

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1918

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 18, 1918.

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## THAT SECRET AGREEMENT.

By a secret agreement made in 1912 the former provincial government took from the city council of St. John for twenty years its right to assess the railway property of the St. John Railway Company and, of course, its successor, the New Brunswick Power Company. This outrageous usurpation was plotted and planned without the knowledge of the city council of that day. The government of that day was willing to trade upon the rights of the citizens of St. John for its own purposes, just as it traded on lumber operators, railroad contractors and others. Evidently it believed the St. John representatives in the legislature could be silenced. They, however, appear to have regarded this as too barefaced an act, even for such a government as that to which they ordinarily gave such docile support, and the order-in-council was not supplemented by legislation. It is still on the record, however, as an order-in-council, and apparently led to the elimination from the St. John assessment bill of the clause fixing the assessment of the company at 1/2 per cent. of its gross income. The city council now asks that the provision in the order-in-council be eliminated, so that the city may exercise its right to assess.

This exposure adds another blot to the black record of the old government, and reveals to the citizens the sort of people they are dealing with when they do business with the power company. This whole question should be further enquired into, especially in view of Hon. Mr. Morrissey's letters to Mr. W. Frank Hatheway. The latter has performed a public service by directing attention to the devious ways of the power company in its efforts to get more privileges and more revenue at public expense.

## WHERE GERMANY LIVES.

The committee of the iron and steel trades, in its report to the British Board of Trade, makes drastic recommendations in regard to trading with the enemy. A summary of the report says: "It is recommended that all imports of manufactured or semi-manufactured products of iron and steel from present enemy countries be prohibited during the period of reconstruction; that all necessary ores and minerals be admitted free, and that no raw materials be sent to present enemy countries from British Dominions or Colonies or from mineral or other resources under British control. It is further recommended that British ships shall not carry raw materials or manufactured iron and steel from neutral ports to ports in present enemy countries, or to neutral ports for ultimate despatch to present enemy countries, and that careful consideration be given to the question of allowing enemy ships to carry goods to or from British ports or to coal at any British coaling station." The report points out that the experience of the last three years has shown that under the stress of modern war the safety of a nation is in great part determined by its command of resources of iron and steel, and that the more nearly self-sufficing a nation can become the greater will be its power of self-defence. In addition, therefore, to the proposed legislation aimed directly at enemy conditions, the committee makes the following recommendations:

"That anti-dumping legislation be introduced in the United Kingdom similar to that in force in Canada. "That no iron or steel shall be imported into the United Kingdom which does not bear clearly and indelibly a readily recognizable mark of origin. "That every endeavor should be made to co-ordinate the economic policy of the United Kingdom with that of the Dominion and of the Empire generally. "That customs duties be imposed upon all imported iron and steel and manufactures thereof, and that a specific duty should be levied upon each class of commodity. "That there should be maximum, general, and minimum tariffs, and that the amount of specific tariff should be varied readily according to the changing demands of national policy. "That foreign syndicates and their accredited or unaccredited representatives should carry on commercial and industrial activities in the United Kingdom only under license from the government." Of course the recommendation that customs duties be imposed will be stoutly opposed by free traders.

The most interesting part of the report is that which shows a determination to prevent Germany from exploiting British trade as she did before the war, and the implied development of Imperial resources and industries which goes with the proposed new policy for the iron and steel trades are not alone in expressing this determination and advocating this policy.

Drought, early frosts and labor shortage have reduced previous estimates of food production in England. The sense of anxiety is not yet past. This means of Canada and the United States, and further emphasizes the importance of preventing food waste.

## DECLINED WITH THANKS.

A private firm has offered to contract to clean the streets of Toronto and collect the garbage. This leads the Star to make some vigorous remarks, as follows: "Probably if the waterworks employees were to quit another private firm would be anxious to pump the water. Running the city parks would be a rich plum for a third firm, which would cheerfully promise to do it at half the present cost. The city is 'much obliged,' but is under the pressing necessity of saying 'No, thank you.' If Toronto's streets were cleaned with the same regard for public convenience as has marked the management of the Toronto Railway Company, there would be a cinder in every man's eye. If the waterworks had to earn such dividends as are paid by the Consumers' Gas Company, Toronto citizens would be burdened, as Montreal citizens are burdened, with excessive water rates. If the city's parks were run a la service of the Metropolitan Railway, they would be open about one day a week. There are enough privately-owned public services in Toronto already. This city has no intention of jumping out of the frying-pan of a civic strike into the fire of a privately-administered scavenger system."

Halifax Echo: "It is a matter of solemn pride, not boastfulness, to all women that when the crucial moment came, our nursing sisters proved themselves the equals of the brave soldiers whose wounds they were tending. No man can ever again bring the foolish charge against woman that she would not show courage on the battlefield. She has shown supreme coolness, bravery and self-sacrifice under an even more trying ordeal, when a defenceless hospital was made a shambles. The Canadian nation is composed of men and women of equal valor and daring. Perhaps the proof of this is the only thing we owe the Hun. If we ever doubted it, there is no room for doubt now."

The German thrust at the heart of France has not achieved success, but it is too soon to say that the danger is over. Espionage seems to be the German objective. It was to have been reached the first day, but the stout French resistance blocked the road. If it should be taken, Belgium would be in great danger. The reports from French official sources still express confidence. We are nearing the crisis of the battle and the next few days will stamp the German effort as success or failure.

Mr. F. R. Taylor asserts that if the New Brunswick Power Company does not get an increase in rates it will discontinue its street railway service. It has been gradually discontinuing that service for some time, and might eventually, no doubt, come to a full stop. But what about the rights of the people?

Evidently the system of scaling logs in this province under the old government was of such a happy-go-lucky character that the Foster government cannot too soon introduce the better system which it has in course of preparation.

Hon. Mr. Duval is not a bit sorry he gave such valued service in connection with the exposure of the old government. The Standard must not build hopes on Mr. Duval. He knows the Standard and its friends.

We continue to hear more about the success of the Czech-Slovaks in Russia than of the Bolsheviks. The latter still rule in Petrograd and Moscow, but sentiment opposed to them appears to be growing in the country at large.

Yesterday was not a good day for corporations at City Hall. There was a manifest feeling that this is a corporation-ridden city, and that some kicks are due somebody.

It is nearly time for the Kaiser to tell his dear somebody once more how God has strengthened the German army and made it invincible.

The sins of the Flemish government are still finding it out. That secret bargain with the St. John Railway Company finds no defender.

Mr. Hatheway has stirred up a considerable nest of somewhat angry hornets. Hear them buzz.

The evidence of Hon. Mr. Currie puts a different face on the matter of Sealer Murchie's charges.

Was St. John represented in the legislature in 1912?

All Thought Out. "Brown's" debts don't seem to worry him.

"No," he says if he looked worried it would worry his creditors, and then they would worry him into worrying some more.



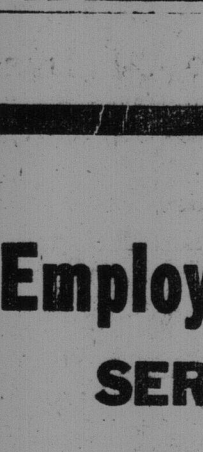
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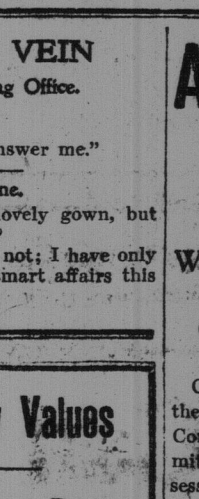
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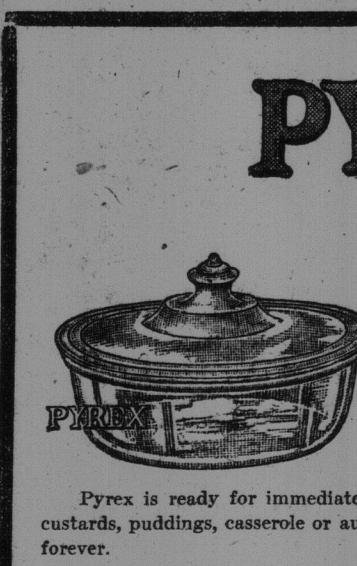
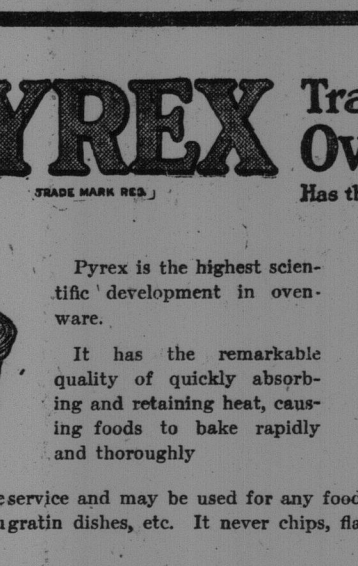
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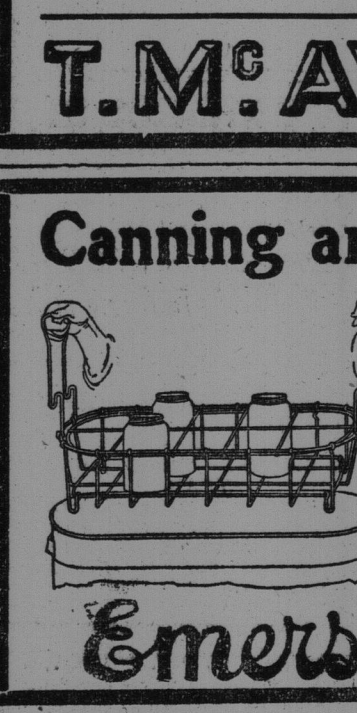
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**RECENT WEDDINGS**

Griffin-Nickerson.

A quiet wedding took place on July 17 at 19 Broad street in the presence of a few friends, when Annie E. Nickerson was united in marriage to Private Frederick Griffin, of Grand Manan. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. G. B. Trafton, of 229 City Road.

Heather-Farnham.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized yesterday afternoon at the home of the bride's brother, J. U. Farnham, 106 Dorchester street, when Rueben Pearl Heather, of Oxford (N. S.), was united in marriage to Miss Lottie Belle Farnham, of this city, by Rev. D. J. McPherson. The bride was becomingly attired in a travelling suit of navy blue broadcloth with hat to match. The bride has been a member of the staff of F. A. Dykeman and she was splendidly remembered by fellow employees. Among the many costly gifts received was a cheque from the bride's mother, while the groom's present to the bride was a string of pearls. The bride left for Moncton where they will start on a motoring tour of the provinces, after which they will take up their residence at Oxford where the groom is a prosperous farmer. Good wishes of the bride's many friends go with her in leaving St. John.

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