

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 10, 1914

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A WORD OF CHEER

One would like to speak a word of cheer to those despondent citizens who appear to find food for sad reflection, and a degree of pessimism, in all that relates to the affairs of this city, as administered by the present city council under the commission plan of government. But perhaps they are happiest when they are most miserable. It may be that they could not possibly, without serious injury to themselves, take a cheerful view of anything. Perhaps it is quite useless to point out to them in the words of the city controller that "the city's financial position the past year was a very easy one compared with the majority of other cities in Canada."

It might hurt their feelings to remind them that the city's assets exceed its liabilities by \$2,278,000. Their grief might be made greater by telling them that the city has made great progress during the past year; has better paved streets, an improved water distribution service, better lighted streets, handsome new and greatly improved old buildings in the business centre, some extension of the street railway system, and the promise of greater activity in general construction in the year than last. Of course the city council is not responsible for all these evidences of progress, but it has always been within easy reach of the citizen who wanted to know what was going on, or who had a grievance to air or a suggestion to make. There are many citizens to whom the financial statement of the city published yesterday will be regarded as an evidence of fairly prudent administration. The council did not spend all it might have spent, but had about \$105,000 available for general purposes at the end of the year. There is reason to believe that a return to the old method of city government would not produce results as satisfactory as have been produced under the commission plan. Critics there will be, and doubtless they have their uses; although there may be some doubt as to the usefulness of the man who always condemns and never commends. On the whole, St. John is a well governed city. Doubtless we could each govern it better if we had the chance, but it is doubtful if a discriminating public would grant the necessary permission. In any case, it is fair to extend an invitation to those who sit in gloom to come out into the sunshine, and hope for the best.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

The board of school trustees are to be commended for taking thought of the foreigners who are citizens of St. John and who may be unable to read and write the English language. In all the cities of Western Canada, and all through the United States, special opportunities are provided to teach such foreigners the English language. It helps to make them better citizens, and it is absolutely necessary in Canada if they are to be assimilated and converted into real Canadians. When the St. John board of school trustees receives the report of the investigator it will not doubt be convinced of the need of providing school opportunities for adult foreigners, and of course the school buildings would be utilized for this purpose, and it would necessarily have to be done in the evenings. To that extent, therefore, the board would be acting in harmony with the views of those who urge that the school buildings should be much more widely used. The foreigners would appreciate the use of these buildings as social centres quite as much as for evening school purposes. In American cities foreigners appreciate the social centres even more than the native citizens.

But if it is worth while to take thought of the foreigner who cannot read and write English, what about those natives who cannot read and write the English language—and those who read and write it so poorly that they are in great need of more instruction? There are illiterates among the native population, and there are working boys and girls who have left school and ought to be given an opportunity to take lessons in the evening. The number in attendance at the evening classes in St. Malachi's school shows that there is need for such classes.

Having taken into serious consideration the case of the foreigner, the board of school trustees cannot do less than consider also the case of the native, and the general need there is for a wider use of the school buildings of the city.

AGAINST PROTECTIVE POLICY

Mr. Bonar Law's tariff reform policy, which would leave the farmers out of the count, has caused a decided split in the Unionist party. An organization known as the Unionist Tariff Protest League has been formed, and is asking Unionists generally to pledge themselves either to oppose the election of, or abstain from voting for any Unionist candidate who does not pledge himself to oppose the present fiscal policy of the Unionist party. Mr. Bonar Law, by his

willingness to sacrifice the interests of the farmers for those of the manufacturers, has thus created a division in the ranks of his own party. The secretary of the new league, himself a Unionist, has issued the following letter, which shows very clearly the growing unpopularity of the tariff reform policy enunciated by Mr. Bonar Law in Edinburgh:

"There is a widespread feeling of dissatisfaction in the Unionist ranks with the present fiscal policy of the party leaders. Many Unionists affirm that Tariff Reform bars the way to the party's victory at the polls, and that it should be abandoned or postponed, at any rate until after the next general election. Other Unionists are convinced that the maintenance of Free Trade is in the best interest of the country. Under the present fiscal proposals agriculture is left out in the cold, and this important industry threatened with heavier burdens. The suggested 10 per cent average duty would single out importers of manufactured goods to bear the whole brunt of fresh taxation. This would not only be unfair, but it would ruin many established businesses. While injuring importers, a severe blow would inevitably be dealt at the general community, to whom unrestricted competition in trade means a cheap market for many necessities of daily life. Hardship would be inflicted upon a vast number of clerks and other classes of employees, and also upon persons of fixed incomes and small means. It is, moreover, debatable as to whether the working classes generally would benefit. Tariff Reform can only be regarded as an experiment, which it seems folly to try when the trade of the country is in a healthy and prosperous condition. The fiscal question is the least urgent of all the problems which confront the Unionist party, and in the opinion of a large number of Unionists, besides being bad tactics to press it forward at a time of booming trade, the party should devote itself wholly to the task of attacking the policy of the present government. Unfettered by fiscal schemes which create division in their ranks, the Unionist party would appeal to the electors with more prospect of success, and would enlist an enormous amount of support which will be withheld from them so long as they persist with Tariff Reform. Dissatisfaction with the policy of the party leaders is growing, but passive grumbling amongst those opposed to their fiscal plans is useless. To be effective it must be translated into active resistance. The Unionist Tariff Protest League has been formed to oppose the present fiscal policy of the Unionist party. All Unionists who are dissatisfied with this policy or who think it inopportune to proceed with it at the present time, agriculturists, and those whose business or private interests would be injured, are invited to communicate with the secretary of the Unionist Tariff Protest League, when further particulars will be given."

The by-election campaign in York county grows warmer day by day. Hon. H. F. McLeod has hurried down from Ottawa to take a hand in rallying the forces to support the machine candidate.

The city council has granted \$500 to the Salvation Army as temporary relief, but intimates that the grant will not be made permanent. The council should either make an arrangement with the army to provide work and take care of the derelicts in winter, or it should devise a plan of its own to provide work and shelter, so that every able-bodied beggar could be made to do some work in return for a bed and meals. This matter should be attended to before next winter.

The harbor revenue in December and January was \$6,639.97 less than in December and January last winter. This is one of the fruits of switching the Empress steamers to Halifax. The revenue received from the Royal steamships is a mere bagatelle. Thus, not only is there less work for longshoremen, less trade for the merchants, less business for the hotels and laundries, but less revenue for the city, as a result of the government's action in permitting the Empress steamships to go to Halifax after they had announced their sailings to St. John.

The Gutelius agreement was discussed in parliament yesterday, and Mr. Borden made it evident that he is satisfied with the deal which deprived St. John of the Empress steamships. Mr. Haen was not there to speak for St. John, but the case for this port was admirably set forth by Mr. F. B. Carvell. Hon. Mr. Emerson's statement that the Canadian Pacific had an eye on the Intercolonial with a view to securing running rights over it on terms wholly advantageous to the C. P. R., and which would give it practical control of the I. C. R. in the maritime provinces, is fully justified by recent events; and the people are justified in entertaining a fear that if the present government remains in power long enough the trade interests of the maritime provinces will be handed over to the tender mercies of the big railway corporation.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

Dr. R. A. Falconer, president of the University of Toronto, who is forty-seven years of age today, is said to have been considerably surprised when he was informed that he had been selected as head of Canada's largest university.

There were nearly 100 names under consideration by the committee of governors. He was unknown to nearly all the members of the committee and under the circumstances it seemed hardly possible that he would be appointed. On the eve of sailing for a holiday trip to the Mediterranean, he was sent for and hurriedly to Toronto, where he was duly "inspected." Nothing was done at the time, but when he was in Italy on his vacation journey, he was applied by cable that he had been chosen president. Doctor Falconer was born in Prince Edward Island, brought up on the island of Trinidad and educated in Edinburgh.

Lighter vein.

What, Again?

"Has your wife gone shopping?"

"Alas, I'm afraid not! I'm afraid she has gone buying!"—Boston Transcript.

A Vacillating Man

"So Woddler is dead."

"Yes, and it's the first time he ever arrived at a definite conclusion."

For This at Least

Be thankful when Columbus came across the raging main.

There were no immigration laws To turn him back again.

Perfectly Agreeable

She to rejected suitor—"I'll be a sister to you, Alphonse."

He (bristly)—"All right. Come kiss your brother."—Judge.

More Like a Thousand of 'Em

"I never paid a cent to a doctor or a lawyer in my life."

"Of course not. Who ever heard of a doctor or a lawyer charging such a fee as that?"

The Come Back

"What makes Dobbs so angry?"

"He gave Christmas cards instead of presents to all of his friends."

"Well?"

"They did the same to him."—Hartford Courant.

His Opportunity

Comedian (whose turn is next)—"I'm afraid I can't go on tonight. I feel so awfully funny."

Manager—Good heavens, man. Go on at once and make the most of it while it lasts!—Bystander.

Little Worth Noting

"My efforts to keep a diary convinced me of one thing."

"What's that?"

"That there are mighty few days in the year when a man does anything really worth recording!"—Detroit Free Press.

Good For Pa

"I say, pa!"

"Well?"

"I've vessel a boat?"

"Yes."

"I say, pa!"

"What is it?"

"What kind of a boat is a blood vessel?"

"It's a lifeboat. Now run away to bed."

Lighter vein.

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a bill entitled an ACT PROVIDING FOR BALCONIES AT GENERAL PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN SAINT JOHN will be presented at next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick for enactment. The object of the bill is to issue bonds to pay for erection of balconies to said hospital. Dated 29th day of January A.D. 1914. JAMES KING KELLEY, County Secretary.

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4.50 Boots at - - 3.50	2.25 Boots at - - 1.90
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MEANS TO TRY THE CROSS-OCEAN FLIGHT THIS SUMMER SURE

More About the Plans of Rodman Wanamaker—His Interest is World Peace

New York, Feb. 9.—The success of Rodman Wanamaker's flying boat in crossing the Atlantic ocean in a single flight will depend almost entirely upon its motor, according to aviation and aeroplane constructors, who let it be known that other machines were either in process of designing or building with a similar object in view.

Through the Aero Club of America Mr. Wanamaker announced that Glen H. Curtiss is building to his order an immense hydro-aeroplane in which an attempt would be made this summer to cross the Atlantic. When the order for the machine was placed Mr. Curtiss told Mr. Wanamaker that in his opinion there could be perfected a motor of sufficient power and endurance for an over-ocean flight. His and other aviators' experiences had proven, he explained to Mr. Wanamaker, that a motor can be run for forty or fifty hours without mishap. The Wanamaker flier is designed to make the ocean flight in fifteen hours.

Alfred J. Moisant, who says he was working on an airship for an ocean flight is of the opinion that Mr. Wanamaker should modify his plans as to motive power, substituting a 500-horse power for the 200-horse power, which his announcement says he contemplates using.

Mr. Wanamaker in commenting upon the proposed flight, declared that its accomplishment had been a cherished vision of his for years. His purpose, he

said, was in the interest of world peace, and by this he explained that a trip over the ocean in one flight would awaken the world to a realization of the tremendous importance of aviation in warfare.

The route is from St. John, N. B., to the Irish coast, and has already been mapped out by Wanamaker, who made a trip to Europe for that purpose. It calls for 1600 miles of continuous flying, to be done, if possible, between dawn and nightfall of a single day.

In a general way the "Wanamaker Flyer" will resemble a hydroplane, but a tractor screw in front will be used instead of a propeller. Its hull will be of torpedo or stream-line shape, and so constructed that enforced landing on the water will be safe. A motor of 200 horse-power will supply motive energy, and the wings will have a spread of about 80 feet with a lifting surface of nearly 1200 square feet.

While no date for finishing the machine has been announced, it is understood that work has been in progress for some time. Lieut. John H. Towers, U. S. N., and Lieut. Porte, an English flyer, are mentioned as possible pilots.

The 800-foot steel tower used for wireless telegraphy at Tuckertown, N. J., is the second highest structure in the world, exceeded only by the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

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NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a Bill will be presented for enactment at the next session of the Provincial Legislature entitled "An Act respecting the Fisheries in the Harbour of Saint John," the object of which is to enable the City of Saint John to sell Fisheries below high and low water mark along the east and west sides of the Bay, River and Harbour of Saint John either on the FIRST TUESDAY in January in each year or on such day as the Common Council may, from time to time, direct, with power to postpone such sale from day to day.

Dated at Saint John, N. B., the 30 day of January, A.D. 1914.

HERBERT E. WARDROP, Common Clerk

NOTICE

Until and including February 4, next, the Commissioner of Public Salt will receive samples and prices for various cloths of 22 oz. and 19 oz. weight respectively. Cloths to be suitable for Police and Firemen's Uniforms.

Saint John, N. B., February 6th, 1914.

ADAM P. MACINTYRE, Comptroller

723-2-11