

The Evening Times and Star

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KEEPING THE LID ON.

The government at Fredericton and its supporters have decided that the lid must not be lifted. They refuse to have an investigation of the charges made in connection with the patriotic potatoes. They decline to give the people full information about the vast amount of securities held by the Prudential Trust Company in connection with the Valley Railway. They refuse to inquire into the charges to the effect that W. H. Berry, while a government official, received from men doing business with the government through him large sums for his personal use. They have had enough of investigations. The one that was made in connection with the \$2,500 paid by the Dalhousie Lumber Company to Mr. Berry, and by him turned over to Mr. Brankley, without showing the transaction in the public accounts, and without letting the deputy minister know anything about it was proved to be true. Then there was the inquiry before the Royal Commission, which resulted in the retirement of Mr. Fleming from the legislature, and the Southampton Railway inquiry, which resulted in the retirement of Mr. Pinder from the public accounts committee. The government wants no more inquiries. It remembers what has happened in the matter of inquiries in the last year both at Fredericton and at Ottawa, and it has some knowledge also of what is going on in Manitoba. The people must not be given too much information. The more they get the worse it is for the Tory party. Hence the lid is kept on.

MAKE IT A HOLIDAY

A bulletin issued by the Commission of Conservation deals with the importance of Arbor Day, and points out that it is not observed to the extent it should be in Canada. The declaration that the observance of Arbor Day should be general, and that it should be recognized as a public holiday, on which public attention would be given to the planting and protection of shade trees, the preparation of flower and vegetable gardens and clearing up the houses and their surroundings, should be heartily endorsed by the people of every province. We are in too great haste to attend to business or pleasure, and do not give enough attention to those matters which relate to attractive and healthy surroundings. In New Brunswick the custom has been, in clearing land, to cut down all the trees, and neither along the highways nor beside the streams is there to be found to such an extent as is desirable the beauty imparted by trees, carefully set out and carefully tended. It has been too much the custom in the past in erecting a schoolhouse to choose a cheerless spot, and to neglect the cultivation of trees and flowers to make it a place of beauty. All our country roads should be shaded by beautiful trees. Far too many houses in the country have few or no trees about them. A proper observance of Arbor Day would tend to educate the people, arouse a deeper interest in a general effort to make the surroundings of homes, schoolhouses, public spaces and the public highways more attractive. It is worthy of note that the Civic Improvement League of Halifax is making arrangements to have short talks at intervals to the children of the schools on the subject of the creation and preservation of beauty in the city. Last year something was done by the League to encourage the cultivation of flowers, and prizes are also offered for the best kept grounds, and for general activity in neighborhood development. Residents along some streets are taking steps to have a uniform planting of trees on both sides of the street. We need more of the cultivation of this spirit in St. John, and indeed throughout the province, and an annual Arbor Day, observed as a public holiday, should be established with this end in view.

The Standard's Fredericton correspondent says that some changes are forecasted in the St. John plebiscite bill. Apparently the government has decided then to grant a plebiscite. This is interesting, if true. If more money is needed for the Patriotic Fund it must be provided, and the people will be found willing, as Mayor Frink says, to take the necessary action to make the fund serve its purpose to the fullest extent. Another evidence of the disposition of the citizens of St. John to support local institutions is found in the financial report of the Y. M. C. A. The treasurer speaks of the very generous response the people of St. John have made to the appeal of the association for funds this year. The giving spirit is manifesting itself in a marked degree.

Mr. J. L. Stewart is vainly endeavoring to extract from the government at Fredericton some real information regarding the finances of the province. The government, through Hon. Dr. Landry, gravely informs Mr. Stewart that it does not understand what he is talking about, and does not think that he knows very much about finance. It is the evident determination of the government to keep him in a state of ig-

norance, so far as the finances of this province are concerned. It does not wish him to burden his mind with too many facts.

If Italy should enter the field, with 1,200,000 soldiers between twenty and twenty-six years of age, perfectly armed and equipped, it would have a very material influence upon the fortunes of the war.

The brotherly spirit shown by the churches of different denominations in Fairville is a fact worthy of special note. The members realize that the vital points on which they agree are of infinitely more importance than those points on which they differ.

That was a wonderful record made by Britain in transporting troops to the seat of war. More than a million men were transported by water with the loss of only five lives, and in the transport of horses from India only two were lost. This really a marvellous achievement. The German submarine campaign has failed of its purpose. The threatened air raids, even if they should occur and do a great deal of damage, will have no more serious effect upon the outcome of the war.

The prospect that Italy will enter the war on the side of the Allies appears to grow stronger, and one of last night's cables declares that the premier of Bulgaria has admitted the possibility of his country pursuing a like course. During the past week the trend of events generally has been favorable to the Allies, and the hopelessness of the German cause finds more manifest. There is a very bitter feeling in Holland against Germany, because of the sinking of a Dutch steamer, and the whole policy of Germany tends more and more to alienate the sympathy of neutral countries.

Secretary Armstrong of the board of trade writes that the representatives of an estate which owns a large lot of unoccupied land within a few minutes walk of the centre of the city are willing to place this land at the disposal of any organization which would undertake to have it cultivated for the benefit of the people. It ought to be possible to have such a piece of land utilized for individual small gardens, in which people who have not too much of this world's goods could raise some vegetables and flowers, and also get the benefit derived from a healthy contact with the land. There might be a good deal of vacant lot gardening in and around St. John if someone would take the initiative.

The Bangor Commercial says it is estimated that American tourists expend something like \$200,000,000 each year in Europe. Of course there will be no such expenditure this year on the other side of the Atlantic, but the money will be spent somewhere. The Commercial observes that it should be expended in accordance with the motto "feeding America first." There is no reason to doubt that there will be a large expenditure by American tourists in Canada this year. We are told that already nearly all the rooms in the new Algonquin at St. Andrews have been booked for the opening of the season in June. More than ordinary efforts should be made by the Tourist Association in this province to direct attention to the charms of New Brunswick as a summer resort, and they should be provided with sufficient funds to do the work well.

Dr. James W. Robertson, who is perhaps better known to the farmers of Canada as Professor Robertson, but who was more recently chairman of the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, and chairman of an important committee of the Commission of Conservation, is making an appeal to the farmers of Canada on behalf of the Red Cross Society. In a circular published in the press throughout Canada he appeals to farmers to send him sums from \$1.00 to \$50 during the first week in May, hoping by that means to raise about \$10,000 to enable the Red Cross Society to provide more beds at hospitals in Britain and France, and more nurses and hospital supplies. Dr. Robertson points out that every \$50 provides one additional hospital bed, with the giver's name over it. No doubt the first week in May will see money from farmers pouring in liberally to Dr. Robertson at Ottawa, where he is the chairman of the Red Cross Society of Ottawa and Ottawa Valley.

THE FALLS MYSTERY The story of the drowning of a man in the reversible falls continues to occupy more or less public attention in Fairville and Milford, but thus far no clue as to the identity of the lost one has been discovered. Last evening a theory was in circulation that a boat drift might have given rise to the story and it was pointed out that stumps and short logs are running quite freely now and when upright in the whirling waters bear resemblance at long distance to the form of a man. At any rate as far as can be learned there is no one missing from Milford, Pleasant Point or Fairville. The case may become one of the unsolved mysteries of the waters under the bridge.

LIGHTER VEIN.

"Is that a genuine antique?" asked the prospective buyer. "Yes," replied the dealer. "Why, here's a mark that indicates it was made only twenty years ago."

"We are living in a very rapid age. It doesn't take nearly as long to make an antique as it used to."

She was standing on a chair on the pier watching the race. On a chair behind her were two Frenchmen. The lady turned around and said: "I hope I don't obstruct your view?" "Mademoiselle," quickly replied one, "much prefer the obstruction to the view."

Mrs. Smythe called on a friend, expecting to be asked to stay for luncheon. But the friend didn't ask her, and so Mrs. Smythe, secretly much disappointed, rose to go.

She didn't intend in the least to show her respect, unfortunately, as she put out her hand, she said: "Well, goodbye, Mrs. Luncheon—National Food Magazine."

A few years ago a fire occurred early one morning at a house in Liverpool, and as the staircase was well lighted before it was discovered the occupants had to seek some other means of escape.

The companion to an elderly invalid lady was reading the newspaper report of the fire to her, which stated that one servant escaped down a water pipe at the back of the house.

"But," said the poor dear, "must have been!"

A celebrated violinist has a greater readiness of wit than he is usually credited with. He had played one afternoon at a reception at a fashionable house in London, and was standing, rather ill at ease, in a corner, silent.

"You're a young man, aren't you?" said a young woman, demurely approaching him, and said: "Thank you, sir, but your handkerchief is hanging out of your pocket."

"Thank you," said the violinist, "a year for the warning. You probably know the company better than I do."

Late Arrivals. "What got me in bad," said the captive of your wife. It began to look as if I put my foot on the star."

"Too bad," replied Mr. Meekton. "Evidently the dog mistook you for me."

Professional Advice. The lawyer—"You really want a divorce?" The wife—"Yes." The lawyer—"All right. What about the alimony?" The wife—"He can't pay any alimony."

The lawyer—"Eh! What is this—a practical joke? Take my card, please, and go back home and wait until he gets something. Fifty dollars, please."

Touchy. "Mrs. Finsley is awfully proud, don't you think?" "Yes, she is. You know she lived in the country, didn't you? Well, do you know why she left?" "No."

"It was because she had to put 'rural free delivery' on her mail. She said it made her look like a rube who couldn't afford to pay postage. She's awfully touchy."

Of Course. "Daughter sends a thousand kisses and wants a hundred in return."

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PEOPLE WELL KNOWN IN ST. JOHN WERE PRESENT

Sackville, N.B., April 17.—Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McCready entertained the teaching staff of the public schools Wednesday evening in a very delightful way. Other friends interested in educational work were also present included among whom were Dr. and Mrs. G. M. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Allison, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Woodworth, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. Freeman-Lake, Mrs. Trites, Mrs. Wiggins, Mrs. Etter, Mrs. J. E. Parker (Amherst), Mrs. Chas. Ford, Miss Morton, Miss Wright, Miss James, Misses Hilda and Vera Inch, Miss Wathen, Miss Carter, Miss Barr, man, Mr. McPhee, Mr. Crossman, D.

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