

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1921

### The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 26, 1921.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act, 1885. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Prices—Delivered by carrier, \$1.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 350 Madison Ave.—Chicago, E. J. Fowler, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

#### ARE WE BEGGARS?

Under the harbor commission act the federal government is not pledged to spend one dollar for the improvement of St. John harbor.

The Times makes this assertion deliberately and challenges any advocate of the act to prove the contrary.

In the past the federal government has spent millions of dollars for harbor improvement at St. John, and has not charged up one cent against the city or harbor revenue. The "people of Canada" have been made responsible for it as a national expenditure.

But what does the harbor commission act provide? It provides that hereafter the harbor revenue must pay three and a half per cent per annum on the cost of that grain elevator and those government wharves, including the very costly marine wharf.

Does any member of the Board of Trade or any shipping man dispute this statement? He cannot dispute it, for it is there in the act.

The act not only throws upon harbor revenue the interest on past expenditure which it never had to bear before, but throws upon it the burden of interest and sinking fund for all new expenditure.

Does any member of the Board of Trade or any shipping man say this is not true? He cannot, for it is there in the act. And the act is supplemented by the declaration of government policy by Hon. Mr. Ballantyne to the effect that harbors under commission must hereafter pay interest and sinking fund out of revenue.

The only thing the advocates of the act can say is that while it says one thing the government intends to do the very opposite. Is that the way contracts are made? What business man would sign a contract on a verbal assurance that it did not mean what it said? And there is no such verbal assurance in this case, since Mr. Ballantyne warns us that the contract does mean what it says.

The people of St. John own the harbor. Without giving up ownership they have been able to get the government to spend millions of dollars as a national work. The government did not ask that harbor commission be adopted. Neither the C. P. R. nor the C. N. R., both of which have great shipping interests, wants a harbor commission. Why is an attempt being made to convey the impression that it is the harbor commission act or nothing? Defeat the act and insist upon getting one that will pledge the government to do something. St. John is not a beggar standing at the door of Canada asking for crumbs. The self-respect of the citizens will resent such an imputation. This is a national port. It has been so recognised by two governments, which in turn spent millions for its development. Let the work of nationalization go on as in the past, and as it goes on in Halifax. To hand the harbor over to a commission under a contract which places upon harbor revenue every dollar of expenditure, would be to commit the rankest folly of which the people could be guilty. The pity of it is that men who should be the leaders of the people are not alive to the city's interests, but are willing to gamble with the city's most highly prized possession. It is up to the citizens themselves to bury this harbor commission act and serve notice that this national port must receive national recognition, and not be made a toy for a high salaried commission to play with.

#### THE HARBOR COMMISSION ACT.

The harbor commission act does not pledge the government to spend one dollar that is not placed as a burden upon the traffic of the port. It does not stipulate that the members of the commission shall be St. John men. It does not give any assurance that harbor development will be more rapid than in the past. It does not relieve the taxpayers of St. John of responsibility for the present harbor debt. It does not provide for the payment of one dollar in cash to the city. It does not say river traffic will be exempt from harbor dues. It does not make any provision for a harbor ferry. The city must carry that burden as before. It gives no pledge in respect to the harbor fisheries. It simply gives the harbor to a com-

mission which is only authorised to make such expenditure (after providing its own high salaries and expenses and paying three and a half per cent per year on the cost of the grain elevator and government wharves) as the traffic of the port will bear.

These are the simple facts about the commission act. All that its advocates can say in reply to the facts is that the government does not mean what it has set forth in an act of parliament, and that it will really do what it says it will not do.

All the sophistry in the world cannot change the facts. The act speaks for itself.

If St. John gives up its harbor on such terms it will be false to the faith and the works of past generations of people who believed in St. John.

#### NOT BY THE GOVERNMENT

Some citizens still appear to think that the government stands behind the harbor commission to pay its bills. They base their belief on this clause from the commission act:

"And for the balance, that is to say, the sum of six hundred and fifty-seven thousand, two hundred and eighty-two dollars and forty-five cents, the corporation shall issue to the city its debentures payable at the end of twenty-five years from the day of issue, and bearing interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, payable half yearly, which debentures the corporation are hereby authorised to issue, in such form and for such amounts as the minister of finance of Canada may approve, and if the said debentures or the said interest are not paid by the corporation as and when they and it from time to time become due, such debentures and interest shall be paid by his majesty."

This is the only instance in the whole act where the government assumes any responsibility. But the reader cannot overlook the fact that even here the government fully protects itself, for in Section 20, which gives the order in which payments are to be made out of harbor revenue, the third charge to be paid is this:

"The payment of interest due on the debentures issued by the corporation to the city under the authority of this act."

Thus the interest is provided for out of harbor revenue, and a little farther down it is declared that the principal must also be paid from the same source. The government gives with one hand and takes away with the other.

In today's Times a letter from Mr. A. P. Patterson gives a business-like and dispassionate review of the harbor commission act, with brief reference also to Montreal, Quebec and Vancouver. It will help those who have not been careful study to the whole matter to gain a clearer knowledge of the situation as it is presented to the people of St. John. Mr. Patterson deals in a very clear manner with the salient features of the act and gives cogent reasons why it should be rejected unless an act that would be fair to the city has been submitted.

The citizens who attend the public meeting in the Seamen's Mission this evening do not wish to listen to assurances of what the government will do. They will want to hear what the harbor commission act says. That is what the people are asked to vote upon. It is an act of parliament, and cannot be changed by the city council or by the government. If any speaker says the government wishes to lift a load off the backs of the people, let him cite the proof of it from the act and not from any mental process of his own.

#### MR. H. R. McLELLAN, by holding a public meeting in the large auditorium of St. Vincent's on Wednesday evening, will enable the people of that section of the city to hear the harbor commission act publicly discussed. Public discussion is needed, for a campaign of misrepresentation of what the act provides is in full career.

There are only a few days left in which the citizens may fully familiarize themselves with the harbor commission act. Upon what they do next Monday much depends. Read the act.

#### BREACH OF PROMISE.

Verdict of \$35,000 Against Wealthy Detroit Man.

Detroit, Mich., July 26.—A verdict for \$35,000 was returned by the recorder's court jury that considered the suit for alleged breach of promise brought by Miss Monica Hutton against Arthur Stott, wealthy Detroit. Miss Hutton had asked for \$150,000, alleging Stott had asked her to marry him in July, 1915, and that he was the father of her child.

Recently the home of Fred J. Parks of Pittsburgh, Penn., was struck by lightning twice within a half hour. The first bolt struck a tree hanging over the house, and caused a branch to fall on the roof, while the second bolt travelled up the tree trunk and shattered the roof of the house, and of the seven people in the house none was injured, although a door torn from its hinges and across a room.

#### L'AFFINITE.

(By Nellie Brown McCool.)  
Out of the dark that shadows me,  
Black as the depths in the bowl of night,  
My soul is finding its way to thee,  
Swift as an arrow goes in flight.  
Into the love that will hover me,  
Unknown as the space whence winds intone,  
My heart, with wings of a halcyon fern,  
Speeds onward, twined with thine,  
Straight home.

Out of the travail of all time  
Shall rise, unconquerable still,  
The life that seizes its way with thine,  
Submissive ever to His will.

L'Envoi.  
Out of the light of eternal day  
Shall shine as unsunged shafts of gold,  
The love that sought and found its way,  
To God, His rest and peace untold.

LIGHTER VEIN.  
Only Way.  
Mr. Nurdach—Can't you get up anything more expensive than this fur coat you have shown me?

Clerk—Not unless we use trained seals for the garment, madam.—Judge.

The Jilt.  
Charlotte.—Some of the movies with Mabel Saturday night. Aren't you keeping company with him now?  
Gladys.—No. I asked him if he liked her better than me, and he said yes—so I threw him over.—Life.

Handle With Care.  
"Jack has placed his heart in my keeping."  
"Well, you had better be very careful of it, my dear. He told me last week I had broken it."—Life.

Got Him in Bad.  
"What are you doing?" asked the convict of the reporter, who was writing an account of the prison buildings.  
"Only taking a few notes," was the reply.

"Take care, sir. That's what brought me here."—Edinburgh Scotsman.

His Request.  
A lawyer was "known to be a bit grasping. He had just made a will for an old lady client, who was passing away. The next day the old lady, very near the end, said to him: "About my will, I've added something to it. I've given you—"

"Just one minute," my good friend," said the lawyer, wishing to have witnesses for the remark. So he hurriedly called the family in, and when all were assembled he said to his old client: "Now say what you were going to say."  
"I've given you—and she stopped, laboring.

"Yes, yes," urged the lawyer. Then she finished:—  
"—a great deal—of—trouble!"  
—Ladies Home Journal.

#### PROBLEM FOR LENIN

(New York Evening Post.)  
Famine has stalked into Soviet Russia and, bending over Lenin's writing table, will soon be dictating amendments to Communist doctrine. Famine has reversed the program, with which Lenin's Soviet rulers have been desperately contending. It will be recalled that Lenin's recent compromise with the "left" in the matter of exchange of goods between town and country, and they were not effective enough to keep the cities alive. Hence Lenin's revival of the principle of private trade.

Now the situation has changed. It is the peasants who are starving. Allowing for headline exaggerations, millions of peasants in the Volga provinces are threatened with famine. To think of these famine victims flocking to the city is a tragedy. Collapse of transportation has resulted in a condition approximating that of famine in China, where hundreds of thousands perished because of famine. To think of the peasants of the provinces where it was to be had.

If the threat of large-scale misery now so imminent should become a reality, we take it that the sympathies of the outside world may rally to the Russian people in disregard of what such relief may do to bolster up the Soviet autocracy. But it is still a question whether the properties of the Communist vocabulary will permit Russia's rulers to ask frankly and humbly for that aid, or whether appeals for help will still be accompanied by those tactful remarks about rapacious Western capitalism which have been as effective an instrument as any in choking off the world's sympathy for the Russian masses. Lenin's policy of making a deal with the forces of Communism, to make real his promise of a change of heart in the direction of democracy, and to help the outside world forget, to the extent that it can forget the rulers of Russia for the sake of the people of Russia.

#### JONNART'S TRIUMPH.

(New York Times.)  
The re-establishment of diplomatic relations between France and the Vatican brings the Pope one step nearer a seat in the Council of Nations. Charles C. A. Jonnart, a wealthy and devout Catholic, the owner of half a dozen beautiful chateaux, a man of the world, a statesman and a diplomat, has been accredited to the Holy See as ambassador extraordinary. Mr. Bonaventura Cerretti, archbishop of Corinth and secretary of the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, has been sent to represent His Holiness Pope Benedict XV. "near" President Miller and at Paris.

Mr. Jonnart is not only very wealthy himself, but he has a rich wife, the daughter of M. Aynard, an influential deputy from the Department of the Rhone. He was first deputy and then senator from the Pas de Calais—thus he knows from personal observation and loss what the German hordes inflicted on the occupied regions. Having given prestige, both social and financial, to half a dozen ministers, and having been suggested for president of the republic, in the summer of 1917 he was elected by the extent to which the Greek business. This he did so effectively that King Constantine, with his family, was soon on his way to Switzerland.

Fire broke out yesterday on the steamer Mauretania, at Southampton, and developed into a serious conflagration. The fire is thought to have originated from a lighted cigarette dropped on the roof. The first-class dining saloon and the staterooms on E and D decks were burned out. The damage is estimated at many thousands of pounds, and it will take months to repair the vessel.

### BRITISHERS IN NEW YORK ON PROHIBITION

Two M. P.'s Investigating Working of Act—Lord Northcliffe in a Humorous Vein.

New York, July 26.—Two members of the British parliament today started a sensational investigation to ascertain how prohibition is working out in the U. S. The two, Chas. H. Stieh, member for Newfoundland, St. John's, and John E. Davidson, member for Smithwick, Birmingham, said they would report their findings to the labor party, of which they are members.

Both took occasion to deny predictions of U. S. reformers that England would be dry within ten years, asserting there was little dry sentiment at least in the labor party. The visitors will spend two weeks in New York and then visit other cities and towns.

New York, July 26.—Lord Northcliffe, who is enjoying the lure of the metropolis for a short while before resuming his trip toward the far east, has joined the list of visiting personages who exhibit a sense of humor in discussing matters appertaining to the eighteenth amendment and its enforcement. Asked what he thought of prohibition, he said: "Take me to a place where there is prohibition and I'll tell you what I think about it."

Which recalls that a Roumanian prince on a recent visit to New York asked: "When does prohibition begin?"

#### LABOR SAYS NO TO WAGES CUT

Toronto Building Trades Refuse to Consider Any Reduction.

Toronto, July 26.—Nineteen representatives of the building trades union in a second conference with the representatives of the building contractors yesterday refused to consider any reduction in wages and had no other proposals to make. The contractors had asked for a voluntary wage reduction of 10 per cent on July 26.

Representatives of the contractors declared that labor would run the unconditional answer, that they were making no profit at the present time; and that they were unwilling to see their workers' faces "black" by the meeting adjourned without any steps being taken to avoid a deadlock.

#### IN MEMORY OF MISSIONARIES FROM P. E. ISLAND

Three Gordons Were Murdered by Savages in the New Hebrides.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., July 26.—A tablet dedicated to the memory of Gordon Nicoll Gordon, his wife, and their two children, who were murdered by savages at Eranga, in the New Hebrides, near the end of the last century, was unveiled in the Presbyterian church in Charlottetown, P. E. I., on Monday. It was erected by relatives of the missionaries, and was unveiled by Douglas Gordon of Summerside, a nephew.

#### SUPREME COUNCIL ON AUGUST 4 ON SILESIAN MATTERS

London, July 26.—The Allied supreme council will meet in Paris on August 4, according to an official announcement. It is understood that the council will be brief, dealing only with the Silesian question. Lord Curzon, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and A. J. Balfour, lord president of the council, will represent Great Britain as it is improbable that Lloyd George will be able to leave London.

#### THREE DECKS OF MAURETANIA ARE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Southampton, July 26.—Fire which broke out yesterday on the steamer Mauretania while she was lying at her dock here, was extinguished at four o'clock this morning. Decks C, D and E were completely destroyed amidships. Sailed passengers scheduled to sail on the Mauretania on Saturday will be accommodated on the Deneb and the Carmania, while stowage people will be distributed among other ships of the Cunard Line.

#### AGAINST CONSCRIPTION IN CANADA UNLESS REFERENDUM HELD

Ottawa, July 26.—The Hull Trades and Labor Council last night passed a motion urging the dominion trades congress, meeting in Winnipeg next month, to urge that conscription be made unlawful in Canada until first having been approved of by the voters by means of a referendum.

#### CONFERENCE TOMORROW ON RAILWAY WAGES

Cleveland, July 26.—The chief executives of the four big railroad brotherhoods and the Canadian vice-presidents and general chairmen of the four organizations in Canada will meet the Canadian Railroad Association executives in Montreal tomorrow to discuss the proposed reduction in wages on Canadian railroads.

#### ANTI-DUMPING PLAN FOR NEWFOUNDLAND PROPOSED

Ottawa, July 26.—New custom regulations in Newfoundland propose a dumping duty by which the price goods to a purveyor in Newfoundland is brought up to the level of a fair market value in the country of export. The maximum duty is to be twenty-five per cent ad valorem.

#### COSTS CALGARY MAN \$750 IN LIQUOR LAW CASE

Calgary, Alta., July 26.—The largest liquor fine ever imposed by a local police court was handed to a Calgary two per cent bar keeper when Magistrate Davidson fined Stephen K. Fry \$750 and costs for keeping liquor for sale.



### REFRIGERATORS

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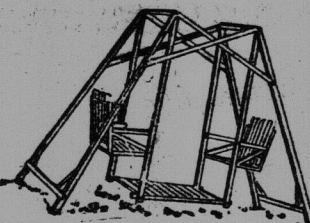
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### A Meeting to Discuss Harbor Commission

Will be held at

The Seamen's Mission

ON

Tuesday Evening, July 26th, at 8 o'clock

Any wishing to take part in the discussion will please send name to Mayor's Office before noon Tuesday.

E. A. SCHOFIELD, Mayor.

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### HOLIDAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE IN OTTAWA ON MONDAY

Ottawa, July 26.—Civil servants in this city, in common with the rest of Ottawa workers, will enjoy next Monday, which is civic day, as a holiday.

Indemnity for Colombia.  
Ottawa, July 26.—The Republic of Colombia, which received \$5,000,000 from the United States for the next five years as indemnity for her loss of Panama in 1903.

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