

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1903.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 12, 1903. The St. John Evening Times is published at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

THE EVENING TIMES THE DAILY TELEGRAPH New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers

These papers advocate: British Connection Honesty in Public Life Measures for the Material Progress and Moral Advancement of our Great Dominion. No Graft No Deals

"The People who will not support their own City must one day want a City of their own to support."

IN AUSTRALIA

The very meagre news that comes from Australia makes it impossible to form a clear idea of the political situation in that country. We are told that the Deakin government has been defeated in the house because it did not go far enough with advanced labor legislation, and that a member of the Labor party will form a cabinet.

The defeat of the Deakin government was unexpected, and it is an illustration of the power of organized labor in Australia that its representatives should thus be able to overthrow a government which seemed well entrenched. Of course that country has long been famous for advanced labor legislation, but of late there had seemed to be some indications of a reaction.

NO RADICAL CHANGE

Advice from Washington convey the impression that congress will pursue a very conservative course at the next session, in order that no check may be given to the tendency toward improvement in trade and industry. It is regarded as most important that there should be no shock to business confidence by hasty schemes of legislation affecting business interests.

With regard to the tariff, it is stated that the revision will be in a direction that will further encourage home industries. A house committee is now holding public hearings on the tariff and it is believed that it will work along the lines laid down by Chairman Payne last March.

"We propose to call the whole committee together immediately after the election and invite people to come in here who have knowledge upon the subject, to impart such information as they are able to give to the whole committee, Republicans and Democrats. After those hearings are closed we propose to call together the majority members of the committee as was done with the Wilson bill, and to ask our Democratic friends or rather to excuse them from attendance upon the sessions of the majority of the committee while we are framing a tariff bill. When we have framed it we will call them and finally we will submit our work to the Congress. It will be a revision of the tariff; it will be a protective tariff; it will be a maximum and minimum tariff, I believe, putting us on an equality with France, Germany and Russia in that respect. That is the Republican programme."

The elections have been held and the committee is at work. There has been no change in conditions since March which would lead to any change in the Payne programme, except to make it more conservative, and more disposed not to disturb the business confidence which is gradually being restored.

POLITICS THE TROUBLE

A despatch from Chicago, says the New York Journal of Commerce, announces that the municipally owned and operated electric street lighting system of that city is "practically a financial failure, according to a report made to Mayor Busey by the expert, Hon. J. Arnold, and the auditor, Arthur Young." It is stated

that \$3,639,031 has been sunk in the plant and equipment, which now have a book value of \$2,603,144, or an actual value of \$2,333,869. It cost the city last year \$81.64 to maintain each of the 7,647 street lamps, while at the same time it was renting lights from a private company at \$75 a lamp per year, no doubt at a liberal profit to the company. The Mayor is to submit the report to the City Council for action.

Commenting on these statements the Journal, which is not favorable to municipal ownership, says:—

"The experience of Chicago in this matter has been in line with that of most American cities that have undertaken to supply themselves with light. It proves in the case of electricity to cost considerably more after the necessary plant is in operation, notwithstanding inadequate charges to depreciation, which after a few years results in a rapid deterioration and the necessity of expending a large sum for replacement and for neglected improvement. The cause of the failure is plain enough. There is none of the incentive of private ownership for economy and efficiency for the sake of profit, and incompetent men are employed as the result of political or personal favor. Even if there is absence of dishonesty or 'graft,' there is lack of attention to business and of efficient service that would ruin any private undertaking. No plan of public ownership and operation would bring the results of properly regulated private enterprise, with personal interest at stake, but until we can get politics out of municipal administration and secure efficiency and fidelity in its service, all experiments of the kind are doomed to speedy failure."

GERMAN COMPETITION

The fact that Germany recently captured a Russian order for five steamers, in competition with British shipyards, has further aroused the English people to the fact that German manufacturers are making inroads in markets formerly held by them. On another page the Times quotes from an English correspondent the story of the growth of German shipbuilding. Referring to the recent Russian order, which the Germans got by a tender so extraordinarily low that there can be little or no profit in it, the British journal Fairplay says:—

"If the German Government is directly or indirectly financing this business to enable German builders to secure the order, something should be done by our Government to help British builders, as a very large amount of work has been lost, and the major portion of the £360,000 would have gone in wages to workmen in this country, who will now be unemployed. The German Government apparently considers it better policy to assist German firms to secure orders in this way than to pay out large sums to make work for the unemployed, as our Government proposes to do. It is believed that no British shipbuilder could afford to give such terms as the Germans have done, that is, to actually build the vessels out of their own capital, deliver them, and allow the Russians to run them for more than a year, and then only receive the contract price without any interest whatever being charged on his expended capital."

"The order was given to the Greenock & Grangemouth Dockyard Company, as was stated a few weeks ago in these columns, at about £360,000. Messrs. Scianka's tender being over £400,000. On the 10th inst., however, the latter firm put in an amended tender, offering to build the vessels for £360,000, including over £2,000 of extras on each steamer which was to be paid to the Greenock & Grangemouth Company, with no payment whatever until the end of 1910, and with no interest for deferred payments. It is believed that the money is being provided by or with the aid of the German Government free of interest in order to enable a German firm to build the vessels and to keep the order from going to a British builder."

The German Reichstag did not go the length of passing a vote of censure upon the emperor for his indiscretion, but made it abundantly clear to him that hereafter matters of international concern must be dealt with through the proper channels. Direct personal interference by him in foreign affairs without consultation with his ministers would result in the growth of republican sentiment in the country. This statement was bluntly made by the leader of the Liberals, and applauded by the Socialists. The emperor was told that the Reichstag was loyal to the throne, but was at the same time jealous of its own rights. There is no mistaking the temper of the people, and William will doubtless take note of the fact for his future guidance.

A Washington physician has expressed the view that vice is a benefit to society, because drink, drugs and immoral practices weed out and kill off its defective and worthless members. He does not state that they also kill off many of its most promising members. As a surface reasoner this doctor should rank high, to say nothing of the moral aspect of his philosophy.

Those worthy folk who regarded guides as patriotic gentlemen who were personally interested in the strict observance of the game laws of this province may now entertain some doubts. The New Brunswick Guides' Association should take to the woods.

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Ferguson & Page 41 KING STREET

SONGS UNSUNG

Let no poet, great or small, say that he will sing a song; For song cometh, if at all, Not because he won't sing. But because it suits his will, Tired at last of being still.

Every song that has been sung Was before I look a word; Waiting since the world was young. For the poet, his choice of words, O, if any waiting be, May they come to-day to me.

I am ready to repeat; Whatever they repeat; Sorrows sent by them are sweet. They know how to heal the heart; Ay, and in the slightest strain Something serious does vent.

What are my white hairs, forsooth, And the wrinkles on my brow? I have still the soul of youth. Try me, merry Muses, now! I can still with numbers feast. Fill the world with dancing feet.

No, I am no longer young. I have still the soul of youth. Though I shall not live to hear, O, my dear Muses, sing. Sing my songs and think of me. —Edward Hazard

IN LIGHTER VEIN

NO USE FOR THEM. Customer—I don't want these moth balls. Druggist—Why not? Customer—Well, I've been throwing them at the moths for a week and can't hit a single one.

A FEMININE VIEW. Mrs. Smythe—I wonder why the judge deferred the sentence on my year. Mrs. Whyte—Oh, I suppose he wanted to take the case over with his wife.—Brooklyn Life.

THE USUAL THING. She—I suppose you will commit suicide if I refuse you? He—That has been my custom.—The Sketch.

PUTTING NOBODY WISE. "I'm sure," said the interviewer, "the public would be interested in your success." "Well, young man," replied the captain of industry, "the secret of my success has been my ability to keep it secret."—The Catholic Standard and Times.

SUBURBAN WORRIES. Citizen—How are things with you? Busy? Westmount—No, but I'll bet we're due to have a heavy fall of snow very soon. Citizen—What do you mean? I don't understand. Westmount—Well, I stopped cutting grass nearly two weeks ago.

NOTHING. "Nature plans well for mankind's needs." "Conductor—Have I any? Passenger—Where are you going? Conductor—To Chicago. And I haven't any money, either.

AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT. Conductor—Tickets, please! Passenger—Have I any? Conductor—Where are you going? Passenger—To Chicago. And I haven't any money, either.

IN THE SIEVE, TOO. History repeats a bit, Says the rumer from the new Enterprise Foundry. And we may as well admit, So does humor.

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH. In foaming state his face he sinks, He finds by youth restored, he thinks; He feels himself less full of years, The fuller he becomes of beers.

ON TOP ALSO. Marie—I think Chelle is a delightful dancer so light on her feet! Lillian—When you're better acquainted with Chelle you'll discover that he's just at both ends!—Town and Country.

OREGON STARTS A POLITICAL UTOPIA New Law Checks Betting and Hiring Help—"Political Criminal Libel" Makes Campaign Lie Punishable by a Jail Sentence.

Oregon is fast getting a corner on the Utopia of politics. The millennium of the ballot may not be here, but it has reserved a berth and paid for it. Hereafter, if the law is enforced, it will cost many voters from \$5 to \$10 to ask another man on election day to give up his name as a candidate or measure—just to ask him, not to pay him or coerce him.

In their state election the other day the people put their names on such a circular and they did a lot of other things that make one think the old days of the politician are passing. Hereafter it will be "political criminal libel," punishable by a penitentiary sentence, to lie in a newspaper or a circular or a poster about a candidate for office. Candidates are forbidden to treat, to bet on elections, directly or indirectly, to promise any political appointments, to employ workers, except challengers, on election day; to pay voters or to give voters a badge or button to wear on election day.

If a candidate pays a newspaper editor to print something nice about him, the matter so paid for, must be marked as advertising. Likewise, if the editor "books" a public measure for cash his columns must bear the second day of sale and purchase. The corrupt practice act which the people have approved further says: "No person shall pay the owner, editor, publisher or agent of any newspaper or other periodical to induce him editorially to advertise or to publish any notice, advertisement, election, or no such owner, editor, publisher or agent shall accept such payment. In the case of political criminal libel, which is a new crime created by law, both the man who writes or offers the libelous matter and the man who knowingly conveys it at its publication may be sent to the state prison. He has a defence if he can show that he had good ground for believing the libelous charge or statement was true, but even as a vital part of that defence he must prove that, 15 days before the publication of the article, he submitted the charges to the candidate in question and that he did not receive any denial or answer to them within ten days after their submission.

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