

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 17, 1916.

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WHY?

Why does Lieut. Gov. Wood retain as one of his advisers a gentleman who is not a member of the legislature, and therefore not responsible to the people? Have we abandoned the principles of responsible government?

THE SCHOOLS OF ST. JOHN.

Dr. Manning is performing a public service in presenting the situation with regard to school buildings before the people from the standpoint of the school board. He is also presenting an argument in favor of a wider use of school buildings. If the people whose children attend any particular school were in the habit of meeting within its walls to discuss matters of special neighborhood interest, including the more profitable use to which school buildings might be put, they would learn the exact state of affairs and would not let the bugbear of taxation stand between the schools and the efficiency which should characterize them.

The direct statements which Dr. Manning makes regarding the condition of existing school buildings, the need of new buildings, and the comparisons of taxation for school purposes with that of other cities, ought to be read and thoughtfully considered by every citizen. It is as much a matter of interest for women as for men, since mothers are as much concerned as fathers in the efficiency of the schools and the general welfare of the community.

The school board has perhaps been at fault in not presenting its case more frequently and fully. Perhaps there is a feeling on the part of the public that the board is less competent than it should be, and that its personnel could be strengthened with advantage. Possibly the city council has been too much disposed to hamper the board in its work. Whatever the cause, the present situation is not satisfactory.

What is the remedy? It is not clear that a more active and widespread public interest must be aroused? This city can afford as well as any other to have ample school accommodation and the best possible equipment. Whatever stands in the way must be removed.

Would it not be wise to appoint a representative committee, to serve without remuneration, to make a study of the educational situation in St. John, get the views of the school board and city council on the questions of finance and administration, and present to the citizens a comprehensive report on the needs of the time?

There are of course those who would object to any increase in taxation, but they must be reckoned with in any matter involving public expenditure; and so long as St. John needs more and better schools, their objections should carry no weight whatever. The community interests in such a matter override those of any penurious individual.

No doubt it will be said that no increased expenditure should be considered in war-time. Such a plea might carry weight if there were any evidence that the pinch of the war were being felt in St. John, but there is not. The majority of the people are spending money as freely and as carelessly as before the war. They have the money to spend, and the very small increase in taxation which a progressive school policy would involve should not trouble them at all.

People are not averse to spending money when they know it is needed. The magnificent response to every appeal in these past two years proves the truth of this assertion. "The city needs more and better schools. It is not necessary to make an enormous expenditure at once. Let a progressive policy be adopted, with the full assent of the citizens, and within five years St. John will be able to point with pride to its school buildings, and their value as educational and community centres. The board of trade, the Rotary Club and other organizations ought to interest themselves in the matter. Let us have an educational survey and a publicity campaign to rally the people to the support of the schools which mean so much to their children and to the welfare of the whole community."

THE WAR NEWS

Another week begins with very satisfactory reports from the British, French and Russian fronts. The British have made further substantial gains of territory, captured more prisoners and taken some large guns and large quantities of war material. They have penetr-

trated the third German line at one point, and have been able to use cavalry in a small operation—for the first time since 1914.

The French have also made some progress on the right bank of the Meuse, and successfully repulsed German counter attacks. The Italians also report some advantage gained over the Austrians.

The Russians have captured Balbut, in Turkish Armenia and forced the Turks to retreat at two other points in the Caucasus region, leaving a considerable number of prisoners and war material. They have also forced the Austrians and Germans to retreat in Volynia, and have captured a number of guns and upwards of three thousand prisoners. German attacks in massed formation in the Baranovichi region were repulsed, and Russian counter-attacks made progress. On every front the tide of battle continues to set strongly against the Central Powers.

British aerial supremacy becomes more notable. At the outbreak of the war it was feared the would not be able to match the Germans in air fighting, but in that, as in everything else, she has progressed until now her ascendancy is daily demonstrated. Last night's cables said:

"In the aerial combats in the last 24 hours we destroyed three Fokkers, three biplanes and a double-engine aeroplane, and forced another Fokker to land in a damaged condition. All our machines returned safely to our lines."

The French airmen are also doing splendid work. Last night's cables said: "On the morning of July 15, two enemy aeroplanes were brought down in the Somme region, one of them by Sub-Lieut. Guyonnet. This is the tenth aeroplane brought down by that officer. On July 15, Sergt. Rochford brought down his fifth enemy aeroplane."

The relative scarcity of German aircraft is noted by the correspondents at the front, and is another evidence of the growing supremacy of the Allies in this kind of warfare.

There are renewed rumors that Austria is weary of the war and may sue for a separate peace. There are also rumors of an anti-monarchical movement in Greece. In Arabia the Turks are losing their influence and the Arab revolt is spreading. Near the Gulf of Suez the British have raided sixty miles of territory held by the Turks, and brought back prisoners and live stock. Nowhere can the Central Powers find a ray of light. However long they may continue the struggle the more overwhelming will be their final defeat.

THE PAROLE SYSTEM.

That the method of parole "positively spells the height of perfection in reforming men everywhere" is the view of the New Era, the prison journal of Leavenworth, Kansas. It says further: "From observation of prisoners, statistics, and records of penal institutions, we find the indeterminate sentence the most advanced step of practical reform. It offers an opportunity for offenders and removes the barrier of hatred toward society so prevalent among many prisoners sentenced to long terms. Yet it seems reasonable to suppose that if men are ever going to reform they will do it in one year as easily as they will in ten years. Long sentences tend to embitter men and seem to breed seeds of revenge in the minds of many men. These men often carry in their hearts a feeling that they are being severely punished. It hardens offenders and encourages them to cruelly condemn every one. This makes it doubly hard for others in their attempts to sway their minds in the right direction of thinking. Fortunately, however, the parole system occasionally steps in and removes this obstacle by giving men an opportunity to redeem themselves."

Canada's chief parole officer heartily agrees with this view, and reports excellent results from the qualified parole system adopted in Canadian prisons.

The British success has caused dismay in Germany. The German press said to have believed their second line impregnable. Gradually the people will learn how the war-lords have deceived them from the beginning.

The Standard foolishly continues its attempt to make people believe the German vote defeated the Borden candidate in North Perth. Every German in office under the Borden government knows better than that. The Standard is playing with fire.

The Canadians have been fighting with the Ross rifle. The Ross rifle is now to be discarded. Isn't there a story of some interest in this connection? Would the Canadians have fared better if they had had a better rifle? When is that report of the test of the Ross rifle to be published?

The drowning accident of Saturday afternoon has caused deep mourning in a wide circle of friends, as well as among the relatives of her whose fresh and vigorous young life so tragically ended. The beautiful river takes its toll year after year, and these accidents should warn young men and women against taking risks of any sort in frail craft.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

He had been elected a representative and had come up to the Capitol to take his seat in the house.

He was a modest, retiring individual and felt quite awed as he stood diffidently in the lobby among a throng of the ordinary members.

"Well, Mr. G.," said one of the legislators when he answered, "did you tell the members of the house?"

"To tell you the truth," replied the new member in some confusion, "I wonder how I got here."

A week afterward he made a speech which astonished them, and the same member buttonholed him again after the debate.

"What are your impressions of the house now?" was the question. "Getting to know us, eh?"

"Yes," quietly replied Mr. G. "And now I wonder how you all got here."

He was not asked about his impressions after that.

At a certain church in a Jersey town it is the invariable custom of the clergyman to kiss the bride after the ceremony. A young woman who was about to be married in the church did not relish the prospect and instructed her prospective husband to tell the clergyman that she did not wish him to kiss her. The bridegroom obeyed the instructions given.

"Well, Harry," said the young woman when he answered, "did you tell the minister that I did not wish him to kiss me?"

"Yes," he replied. "I was at the opera last evening," she said in a strained voice as she accepted an invitation to dance from another gentleman. "It was the man tuning the piano who heard."

"Thompson has made a discovery."

"Indeed?"

"Yes. He says that the more buttons there are on a woman's coat the greater the probability that it really fastens with hooks and eyes."

"Do you play very much nowadays, Miss Sol?" he asked as they seated themselves after a wait.

"Only occasionally," she replied. "I have neglected my music shamefully of late and am getting quite out of practice."

"I was passing your house last evening," he went on, "and stood at the gate for a moment to hear you play. Instead of getting out of practice, I think you are improving with any improvement is possible," he added politely.

"Last evening," she questioned.

"Yes—about nine o'clock."

"You are mistaken. I was at the opera last evening," she said in a strained voice as she accepted an invitation to dance from another gentleman. "It was the man tuning the piano who heard."

"Thompson has made a discovery."

"Indeed?"

"Yes. He says that the more buttons there are on a woman's coat the greater the probability that it really fastens with hooks and eyes."

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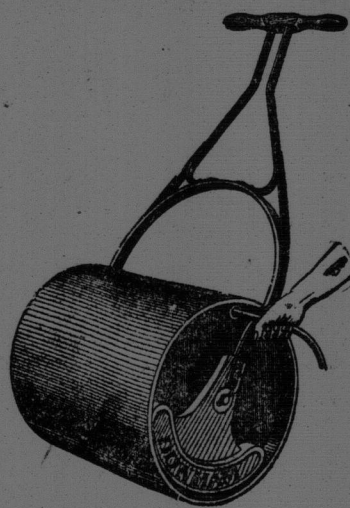
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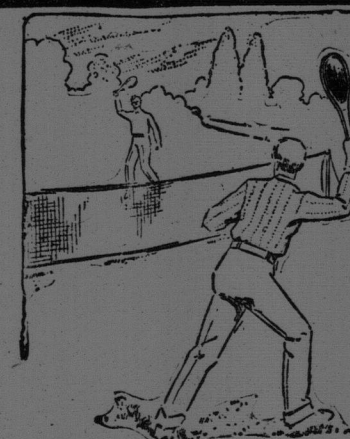
"Water-Weight" Roller

If you want to know just how much a Lawn Roller is needed this spring, go out on the lawn, press down hard with the sole of your shoe and notice how it flattens out humps raised up by the frost. Under these places the roots are bare and unless the surface is rolled down, the roots will dry out and die. No amount of fertilizer or water will do a lawn any good while its roots are heaved out of the soil.

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Another Ban On Drinking

The growing sentiment against the use of alcohol as a beverage is reflected in the instructions of a Judge of the United States District Court to a jury which heard the evidence in a suit for damages based upon dismissal upon the ground that the drinking of liquor was not in accord with the "safety first" programme of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad.

A conductor had been discharged when the company received information as to his bibulous habits. He sought \$84,000 damages but Judge Van Valkenburgh evidently was not impressed by the arguments for heavy compensation. He said to the jury: "It is the duty of a railroad to the public it serves to protect its patrons by discharging men who use intoxicants."

This simple sentence covers the question involved in the suit and the soundness of the court's opinion will not be doubted by the thousands of people who use the railroads.

A conductor like an engineer has a position of great responsibility. The safety of the passengers depends upon the judgment and vigilance of the men in charge of the trains. One whose brain is clouded by alcohol is unfitted for his

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work. No company should permit its men to use alcohol; a railroad is no place for a man who frequents the saloons or habitually drinks at home. Judge Van Valkenburgh's charge to the jury is an important contribution to the widespread "safety first" movement—Providence Journal.

She Didn't Take Them

An old French lady recently bequeathed the contents of a certain cabinet to her doctor. When the legate opened the cupboard he found untouched all the medicines and drugs he had prescribed for her during the previous twenty years.

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