

WILL STAY OUT OF ELECTION FIGHT

The Civil Service Employees Union Leaves Members Free in Choice

The Civil Service Employees Union at a large meeting, held last evening in the Trades and Labor Council Hall, decided that as an organization they would not take any part in the forthcoming election fight but that each member would be left free to make his own choice of a candidate for whom he would cast his ballot.

REDUCTION OF 17 TO 35 PER CENT.

(Continued from page 1)
The minimum charges will remain at present—\$1 a month for commercial and domestic lighting and \$1.50 a month for each horsepower of connected load.

Improve Gas Service.
Within the last week orders have been placed by the New Brunswick Power Company for about \$75,000 worth of new equipment for its gas services, a part of a programme for the improvement of this department of the company which will involve an investment of more than \$700,000. The projected improvements include the erection of a new gas holder and the extension of the gas mains to West St. John, Fairville and other parts of St. John now being served.

WILL SELL COINS OF ROBBER BARON

Halle, Germany, Feb. 23.—Back in 1704 a certain German baron, whose principal vocation was the robbery of passing travelers, secreted some of his loot in the castle walls, and then died before he had time to spend it. Thus it was that one Wilhelm Kraas, of this generation, is today the owner of a fine collection of old coins.

BIRTHS

GRIFITH.—To Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Griffith, 41 Paradise Row, on Feb. 20, 1924, a son, Westley Ernest.

DEATHS

RAISTON.—Suddenly, at Buffalo, New York, on Feb. 18, 1924, Charles Alline Raiston, age 53, leaving his wife, Mrs. Annie Raiston, leaving his wife, one son, his two sons, one sister and five brothers to mourn.

(Boston papers please copy.)
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St. John Directors of Power Company Make Statement to Public on Utility Affairs

To the Citizens of St. John and Suburbs—
In accordance with the understanding under which the St. John members of the directorate agreed to serve on the board of directors of the New Brunswick Power Company, we feel that the public is entitled to a frank statement of this company's position at the present time.

As has been stated, American interests own about 90% of the capital invested in this company, but they had no control of the management until April 1923, when the Federal Light & Traction Company of New York purchased the controlling interest.

The Federal Company appointed the present directors, (who have practically no financial interest in the Power Company) with the understanding that they would be free and independent to represent public welfare in the operation of the company, this being the practice of the Federal Co. In properties controlled by them in over twenty different localities, and carrying out their policy of giving the community served a voice in the operations of its public utilities.

Approaching the matter from the angle of how to act in the best interests of the community as a whole, and at the same time to be fair to the New Brunswick Power Company interests, we are confronted with a difficult situation, on account of there being three branches of the company's business, each, more or less, affecting public welfare through different avenues.

The detailed statement of the operations of the Power Company for 1923 shows that the company made a loss in both the gas and street railway branches of its business. If it were necessary to operate these branches as separate and independent companies the present rates could not be maintained. However, after giving the matter most careful consideration from the standpoint of what is best for all concerned, we have decided not to recommend any change in the price of gas at the present time. We recognize that the price now being charged for gas is somewhat higher than in some other places, but as some industries must have gas with which to operate, the company is doing everything possible to improve this branch of the service, and increase the output, and we hope in the near future to be able to make a still further reduction in the price.

Regarding the street railway.—For reasons that are apparent, this city is, by comparison, an expensive one in which to operate, but even in the face of this disadvantage, the company is giving its patrons the lowest average rate of fare in Canada, and we have given the question of whether or not to advance the price of the weekly pass very careful study, and as we recognize how many are being benefited, and what an advantage it is to merchants and the city generally to have a low transportation rate, we have decided not to recommend a change unless obliged to do so.

Regarding the electric energy branch. The earnings of the company for 1923 were such that we felt justified in recommending a substantial reduction in the rates, and as this recommendation has been approved by the Federal Light & Traction Company, it will be effective from the 1st of March next, and all consumers of the company will be given the new rates.

We feel that there may be some criticism of the inauguration by this company of the service charge. This charge has not been adopted without having given it careful consideration, and while something may be said both for and against this system, in view of the fact that both the N. B. Hydro Commission and the City Hydro Commission make a service charge, we felt justified in recommending that this company adopt the same system.

In comparing rates, it should be kept in mind that the New Brunswick Power Company pays the City 4% of its gross revenue, that is, out of every dollar the Company receives for its Gas, Railway and Electric Departments, it turns into the City Treasury four and one half cents.

A public utility of this kind, properly operated and with financial resources with which to make necessary improvements, is one of the best assets a community can have, and we would like to draw attention to the fact that during 1923 there has been an entire change in the control and management of the New Brunswick Power Company. The citizens are now directly interested in its welfare. The Federal Light & Traction Co., a group of men who have the financial resources, who are in a position and are willing to do much to benefit this community, and all they expect is fair treatment and the right to earn a fair return on their investment. They are not responsible for what the N. B. Power Co. may or may not have done previous to 1923, and they purchased the controlling interest in this company because they had faith in the future of this city and the fair-mindedness of the majority of its people.

The company will be pleased to receive constructive criticism or suggestions that will tend to improve any branch of its service.

E. N. SANDERSON,
W. C. ALLISON,
A. P. PATTERSON,
W. E. GOLDING,
W. S. FISHER,
J. L. McAVITY,
RICHARD SULLIVAN,
C. G. GERRY,
M. A. POOLER.

ANNIVERSARY OF WEDDING BRINGS PRESENTATION

The sixth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George Beason was celebrated at their residence on Partridge Island last evening. About forty guests were present and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all. One of the features in connection with the function was an address and presentation, which was made to Mr. and Mrs. Beason by Dr. Rutherford, port physician. Following a nicely worded address he presented to them a beautiful pyrex casserole set in a silver stand. During the evening games and music were enjoyed and dainty refreshments served. Mr. Beason is a member of the immigration staff and comes here from Grosse Ile during the winter season. He and his good wife are very popular and much esteemed.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 23.—President Coolidge formally entered today the Ohio Republican presidential preference primaries for president by filing his declaration with Secretary of State Brown.

Montreal, Feb. 23.—The Railway Association of Canada has received from the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way men a request for further conference on wages and working conditions. The request came from the borough headquarters at Detroit.

Lexington, Ky., Feb. 23.—Michael Bowerman, 77, for nearly fifty years prominent in the trotting world, died at his home here yesterday following a long illness.

London, Feb. 23.—Eton College, England's most aristocratic institution of learning and the Alma Mater of the royal family, has enough students entered on its rolls to keep the school filled until 1934. The school authorities have announced that they are unable to enter any more students before that year, and for the five years following only prospective students who are sons of old Etonians will be considered.

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CHARRIER CASE FINALLY SETTLED

Frederick Gleaner Attacks R. B. Hanson in Connection With Matter.

When the York County Court re-assembled this morning, says yesterday's Frederick Gleaner, announcement was made by J. Hughes, K. C., counsel for the plaintiff, that a settlement of the case of Charrier vs. Fraser Companies, Limited, et al, had been completed out of court.

Nothing was revealed as to what the cost of the settlement, which included all costs of the plaintiff as well as the Fraser Companies, Limited, would be to the third party to the suit; the amount had been estimated at \$4,000, but Mr. Hughes expressed the view that it would hardly reach that figure. R. B. Hanson appeared and made a statement in which he sought to excuse the position which he had been shown to occupy in the case by the evidence in the trial. He stated that he had not been consulted with reference to the settlement that had been made nor was he present during the conferences regarding the settlement.

(Gleaner, Editorial.)
The Charrier vs. Fraser Companies, Limited, and the Scotts case, settled out of court by the Scotts, who sold to Fraser Companies, Limited, agreeing to pay whatever the Charrier people asked, has come to an end.

The evidence showed that R. B. Hanson had been associated with all parties to the suit. Following the exposure of last evening, Hanson appeared when the court met this morning, to learn that his clients had dropped out subject to the goodwill of the men and interests whom he had opposed in court. Hanson was permitted by the court to make an alleged statement of his connection or his performance with all of the parties in the suit, in which he stated he, in endeavoring to excuse his improper, held a judge of the County Court responsible, notwithstanding that witnesses had already proved Hanson's connection.

It cannot be expected that honorable sentiment in New Brunswick will tolerate much longer, without effective protest, such damnable evasion of justice and the institutions of this province have been subjected to within the last few years—by permission that may not at present be generally understood.

ALL ADULTS ARE INVITED

To Attend This Magnificent Style Show and Illustrated Lecture.

It will be quite worth while for all citizens to hear Mr. Tapscott, of the Imperial Theatre Wednesday afternoon next, Feb. 27th, at 8 o'clock.

The Sydney Record says in part: "The Imperial Theatre has been a note, and he succeeded in keeping the audience interested in the show from the very outset. A brisk and peppery style of delivery, and a number of comments, many of which were greeted with applause and laughter."

Miss Abbot, from Toronto, displayed various gowns and hats with grace and charm that completely captivated the audience, and her every appearance was the signal of an outburst of applause."

Orchestra in attendance.

KING, THE HATTER, SELLS TO AMDUR'S

Clearance Sale Will Be Started on Tuesday Morning, Following Important Transaction.

Amdur's, Ltd., No. 1 King Street, will on Tuesday morning next commence clearance of the stock of King, the Hatter, who has been in the high grade goods such as the famous Borsalino hats, Eastern caps, Tooke's shirts, Stanfield's and Tru-Knit underwear, English hose, and men's merchandise always in sharp demand.

The prices have been greatly reduced so that the King stock may be cleared out quickly to make way for the regular Amdur stock ordered for spring and summer. This sale is based on a cash purchase and the public is going to get the full benefit, and quickly.

Raincoats, overcoats, sweaters, trousers, silk ties and other fine articles of wear will be placed on sale beginning Tuesday at prices far below the regular quotations.

Watch the papers for details of the complete clearance of the stock of King, the Hatter, by Amdur's, Ltd., No. 1 King Street.

Rummage sale, Alexander Chapter, Murray St. Hall, Monday, 2 o'clock. 7850-2-23

N. B. K. C. EVENING DOG SHOW.
The annual winter night dog shows will be held next week—Monday and Tuesday evenings—in the Kennel Club rooms, City Market building.

Ribbons, medals and silver trophy for best of the breeds is offered. Monday night the big breeds and spaniels will compete with Messrs. Ralph Prentice and Chas. Perkins, Chas. C. Sullivan and Bert Porter judging them. Thursday evening, toys and pointers are to be shown with Tom Killen doing territories and Chas. C. Sullivan judging toys and remaining breeds. Variety classes will be done each night by Messrs. Preston and Sullivan. Entries can be made now with Francis Kerr, secretary, by telephone or on night of show in the Kennel Club rooms, City Market building.

FOR A RIGHT-NOW SUIT consider a tweed or worsted cheviot. May be a striped pattern, may be a check may be a brown, may be a mixture will be your choice.

—but it certainly will be hard to select just one of these suitable and excellent cloths.

A blindfolded picking and our custom tailoring would give you a suit that you couldn't help but like through all its many months of distinctive service!

\$45 to \$60

GILMOUR'S

68 KING

Clothing, Tailoring, Furnishings.

ANNIVERSARY IS CELEBRATED

Pleasant Function is Held by Main St. Friendly Bible Class.

The Friendly Bible Class of the Main street Baptist church Sunday school, of which Mrs. MacLean is teacher, celebrated their seventh anniversary last evening in the new school rooms of the church by entertaining the Excelsior Class, of which Miss McAlary is teacher. Members of both classes were dressed to represent seven year old girls.

A good programme was carried out including a reading by Miss Alice Vanwart. A prize was given to the one who won the most points in a contest. Refreshments included a beautifully decorated birthday cake with its seven candles lighted. In the seven years this class has increased from five members to thirty-five, besides ten young ladies who have left to go in training as nurses, five of whom entered the General Public Hospital of this city.

The officers are: Miss Maude Dyck, president; Miss Alice Vanwart, secretary; Miss Doris Springer, treasurer; a committee of eight includes Mrs. Bruce Erb, Mrs. Ralph Cowan, Miss Greta Jotha, Mrs. Auril Brooks, Mrs. I. Strong, Mrs. Clarence Daye, Miss Cella Geldart and Mrs. Gordon Armstrong. These are divided into three sub-committees—visiting, membership and social.

GOOD THINGS COMING TO THE THEATRES OF ST. JOHN

Big Package Of Dumbell Surprises

An attraction which promises to be the most talked of event of the theatrical season, will be the appearance at the Imperial Theatre, Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6, of the world famous Canadian soldier entertainers now known as the "Originals", with the fifteen members of the original Dumbells. This season's revue is entirely new in every detail and their coast to coast tour has smashed all former Dumbell records. In addition to the fifteen old favorites of Dumbell fame, led by the inimitable Red Newman, Arthur Holland and Jimmie Goode, the boys have with them a veritable parade of new female impersonators, Gene Pearson, a young Toronto boy, since returning from the army, created a sensation in vaudeville.

GETS GIFT ON EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE

H. E. Beedy, Nashwaak Manager, Honored—Plant Increased.

Howard E. Beedy, vice-president and general manager of the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd., was given a hearty send-off by the members of the office staff and employees of the company in the men's recreation room at the Union Point plant today at noon. He was presented a handsome gold cigarette case and a silver loving cup, both appropriately engraved.

Mr. Beedy will leave this evening for New York and in about a week will sail for Europe to investigate sulphating plants in Norway, Sweden, Finland, England, Germany and other European countries. On his return to this side of the water, he will take over the position of assistant general manager of the Oxford Paper Co., of Rumford, Maine, in addition to his present position. Mr. Beedy will make his headquarters in New York from which city he will handle both operations.

The presentation was made on behalf of the employees by C. W. Waldon, woodlands manager of the Nashwaak Company. He thanked Mr. Beedy for the kindness that he had showed to the men, who appreciated the good work that he had carried out while here. On their behalf he wished him every success for the future.

Increased Production

Mr. Beedy expressed his appreciation of the manner in which all the employees had co-operated with him in his work and he hoped that the pleasant associations would continue, even though he was not in St. John so much. He referred particularly to the excellent work which had been accomplished in the erection of a new dry kiln, which was completed yesterday in record time.

The new dryer referred to will increase the production capacity of the plant from 70 to 80 tons of pulp a day.

SCOUTS GET PERMIT TO HAVE TAG DAY

May 17 is the Date Set—Seven in All This Year.

A committee from the St. John District of the Boy Scouts' Association met with Mayor Fisher at his office in City Hall this morning and arranged for a tag day this spring to benefit the finances for the upkeep of the district office.

The Mayor said that arrangements had been made for the holding of six tag days this year, but he felt that the Scout cause was one worthy of his granting a tag day and he would therefore add it to the list. May 17 was appointed as the date for this event.

The committee which waited upon His Worship consisted of Dr. L. DeV. Chipman, president of the District Council; Guy L. Short, district commissioner; T. E. Simpson, E. Allan Schofield, D. W. Harper, A. K. Harvie, W. A. Harrison, Dr. G. B. Peat, H. Partridge and F. X. Jennings.

Exchange Tickets for Minstrels Wed. and Thurs.

Tickets for the Rotarian Minstrels to be heard in the Imperial Theatre Wednesday and Thursday, February 27 and 28, may be exchanged for box reserved seat coupons at the theatre box office starting Monday, the 26th, at 10 a.m. A few unsold tickets will be available in the lobby of the Imperial Monday morning.

STEAMSHIPS REPORTED

The following movements of steamers was reported this morning from the Marine Department signal service: The "Imperial", 299 miles east of Cape Sable, bound St. John, 1.10 p.m. yesterday—Brandon, 24 miles east of Cape Sable, bound St. John, 1.10 p.m. yesterday—Manchester Shipper, 54 miles east of Cape Sable, bound St. John, 1.10 p.m. yesterday—Canadian Commander, 350 miles east of Cape Sable, bound here, 1.10 p.m. today.

WILL GET TROPHIES

The Junior, senior and girls' cups and medals, which were won at the 27 and 28, may be exchanged for box reserved seat coupons at the theatre box office starting Monday, the 26th, at 10 a.m. A few unsold tickets will be available in the lobby of the Imperial Monday morning.

A BABY GIRL

Mr. and Mrs. George Kearns are receiving congratulations on the arrival of a baby daughter, Audrey Vivian.

FOR A RIGHT-NOW SUIT consider a tweed or worsted cheviot. May be a striped pattern, may be a check may be a brown, may be a mixture will be your choice.

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