

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers.

These newspapers advocate:
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Honesty in public life
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion

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No deals!

"The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwined,
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BAD GAS, AND DEAR

The Board of Health, having investigated the complaints of citizens who assert that they are being stifled by bad gas for which they pay an excessive price, is going to press the matter upon the Common Council.

The Council has no visible reason to be afraid of the St. John Light Company, yet the community will be surprised if the Council really does anything unless the Board of Health can prove that somebody has been asphyxiated to the tune of \$1.85 per thousand.

For while the Mayor, Ald. Pickett, Ald. Bullock and one or two more were at one time really anxious to set about securing decent gas at a reasonable price, the Council as a whole displayed no sympathy with the proposed reform, and took advantage of the incomplete and inconclusive report of the Halifax expert to allow the gas inquiry to drop.

The city might as well face the fact that it cannot afford the luxury of a company which has a lighting monopoly, which can run its gas plant so as to increase its electric light business, and which can ignore the rights of the people who desire to use gas and who are entitled to a good light at a reasonable cost. The company will not voluntarily lower the price of gas to the level justified by modern conditions of production. The company may not be able at this time to cut the price of gas in two, but it must not be forgotten that the gas consumers are not bound to consider the wishes of the company.

It is of no interest to the ordinary gas consumer to be told that the company will do nothing, or can do nothing. It is not necessary in the public interest that the St. John Light Company shall continue to sell bad gas here at \$1.85 a thousand. And in these matters the public interest is the thing to be considered.

If the company can supply good gas at a reasonable price and still make a profit, the public will be pleased to hear the news; if not the company as the controller of an important public utility has outlived its usefulness. The city cannot afford to carry the company at the expense of public health, discomfort and ill-health.

The question the Council should have settled long ago is: At what cost per 1,000 feet can good gas be supplied to consumers here? What the present company can do, what the company says, thinks, or desires, is beside the question, since the present company has only a long and miserable record of failure to meet the public half in this matter. The inquiry should be made by an expert of admitted authority, and it should be thorough. It should result in a report of the sort that was submitted in Montreal. The Council would then be in a position to give the citizens accurate information, to deal with the existing company in the light of the facts, to apply to the Legislature, or to take such other action as the facts might warrant.

First of all it is necessary for the aldermen to get rid of the idea, which is held even by some business men, that the desire or necessity of the St. John Light Company are the controlling factors in the situation. The city of St. John would burn two or three times as much gas as it does now if the light were cheap and satisfactory. The citizens are in no sense bound to enable the company to pay dividends unless they are thoroughly satisfied that the service they receive from the company warrants the contribution they make to its costs. The theory that the city is not able to protect itself against bad gas at an exorbitant price is not one that aldermen can afford to entertain long, and unless they do entertain it they set about this matter like men of wit and courage who were elected "payers on the supposition that 'free from influences directly public welfare. The Board to the public good service in motion.

"DISAFFECTIONS"

A government journal somewhat guardedly advances the opinion that the local government will carry the city. "While," it says, "the city in local politics is closer than the county, the government may be as sure of success here as there, if its forces will work in union behind a strong ticket. The Conservative ticket is practically the same as the one defeated in 1903, and outwardly the signs are more favorable now than then. In federal politics the Liberal influence is supreme and, for this contest at least, federal and provincial politics are the same. The force which overturned a Conservative majority of nearly a thousand and elected Dr. Pugsley by acclamation will be back of the Liberal ticket in the coming campaign, and unless it is split by petty personal disaffections, will carry the party to a similar victory."

The foregoing deserves some examination, but a little will suffice. "If its forces work in union behind a strong ticket" is a pretty phrase to employ at a time when the "forces" are not working "in union," and that a strong ticket cannot be formed. The weakness of the government renders the formation of a strong ticket impossible. The convention will prove it. The statement that the outward signs are more favorable to the Liberal ticket than they were in 1903 will be believed by nobody, least of all by the government's city managers who are candidate-hunting. To speak of the return of Dr. Pugsley, in a bye-election, with the Public Works portfolios, as indicating that the great majority given Messrs. Daniel and Stockton have been wiped out by a change of public sentiment is merely to whistle while passing through the dark and lonely woods.

As for the government party, and its ticket, being "split by petty personal disaffections," there is much reason for the use of these words of ill-omen. In spite of the early understanding that he would run in the city the Attorney-General prefers the county, which is by no means so safe as it was four years ago. This is one of the things which vex the city forces, and there are others. We shall see what sort of ticket the convention produces. Miracle-working will be in order if the delegates can find four men who can win this time in spite of the handicap they will have in wearing the government uniform. The province is thinking more about good government than about Liberal or Conservative. It will take more than shouting to carry the candidates who are so mistaken as to defend the present local administration.

Will she convert them?

Are the women of North America going to carry on a fighting campaign for the right to vote? This awful question may be answered definitely before long. A missionary from England is firing the hearts of at least some New York women with stories of the militant suffragettes of the United Kingdom. The Brooklyn Eagle says of her: "Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson who is speaking to audiences in this city, is described as a martyr to the great cause of women. The cause is the demand for suffrage or equal political rights. Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson and her associates literally kicked their way into politics and into jail in England. That is why they are now rated as martyrs by their admirers here. We have no special objection to the transfer of their campaign, but the majority of women will be in spite of the majority of men to be content with homes, husbands, babies, clubs, bargain days, cream soda, matinees and millinery, leaving politics to the inferior sex, which has so long had an unenviable monopoly of it."

Evidently that was written by a cowardly male who merely wants to avoid the turmoil which he forces in case the lady of the hyphen succeeds in persuading the North American woman that she has burning wrongs which may be righted by employing such tactics as are on exhibition in England. Despite the assumed cheerfulness of the Brooklyn writer many will fear that in this matter the worst is yet to come. If we remember that in North America there are many intelligent and earnest women who desire to participate in public affairs, and who are convinced that they have both the necessary right and qualifications, and if we remember also that there are many other women, who have nothing to do, or nothing that satisfies them, and who seek some outlet for their energy, some excitement, some new thing, it follows that the fiery cross reared by the missionary from England may produce grave results. And even a few thousand women committed to noise, agitation, and general discomfort in a cause they regard as righteous are not to be sneezed at. Conservative England has a tickling sensation today, but it sneezes in private if at all.

WILLIAM BAYARD

Bearing a great name, and honoring it, Dr. William Bayard was for a great many years one of St. John's most conspicuous and distinguished figures. The announcement of his death will carry to a great circle a sense of personal loss. Great as Dr. Bayard's case meant more than in the case of a great number who live long, for he had made his life full of increasing value and of meaning from the day of his majority. A wise physician, he guarded well his physical powers, and developed his mental faculties to the utmost. When at last the body failed the brain was still unclouded. Many had hoped the distinguished citizen would live a full century. He fell but little short of it. Death did not surprise him. He knew all about it that one can know this side of lasting unconsciousness. So he went out, as one encountering the supreme adventure, but quietly and firmly.

In his time he saw much action and reaped much honor, and so was doubly fortunate in that he was both highly useful, and of recognized utility, to his kind.

This last year of his life was a memorable

one. On such occasions as his attendance at the reception to Earl Grey and at a political meeting his appearance was the signal for a sort of ovation. Last summer, when he completed his seventieth year in medicine, his arrival at that remarkable milestone was signaled admirably by his associates in the profession. Edinburgh University, whose oldest living graduate he was, welcomed the unique opportunity to do him honor at that time.

Every skilled and honorable physician is of great service to his fellows even if his labors be confined to private practice. Dr. Bayard added to his fine private record no little public service. The General Public Hospital is one of his monuments, for his vigorous advocacy and skilful planning caused it to be built. As there is a very wide recognition of Dr. Bayard's value as a physician and a citizen, so there will be very general and genuine regret because of his death. To a smaller and more intimate circle the blow will be indeed heavy.

POSTPONED

The executive committee of the local government party decided at their meeting Tuesday, when delegates to the convention were selected, announcement was made that the convention had been postponed. Postponements of this nature, under such circumstances, demand explanations, and several sets were offered. One theory is that the height of the holiday season is not a good time to round up candidates. It is suggested that some of those needed on the ticket might be busy selecting Christmas presents or making Christmas calls to decide about running. This is doubtless a reasonable explanation for the postponement, though it scarcely sounds like that. The executive must have had reasons for selecting tomorrow as the convention date. Those reasons do not now seem as good as they seemed some days ago, or the situation has changed. An other explanation suggests itself. The meeting of Hon. Mr. Pugsley to come to St. John at this time owing to his extreme reluctance to leave the firing line at Ottawa. But Hon. Mr. Pugsley is in Federal, not local, politics, and the party here surely could select candidates without his guidance—if there were no complications.

The postponement, whatever the cause, recalls the recent warning issued by a government newspaper against splitting the ranks in the party. If the convention were to meet tomorrow probably it was felt that some of these differences would be in evidence. Different sections of the party have differing views as to the desirability of some of the men mentioned as probable candidates. Mayor Sears is not yet satisfied about his future. He wants to be sure about something more than a nomination which may bring nothing but glory nor other reward. Resentment over Mr. Lantulum into a corner if it could. Mr. Purdy does not want to run. Mr. Skinner is not anxious to run, and there are some who are disposed to encourage his indifference to the call to battle. There are several other men whose friends regard them as fit and proper candidates, but these must be mollified. Resentment over Mr. McKewen's strong preference for the county, in spite of the talk that he ought to face the music in the city, does not grow less. The more doubtful the city situation looks, indeed, the warmer becomes the criticism directed against the Attorney General because of his desertion.

Of course it is bad politics to postpone the convention. There is a suggestion of fatal hesitation, beyond which lies the ruin of the party. The circle of the party. Probably the lieutenants decided it was necessary to summon the Doctor, to wait in order that Dr. Pugsley may come down, and try his hand at soothing all these troubled spirits. Some of them will need a lot of his most skillful treatment. And many, one fears, have lost faith in his efficacy as a healer.

SENTIMENT, AND BUSINESS

At a public meeting in Toronto a few days ago several speakers who discussed the "All-Red Line" confessed that they were unable to say where the matter stood, or exactly what is proposed. If we may rely upon the London Leader, which reports the Campbell-Bannerman ministry, the British government and the British people still require much convincing before they will back the scheme financially. Speaking of Mr. Sifton's address before a Liberal club in London, at which he presented the Canadian government's arguments in favor of the last line, the Leader said:

"Mr. Sifton is a first-rate business man. If he can persuade his hearers that there is a sound business justification for an Imperial subsidy to this route he will have done what has not yet been attempted, hitherto the scheme has been presented in a two-fold aspect. Canadians have been told that it is excellent business (for them); we have been told that it is noble sentiment. So long as the argument for the scheme remains in this twofold condition we cannot raise any enthusiasm for it. We have a poor and over-burdened people to think of as well as prosperous and lightly-taxed Canadians and Australians. Mr. Sifton will receive a courteous and an attentive hearing to anything he has to say. His eminence as an administrator and his position as the envoy of the Canadian government entitle him to that. But it is to be hoped that he will realize the necessity of giving a straight-forward demonstration of the commercial advantages of the proposal, which alone will make it acceptable. If he can do that, no doubt the necessary capital will be forthcoming, for perfectly unselfish mental reasons, by plain business people who are looking forward to a return upon their money."

There is much talk of this kind in London. Canadians have heard from Ottawa many assurances that the plan will be carried through. They would now welcome, though they scarcely expect, some definite evidence that the British government is committed to favorable action

within a reasonable time. If the All-Red business is to amount to anything it must soon borrow somewhere both body and bones. At the moment it is too unsubstantial to be convincing.

A STRONG TICKET

Messrs. Mosher and Clark, who were nominated on the first ballot by the local opposition county convention Wednesday, are easily the strongest men who could have been selected, and they will conduct a fighting campaign with first class prospects of success. They are the men the convention wanted, and the delegates represented every parish and gave evidence of determination to stand behind the ticket from start to finish. The candidates are not only men of recognized ability and fine reputation, but they are residents of the county and are well known in every section of it. It is known that the constituency has a strong preference for men who live among the voters to whom they will appeal, and in accepting the honor unanimously conferred upon them last night Messrs. Clark and Mosher made it very clear that they can speak both plainly and forcefully upon the issues of the hour. The opposition party will be congratulated upon the result of the convention, and the spirit displayed at the meeting was proof that this campaign is one of great promise for Mr. Hazen and his followers. Messrs. Mosher and Clark are representative and popular men, and they appeal to the electors at a time when there is very general recognition of the need for a change of government.

These candidates will have a strong claim upon Conservatives and Liberals alike, for they are striving for an honest, progressive, and economic administration of public affairs. They have no axes to grind. They seek no glory. They are in this fight because they know how gross is the failure of the present government, and because they are confident that the people of St. John county are energetic and independent enough to vote for reform.

The gentlemen who have been boasting that the county can be carried with ease by the government no doubt are well informed as to the material campaign resources of the administration, but it is just as well not to jump at conclusions. The county today is not the county of 1903 in point of sentiment toward the government. In 1903 little more than half the voters went to the polls. There was at that time nothing like the active opposition force that can be depended upon today. In 1903 it was generally felt that the opposition had no chance of carrying the province. Today the general feeling is that the government is weak and that the tide against it is too strong to be stemmed. The government majorities in the county at the last election mean little or nothing as the situation stands today. Indeed there is every reason to believe that Messrs. McKewen and Lowell will have the fight of their lives.

Advices regarding other constituencies are distinctly encouraging from the opposition standpoint. In the city the outlook is most satisfactory. In Charlotte the strength of the opposition ticket and the feeling against the government indicate a complete victory for Mr. Hazen. In Kings, where organization is going forward satisfactorily, the opposition will have a very strong ticket. In other counties the prospects are reported exceptionally good. Throughout the province the opposition will welcome the elections at any time. The government requires more delay to complete its preparations, but in many quarters it is pretty well understood that even the kind of preparation in regard to which ruling party is most expert will be useless. The people feel like a new deal.

THE PUBLIC AND THE LIGHTING QUESTION

Members of the St. John Board of Health and of the Common Council, and the public which depends upon united action by these bodies in regard to the gas situation, will follow with interest the course pursued by the St. John Light Company in regard to the complaints lodged against it. The company in its reply to the Board of Health talks about employing an expert, presumably to tell the public why it is that the gas for which they now pay \$1.85 is of a stifling quality. The gas company and the city both called in experts some time ago, but neither the quality nor the cost of the gas was rendered more satisfactory by the expert testimony. The aldermen are now face to face with the fact that public opinion will no longer tolerate either the cost or the quality of the gas which the company furnishes. It is not enough to insist on the quality; the price must come down.

The company's monopoly of lighting is at the root of the gas trouble. The company will not voluntarily lower the price. The aldermen know that. But if the essential facts regarding the cost of producing gas under proper circumstances in St. John are secured by the Council they may be employed to secure justice for the gas consumers, just as such facts are being employed in Montreal today. Discussing the Montreal company's promise to introduce the sliding scale, a noteworthy concession to public opinion, the Herald of that city says:

"Before an undertaking can be binding both upon the city and upon the company, the city, as well as the company must be party to it. The company cannot be left free to impose its will uncontrolled, or if it is then it cannot expect the public to be satisfied. If the company declines to participate in an investigation as to what rate of dividend and what prices for gas and electricity should be taken as the starting point of the sliding scale, then one of two things must happen; either the company must put its rates so low that dissatisfaction will be impossible, or the people, if they are dissatisfied, must obtain from the Legislature a suitable provision for the hearing of complaints, for the granting of redress, and for the control of prices. In that form, for the control of prices, in one way or another the people served by

a monopoly will be able to obtain a hearing for their views."

The Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co. is a very powerful corporation, but it has been taught that a popular demand for fair treatment cannot be long ignored with safety. It is not unfair to the St. John company to secure independent and competent testimony as to the cost of light, both gas and electric, in this city, under proper circumstances. Nothing can justify bad gas at \$1.85. It will not cost much to secure the sort of report that is needed before the city can deal with the lighting monopoly. We should have the facts.

BUYING VOTES

It is related that some politicians in a New Brunswick county town recently were discussing electoral corruption, a subject to which the pulpit, the press and the public are at present devoting considerable attention. "Does a party really gain anything by spending money?" one of the politicians asked. "Well," was the reply, "judge for yourself. At the last election I happen to know that in one case the other side paid \$50 for six votes. How many of that six do you suppose we got?" "Three," the other man guessed. "No," was the reply, "eight." Whether the story is exact in detail or not, it illustrates the point that the men who sell their votes will tell to both parties when the market is brisk, and vote as they please anyway.

While heartily commending the action of the ministers of Charlotte county in seeking to pledge both parties against the use of money and liquor, the Montreal Star is somewhat doubtful of their success. "If," it says, "the committee to be chosen from both parties is chosen from amongst the known enemies of political corruption, and if the men who are not chosen to the detailed work of the campaign to know what is going on, it might do a great deal. Still it will always be possible for the corrupt elements of the party to keep their underground labors from the knowledge of this committee as they now keep them from the knowledge of the candidate; and for much the same reason. The committee to be effective must be vigilant as well as honest. A resolution of the committee, probably do as much by following up the rumors of an election, and prosecuting every man against whom there is a healthy suspicion of wrongdoing. If such prosecutions always took place in cases where there exists a well-grounded suspicion of illegality, and were never side-tracked by such tactics as a 'saw-off,' we should probably make our politicians afraid to venture upon corrupt methods. And about the only way we will ever put down corruption will be to make it too costly and too dangerous for the parties to risk it. The corruptionists may be 'irregulars' in the field, but they are made very sure of their rewards from the 'regulars,' else they would not spend their time and money in the work. Thus if we can persuade the 'regulars' that financing corruption does not pay, it will dry up at the source. The fact is that most of the money set aside for vote buying has little influence. The voters who take bribes vote as they please, and much money does not reach the voters at all, but it sticks to the palms of the workers."

NOTE AND COMMENT

Discussing the political outlook in St. John county a government journal says of the opposition ticket:

"Other possible candidates are Coun. Long and Coun. Fox, both of whom are not making an active canvass for nomination."

As Coun. Long nominated Messrs. McKewen and Lowell at the government convention he and his friends will read the foregoing "news" with some astonishment.

Mr. Horden offers to go through the West with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and discuss the land scandals and other matters before the people. Also, he has offered to go before a royal commission with Dr. Pugsley. Neither will accept.

In its report of a temperance sermon delivered in this city last Sunday, a contemporary says the preacher "also made reference to an incident in his ministry when he officiated at a drunkard's funeral. On this occasion the earth forming the sides of the grave caved in before the coffin could be lowered, and the incident created a most profound impression on all present." Whereupon the reader may cry: "Oh Temperance, what wild and weird assertions are made in thy name!"

Ald. McGoldrick, while discussing home affairs, stated that he looked very much as if a local election was near at hand, and as far as he knew he thought the appeal to the people would come off towards the latter part of January. Being asked if there was any more talk of the Mackenzie & Mann proposition to build a railway down the St. John river, since the Transcontinental Commissioners had decided to strike across the country to the negative, Ald. McGoldrick replied in the affirmative.

Dr. Pugsley should speak to the aldermen. One would almost infer from this interview that some people regarded the Valley line as no more than election talk.

Deciding that the trains kill too many drunken men in that Scott Act territory, some Kings county people are going to poll the public and set down the names of those who are for prohibition, against prohibition, or who decline to say. The movement begins in Sussex, where, according to Mr. Robinson's temperance commission, the Scott Act is "fairly well enforced."

What Kings county really wants can be ascertained by putting the question before the county council and asking for enough money to enforce the law up to the handle, third offence penalties and all. After a trial of that policy the county could vote once more on the temperance question. That vote would represent public sentiment pretty accurately. The temperance commission unearthed a whole lot of people who were "for the act but against its enforcement." The decent thing for those people to do is to vote for license. If they vote for prohibition they should get it.

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the real article. If they want license they should stand up and say so.

Public opinion has made an impression upon the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. It now proposes to the city that the cost price of gas and electricity in Montreal be fixed by three experts, two to be appointed by bodies representing the public, and undertakes to accept that price, plus ten per cent. In other words, as the Witness says, after competent and reputable experts had fixed the lowest price at which the city itself—assuming taxes, other things that the city would have to pay for the gas, or that an independent company using the most up-to-date plant could manufacture or supply gas and electricity, the Light Heat & Power Company would engage to light the city streets at that price—plus ten per cent. The Witness adds:

"Judging from what it costs to make gas elsewhere, it is presumable that the Montreal Gas Company could manufacture it for less than 70 cents per thousand feet, and could sell it to consumers at a good profit for 80 cents or less. So much for the gas question as it affects the city and the company. The company has also adopted a new attitude towards the private consumer. We are assured that the first of May, or thereabouts, the company intends to make a reduction of its own accord to consumers of both gas and electricity, and to introduce the sliding scale, so far as gas is concerned, by which the consumer participates in the company's prosperity in the way of lower prices."

St. John gas consumers, and St. John aldermen, should find the foregoing suggestion. The local gas situation demands effective action.

SECOND SEARCH OF HAMPTON HOTEL FOR CONCEALED LIQUOR

Scott Act Officer Looked Even in the Safe at Heath Hall and Found Nothing; Roberts' Case Adjourned.

Hampton, Kings county, Dec. 17.—The preliminary examination before Stipendiary Magistrate Hornbrook, into the charge of sending threatening letters and returning to St. John tomorrow.

The new Intercolonial bridge over Rensselaer River will be placed in position today. This is the main artery of the Intercolonial bridge. Filling in has been going on for the last three months. The early opening of this bridge, long called the missing link, is assured.

NO MORE WOMEN IN BOSTON CATHOLIC CHOIRS

Women singers in Catholic church choirs must go, and the customary form of church music must give way to the Gregorian chant, rendered solely by male singers. Such is the dictum of the archbishop, who has issued a decree to that effect.

The archbishop made the announcement yesterday in an address to the recently created music commission of the diocese, of which he is president, at its first meeting, held at the archiepiscopal residence—Boston Globe, Monday.

The Abandoned Platform (Toronto News)

Liberals continue in the endeavor to show that the platform of 1893 has been carried out. This is a vain and fatiguing performance. The truth is that hardly a pledge made has been fully kept. Some have been wholly disregarded. A few out of regard for the public interest could not be kept. Changing conditions have made it impossible to regard some of the chief planks of the platform. In the main, the Liberal politicians of today have adopted the policy of the Conservative party from 1873 to 1893, and any attempt to show consistency is simply offensive and foolish.

"For the Sort of People Who Like That Sort of Thing" (Montreal Gazette).

Mr. Pugsley has intimated in parliament that he will speak on what he knows about Conservative electoral sine when, in his opinion, the right time comes. As the time when it comes will also be one for others speaking about what they know of Liberal electoral sins, it may be assumed that when it does come those who like that sort of discussion will get a great deal of what they like.

His Position Safe (Lippincott's Magazine).

When the jury had filed in for at least the fourth time, with no sign of coming to an agreement in the bribery case, the disgusted judge rose up and said:

"I discharge this jury."

At this one sensitive taleman, stung to the quick by this abrupt and ill-considered decision, obstinately faced the judge and said:

"You can't discharge me, judge," he retorted.

"Why not?" asked the astonished judge. "Because," answered the taleman, pointing to the defendant's lawyer, "I am being paid by that man there!"

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RED POLL PREDICTS HARD WINTER.

One of the rarest birds to New England is here, prophesying a cold, hard winter, says the Boston Record. It is the red poll, a member of the big junco family of birds. Only in the most severe weather does it appear. It is the most venturesome of the frozen lands of the North, and when it does it always means a cold, severe winter. There are several flocks of the birds in the fields, and bird lovers, glad to get a chance to watch their habits, are closely observing them.