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THE STAR, ST. JOHN N. B. MONDAY, JANUARY 4 1909

THIS ST. JOHN STAR is published by THE SUN PRINTING COMPANY, (LTD.) at St. John, New Brunswick, every afternoon (except Sunday) at 2 1/2 c. a year.

TELEPHONE:— BUSINESS OFFICE, 25. EDITORIAL and NEWS DEPT., 112.

ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 4, 1909.

CIVIC REORGANIZATION.

Now that reorganization of civic administration has become once more a live issue, and when there is a prospect of overcoming in a measure at least, the bungling methods hitherto prevailing, Mayor Bullock has given voice to his own pet project which commends itself to the chief magistrate as being the best and most practical way of doing it.

While an alderman, favored a board of control. Aid Frink it an advocate of the commission system and in fact every member of the board has his own idea of what changes are required. The trouble is that at the proper time the various suggestions are not offered but are apparently reserved for the purpose of destroying whatever hope may exist of reformation.

Perhaps Mayor Bullock's scheme is a good one; probably Aid Frink's commission proposal is equally worthy; maybe Aid Kelley's plan to have a board of control is a better one.

At the present time the council has been made the first business on the programme, is the selection of an engineer capable of administering all departments of the work.

It has been declared fit and proper, and the resolution is a good one. Why then should the minds of the aldermen be diverted by any hobbies of individual members? Why should improvement in our system be set aside until the members of the board discuss the pros and cons of schemes which have been before them for the past half a dozen years?

For goodness sake let the aldermen stick to that course and not get steering off in all directions. Get one thing done and then take up the next.

With all due respect to His Worship, it is submitted that the present time is not opportune for a desultory discussion of the principle of government by a board of control. The objection to the step under consideration is that an engineer will be incapable of successful work under the system of government now in vogue. There need be no such fear. One capable man will soon find himself able to direct the present alderman along the proper lines.

PROMPT RELIEF.

The world shudders at the unspeakable suffering endured by the survivors of the disastrous earthquake in the south of Italy. We endeavor vainly to form even a faint idea of the magnitude of the disaster and to picture for ourselves the awfulness of the situation. We know that there are great numbers of men, women and children starving to death, dying from injuries sustained, being slaughtered by the fiends who find in such tragedies opportunities for gain. But the magnitude of the horror even under modern conditions is such that the mind cannot possibly picture it. Yet following this calamity we have seen the world's response really humming through the wires, warships were on their way to the stricken districts bearing food and other comforts to those who remained alive. Within a very few hours every nation of the civilized world had sent out calls for help, and millions were being poured into the hands of those charged with the task of distributing relief. Differences of religion, race and color have been forgotten and in the face of such a disaster men only remember that other men are suffering. In view of the extent of the devastation, of the overwhelming nature of the destruction, it is almost impossible, even in this age, that within six days of the earthquake practically every district affected has been brought within the care of the relief organizations. Three hundred large bodies of soldiers, had been proclaimed, and pillaging was at an end; in less than a week there was food for everyone—not enough food, but sufficient to sustain life until more could be secured; in the same period thousands of injured were in the hands of trained physicians and nurses.

There is yet much to be done. What has already been accomplished has only taken the keenest edge off the dreadful sufferings of the people, and more money and supplies will be required more urgently than ever during the next few months. But think what must have been endured a hundred years ago. History records more disastrous earthquakes than this under which Italy now suffers. There has been greater loss of life in the past, and no doubt greater suffering. In the Calabrian earthquake of 1783 there were no

railroads traversing the affected districts, no warships ready to rush with assistance upon a hurry call by wireless telegraphy, and the world did not receive the news of the disaster within a few hours after it occurred. The death toll in that earthquake was never even estimated but it results then were as they are now, it is safe to suppose that very large numbers died for lack of that succor which today is so freely and promptly extended. The good old days were not in every way preferable, for though we do not look forward to experiencing any earthquake shocks in our own country, we have the satisfaction, denied to our forefathers, of promptly helping those who suffer from the destructive forces of nature.

A crowd of small boys were gathered about the entrance of a circus tent in one of the small cities in New Hampshire one day trying to get a glimpse of the interior. A man standing near watched them for a few moments; then, walking up to the tent, he said:

"Let all these boys in, and count them as they pass."

The man did as he requested, and when the last one had gone in he turned and said:

"Twenty-eight."

"Good!" said the man: "I guessed just right," and walked off.

Sociologists had been studying the baby. They found that in the home of the rich, his advent was a visitation and among the poverty-stricken a calamity.

"Silly," they admitted, "we recognize the necessity of having some people so circumstanced that this infant industry may not die out."

At the present time the council has been made the first business on the programme, is the selection of an engineer capable of administering all departments of the work.

"There goes a man who has never spoken an unkind word of his wife," spoke Willoughby.

"Fine! Who is she?" asked Dorington.

"She's a deaf and dumb old bachelorette named Harkaway," said Willoughby.

"I object to having that rooster crow and strut every time the hen lays an egg. What's he got to do with it?"

"Oh, that's all right. He's her press agent."

Scotland has a great reputation for learning in the United States, and a lady who came over from Boston expected to find the proverbial shepherd quoting Virgil and the laborer who had Burns by heart. She was disappointed in Edinburgh. Accosting a policeman, she inquired as to the whereabouts of Carlyle's house.

"Which Carlyle?" he asked.

"Thomas Carlyle," said the lady.

"What does he do?" queried the guardian of the peace.

"He was a writer—but he's dead," she faltered.

"Well, madam," the big Scot informed her, "if the man is dead over five years there's little chance of finding out anything about him in a big city like this."

Ah Wing Lee was walking down Chestnut street the other morning, when a dog ran up behind him, yelping and barking horribly. The end of a celestial's pistol rose in the breeze as he leaped aside in great alarm.

A benevolent passerby, seeing the terror painted upon the yellow countenance, hastened to pat him reassuringly on the shoulder.

"Come, come, my friend, you need not be afraid. The dog won't hurt you. Don't you know the old proverb: 'A barking dog never bites'?"

"That's all very good," interrupted Ah Wing doubtfully. "You know me, and I know my plow, but do you do know dog plow?"

THE BENDING OF THE BOUGH.

"You must have had some very narrow escapes from death during your eventful career?" I said to the great detective.

"I have had a few," he replied modestly. "Probably the closest shave I had was when a band of South American outlaws handed me and went away without noticing they had strung me up to a rubber tree."—Brooklyn Life.

SOMETHING WRONG.

Passenger (on a recently slow train) — Conductor the engineer must have met with an accident of some kind.

Conductor — What makes you think so?

Passenger — We just passed a group of two houses and a barn without stopping.—Puck.

FISHING FOR AN HEIRESS.

"There is only one thing that would ever tempt me to think of matrimony," said the impetuous nobleman as he tucked down his false bosom, "and that can be expressed in four letters."

"Ah, he's—" interrogated his friend.

No; c-a-s-h.—Smart Set.

THE DEAR GIRLS.

"Did you ever have half a dozen offers of marriage in one afternoon?" I did.

"So did I, and all from the same man too."—Kansas City Times.

A SINGLE FAILING.

"You say he has no bad habits?"

"Only one."

"What is that?"

"Lecturing other people about theirs."—Pittsburg Post.

Impossible to be Well. It is impossible to be well, simply impossible, if the bowels are constipated. Waste products, poisonous substances, must be removed from the body at least once each day, or there will be trouble. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Pills, gently laxative, all vegetable. He knows why they act directly on the liver.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

(Continued from Page One.)

IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—President Roosevelt announced tonight that he has sent two supply ships with \$200,000 worth of supplies to Italy, that he will ask Congress for additional aid; that he has offered the use of the battleship fleet to Italy.

President Roosevelt was engaged tonight in preparing the message which will be presented to Congress when it convenes Monday. A large amount of data on precedents and on the aid which is being rushed from various quarters to Southern Italy and the means of getting succor to victims has been prepared for the President and was considered carefully by him.

It showed that in the Montepalao catastrophe the government appropriated \$200,000 for the relief of the sufferers. A committee of prominent citizens was designated to visit the scene and to disburse the money. A similar plan suggested very strongly by the committee of prominent citizens was suggested, such as the selection of a committee of Americans, now in Italy, or the design of the American Ambassador or agents of the Red Cross to attend to the disbursement of the money.

Money is pouring into the office of the American Red Cross and is being telegraphed abroad as fast as received. The New York Red Cross has telegraphed \$30,000 to the National Red Cross, which has been cabled by the National Red Cross to the Italian Society.

The suggestion that Ernest Shackleton, National Director of the American Red Cross, be sent to Italy to cooperate with the Italian Red Cross in relieving the distress in Southern Italy has been abandoned as unnecessary under existing conditions.

THE BEST PLAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—To assist the American people in their efforts to extend relief to the stricken Italian earthquake sufferers, Secretary Root has made public a cablegram received from the Italian Red Cross in Rome, presenting the first feasible plan of meeting the present emergency.

There is no time to spare in awaiting the arrival of the stores of medicines, ships now in the Suez canal, or of naval supply ships crossing the Atlantic. The need of help is immediate, and how that help can be rendered is told in the cablegram, dated at Rome, which follows:

Jan. 2, 1909.

"I have today drawn on you for seventy thousand dollars and paid equivalent to Italian Red Cross in Rome. I have chartered the steamer for two weeks, when the destitute have been removed, will be needed in Naples, Rome, Florence and other cities, where the sufferers are being distributed."

"I will be personally glad to cooperate with our Red Cross to carry out the relief work, and the ambassador in Rome anxious to assist in relief measures." (Signed) GRISCOM.

SUPPLY STEAMER CHARTERED.

ROME, Jan. 3.—The United States is far ahead of other nations in the relief work. The Italian Red Cross has succeeded in finding an Austrian Lloyd steamer of eight thousand tons, capable of carrying 1,200 passengers. It has chartered the steamer for two weeks and she is being loaded with medical supplies and provisions. This steamer will leave for Civita Vecchia, about fifty miles from here on Thursday. It will be backed under the orders of the Italian government.

Besides the supplies, the American relief vessel will embark six doctors and twenty male and female nurses, three of the latter being American girls from New York, who volunteered their services.

American energy has been strongly manifested in the work looking to the relief of the earthquake sufferers. Ambassador Griscom and the members of the committee have assumed personal responsibility for the expenses of the expedition, relying upon the American public for funds. Prior to engaging the steamer, the ambassador visited Foreign Minister Tittoni and asked him if it would be a real service to send to the south a vessel properly supplied. Signor Tittoni answered that it would be most appreciated for medical and food supplies were urgently needed. Civita Vecchia was selected as the starting point because Naples, at present is too crowded and too distant from Rome, while Civita Vecchia is about two hours from this city. The government will give a special train for free transportation of supplies and persons.

Besides the relief steamer, the United States will soon have the converted yacht Scorpion on the scene.

The Scorpion is expected at Messina on Monday and will be followed within a few days by the supply ships Coligo and Yankton from San Francisco. The latter vessels will put at the disposal of the authorities the provisions and medical supplies intended for the American fleet, ending around the world.

A TERRIBLE TALE.

PALMI, Jan. 3.—A young seminary student, Teodoro Rosanti, who walked eleven miles to escape from Iregio, tells a terrible tale of the first moments of the earthquake, in which he lost a sister and another relative. Rosanti thus describes his experience:

"Together with my companions, I was in a train waiting to go to Sangiovanni, the nearest spot on the main road, to Messina, when the carriage was literally lifted off the tracks, the station crumbling to the ground around us. There was a roar like a hundred cascades falling from a height. Our terror lasted only a moment, but it was a very terrible one. We thought of the earthquake, in which he lost a sister and another relative. Rosanti thus describes his experience:

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DIDN'T WANT IT. (Argonaut) An Atchison merchant tried to sell a vacuum bottle to a Missourian. "It will keep anything hot or cold seventy-two hours," he explained. "Don't want it, don't want it at all," replied the Missourian. "If I had anything worth drinking I don't want to keep it seventy-two hours."

Be Pretty. First requisite a good complexion. Give a