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THE EVENING TIMES

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Honesty in public life
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion
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No deals!

"The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwine, The Maple Leaf forever."

Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 29, 1911.

THE YORK ELECTION

The Globe of this city has been calling attention to the fact that in March, 1908, the Liberal ticket in York county was defeated by heavy majorities. As a matter of fact Mr. Goodspeed, who led the losing ticket, was nearly 1,200 votes behind Mr. Pinder, who was the low man among those elected. Mr. Crocket, in the last Federal contest, had a majority of 869, but on that occasion York county was somewhat neglected, and the Liberals were not well organized. Mr. Crocket was one of two Conservatives elected in the whole province.

But in the by-election of 1901 Mr. Gibson, the Liberal candidate, had a majority of 824. In 1904 Mr. Crocket had a majority of 162. In 1900 Mr. Gibson had a majority of 76. In 1896, when Conservative highwater mark was reached in York county, Hon. George E. Foster had a majority of 1,542. In 1900 and in 1904, as the figures quoted show, the parties were on almost even terms, and it will not be surprising if in the coming by-election York county swings back into the Liberal column. Since 1867 it has elected to the House of Commons six Liberals and five Conservatives, and under ordinary conditions it may fairly be counted as a Liberal constituency.

York is deeply interested in reciprocity, being an agricultural county, and it is even more deeply interested in the early construction of the Valley railroad. York county needs good roads, and fair play, and honesty in the expenditure of public money. For all of these reasons its electors should be likely, a week hence, to administer a rebuke to the Hazen government.

The nomination proceedings yesterday, and the campaign meetings recently held, notably those addressed by Mr. F. B. Carvell and Hon. C. W. Robinson, indicate that the Liberal party in York is in good fighting trim and that the electors are fully awake to the importance of the issues now being presented to them for judgment. Mr. Carvell, at Canterbury, dealt with the Valley railroad question in a most convincing fashion. His review of the history of the movement to secure this railway, and his indictment of Mr. Hazen for his delay and evasion, cannot fail to produce a strong impression upon the electors. Mr. Hazen's newspapers have been attempting to discredit Mr. Malcolm, whose offer to construct the railway was finally dragged out of the concealment in which Mr. Hazen was keeping it. Mr. Carvell makes it clear that Mr. Malcolm is ready to satisfy any reasonable demands regarding his financial and practical ability to carry the project to success; and, as a matter of fact, Mr. Hazen is already too well satisfied that Mr. Malcolm would do the work thoroughly if the local government would give him the chance.

York county, if it can depend upon the early construction of the railroad, would soon enter upon an era of increased prosperity. And the electors of York cannot fail to see today that the road is within their reach if Mr. Hazen will but say the word—if he will but stop playing at politics and consider fairly the interests of the people of the great county to whom a candidate is now appealing in his name for support.

It must give the Liberal party in York county new heart to see Mr. Alexander Gibson, now in his ninety-first year, signing Mr. Burden's nomination papers. Mr. Gibson says that he will vote for Mr. Burden and will wish for him every success. It is noteworthy, too, that Mr. Gibson is heartily in favor of the proposed trade agreement.

ARBITRATION TREATIES

The proposed arbitration treaty between Britain and the United States, covering every possible cause of quarrel and misunderstanding, lends a new interest to present day politics. The British Empire has gone down the years so long, as Henley says: "the choice of the Will," and with a sword to wield none else could lift and draw, that now there is great attractiveness in the prospect of universal peace. With great enthusiasm her navies and armies have gone forth:

"East and west and north, whether the battle grew,
As men to a feast we fared, the work of the Will to do."

And they would do so again did occasion require it, although less lightly than in the days of yore for all classes are feeling the weight of new problems.

These are not so much problems of international as of social adjustment. All countries are feeling the weight of these problems. The intenseness of such questions in both Britain and Germany has been largely responsible for the nervous tension with which these countries have been regarding each other during the past few years. The German government has sought to intensify the elements of Anglo-German ill-will, so as to prevent them from enquiring too closely into their lack of freedom and representative government at home. All statesmen have felt that this, rather than trade rivalry, was liable at any time to produce a conflagration. This accounts largely for the panicky condition that both Germans and Englishmen have lived in during the last few years. Under ordinary conditions both nations are sane, pacific, and sensible, but profitless antagonism have been fomented between them until war at any time during the last few years seemed among the possibilities.

Under the luxury of hatred both nations are groaning. Ignorance and chauvinism, and absurd appeals to the war spirit, have produced a multiplication of military expense which threatens both countries with bankruptcy. A great navy is a luxury to Germany; it is essential to Britain. To Germany, a navy is a cane that she can dangle at her will; to England it is a crutch on which she leans and without which she would fall. Losing supremacy at sea she loses everything. Everything that she is and may be in the world—her trade, the empire, the food of her people—depends upon the navy. A defeat at sea would touch Germany at no vital point, yet she is spending more than $110,000,000 a year on her fleet, and her army is the most effective fighting machine the world has ever seen. She faces huge deficits, many of her ships are built out of borrowed money, and her people are half rebellous under the weight of taxation. The burden of the British tax-payer is still heavier.

The idea of arbitration treaties between nations is that they promise to approach all questions of international import from the standpoint of common sense. This would be quite a new departure. That nations have made an issue of tendencies, possibilities, motives and suspicions, until the people have lost all touch with actualities, is the common experience. Arbitration treaties will bring confidence, goodwill and a sincere desire for conciliation. They will bring with them a different spirit in international relations, and in these relations the spirit is everything. When the right spirit does not obtain, the most trivial condition amy produce a crisis.

But the spirit of these treaties does not at present indicate the dawn of universal peace. It is, on the contrary, the expression of the economic fact that hatred between nations is a luxury the most of which is impossible. No number of them could provide against, "trouble in the Balkins," or the rising up of oppressed people anywhere throughout the world. In the mingled interests of people today an outbreak anywhere many spread everywhere. Permanent peace can only be built upon a foundation of justice—justice not only in international relations but in internal conditions. When one people dreams of national or racial supremacy, and another of nothing but strengthening monopoly and buttressing privilege from that foul tranquility they must at some time be delivered to war.

STERLING LIBERAL POLICIES

Hon. C. W. Robinson, in the Legislature on Thursday, concluded one of the greatest speeches of his career by moving the following resolution, a resolution that will stimulate and inspire Liberals all over the country:

"This House desires to take this early opportunity of expressing its opinion that the ratification of the Reciprocity agreement, now before Parliament, would greatly promote the prosperity of the people of this province; and

"Further Resolved, That it is desirable that there should be an increase in the British preference to fifty per cent of the general tariff."

In York county, where a by-election is pending, the people are greatly in need of the enlarged market that will be opened to them by the adoption of the proposed trade agreement with the United States. They would welcome with enthusiasm the increase in the British preference which Mr. Robinson proposes, because of the tariff relief it would afford the Canadian consumer, and equally because it would increase trade between the Mother Country and the greatest of His Majesty's oversea dominions. If Mr. Hazen and his lieutenants are eager to serve the people who elected them they should not hesitate to vote for this sterling resolution, for no one honestly doubts that the real interests of New Brunswick would be served by increased freedom of trade with the United States and by a substantial increase in the preference we give Great Britain. Indeed in the case of Great Britain the farmers of Eastern Canada doubtless share the opinion so lately expressed by the farmers of the Canadian West, who asked that the tariff against Britain be reduced year by year until it shall disappear entirely.

Since Confederation no party in Canada has proposed measures that would benefit the whole Canadian population more than these—reciprocity and an enlarged British preference. These are Liberal policies. The Conservative party—high protectionist to the core—is hostile to the British preference, and to any increase of trade with the United States except such as can come in the face of a high tariff on both sides of the boundary—"a tariff as high as Haman's gallows."

York county, considering these issues, considering what Mr. George F. Burden stands for, can scarcely fail to come back into the Liberal column, where it belongs.

THE TREND OF SENTIMENT

The attitude taken by the Conservative party on the question of reciprocity is such a change from the traditional policy of their party that it is somewhat difficult to imagine what must have been the reasoning of the party leaders before they decided on this course. That there was much pressure brought to bear by selfish interests inducing them to oppose it, is very clear from later developments. Never in the whole history of Canadian politics has there been such a determined, concerted and unscrupulous effort to cloud the issue and defeat this popular movement, but it is doubtful if this alone influenced them. On the contrary their course indicates the most cynical disregard for truth and fairdealing and a deliberate attempt to produce a certain effect upon people whom they regard as fools.

The personal opinion of Mr. Foster, who is at once the brains and the despair of the party, is indicated by his article in the Canadian Century for December. Not dreaming that Mr. Fielding would be successful in the proposed negotiations, he frankly pleaded for freer trade relations on the basis of equivalent tariffs. "If you were to do this," he continues, "it would be an earnest of good feeling and might dispose us to further converse." Sir Charles Tupper said, time and again, that the Conservative party was always ready to make a fair trade arrangement with the United States, whenever the United States was ready to enter into such an arrangement. This has always been the policy of the party. There has never been an anti-reciprocity party in Canada until Mr. Fielding announced two months ago the agreement he had secured, and even then no party dared to oppose the agreement as such, but the Conservative press and leaders sought by every means to cloud the issue and stampede the people. No one has said that the agreement is not fair; that it is not on a basis of equivalent tariffs; that it would not enormously increase the trade and prosperity of the country. The objection urged is that the increased prosperity would work havoc with the loyalty of the people.

It is most perplexing that men of supposed reason, discernment and astuteness should so interpret the trend of sentiment in this country. Even in diplomacy today there is a growing belief that it pays to be simple and honest. We were coming to believe that free association, free speech, free thinking, were making pretence less and less a part of our system, and this revival of oriental mendacity and of the cynical use of falsehood as the tool suited to the material is absolutely disconcerting. Especially is this true when we realize that this course was chosen deliberately by the leaders of a great party—a party that has always represented a large proportion of the people of Canada.

In Italy they seem to think that a courteous and encouraging lie is kinder than the bare truth, as when a man will pretend to give you information when he knows nothing about the matter. We are told that mere truth is not valued by the Chinese and is not inculcated by their moralists. But we believe that the trend of sentiment is wholly different in Canada. Our whole civilization is making us more intolerant of such an attitude. We do not have to make believe, and pretence is no part of our system. Mr. Borden has wholly failed to understand the trend of sentiment—and the people are not fools. The leaders of his party have often dealt unadvisedly in the past, as all leaders are liable to do, but he has so egregiously blundered that his course will tend to lower the self-respect of the people and diminish the common stock of moral sentiment.

MR. CARVELL'S VICTORY

York county this morning knows fully the weakness of the Hazen government in regard to the Valley railway, and its hostile attitude towards reciprocity. So far as Mr. Hazen is concerned, there is no real intention to give the people of the river counties a railway. Moreover, the Hazen administration is opposed to the proposed trade agreement which would give the farmers, lumbermen and fishermen of this province an enlarged market for their products and usher in for them a new era of prosperity.

York county may thank Mr. F. B. Carvell for new evidence concerning these matters. The supporters of Mr. George F. Burden, the Liberal candidate in York, held a meeting at Meductic on Saturday evening, and Mr. Carvell and Mr. Burden, who were the Liberal speakers, agreed to give Mr. Flemming part of their time. Mr. Flemming accepted—and he and the Conservatives of York must now be exceedingly sorry that he did so. An account of the Meductic meeting is printed in The Telegraph's news columns this morning, and it should be studied with care by all the electors who have at heart the welfare of York and of the province.

That meeting should do much toward electing Mr. Burden. If the eyes of the people of the river counties were not fully open to Mr. Hazen's weak, evasive, dodging policy in connection with the Valley road, they will be fully open today, thanks to the encounter between Mr. Carvell and Mr. Hazen's chief apologist. Mr. Flemming speaks vaguely about having the railway under construction—within five years; he even hints that it may be built—somehow—within that time. But he makes it clear that he and his colleagues are opposed to I. C. R. lease and operation, which means they will refuse to take advantage of the generous terms offered by the Federal government, terms which would give the Valley precisely what it wants most—speedy construction, a road of high standard, transcontinental connection, and reasonable rates. Mr. Flemming, if he stands for a Valley road at all, appears to contemplate an electric line, or some sort of working out of Part III of the Hazen act such as would mean construction from one C. P. R. point to another, resulting in giving the people virtually a C. P. R. branch and rendering that company's control of the river county complete.

Mr. Flemming's speech in itself ought to ensure the defeat of the Hazen government in the river counties. The mountain has been three years in labor and, judged by Mr. Flemming's confession, it has brought forth an uncommonly small mouse in the way of a railway policy. After being three years in power, to talk today about an electric road perhaps to be completed in five years! The Valley will not tolerate such nonsense from Mr. Flemming or the governemnt whose foolish spokesman he is.

Mr. Carvell's direct and convincing speech presents the outstanding facts of the Valley situation most clearly. He proves the Federal government's good faith. He shows that while the Hazen government has constantly blocked progress, the Liberals have kept faith, have secured the offer of I. C. R. lease and operation, have made it possible to begin construction at once. Mr. Flemming describes the Malcolm offer as a bluff. Mr. Carvell dares him to "call" it, assuring him that Mr. Malcolm will give ample security and proof of his good faith and his ability to construct the road—and it will not be a trolley line, but thanks to the Federal government, a railroad "up to the general standard of the Transcontinental in New Brunswick"—in other words, a high class railway, traversing the whole river valley, leased and operated by the I. C. R. By Mr. Flemming's confession, he and Mr. Hazen are today standing between the people of the river counties and the very sort of transportation they most desire. Mr. Flemming should have known better than to go to Meductic to meet Mr. Carvell; Mr. Hazen should never have allowed him to go. But the damage is done now.

Liberals everywhere will congratulate Mr. Carvell upon his masterly handling of the issues at the Meductic meeting. He had a good case and he hit the Hazen government without mercy. More, he laid down the true railroad policy for the river counties, and proved that the long-needed transportation can be had in the near future if Mr. Hazen will drop his policy of obstruction.

York county, it is clear, needs Mr. George F. Burden, the Valley railway, and reciprocity. Mr. Hazen is opposed to all three, but York will have them in spite of him.

MISTAKEN CONSERVATIVES

The Conservatives continually speak of their love of England and of British institutions, yet in discussing this trade agreement they refuse to follow British practice. They have rather followed a certain party in ancient Ephesus, who, seeing their privileges were in danger, began shouting for the space of two hours: "Great is the Imperial Goddess." Here the shout has been prolonged, not for hours but for months, in the hope that the people, weary of the outcry, will decide not to abandon this god in the hour of his dire necessity.

The reason perhaps is that the opponents of this proposal can see nothing in it but an attack upon the citadel of protection. They expected an insignificant attack upon the outworks but the main citidal was undermined while they slept. It happened to them as with the unfortunate schoolboy who had made up his mind not to feel the thrashing that was in store for him. His resolution was founded on the expectation of receiving the usual kind of strokes with the usual rod on the usual spot. Instead of this, however, he had administered to him an unusual volley of blows with a smart cane upon an unusual spot. So the protectionists, seeing that the government proposes to decrease the amount of labor which the citizens of the country must do to secure a given amount of the rewards of labor, cannot recover from the surprise of the unexpected. They cry out that not only is their craft in danger but that the great imperial goddess will be despised and her magnificence destroyed.

The protective system used to claim to be a real national policy, but judging from the special local interests that are clamorously shouting against this trade agreement, it is nothing more than a large number of local interests,—a sort of parochial self-seeking. The New York Post calls it the raising of back-yard views to the millionth power. The Liberal policy today is really national; it has faith in the Canadian people, and is confident that our farmers can hold their own in free competition with any market in the world. Its controlling consideration is the benefit of all the people, not the advantage or disadvantage of a few. No wonder it is attacked so violently by surprised self-seekers.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Mr. Hazen is waking up to the fact that he has a fight on his hands in York.

* * *

The Conservatives in York stand for talk about the Valley road; the Liberals stand for its early construction, for a first class line, and for reasonable rates.

* * *

Pay your back taxes today or you will have no vote in the civic elections. If you desire to vote for civic reform, do not forget to pay up. It is the vote that counts.

* * *

Hon. Mr. Robinson proved by official statistics that the increased Crown land revenue in New Brunswick last year was due to the increased lumber cut and not to Hon. Mr. Grimmer's much vaunted efficiency in collecting stumpage. Another characteristic asset of the Hazen government is thus disposed of. There are few left.

* * *

With the York election before him, will Mr. Hazen order his followers to vote down reciprocity? The electors will await the answer with interest. They must have it before they go to the polls.

* * *

York, in voting for Mr. Burden, will vote for the Valley railway and I. C. R. operation, for reciprocity, for an increased British preference, and for the elimination of Mr. Crocket, Mr. McLeod, and the brand of politics they represent.

* * *

Pinned down yesterday, Premier Hazen admitted that no contract for the Valley railway has been signed. Conservative speakers who have been asserting the contrary have merely been trying to fool the people of York. The electors will have their say presently.

* * *

"What is your Valley railway policy?" is the question York is asking Mr. Hazen. He has no answer ready. The only satisfactory answer is acceptance of the Federal government's terms, which would mean I. C. R. lease and operation, a good service and reasonable rates.

* * *

Mr. Hazen's chief spokesman now talks of finishing the Valley railway within five years. Mr. Hazen will have been long out of power by that time. He has wasted three years already. The people of the river counties will scarcely give him a chance to waste five more.

* * *

Having Mr. Fowler's fate in mind, Mr. Flemming ought not to have tempted fortune by a joint-debate with Mr. Carvell. They will give Mr. Flemming decent burial in Carleton county when next Mr. Hazen musters up courage enough to go to the country. Mr. Carvell made a very finished job of the Provincial Secretary.

* * *

For more than three years the Hazen administration has been making—and breaking—promises. Now that it has a chance to get the Valley road built, it is sticking to its partizan tactics, abusing Messrs. Pugsley and Carvell—and carefully refraining from accepting Mr. Malcolm's offer to enter into a contract to build the railway.

* * *

Twenty-five hundred emigrants, each with $2,000 or more, left Liverpool for Canada yesterday on the Empress of Ireland—bound for Alberta via St. John. The promise of reciprocity has not yet ruined Canada, evidently. Possibly Mr. Hazen's immigration bureau may snare these settlers and their $5,000,000 when they land—but not probably.

* * *

Mr. Hazen's Solicitor General is fighting with more recklessness than judgment in York. His presence in the government is a constant reminder that Mr. Hazen, when in opposition, loudly contended that no solicitor general was needed. Once in office, Mr. Hazen hastened to fill the position he had denounced as unnecessary.

* * *

Hon. Mr. Flemming is trying to meet Mr. Carvell and also to avoid meeting him, and he appears to be more successful in the latter than in the former endeavor. The Blue Bell statesman probably recalls an historic occasion on which Mr. Carvell met Mr. George W. Fowler in joint debate. Exit Mr. Fowler.

* * *

Hon. Mr. Robinson, in the course of his great speech on Thursday evening, showed that the average yearly expenditure of the Hazen government has been $1,512,192, an increase of fifty-two per cent as compared with the average yearly expenditure during the last five years of the old government. And what has Mr. Hazen given the people for the money spent?? Bad roads chiefly.

SECOND NEW YORK DOCTOR DIES OF MENINGITIS

House Physician of Hudson Street Hospital Lived Only 24 Hours After Symptoms Appeared.

New York, March 24—Dr. Raymond W. Brown, house physician of the Hudson street hospital, it was learned today, died of spinal meningitis yesterday within 24 hours of the appearance of the first symptoms of the disease. His is the second death within a few days past of a physician who is believed to have contracted the dread disease through contact with the cases of infected Greek immigrants.

Dr. Brown's death following closely that of Dr. Edward F. Ashley, the bacteriologist, on Swinburne Island, under similar circumstances. Physicians could not remember a case of meningitis in which death had followed so quickly the appearance of the disease.

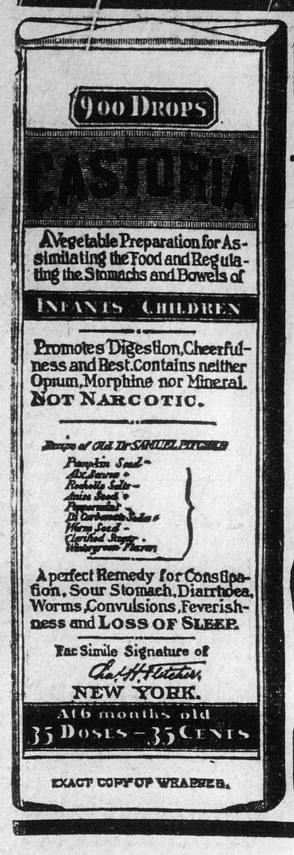
Charles Brown, of Cobbleskill (N. Y.), father of Dr. Brown, was at his son's bedside when the end came.

Dr. Brown was 25 years old and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in the class of 1909.

A POSSIBLE RESULT.

(Washington Star).

If man in solemn speech decreed
That woman had to vote
And study every civic need
And all the statements note
Which orators and others make;
And if he bade her stand
Outdoors for patriotism's sake
To listen to the band,
Or march for weary hours amid
The torchlights on parade,
And welcome glee clubs who unbid
Arrive to serenade,
And shake the hands of strangers who
Might help in the campaign,
And travel each election through
The sunshine or the rain;
Would she, with happiness aglow,
Engage in the pursuit
Of glory and be grateful? No!
She'd say he was a brute!



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For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.
In Use For Over Thirty Years
CASTORIA
THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

PARIS OLD AND PARIS NEW

By Victor Hugo

(From Book fifth, Chapter 1 of Cosette, in "Les Miserables.")

MANY years have already passed away since the author of this book, who is compelled, reluctantly, to speak of himself, was in Paris. Since then, Paris has been transformed. A new city has arisen, which to him is in some sense unknown. He need not say that he loves Paris; Paris is the native city of his heart. Through demolition and reconstruction, the Paris of his youth, that Paris which he religiously trasures in his memory, has become a Paris of former times. Let him be permitted to speak of that Paris as if it still existed. It is possible that where the author is about to conduct his readers, saying: "In such a street there is such a house," there is now no longer either house or street. The reader will verify it if he chooses to take the trouble. As to himself, the author knows not the new Paris, and writes with the old Paris before his eyes in an illusion which is precious to him. It is a sweet thing for him to imagine that there still remains something of what he saw when he was in his own country, and that all is not vanished. While we are living in our native land we fancy that these streets are indifferent to us, that these windows, these roofs, and these doors, are nothing to us, that these walls are strangers to us, that these trees are no more than other trees, that these houses which we never enter are useless to us, that this pavement on which we walk is nothing but stone.

In after times, when we are there no longer, we find that those streets are very dear, that we miss those roofs, those windows, and those doors, that those walls are necessary to us, that those trees are our well-beloved, that those houses which we never entered we enter every day, and that we have left something of our affections, our life and our heart in those streets. All those places which we see no more, which perhaps we shall never see again, but the image of which we have preserved, assume a mournful charm, return to us with the sadness of a specter, make the holy land visible to us, and are, so to speak, the very form of France; and we love them and call them up, such as they are, such as they were, and hold to them, unwilling to change anything, for one clings to the form of his fatherland as to the face of his mother.

ST. JOHN MAN UNDER ARREST

One Griffiths Held on Suspicion of Theft from Drug Store—Wife of Well Known Traveler Dies in Quebec.

Moncton, March 25—The drug store of Thomas Jones, Main street, near the I. C. R. crossing, was burglarized early Saturday morning. Entrance was effected by breaking in the bock door. Only $6 or $7 in money was secured. Two men named Dick Dowd and Griffiths are under arrest on suspicion. Griffiths belongs to St. John, but has been here some months.

Word has been received by Moncton friends of the death of Mrs. Leslie, wife of Alexander Leslie, the well known traveler, who since her marriage had resided in this city. Mrs. Leslie some months ago was taken to the Laurentian Mountains at St. Agathe des Monts, Quebec, for her health, but steadily declined, death being due to tuberculosis. She was formerly Miss Margaret McLaren, daughter of the late D. P. McLaren, of Moncton, and is survived by her husband and two children. Her mother, three brothers, Charles R., of Moncton; W. A., of Boston, and Daniel, of Montreal, also survive. She was a niece of W. F. Ferguson, of Moncton. The body will be brought here for burial on Tuesday.

Sea salt dissolved in a hot bath has a wonderful tonic effect. It should be first dissolved in a pitcher or cup and then poured into the bath and stirred.

KINGS COUNTY I. O. G. T. DISTRICT LODGE

Quarterly Meeting Held at Sussex—Stirring Addresses by Coun. Frank Freeze and E. C. Weyman.

Sussex, March 24—(Suecial)—The second quarterly meeting of the Kings County District Lodge of the I. O. G. T. was held here this afternoon. In the absence of District Chief Templar Frank Freeze, C. W. Weyman presided. Delegates were present from various lodges in the county, and encouraging reports were received from them.

A resolution was passed, endorsing the effective work done by Scott Act Inspector Wilmoth Asbell and his associates, and eleven members of Ambition Lodge, Apohaqui, were given district lodge degrees.

A public temperance meeting was held in the evening and the hall was packed to the doors. Councillor Frank Freeze, of Penobsquis, and E. C. Weyman of St. John were the speakers, and they gave strong and logical addresses. A splendid programme of music, etc., was carried out.

LOBSTERS SCARCE.

The present season for lobster fishing has been a remarkably poor one, but fishermen who have been lucky enough to catch even a few have made a good sum out of their labor. In New York and Boston they have been dear eating and those who had them on their bill-of-fare paid as high as 65 cents a pound, which would mean that an average lobster would cost 80 or 90 cents. Of course, if they could be had for local consumption, fish dealers say, the cost would only be half that amount. The cold and stormy weather is said to be the cause of the scarcity.

Uncle Walt

The Poet Philosopher

COMING OF SPRING

The joyous spring is close at hand, the spring that renovates the land! And once again the birds will sway on bending boughs, and sing all day; the skies will be serene and fair, and we shall breathe the fragrant air, and girls will swing on garden gates, and there'll be swarms of candidates. The world will wear its garb of green, but we will not enjoy the scene; the birds shall sing their songs in vain, for we can't hear the gentle strain; the candidates will get us all, and back us up against a wall, and twist their fingers in our coats, and tell us that they need our votes. In vain the fragrant breeze shall blow, in vain the twinkling stars shall glow; we won't have time for things like these; we'll listen to the same old wheeze from patriots who tell us why they come once more to bleed and die. And so I dread the gentle spring; I like the zehpyrs she will bring, I like the bees, I like the bowers, I like the what-you-call-'em flowers, I like the bluebirds and their mates, but oh! I hate the candidates.

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WALT MASON.