

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 29, 1922.

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Some people, because they would rather see an increase in the death rate than in the taxes; and some other people because they appear to value a partisan advantage more than a human life, have done all in their little power to discredit Hon. Dr. Roberts and the New Brunswick Health Act. Those people who desire to be fair, and who believe the public health should be conserved, will find in the report in this issue of the Times of the speech of Hon. Dr. Roberts in the legislature yesterday the answer to his detractors and the reasons why this province needs far more attention to public health than has yet been given.

It will occur to the reader of the speech of the minister that it is very fortunate indeed that there is a minister of health, and that it is thus made possible to have the case for public health presented before the highest deliberative body in the province and there fully debated. It is quite easy to make assertions, to mislead and to arouse prejudice in small communities here and there, greatly to the detriment of the public health service; and a municipal partisan, clothed in a little brief authority, can sometimes create a hostile atmosphere where there should only be co-operation for the general good; and it is therefore both desirable and necessary that the case for public health be presented before the legislature ready to meet and refute the false or misleading statements made about the department and its work, and that all the facts may be placed clearly before the elected representatives of the people. Some of the revelations made by Hon. Dr. Roberts regarding health conditions in the province are such as to startle the thoughtful citizen, for if the inroads of certain diseases are not checked not only will the death rate remain high, but the physical and mental standard of the citizenship will be lowered. It is time the people agreed to forget politics in regard to public health measures and to co-operate in a determined campaign to raise the general standard of physical and mental efficiency, while at the same time reducing the death rate to a figure more suggestive of an enlightened health policy.

THE KINDERGARTEN.

One of the most striking testimonials to the value of the kindergarten that could be offered was the simple statement before the Free Kindergarten Association yesterday by Dr. Farris that at the East St. John hospital a kindergarten class is helping them to cure tuberculosis. There is a class of twenty children, and the kindergarten quickens their minds, introduces a new interest into their lives, brightens their outlook, and makes them more susceptible to treatment. Is not the like true in the school that is outside of the hospital? Does it not also tend to increase the resisting power of the child, who might under less favorable conditions be much less lively and healthy? The kindergarten does not weary the brain with studies, but it does set the children thinking and doing, and so makes their world larger, brighter and more full of interest and promise. Moreover, the child needing better clothing or better nourishment is revealed to those who sympathize and are ready to help. The kindergarten teacher is worthy of her hire. Her work calls for training, for a constant outpouring of sympathy, for a giving of herself to the work in an acting way. Else she is not a true teacher or a successful one. And if she is a true teacher and successful, the value of her services is not to be reckoned in dollars and cents, especially if she gets barely enough to pay for her board and clothing, and is frequently tempted to give from her slender purse to brighten the lives of those under her care.

THE FREE CLINICS.

Dr. Farris says, basing his estimate on well established data, that there are at least six hundred unknown cases of tuberculosis in St. John. Every such case should be under treatment. It is especially important to get in touch with children who are infected. There are far too many advanced cases in hospital. There would seem to be few or none of such cases, with all the suffering, loss and grief which they involve if the cases of infected children were discovered and treated. The purpose of the three days' clinics in four different places in the city next week is to give a free examination of every person, young or old, who may have symptoms which would suggest the possibility of tubercular infection. The examination will be by experts and the only object is to discover cases and give the person, young or old, the best advice as to treatment to eradicate the disease. There is nothing to fear about everything to hope for in connection with these clinics. They offer free what ordinarily cost money which many can ill afford. It is therefore desirable that every person who knows of a possibly infected child or adult should advise a visit to one of the clinics next week.

THE TAX BOGEY

Civic distribution of hydro will not result in increased taxation. The taxation bogey is being waved industriously before timid taxpayers who would shy off from civic ownership if they thought their taxes would be increased.

The users of the electric current will pay for it. Some financing will be necessary at the outset, until the market has been developed, but that is an ordinary business proposition, such as any private business concern would have to reckon with in starting a new enterprise.

It is beyond belief that any man who is or aspires to be a member of the city council would for a moment argue that civic control of hydro would increase the burden on the taxpayers. What it would do, in providing cheap light and power, would be to expand the city's industries and increase the number of taxpayers, thus lessening the burden upon individuals.

Between the present date and the date of the civic elections all kinds of bogeys will be produced to frighten timid people, in order that the New Brunswick Power Company may go on having everything its own way; but the experience of hundreds of Ontario municipalities where hydro has not increased taxation but reduced the cost of light and power and increased the number of taxpayers by attracting new industries, is the best answer to the scare-mongers in St. John.

If the people do not seize the present opportunity they will go on paying high taxes, without hope of the development that would come in the train of cheap light and power. It should not be hard to decide which is the wiser policy.

HAVE WE FAITH?

If any citizen expects that Mayor Schofield will shed any new light on the hydro question next Tuesday night he is doomed to disappointment. The cards are on the table. Messrs. Kirby and Phillips placed them there, and in doing so merely confirmed what had already been asserted by those who do not view the situation through the spectacles of the New Brunswick Power Company. The Hardware Clerks' Association, and later the United Organizations, saw the light before the Kirby-Phillips committee was appointed. Mr. Phillips himself had made the facts clear. So had Mr. Holgate of Montreal and the Mitchells of Toronto.

Ancient charts, before the Atlantic had been crossed by hardy voyagers, showed to the westward of the then known world the hand of Satan thrust forth from a Sea of Darkness, warning adventurous souls not to risk the dangers of the terrible unknown. One would almost be led to believe that not less dreadful are the possibilities for this city if it should recklessly adventure forth upon the sea of civic ownership. We must wait, wait, wait. Soundings must be taken and there may be very few who are qualified to cast the lead. And yet it is plain sailing. The city is offered hydro-electric current at 1.2 cents per kilowatt hour. If it can take and sell 8,000,000 kilowatt hours it can make a rate of four cents. That it cannot do so at once goes without saying, but the man who says it cannot be done, and exclaims, in a few years, is a man with no faith in St. John. That is the real question—have we faith in St. John?

Referring to the demand that the citizens get the full benefit of the hydro development, the Standard says: "The new between individuals which is at the bottom of this whole agitation should come from now on to be the determining factor in this situation." Who are the individuals whose "row" had such an effect upon the Hardware Clerks' Association and the other organizations now lined up for civic distribution of hydro? The organ of the New Brunswick Power Company should be more explicit.

The Conservatives at Ottawa were only able to muster 42 votes for a want of confidence motion yesterday. The King government had a majority of 120. The Progressives are not disposed to countenance purely factious opposition. They and the Liberals want to get on with the business. The result of this vote should tend to curb Mr. Meighen's young ambition for the immediate future.

The New Brunswick Power Company has not yet named a rate at which it would distribute the Musquash current to the consumer. It hopes it may be able to fix the price to suit itself.

The past history of the relations between the city and the New Brunswick Power Company does not make the citizens keen to hand over to it the distribution of the Musquash current.

Cheap light and power mean progress. The continuance of high rates means stagnation.

SONGS FOR MUSIC.

No. 3—Jack.

While landmen are peacefully resting,
At night 'neath the silent stars,
Then Jack is the huge billows breasting,
And seeking for sheltering bars;
But whether the wild waves are sweeping,
While thunder-storms rend the air,
Or when they are vanquished and sleeping,
'Tis always the sailor's prayer—
Over the bright waves dancing with glee,
God speed our good ship over the sea,
Back to the dear home where I long to be,
Back to the lass that I love.

Brave Jack will the angry storm weather,
And anchor 'neath the summer climes,
But when his mates round him gather,
He'll still sing the dear home rhymes;
For no place to Jack can be fairer,
Though all o'er the world he'll roam,
And no dreams are sweeter or rarer
To Jack than his dreams of home.

Over the bright waves dancing with glee,
God speed our good ship over the sea,
Back to the dear home where I long to be,
Back to the lass that I love.

HOPE A. THOMSON.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Imperfections of Beauty.

"Dee Sam, dat de handsomest flowers hab no perfume and de handsomest birds no song."
"Yes, an' de handsomest gals hab no sense—one of 'em refused me las' night!"
—Boston Transcript.

Profits Commensurate.

Lady: "I should think you'd be ashamed to lead such an idle and unprofitable life."
Frugal Phil (as he tackled a good husband): "I may be, mum, but consider! de capital invested, de profits is purty good!"—Boston Transcript.

Breaking the News.

"Bad news should be broken gently," said Otto Kahn, the New York financier, apropos of the failure of a bank.
"The bank tried to do the thing gently, but it didn't succeed any better than the young squire who was expelled from college."
"When this young man turned up at home with his belongings, his father said: 'What are you doing here? A holiday?'"
"Yes, a holiday," said the boy.
"A long one?"
"A very long one. The fact is, dad, I'm not going back to college any more."
"Don't say that, boy!" cried the father. "Don't say that! That institution has turned out some of the finest men our country boasts!"
"Yes, I know—it's turned me out," said the young man. —Detroit Free Press.

There were mutinous murmurs aboard a certain merchantman when word spread among the crew that the ship would not, after all, put in at the next port of call, but merely drop the mail into a small boat and go on.

The ship had not put into a port for many weeks, and all the crew longed for a spell ashore.

The disappointment was too much for one seaman, who, when a plainer cry, leaped into the sea and started to swim for the visible shore.

The captain ordered the best swimmer in the crew to go after him and bring him back before he reached land. An excited lookout kept all on deck posted on the progress of the race.

"He's gaining! He's gaining! Two hundred yards! Hundred yards! Fifty yards! In a dozen strokes he'll have him! Five more strokes! A yard to go! Great Scott!"

"What is it? What is it?" asked the skipper.
"Great Scott, sir, he's passed him!"

Proof.

She looked at him doubtfully after the proposal. "The man I marry," she said, "must be both brave and steady."

"Well," he declared, "I think I can lay claim to both."

"I admit you are brave," he replied, "because you saved my life when your boat upset the other day, but that wasn't bravery, was it?"

"And yet it is plain sailing. The city is offered hydro-electric current at 1.2 cents per kilowatt hour. If it can take and sell 8,000,000 kilowatt hours it can make a rate of four cents. That it cannot do so at once goes without saying, but the man who says it cannot be done, and exclaims, in a few years, is a man with no faith in St. John. That is the real question—have we faith in St. John?"

LOCAL NEWS

You have been awaiting Thursday's Union street. It is at Urdrang's, 221-223 Union street. 3-30

Save your Easter purchases until you have seen Urdrang's, 221 Union street. 3-30

Tomorrow—Great mercantile event. Urdrang's Spring Sale. 3-30

SHIPLINERS LOCAL 1039

Special meeting tonight, Wednesday, March 29 at 8 o'clock in their Hall, West Side. Business of importance. All members requested to be present. By order of president.

Dr. Calnek, 82 Charlotte street. Specialist in kidney, bladder and venereal diseases. Telephone Main 988 and Main 2007.

A JOLLY NIGHT

A night of jollity is planned by the Board of Trade for tomorrow (Thursday) night at Pyralis Hall. There will be a showing of game pictures of province, some sporting films, smokes, cats and drinks, and a talk by Mr. Pearson of Halifax. Interested parties can procure tickets at door, 50 cents each.

Laban C. Sharp, optometrist and jeweler, 189 Union street—Extraordinary sale, Sharp's, Union street, Saturday, April 1. See our window now. 4-1

BOY START RACE FIGHT.

Shots Fired in Clash Between Brooklyn Negroes and Italians.

When four boys, two Italians and two negroes, were fighting at York and Adams streets, Brooklyn, the other day an Italian separated them and chased them home. Several negroes thought the Italian was beating the negro boys, and they assaulted him. Several Italians came to the rescue of their countrymen, and a lively fight resulted.

George Washington, negro, of 238 Clinton street, fired five shots, according to the police. The shots were wild. Patrolman James Murray chased Washington to 88 Front street, where he was visiting friends, and arrested him on a charge of felonious assault. An empty revolver was found under a bed.

MILLIONS OF YEARS
AGE OF THE "SHOE"

Specimen Found in Limestone of Triassic Period Amazes Scientists.

What appears to be the petrified sole of a carefully made shoe has been submitted by John T. Reid, a mining engineer of Lovelock, Nev., to Dr. James F. Kemp, Professor of Geology at Columbia University, and to Dr. William D. Matthew, Paleontologist of the American Museum of Natural History.

If it is what it looks like, it is proof that human beings were walking about in shoes of finer workmanship than are made today on this continent between 100 million and 300 million years ago.

The seeming fossil was found in blue limestone of the Triassic period on a summit in the southern extremity of the Humboldt Mountain range in Nevada. Both Dr. Matthew and Dr. Kemp said that the object was the most surprising imitation by nature of the workmanship of man which had ever come to their attention, but that it was absolutely impossible that it could be a genuine fossil because the evidence was overwhelming that the career of human beings on earth was not over half a million years, whereas the Triassic rock of which the petrified sole is made is so ancient.

Shows Lines of Stitches.

It would fit nicely a boy of ten or twelve years. The edges are as smooth as if freshly cut. But the surprising part of it is what seems to be a double line of stitches, one near the outside edge of the sole and the other about a third of an inch inside the first. The "leather" is thicker inside the inner welting and appears to be slightly beveled, so that at the margin, half an inch wide, which runs outside, the sole is something like an eighth of an inch thick.

The symmetry is maintained perfectly throughout. The perfect lines pursued by the welting and the appearance of hundreds of minute holes through which the sole was sewed to the shoe are the things which make the object such an extraordinary freak in the eyes of the scientists who examined it.

Under a strong glass, Mr. Reid found that the tiny holes appeared with such exact regularity that it set at naught the laws of probability to believe that the thing was anything except the handiwork of man. The edges are rounded off smoothly as if it were freshly cut leather from the hands of an expert cobbler. The stone to which it is attached is about the size of a brick. The heel part of the sole appears, the toe end being missing.

"It is not extraordinary," said Professor Kemp, "institutions of nature of bones or man's handiwork. They turn up frequently. But this is by far the most perfect thing of the kind that I have ever seen."

Insists It Is an Accident.

"On the other hand, I have no hesitation in saying that it is not a fossil but an accident. If it were a fossil, it would probably be 10,000,000 years old or older, because it appears to come from a Triassic formation. Man did not exist that long ago. This is so absolutely certain that I told Mr. Reid that any statement that it was a fossil by microscope or otherwise is useless."

Mr. Reid said that the object was found by Albert Knapp, a prospector, who was immediately arrested by the striking resemblance to a cobbler's work. This appearance is aided by the fact that the color is that of leather, which is due, according to Dr. Matthew, to iron sulphide present in the alleged fossil, but not in the rock on which it was found.

"The two scientists that I have talked to simply take their stand that the Darwinian theory is so completely proved by the evidence that this was a genuine fossil shoe would convince them that it was, although they admit that the resemblance to a shoe is in fact an exact and extends to so many particulars."

"Under a glass, it is perfectly plain that the leather was first perforated by a sand perforating machine before it was sewed. They call it an 'accidental' concretion. But they admitted that they would not consider any evidence of the genuineness of the fossil because they were so wedded to a theory which would make it impossible."

Mr. Reid took the stone to Dr. Matthew because he has been acquainted with him for years. He was introduced to Professor Kemp by John S. Montgomery, a lawyer at 12 West Street, who was deeply interested in the extraordinary object.

"It is the most perfect piece of natural mimicry that I have ever seen," said Dr. Matthew. "But that is all. It is not the work of man. Man has not been in existence much more than 300,000 years or so on earth, and it is not believed that man has existed on this continent for more than 30,000 years. That is, of course, only an approximate guess. The Triassic formation in which this appears to have been found might have been 300,000,000 years old. Such findings are made every now and then, though I have never seen anything so extraordinary as this before. A man recently found, for instance, what he thought to be a fossilized human eye of great antiquity. It bore a very strong resemblance to an eye, but of course was no such thing."

Anthropologists disagree as to the age of man on the American continent and as to whether man originated here or came from Asia. Dr. Franz Boas, the famous anthropologist, recently said that much more research was necessary to determine the origin of man in North America, but the divergence of opinions between scientists is measurable in thousands of years, not in the millions that would be required to account for a Triassic fossil shoe.

Following the example of Appelles, who once painted a cobbler in the act of repairing a defective shoe in one of his paintings, Mr. Reid took his stone to all the cobblers in the vicinity of his residence, and they all pronounced it a shoe made by a master craftsman, with neater and more exact workmanship than is displayed in modern shoes. Mr. Reid has the stone with him at the Herald Square Hotel, and said he intended to show it to other scientists who might be interested, in the two weeks before he returns to Nevada.

Last night, the second and third year students of the King's College Law school took their examinations in constitutional law under the supervision of F. J. G. Knowlton and Dr. J. Roy Campbell.

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HOME GARDENS ENCOURAGED.
Elementary Agriculture Taught in Jersey Grammar Schools.
The teaching of elementary agriculture the children is being introduced in the grammar schools in many suburban districts in New Jersey. At West Orange, where work of this kind has been started, a practical farmer has been engaged to instruct the pupils. Instructions will be given for the first year only to pupils in the fifth and sixth grades, but Superintendent of Schools S. C. Strong, who with the aid of the Board of Education formulated a course of study, hopes to increase the scope of the work during the second year.
A practical farmer and experienced teacher, who has been secured by the West Orange authorities to conduct the course, will meet each class once a week and give lectures that will tell the children something about where and how the farmer produces food for the nation. He will stress home gardening and in order that the children shall acquire a practical knowledge of garden culture he will urge each child to plant and care for a home garden and will visit homes from time to time to help with them.
Courses of this kind are rapidly gaining favor with the teachers in the schools, according to the New Jersey State Department of Public Education. In a report on the subject the department writes: "Instructions in agriculture in the elementary schools is not one of the so-called new fads in education. It has been tried out in many places and has proved to be a success, provided the man employed to conduct the work knows how to interest children in living things. In reality this kind of instruction is nature study, and what is more, it is nature study of the best kind. The children not only learn about nature, but they learn how nature in the great growing living plants and animals of the farm provides us with our daily food supply."
"Schools teachers at times criticize such work because they say it takes too much of the school time of the children. Such criticisms are made without giving the matter much thought, however, for with the plan followed out at West Orange, only one school period each week is devoted to the work. The other time devoted to the instruction is after school and during the summer vacation, school and during the summer vacation, time that the child can well afford to devote to such work."

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