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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1904.

April 27, 1904.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 27, 1904.

THE MEN RESPONSIBLE.

For the condition of the water supply the taxpayers themselves are responsible, and the lesson learned at such great cost to many of the most energetic and public-spirited men in the community may be useful for the future. The hopelessness of a great modern city where fire fighting machinery and water supply are inadequate is appalling, and our people hereafter may set a higher value upon the advice of officials whom they retain as experts and too often treat as incompetent and meddling busybodies.—Toronto News.

What is said of Toronto by the News is to a certain extent true of St. John. The taxpayers here have not held the aldermen strictly to account hitherto when they had complaints of evils which it was within the province of the aldermen to correct. The aldermen, too, have too frequently shown that they either distrusted their heads of department and lacked the courage to act accordingly, or have ignored the recommendations made by these department heads which should have been carried out without delay.

The recent history of the water department is a case in point, and there are others. The average business man pays his taxes and assists in electing a council to manage the city's business. He expects that the aldermen, if they have reason to believe that the streets are dirty, because the director of public works, or the superintendent of streets, is incompetent, will institute an investigation and order a change. If the department of public safety lacks efficiency because a head of department is not the man for the place, the taxpayers believe the aldermen should act. If the superintendent of the water supply submits a report, after a long and arduous journey, suggesting remedial measures for the evils of which the aldermen are to act upon these reports, or to say outright that the reports are useless and the official unfitted for the position he holds. The water superintendent is not the only man who has made reports and recommendations only to have them ignored. This is a condition of affairs which has lasted too long. It has argued incompetency in the council or in the officials controlled by the council, or in both.

The old council leaves to the new one a legacy of inaction and distrust of several department heads. The new council, finding the public stirred considerably by recent revelations, will do well to adopt another policy. If St. John needs new men, in any capacity, the aldermen should say so and waste no time in not words in doing it. The present men are competent and energetic and the suggestions they have made and are making are good, it is time their recommendations met with a proper reception at the hands of the council.

St. John is asking that steps be taken immediately looking to greater security from fire and leading to a supply of water ample for fire, household and manufacturing purposes. More visitors than ever before come to our doors during the tourist season are confidently expected this summer. There is always reason enough for keeping the streets clean. This summer there are particular reasons why care should be taken in this direction. There is no reason why the incoming council should not be a more popular one. Its opportunities are large. It should have the desire to work with the present heads of department if it finds them competent and energetic and level-headed, or it should have the courage to remove any or all of them if they fall below the standard. Some of the members of the old council had the reputation of protecting this official or that. Their business was not to protect these individuals but the city which settles the bills.

THE JAPANESE ADVANCE.

If the reports which the Russian and Japanese consuls now permit the correspondents to send are to be credited and are not intended to deceive the enemy, Japan's forces in Korea are following three converging lines toward the Yalu, the passage of which may be forced at once. The experts differ considerably as to Russia's intentions, some believing that the crossing of the river will be stubbornly contested, while others say the threat which the Japanese are making on the flank will cause the Russians to retire slowly up country. There has evidently been intense activity among the invaders for a week past and the latest advice indicates that Russia must make a stand now or yield Southern Manchuria as she yielded Korea.

without more serious fighting than that

involved in a few affairs of outpost. Japan today holds all the territory she claimed as within her sphere of influence. Her lines of communication are open. She has the freedom of the seas. She has suffered no check and her army is believed to be in a mood for action no matter how desperate. That her forces will drive through Russia's first line of defence, isolate Port Arthur by cutting the railway which connects it with Mukden and Harbin, and unite for the movement northward in the near future appears certain.

It will be seen that the Mikado's generals are accomplishing an extraordinary degree of success in a few weeks ago. He then proposed to draw the invading forces into a wide-spreading net and ent them up. The little banders are going into the net. We have not to see how strong the net is.

Disaster following disaster has not lessened the amazing confidence which Russia affects. There must be much affectation. It is the Russian idea—the world is asked to believe—that the war will be over next September. Before that time the Japanese are to be rolled back through Korea and driven into the sea. Seoul is to be taken and finally, when the Baltic fleet arrives, the war is to be carried into Japan. Just what the Japs will be doing during this interesting period does not appear. They probably believe they will be at Harbin before September, no matter what toll they pay in dead and wounded along the way.

TAXES IN THE MARITIME PROVINCE CITIES.

What St. John's tax rate will be a year from now those who will have to pay it must guess. The city must raise more money. Not less taxation, but a new method of raising the money is what is necessary. A reference was made yesterday to the rate in Sydney, which is now two per cent. In Sydney, however, the proportion charged to income is .01. In St. John it is .15. In 1890 the ratio of taxation here was 1.55. In Sydney in that year it was 1.40. Here the proportion charged to real estate was .50, to personal property .35 and to income .15. In Nova Scotia generally income up to \$100 is exempted. In Halifax and Charlottetown incomes pay nothing as such; in Moncton, .02; in Fredericton, .27; in Woodstock, .03; in St. Stephen, .08; in Amherst, .06; in Kentville, .01.

In 1890 the proportion charged to real estate in St. John, as has been said, was .50. In the same year the figures for other cities were: Halifax, .30; Charlottetown, .74; Moncton, .76; Fredericton, .49; Dartmouth, .77; Woodstock, .65; Pictou, .30; Kentville, .79; Chatham, .62. A law was passed some years ago giving St. John power to secure information on which a fair system of taxation might be based, but the city still has about the worst system in Canada. In his annual report for 1902, Mr. W. M. Jarvis, then president of the Board of Trade, suggested a remedy. After discussing the many evils of the present arrangement he said in part:—

"Referring again to Adam Smith's canon, so far as they were applicable to municipal taxation, and that there are taxes ought to be certain, and not arbitrary. But the present attempt at following personal property and income was uncertain and arbitrary alike. What was needed for this part of the taxation which must be levied was a fixed and certain basis, which could readily be reached to a reasonable extent. And that basis he believed to be found only in the system of distributing the personal tax, now vainly attempted to be levied in respect of personal property and income, on practically the same individual, but in proportion to the rental value of the premises they occupied, whether for residence or business purposes, and by a system of license fees, applicable to all persons making a sufficient use of the advantages the city afforded, and not as now, to some unfortunate classes alone. In such a system the smaller rentals might be exempted to some extent. That was a mere matter of detail."

THE PRESIDENCY.

The forces of Democracy are again likely to waste their strength by strife within the party. At a time when enthusiastic Parker men are prophesying that the New Yorker will be chosen by the first ballot, Mr. Hearst is at work in the Democratic underbrush, and his ally, Mr. Bryan, is threatening to hire a hall and impose upon a long suffering public his reasons why Judge Parker should not be selected to carry the colors which went down to defeat with the Nebraska in two great battles.

It is the hope of the Eastern Democrats that President Roosevelt can be beaten by arraying against him Wall Street and all that Wall Street means throughout the country. They point to Judge Parker as a man whose personal record is clean, whose ability stands proved, and whose conservative soundness on public questions affecting capital is conceded. In this conservatism which is to give the New Yorker strength in the great money centres, the governing factors in the Western Democratic affect to see concessions to the trusts and generally to the money demon. It will be Mr. Bryan's cry, apparently, that no such crown of thorns should be pressed down upon the brow of the toll-meet that the Japanese must keep a guard fleet of considerable power on duty and that the remnants of the Russian squadron might join the Baltic fleet which Russia intends to despatch to the East late in the summer—if it ever arrives.

But while Mr. Bryan may not be pla-

ced, his convention strength may not be as great as that of the more practical Mr. Hearst and Mr. Hearst may be moulded by the Democratic leaders if they throw a sop to his ambition, such as the guarantee to make him an ambassador. In the event of a convention there will not be wanting Democrats who will demand that the element for which Mr. Hearst stands shall be repudiated as socialistic and generally discreditable. To blend these various factions into a united force strong enough to shake the Rough Rider from the presidential saddle will be a task of great difficulty, yet today the Democrats do not despair of its accomplishment.

The Republicans are in power, and they are united. They are confident, and with reason. The one thing capable of giving them uneasiness approaching would be the nomination of ex-President Grover Cleveland.

GILBERT MURDOCH'S OPINION.

Five or six years after the great fire in St. John the late Gilbert Murdoch told the Common Council that a gravitation water supply was necessary. Like the expert who was called in a little later, Mr. Murdoch said a pumping station was a palliative, not a remedy. He suggested a heroic operation. The civic doctors of that day overruled him and gave the patient a sedative in order to keep him from worrying. The patient has begun to worry again, as was seen at the public meeting last Thursday, and is inclined to hark back to the radical remedy suggested in 1882.

A sufficient quantity of water was easy to secure then as now. But the pressure was unsatisfactory then, and it is more unsatisfactory now. Mr. Murdoch could see but one satisfactory way out of the difficulty, and that was to tap Loch Lomond, at a cost of from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The engineering work would be the same now as it was then, but progress in engineering and a reduction in the cost of the material which would now be utilized might substantially reduce his estimate. He proposed that a pressure be secured strong enough to give each hydrant the force of a medium-sized fire engine. He pointed out the benefits which would follow the installation of such a service—additional safety, reduced insurance rates, a more desirable quality of water, and a supply ample for all purposes in all quarters of the city.

The expert who was called in after Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Hurd Peters, C. E., had disagreed at an exasperating length over the nature of the improvement necessary, decided that a pumping station could not be regarded as more than a temporary expedient, yet for many years that expedient has been the sole result of the excitement over the water supply twenty-two years ago, if we except a little costly tinkering which has been done from time to time in and about the reservoir. Another expert may take the late Mr. Murdoch's view of the case, or may reverse his decision. At least if a competent man be consulted he will be able to clear up the situation by deciding between the many men who now ascribe the trouble to totally different causes and who differ radically as to the nature of the remedy required.

GIANT AND GIANT-KILLER.

Verestchagin, the painter who went down with Admiral Makoff, was a man who hated war and strove with brush and pen to make others hate it, yet because he loved the excitement of action he found only in danger the vivid impressions he required, the painter was ever thrusting himself in where soldiers or sailors were butchering one another, singly and in battalions. Thus it happens that Verestchagin has left for us a sketch of Makoff's successor, Admiral Skrydloff, with whom as with Makoff, he had seen much perilous service.

The man who now commands the crippled Russian squadron at Port Arthur has a reputation for daring and military knowledge as great as Makoff's was before the yellow men lured him to disaster and death outside the harbor he guarded. The painter in one of his sketches told how Skrydloff won the Cross of St. George, one of the most coveted of Russian decorations, in 1877. The Russian army had thrown a pontoon bridge across the Danube and was preparing to cross. Suddenly two Turkish monitors appeared. There was no vessel at hand fit to cope with them, and disaster appeared imminent. Skrydloff was then a lieutenant, commanding a small yacht of the Czar which was used as a naval lance. In this insignificant craft the lieutenant, with six men, too few for settlement are found in the northwestern provinces. Many hard characters drift over to Canada, but the majority are considered above the average class. Of 128,000 new citizens who entered Canada last year, nearly 50,000 were well-to-do American farmers from the western states, 41,000 of about the same class came from the British Isles and 37,000 from continental Europe. As a whole they were all above the average quality of immigrants. The human material out of which immigration is made has much to do with the eventual quality of the product that is to result from the soil as well as from the future civilization that is to be evolved. Canada is rearing a new and promising civilization in her great provinces. The immigration that she does not want is sifted down into the states. Most of the settlers who mean business and whom she wants are made welcome and will make themselves heard from within a few years. They will give long assist in the settlement of some great questions.

There will be many great questions to settle, no doubt. Canadians, new or old, will be quite capable of settling them in accord with the spirit of loyalty and jus-

tice and faith in this great country which will be common to them all.

KINGS AND THE SCOTT ACT.

The Scott Act has its friends and its foes. All temperance people do not favor the act, perhaps, some believing that the instrument is imperfect. It is not the purpose here to discuss the virtues of the measure. What is of interest now is the situation which has arisen in King's county through an attempt to carry out the law as it stands. Leaving the temperance man and the liquor seller out of the case there can be no two views about the necessity for enforcing any law which a majority of the people have enacted. Good or bad, the Canada Temperance Act is there, and the men paid to enforce it must do so so far as they can, no matter where the shoe pinches. If the enforcement proves obnoxious to the best intelligence of the community the law may be repealed. If, however, a majority stands by the act, the minority must be governed by it, no matter what turmoil results.

The law is simple enough. It condemns a man who is accused by a Scott Act inspector to be guilty. He is guilty only if the evidence is strong enough to convict. Such evidence is usually not difficult to obtain if the law has been violated. As a rule the cases present few difficulties to the magistrate who has to deal with them.

The magistrate's position in this matter, as in all others where personal rights and personal liberties are concerned, is as plain as a pike-staff. Whether he believes in the act or does not believe in it should not influence him a hairbreadth in his judicial capacity. All magistrates, in King's county as elsewhere, must be guided by the facts. They did not create the law, but, no matter what they think of its wisdom or justice, they must hold the scales even between accuser and accused. There have been reports of late to the effect that this or that magistrate is regarded as more favorable or unfavorable to the act than another. It must be assumed that no man on the bench has allowed any such bias to become apparent. What a magistrate thinks about the act is neither here nor there. He is sworn to uphold the laws of the land—all the laws. It is within the power and duty of a magistrate, too, to take prompt measures in case he believes an attempt is being made by his court, in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, to defeat the ends of the majority whose servant he is and whose wishes, as expressed by the legislature, he must carry out.

CANADA NEEDS THE BEST, AND GETS THEM.

Protests by many Canadian newspapers, and by Lord Strathcona, against the idea of several stupid British magistrates that Canada is willing to receive British paupers or criminals, has had some effect. Not long ago cases were filed in which police court prisoners in London were released upon their promise to go to this country. Yesterday an old offender, charged with robbery, upon being arraigned in a London court, pleaded for a chance to emigrate. The magistrate suggested Germany, but the prisoner expressed a preference for the Dominion. A prison missionary who was present informed the court that the man would not be permitted to land here. The magistrate knew that, and apparently lamented it, saying that England received the scum of Europe and even Asia with open arms but could not get rid of her own "undesirables." Any country which breeds undesirables should deal with them. It is a case in which each country must work out its own salvation. Canada dumps neither paupers nor criminals upon other lands and receives none such when she can prevent it. The news that at least one London magistrate knows how the matter stands is encouraging. The country will soon learn.

Canada needs the best immigrants and she is getting them. She offers them a more inviting future than any other country in the world. It is pleasing to find in the editorial columns of the Boston Globe a frank acknowledgment of Canada's success along this line. "Canada seems to get the cream of the incoming immigration at this busy season," says the Globe. "Nearly 5,000 entered her borders last month by way of Halifax alone. The best lands, too, for settlement are found in the northwestern provinces. Many hard characters drift over to Canada, but the majority are considered above the average class. Of 128,000 new citizens who entered Canada last year, nearly 50,000 were well-to-do American farmers from the western states, 41,000 of about the same class came from the British Isles and 37,000 from continental Europe. As a whole they were all above the average quality of immigrants. The human material out of which immigration is made has much to do with the eventual quality of the product that is to result from the soil as well as from the future civilization that is to be evolved. Canada is rearing a new and promising civilization in her great provinces. The immigration that she does not want is sifted down into the states. Most of the settlers who mean business and whom she wants are made welcome and will make themselves heard from within a few years. They will give long assist in the settlement of some great questions."

There will be many great questions to settle, no doubt. Canadians, new or old, will be quite capable of settling them in accord with the spirit of loyalty and jus-

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If you want your boy to be in fashion get him a Norfolk. They're to be more stylish than ever this spring. Why not? Can there be anything more becoming or manly than the smart-looking coat with its yoke or pleats running to shoulders; box-pleats and belt.

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We lead in the clothing of Boys—no doubt about that.

Evidence of our leadership can be found in these Boys' Norfolk Suits at \$2.50. They are made from Tweeds. Colors: Plain brown and gray, gray stripes and mixed patterns. Also Blue Serges, Special values at \$2.50.

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months ago are fully supported by the director of public safety and the police and fire chiefs in the report submitted by them yesterday.

A SLOW COURTHSHIP.

Mr. Norman Smith, who was sent to Newfoundland by the Toronto Globe to find out how Canada's courtship of that chill colony is progressing, says in his initial letter from St. John's that our suit is being laughed at. For all that the commissioner does not despair, since he finds many public men, who are anti-confederate in their public utterances, willing in private to confess that the alliance has manifold advantages. The politicians are chary of discussing union, feeling that the question is inopportune, though they admit that a great change in the attitude of the Newfoundland public may come soon and make confederation a live political issue. Now they say it is either dead or dangerous from the colonial statesman's standpoint. Many would use the weapon but fear to have it turned against them to their own destruction.

The colony's export trade has increased forty-four per cent in five years and the imports show a growth of thirty-five per cent in the same period. The people were far from prosperous in 1885, and the French Shore question was a thorn of sharpness. They are prosperous today and the Anglo-French agreement banishes French ownership. So the terms which were not good enough for Canada in 1885 are today far from good enough for the people of Newfoundland. The news overtures must come from Canada, they say, and there must be guarantees looking to the equipment of harbours and the development of the island's wonderful resources. Were these offered there can be no doubt that the public men who privately favor union and who recognize the benefits which would follow it, could speak out with assurance that they would soon have a formidable following.

Given an assurance of Canada's interest and her determination to be fair if not generous in her terms, union sentiment in the island would evidently grow rapidly. There is no need for haste, but there is need for an understanding such as will serve to discourage the progress of American influence at St. John's. Canada's suit has not yet been pressed with the proper diplomacy. There is no reason to regard it as desperate.

THE REPORT ON BUILDINGS.

The report of the committee appointed to inspect St. John's public buildings is submitted at a time when the condition of the water system and the great fire in Toronto are calculated to add gravity to the recommendations of the inspectors. The board of public safety accepts the report and orders that the improvements it suggests be made. The Common Council will no doubt take the same view, and a business-like enforcement of the suggestions is to be expected. The report is one such as will appeal to all citizens as necessary and adequate. The inspecting committee show no desire to injure any man's property, and such improvements as they find necessary are described conservatively and with an evident inclination to be fair to those whom the report will put to expense. In a few of the cases dealt with the lack of modern precautions looking to safety in case of fire has long been notorious, and reform should not be delayed.

In most cases, fortunately, the owners of the buildings can comply with the committee's requests without much expense and their properties will be much more valuable for the change. Some time ago attention was directed by this newspaper to the condition of some of the school buildings, and the need for improvements and the systematic carrying out of the trustees' orders regarding the fire drill was emphasized. The views expressed by The Telegraph in this connection some

in a certain direction they should have their way. Any money granted to aid the celebration by the council will bring an immense return. Fortunately the Mayor and a majority of the council understand how important the Champlain festival will be.

Victory Alexief, the soap-god who will carry the burden of Russia's failure in the Far East, will be known hereafter as a man whose bluff was called. He said Japan would not fight and acted accordingly. He was wrong, and when Japan began to fight Russia was caught unprepared. Had the delay been as long as Alexief hoped it would be Russia would have completed her preparations and struck first.

When the British took the Thibetan fort at Gyantse they discovered scores of severed heads. This caused surprise as the Buddhist religion forbids the taking of life. It was supposed, says a Times correspondent who accompanies the expedition, that the Thibetans avoided a literal infraction of the Buddhist commandment by allowing prisoners to starve to death. Apparently the approach of Youngblood's force led to a quicker and more merciful killing of the prisoners.

They are glib folk who pay for the privilege of conversing with the spirits of departed friends in the parlors of spiritualist "mediums," and as they are numerous and hard to undo, the "mediums" thrive. In Boston on Sunday evening the police raided a seance and arrested "among those present" the spirit of the late Bishop Brooks which—so the trick ran—had been summoned by the chief spiritualist at the bidding of one who had admitted the great bishop during his ministry on earth. The "spirit" turned out to be a 250-pound female wearing a flowing dark gown upon which phosphorus had been so placed as to make the visible outlines resemble a gargantuan's robes. A big German had mistaken this same ample female, in another guise, for the spirit of his mother. The dupes were properly shocked, but some, if not all, of them will seek an honest medium now and, if the police do not interfere, will believe they have found one. For, as Barnum had it, some people like to be humbugged.

"Bridget"—"Was yer sick wick yer werr comin' over the ocean?" Mike (nervously)—"Wuzn't Oi, though? If I hadn't put on a life preserver, Oi believe Oi'd a died."

"Johnnie"—"I told Uncle Simon that he was getting too old and feeble to attend to business." "Mamma"—"Did he take it kindly?" "Johnnie"—"He threw me out of his office."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Already the exhibition officials are getting to work. The show this fall should be marked by unusual success. The amusement features will be more attractive than ever before if some of the directors have their way.

St. Petersburg talks at length about mediation. And that is a curious thing when you come to think about it. A few weeks ago the Russian capital was aflame with enthusiasm over General Kourapatkin's threat to go to Tokio though Great herself should attempt to hold him back.

Senator Hale advises the United States to build no more battleships until their value is more clearly determined by the present war. He said in Washington yesterday that the success of torpedo tactics might prove Uncle Sam's \$150,000,000 fleet of battleships a bad investment. The remark applies to all the Powers.

The appearance at Gensan of cruisers belonging to Russia's Vladivostok squadron lends new interest to the great war game. If these ships have left the northern harbor Japanese transports must be strongly guarded. Gensan at which some Japanese troops were landed some time ago is a Korean port with a population of some 20,000 and is not defended.

One or two aldermen have expressed opinions unfavorable to the torercentary celebration. It is well to remember that when the taxpayers wish to expend money

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

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Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera, Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

Sept. 28, 1885, says:—"If I were asked which single medicine I should prefer to take abroad with me, as likely to be most generally used, to the exclusion of all others, I should say CHLORODYNE. I never travel without it, and its general applicability to the relief of a large number of simple ailments forms its best recommendation."

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Is a liquid medicine which cures PAIN OF EVERY KIND, affords a calm, refreshing sleep, WITHOUT HEADACHE, and invigorates the nervous system when exhausted.

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne Rapidly cuts short all attacks of Epilepsy, Spasms, Colic, Palpitation, Hysteria.

IMPORTANT CAUTION.

THE IMMENSE SALE of this REMEDY has given rise to many UNSCRUPULOUS IMITATIONS. Be careful to observe trade mark. Of all Chemists, &c., in 1891, &c., &c.

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—Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE (late Army Medical Staff) DISCOVERED A REMEDY, he denotes which he coined the word CHLORODYNE. Dr. Browne is the SOLE INVENTOR, and as the composition of CHLORODYNE cannot possibly be discovered by any other person, it is a compound of CHLORODYNE and since his formula has never been published, it is evident that any statement to the effect that a compound is identical with Dr. Browne's Chlorodyne must be false. This caution is necessary, as many persons deceive purchasers by false representations.

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

—VICE CHANCELLOR SIR W. PAGE WOOD stated shortly all attacks of Epilepsy, Spasms, Colic, Palpitation, Hysteria, Dr. Browne was undoubtedly the INVENTOR of CHLORODYNE, that the whole story of the defendant Foreman was deliberately untrue, and he regretted to say that it had been sworn to—see The Times, July 13, 1894.

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