

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 22, 1911.

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THE EVENING TIMES
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.

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Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.

No graft!

No deals!

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

A CHAMPION AT LAST

The most extraordinary statement yet made in opposition to the commission plan of government is credited by the Standard to Ald. Smith. The citizens would like to believe that Ald. Smith has not been correctly quoted, rather than that any man who is a member of the city council would assume responsibility for such statements.

Ald. Smith is thus quoted:

"The men whom it is said the commissioners intend to run, have little acquaintance with civic affairs. They would be absolutely at the mercy of the officials who have charge of the practical direction of the city services. As they would have to give up any private business and look to their position for a livelihood, they would be more anxious to secure votes than the ordinary aldermen are and they would be ready enough to grant the requests of anyone seeking special privileges at the expense of the citizens, if the party making the request was able to influence votes."

In the first place, the election of commissioners, if the plan is adopted, cannot take place for over a year. The friends of the commission are not selecting candidates and will have no slate. They are quite willing to rely on the citizens to select from the many candidates who will be nominated five capable men, the double election plan making this a much easier task. Any man who believes that an election can be "fixed" under the commission plan is lamentably ignorant of the history of commission government.

But the most remarkable statement credited to Ald. Smith is that the commissioners would be "absolutely at the mercy of the civic officials who have charge of the practical direction of the city services."

Ald. Smith thus practically admits that the city is at present run by the civic officials. This is his conclusion as a member of the city council. For if five men devoting their whole time to civic affairs and meeting daily could not control the "civic officials," how can it be done by seventeen aldermen meeting occasionally and paying as little attention as possible to city affairs? If we are ruled by civic officials, or by a few interested aldermen who devote enough time to city affairs to enable them to dominate the council, it is time for a radical change.

Ald. Smith also trots out the stale assertion that the commissioners would swindle voters. This is the most arrant nonsense. Every commissioner would be responsible to the whole city, and would know that his best guarantee of re-election would be a creditable business record. If Ald. Smith keeps on talking everybody will be converted to the commission plan.

SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE

The appeal made in behalf of the Seamen's Institute, in today's Times, is commended to the generous people of St. John. Lord Strathcona will contribute \$1,000 toward payment of the debt of \$4,000, provided the other \$3,000 is raised. We publish today local subscriptions amounting to \$800, which leaves only \$2,200 to raise. There should be no difficulty in raising this amount by popular subscription. With the debt removed the Institute could do more work, although, as Mr. Henderson points out in his letter, it is already doing a splendid work in this city. That so few sea-faring men are found in the police court is evidence that the Institute exerts a good influence. No doubt there will be some handsome subscriptions sent in, and make it easier to get the balance in small sums subscribed by many people. The debt would be wiped out within a week or ten days if the citizens would respond promptly to the appeal.

ORTHODOX HISTORY

The students of Irish parentage in Worcester, Mass., Classical High School have lost their temper over the statement in the text-books that St. Patrick was born in England. It is too bad to interfere with the stereotyped tradition that has become so authoritative, that this patron saint was born in Ireland. But history knows no sentiment and the higher critics, from whose restless and curious investigations nothing is sacred, inform us that as a matter of fact St. Patrick was born near the present city of Bristol in England. There was no England in those days. It was then a Roman-British land and the name Angle-land was not until many centuries later. Scotland and Ireland have

both claimed the honor of his birthplace, but now he must be received as one of the good gifts of England.

But the protest of the Worcester students indicates a tendency which is getting very common, not only in the United States but in other countries. In a democracy there is always a tendency to produce men and women as if turned on a lathe, all of one pattern. They must believe the same things, accept the glib generalities, half-truths and broad fallacies which have always been current. We hear of a teacher being displaced by a board of school trustees because he is a free-trader, or a gold man or a silver man, or because he disapproves of war, is a free thinker, or because he says that he has found some proof that alcohol is not always bad for the system. Boards of trustees are nearly always made up of "practical men," and if their faiths, ideas and prejudices are to be made the norm of education the schools will educate all to this model. When the theologians had charge it was their intention to reach just this result. They produced an orthodoxy in regard to theology, but they let other things alone. Now we are likely to have an orthodox history, an orthodox political economy, political science and sociology before long. As fast as physics, chemistry, biology, geology and the rest come into conflict with interests and put forth rests which have a pecuniary effect, which they are always doing, then the popular orthodoxy will be extended to them. The reason is because there will always be a growing desire that children should be taught just that thing which is "right" in view of those in control. This is exactly the view that theologians formerly took when they had control.

It is an intensely narrow, provincial and philistine spirit. There is no subject outside of mathematics for which we know the right answers, speaking universally and for all time. The parliament of Baveno agreed, some time ago, to exclude Darwinians from chairs in the state universities. The American colleges have made it hot for many professors whose views did not agree with that of the time magazine. Some free-thinking teachers have found it uncomfortable in the schools of our own land. This is all in the spirit of the ancient ecclesiastics, who carried in their heads the ideal for the Christian man and woman, and who wished to educate all to this model.

We all pretend to admit that there is no wickedness in any disinterested and sincere opinion, but very few of us really act by it. The average man loses his temper, like the school boys and their parents in Worcester, even over the historical facts, if they are not to his liking. The growth of this mischievous spirit would make all progress impossible. All our knowledge is subject to unlimited verification and revision. We can only have good citizens when men are turned out under this ideal in education. The good citizen can resist appeals to his prejudice and to all kinds of cajolery. He can weigh evidence or wait for evidence and then adjust his views to the new facts that investigation may disclose. The attitude of the Conservative leaders in attempting to confuse economics and patriotism indicates this cynical estimate of the average intelligence of the people. Canadians cannot be so stampeded today.

Ald. Smith tells the Standard that the commission movement is rapidly losing ground in St. John. There is a great surprise in store for Ald. Smith.

Two widely known men, both active for many years in civic affairs in St. John, have gone to their rest. Mr. William Lewis and Mr. Thomas Potts were each in the 82nd year of his age. They had lived long, active and useful lives.

It is not surprising that Hon. Mr. Maxwell should make slighting and sneering references to Mr. Bentley. The latter was too much for Mr. Maxwell and all the rest of them in the by-election in St. John county. What happened then to Mr. Bentley's opponent will no doubt happen to Mr. Maxwell when the voters get a chance to express their views. In the meantime Mr. Bentley enjoys the confidence and respect of the people.

The Standard this morning did the commission plan of government a good turn by showing how a commissioner who failed to make returns of several hundreds of dollars was arrested for embezzlement, compelled to make good the shortage and resign his seat. No system of government can guarantee the personal honesty of every man elected to a representative position, but the system that detects dishonesty and gets back the money is what every city desires. The commission plan, by the Standard's own showing, did this in the case it quotes.

A boat made almost entirely of newspapers has been built at St. Augustine, Fla. The papers were put together with shims and the outside layer exhibits headings of papers from every state in the union, from nearly every country in Europe and from Alaska, Egypt and Japan. The boat is snug and water-tight, having been tested by its builder on a 120-mile trip from St. Augustine to New York. The boat is 20 feet long and when completed weighed 21 pounds.

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If you will get from your pharmacist a 50-cent case of Diapiesin, you could always go to bed with a hearty appetite, and you would know the taste good, because you would know there would be no indigestion or sleepless nights or headache or stomach gas the next day; and, besides, you would need laxatives or liver pills to keep your stomach and bowels clean and fresh.

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CRADLE SONG

The sun has long since sunk to rest Behind the violet hills; The golden light fades from the west, And the distant whip-poor-will.

Mournfully sing their doleful strain, And the brisk little tree-toes to and fro— Sleep, little one, sleep.

The clover has folded its pale green leaves, Like the hands of a child in prayer. The birds are twittering under the eaves, As they hover their nestlings near; And the night wind murmurs soft and low, As it moves the tree-tops to and fro— Sleep, little one, sleep.

The butterfly gas is quiet at last, In the heart of a crimson rose; The banks where the columbine grows, Seem to say in a soft and dreamy tone, As it goes on its busy way alone— Sleep, little one, sleep.

The new moon sheds her silvery light Over the dusky lands; And one lone star, so large and bright, A heavenly sentinel stands; While the church bell sounds through the quiet air Its low-toned call to evening prayer— Sleep, little one, sleep.

—Dorothy Nelson.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

VERY MUCH STUCK.

She—I'm just crazy about these exhibition places. I heard you got stuck on the "Bump the Bumpers."

He—Yes, very much so. I encountered a splinter about half way down.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

Miss Kustomer—Have you any mohair? Bald-headed Clerk—No, but what I have is all my own.

MOST FRAGILE OF THINGS.

I shall walk down every morning. I shall keep chickens. I shall sow my own grass. I shall buy my coal in May when it's cheap.

ON AN AUTO RIDE.

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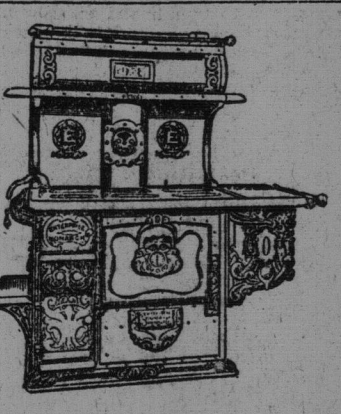
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