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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1911

The Evening Times and Star

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THE EVENING TIMES THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.
These papers advocate British connection.
Honesty in public life.
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.
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No deals!
"The Shamrock, Thistle, Rose entwined The Maple Leaf forever."

THE PEOPLE'S VERDICT

The citizens of St. John have voted for reform in city government. The old system had not produced satisfactory results. Until the question was taken up some months ago by a group of citizens who desired to see an awakening of public spirit, a more general interest in civic affairs, and a general forward movement for the benefit of the city, there seemed little prospect of a change. Year after year men went to the polls with a ballot, which never gave them an opportunity to vote for a full ticket of such men as they would like to see elected. Civic politics had fallen into a rut. Business principles gave way to expediency, ward influence, and the rule of a small group who thought it worth while to get control of the situation at city hall. When the group of public-spirited citizens already referred to came into touch with civic methods they were enough to face the situation, study it, and point to the remedy. That remedy was the elective commission plan of city government. The appeal was made to the people and the people responded. The fight has been sharp and decisive. It is hard to believe, over again, some of those who so unselfishly devoted time and thought to the task might be tempted to withdraw, because of the unfair criticism, the insinuations and the open sneers leveled against them. It cannot be said that the opponents of commission waged a fair fight, or treated the advocates of reform with any measure of justice. They did not fight in the open. They opposed fair and reasonable arguments with anonymous attack, misrepresentation and the imputation of selfish motives.

The average voter, however, is fair-minded, and, if reasonably well-informed on the main issue, may be counted on to take the measure of the opposing forces and choose the side that is open and fearless and guided by the right public spirit. Looking back upon the contest, and remembering how apathetic the people have usually been in civic politics, it is perhaps surprising that the unscrupulous and artful plan of campaign launched in the closing ten days by the enemies of commission did not arouse more of suspicion and prejudice than it really did.

A SIGNIFICANT MEETING

Next to the overwhelming vote polled for commission, the most significant event of yesterday was the meeting in the board of trade rooms last evening. Naturally there was much elation over so great a victory, but that which most strongly impressed the members of the Citizens' Committee was a sense of the responsibility which the victory laid upon them. These men who had been traduced, and charged with self-interest, and with urging the people to take a leap in the dark, were thinking last night, not of the victory or their public vindication, but of the work still to be done for the welfare of St. John. Messrs. W. H. Barnaby, V. H. Thorne, James A. Belyea, H. A. Powell, Dr. H. C. Watmore and others rose one after another to say that the work of the Citizens' Committee had only begun, and that not only during the framing of a new charter, but after it is adopted and the first group of commissioners elected, it would still be their duty to take an active and organized interest in civic affairs, to the end that St. John might get not only the best charter but the best civic administration of any commission governed city.

There could be no more hopeful indication of a new and splendid civic spirit than that leading citizens, in the moment of success in a strenuous campaign, should thus look to the future and declare their determination to do all in their power to turn the victory to account for the good of the people. Here were leading Conservatives and Liberals united to achieve a common purpose for the common good, thrusting politics aside and each applauding the generous motives of the other. Surely this was a significant event in civic history.

St. John has followed the example of Vancouver and declared for good government.

THE NEW CHARTER

Mr. James A. Belyea, who is chairman of the city charter committee, in his address at the board of trade last evening, showed how keenly he feels the responsibility, and how earnestly he desires to frame such a charter as will ensure a good administration of civic affairs. He will call the committee together next week, and ask that it be enlarged so that the broadest expression of views may be obtained. All who have useful suggestions to make will have an opportunity to do so. The first step will be to find out what the city has to administer—the extent and state of its assets and liabilities—or a general stock taking. An immediate start is to be made, so that the new charter may be framed, approved by the Citizens' Committee, and made ready to submit to the legislature at the next session. Valuable preliminary work has already been done. It has been done by busy men who gave their time cheerfully to the public service in this respect. There is nothing mysterious or menacing about the framing of the charter. There will be no leap in the dark.

PUBLIC SPIRIT

It is perhaps too much to hope that there will now be an end of anonymous and cynical attacks upon citizens who take an interest in public affairs, but such criticism will have no effect upon the public mind. We have had a notable demonstration of the fact that public spirit has been aroused, and that men in all parts of the city who formerly betrayed little personal interest in civic affairs are ready to give time and effort to the advancement of the public welfare. This is much better than to hand the control of affairs over to this or that group, which may be able for control a certain number of votes. The city of St. John will prosper and enjoy good government just to the extent that the people come forward as individuals, uninfused by any other consideration than that of the public welfare, and vote for principles rather than for the promises of the secret caucus or the special interest. It is stated that wherever the commission plan has been adopted there has been a growth of healthy public spirit, and the determination of the Citizens' Committee in St. John not to dissolve is a most hopeful indication that the like will be true of St. John.

The loss has been decried.

The "nihilists" certainly placed the bomb in the right place.

The Standard says it is a "leap in the dark." The Standard's candle certainly did emit a very feeble ray.

Tennyson makes one of his characters say: "However we brazen it out, we men are a little brazen." The Standard is trying to brazen it out.

The Globe and Standard got a line yesterday on the extent of their influence and popularity in the city of St. John. The knowledge may be of some service to them.

The hidden hand, like the hand of Satan thrust from the Sea of Darkness in old-time prints, had no power to strike. In the words of the Standard, it was the hand of "the devil that we know."

The Standard says the victory of the friends of commission was "not due to the merit of their proposal." In other words, the citizens of St. John, in the opinion of the Standard, are a set of fools, who do not know what they want. That's flattering, surely.

The happiest men in St. John last night were the members of the advertising committee of the board of trade. They were the first to take up a personal study of the commission plan and its workings, and were its most enthusiastic advocates.

So far as the late campaign was concerned the Times was convinced from the outset, after study of the commission plan, that it was the plan for this city, and it was felt that, whether commission won or lost, this paper could not win or lose in better company than that of the combined forces of the business men and working men of St. John.

Mr. Walter T. Allison, as a public spirited citizen, does not need any vindication from anonymous attack, but that which was made upon him on the eve of the plebiscite, in the columns of the Globe, was so bitter and unjust that the tributes paid to him last evening by Mr. Powell, Col. A. J. Armstrong and others, and the applause which greeted them, were particularly pleasing to all his friends.

The "spirit of the east," which began to manifest itself in St. John last year, and displaced the pessimism that had so long whispered in men's ears that St. John was dead in its relation to industrial and commercial growth, has broken into affairs as well, and there is to be progress and development in that department as in all others. The year 1911 is a great year for St. John.

THE QUEST

A hundred centuries of towering fanes
To show the road—yet none know where
It leads:
Ten thousand years of formulas and
creeds:
And still the secret of the world remains:
The round earth bristles with its countless
spires:
That point the way to all the ends of
space:
Where sit the gods that rule our mortal
race:
Enthroned amidst the firmament of fire,
Ah, might we follow to the bounds of
space:
Lit by illusive beacons, should we find
The way and wherefore that distract the
mind:
Or ride forever on a phantom chase?

If we might flash, like light from sphere to sphere,
Should we disclose the planner and the plan,
Or fail—and then return to earth and man,
To dare again the ancient riddle here?
For surely here in man's unfathomed soul,
Shut fast within its narrow cranial cell,
Life reaches wide as heaven and deep as hell—
The world, the universe, the mirrored whole!
—Frederick Peterson.

IN LIGHTER VEIN



POOR DAD.

"Johnny, you must comb your hair before you come to school."
"I ain't got no comb."
"Borrow your father's."
"Pa ain't got no comb either."
"Doesn't he comb his hair?"
"He ain't got no hair."



SAME OLD MELODY.

"When did you see when you got home the other night?"
"Not a word. She just sat down at the piano and played 'Tel Me The Old, Old Story.'"



A GREAT DISCOVERY.

What? What do you think of my doughnuts, Herbert?
Wonderful, darling. Scientists have tried for years to produce artificial rubber, and here you have done it at the first attempt.

SAVING UP FOR SUNDAY.

We've started in to save Sunday, we're pinching every nickel;
Pa's carrying his lunch to town—a slice of bread and pickle;
Ma's gathering up all the scraps that formerly were wasted;
The stuff we get for breakfast is the worst I've ever tasted.

We're saving in every way and cutting down expenses;
We don't turn on the lights no more as soon as night comes;
We sit around in darkness now to keep the gas from burning;
I wish I'd something good to eat, but there's no use in yearning.

We've got to do our best this week to keep the bills from rising;
Each member of the family's hit—we're all economizing;
The baby's crying for a bone to suck—poor little sucker—
We're saving 'cause next Sunday we'll have company to dinner.

DAUGHTERS OF EMPIRE

BALL A BRILLIANT EVENT

A brilliant affair was the charity ball given by the Daughters of the Empire in the Kott's Assembly rooms last night. The event, which has been anticipated with considerable interest by society, was attended by about sixty-five couples. The chaperones were Mrs. Harold Schofield, Mrs. William Angus, Mrs. William Vassie, Mrs. Alexander Fowler, Mrs. W. H. Harrison, Mrs. W. A. Lockhart, Mrs. Homer D. Forbes, and Mrs. George Mahon. The guests were received by Miss Mabel McAvity and Miss Katie Hazen, and Mrs. W. A. Lockhart was in charge of the refreshment committee. Miss Katie Hazen supervised the decorations, which were of an elaborate nature. The dance programme consisted of ten numbers.



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POLICE CHIEF

OF PARIS IS REAL

RULER OF CITY

M. Lepine, Small in Stature but Mighty in His Position—Some Things He Has Done

Whether it be a lunatic shooting at M. Briand in the parliament chamber, or a rabble of strikers in the streets, policeman Lepine is sent for and the disturbance is quelled by the might of his eye and the persuasion of his common sense and personal intrepidity backed by the force of the police and soldiers.

Paris is governed by 20 mayors, a city council of some 80 members and a military governor. There is also a prefect of the Seine, M. de Selves, within whose jurisdiction comes, of course, the City of Light. But the burden of keeping the peace of Paris and, as events have shown, of snipping revolutions in the bud, falls upon M. Louis Lepine, chief of police. All revolutions in France begin on the ground of his small stature, lack of physical strength and somewhat insignificant appearance. His face is wrinkled, and his beard is white, and his head bald, but he has a piercing eye, and his matty figure belies his years. Yet he is the most successful peacekeeper which the most difficult nation to govern has ever had.

Louis Lepine was born in Lyons 64 years ago. He has been a soldier and a lawyer. He enlisted as a volunteer for the war of 1870, was wounded, decorated with the military medal, and became a sergeant major. After the declaration of peace he practiced law at Lyons for four years. He had been sub-prefect, councillor of state, secretary-general of the prefecture of police and governor of Algeria.

After a four years' term of office as prefect M. Lepine resigned. Then the students of the Latin quarter grew unruly. One of them had been fined by the faculty of the Ecole des Beaux Arts for an offence in connection with a masked ball. Immediately they arose in their thousands and kept the whole city in an uproar for eight days. The prefect was forced to resign.

Lepine was appointed. He put on his tall hat to show that he was not afraid. He went out among the young men, found the leaders, looked them in the eye, reasoned with them, joined their organizations and the next day the unruly youths were quietly resuming their studies.

M. Lepine arrested Boulangists at the famous old cafe Riche, kept order when 30,000 of them went to the Lyons station to see off their chief, saved the city hall against an army of them and successfully defended the Elysee against a whole horde of the followers of the man on horseback.

On the day of the funeral of Pres. Felix Faure, M. Lepine, who was not then in office, saw the police in a very tight place. They were forming a barrier against several thousand people and had made a mistake. Lepine jumped from his cab, gave an order, restituted the crowd, the crowd dispersed and the police saluted.

Strange to say the taking of what was called fort Chabrol was one of the most difficult tasks of M. Lepine's life. Jules Guerin, a violent nationalist, anti-Dreyfusard and Dreyfusard enthusiast, had been sentenced to death. He shut himself up in a house of the rue Chabrol, near

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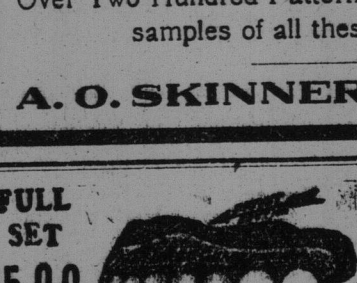
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