

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1919

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### A PAINFUL SITUATION.

Four members of the legislature of this province have been censured by a vote of the house and asked to resign. If this happened in another province, following such revelations as those which made the people of other provinces mock at New Brunswick politics and politicians, we would expect the censured members to resign.

But it has not happened in another province. It has happened in New Brunswick, in the province which valued high ideals so much that it sent thousands upon thousands of its sons to face death in their behalf.

And the censured men do not resign. Are they still to be the leaders of their party? What does the party say about it? What are its ideals? Are they expressed in the formula: \$10,000 to Westmorland county, \$10,000 to the Fredericton Gleason, \$5,000 to Carleton county—and so on—the funds to be got as the price of a railroad contract?

Possibly The Times and Telegraph and Globe are unimpeachable partisans. Let it go at that. But what of the sworn testimony and the reluctant admissions, and the "regret" and "deprecation" of the whitewash amendment? The record stands.

Of course the people will pay no further attention to the utterances of members of the opposition party in the house. Why should they? Those men no longer truly represent their constituents. They have chosen to reject the course the people expected them to follow; for this pretence that political spite was behind the resolution of censure is quite too transparent. Had the government not presented such a resolution the cry "they are all alike" would have been heard throughout the province. The plain truth is that the opposition members have decided to stand together in defiance of public opinion.

It is a most regrettable situation. The most unrelenting partisan cannot but regret that we have come to such a pass in the political life of this province. There is but one thing to do. The people must see it through and choose other representatives than those who have betrayed their trust. The lesson must be driven home. The good name of the province must be restored. It is not a question of politics but of the purity of public life. If the present government should fall in its honest duty to the people it would deserve the same loss of public confidence and support, and the same stern condemnation of its course.

### PROTECT THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

The city is to be asked to grant money and sanction the use of a public playground on the West Side for baseball of the sort for which those who follow it should be invited to provide their own grounds and pay their own bills. The West side recreation field should be reserved as a young people's playground, for those who want clean amateur sport, with no paid players, and for the benefit of the boys and girls of the West Side.

The establishment of neighborhood playgrounds in the south, west and north ends has laid upon the city council a serious responsibility. A false step now would prevent the proper development of playgrounds for the future. No matter how many people may want to patronize professional or semi-professional sport, their desire to be gratified in that respect should not be permitted to stand in the way of clean athletic sport and plenty of it for the boys and girls. That is what neighborhood playgrounds are for and grown men should not thrust their own desires and inclinations in the way.

What has happened to the West End Improvement League, which was organized last year? True, it was utterly ignored by those who should have rallied to its support; but is there no love for children and no public spirit on the West Side?

The West Side clerical men should get together, with leading members of their congregations and take up this playground matter in the interest of the boys and girls. We are told that juvenile delinquency in St. John has increased and is increasing at an alarming rate. It is one thing to cheer semi-professional ball players at no expense, and quite another to put forth a little effort for the benefit of the boy and girl life of the city. So far as the city council is concerned, its duty is plain. It must preserve the children's playgrounds for the children, and it should encourage the formation of such organizations as the South End Improvement League to assist in making them a real success. If Com. Fisher call a meeting in City Hall, West Side, and notice in advance to all the churches, "suit would probably be a response could be a delight to him and a West End playground conducted as it should be for of the young people.

rs should pay a portion of ng is a principle adopted St. John should either ulatory or drop it altogether over this matter. What is action. If the police no paying with- outors on any should stand down in such no further

### WORLD-WIDE PROHIBITION.

The Washington correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor learns that there is to be, after all, a great movement for world-wide prohibition. He writes:—

"Plans have been completed for holding in Paris, in the first week of April, an international conference to inaugurate in European countries the movement for world-wide prohibition. Delegates from the United States will, it is understood, confer with representatives of the government in other countries and formulate a programme along lines discussed at a similar conference on a smaller scale recently held in Paris, in which Col. L. B. Musgrove of Birmingham, Alabama, chairman of the National Committee on the Ratification of the Prohibition Amendment, took part. Announcement of the forthcoming conference was made yesterday by the Anti-Saloon League of America following the arrival in this country of Colonel Musgrove, who has spent three months in Europe, where he studied the prohibition movement, particularly in relation to the social and economic problems accentuated by the great world war."

It is contended that economic conditions will render it necessary for other nations to follow the example of the United States. "Industrially, commercially, and otherwise, the United States will make such progress as a sober nation that the other countries will have to become dry in order to compete with it industrially," said Colonel Musgrove. The movement for world-wide prohibition, he asserted, should be considered as part of the international reconstruction which the Peace Conference is attempting to accomplish. Colonel Musgrove, continues the correspondent, states that labor, which was generally regarded as antagonistic to prohibition, under the growing sense of power and responsibility for social welfare, realize that sobriety and the elimination of the liquor stronghold constitute the stronger assets of efficiency. The campaign, he predicted, will rest particularly on the question of the efficiency of labor.

It can no longer be questioned that prohibition and efficiency of labor go hand in hand. When Europe recognizes the fact Europe will adopt prohibition. The newspapers next week will start on daylight time. They must do so or lose the mails, since the railways have adopted the change. Business houses with out of town trade will face the same necessity. It will probably be found to the advantage of the whole city to adopt the new time, although it will not apply to the rural districts. If it is to be adopted here the friends of the change must express their views in no uncertain manner. Otherwise no civic action will be taken and we will have some concerns using the new time and some the old, with endless confusion.

Mr. Potts made a contribution to the cause of unity in Canada by expressing regret in the legislature yesterday that a permanent road system would bring Quebec somewhat nearer to New Brunswick. Of quite a different nature were the remarks of Mr. Potts, who appealed to both sides of the house to do what they could to bring about unity among the different elements in this country.

It is said in the corridors at Fredericton that if the opposition party should call a convention Mr. Potts would not coldly reject an offer of the leadership, although he would insist that the proposition be put to him in plain English. N'est-cepas?

Nothing here written should be construed as an objection to the strongest possible baseball league in St. John. The objection is to the usurpation of children's playgrounds for the benefit of those who can well afford to provide other grounds.

The bill based on the Carrier report is before the legislature. It is now the duty of the city to fight that bill and have it so amended that even its author would not recognize it. And there is no time to lose.

In the senate yesterday second reading was given to a bill to compel householders to take greater precautions against fire. It is a wise measure.

The opposition members at Fredericton have certainly cut out some work for that proposed provincial convention.

The news from Australia indicates that the Commonwealth is about to adopt a strong protective policy, in the hope of developing its industries.

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## In Parliament

Bankruptcy Bill and Other Federal Measures—Matter of Indemnity From Germany

Ottawa, March 28.—(Canadian Press) Sir Thomas White, when the house opened this afternoon, referred to a report from London attributing to Sir Robert Borden the view that no indemnities should be exacted from Germany. Sir Thomas said he had taken the liberty of drawing the matter to the attention of the prime minister, who, in reply, had sent the following cablegram:—

"Report alluded to is absolutely unfounded and indeed absurd. You are authorized to give absolute and explicit denial to any such statement. We are making every effort to procure from Germany the fullest indemnity that she is able to pay."

Hon. Mr. Rowell referred to a question asked by Mr. Lemieux yesterday whether it was true that Halifax had been substituted for Rimouski for the reception of trans-Atlantic mails. "Halifax has not been substituted for

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Rimouski, nor is any such change in

contemplation," Mr. Rowell replied.

Mr. Murphy asked when a motion would be brought down for Wednesday evening sittings in the house.

Sir Thomas White replied that it was proposed to have two more Wednesday evenings free.

Mr. Lemieux asked if it was true that the Shell Transport & Trading Company had made application for a monopoly of the oil bearing lands in western Canada.

Hon. Arthur Meighen—"The company has had an application before the department of interior for some time. The application has received no favorable consideration."

Bankruptcy Bill.

In the house this afternoon, second reading was given to the bill respecting bankruptcy. In moving the reading of the bill, Hon. Hugh Guthrie said the subject of bankruptcy and insolvency had not been dealt with since 1880. By the British North America act this question had been left to the jurisdiction of Canada and in 1878 there was legislation which, however, had been repealed. It had fallen into disfavor. He remarked that China and Canada were the only two civilized countries which had no bankruptcy laws.

The effect of the new legislation, he said, would be to abrogate and annul provincial laws. In the new legislation an article had been made to unify the various provincial laws as far as possible.

able, to abolish all priorities and preferences between creditors, to grant expedient action in regard to insolvents, to make insolvency action less expensive and discharge from former obligations. He said the phraseology of the English legislation was followed as closely as possible. All corporations, he said, would be subject to the terms of the bill, which would apply to all except banks, railways, trust companies and insurance companies. It would also apply to all individuals except farmers and wage earners, earning less than \$1500 per annum. Farmers could avail themselves of the benefits of the legislation, but could not be forced into bankruptcy. Second reading was given to the bill. It will be considered in committee later.

Hon. Mr. MacLean introduced a resolution to increase the annual license fee for British Columbia salmon canneries from \$100 to \$500.

In answer to William Duff, Mr. MacLean stated that the government proposed to introduce legislation compelling manufacturers to specify the weight of the contents in any container on its label.

The resolution was carried and a bill introduced on given first reading.

The act to consolidate and amend the railway act was given second reading, and then referred to a special committee.

Second reading was given to the act amending the railway act so as to provide financial aid for the improvement of railway crossing. This measure en-

powers the government to give financial aid to railways and municipalities in making railway crossings safe.

Second reading was given the bill to amend the compensation act respecting employees on Canadian government railways.

Mr. Jacobs raised the point that, when a man was injured, it was unfair to ask him to elect, in making his claim between the provident fund and the compensation fund. Mr. Jacobs argued that the provident fund was an insurance to which the man had contributed. He moved an amendment to the bill which would have the effect of making it unnecessary for a man to elect. Mr. Jacobs claimed that the man should be entitled to claim under both funds.

Mr. MacLean—"Is this provident fund composed entirely of contributions from the men or do the Canadian government railways also contribute?"

Mr. Jacobs finally withdrew his amendment and the bill was reported. It now stands for third reading.

At the evening sitting Mr. MacLean presented a resolution preceding a bill to amend the fish inspection act. The provisions of the present fish inspection act afford facilities for voluntary inspection of fish. The bill proposes to amend the act as to make the inspection compulsory.

The house adopted the resolution and the bill founded on it was introduced.

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