

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 2, 1920.

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MISPLACED FAITH.

There was an utterly fruitless discussion of harbor commission by the city council yesterday. The motto—"Have faith, trust the government," will not do in a matter so vital to the city's interests. The city would commit an act of folly to give away its harbor now, after all the years of effort. That effort was based on faith, not in a government, but in the harbor, and it has been amply justified by the fact that now more trade is offered than the present facilities can accommodate. It was a sore disappointment to hear the doctrine of despair preached at city hall. The members of the city council know very well that there can be no comparison between Montreal and St. John, and that the St. John harbor commission act differs from the others cited. This city did not ask for harbor commission. There was no need of it, unless upon terms that would guarantee the rapid development of facilities and conserve the rights of the port. If we cannot trust the government to carry out the agreement of 1911 why exchange it for a worse one?

The apparent desire of one or two members of the council to give the act to the people without themselves giving clear expression to their views will not favorably impress the citizens. If members of council do not know how to vote and give clear and satisfactory reasons therefore, they should never pass the question on to the people.

The Globe says that the opponents of this harbor commission act have nothing to offer. Again the Globe misrepresents. They offer the agreement of 1911, which, if carried out will give the west side all the facilities required, as fast as they are required. They offer also the fact that great concessions were given the government to enable it to provide terminals for the C. N. R. at Courtenay Bay. Where are these terminals? Where are the facilities? The plea of Sir Robert Borden? The government now has two railway lines running to St. John, and has rapidly growing fleet of steamships which must use St. John and Halifax as winter ports, or fail to carry out Premier Meighen's ambition to make Canada independent of the United States in this respect. In other words, the 1911 agreement, look after West St. John and the needs of the government in respect to its own railway and steamship lines, will look after the east side and Courtenay Bay. Bury the harbor commission act as it is present framed and the docks will be cleared for sane and fruitful action. The doctrine of despair concerning the harbor but ill accords with faith in a government which does not fulfill its solemn agreement of 1911.

The members of the city council are on trial. They and the government are looked to by the people for bold and constructive action in the interests of the port. This is not a time for timidity or trusting to luck or shifting responsibility.

TORONTO HARBOR COMMISSION.

The St. John city council, in considering the question of harbor commission should consider the case of Toronto. Note Section 7 of the Toronto Harbor Commission Act. It says: "The corporation shall consist of five commissioners, three of whom shall be appointed by the council of the city of Toronto, one by the governor-in-council, and one by the governor in council upon the recommendation of the board of trade of the city of Toronto."

In other words, Toronto keeps control of its harbor. The commissioners are appointed for a three years term, and are eligible for re-appointment. What is done by the commission is done for the city of Toronto, and another section of the act provides that if there is ever a surplus profit in the operation of the harbor it shall be the property of the city and paid over to the city treasurer. It may be assumed that the St. John city council, before it submits harbor commission to the people, will for their information make a complete comparison between the St. John act and other acts, and that each member will declare himself for or against commission, giving in full his reasons therefor. The members of the council were elected to do the city's business and to guard its interests. In a matter so vital to those interests each member will be expected to have pronounced views, based on the fullest inquiry, and to give them full expression. The people have not had the same opportunity to study the question, and it was for just such business the members of the council were elected and are paid. The St. John act differs entirely from the Toronto act, and we have never heard that Toronto could get nothing done because it did not hand over the control of its harbor. The people of St. John want to know the facts and all of them, and they look to the city council for a frank statement of the whole case. It would be the height of folly to take anything on faith when it is known that the government does not even fulfill its solemn agreement of 1911.

Banks are not affected by the high cost of living. We are told that "thirty-four new branches were opened in Canada by Canadian chartered banks and two elsewhere during the month of July; while four branches were closed, making a net gain for the month of thirteen."

THE CASE OF VANCOUVER.

The federal government, which took over the Canadian Northern, does not consent to carry out promises made to the city of Vancouver by the old Canadian Northern executive when what is termed the False Creek site on the water front was conveyed to them by the city. Hon. J. D. Reid, minister of railways, told the Vancouver people recently that the government would finish the seawall, filling in the area for the approach to the C. N. R. station, and would provide the million yards of sand wanted in False Creek for warehouse and industrial sites, but it would not build a hotel, or a promised tunnel into False Creek, nor would it electrify the terminals unless all the railways entering Vancouver got together on a scheme for general electrification.

St. John people will not be surprised, since the government practically repudiates its own 1911 agreement in relation to this port, that it does not pay any attention to promises made by the Canadian Northern executive, even if those promises did cost Vancouver the False Creek property. We wish, however, put some emphasis on the fact that the government is to spend money on a sea-wall and to provide warehouse and industrial sites, and that it is to be done by the railway department for its own purposes, without any reference to harbor commission or charges for interest and sinking fund.

There is another feature of the case in Vancouver which should interest St. John. We hear of millions to be spent for terminals at that port, although Canadian Finance says:—

"It is realized that there are some difficulties which will have to be solved before the B. C. ports can come into what they believe to be their own, the principal being lack of shipping and profitable return cargo from Europe to B. C. The latter is the more difficult problem, but Vancouver hopes at some future date to be the distributing point for imports from Europe to British Columbia, Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan."

Vancouver "hopes" for traffic, and millions are to be spent by the government for terminals. Why should St. John, which already has the traffic, crowding its harbor in winter to such an extent as to cause vexatious delay, be neglected by the government and left without proper terminals—or offered a scheme which would throw the burden of their whole cost upon the trade of the port? St. John does not want harbor commission so much as it wants a square deal.

In his address at the Pilgrim celebration at Provincetown last week, Dr. Charles A. Eaton denounced the proposal to bring into the United States great numbers of foreign immigrants to do the "dirty work." He said that during the war he had occasion to visit a city where the majority of men were Americans but where men were afraid to say they were Americans, and where the only people who dared speak out were the advocates of the dictatorship of the proletariat. And he added:—"If you import millions of ignorant peasants from Europe as beasts of burden and meet them as Mr. Gomperz did the other day with arguments regarding the rights of man to quit work you will be working for them within a year instead of having them working for you."

The Union National Gas Company which supplies the municipalities of southwestern Ontario with natural gas, is asking increased rates. The representatives of the municipalities called a meeting and passed very strong resolutions in favor of public ownership. The Toronto Globe report says:—"The attitude of those in attendance today was simply to stick together, force the gas company to live up to the present franchises and to develop the fields now under lease or surrender the leases, or else give up the ghost and allow the gas business to be conducted as a public utility by the provincial government."

Four steel steamers are being built in Halifax shipyards, which were established only a couple of years ago. The first of the steamers, the Canadian Mariner, the largest ever built in Nova Scotia, will be launched next Saturday. She will register 8,100 tons dead weight. The launching will be the occasion for a great celebration. How long, after St. John's great dry dock is finished, will it be before there is a ship-building plant in Courtenay Bay?

Bangor Commercial—There are many things that are difficult to understand in the food market. For instance we read that the Revere Sugar refinery cannot afford to sell sugar at the prices now quoted in New York. It is paying 11 cents a pound in the Cuban market and is asking 23.5 cents, leaving 12.5 cents for its expenses after purchase and its profit on a pound. And formerly sugar was selling for six and seven cents a pound.

Mrs. E. Atherton Smith, will represent the St. John Women's Canadian Club at the Annual Conference of Canadian Clubs to be held in Montreal on Monday and Tuesday of next week.



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THE MORTGAGE.

I had a mortgage, years ago, on my pretentious home, and Worry and its brother, Woe, were camped upon my dome. I couldn't keep a smile on straight, but oftentimes I wept; I tasted Mortgage when I ate, and dreamed it when I slept. It spoiled for me the Sabbath day, when I sat in my pew; the choir, in singing, seemed to say, "When mortgages are due." It cast its shadow on my door, and like a raven croaked; it took the zest from every chore, and spoiled the weed I smoked. They took away my House of Pride, by means of writ and sash; and since then it's been occupied by one who's idly rich. And he is welcome to it, for, since then, I have a cabin of my own in which I chirp all day, and do not owe a single bone to any human jay. No mortgage flaps against the pane when winds are blowing keen; no mortgage makes me pause again, when I'd buy gasoline. Oh, better in a culvert dwell, and owe no man a red, than vainly try to be a swell, with mortgage overhead.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

THE SELKIRK SETTLERS.

Five years of painful toil and anxiety on the part of the Selkirk settlers at the Red River seemed at an end when the summer of 1915 came. The fields were in the grain and the colony was rejoicing in the prospect of a fine harvest. Its first in the new land—when the blow fell. For months they had been harassed by the North Westers and by Indians but the danger seemed past. Then it came. The blow fell when one day a host of the Bois-Brûlés appeared and before the sun had set they had made a hostile attack upon the camp and upon Governor Semple, who was in temporary charge of the settlement. The governor and twenty men were murdered on the plains, some of the settlers were taken prisoners and again the order was given to the remainder to quit the land. Painfully they betook themselves to their boats and set out for Norway House, at the northern end of Lake Winnipeg to await help and news of Lord Selkirk.

The colonists, of course, had little to lose. The last year they had been living in tents for in the previous summer, when they were driven away, most of the houses had been burned. In 1816 there was only one residence in which the settlers were able to find shelter. The governor had resided. The settlers were employed by the Hudson's Bay Company during the day, but at night they slept in the colony during the night. But the little they possessed had to be left behind under pain of death. Then the Selkirk messenger far and wide to tell how they had won a great victory and had driven out the colony Lord Selkirk had established.

In this way ended the effort he had made to improve the condition in life of the Scots and the Irish; five years of anxiety and hardship, ended in a toll of more than twenty deaths.

SANCTUARY.

(Una Malleon, Poetry Review, London.)

Strange fancies haunt me at the eventide,
In the dusk hour before the night,
Pale, piteous wraiths of lovely things that died,
And sad, sweet, amorous dreams of death delight.

They thread about me as the days depart,
The tired ghosts of wistful bygone years,
Pain lifts her head and listens in my heart
To the slow, bitter fall of useless tears.

Silent I gaze into life's hopeless eyes,
While round my heart the waiting shadows creep,
Till Night, O Mother, infinitely wise,
Folds me within the tender arms of sleep.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Starting Right.

"And what is that lad of yours going to be when he grows up?"
"I rather fancy he'll be a golf caddy."
"Really?"
"Yes. The last tanning I gave him, he turned round and said to me, 'I'm holding the stick the right way.'"
—London Opinion.

Extending A Policy.

"It is becoming more expensive every day to run an automobile." "Some of us motorists won't be able to keep going unless the government comes to the rescue the same as they did for the railroads."—Washington Star.

A Difference.

Lady—Can you show me something suitable for a birthday present for a gentleman?
Shopwalker—Men's furnishing department on the next floor, madam.
Lady—Well, thank you. The gift is for my husband.
Shopwalker—Oh, pardon, madam. Bargain counter in the basement.—Punch.

REPUBLICAN PLOT

IN GREAT BRITAIN?

Dr. Ellis Powell of the London Financial News, a member of the Imperial Press party, made the statement in Vancouver that a plot to overthrow the British monarchy and establish a republic in Great Britain was hatched during the war. He was one of the men responsible for the exposure of the conspiracy, and asserts that the danger is not yet past.

Referring to the alleged plot to assassinate King George, Dr. Powell declared that this danger and the menace to the British throne did not originate among the Sinn Féiners, but among British politicians. The president was selected and the whole scheme was ripe. The conspirators, declared Dr. Powell, are still anxious to effect their aims.

WILL PROSECUTE

DELINQUENT MILKMEN

The board of health has instructed Dr. William Warwick, district medical officer, to take steps to remedy the unsanitary condition in which much of the milk sold in the city is delivered. It is felt that dealers whose milk contains an excessive quantity of bacteria, which does not measure up to the required standard in other respects should be prosecuted.

Dr. Warwick said yesterday that the names of some six or eight dealers had been handed to the board's solicitor with instructions to prosecute.

BIG INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF SCHOOL BOOKS

Provincial Government Is Supplying Them at the Price Fixed Twelve Years Ago.

(Fredericton, N.S.)

Although school books have steadily advanced in price the last two years, the provincial government's school book department is still supplying them at the price fixed nearly twelve years ago. This means that they are being sent out at a loss in some instances of more than 100 per cent, and the people who have children of school age are reaping the benefit of it. For upwards of a month past the department has been sending out from \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth weekly, the shipments being made to every part of the province. It is estimated that the revenue from school books for the year will amount to \$20,000, while the expenditure will be in excess of \$40,000. The advance in the cost has been general all along the line. For instance, readers which sell at three cents cost seven and a half cents, the seven cent readers cost twelve and a half cents and the ten cent ones twenty-three cents. The arithmetic which sell at ten cents now cost the department twenty-three cents. The government has to pay a sales tax on all purchases in addition to the freight and cartage, but the tax is not passed along to the vendors. A discount of fifteen per cent on the purchase price is allowed to the vendors.

All of the school books being handled by the department this year were ordered prior to last December and have since been the subject of the price then prevailing. There has since been sharp advances in the price of paper, which means that the province will be in for much higher prices on school books next year.

AN EXCELLENT WAR RECORD

New Y. M. C. A. Physical Instructor Was Member of Princess Pats.

The new physical director of the local Y. M. C. A., Captain William Dowrie, arrived in the city on Monday and has already begun to get things in order for the autumn programme. He takes the place of M. M. Armour. Before coming here Captain Dowrie was secretary of the military Y. M. C. A. for the P. P. C. L. I. at London (Ont.) and before going to France he was director of the Y. M. C. A. in France, Greece, Egypt and Palestine.

Another new official of the Y. M. C. A. will be Nelson F. McEwen, who will take over the duties of director of boys' work. He is a graduate of Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown.

COLLAPSED IN STORM

Roof of One of the Oldest Churches in Rome.

Rome, Sept. 2.—During a violent storm on Tuesday night an unusually heavy rain caused the collapse of the roof of the church of San Marcellino, one of the most ancient churches in the city, to fall. The church, built in the fourth century, was rebuilt in 1819 by Giacomo Sansovino, and was modernized in 1874. The collapse of the roof caused the death of a man and the injury of several others. The church was flooded by the heavy rain.

BIG SEIZURE OF WHISKEY IS MADE IN QUEBEC CITY

Quebec, Sept. 2.—(Canadian Press).—Major Nap L'Hérault, provincial revenue officer, with the assistance of the city police, made a raid yesterday on the premises of Alfred Doubravski, Dr. corner of Boulevard Langlois and Chateauguay street and seized whiskey valued at about \$80,000.

Y. W. C. A. OFFICIALS

Miss Tapscott, recently appointed secretary of the Y. W. C. A. arrived in the city yesterday afternoon and is at the Y. W. C. A. home in King street. Miss Tapscott is from Coburg, Ont., but has been teaching for a number of years in Toronto. Miss Littlefield, the new physical director, and Miss Phyllis Woods, the Girls' secretary, will arrive here early next month.

Postal Employees Dismissed.

Washington, Sept. 2.—Postmaster Burleson yesterday ordered the removal of eleven clerks in the Chicago post office for "soliciting or causing to be solicited sums of money from the public and for publishing or causing to be published false and slanderous statements relative to the postal service."

Rev. W. F. Adeney Dead.

London, Sept. 2.—Rev. W. F. Adeney, for fourteen years professor of New Testament exegesis and church history at New College, London, died yesterday at his home in Lewes, aged seventy-one. He was the author of many works on religious matters.

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CARSON OFFERS 30,000 ULSTER VOLUNTEERS TO REPLACE THE SOLDIERS

London, Sept. 1.—Reports were received here today that Sir Edward Carson has offered the British government the services of 30,000 Ulster volunteers to replace the soldiers now on duty here and elsewhere in Ireland.

London, Sept. 1.—Government physicians today reversed their recent decision, and declared that Lord Mayor MacSwiney, on hunger strike in Brixton prison, would live for a week or ten days longer.

FARMER CANDIDATE FOR SIR LOWMYER'S SEAT

Quebec, Sept. 2.—(Canadian Press).—At a farmer's convention in St. Basile, Port Neuf county, yesterday, Edward Hamel, M. P. of Port Rouge, was selected as candidate for the provincial legislature. The vacancy was caused by the appointment of Sir Lowmyer Gouin to the legislative council. The date for the by-election has not yet been announced.

PREMIER AT UNVEILING OF CARTIER MONUMENT

Quebec, Sept. 2.—(Canadian Press).—Hon. Arthur Meighen will be in Quebec on Monday at the unveiling of a monument to Sir George Etienne Cartier in Montmorency Park.

To Open Dispensaries.

Montreal, Sept. 2.—As a result of legislation passed by the Quebec legislature, two dispensaries for the treatment of venereal disease will be opened by the provincial government in Montreal on September 10 and a third one will be opened in the city of Quebec. A little later there will be several others throughout the province. The dispensaries here will be located at the Notre Dame and General Hospitals.

Cotton Crop Estimate.

Washington, Sept. 2.—Cotton production this year was forecast yesterday at 12,783,000 bales by the department of agriculture which has its estimate on the condition of the crop on August 25, which was announced as 67.5 per cent of a normal.

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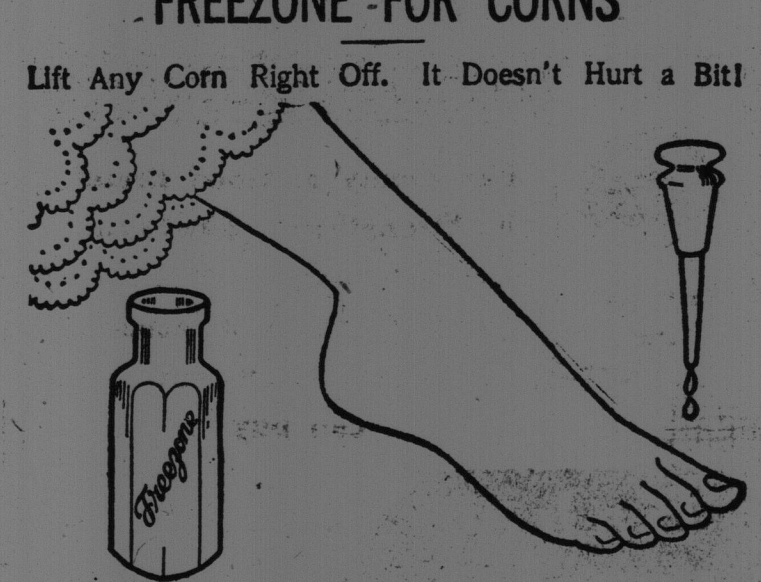
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