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## ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 3, 1908.

## THE PICTURE HOUSES.

The question of increasing license fees on moving picture houses has been referred back to a committee of the Common Council. At the meeting on Monday afternoon Alderman Hamm volunteered the information that they ought to get after that fellow in the Mechanic's Institute who banks eight or nine hundred dollars a day, accepting the alderman's estimate, the other shows in town ought to bank between them an equal amount or perhaps a little more, say sixteen or eighteen hundred dollars in all as the daily receipts in the picture houses. This is obviously ridiculous, but perhaps the alderman calculates on the basis established by literary stable men. The admission to any of the show houses is five cents. It is apparent then that to take in \$100, two thousand people must be admitted; to make a total of \$1600 in one day from all the entertainments \$2000 would have to attend at a matter of fact when the Nickel plays to 2000 people in a day it is doing an excellent business. If the Princess gets 200 the managers are satisfied. The Unique can probably manage to pay a dividend with an average daily attendance of 200. The running expenses amount to fully 50 per cent. of the receipts and in addition to this there is an outside charge for rental of films. Even on the most liberal basis not more than \$300 per week represents the profits of the entire lot of picture houses in the city. It is apparent therefore that if the license fees were increased to \$50 each per month all round the smaller places would be put out of business while the larger ones which would remain would in all probability have to increase their admission fees. The proposal of the Council is also that circuits shall be taxed \$300 for each day's performance. An ordinary circuit takes in between \$5000 and \$6000 a day and practically none of this is left in the city excepting the amounts paid for railway fares, rental of grounds and license fees. More money goes away with a circuit in one day than from all the picture houses in a month. The present places of amusement are for the poor people and any excessive increase in license fees on the part of the Council will prevent many from enjoying the entertainment offered.

## THE CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Aside from all correspondence which passed between Hon. Wm. Pugsley and officials of the G. T. P., aside from all dealings which took place over the proposed leasing or purchase of the Central Railway by the Trans-continental line; even taking away from New Brunswick's former premier all the credit for what he has done to advance the interests of St. John in this affair, the real business side of the Central proposition still remains. The G. T. P. is being built to Montreal. It must find an ocean port. St. John is the only point available, and a railroad now exists forming the connecting link between the line of the G. T. P. and the wharves at St. John. The heads of the Central proposition are lacking in ordinary business sense if they fail to at least attempt to secure running rights over the Central. It is not a question of politics; it is one of hard cash. Dr. Pugsley conducted the first negotiations for this province and clearly showed the prospective lessees that a splendid opportunity was awaiting them. It is the duty of Hon. Mr. Hazen to continue the business so well begun.

## ONTARIO SCHOOLBOOKS.

The Times last evening was pleased to credit the Whitney Government with introducing free school books in the province of Ontario, basing its praise on a reported statement by T. W. Crothers, chairman of the Ontario schoolbook commission, and an ardent politician. The paragraph would have been more effective if it had contained the often neglected element of truth. Mr. Crothers never promised free schoolbooks, nor did he make any such intimation on the authority of the Whitney Government. What he did say was that that government would be pleased to see such a system introduced. This is slightly different, but then the Whitney government is wont to regard declarations of policy as actual accomplishments.

The Royal Society in session in Montreal adopted a resolution asking the federal government to provide an amount annually which might be used for travelling expenses by members. It is felt that the distances in Canada are so great that proper representation cannot be secured at the meetings if the members are compelled to pay all expenses out of their own pockets, and that as this society is of value to the development of science and literature a reasonable amount might well be set apart for its support. The committee should apply not to the federal government, but to Mr. R. L. Borden and Mr. Foster, who at present imagine they are running the country.

## IN THE PARK.

I wandered gayly in the park, where all was green and fair,  
My heart was joyous as a lark, I breathed the dustless air.

The path was warm, I turned one side among the trees to pass  
Alas, this pleasure was denied by signs: "Keep Off the Grass!"

The sky was blue above my head, the sun increased its strength,  
And yet I strolled, as I have said, and breathed the air at length;  
But when I sought a restful seat, once more I made complaint.

For on each bench, in letters neat, I saw the sign: "Fresh Paint!"

I could not roam within the shade, I could not sit awhile;  
My arbitrary path was laid beneath the sun's hot smile;

At last I turned my weary feet from all the beauties there,  
This worst of all commands to meet—the sign: "No Thoroughfare."

Biggs—What do you know about Blank? Is he as good as his word?  
Diggs—Oh, yes, but I wouldn't believe a word he said.

"Give me a penny, sir, for something to eat."  
"But you've got sixpence in your hand now. What's that for?"  
"Oh, that's to tip the waiter, sir."

"Aw, me good man," affably spoke the foreign tourist, putting his head out through the car window, as the train stopped at a station; may I ask the name of this charming little village?"

"Rubbereckin'" said the rude native on the station platform.  
"Thanks," replied the foreign tourist, jotting it down in his notebook.

"What remarkably odd names they have for towns in this country!"  
"Isn't that prima donna satisfied?" asked the porter.

"No," answered the manager. "You know she wants the slightest hint of possibly rivalry."  
"But I said she was the greatest singer on this earth."  
"On this earth. Yes, but she has heard that Mars inhibited."

"So you went before a magistrate with that man who abused you so shamefully last Sunday. What happened?"  
"Oh, it was entirely in my favor. The man was obliged to withdraw more than half of what he said."

"Mrs. Jones had a most delicious bit of scandal to tell Mrs. Brown, and the latter wouldn't give her a chance to let go of it."  
"I thought she revelled in such things?"  
"Why wouldn't she hear it?"  
"Their time was short and she had some scandal that she wanted to tell herself."

## LABOR DISPUTE LED TO A PITCHED BATTLE

VIONDEF, June 2.—Twelve gendarmes while attempting to arrest a striker, were surrounded by two hundred of the workmen. Believing that they were in danger of their lives, the gendarmes used their weapons. Reinforcements to both parties soon reached the scene and in the fight which followed, two of the workmen were killed and six wounded. Four gendarmes were wounded.

## BRIEF DESPATCHES

BOSTON, Mass., June 2.—Schooner Margaret Thomas, which arrived here today, from Baltimore, encountered a heavy gale, when 40 miles off Block Island, during which she lost foremast, had staff broken, and was carrying a gale, causing a sharp list to port. She was towed to an anchorage in the lower harbor and tug Murray.

PORTLAND, Me., June 2.—With the exception of the United States Senate, the entire Republican ticket has been elected. The senatorial contest returns show some changes from last night's figures but the indications are that Chamberlain (Democrat) will defeat Calkins (Republican) by about 1,000 majority.

DETROIT, Mich., June 2.—Westbound Pere Marquette passenger train No. 5, is reported by running into an open switch. Three cars are reported overturned. It is not known whether any passengers were killed or injured. A relief train has been sent from Grand Rapids.

## PARIS STUDENTS IN FIERCE FIGHT.

PARIS, June 2.—A riot occurred yesterday at the Sorbonne in the reappearance of Professor Andler, who recently conducted a party of students to Germany, where he and his followers fraternized cordially with the Germans, and even visited the German church at Potsdam to look at the garb of the French in the Franco-German War.

The professor had no sooner entered his classroom than yells of "Traitor" were raised. Unable to make himself heard the professor was forced to retire. A student produced a tricolor flag as he did so, and deafening cheers hailed the professor's exit.

Subsequently the students marched into the streets with the tricolor at their head and came into violent collision with another party carrying a red flag. The tricolor was taken and retaken several times, while the red flag was seized and torn to pieces. Hand-to-hand fighting ensued, until a large body of police scattered the combatants.

## LIVING ON THREE CENTS A DAY.

LONDON, June 2.—The Rev. J. D. K. Mahomed stated at the meeting of the Bury St. Edmunds Guardians on Thursday, that he knew of cases in which men in receipt of outdoor relief had to keep a wife and family of three or four children on the money allowed, which worked out at three cents a head per day.

## BERMUDA YACHT RACE STARTS TODAY

Six Yachts Will Leave Marblehead

Conditions Governing Event—Could Not Get Crews for Smallest Craft—Weather Promising.

MARBLEHEAD, Mass., June 2.—Shortly after 11 o'clock tomorrow forenoon, six stout sailing yachts will start from Marblehead Rock for an ocean race of approximately 475 nautical miles to Hamilton, Bermuda. The contest is under the joint auspices of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Marblehead and the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club.

The contestants are divided into two classes, B and C, the former comprising craft over 70 and less than 90 racing length, and the latter class of yachts over 50 and not exceeding 70 feet racing length. In class B the starters will be the schooner yacht Espiranza, formerly Merton F. Plant's Ingomar, and now owned by J. D. Zell McKee, of the Atlantic Yacht Club; the Dervish, owned by Commodore Henry A. Morse, of the Corinthian Yacht Club, of this port, and the schooner yacht Zuhrah, owned by Henry Detcher, of New Rochelle, N. Y. In class C the starters will be the big knockabout Marblesome, owned by John P. Croser, of the Yachtman's Club, Philadelphia, the auxiliary schooner Edith Anna, owned by Thomas Henderson, of the Yachtman's Club, Philadelphia, and the schooner Veneno, owned by E. J. Bliss, of the Eastern Yacht Club, of this port.

Two yavies were entered in class D, the Little Hope and the Lila, but the owner of the latter was unable to find a crew willing to make the voyage, and so T. K. Lethrop, Jr., owner of the Little Hope, decided not to start. These promises to be a lively race between the three big schooners, as Commodore Morse is anxious to repeat his victory of last year and will go the limit in trying to carry out his ambition.

The weather tonight indicates that the conditions tomorrow will be favorable for the start. A nice westerly breeze prevails and should it hold there will be a lively time when the yachts start on their long trip.

## CONSCIENTIOUS MAYOR.

PARIS, June 2.—A Mayor in Paris finished a marriage ceremony yesterday with the words, "You are united." The wedding was in a hall, and he remembered that he had omitted part of the formula, and that consequently the Minister of the Interior, who promptly opened the window and shouted after them: "I say, you know, it is in the name of the law that you are united."

## MAGISTERIAL MALPROP.

BUDAPEST, June 2.—In sentencing a peasant named Hosh for a theft from the parish priest, the magistrate of Nevedra, Hungary, reproved him for his meanness in stealing from a person who, he knew, could not steal from him in return.

## MINISTER'S SUICIDE ON WEDDING EVE.

LONDON, June 2.—The Rev. Frederick Wilson Sparke, an Unitarian Methodist church minister of Burnley, was found dead in a bath yesterday with his throat cut. His wife died twelve months ago and he was to have married a school mistress next week.

## IN THE WORLD AGAIN.

EDINBURGH, June 2.—The Orkney cable, which broke down before Christmas, was reopened yesterday. Telegrams have been forwarded via Scotland since Christmas.

## UNAPPRECIATED HOSPITALITY.

LIVERPOOL, June 2.—Since the Chelsea Guards decided to detain all transients for two days, the number of vagrants claiming a night's lodging in the workhouse decreased nearly 50 per cent.

## HISTORIC GAME OF BOWLS.

PLYMOUTH, June 2.—The Mayor of Plymouth opened a bowling green yesterday on the spot where Sir Francis Drake and his companions were playing when they were told of the approach of the Spanish armada. Bowls used in the historic game were played with.

## 43,035 SHAKESPEARE PILGRIMS.

LONDON, June 2.—The second number of 43,035 persons paid for admission to Shakespeare's birthplace during the year ending March 31, and the number who visited Ann Hathaway's cottage was also more than in any previous year. Sixty nationalities are in the visitors' book at the birthplace.

Stores Close at 9 p. m. Wednesday, June 3, 1908.

## Men's Blucher Cut Oxfords.

We have just received a line of Men's Blucher Cut Oxfords, double sole, uppers of nice smooth dongola kid, linings of soft seamless leather, and made on a dressy, comfortable shape. Sizes, 6 to 11, \$2.00.

We have the same thing in Boys' sizes, 1 to 5, price, \$1.75.

## WHITE CANVAS BOOTS FOR INFANTS.

White canvas wear will be used a lot this year, so we have made a line of infants' White Canvas Blucher cut Balmorals, soft sole, sizes 1 to 4, price, 60 cents.

White Canvas two strap slippers, with soft soles, sizes 1 to 4, price, 60 cents.

## PERCY J. STEEL, FOOT FURNISHER.

519-521 Main St. SUCCESSOR TO WM. YOUNG.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON AS RIP VAN WINKLE

An Artistic Performance of the Old Play at the Opera House Last Evening.

Joe Jefferson is not dead. As Rip Van Winkle in the darkness of the mountain night passed from one life to another, so in Thomas Jefferson has the power of his father been renewed. Those who have seen both, the few who have admired the unique ability of three generations of this talented family, prophesy for the present bearer of the name early to that of the late actor who in the history of the stage is now remembered as the greatest of them all. The natural tendency of those who witnessed last evening's performance at the Opera House to compare the work of Thomas Jefferson with that of his father, in this case the comparison is scarcely fair, for the latter's success was greatest towards the close of his career, while the present Rip is still a comparatively young man. Yet he has all those qualities—especially that of sympathy—which are necessary for the proper interpretation of the part. Thomas Jefferson is a great actor now; he will become greater when time brings with it a more intimate acquaintance with the weaknesses of age which is so necessary to the fullest portrayal of Rip Van Winkle's second life among men.

Mr. Jefferson carries a strong supporting company, the proper stage equipment, and in his performance due attention is given to all mechanical details. But throughout the entire course of the piece he is the central figure, and the other players are simply incidental. Yet Mr. Harrington who took the part of Derick, Miss De Vaux as Gretchen, and above all the two children Edna Hamel and Oscar Johnson as Meenie and Heinrich are deserving of every praise, for their parts were taken in an eminently satisfactory manner. The gradual development of the old story, old yet always new, with its intermingled pathos and humor, its tragic and its lighter moments, was artistic, and afforded such a treat as is enjoyed all too rarely.

The audience was not disappointed, for there were some vacant seats due no doubt to the very disagreeable weather. The standing room sign should be up early tonight for the entertainment deserves a crowded house.

## FLORIDA TEST WAS NOT VERY CONVINCING, SAYS THE NEW YORK SUN

NEW YORK, June 2.—The Sun commenting editorially on the "shooting up" of the Monitor Florida, says:—"The military mast came through the ordeal of five shots without a suspension of the system of fire control, was impaired. This experiment was satisfactory so far as it went, but did it go far enough? But when we compare the pounding of the British battleship Hero at the Kentucky Knock on November 20, 1897, with the Florida test, a suspicion will intrude that the latter was not pushed far enough. A squadron steamed past the Hero at a range of from 6,000 to 8,000 yards and 130 shots were fired at her. The first shot was a dud, but the second was a splinter shot to get the range; the firing was done under service conditions. Soon the Hero "was in the middle of a dense cloud of smoke, through which now and then flashed tongues of fire, as shell after shell struck the helpless vessel. The system of fire control was impaired. 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