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THE EVENING TELEGRAM

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St. John's, Newfoundland, Thursday, August 2, 1923.

The Attitude of the Legislature is Approved.

The speeches of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, published in another column, will go far to restore confidence in those entrusted with our public affairs. There is a ring of sincerity in every sentence of the Prime Minister's speech, and if he can without let or hindrance follow the course that he has outlined, he will have the country behind him. The attitude of the Leader of the Opposition will in like measure be approved. With an utter absence of political bias, and with but one motive prompting his remarks, he made it clear that while his party would not fail to carry out their obligations, they would assist the Prime Minister in every possible way in the difficult task that he had undertaken.

While we have in our political life a spirit such as this existing, there is hope. When men of opposing factions can agree to sink their differences, to unite in the Cause which is theirs in common, determined to a man to have done with intrigue and irregularities, and to let the light of publicity shine in the dark corners of our political household, there is nothing to fear.

That there will be criticism goes without saying. Were there none, it would be suggestive of duplicity, but those in authority may rest assured that so far as we are concerned, whatever comments we may make, or whatever exceptions may be taken to the line of action adopted, they will be fair and according to rules. We have no sympathy with, and will not encourage obstruction when its only object is to impede progress, and if our criticisms cannot be in our opinion of a helpful nature, they will not be made.

Vandalism.

We have used the above heading for the editorial column before. We use it again in order to extend its meaning somewhat, and to include within its scope those whom we treat with the greatest respect and affection—Ourselves.

From time to time there have appeared in the press heart-rending accounts of cemeteries desecrated, detailed reports of the havoc wrought in some private garden, or damage done to public utilities. In almost every case the blame has been placed on the shoulders of the Ubiquitous Boy. We have been unsparing in our denunciations of him, of his teacher, of everyone but our righteous, injured selves. We have not seen, or we will not see that the vandalism is our own doing, that the denunciations should be directed at ourselves, and that the birch which we lay across his young shoulders might with equal justice be laid across our own.

There are without doubt various illustrations which might be taken to show that the culpability should be shared equally but two will suffice. Public attention has been directed to the lamentable fact that out of over four thousand boys in this city whose ages run from six to eighteen, not including the six hundred odd who are working, eleven hundred and twenty-two are not attending a school of any kind! If this is not an item to be charged to public account, who is the responsible body?

Again, OUR children whose parents are not in as comfortable circumstances as others, live under conditions that do not reflect any credit on the community. Housing accommodation is so limited that it is not uncommon to find two, three or even four families living under one roof, amid surroundings that defy description. To save their souls and bodies the parents have no choice but to turn their children into the streets. Here they are faced with death again morally and physically. Death lurks in the filthy drain in which we see the tiny urchin making mud pies. Death waits their coming with their bat and ball in the middle of the thoroughfare. They are surrounded by influences that tend to kill whatever good and pure instincts they possess. They are thrown in the way of every kind of temptation, and when they yield, we hold up our hands in righteous indignation!

Whose is the responsibility if not ours? Is not the destruction of child life as deserving of the term Vandalism as the tearing up of a vegetable? Is the sowing of the seeds of evil in their little lives of less account than the planting of tares in our neighbour's garden? Can we draw a distinction between window breaking on their part, and putting out the light that God gave them, or by allowing them to be crippled for life?

Just so long as we delay in providing schools for those who one day will be the citizens of this community, and in introducing legislation to make education compulsory, so long shall we be branded with this stigma. Until we have carried out a revolution in the housing conditions, and have provided spaces in various parts of our city where OUR children can play and develop amid healthy surroundings we cannot honestly criticise. We cannot even excuse ourselves under the plea of ignorance. The whole matter has been again and again brought before the notice of the public. Recently a request was made for contributions for the purpose of providing apparatus to be placed in the east and west end parks in order that the children might amuse themselves there instead of on the street. The Municipal Council gave their consent, and the apparatus has arrived, thanks to the generosity of a few gentlemen who have taken up earnestly the cause of the children. There has however been no general movement on the part of the public, usually so willing to subscribe to a worthy object, to show their appreciation of, and sympathy with this great movement.

Both in the east end and in the west are plenty of vacant squares. They have been unused for years and apparently will remain unused for years to come. Surely they could be turned into playgrounds. The owners are supposed to pay taxes on them, and it should not be a difficult matter for the Municipal Council to secure them temporarily and to make them a little less unsightly.

Our inclinations as a people are clean and wholesome. We love the pure air of the country and we are intensely keen on sport. Let us not forget while we are riding countrywards, or trailing our flies across a promising bit of water, or watch-

ing intently the contesting teams, that there are many to whom these pleasures are denied. We might also remember the example and precept of One who in the words "Forasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these," showed us clearly our duty and our responsibility.

In Defiance of Regulations.

There are circumstances under which a violation of the law may be condoned, provided the action was unpremeditated, or committed in ignorance, but where the laws safeguarding the public are flagrantly broken or treated with contempt, the offender must be quickly brought to book, and the punishment should be as drastic as the law will permit. If the law is not clear in the matter, it should be rectified and at once.

Yesterday when the whole town was on holiday bent, when young and old were making their way towards the lake, a gentleman from Harbor Grace, driving a Franklin car, entered the city by way of LeMarchant Road and drove to the lake side. Conspicuous by its absence was the number plate. He was reminded of the fact by a private citizen who had dropped off by accident. That citizen's surprise and indignation were not assuaged when he was promptly told to mind his own business. Later the car was seen parked on the North side of Quidi Vidi. About four o'clock it was standing not far from the junction of LeMarchant and Freshwater Roads.

That a car with no identification marks could travel unchallenged through our crowded streets, is almost incredible. One would imagine that as a result of the calamity on Tuesday evening, no driver who could not be identified would be allowed to proceed even if he were within the letter of the law—which is questionable.

The attention of the authorities was called to the irregularity at the lake side and their action in the matter will be awaited with interest.

Regatta Starts at 3.30

At a meeting of the Regatta Committee this forenoon, it was decided to continue the Regatta, postponed yesterday, at 3.30 p.m., at which hour the Laborers Race will be run off. The Committee will be on the course at 3 p.m. so that everything will be in readiness to have the first race started on time. His Excellency the Governor and suite will arrive on the Green at 4 p.m. and will be officially received. There is a gentle ripple on the pond to-day and spirited contests are expected. It is possible that the full programme will be finished at 7.30 p.m.

Owing to the Regatta the Nfld. Highlanders will not parade to-night—Aug. 2.

Regatta Dances.

EVENTS WILL BE REPEATED TO-NIGHT.

About 500 people attended the dance at the Prince's Rink last night. The C. C. C. Band provided a delightful programme of music and all present enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent. By popular request, the dance will be repeated to-night and no doubt a big gathering will be present.

AT THE C. C. C. HALL.

The C. C. C. Hall was filled to capacity last night by a merry crowd of dancers. The hall was beautifully decorated and a festive atmosphere pervaded. The music was supplied by the Prince's Orchestra and was a rare treat. This talented orchestra has made great improvements and the music last night was excellent. There will be another dance to-night by the same orchestra.

AT THE STAR HALL.

The Star Jazola was in great form last night at the dance in the Star Hall. There was a large gathering present and an enjoyable evening was spent by all. At an early hour this morning, when the dance terminated, the wish was expressed by many that it be repeated to-night.

I. O. O. F.

The Annual Convention of the Grand Lodge of Oddfellows will be held this month at Bridgewater, N.S. G. T. Phillips, District Deputy Grand Master and Geo. Harvey, P.G., of Wabana Lodge, Bell Island, A. Heath, Geo. Soper, J. M. Carberry are leaving by express to-day to represent Oddfellows in Newfoundland at this year's session. The delegates from Newfoundland will pay an official visit to Oddfellows home at Pictou on the way up.

GAME POSTPONED.—The football match, scheduled for to-night between the Pelicans and Cadets has been postponed owing to the continuance of the Regatta, which takes place at the Lakeside this afternoon. This game, which is one of the most important of the series, from a championship point of view, will be played at the end of the season.

Methodist Guards Sports 'Ayre Athletic Grounds, Wednesday, August 8th, promises to be better than ever.—Aug. 2.

In Passing.

The speeches of Premier Warren and the Honourable the leader of the Opposition, Mr. W. J. Higgins in the House on Tuesday are worthy of special commendation.

Sir M. P. Cashin's review of the Budget will be awaited with interest.

Prohibition with a capital P. The Government only netted over half a million dollars profit on liquor during the past year.

The people by reason of the new loan are asked to find an extra amount of almost \$200,000.00 this year to pay the interest, cost and charges on the new loan of three million dollars.

Sir Richard Squires arrived in the city on Tuesday night and there is much speculation as to whether he will take a seat in the Assembly to-day.

Mr. Higgins' clear cut diplomatic refusal to amalgamate with the Government as shown in his speech elsewhere is commendable and his party associates outside of the House as well as those sitting behind him are highly pleased with his decision.

Hon. Mr. Warren's explicit admission of the Opposition's refusal to coalesce are likewise honest.

Coalition would have its many disadvantages as well as the few advantages to be gained at this particular period.

There are a few people who are disappointed by the Opposition's rejection of a coalition, but these are not associated in any way with the Opposition party at present, nor were they at the recent general election.

They were ardent supporters of the late Prime Minister who were hopeful of an opportunity to exploit a plot which was frustrated by the definite refusal of the Leader of the Opposition to join up with his Government which forced his resignation.

FOOTBALL GAME POSTPONED.—Owing to the Regatta this afternoon the League Football Game has been postponed.

Noted Preacher Dead.

REV. DR. PEDLEY, OF MONTREAL, DIED ALOFT SUDDENLY.

Montreal, July 23. — (Canadian Press)—While playing a game of golf on Thursday, Rev. Hugh Pedley, D.D., Pastor emeritus of Immanuel Congregational Church, this city, collapsed and died before medical aid could be summoned.

Rev. Dr. Pedley, the subject of the above notice clipped from a Sydney paper was well and favorably known in St. John's. If we mistake not he was a native of this city having been born here during his father's pastorate of the Congregational Church. He filled the pulpit of the church of which he was pastor emeritus when he passed away, for a number of years, and was known over the North American continent as a preacher and lecturer of exceptional merit. He supplied the Congregational Church, Queen's Road, in 1920 for a month or two and in the same year gave a noon hour devotional addresses at the Methodist Conference which met at Wesley Church. Dr. Pedley had reached his seventy-first year, having been born in 1852. He lived a life of usefulness and service to his fellow men and has now received his reward.

The Prime Minister was immediately followed by the Leader of the Opposition, who spoke as follows:—
"Mr. Higgins—Mr. Speaker—Following the example of the Hon. the Prime Minister, I have to ask the House for saying just a word or two. At the outset I desire to thank the Leader of the House for the very open manner in which frank admission that the desire to form a Coalition Government emanated from himself and those who supported him. I think in making this admission publicly he has done himself credit. I go further and say that in his desire to avoid the recent and unexpected political development which unfortunately are at present existing in this Assembly he has set an example in liberality of thought that should not quickly be forgotten. Every right-thinking man must deplore the present unnatural division which exists in this House. And so, when an opportunity was offered to alter this situation, and the offer was made from a majority of the House, it may be wondered why this proposal was not accepted. Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is simple. It was not a question where we were masters of our own destiny. To me, personally, the matter of associating with the new Minister would have been a pleasure. As a life-long friend I have had special opportunities to confirm the statement I now make as to his honesty of purpose and absolute trustworthiness. It will be a great disappointment to me if in his new office he fails to live to the high opinion I have always held of him."

The Rotary Club Aided by Business Men.

In connection with the item appearing in Tuesday morning's News, re the Playground equipment turned over to the City Council by the Rotary Club, we are asked to state that the St. John's Rotary Club in seeking additional funds to defray the cost of the two equipments, were aided very materially by the generous response of the business men of the community.

By special request Big Dance repeated to-night in Prince's Rink Full Brass Band, C.C.C. Admission 50c.—Aug. 2.

Will Probably Adjourn Until To-Morrow.

It is likely that very little business will be transacted in the House to-day owing to the decision of the Regatta Committee to continue the programme of races which were postponed on yesterday. The House will likely adjourn until 3 p.m. to-morrow.

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House of Assembly.

PREMIER WARREN SAYS THE OPPOSITION REFUSED TO AMALGAMATE. MR. HIGGINS EXPLAINS THE OPPOSITION'S REFUSAL OF PAY AND POWER.

FINANCE MINISTER CAVE PRESENTS BUDGET.

The House opened at 2.15 p.m. Tuesday, Speaker Winter in the chair. Hon. W. R. Warren, Prime Minister addressed the members as follows:—

Mr. Speaker—Before the orders of the day are proceeded with I beg leave to say a few words, with the permission of you and the House. Since I last addressed the House I have succeeded in forming an administration and in carrying out the task imposed upon me by His Excellency. When called upon to form a Government in view of the constitution of the country and in order to make the Government a more representative one, I approached the Hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition and requested the co-operation of that party. In the interests of the Colony they were prepared to assist, but in negotiating the details of an amalgamation we came to a deadlock and negotiations came to an end. I must express my regret that I failed but I take this opportunity of saying how I appreciate the personal tribute of confidence they gave me in preparing to co-operate under my leadership. Accordingly, Sir, I have formed a Government from the material I had at my disposal on this side of the House, and I am glad to say I have a united party behind me. The history and experience of previous Prime Ministers are not such as to encourage me to undertake the responsibilities of the position and I am further discouraged by the legacy left me. It cannot be denied that the Party and the Government have sustained a severe blow by reason of recent happenings. Undoubtedly public confidence has been shaken. Then, Sir, I have to ask myself the question "How can I restore that confidence?" My answer is, first, by an impartial and immediate investigation into the departments concerned. The Commission of Enquiry must have carte blanche. It must be no hole and corner affair and must have an absolutely free hand.

Things could not go on as they have been going, and it is due to the members of the Government themselves that there should be a full and complete investigation of the happenings that have led up to the present situation. It is not fair, until we see how far the members of the Government are responsible for what has taken place, to comment here upon the unfortunate affair which in our private capacities we all so deeply deplore. We are hopeful of a full and careful house-cleaning by a full and complete investigation of the happenings that have led up to the present situation. It is not fair, until we see how far the members of the Government are responsible for what has taken place, to comment here upon the unfortunate affair which in our private capacities we all so deeply deplore. We are hopeful of a full and careful house-cleaning by a full and complete investigation of the happenings that have led up to the present situation. 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