

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1922.

A NEW HYDRO REPORT.

The report just made by Messrs. Kirby and Phillips on the power question is the clearest and most easily understood contribution on the subject that has yet been made, for it gets down to the point that interests citizens most, viz., the price to the consumer. Both these gentlemen, and also Mr. P. P. Vaughan, who was associated with them in their investigations, are to be congratulated upon the complete manner in which they have dealt with the matter.

The report points out very clearly that the Musquash current can be sold by the N. B. Power Company at 6.25 cents, as against 6.88 cents if sold by the city by means of its own distribution system. This is rather a "jar" for those vehement advocates of civic distribution, who have been urging the point that such distribution would cut present rates in half. The present average rate is 5.54 cents, which is not after all such an awful lot in excess of future possible prices. Mr. Ross in his report put down the cost of installation of a distribution system at \$917,932. This was undoubtedly, but after we presume, careful consideration, Messrs. Kirby and Phillips find such a system will cost \$900,000. This shows just how reliable Messrs. Mitchell are, when they said it could be installed for \$650,000, and that Mr. Phillips was correct in his revised estimate that it was hard to say how much such a system would cost.

Some emphasis is laid on the fact that if the quantity of current used could be appreciably increased, the rate of 6.88 cents could be considerably reduced. What prospect, may we ask, is there of any great increase in consumption with the Power Company as a competitor?

The wisest plan would seem to be to make use of the Musquash current for lighting purposes as far as it will go, with the Power Company's steam stand-by to make up any shortage that may arise. No account is taken of the current needed for street lighting in Messrs. Kirby and Phillips' report, and it is quite within the bounds of possibility—not to say probability—that the Musquash current will not be sufficient to supply all the demands for light and power that may be made upon it.

However, as we have said before, the main thing for the city to do is to make quite sure that having installed a distributing system and gone into the hydro business, it is not going to find itself some day left in the lurch. Mr. Ross' figures regarding cost of installation of distributing plant are now supported by Messrs. Kirby and Phillips. It may be shown later that some of his other calculations are more nearly correct than some people are trying to make out they are.

LIQUOR LEGISLATION.

Admittedly the finances of this Province at the present time are in such a condition, that unless some new sources of revenue can be made available the administration of public affairs cannot be properly carried on. The common sense remedy for this state of affairs and that to which private individuals and business concerns when faced by similar conditions, usually resort, is a general retrenchment and cutting out of all but the most necessary expenditures. This kind of procedure, however, the present Government either does not understand, or else refuses to adopt. The only other course therefore is to get more revenue from some source or other.

There is a persistent rumor that in order to raise the needed revenue the Government propose to make some change in the present law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor. The Legislature has been in session nearly a month now, and no suggestion along this line has as yet been made by or on behalf of the Government. The only reference that has been made to it was contained in some remarks by Mr. Meeson last week, when he suggested that the time had now arrived when the people should seriously consider whether the Prohibition law now on the statute books was or was not a failure, and if so, if the time was not ripe for making some change. Under this Prohibition law an enormous illicit traffic in liquor has sprung up, with which it is well nigh impossible to cope successfully. Bootlegging is rampant and those engaged in it are reaping a rich harvest. The most villainous deceits are being sold, more or less openly; "stills" are being operated, turning out stuff that is nothing less than rank poison. Smuggling in this contraband liquor is being carried on, in fact the law is being openly violated and set at defiance on every hand.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Economy and Economy!
(London, Free Press.)
The new King Government has been talking loudly about economy and denouncing the extravagance of the old Government. It has already indicated that in its praiseworthy efforts to keep down expenses it has not forgotten the harbor works at Vancouver and Victoria are to be cancelled.

However, it is significant that the first resolution placed on the order paper at Ottawa by a member of the Government is a proposal to loan \$1,500,000 to the City of Quebec to be spent on harbor works and terminals. The motion stands in the name of Hon. Ernest Lapointe, member for Quebec East and minister of marine and fisheries. Surely there can be no connection between the fact that Vancouver City elected Conservative members to Ottawa and Quebec stood solidly behind Hon. Mackenzie King?

In view of the announcement that Hon. W. S. Fielding would not spend a cent on public works until the country's finances are in better shape the Government resolution is disturbing. Quebec is evidently demanding her reward for faithfulness to Mr. King.

Settlement Once For All.
(Johannesburg Times.)
The mining industry in South Africa has already been subjected to enormous losses. It would not be possible to re-construct the industry on a reasonable basis if there was any serious likelihood of the whole trouble breaking out afresh in the course of the next few months. The Government must, therefore, it would seem, exert their efforts to bring about such a settlement of the industry as will be a reasonable hope that the present disastrous dislocation of industry will not be repeated. In the meantime it must be pointed out that the blowing up of the mine at the foot of the mountain between Geduld and Waldeck, and the activity which is being shown by so-called "armies" and commandoes have an extremely sinister look.

Mustering Too Fast in India.
(The Englishman, Calcutta.)
There has been a deliberate attempt to force the pace in India and compel the Government to surrender to uncompromising and irresponsible imperialism. It has been undertaken of dealing the time and measure of each advance. The period that was to elapse between the revision of this shifting constitution contemplated, spanning the life of the Government, and the election of the next Government, has been cut short. By that time the electorate might have acquired some knowledge of politics and some sense of corporate responsibility. But what sense, or Parliament, can represent the present temper of non-operation, mobs, with their ridiculous conception of the fall as the cradle of good citizenship, as evidence of the growth of political consciousness or civic responsibility?

The Wrong Target.
(Pittsburgh Dispatch.)
The senatorial critics of the Pacific treaty confess the poverty of their logic when they contend that their fire on the question of who wrote the agreement. The treaty itself is the issue, what it stipulates and what it prescribes. Unless it can be shown that it is unfair to America, endangering our position or is contrary to our policies, the question of its authorship, as Secretary Hughes writes, is unimportant. If, in any clause or provision, it betrays or imperils the accepted policy of the United States, then it might be interesting, though not vitally important, to prove, if it could be established, that this clause or provision was written, pressed for or inspired by any of the foreign delegates. The important fact would still be the treaty itself.

The Morals of the Legal Profession.
(Springfield Republican.)
The legal profession is not the only one to be criticized because of a certain moral degeneracy among a large number of its members. Let no one misunderstand us on that point. Lawyers are not as a rule, as a class, any more immoral than any other profession. Every profession or calling has its quasi-criminal fringe. All are vulnerable. The moral problems involved are peculiar to each occupation. It must be admitted, however, that the law often attracts men of defective moral sense if they have certain shrewd gifts which may be utilized profitably in bamboozling, tailoring and blackmailing. More legal learning and trained skill will not raise the moral content of the legal profession. If the advocates of more advanced requirements for admission to the bar seem to ignore this fact, it may be because they recognize the hopelessness of giving a man character by grounding him in nothing but books.

State Railroads in France.
(Providence Journal.)
According to a despatch from Paris, a parliamentary commission is preparing plans to turn over the State's Western railroads to private control. This being the greatest of the five systems owned by the Government, it affords the most horrible example of such ownership. The annual drain on the public treasury naturally becomes a matter of grave concern to a Ministry that is striving to rearm in every possible way. The Western system was built with Government aid, and that afforded a pretext for taking it over. Politically the action was a sop to the Radical Socialists. The Government might, indeed, have waited long before recovering the money it had invested, but the growth of the operating deficit during the thirteen years of State management suggests that it would have been more prudent to wait. With travellers the service on the Western line has long been notorious as the worst in France.

The Four-Power combination in the Pacific, as planned in Washington, would probably have forced the occupying of the other treaties and the situation as a whole would have been left much worse than it would have been had the Arms Conference not been held.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Yesterday at supper I just kept looking at my plate instead of eating anything, and me said, Well the matter, Benny, why don't you eat.
I feel bum, I said.
Look at his face, my the boys said, and pop.
I feel pale, I said.
With I did, and me said, Why, what is it, have you got a bad case, or a stomach ache, or what?
Yes, man, I said.
Meaning I felt bum all over, and pop said, Have you been eating anything that disagreed with you?
No sir, I don't think so, everything seemed to agree all right, I said.
Well, what is it? said me, haven't you any ideas?
Yes, man, I got a idea but I ain't sure, I said.
Well, let's have the idea said pop, and I said, Well me fellows was playing Uncle Toms Cabin in Pule Blankensh back yard the afternoon, and I was supposed to be Simon Legree and I smothered a old corn cob pipe full of tea leaves and I wouldn't be surprised if maybe that was it.
Neither would I, my yee gods, that would be enough to cook me out myself, it almost cooks me out to think of it, said pop, you'll be lucky if you're not a stork boy tonight.
With I wasn't lucky, on account of, I was.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

St. John, March 27.
Mr. Editor,
Sir—Would you kindly publish the following for the sake of humanity:
I would like to ask through your valuable paper, Sir, whether the motor men of the "St. Highway" have any human feelings left. On Sunday, March 26, as a funeral procession was passing from Rockland Road to Main St. a street car came along and deliberately drove through the procession breaking it up. This is not the first time this has taken place. At a recent date a prominent citizen's remains were being conveyed to St. James Church when at the corner of Sydney and St. James St. the very same thing occurred. These cases of disrespect to the dead came under my personal notice. Might I ask the motor men who break up funeral processions if their feelings of respect for the dead have vanished? Might I ask the officers of the law on duty if it is not his duty to protect life and limb anywhere on the beat as well as at important corners?
Yours Sir,
HARRY SULLIVAN.

THE LAUGH LINE

"The better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all, but it ain't so cheap."
If Caught Will Divide the Tip.
Sign in Soho restaurant—"Any employee soliciting a tip will, if reported, confer a benefit on the management."
Surely.
"This lady must wait a sprit nor-est." Heh? "She asks for 'Under Two Flags' by Ouida."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Myth.
Once there was a man who told a story about a Scotchman without using the term "canny old Scot" anywhere in it, but it was so long ago nobody remembers the man's name or any of the circumstances of the remarkable incident.—Kansas City Star.

Not Ever Afterward.
Silliness—"I suppose they were divorced and like the fairy tales have it that they lived happily ever afterward." Cyrena—"No, they both married again."

Rather Too Serious.
Muggins—"That girl takes everything seriously." Bugles—"Yes, a fellow can't even propose to her without having her think he wants to marry her."

The Killjoy.
Wife (at the theatre)—Oh, John, did you notice if that match you threw into the wastepaper basket before we left home was really extinguished?
Sounds Bad.
Our heart goes out to the down-

THE COUGH WITH THAT TICKLING SENSATION

A little tickling in the throat; now and then a dry hacking cough; you think it is not bad enough to bother about, but every hack makes a breach in the system, strains the lungs and prepares the way for more serious trouble.
How many people have lost a good night's rest by that nasty, tickling, irritating sensation in the throat? Tossing, harsh cough keeps you awake, and when you get up in the morning you feel as if you had had no rest at all.

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Mrs. P. Johnson, Fort Albany, B. C., writes:—"I have suffered for years, off and on, with a tickling cough, I could not sleep nights and had to sit up in bed to get relief. In fact, I coughed so I used to vomit. I tried different doctors' prescriptions until I heard of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. I tried it and found great relief after I had taken the first bottle and have not been troubled since. I am always happy to be the bearer of good news to my friends."
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SHIFTERS' SOCIETY BY FL

Dress, Insignia and C
Gertrude R. S
Moral Danger

New York, March 26.—The Society of Shifters, an organization which is said to be devoted to the rescue of the "shifters" from the clutches of the underworld, was organized yesterday at 215 Madison Avenue.

In announcing a campaign to rescue the "shifters" from the clutches of the underworld, the Society of Shifters, by the way, is a new regular dapper organization, which has been organized in this city, it is said, that the shifters are no longer as hard as they once were, but have become "dangerous" to the morals of every sporting city.

The shifters have headquarters at 575 Avenue C, though they are said to have no acknowledged head. However, a set of by-laws, a constitution and the other necessary documents, are said to have been drawn up by the shifters. The victim pays over as an initiation fee, and is then a "present" to the shifters. When the new member is accepted, the new member is said to be a "shifters' mate."

UNITED STATES CO

Stirring Plea by Mr. Ren

London, March 27.—(Special)—With the financial collapse many threatening and with fusion intensified by alarmist interpretations of the recent United States' co-operation in the treatment of the troubled after-ropes have been going forward until they have become a serious world-wide danger. Mr. Lloyd George, in his message to the House of Commons, published today, has made a strong appeal for international trade and the employment, all result in exhaustion and shock of the struggle wherever it is waged. A united effort is urged.

Japan Awaits Dep Of British And Alliance

Doesn't Believe Al But Hasn't Received Statements Yet.

Tokio, March 27.—High officers in Tokio discredit the allegation that a secret United Kingdom treaty regarding the exiles, your correspondent is not, but at the same time denies from both parties and will be welcomed new is ready to issue a statement. Japan has no such treaty to conclude one while the W. Conference treaties continue.

Official denials have been Washington by Secretary Hughes.

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