

The Evening Times and Star

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THE COUNCIL AND HYDRO

It is not surprising that citizens are growing impatient with the city council in regard to the hydro question. It is quite incorrect to say that the citizens are going ahead too fast. The city council has been too slow. As the civic elections are at hand it is right and proper to call for a show-down, and nothing short of a clear statement of the views of each member of the council will satisfy the electors. The latter know what they want, and it is that that the city receive the full benefit of the hydro development at Musquash. Early in January the Hydro Electric Commission submitted a tentative contract to the city council. There were just two things required of the council. One was to get the best possible bargain with the commission for the delivery of power at the sub-station in Fairville, and the other was to find out the cost of a civic distribution system which would give consumers the full benefit of the contract. So far as the record goes the council has not betrayed any marked eagerness to make a contract with the commission for the power; now did it at once take steps to learn the cost of a distribution system. When it did take action in the matter it was linked up with a wholly unnecessary and unwarranted enquiry as to the ability of the New Brunswick Power Company to distribute the current. From the very beginning City Hall has conveyed the impression that it regarded the power company as a necessary party to the agreement. Because of that apparent attitude the citizens have grown more and more dissatisfied, and if any gentleman at City Hall, or any prospective candidate for a seat in the council, believes they are not dissatisfied he is very ill-informed. However great his prestige as a citizen, if he is not sound on this vital question involving the industrial future of St. John, he cannot expect popular support; and to be sound on the question he must take the time that it will be time enough to listen to the power company when we know at what approximate price a civic distribution system can deliver light and power to the consumer. The suggestion that because the New Brunswick Power Company owns a street railway and gas plant, it must therefore be given the benefit of the Musquash development will not get votes in the civic elections. What St. John wants more than anything else is cheap light and power. Given these, it can solve other problems as they arise, and it wants the light and power free from any contract with a third party that would prejudice its interests two or three or a dozen years hence. If, therefore, the city fathers are well-advised they will show a little more interest in getting an agreement with the Hydro Electric Commission for the required quantity of power, and make clear their attitude in regard to distribution. It is rumored that some members of the council favor a deal with the power company, regardless of relative cost of distribution. If it is true the electors ought to know, and if it is not true it should be denied. The council has had before it since early in January the most important business it has been called on to transact for many years, and yet on the eve of the elections it is without a policy. The plain question to be decided has been obscured by dragging in that of the ability of the government of the province to fulfil a contract, and by bringing the New Brunswick Power Company in as a third party in the case when its only justification for being considered at all would be a definite offer more favorable to the city than civic distribution would ensure, having regard not merely for the present but for the future. If the city council is well-advised it will get down to business. There has been more than enough time to get all necessary information and formulate a policy.

PEOPLE'S SCHOOLS.

Rev. Father Tompkins, in his address to the Rotary Conference, made short work of the argument that the people cannot afford to provide for education. He submitted a list of figures showing the amount of money spent in the United States for luxuries, such as tobacco, chewing gum, face powder and a few others and then quoted the expenditure for education, which was amazingly small by comparison. The most interesting part of his address, however, dealt with the experiment of providing a people's school at Antigonish. To this school last year and this year came grown men, some of them past fifty years of age, to broaden their knowledge, and it was proved conclusively that such men can learn. No student was compelled to take any one subject, and yet in a course in literature there was almost perfect attendance. The farmer, the miner, the artisan, were alike keen for study, and Father Tompkins read a number of letters from students showing how greatly they appreciated the opportunity. One asserted that he had gained more real knowledge in one course than in his whole time at school, though he perhaps overlooked the fact that his school training gave him the groundwork for later study. The

important fact emphasized by Father Tompkins was that men with even a little knowledge gained at school in early life can learn rapidly in classes with the right type of teacher, and that thus their whole outlook on life is broadened, they acquire a taste for reading and study at home, and become better and more intelligent citizens. He pointed out that seventy per cent. of our people get only a sixth grade education, which means a sixth grade civilization; and hence the need of people's schools where for a short course grown people may go and get such an intellectual awakening as will change their whole outlook and enable them to live fuller lives. Such schools would be a boon in every county or large community. The experiment at Antigonish has attracted much attention in the United States and England.

But Father Tompkins touched upon another matter of great importance, and that was the question of a great university for the maritime provinces. He made a comparison which showed how unfavorably we compare in that respect with other countries. Colleges we have in plenty, but the great university is yet to come, and in his view must come if we are to complete our educational system. Romanians from half a dozen cities and towns in the provinces heard with intense interest the message of Father Tompkins, and it cannot but have a good effect. He is making a splendid contribution to the cause of education.

INTERESTING FIGURES

An examination of a table in the annual report of the schools of New Brunswick reveals the fact that our population has shown little increase in ten years. In the June term last year the total enrollment in the schools of the province was 68,092. In the June term of 1911 it was 68,078, but away back in 1899 it was 69,536; and it may be assumed that today the proportion of children of school age enrolled in the schools is larger than it was twenty-two years ago. Hence there has been little real growth in the number of children of school age in that period. The figures for the towns are worth noting. Taking the December term in 1911-12 and 1920-21 we find the relative enrollment as follows:

St. John	1911-12	1920-21
Fredericton	1,817	1,649
Moncton	2,066	3,008
St. Stephen	504	516
Millville	380	315
Woodstock	628	704
Marystown	821	810
Campanville	425	1,088
Chatham	811	786
Newcastle	601	595
Sussex	859	482
St. Andrews	199	282
Shediac	235	385
Sackville	419	570
St. George	238	267
Grand Falls	271	414

The figures for Devon last term were 389, Bathurst, 379, Edmundston, 468. Looking over the table it is seen that some towns have less pupils in school than they had ten years ago; others have almost stationary; and even St. John showed little more gain than Moncton, which with Campbellton makes much the best showing. Of course if compulsory attendance were the rule throughout the province there would be a larger total enrollment, but the figures when compared show very clearly that this province is not holding its natural growth of population. Such increase in enrollment as there has been is found chiefly in some of the cities and towns. A consideration of these figures makes it very clear that this province not only needs immigrants but the fulfilment of the pledges of confederation, so that its resources may be developed and it may be able to offer its sons and daughters such advantages as will keep them at home.

LONG-LIVED LAWYERS.

They and Artists Outlive Members of Other Professions.

Do lawyers live longer than men who follow other professions? The death of Lord Halsbury, a former Lord Chancellor, at the age of ninety-eight, and that of Lord Lindley, another famous lawyer, in his ninety-fourth year, suggests that they do, says Tit-Bits.

Lord Trevellyn, the Lord Chief Justice, is seventy-eight, while both Lord Stensdale, the Master of the Rolls, and Mr. Justice Darling are seventy-two. Other legal men who seem to defy old age and lead vigorous lives are Sir Edward Clarke, the oldest member of the English Bar, who is nearly eighty-nine; Lord Wrenbury, the Chancery Judge, who is seventy-six, and Lord Loreburn, an ex-Lord Chancellor, who is seventy-five.

Artists also are long-lived folk, for W. W. Oules is seventy-three, Sir Luke Fildes seventy-seven, Sir Thomas Brock seventy-four, Frank Dicksee sixty-eight, Benjamin Leader ninety, Sir Thomas Jackson eighty-six, and Sir Hamo Thornycroft seventy-one.

How Much Will You Give on Wednesday?
It is not a question of will you give—but how much will you give? That is what will interest the Y. M. C. A. canvasser when he calls on Wednesday next. \$5,000 is needed.

THE FLOWER MAIDEN.

(Rev. George Scott.)
Oh, where did you gather such fair fresh flowers,
And where did they blossom, my sweet little maid?
They lived in the sunshine and nursed in the showers,
And soothed to their sleep by the birds' serenade.

Deep down in the woods by the banks of the stream,
High up on the hills where the winds are at play,
Far out on the plain where the slack waters gleam,
'Twas there that I sought them since breaking of day.

Oh, what will ye do with your blossoms so fine,
And what will ye do with your blossoms so fair?
Oh, many a garden I hope to entwine
In the silken mesh of my bonny brown hair.

Yet tell me, sweet maiden, for much do I muse,
Which of your blossoms you mostly do prize,
And which of their wonderful petals you choose
To match with the glow of your innocent eyes.

And tell me what odorous flowers you shall seek?
Not lilies shall vie with your willow grace,
Nor roses shall blush with the rose in your cheek,
Nor daffodils shine with the light of your face.

Whatever is fairest, whatever is best
In bloom of the garden, the forest, the stream,
Whatever is purest to lay on your breast,
Shall fade in the glow of your wonderful dream.

Whatever is fairest, whatever is pure,
Of these ye shall weave in a crown for your head,
Though well do I know it, they cannot endure
To smelt in the light of the smiles that ye shed.

Oh, tell me, sweet maid, by what mystical art,
Amid these rare blossoms you surely shall find,
One worthy the holiest shrine of your heart,
Might match in its pureness, your virgin mind.

LIGHTER VEIN.

A Winner.
A young but exceptionally brilliant professor in a western college was dismissed from the faculty because of his inordinate betting. The president, interested in his case, secured him a position in an eastern college. To the president he wrote: "The young man has a promising future, and anything you can do to cure him of betting will be a benefit to society."

The professor went east, and was cordially received. Conversation proceeded in but a few moments when he said to the president, "I'll bet you seventy-five dollars you have a wart between your shoulder blades."

The president hesitated. "Young man," he said, "I never bet, but just to teach you a lesson I will take you up."

He then proceeded to examine the young man's back, and the professor paid the seventy-five. The president went smiling and said, "I hope that I have cured him."

The other wrote back: "I fear the case is hopeless. The very day he left here he bet me one hundred dollars that he could make you take off your shirt."

Water in Water-Melons.
A certain man has a wonderful garden, where he grows water-melons. One day he was watering the plants in the water-melons? a facetious friend asked him.

"Oh, I plant the seeds in the spring," he said.

Willing to Overlook.
"What" said the impatient old gentleman, "you want to marry my daughter? Why, sir, it was only a few years ago that you were caddyfing for me."

"Yes, sir," the young man replied, "but I don't intend to let that stand in the way. I hope I have sense enough to realize that a very bad golfer may make a fairly good father-in-law."

A Fair Exchange.
A rich elderly bachelor named Page found the dropped glove of a charming young lady and returned it with this note:

"If from your glove you take the letter 'g', then give me age, and that won't do for me."

A CHILD WONDER.
IS MURIEL KERR
(Ottawa Journal.)

Their Excellencies the Governor General and Lady Byng have graciously extended their patronage to a recital to be given by little Muriel Kerr, in the Russell Theatre, Friday evening, March 24. No child pianist of Anglo-Canadian birth has, in modern times, created such a sensation as this little child wonder pianist, ten years of age. Muriel was born in 1911 and has studied piano work for only a few short years. She plays the best composition of the great masters, including Mendelssohn, Chopin, Bach, Liszt, Beethoven, as well as modern. By her beauty of tone, romantic vision and emotional power she establishes a strong communicative sympathy with her audiences.

Only recently when playing for Percy Trainger, he pronounced her the child genius of the age and expressed some in a few years one of the world's greatest pianists.

CHALLENGE TO LABOR LECTURER

Henry Somerville, of Oxford, Promptly Accepted Invitation of Marxian—Spoke on Catholic Work.

(Montreal Gazette.)

It became evident last night that the presence in Montreal of Henry Somerville, M. A., of Oxford, a lecturer in economics, regarded as a challenge. At the conclusion of his lecture on "Labor Colleges," delivered in the Bourget Academy, Mountain street, under the auspices of the Loyola School of Sociology and Social Service, when the meeting was open to general discussion, there arose a man, who asked for his name, answered, "Call me Jimmie Higgins," and promptly drew to the attention of the audience that there now exists in this city a labor college, The Montreal Labor College, at 70 Jeanne Mance street, which he described as a college "where economics are taught to workers from a different angle, and not from the religious viewpoint. There are lectures along the Marxian theory and on revolutionary theories. We invite Mr. Somerville to visit the Montreal Labor College and address the revolutionary workers. We may teach him something. Especially addressing the organization responsible for last night's lecture, Mr. Higgins added: "We may come to teach you how to run your own societies of socialism."

In reply to this challenge, Mr. Somerville said that if anything were required to supplement his lecture and in introducing the advanced of socialism following Catholic principles, it had been stated by the speaker who followed. Mr. Somerville promptly accepted the invitation to speak at the Montreal Labor College, and as Wednesday night was free, said he would be glad to go down on that evening. He added that when confronted by the revolutionary workers he would like to show them they were on the wrong road.

Undoubtedly the lecturers or visitors before the Loyola School have been pleasant family affairs, but last night in addition to the representative of The Montreal Labor College, who had come prepared with a supply of literature, other speakers rose from the floor, asked questions, and imparted information, ranging seriously from the advances of socialism to the apathy of the masses. Mr. Somerville answered all questions, and proved quite adept in facing the various College at Oxford.

Mr. Somerville has come to Montreal after delivering a series of lectures at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish. He is about to return to Oxford, where he is associated with The Catholic Workers' College, established there in conjunction with the university, and designed to provide bright men in trades union with an opportunity of obtaining such education as will best them in to accept leadership in their organizations, and to qualify themselves for public life.

This was the subject of the lecture delivered last night. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Somerville said that the college having been founded following the organization of two other similar institutions, the Catholic Workers' College and the Ruskin College at Oxford. Bright men were being selected for these institutions, many of them possessing but scant early education, but destined to become leaders. It was somewhat of a sacrifice for men to attend these colleges, because they had to sacrifice two years of their earning period. Their reward would come later by leadership in the labor movement.

The whole labor movement in England is ambitious. It looks to rule the country. It knows it hasn't got the men. It is spending money in training the younger men so that they may be ready for government. Labor has no illusions as to its lack in this regard."

Frank Hodges, secretary of the Ministry of Great Britain, was quoted to the effect that labor will not gain power by education, but only when the public has become irritated through some crime and then, probably will not remain in power.

Mr. Somerville drew a distinction between the Ruskin College and the Labor College. Men who attended the former usually had their socialistic tendencies tempered and left sobered at the end of two years. At London they kept free from connection with the universities regarding the latter as capitalistic. They were frankly sectarian, even to the extent of preparing their own text books. They were partisan and educated for revolution and trained their students as leaders for class struggle. A great deal of the unrest in England was due to the propagandists from these labor colleges. Sir Basil Thompson, until recently in charge of political investigations at Scotland Yard, in his memoirs had attributed the spread of Bolsheviki ideas in England to the influences of these educated labor men. Dr. Shadwell drew attention to the fact that the young college-trained men by virtue of their superior intelligence and intellectual training secured an influence in the trade unions out of all proportion to their numbers.

The Catholic Viewpoint.
This led Mr. Somerville to a consideration of the subject from the standpoint of Roman Catholics in England and their realization that the save their members from the labor classes from such influences of leadership it was necessary to secure counter influences. They had established social study clubs and then found it necessary to establish a residential college. The organization had been a memorial to the late Father Charles Plater, who furnished the inspiration, but who died before seeing his idea in being. There had been many difficulties in organization. Funds were limited, and instead of a building for themselves they were obliged to house themselves in lodgings in Oxford. They were well equipped with tutors under whom the real work is done at Oxford. They had started on friendly relations with Ruskin, but their intimate studies were carried out under Catholic principles.

The whole broad question of special education was discussed by Mr. Somerville, who touched upon the fact that for years the Socialists had been regarded as the great men, because they had studied and had become fluent in expounding their theories. "But soon the Catholics will be ready to go out on the street corners," he said.

"I have been reading of the early foundations of Oxford," said Mr. Somerville, "and found that they, too, began in a very humble way. I found too, that their principles could be accepted by us today as charters without change."

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POLICEMEN ON SKATES.

They Patrol Park Lakes to Keep Skaters Out of Danger.

Everybody who is fond of skating and other winter sports cannot go to St. Moritz or Canada for his fun. Yet when the weather is cold enough there are plenty of places in the city and its vicinity where the skating is excellent. These are city park lakes, and lakes and ponds in New Jersey and Connecticut that are within easy commuting distance of the city, says the New York Times.

On pleasant afternoons the surfaces on these lakes are thronged with many men, women and children of all ages. This season the women are displaying bewitching and attractive costumes, and it is surprising how many feminine skaters there are who in grace and skill on the ice outdo the men. The number of fancy skaters has increased materially, and this paragon of the ice is an often

a woman as a member of the opposite sex.

This year a new type of skater has made his appearance—a skating policeman. A skater at a city park encountered him recently. This skater, according to adventure and greater freedom on the ice, struck out from the beaten track of his fellow-skaters, dove under a roped enclosure and started to explore the desert ice of a neighboring lake. He was congratulating himself that he had the lake to himself when he became aware that another skater was following in his wake and calling upon him to stop. Instead of heeding the admonition he put on increased speed, pretending he did not hear the fellow's cries. At the same time he chuckled to himself and wondered why the fellow should chase him. The chase, however, was short-lived, for his pursuer cornered him in a pocket of the lake.

"What do you mean by coming over here?" the fellow demanded angrily. "I ought to run you in. Spose you think you're smart makin' me chase you."

The voice of the stranger was as decisive and peremptory as that of a traffic cop's. He was a chunky-built fellow wearing a short coat over a heavy sweater, and a well worn cap. His feet were incased in a pair of old-fashioned strap skates. Yet he had proved himself a speedy man on the ice. He flashed a badge on the bewildered visitor who had already guessed that his companion was a policeman. The visitor was humble in his apologies, and the policeman generously decided to overlook the offense.

"I never dreamed," said the skater humbly as he walked away, "that they had policemen patrolling the lakes. What, may I ask, is the idea?"

"You're the best skater I've met," replied the officer, "and you're about the tenth skater today that I've had to chase off this pond. There are places here where the water is very deep and the ice is filled with treacherous air holes. You might be a good swimmer, but it is not an easy matter to swim under ice in icy water, especially if no one's around. If you fellows would only obey the park rules it would be a lot easier for us cops."

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