

# MC2035 POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1911

## The Evening Times and Star

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### THE EVENING TIMES THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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#### CITY GOVERNMENT

The present system of city government in Montreal and Toronto is not satisfactory. Each city has a board of control and a city council. In both the members of the city council are elected by the ward system. There are only seven wards in Toronto, but in Montreal there are no less than thirty-one. There is now a formidable agitation in Montreal to reduce the number of wards to five. It is claimed that under the ward system of annual elections it is not possible to get a good city council, and it is felt that, if all the members of the council as well as the controllers and mayor were elected at large, better results would be obtained. There is also the difficulty in Montreal and Toronto that the aldermen and boards of control do not always agree, and when such a condition exists it is obvious that important measures are likely to be delayed and much confusion arise. The experiment with the board of control, so far as may be judged from the evidence, the commission plan of government. Not only does it appear to be possible under the latter to get better men, but there is no clash of authority and the sense of responsibility which rests upon every member of the commission is a spur to exert him to earnest and faithful work for the benefit of the city.

#### A HEALTHY SIGN

It was noted in The Times last week that there had been a notable increase in bank clearings in St. John during the last year, and that they had more than doubled in ten years. This is a remarkably good showing. Fuller information shows that St. John stands well in the list of Canadian cities in the matter of increase in bank clearings. Taking the last four years for example, while the increase in Halifax has been slightly more than \$2,000,000, the gain in St. John has been over \$10,000,000. It is true that the totals for Halifax are still greater than for St. John, but this city is rapidly gaining ground. For the first week of the present year St. John showed an increase of twenty-seven per cent. over the first week of 1910. The increase in Halifax was only 7.54 per cent. Not only so, but St. John stands third in the list of Canadian cities in percentage of increase for the first week of the year. Vancouver showed an increase of 39.97 per cent. and Edmonton 39.43 per cent. St. John comes next with 27 per cent. These figures are very encouraging and show that the growth of business in St. John is substantial and continuous.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

A London cable states that the crusade against consumption is making very successful progress and that the educative campaign which has been carried on has made the big facts about the disease, the extent of its ravages, the possibility of cure, and the need for preventive measures, very widely known. Indifference is changing into sympathy with all efforts made to fight the plague. Medical officers of health everywhere are endeavoring to put the best methods of combating the disease within the reach of working people, especially those classes among whom the effects are most disastrous. There is now a suggestion that dispensaries for the tuberculin treatment be established which, it is argued, would be cheaper and more effective than the establishment of a sanatorium. It is stated that of the present population of the city of Portsmouth no less than 24,000 persons will ultimately die of consumption unless successful measures are taken to diminish the death rate. A question that is arousing great interest in Germany is that of suitable work under healthy conditions for patients in whose case the disease has been checked in sanatoria. It is said that over fifty per cent. of the patients discharged from sanatoria in Germany die within four years, probably because these patients return to conditions which invite another attack of the disease. If the tuberculin treatment may be adopted in incipient stages without stopping the ordinary employment of the patient the proposed dispensaries would be of immense benefit.

It is objected by somebody that a commission plan of government in St. John will not work well because of the return of the city and county in the municipal council. Surely this is not a problem too great for the combined wisdom of those who have to do with framing new systems of administration.

#### THE DECEMBER REPORT SHOWS THAT THE DOMINION OF CANADA HAS A RECORD REVENUE THIS YEAR AND THAT THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNTRY IS VERY STRONG.

A country in such a happy position is the better able to negotiate on even terms with other countries concerning matters of trade. One objection to the commission plan of government has been offered. It is that here are things more important than governing a city on business principles. If the friends of the commission plan have no more serious criticism to meet than this they will have no great difficulty in bringing about the adoption of the system. We are informed that a new ferry boat can be landed here from New York for \$45,000 and that the craft is suited to the requirements in this harbor. There is still no suggestion of any serious attempt to acquire as to the cost of a bridge, yet nine people out of ten agree that a bridge will before many years become an absolute necessity. It is quite improbable that the city council today will be able to overtake all the business that is up for consideration. There is food for much discussion in any one of several important matters that are to be considered, and unless the aldermen restrain themselves more than is customary there will probably be an adjourned meeting to deal with some of these.

#### IT IS PERHAPS WORTH NOTING IN ST. JOHN THAT AT A MEETING IN MONTREAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, GLOWING TRIBUTES WERE PAID TO THE CITY POLICEMEN AND THE DETECTIVES.

In St. John at the present time the police force is not supported by that strong public sentiment which tends to make its work more effective. This is not at all a desirable state of affairs. It is suggested that St. John might rather follow the example of English cities than of cities in the United States. In English cities there is a wealthy and leisured class having ample time and means to devote themselves to civic affairs. There is therefore no possibility of following the English example. On the other hand, to sneer at a good thing because it may have developed in the United States recalls the question of old time: "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" The unfortunate accident by which Councillor Price of Havelock was shot and dangerously wounded while cruising in the woods on Saturday is most deplorable. It appears that he was shot in mistake for a deer. Such mistakes fortunately are rare in this province, and there does not seem to be any reasonable excuse for their occurrence at all. No hunter should be so eager in the pursuit of game as to discharge a gun without knowing exactly at what the weapon was aimed.

#### THE QUESTION OF TAXATION OF IMPROVED PROPERTY IS AT PRESENT EXCITING A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION.

The citizens who labor to improve the city have grown weary of improving the value of the property of those who themselves do nothing along that line. The man who owns unimproved property that could and should be utilized for building purposes ought to be taxed so heavily that he would either build or sell. The collective interest of the community is more important in this matter than that of a single individual who shows no disposition whatever to encourage the growth and advance the welfare of the city. There is great disappointment in Quebec and Levis over the apparent failure of the effort to secure the construction of Levis as a large dry dock. The chief reason for the failure is said to be the indifference of the provincial government of Quebec and the council of the city of Quebec. In the meantime the prospects for the construction of a dry dock at St. John have greatly improved, and there seems no good reason to doubt that a dock will be built at this port and that work will begin during the present year. This port is naturally fitted to be the site of such a dock, and, as the amount of shipping coming to this port will steadily increase, another strong argument is presented in favor of this location.

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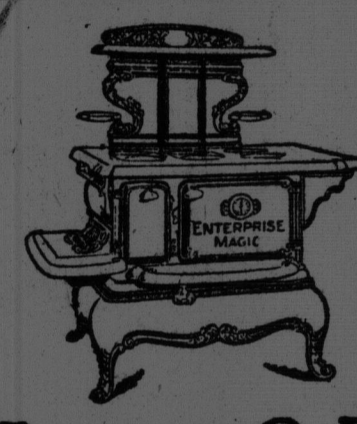
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