

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 6, 1924

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AN AMAZING REVELATION

The condition of the finances of the city of Halifax was such last year that an independent audit of the books and accounts by a Montreal firm was decided on. The result of the investigation amazed and shocked the citizens. A summary given out yesterday tells the story as follows:—

"Defalcations by the former city collector, as far as has been possible to ascertain, amount to approximately \$83,000; the greater part of the civic mess is the result of laxity on the part of the city auditor; the most pressing need is that of a competent city auditor, a man who is capable and energetic; a complete re-organization of the accounting system in the various civic departments is an absolute necessity; the total outstanding and uncollected taxes up to April 30, 1923, is \$1,661,578.18; the whole system of handling the fortnightly payrolls of the board of works must be changed; if the best interests of the city are to be considered all civic accounts must be kept on 'revenue' basis; tax rolls are found to be in a deplorable condition; practically no effort has been made to collect arrears in water rates; immediate steps must be taken to collect overdue assessments."

It is an extraordinary thing that such a condition of affairs could develop under any modern form of city government. If there is here any lesson for other cities it is that only by the application of strict business principles can a city's affairs be conducted in the interests of the people. The citizens of St. John may congratulate themselves that they have a watchdog of the treasury who wants to know before he sanctions any payment; and that arrears of taxes, while always existing, are not allowed to run away with the funds needed for civic purposes.

CIVIC SPIRIT

Organizations like the Rotary and Gyro Clubs may and should be of great benefit to a community, in addition to the personal benefit to members that is derived from fellowship. This thought is suggested by a paragraph telling of the programme for this year of the Kiwanis Club of Victoria. It is thus summarized:—

"Continuance of the underprivileged child work; the relief committee to function the year round instead of just at Christmas; bureau proposal; efforts to secure more names on all civil and provincial voters' lists and get as close to 100 per cent. polling of votes on election day as possible; continued support to the city beautiful idea, with particular emphasis on better boulevards for Vancouver; support to better auto-camp facilities for tourists, and more support to the securing of better relations between employers and employees."

This is a comprehensive programme involving real work. The matters to be dealt with touch the very closely the welfare of the city. When a large group of representative men get together each week at a luncheon, if they are earnest about their community welfare work, they become a kind of beneficent city council planning and co-operating for the public good. The Rotary and Gyro Clubs of St. John have good works to their credit, and a wide field for further helpful activity. They can develop and keep alive a genuine civic spirit, and give a fresh impetus to welfare work along important lines.

LAPORTE AND CARDIN

Referring to Hon. Mr. Laporte as Minister of Justice a writer in the Ottawa Citizen says: "He has climbed gradually the slopes of Olympus. The writer remembers when he came into the house a big, jolly fellow, full of gaiety and spirit, but not graced by any great gravity. He could hardly speak English at all. He has applied himself assiduously to the mastery of the tongue. Today he speaks with the same facility in English as he does in French. He is one of the big men of the cabinet whose utterances command respect. No one will be disposed to question his competency for the department to which he has been assigned. He goes there with a clean record. His political virtue is intact."

Of the new Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in whom the Maritime Provinces will be especially interested, the same writer says:—

"The new Minister, Mr. Cardin, has always appeared to be a modest, in fact, a rather bashful fellow who spoke when it was necessary to fill up a roster for some set debate, but who, to his great credit, never contributed any excess verbiage to Hansard. He has a great reputation, however, on the stump, where he speaks a classic French with all the energy of voice and gesture that is peculiar to the French public man. How he will do in a department remains to be seen. Those who know him intimately speak of his high capacity, and it is possible for a lawyer to make a good administrator."

Press Comment

P. R. IN MANITOBA. (Calgary Herald.)

The provincial government should soon take steps to carry out its promise to provide the proportional representation method of voting in Alberta elections. The alternative vote in constituencies outside of the city of Winnipeg will be put into effect in Manitoba by the passing of legislation which the Bracken government will introduce. This is a sensible move and it may be expected to be a forerunner of other such measures which aim to eliminate the new Canadian conceit of members of legislative bodies being elected by a minority of votes when there are more than two candidates. Few will oppose the introduction of the alternative or single transferable vote in all elections, because it is so eminently logical and fair. It simply means that an elector is allowed to indicate to whom his vote shall go, in case his favorite candidate (or first choice) is at the bottom of the poll. It eliminates the absurdities which frequently arise in three-cornered contests.

ALL CANADIAN BUSINESS.

(Vancouver Sun.)

Whatever the development of the Western grain trade may be, Canadians should bear in mind the fact that the present growth of Vancouver grain shipments is not at the expense of other Canadian ports. During 1922, 100,000,000 bushels of Canadian grain left the head of the lakes for world markets in American boats, to American ports, then over American railroads to American Atlantic ports and from there to Europe in ships provisioned and equipped in American cities to the benefit of American industry and American payrolls.

A normal wheat crop in the West therefore could route via Vancouver 100,000,000 bushels of that wheat without diverting a single bushel from Eastern Canadian ports for Canada. Unfortunately, is a one crop country. A development of Alberta and Saskatchewan wheat fields, without impairing the grain trade, can place in a new era of prosperity not only the Port of Vancouver but the whole of Canada.

THE NEW SITUATION IN INDIA.

(Presbyterian Witness.)

The second elections to the Indian legislatures under the reformed constitution have resulted in a great accession to the ranks of the Swarajists, the anti-government party. Mr. Gandhi was for complete "non-co-operation" which involves boycotting of all the instruments of popular government established by the British. His successors, led by Mr. C. R. Das, have adopted an altogether different policy, and decided to secure election to the councils and, from the inside, to stop the machine of government. Having secured this aim, the Swarajists here for an immediate grant of "full Home Rule"—a phrase whose meaning is usually left vague but apparently includes the retention of a British army to police the country. The attempt of the Swarajists to capture the All-India Congress in order to paralyze it has failed, but they have won about half of the 103 elective seats on it. In the Provincial Councils they have made similar progress. They are now in a majority, but, except in Madras and the United Provinces, they are everywhere the strongest single party. In Bengal, where they captured nearly half the seats, the Governor, Lord Lytton, has taken the correct Constitutional course of asking their leader, Mr. C. R. Das, to form a Ministry. Mr. Das refuses on the ground that it "would not be honest to accept office and turn it into an instrument of obstruction." He is expected, now that wrecking tactics have failed, to modify his programme in the direction of using the Councils to obtain an advance on the Reforms, a policy in which he would have a certain amount of Moderate support, and through which he might be able to give the Indian executives the appearance of governing without the assent of their legislature. The coming months will be a testing time in the development of the new Indian constitution.

FRANKLIN'S FUND

(New York Herald.)

More than a century and a half ago Benjamin Franklin set aside \$100 in endowment of a fund from which awards were to be made in recognition of notable contributions to science. He stipulated that this money was to be invested with its accumulations for at least 150 years before it was made. The trustees of the fund in London, where Franklin founded it in 1759, have just announced the first awards.

The most endowment of \$100 has made it possible for the trustees to distribute \$4,000 among three men. The first beneficiaries of Franklin's gift are Pierson W. Banning of Los Angeles, who receives \$2,500 in recognition of a treatise on mental and spiritual health; Fusakichi Omori of Tokyo, who receives \$250 for an unpublished treatise on "The Nervous System as a Conductor of Electrical Energy."

A man less frightened than Franklin might not have been so happy in his designation of the fields which he wished to have special consideration in making the awards. One of these was surgery. That field of medical science was far from its modern developments when Franklin arranged for the fund. Antiseptics and anesthesia, on which the advancement of modern surgery depend, were yet to come.

No less striking was his emphasis on research bearing on the nervous system and "mind treating." These are studies with which modern medical science is increasingly occupied. So Franklin in the conditions he made for these awards was as much in advance of his time as he was in all his intellectual interests.

The announcement is equally interesting as evidence of how time can build a fortune from a pocketful of silver. These awards, made probably from the income which the fund now affords, are forty times greater than the original investment.

Not only does the Franklin fund offer a picturesque lesson in the power that lies in thrift; it demonstrates also how philanthropy on a considerable scale lies within the reach of the average man.

HEART'S DESIRE.

(Clarence Mansfield Lindsay in New York Tribune.)

Oh, not for me the rough-paved mart, Of urban toll! The tramp of men, the roar of carts, And rude turmoil! The dusty air men breathe, Who struggle to achieve, Is not for me.

I would be free!

For me the quiet garden close, Where in the sun The hollyhock nods to the rose, And one by one

The season's fragrances come, To harken to the hum Of humbees,

And hymns of trees!

For me the virgin daisies smile On waking flowers!

The birds' blithe notes which beguile The weary hours!

While down the gliding walk, The jeweled peacocks stalk, Whose gaudy

The glowing sky!

For me the nodding noons which find The garden still;

And starry evenings, when entwined With pearls which spill

From the pale moon's soft beams, The sleeping lily gleams! Be this my lot!

The world forgot!

LIGHTER VEIN.

Penny Wise.

"Oh, Dad, why won't you give me a penny?"

"I don't want to."

"Go on, give me one now and next time you want to you won't have to?"

Fed Up.

Papa—"I hear that Charles Green is going to be married next week."

Little Rupert (whose ideas on the subject are somewhat confused)—"The last three days they give him everything to eat that he asks for, don't they, Papa?"

Business Is Business.

A recently printed story about a stenographer who said she didn't care to work any longer for a boss who was so stupid as to notice that she was dressed for the matinee reminded us of an anecdote of Henry Irving and Jessie Millward. Miss Millward appeared at rehearsal one day in a new and dazzling dress—very pretty indeed," he said.

"What is it for?"

"I'm going to join a luncheon party as soon as rehearsal is over," she answered proudly.

"Go at once, my dear; go at once!" was the disconcerting reply. "Don't let the rehearsal detain you. But—tomorrow—come in your mind full of work."

Mothers Should Not NEGLECT BRONCHITIS In The Babies

Mrs. E. Langdon, Kingston, Ont., writes:—"My baby boy had bronchitis when he was two weeks old, he recovered from the attack but took it, again, several months later, and on account of the severity I was almost panic-stricken to know what to do for him. My mother advised me to try Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, as she had used it for several years with splendid results."

I got a bottle, and after I had used it I could see a decided improvement in him; after several bottles he was completely relieved."

My boy is now two years old, and he has never had an attack of bronchitis since."

As a mother, raising a family, I am very grateful to know that I have found a remedy for bad colds and bronchitis, as it lifts care and anxiety from an anxious mother's shoulders."

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is sold in bottles of the large family size 60c; put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

EDISON'S SIMPLE DIET CALLED "ALMOST IDEAL"

Dr. Fisk Holds It Would Not Be Good for Everybody.

Thomas A. Edison's diet of spinach, tomatoes, carrots, sardines and milk is the "almost ideal" according to Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk, director of the Life Extension Institute. This is the menu of the inventor for breakfast, lunch and dinner, according to Mrs. Edison.

"It is ideal except possibly for the sardines, and they are all right for a good, healthy stomach," said Dr. Fisk.

The sardines afford a low protein diet, and the rest of the things are fine. They contain minerals, vitamins, iron and iodine, and are rich in the vegetables. In the milk is the best form of protein that is known. The diet that we urge consists of milk, green vegetables, whole cereals and fruit, to which you may add fish and meat in moderate quantities without harm."

"Mr. Edison's diet, however, would not do for everybody. The quantity of bulky vegetables might be irritating to some stomachs, especially in old people. The diet has to be adjusted to old people. There is no basis for the idea that sardines and milk or fish and milk are bad combinations. There is no objection to sardines as a food for the ordinary healthy man."

A pocket apparatus to determine the amount of alcohol in any liquid is being used by prohibition agents.

The candlewood of Arizona is said to have all the properties of rubber and to vulcanize properly.

MUCH LUMBERING ON PACIFIC COAST

Logging Camps and Saw Mills on Vancouver I. Very Busy.

All logging camps and saw-mills on Vancouver Island are running at full blast. There has been little or no severe weather this winter and an increasing demand from all markets in the world for lumber which British Columbia can supply.

The Japanese earthquake was responsible for an influx of orders which B. C. mills are still filling; the building boom in Los Angeles has during the past year resulted in millions of feet of Vancouver Island lumber finding its way down to Southern California and there seems to be no decrease in orders from this quarter.

The eastern U. S. A. markets and those of the United Kingdom and South Africa are sending ships through the Panama Canal to fill up with Vancouver Island lumber. Millions of feet lie piled up on the Ogden Point Docks and outside the Cameron Mills at Point Ellice in Victoria waiting transportation to Australia by the Canadian Government Merchant Marine boats.

Residents, Also.

Private residents on the south end of the island have taken to shipping the small timber on their properties over to Port Angeles on the opposite coast for pulp. They ship it over as 1-300 cords a trip. The Washington Pulp and Paper Company of Port Angeles themselves take out some 14,000,000 feet of pulp a year from the Bentz and Barclay districts in the southwest corner of Vancouver Island.

On their 70 odd miles of working line from Victoria to Cowichan Lake the Canadian National Railways alone show business-like figures for 1923. Their total exports of lumber were 18,000,000 feet of logs and 15,000,000 feet of lumber.

Six big lumber companies and numerous smaller ones are operating on the line and there are four saw-mills in operation, not counting the great Cameron Mills at Point Ellice, the Victoria terminus of the Canadian National Railways, which have a capacity of three and a half million feet a month.

In 1923 the Cameron Logging Co. exported about 20,000,000 feet all over the world, and nearly every day there may be seen at Point Ellice a ship

waiting for its cargo or parcel of lumber. This company have 1,400 acres of timber at Camosot, 60 miles up the Canadian National Railways line, where they have been operating, but the timber here was found to be too heavy for a caterpillar tractor, so the railway are putting in a special spur for them.

New Camps.

This company are building new camps at Mile 70, which will be working at the end of January, also at Mile 54, where they have 50,000,000 feet of standing fir and cedar to come out. Also at Mile 54 there is a crew getting out telegraph poles.

At Mile 53, Colman's, a company from Alberta, are opening up a new mill. There is another mill at Mile 51 operated by the Napier Lumber Company, and two more at Derholme.

The Scottish Logging Company operate around Mile 65, freighting logs down the Canadian National Railways, and shipping them in boats to British Columbia mills in Victoria and Vancouver. This is an all British company backed by private parties in the Old Country.

The Channel Logging Company, whose headquarters are in Vancouver, are the biggest exporters down this line. In 1923 they sent out 14,000,000 feet of logs and are enlarging their camp so as to enable them to send out double that quantity in 1924. They estimate that they have four years' logging ahead of them in their timber-limits around Mile 65, where their big camp is. They were the original pioneer company in this district.

Very soon the Canadian National Railways expect to have their line working right up to Cowichan Lake and thence due east to Cowichan Bay on the east coast of the island. This will make it possible to operate in all the vast timber-limits round the head of Cowichan Lake that are being held up pending transportation facilities.

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