable as its industrial development, and there is abundant evidence that the co-operative banking system has been an important factor in promoting this development. France also makes provision for low interest loans to farmers. As payment for its privileges, the Bank of France is required to make a present of 2,000,000 francs a year to agricultural credit societies, and also to allow them a loan of 40,000,000 francs without interest. In the province of Quebec a score or more of co-operative credit banks have been established, and in spite of the opposition of the big banks they are increasing in number and proving of great value to the communities they serve."

PRISON FARMS

To those interested in the movement to secure a prison farm in this province, the following from a British Columbia exchange will give encouragement:—

"The news that there is to be a farm in connection with the gaol on Vancouver Island is excellent, and it is even better to learn that young are to be separated from old offenders. That the government of British Columbia is about to enter in earnest on the work of prison reform should be a matter of great thankfulness to all who realize that those who break the laws of the land are in spite of the opposition of the big banks they are increasing in number and proving of great value to the communities they serve."

In St. John we can do no more in the line of reform of prisoners than send them to the chain-gang. Surely the time has come for a change. It will only come, however, when the force of public sentiment makes itself felt. Ministers and other workers for social improvement should get together and set on foot such an agitation as would produce satisfactory results.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

"The Borden government will deal with the transportation problem," solemnly announces the Ottawa correspondent of the Standard, and then he adds:—

"The Standard understands that, whatever immediate steps may be taken to meet the more pressing needs of transportation, it will be followed by a general enquiry to be undertaken by experts selected by the government, and including men of undoubted standing in the Canadian transportation world. The enquiry will cover the needs of the wheat growers in the west, and the proposed improvements to existing facilities in the east."

Joyful intelligence this for the job-hunters. There is to be another commission of "experts." Also there is to be further sparring for wind. Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. But, after all, will there be enough commission jobs to feed the hungry?

The interest shown by Montreal men in Quebec county coal mines may result in important developments within the next year or two.

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The value of exports by the winter steamships is now over \$5,000,000 in excess of that for the like period last year. If the coal strike does not affect business this will be a record season.

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The Flemming government does not want the people to know how it spent their money. Therefore the auditor general's report gives lump sums, paid to "various persons" for labor, instead of giving the particulars.

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The news that the new bridge at the falls is likely to be constructed soon, with provision for street car traffic, is good news, for such a bridge would aid greatly in building up the west side.

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Like all other close observers, Mr. John A. Cooper of the Canadian Courier, after looking over the situation, is convinced that St. John has the promise of a great future, and has just entered upon a period of rapid expansion.

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In Carroll county, Virginia, yesterday, after a judge had sentenced a prisoner to one year in jail, the prisoner's relatives shot the judge, the sheriff and the state attorney, and got away, taking with them the man who had just been sentenced. They are now being hunted down in the mountains. Does Virginia send missionaries to China?

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Commodore Stewart of the Chatham World is one Conservative who has his doubts. He says in the World this week: "The roseate estimates of coal production and freight revenue which Premier Fleming hands out with his Minto railway bill sound very like the seductive utterances of Premier Pugsley on the Central Railway project."

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That stout British Tory, J. L. Garvin, who was one of the leaders of the attack upon Mr. Balfour, writes in the Pall Mall Gazette:—"If imperial unity stands for more than a mere phrase, the time has come for the daughter states to range themselves firmly by her side. A hint from them," etc., etc. Premier Borden of Canada has given his hint. He has announced that he will repeal the navy act, and range himself firmly by the side of Henri Bourassa.

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It is evident that certain St. John bills before the legislature are to meet with opposition from a small section of the people here, who are never satisfied with anything. The members of the legislature will understand, however, that the great mass of the people of St. John want the new charter and the new assessment law. It is quite proper that those who have objections to make should be given the fullest opportunity to state their case, but the wishes of the great majority should prevail.

LOCAL LECTURE PLATFORM

Mrs. J. R. McIntosh delivered a very instructive lecture on her trip to Scotland to the members of the Natural History Society yesterday afternoon. The lecture was illustrated and was greatly enjoyed. Art in the United States was the subject of a lecture delivered by Joshua Clavon in the art club rooms last night. The attendance was large, and the lecture was greatly appreciated. A vote of thanks was tendered the lecturer at the close.

Professor Caspar Rene Gregory of the University of Leipzig, Germany, delivered a scholarly lecture on Mount Sinai, its Monasteries and Manuscripts, before the members of the St. John Archaeological Society in the school room of St. John's (Stone) Church last evening.

Wendell Simpson of Springfield, Maine, who was arrested here for the Sackville case, was allowed his liberty yesterday afternoon, Deputy Jenkins receiving a telegram from the police there to release him. He proceeded to Boston.

Nellie Riley, the five year old child of John Riley of the Westmorland Road, strayed from her home yesterday afternoon and was not located until ten o'clock last night. She was in a house in Waterloo street.

Mrs. Thomas Hargreaves and her two children, who arrived on Wednesday last on the Donaldson liner Saturnia from Glasgow and who were to have been met here by Mr. Hargreaves, a well to do Alberta farmer, are still in the city unable to locate him. Mr. Hargreaves was to have met his family in Halifax according to arrangement, but the steamer did not call there. It is understood that he came to this city some days ago, but his wife has not yet seen him. She and the children are at the Western House in Carleton.

NEW BOARD OF TRADE

A meeting of business men of Lancaster was held last evening at the Orange Hall, Fairville, for the purpose of forming a board of trade for the parish of Lancaster. Wm. J. Linton was elected chairman and J. A. Donaldson, secretary. A resolution was adopted against certain features of the new charter for the city of St. John, the management of the Lancaster land, and also the water supply for the parish. The meeting directed W. J. Linton and Donaldson to proceed to Fredericton to state the objections. An adjourned meeting will be held this evening at the court house, Fairville, to discuss more fully some of last night's business.

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NO HARM DONE.

The tailors and cutters and molders have decided to make our clothes light; We've found that big pads in our shoulders Do not help a man much in a fight. Cincinnati Enquirer.

CONSIDERATION.

"Do you think women have a sense of humor?"

"Yes," replied Miss Cayenne, But I think they have become accustomed to restrain their laughter through fear of hurting some man's feelings."—From the Washington Star.

A BRIDE'S TRIAL.

One of the greatest trials a girl has to encounter when she marries, is that she has to discharge her mother and depend on a hired girl.—From the Graymont, Ga., Hustler.

OLD AND NEW.

The old-fashioned woman who wore red hannels and turpentine as protection for her chest now has a daughter who wears talcum and a bangle on her arm.—From the Galveston News.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

"I fear we are losing our ideals in the rush for wealth."

"Oh, I don't know. The rush for the ball park will begin again before long."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

DEFINITIONS.

Weather—A convenient handle with which to discuss the weather.

Sausage—The link between man and beast.

Thoughts—Things for which we would be arrested if they were known.

Spring—The muzzle season for young poets.—Judge.

NOTHING NEW.

"I am disappointed in this seed catalogue."

"As to how?"

"I don't see any improvements in boots or tomatoes. These look like 1911 models to me."

NO SUNSHINE REQUIRED.

Bottle—I see that electricity is playing a part in agriculture. But what crop would flourish most under electric light?—Motto—Wild oats.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

MORNING LOCALS

William Sullivan, formerly of the St. John police force but now the chief of the Sackville police, was in the city yesterday regarding acquaintances and was heartily welcomed.

A pretty and original entertainment was given last evening by the Star Mission Band of Kilmouth street church. The programme included Dreams of Mother Goose, in which the characters of the nursery rhymes were represented by members of the band and the second part was a Japanese entertainment in costume. Among those taking part were Misses Mabel Shaw, Helen Magee, Emma Rand, Mary Alward, Gladys Kait, Susan Tucker, Mildred Wilson, Edith Justin, Gladys Radcliffe and Hazel James.

RECENT DEATHS

The death of Mrs. Sarah Gough occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. F. A. McAndrews, Douglas avenue yesterday. She is survived by four daughters and one son. The daughters are: Mrs. Charles Noble, of Boston; Mrs. F. A. McAndrews, of this city; Mrs. Bladineberg, of Fredericton; and Mrs. Edith Justin, of New York, is the son.

The death of Mrs. Annie Weldon, widow of Charles W. Weldon, formerly a member of the well known law firm of Weldon & McLean and a member of parliament, died at her home, 1 Prince William street, about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. She had been ill for about six weeks and death came unexpectedly. She was one of the oldest residents of this city and was of a family very prominent in this province, being the wife of the late John Tucker, who was Lloyd's agent at this port, and a sister of Col. J. J. Tucker, ex-M.P., who resided here. The old Tucker home-stead was in Mount Pleasant on the site of the present residence of Dr. Silas Aldrich, K.

Of a kindly disposition, her gentle nature endeared her to all who were fortunate in knowing her, and her death marks the passing of one more largely identified with the social life of this city.

Mrs. Weldon's husband, the late Charles Wesley Weldon, A. M., Q. C., was one of the ablest lawyers in this province. He was a Liberal in politics and was returned to parliament as a member from this city in the general elections of 1878 and was re-elected at the general elections the following term.

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PRICES ARE STILL SOARING

The wholesale prices record of the labor department at Ottawa up to date show a still higher level for February than for January, notwithstanding that the latter month was reported as having seen the highest prices since 1882 and possibly since 1873. The index number rose during February from 131.4 to 134.3, these being percentages of the average level of prices during the last decade of the last century. The upward movement was largely the result of advances in grains, animals and meats, dairy products and potatoes. Retail prices were also upward, especially in the food products derived from the lines mentioned.

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Buttoned, \$5.00 and \$5.50

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