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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1921

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 17, 1921.

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CHOOSE STRONG MEN

The people of Canada are going about the very serious business of choosing a new parliament. Looked at in its broadest aspect the aim should be to choose men of vision, of ability and the highest patriotic motives. The country is still young. It is vast in extent and its growth has been phenomenal. It stretches from coast to coast and its resources are boundless. It is a member of two leagues of nations, the one British and the other international. Its bark has been launched upon the sea of international as well as of national affairs, and the whole outlook has been changed as a result. Not so many years ago a number of scattered communities independent of each other concerned themselves with local affairs, local differences. Later they united, added to their boundaries and became a Dominion. Still the chief business was local in its aspect, although with an enlarged outlook came larger responsibilities. Then came the war, the new alignment of nations, the re-making of national boundaries in Europe, and the new relationship of Canada to the rest of the world.

Canada has entered upon a new era. The old things have indeed passed away, and the men who are to serve this country in a representative capacity at the national capital should be chosen from the ablest and best of her sons. It is not a mere passing sensation, but an event of momentous importance when a democratic country chooses those to whom are to be delegated the administration of its affairs. It is not merely a question of high or low tariff or whether Tom Smith or Bill Jones will get the most votes in a particular constituency. There are grave matters to be dealt with in a large way. We have come out of the war with an immense debt. The Canadian people are not all of one mind or creed, and there are elements of discord under any but the best leadership. To meet this heavy financial liabilities Canada must find markets and develop its resources for export trade. It has a railway problem of extreme and pressing importance. There is need of an influx of immigrants of the right sort to bring wealth into the country and to increase the business of its railways. There are pressing problems in regard to education and public health. Economy in administration is never so necessary, and yet it must be combined with a bold policy of development of natural resources. There is something larger at stake than the mere success of a group or party. Groups and parties there will be, but the aim of them all should be to send to Ottawa their very best, confident that the assembled wisdom will not go far wrong in shaping policies and taking advantage of opportunities to advance the welfare of the nation. This is the first opportunity since the war to make a choice, and the next parliament will be good or bad, as the people themselves in their several localities may choose. The house of commons is no place for a man who has no vision and no grasp of the larger issues at stake.

When we turn to the maritime provinces the need of choosing the best men is more obvious than in any other general election since confederation. The growth of the west has radically changed the relations of these provinces to the rest of Canada. Our representation at Ottawa is dwindling, theirs is growing. Into the west are pouring immigrants who know nothing and care nothing about the early history of the Dominion and the pledges of confederation. We are even told that the question of giving the natural resources to the western provinces is none of our business. Under such conditions these lower provinces should send their ablest and most fearless men to the capital to declare and maintain our rights. There is also the question of Quebec where, for the development of manufactures. Their manufacturers want a high tariff that would protect them from competition from abroad, and they uphold a railway freight rate policy that would prevent any competition from these provinces. Unless we can get the treatment in regard to freight rates that was promised at confederation, there can be no industrial development here, and this is another reason for urging that strong men be sent to parliament, who will not remain silent and see the interests of their own people sacrificed. Indeed, there should be when the new parliament is summoned a caucus of maritime province members regardless of party, in order that they might outline a policy in regard to matters particularly affecting these provinces, and present a solid front when these matters are under discussion.

This is no time for petty differences or personal ambitions. All party conventions should choose able men, so that whoever wins we may be sure that when maritime province interests are threatened there will be men on the floors of parliament with the ability and courage to present our case in the strongest possible manner.

The situation in Ireland has again taken on a more peaceful aspect. Negotiations may continue, and that is in the highest degree desirable.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES

The decision to hold in November in the city of Fredericton a convention of the school trustees of the province is one to be highly commended. The question of education becomes yearly of greater importance. Much progress has been made in regard to the character of school buildings, although there are still too many antiquated structures in country districts. The vision of higher taxes has a deterrent effect upon community zeal for better schools, and there are always some taxpayers who think almost anything is good enough so long as the children may be housed for the school period of the day. Nor has there been that measure of conference and co-operation between districts which would lead to uniformly better results. The convention in Fredericton, if the districts will but see to it that delegates are sent, will undoubtedly give a needed stimulus to public interest in the schools, and the exchange of views and discussion of problems will be of lasting benefit. Many a trustee will go back to his district with a clearer vision of the relation of the local school to the community life, and a desire to make it function more effectively. They have such conventions in the west, and these have proved their usefulness. The task of a school board is not complete when it has engaged a teacher, and every teacher remembers with gratitude the member of the board who shows an active and continuous interest and sympathy with the work in the school room. In those localities where parent and teacher associations are formed the best results are obtained. Let us hope the convention in November will be taken advantage of by a great number of the school districts from all the counties.

BACK IN THE FOLD.

The Standard has been purchased by a Conservative syndicate for a single purpose, and that is to provide the Meighen government with an organ in St. John. There is an end to all uncertainty. The pleasurable excitement of guessing what the Standard will say tomorrow, which has prevailed for some time past, has been brought to an abrupt end. Everybody now knows in advance what the Standard will say tomorrow, and tomorrow—and tomorrow—until the elections are over. It began this morning with a very mournful picture of the dreadful condition in which Canada finds herself (under the Meighen government), and adjures all patriots to rally to the standard (of the re-vamped Meighen government) and save the country from the leaderless Liberals, the "free traders," farmers, and all sundry who do not see in Mr. Meighen and his colleagues the supermen of Canada. An Ottawa despatch to the Standard describes them as "some of the best parliamentary, administrative and business capacity of the country," "ministers of major capacity"—and so on. We are to be told next Tuesday who they are. This window-dressing is of course interesting and is what would be expected from a new and exceedingly zealous organ of the government. The reading public will nevertheless be disposed to ask themselves what the government has been doing to lift Canada out of the sad condition in which the Standard depicts her to be at present involved, and whether it is better to be guided by knowledge of past performances than by pre-election assurances of better conduct in the future. The guilty man on trial invariably renounces his sins and is frantically eager to give a demonstration, but he does not usually get the job back. A term in opposition might do wonders for Mr. Meighen and his followers. The experiment is too well worth trying to be ignored by the people.

BUMPING MR. WIGMORE

The St. Croix Courier says: "Recent despatches from Ottawa intimate that Hon. J. B. M. Baxter has accepted an invitation from Premier Meighen to become the representative of New Brunswick in his cabinet and that the invitation has been accepted. The announcement is the cause of general felicitation throughout the province among friends of the Meighen government." But what will the Courier say if Hon. Mr. Wigmore remains in the cabinet? He is receiving at the hands of his party friends much food for solemn reflection these autumn days.

The Courier also has a candidate for the provincial leadership in the event of Mr. Baxter's retirement. It says: "The name of one of the Charlotte county members, a resident of St. Stephen, comes readily to the front."

A boy of twelve has confessed that he caused the destructive fire in Annapolis because he wanted to see the hose turned on. Fire prevention should be a feature of the teaching in the schools, so that even the youngest may be impressed with the sense of personal responsibility and of the danger that lurks in the flames.

We shall probably learn on Tuesday next to what extent the Meighen cabinet has been reconstructed. It is reported that Sir George Foster and Hon. Messrs. Reid and Calder will go to the ecotie.

THE TOY BAND.

Dreary lay the long road, dreary lay the town,
Lighted out and never a glint of moon,
Weary lay the stragglers, half a thousand,
And down,
Sad sighed the weary big dragon:
Ah! if I'd a drum here to make them take the road again,
Oh! if I'd a fife to wheedle come, boys, come!
You that mean to fight it out, wake and take your load again,
Fall in! Fall in! Follow the fife and drum!

Hey! but here's a toy-shop, here's a drum for me,
Penny whistles too to play the tune
Half a thousand dead men soon shall hear and see
"We're a band!" said the weary big dragon.
"Rubadub! Rubadub! Wake and take the road again,
Wheedle-deedle-dee-dee. Come boys, come!
You that mean to fight it out, wake and take your load again,
Fall in! Fall in! Follow the fife and drum!"

As long as there's an Englishman to ask a tale of me,
As long as I can tell the tale aright,
We'll not forget the penny whistle's wheedle-dee-dee.
And the big dragon a-beating down the night,
Rubadub! Rubadub! Wake and take the road again,
Wheedle-deedle-dee-dee. Come boys, come!
You that mean to fight it out, wake and take your load again,
Fall in! Fall in! Follow the fife and drum!

—Henry Newbolt.

LIGHTER VEIN.

No Science.
Young 'un—I'm taking political economy at college.

Old 'un—that's a useless course. Why learn to economize in politics? It's not being done.

A Pointed Retort.

"Miss Tiddies, will you marry me? I would gladly die for you," offered the wealthy but aged suitor.

"How soon?" queried that practical twentieth-century maid.—Berkley Gazette.

No Heart.

"Have you no heart?" he asked.

The woman's eyes dimmed as if tears were on the horizon of her hopes. She had paid perceptibly and the man read the message in her liquid orbs.

"Have you no heart?" he asked.

The appeal left him cold and the man shrugged his shoulders, nonchalantly. With a grim look he shook his head slightly.

At the negative moment the woman's eyes stared hopelessly into space and something akin to a sigh escaped her dulled lips.

No heart. And she had foolishly believed that he possessed one. She felt crushed.

With a despairing gesture she watched the others take the trick. What is an absorbing game!

AUTOMOBILE BITS

More than a million cars are needed annually for replacements.

Detroit's motor production in 1919 was valued at \$880,000,000.

A Chicago taxicab system employs 1,000 men as chauffeurs.

The United States has 2,475,561 miles of surfaced highways.

Motor car makers employed 325,000 workers last year.

See that you get equal resistance from the brakes.

Test wheels for side-play occasionally. Summary requires a heavier grade of oil than winter.

Dirty roads are easy on tires, but watch for mud.

Never use ammonia to clean the car. It destroys the finish.

Keep the spring shackles well lubricated.

There were 33,893 passenger car dealers in the United States in 1920.

There were only 411 motor trucks in this country in 1904.

DANTE WAS GREAT STATESMAN ALSO

Completed His Divine Drama After Retiring from Eventful Life—Regarded Almost as Saint in Italy.

(Toronto Mail and Empire)
Six hundred years ago, on September 13, Dante, perhaps the greatest of Italian poets, passed away. For some time it was believed that the event had taken place on the following day since it was only then that the news spread. And when it spread it cast a gloom over all the land. It cannot be said that Dante was neglected in his lifetime, but his lifetime was not wholly devoted to poetry.

He was a man of action as well as a man of reflection, and it was after his activities had ended that he retired from the great world to Ravenna where he completed his Divine Comedy and wrote some of the noblest passages in any literature. In Ravenna, too, he was buried, and not in Florence, his birthplace, a matter which has caused the greatest of poets to be pointed at Florence, accusing it of neglecting its greatest son, but if there was neglect it has long since been atoned for, and as the centuries have passed, greater and greater has grown the estimate of Dante's position. Inspire of Statesmen.

His name is revered in Italy not only as a great poet, but as a great statesman who long ago foresaw that some day Italy would be a united nation and not a congeries of contending cities. In his works Italian statesmen down to our own days found inspiration, for six hundred years ago politics and poetry were not separated. They were joined, and the rules of conduct and principles of government. Because of the towering nobility of Dante's poetic vision he was regarded in Italy almost as a saint, and for him were claimed some of the honors that are bestowed only upon saints.

Holy Ground.

For example, on one occasion thieves tried to secrete themselves in Dante's tomb and thus escape the capital punishment which otherwise would have been theirs. They were seized, but pleaded that having once been in this consecrated spot they could not be punished. In those days the civil courts, but they were denied the right of prosecuting any criminal who might thus seek to defeat justice and the matter was referred to the Vatican for decision. The judgment given was that "the resting place of the poet Dante's ashes is surely a sacred place and therefore can grant immunity to all who take refuge, but as the thieves have since then been carried away to an ordinary town jail they have lost all immunity and are subject, therefore, to punishment." From this it would appear that the sanctuary was only a temporary one and that as soon as the malefactors had left it for any reason they were subject to arrest.

A Profligate's Tribute.

There is another story told to illustrate the place that Dante holds in the hearts of his countrymen: A dirty, profligate youth, having gambled all night and lost all he possessed, not in the least of humor, wandered into the Church of St. Francis, and snatching one of the lighted tapers which burned before the altar, he proceeded with it to Dante's tomb, and fastening it there, exclaimed, "Keep this for yourself; you deserve it more than the other ones." Though he committed a sacrilege, public opinion condoned the offence since it so well expressed the attitude of the nation to the father of Italian language and literature. Boccaccio, the father of the novel, was the first commentator of Dante, and a tremendous admirer of his genius, though candor compels the admission that one sees little trace of the Divine Comedy in the Decameron.

Buried in Ravenna.

When death came to Dante he was surrounded by his children who had accompanied him to Ravenna five years before, although his wife remained in Florence. During his lifetime he had declined all honors which had not come to him from his beloved city, but with his death came honors from far and near. His funeral was held with great pomp, and the body was borne to the cemetery where it still remains. The tomb was by no means in keeping with the illustrious dead, but the Venetian domination of Ravenna brought with it refinement, and the Venetian architect, Nicolo Lombardi, foremost architect of his time, who designed for the poet's tomb the floral relief and the inscription which it bears to the present day. A little later a chapel was added, and so the tomb remains, a shrine each year for hundreds of thousands of Italians as well as many thousands of others who recognize in Dante one of the great spirits of the world, whose fame continues to grow with the years.

VENIZILOS MARRIED.

Ex-Greek Premier and Bride to Tour United States.

London, Sept. 17.—Eleutherios Venizelos, former premier of Greece, and Miss Helena Schilizzi, daughter of a Greek business man in London, were married at the registry office here on Wednesday. Mr. Venizelos is fifty-seven years of age, and his bride is ten years his junior.

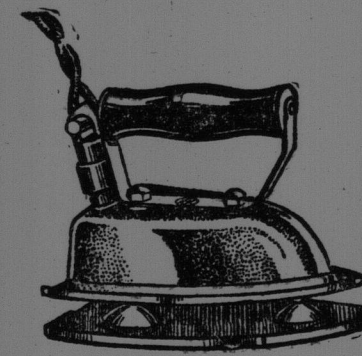
The religious ceremony will take place at Highgate. After a fortnight's honeymoon in Brittany, the couple will start for the United States for a six months' tour, during which Mr. Venizelos expects to spend a part of his time speaking in the interests of the League of Nations.

"REALTOR" IS NEW WORD IN BUSINESS VOCABULARY

Canadians have now a new word to add to their vocabulary. It is "realtor," and has just been officially registered at the proper government department at Ottawa. It signifies a real estate agent, though all real estate agents are not realtors. Before anyone can use the name he must be a member of the Toronto Real Estate Board, or one of the other real estate organizations across the border.

R. B. Rice, president of the Toronto board, announced the registration of the term at a banquet held by Toronto realtors at the King Edward Hotel last night. "This board now holds it for the whole of Canada," he told the members, "but we will issue it to other boards. Any outside these boards, who infringe by using the term 'will be proceeded against.'"

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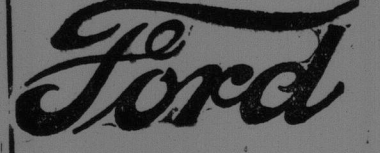
Bisbee, Ariz., Sept. 17.—Possessing the search in the Gold Gulch hills near the border for the band of Mexican raiders who attacked Miss Saide the Champion, of Warren, when they were discovered stealing cattle on her ranch.

She could give only a partial account of the attack, but said that the three Mexicans dragged her from her horse, kicked and beat her, and attempted to cut out her tongue. She had severe cuts on her face and arms.

\$500 REWARD

The above reward will be paid by the City of Saint John, to any person (other than a person belonging to the Police force of the City and County of Saint John), not being the actual murderer, who shall give information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who murdered little Sadie McAuley, in the vicinity of Riverview Park, on or about Tuesday, August 2nd, instant.

JOHN THORNTON,
Commissioner of Public Safety,
City of Saint John.



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