

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 20, 1912.

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A GREAT STEP FORWARD

The citizens of St. John will learn with the utmost satisfaction that the city is to be provided immediately with one model neighborhood playground.

It is largely due to the munificence of one citizen that it will be possible to have such a playground equipped at once, for he has undertaken to provide practically the whole of the equipment necessary. It may be hoped that the example thus set will encourage other citizens, either individually or in groups, to aid in providing similar neighborhood playgrounds in various other parts of the city.

It is fortunate that the members of the new city council are heartily in sympathy with the playground movement, and that they will do all in their power to co-operate with the Playground Association. The site of the first model playground will be on a stretch of green sward just below the exhibition buildings, where both water and sewerage are available, and which may easily be reached by all the children south of St. James street. The property is owned by the city, and the City Council have kindly consented to its use for this very excellent purpose. It will be possible to erect beside the playground a small pavilion, which will not only be of great value when the weather is bad, but will make it possible to provide modern lavatories for the use of the children. This playground is only intended for small children. The space is not large enough to make provision for games which would be attractive to big boys and girls. It may be hoped that the work will be rushed, so that the formal opening may take place on the first day of the Back to New Brunswick Week. When the exhibition takes place at the end of August, St. John will also be able to show to all the visitors, from the windows of the exhibition buildings, a model playground in full operation; and nothing could do more to spread the knowledge of the value of such playgrounds throughout the Maritime Provinces; for when visitors from other towns see this playground with all its modern provision made for their own little girls and boys.

At the time of the Dominion Exhibition two years ago, Miss Mabel Peters, who is chairman of the Playgrounds Committee of the National Council of Women, endeavored to have a corner of the grounds set apart and equipped as a model playground, but was unable to do so. This year a larger and much more elaborate playground will be provided for the exhibition grounds.

But the fact that these neighborhood playgrounds can only be utilized for small girls and boys emphasizes the need of a larger field and playground for the larger girls and boys. Fortunately we are also in sight of such an institution for the city of St. John. There is ample space available for such a purpose at the entrance to Rockwood Park, and the old City Council set apart the sum of \$2,000 to be used in draining and preparing this great field for playground purposes. Of course \$2,000 is only enough for some preliminary work, but if a beginning is made at once, and it is possible when His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught visits St. John in August to have him formally dedicate this field to recreation purposes, so the mayor has so happily suggested, there will be a universal desire on the part of the citizens to continue the work year after year until St. John is provided with one of the best equipped recreation grounds in America. Enough work should be done during the present year to make it possible for the high school boys, the boy scouts and other youths' organizations to make some use of the grounds before the end of this year; and so that next year the inter-scholastic sports, which were won by the St. John team this year, could be held on these grounds.

The time has gone by for sneering at the advocates of supervised playgrounds and athletic fields as faddists. That was quite popular in a very limited circle in St. John not very many years ago, but the friends of the children have kept up an agitation and an educational campaign until the great mass of the people realize the value of these institutions.

It would be most unfair in an article on this subject not to pay a high tribute to the St. John branch of the Women's Council. They have conducted a supervised playground in the city for six years, and were the first to demonstrate its value. The Every Day Club has for five years done similar work, and both organizations were aided not only by generous citizens but with grants from the City Council. Now that the work is to be taken over by the Playgrounds Association the Women's Council will feel that their work has been accomplished, and they will deserve the thanks of the people for their zeal and persistence during these six years, spent in educating work and in demonstration of the value of the supervised playground.

At a meeting held at City Hall yesterday afternoon, at which Mayor Frink presided and Commissioner Agar was also present, with Mr. George E. Day, of the Board of School Trustees; Mr. W. C. Cross, President of the Y. M. C. A., and a number of ladies and gentlemen who have been interested in playground work, it was decided to form a Playground Association for St. John, to be affiliated with the associations of other cities in the formation of a National Playground Association for Canada. St. John thus takes the lead in promoting a national association. It was a fitting tribute to the labor of Miss Mabel Peters during ten years

past in behalf of playground work that she should be made the first president of the St. John Playground Association. Mr. Walter C. Allison, who is the vice-president, has done more practical work in connection with the establishment of the new model playground than any other citizen. Mr. Cross, on behalf of the Y. M. C. A., formally placed at the service of the new association for the holiday season Mr. L. Bandlow, their very efficient physical instructor, who has had practical experience in playground work. The Playground Association, having the support of the City Council, the Y. M. C. A. and leading citizens, is thus organized under most favorable auspices, and every man and woman in the city ought to feel it their duty to become members.

Mayor Frink, as the Times has observed on a former occasion, has reason to feel particularly well pleased with these developments and the practical work which will follow. He, as chairman of the general committee, got the old City Council to endorse the principle of supervised playgrounds, including neighborhood playgrounds in various parts of the city, with also the preliminary grant of \$2,000 for the Rockwood Park athletic field. It may be taken for granted that he and the other commissioners will become active members of the executive of the Playground Association.

MAKE IT A RECORD WEEK

Now that the elections are out of the way the citizens will be able to give more attention to preparation for the Back to New Brunswick Week, which opens on the 9th of July. The 1917 Club, which is composed of young men who have devoted a great deal of time and energy to the promotion of this movement, deserves now the most hearty co-operation of all classes of citizens in the effort to make the local celebration of that week one long to be remembered. From the letters that have been received in reply to the thousands of communications scattered broadcast over the continent, telling former New Brunswickers of this event, it is certain that many thousands of visitors are coming back to their native province to enjoy themselves for a short period, to take a note of the general situation, and many of them, no doubt, either to remain or make arrangements to return. Whether the number who remain or who decide to return at a later period be large or small, the advertisement which the province has received across the whole continent must prove of very great value. Newspapers everywhere have published paragraphs telling of the awakening of New Brunswick and of the forward movement which is in progress. The same amount of publicity if charged for at advertising rates would cost an enormous sum of money.

The young men who have promoted this movement have done a good thing. They themselves will be benefited, for it is impossible to take part in a movement calculated to benefit the community without deriving personal benefit in the effort. The programme to be carried out in St. John during the Old Home Week has not yet been fully prepared, but it ought to be one in which the citizens generally may participate, and it should contain features of such a character as would impress the visitors with the fact that this city has entered upon a forward movement of the most decided character, destined within a few years to make it one of the great cities of Canada.

Taft and the steam roller are holding their own in Chicago, but Terrible Teddy is still in the field. The Democrats ought to have a cheerful feeling.

Before any radical change is even suggested about C. P. R. running rights over the I. C. R. the merits of St. John as a mail port should be given a fair test. That has never yet been done.

If a boy of tender years has been compelled to spend a night in a cell with a drunken man at the police station or jail, the fact is a disgrace to the city of St. John and a shame to our boasted civilization.

In the Times of June 18th appeared an editorial headed Unanswerable Arguments, which was credited to the Richibucto Review. It should have been credited to the Moncton Transcript. The Transcript has fought a great battle for the Liberal party and policy in this campaign.

The battle of Bunker Hill will not be fought over again, with a group of earnest souls from St. John right up front. The gun which it has been proposed to present to the Bostonese never saw Bunker Hill. It is merely a gun for bringing down tourists.

THE MARGARET ANGLIN PRICES

Were Much Lower Than Expected—Seat Sale Commences Monday Morning at 9.30—Miss Anglin Arrives Sunday

The announcement in this morning's papers of the prices for Margaret Anglin, July 1, 2 and 3, with matinee on the first of July, came as a genuine surprise to the thousands who are planning to enjoy the biggest dramatic and social event of this generation at least. Prospective patrons had been expecting the charges to scale from \$5, but instead the minimum price is \$1, which admits to the gallery, unserved balcony is \$2 and \$2.50, orchestra chairs \$2.50 and \$3, dress circle \$2.50 and \$3, boxes \$3.

Mr. Spence announces that in arrange-

WHICH? You'll like the Flavor or your money back.

Try and see.

35c., 40c., 50c. per lb.

KING COLE TEA

IN LIGHTER VEIN

PAT SCORED

Pat was busy on a Hall road working with his coat off. There were two Englishmen laboring on the same road, so they decided to have a joke with the Irishman. They painted a donkey's head on the back of Pat's coat, and watched to see him put it on. Pat, of course, saw the donkey's head on his coat, and, turning to the Englishmen, said:

"Which of you wiped your face on my coat?"

HE HAD BRAINS

A schoolmaster called at the home of a pupil whose absence had extended over a week, and inquired of the lad's mother the reason.

"Why," she said, "he's past his fourteenth year, and me and his father think he's had schooling enough."

"Schooling enough?" Why, I did not finish my education until I was twenty-three."

"Be that so?" said the mother. "But that lad of ours has got brains."

IT DOESN'T MATTER

"So," said the good man, "you intend to be a doctor when you grow up."

"Yes," Tommy replied.

"And why have you decided upon the medical profession?"

"Well, a doctor seems to be the only man that keeps right on getting paid whether his work is satisfactory or not."

LIKE THE COW

An old farmer went to a cattle show to exhibit a favorite cow, with which he had high hopes of winning the first prize. On learning the result, and that his cow had been placed fifth, his anger knew no bounds, and, rushing into the ring, he attacked the judges.

"Why is my cow not first? What are her faults, I'd like to know?"

At this point one of the judges approached him and answered:

"Her faults, my good man, are somewhat akin to your own. She lacks good breeding."

ing the scale, he made the prices just as low as conditions would permit, of being anxious that Miss Anglin's return to St. John should be a triumph in which all persons might participate, as every citizen young and old seems to take a personal pride in the former St. John girl's wonderful success.

At nine thirty Monday morning the east sale for all performances will begin. Monday's matinee will commence at two-thirty sharp, and the evening performance at eight-fifteen. Miss Anglin and her company will arrive in the city on the C. P. Sunday noon. Suites have been engaged already for Miss Anglin at the Royal.

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A few applications of this beneficial cream soothes and softens the skin, removes roughness, redness and helps eradicate the marks of wear.

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