

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1920

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 17, 1920.

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PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

No provincial government in New Brunswick has ever appealed to the people with a better record of work accomplished, or with less ground for adverse criticism of its policy and administration than that led by Hon. W. E. Foster. Its policies have been boldly constructive, and no breath of scandal has blown upon it. Neither the premier nor his colleagues would contend that they had never made any mistakes, but they safely affirm and can maintain that they have acted according to their best judgment in all circumstances, and in what they conceived to be the public interest. In a province with very limited revenue, and much of which had been dissipated by the previous government, while the public services had been permitted to run down, Premier Foster and his colleagues have accomplished a great deal that is of permanent value to the province. They set out to reform the administration of the crown lands, which had been a fruitful source of scandal and as a result there is a greatly increased revenue from that source, while a sound policy of administration has been adopted and a policy of conservation inaugurated. They set out to give the province better roads, for the roads of the province, and the bridges, were in a disgraceful condition; and how well they have succeeded is known to every user of the highways, and witnessed by visiting motorists who make comparisons extremely favorable to this province. They had left to them the legacy of the Valley Railway, and secured its completion and transfer to the Dominion government. They gave the province a public health act that has already accomplished a great work, and made New Brunswick the first province or state on the continent to establish a ministry of health. They developed and secured the adoption of a hydro-electric policy which will eventually revolutionize the industrial system of the province. They adopted a progressive agricultural policy that has been instrumental in increasing the number of live stock, improved the dairy industry, revived the growing and milling of wheat, made it easier for the farmers to secure fertilizer, and in a general way increased agricultural production. They gave their hearty support to the introduction of vocational training. At the same time they introduced a better system of accounting and administering the finances of the province. A government with such a record, and which has other progressive policies in mind, deserves to be returned to power; in order that during another legislative term it may carry on what has been so well begun. The people who gave it its mandate have not been disappointed. Contrasting its record with that of its predecessor, the intelligent elector cannot but feel that the Foster government has earned a new lease of power.

PREPAREDNESS.

The Standard lays the defeat of the provincial government which it supported in 1917 to lack of preparation. The Standard is entirely wrong. Preparedness was the watchword of the old government. With that slogan it was continually on the trail of the lumbermen, the Valley Railway and other contractors, the liquor dealers, and all and sundry who might be suspected of ability to provide the sinews of war. So generous was the response that a matter of twenty thousand dollars became a mere trifle in the estimation of the high command. There are former directors of the Standard who could tell it tales of thrilling interest in these days of cautious finance. There can be no doubt, however, that the Standard's party will now need to do a good deal of preparing before it can make much impression upon the electors of New Brunswick. Not only so, but the preparatory service should be followed by a new profession of faith. There is also the question of leadership. Will Hon. Mr. Murray lead—or another? Will the breach between the St. John members and their provincial colleagues be healed? What will be the policy of the party? All these questions must be answered before that October day on which the people will be called upon to make their choice. The fact that the potato crop is excellent offers no encouragement in this grave exigency, and the shadow of certain revelations made before royal commissions fall darkly across the path of these ardent advocates of reform in provincial affairs.

The aquatic contests in Courtenay Bay tomorrow afternoon should be the most interesting of the season. The Athletic Association of the Commercial Club is doing much to promote clean sport.

WHAT, AND WHEN?

Just what does the Dominion government propose to do about developing the port of St. John, and when does it propose to begin work?

The by-election campaign is practically at an end, but no definite, official and binding statement has yet been made by the government.

The mayor and commissioners have evidently postponed the discussion of harbor commission until after election day. If they knew the government's intentions, they doubtless would have made them public.

Is St. John to find in the end that there is no plan or proposal beyond the present harbor commission act? In order that there may be no misunderstanding hereafter it is but proper to call attention to the lack of everything up to date beyond vague promises and assurances.

Certainly the campaign should not close without an explicit announcement of the government's plans, if there are any. It must not be overlooked that unless definite preparations are made at once, the facilities at this port will be inadequate this season and next as well. As to the harbor, the citizens are today asking just what is to be done—and when. What is the answer?

The report of the Royal Commission shows that the complaints of miners, both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, were well founded. The report as it relates to Nova Scotia is very sweeping. Better pay and better conditions for miners are also recommended, as well as a code of mining laws for the province. The men have every reason to be pleased with the commission's report and the operating companies will perhaps conclude that there is as much to be gained by cordial relations and negotiations with their employees as by an uncompromising attitude.

The by-election will no sooner be out of the way in St. John and Albert than the provincial election campaign will be in full swing. With polling on Oct. 9 the contest will soon be over, and that is not at all a bad feature of the case. The electors will have no difficulty in making a choice between parties and candidates. They have had a legislative term of good government, and will desire another. The Foster government should be very handsomely sustained.

The Montreal Star's Ottawa correspondent is convinced that the tariff will be the big issue at the next session of parliament and in the general elections. Of the parliamentary session he says: "Tariff revision will have the right of way, and from present indications there will be much less on the legislative agenda than in the past few sessions. This will afford greater time for dealing with the tariff?"

A sentence in an editorial in last evening's Times read:—"Happily the people are stupid." What was written, or intended to be written was that the people were not stupid. And, not being stupid, they of course knew at once that the negative had been omitted through somebody's blunder. This being so, the editor feels that he will not be called on to repel boards or mend the windows.

Twenty-five years ago, according to the Montreal Gazette the following retail prices ruled at Bonsecours market: Print butter, choice 20c to 25c a pound; creamery, 20c to 22c; good dairy, 17c to 20c; mild cheese, 10c to 12c; strong, 12c to 14c; eggs, strictly new laid, 18c to 20c a dozen; case eggs, 11c to 12c; honey, 10 to 12c a pound; maple sugar, 8c to 10c; maple syrup, 6c to 7c a gallon.

The Conservative party is making desperate efforts to persuade the people of Quebec that it was the original discoverer of the policy of racial unity. The task is not as easy as some ardent followers of Premier Meighen may assume. The people of Quebec do not need to have long memories to determine the question.

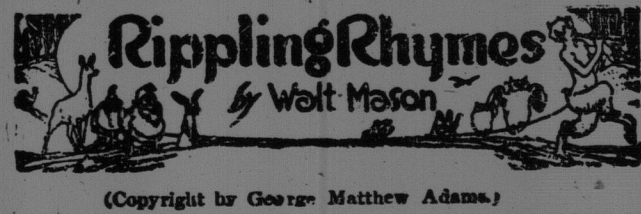
Lord Burnham's plea for a direct cable news service between Britain and Canada strikes a responsive chord at a time when persistent efforts are being made to give the United States people distorted news of English affairs. A better news service would mean closer sympathy.

An Alberta farmer went to Calgary with a carload of wheat and returned home with considerably more than \$4,000 in his pocket. Hats off to the Alberta farmer. This is a great year for the agriculturists of the west. Not only is the yield large but the grain grades higher.

It is announced that the printed output of departmental reports at Ottawa is to be reduced. There is certainly room for economy in that direction.

RAPID PROMOTION

A despatch last month was headed:—"Private Threshing Being Carried Out." A Provincial paper yesterday carried a western despatch under the caption:—"Threshing is General Now."



(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

DANGEROUS TEETH.

Now the docs, those wise old chesers, say our teeth should all come out, for they cause all our diseases, from measles to the gout. Once my teeth like pearls were gleaming and I viewed the same with pride, as I chewed the sordid steaming, with potatoes on the side. Now my teeth are all departed and no hope on earth I see, thought the dentist says he's started on a bakelite set for me. I had colic in Toronto, and the doctor said, said he, "You must see a dentist, pronto, who will pull out molars three." I had measles in Hoboken, and the doctor said, "You gink, all your symptoms are a token that your teeth are on the blink. And my whiskers, in Empory, fell and fell, and soon were gone, and it was the same old story—twas because no teeth were drawn. Passed around by stern physicians from one dentist to the next, I am filled with vain ambitions and my soul is sore perplexed. Now that all my teeth are missing what resource is there for me, when some new disease goes hissing through my shoulder or my knee? When I'm sore in bone or tissue, chafed from carrying my wraith, how will doctors dodge the issue, when they cannot blame my teeth?

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

FIGHTING IN FLORIDA

The closing days of September 1914 saw a lively fight between the United States and the English in Florida. The war that had been raging for three years in Canada was for the time transferred to the United States' land in the far south. The United States had erected a battery on a sand point which, while it was of little military value, was sufficiently strong to prevent any ships from sailing up the Mississippi. So a British force of four warships then at Pensacola was sent against the place. There had been such a steady tide of victories for the English of late that failure seemed impossible. But in this case defeat was the lot of the ships for it was not until Sept. 15 that the first of the warships took up position to open fire. The ships were only a musket shot off shore when a landing party of marines and Indians was sent into attack the sand fort. The leading vessel, the Heracles, opened the attack but in a few minutes her cables were cut and she drifted into a storm of shot and shell from the shore. After fifteen or twenty minutes in this position she went aground. It was impossible to get her off the shoal so the wounded were removed and the vessel set on fire. The ship lost twenty-five killed and as many wounded, while the other vessels all suffered serious casualties. In the Fort the killed and injured were very few. There was great disappointment at the result of the expedition. One ship had been lost, many of the crews of the four vessels put out of action while the morale of the English had suffered a serious set back. It was not until a few months later that a victory was won in the south that took the sting of defeat out of the land fight and re-established the spirit of the English in the contest.

A FRIEND IN NEED

There is a public garden in Bordeaux, France carved in true, compelling lines of stone, Rosa Bonheur, calm visaged and alone, Looks ever down upon the endless flow Of life in the less rugged flesh. A slow Ungainly little donkey, as wind-blown, A weed into a garden drifts, unknown, Stole in one day to feed where flowers grow.

A keeper, shocked that this dull beast should browse Before the statue of the mighty deity, Rushed up, with blows the sinner to arouse, He stoops, club poised above the shaggy Calm eyes seem watching him; his head he bows, And leads the dumb brute gently forth inside.

—Jack Burroughs in Life.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Not, impressive. Tears have been a favorite weapon with many of the fair sex from time immemorial, a fact perhaps known to and not approved of by a certain professor of chemistry, who surprised his friends not so long ago by taking to himself a wife. The bride retorted to tears upon the occasion of their first domestic difference, but the professor regarded the flood with indifference, and placidly continued his breakfast. "My dear Anna," he presently remarked, somewhat bored, "they say those tears for some one on whom they will have more effect. They do not impress me in the least, being merely, as any student in my class could tell you, common water with a very small percentage of phosphorus salts, and a trace of chloride of sodium. That is all!"

A NARROW ESCAPE.

William, aged six, and grandfather, aged seventy, had birthdays on successive days, a matter of much concern to the former. "Grandpa," he said one day, after pondering on the subject in silence for several minutes, "if I'd have waited a day for you or you'd have hurried up for me we'd have been twins, wouldn't we?"

To The Point.

As Johnny's birthday was approaching, his mother carefully cautioned him not to speak of it lest various friends in the hotel might suspect him of hinting for presents. One day, however, he was asked by an affluent gentleman the date of his birthday. Johnny replied: "Oh, I had it long ago; it was a year ago next Saturday."

Lacking in Faith.

The drought had been long and cotton and corn fields had withered and turned brown beneath the blazing sun, while there was dust in the rows almost as deep as in the roads. Brother Mose Johnson, exhorter extraordinary, decided there was nothing to do but call his church members together and ask divine intervention to end the dry spell. Word was sent out that the faithful were to gather Sunday afternoon to pray for rain, and they gathered. Brother Mose, at first pleased with the number present, assumed a pained expression when he took a closer look at his audience.

"Bredders," he said, "yo' all know what the Good Book say about dem of little faith. Here I done get you all together to pray for rain, plenty of rain, and rain right now, an' dey ain't a single umbreller in dis church!"

LOSS OF FORTRESSES HITS GERMANY HARD

General Staff Finds Natural Defenses Far Less Favorable Than Old Ones.

A German General Staff memorandum made in May for the purpose of suggesting the maximum strategic value of the fortifications left to Germany by the terms of the Versailles Treaty has been received in Washington official circles. The document outlines the western front. The document outlines the means of defense on the eastern and western fronts against Poland, Czechoslovakia and France, dismissing all calculations and plans with regard to a simultaneous defense of all fronts.

"As natural defenses," the memorandum declares, "the new German fortifications are much more favorable than the old. The Rhine boundary is a much more inferior protection than the Vosges mountains, which lack roads, while the remaining German territory on the left bank of the Rhine has lost the protection afforded it by the Lorena extension in front of it and instead is now exposed to enemy attacks. In the south and east, we will have restless, unreliable and new nationalistic units as neighbors from whom we will be separated partly by an historical and natural boundary."

It would be desirable if the lack of fortifications were compensated by effective fortifications. This is not the case anywhere at the present time.

Even before, Germany had exceedingly small and weak boundary fortifications, considering the dangers to which its boundaries were exposed. As a result of the peace treaty, the most valuable defensive units as neighbors from whom we will be separated partly by an historical and natural boundary."

The most important East Prussian railway lines pass through the city which, both as a Baltic harbor and as an outlet of the navigable Pregel, is connected with the German coast.

The Czech border is covered only by three small and old forts, Königstein, Glatz and Meisse. Although it is not difficult to pass by these forts, they are so equipped as to be able to resist for a time an attacking force which is not equipped with the strongest siege weapons.

The Polish border, also lacks every sort of protection by fortification. On the Oder we have only three separate fortresses. Of these, Breslau is the most important, constituting as it does, the centre of the administrative, economic and spiritual life of the province as well as the lines of communication.

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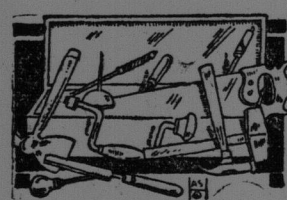
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commendably enthusiastic in their political privileges, are proposing to enter the campaign with the tea room and tea party idea. Paper table covers and napkins will be appropriately blazoned with the American flag—by one party enclosing the pictures of Harding and Coolidge, and by the other, the pictures of Cox and Roosevelt. Tea and luncheons

will be served, and there will be "parlor parties" and all such lovely devices to attract the attention, enlist the enthusiasm and stir the emotions of the women. But apparently all this is done on the assumption that the women of the country will approach the political issues and act under their new franchise privileges only through the medium of tea and paper napkins and artistic touches, and lovely gowns, and bouquets and so on. We are inclined to think that a majority of the women themselves will not take that view. We give them credit for considering the issues of the campaign and the political situation generally with quite as much seriousness as the men. However delightful tea and paper napkins may be as social functions or furbelows, the women are not at all likely to offer them as the best medium of the expression of their patriotic emotions or political principles. As well as the men, they are likely to appreciate the fact that a presidential campaign is not "just a perfectly lovely tea party."

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