

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 1907.

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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.

JOHN RUSSELL, JR., Manager. A. M. BELDING, Editor.

TELEPHONE—News and Editorial, 121; Advertising Dept., 70; Circulation Dept., 14. The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

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THE ASSESSMENT LAW

The city council is apparently very reluctant to take any further action in regard to the proposed new assessment law. The reason for this disinclination is not very clear. The action of the legislature at the last session need not necessarily be regarded as final, and there is the same crying need for a new law as when the council appointed the commission which drew up the bill rejected by the legislature. The board of trade has given attention to the matter and its taxation committee some months since prepared a series of amendments to the bill. The aldermen have been urged to consider these amendments and confer with the board of trade committee in the hope that such amendments may be jointly agreed upon as will make the amended bill satisfactory to the legislature. The aldermen can scarcely do less than take up the question and give it careful consideration. They owe this duty to themselves and to the other taxpayers of the city.

BOURASSA DEFEATED

The Bourassa movement in provincial politics in Quebec received a severe check in yesterday's by-elections. It was generally believed that Mr. Bourassa would make a better showing in Bellechasse, although he was opposed to a man who had represented the constituency for fifteen years and who had been twice elected by acclamation. Of course the government candidates in Bellechasse, Nicolet and Montmorency were all ministers, with portfolios, which gave them a great advantage. The Gouin government is nevertheless stronger as a result of these successes, and it will be interesting to learn what now will be Mr. Bourassa's attitude with regard to provincial politics. He is not dismayed by defeat, and is young enough to be able to look forward to a future day of success. For the time his crusade in the realm of provincial politics has lost interest. It does not follow that the principles he advocated will be forgotten by the people. He has given the politics of Quebec a much needed shaking up, and the general result will be beneficial, even if he for the time goes down to defeat. His sincerity is undoubted, his ability beyond question, and he is enough of a philosopher to bide his time. It is still true that Henri Bourassa is one of the strong men of his race, and a potential influence in the politics of Canada.

On the other hand Mr. Turgeon has reason to rejoice in his personal vindication, and Hon. Mr. Gouin in the vindication of his course as premier.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION

Ninety per cent of the pupils in the schools must, when they grow up, engage in the practical affairs of the home, the farm, the workshop or other occupations than those of the learned professions. The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for 1904 shows that necessity to labor for subsistence, or other causes compels or induces 98.6 out of a hundred pupils to stop short of a college course, and 94 out of a hundred to stop before leaving the primary grades.

What does this imply? Simply that important as may be higher education the great work of the schools must be done in the common schools. Training in the mechanical industries and home economics must not be withheld from pupils in the primary schools if the great mass of children are to receive the training that should fit them to labor in the fields, the shop and the home.

This is the fact set forth in the clearest manner in an address delivered by W. M. Hays, assistant secretary of agriculture, and published by order of the U. S. department of agriculture. While the subject of the address is Country Life Education, it treats generally of the whole system of training and the development of technical education in the United States. Mr. Hays points out that in education the first step was the establishment of private schools. Then gradually followed free primary schools, academies, colleges, city high schools, normal schools, state colleges and universities. The old system was confined to classical learning, and when technical education was introduced it was in a graduate course, and thus confined to college men. Mr. Hays shows

how tenaciously the school men clung to the old ideals, and how it was due to practical men of affairs, through legislation, that scientific, technical and industrial studies were brought into the system. He deals with the development of the consolidated school in rural districts as a necessary part of the new system, and strongly supports the contention that the federal government should grant aid to agricultural high schools in all rural districts. The following summary of what has been accomplished in the United States is interesting and very encouraging to the friends of the practical in education:—

"While Congress inaugurated industrial education; while Minnesota has the credit of designing a successful course of agricultural high-school work; while a number of our cities, as Philadelphia, Brooklyn, St. Paul, St. Louis, Chicago, and Menominee, have proven mechanic arts high schools to be practicable; while Ohio, Indiana, and other states have made practicable that most difficult of changes, the consolidation of the rural schools; and while Alabama has the credit of being first to locate an agricultural high school in each congressional district, the great Southern State of Georgia has the proud distinction of first proceeding to finance a system of agricultural high schools throughout the state. Last July the legislature of Georgia passed an act authorizing Governor Terrell to locate an agricultural high school in each of the eleven congressional districts of the state, and turned over the funds reserved as tag taxes on fertilizers and oils for their use as an annual support fund. The act required the people of the respective districts to furnish farms, buildings, and equipments. Governor Terrell secured experts to aid in the selection of farms suitable for school and branch experiment-station work. He employed an architect to prepare a bird's-eye view of campus and buildings, and he called upon educators to aid in devising a course of study devoted especially to agriculture and home economics, and articulating with the rural schools below, and with the farm, at the same time leading toward the collegiate agricultural course in the University of Georgia.

"The people of Georgia were thus so fully aroused to the importance of these schools that the bids of different cities and counties for them reached figures which put our rich northern states in the shade. All but one of the eleven schools have been located, and what will be the bid of the last one is pretty well known. The total thus given, almost wholly by individual subscribers for the 200 or 300 acre farms, for buildings and equipments, amounts to over \$800,000—more than \$70,000 with which to equip each school. Is it any wonder that this magnificent response by the people of Georgia to his appeal to thus use modern technical education to bring still higher her rising industries and home making led Governor Terrell to suggest to his congressmen to secure a federal grant for more money with which to supply these schools, and for a branch experiment station at each school, a more nearly adequate annual expense fund?"

The movement in the United States to secure federal aid for technical education has been followed by a similar movement in Canada. At the meeting of the maritime board of trade in Amherst two years ago Mr. W. Frank Hatheway strongly urged this course, and in other parts of the country similar advocacy has been heard from time to time. Resolutions from various bodies have urged the federal government to deal with the question in a practical way, and there is reason to hope that these representations will ere long produce the desired result.

Lieut. Gov. Tweedie will address the Canadian Club in Keith's Assembly rooms next Tuesday, on the subject of our forest wealth and its conservation. The subject is one of very great importance in New Brunswick at the present time, and the governor has had special facilities for years past to make himself thoroughly conversant with its varied aspects. If the forest wealth of the province were more wisely conserved there would not be such conditions in the lumber industry as exist at the present time.

The burning of the river steamer Springfield removes one of the oldest craft on the river, and she is the second of the river fleet to be destroyed within a few months. While there will be some inconvenience, the close of the season is so near at hand that business will not be as much affected in the district the Springfield served as if the accident had occurred at an earlier date.

President Falconer's plea for breadth in national life may well be heeded by all Canadians. In this vast country, so wide in area, so varied in resources, and filling up with people from so many lands, there is need of men with broad views and high ideals.

Capt. Bernier is still eager to go to the north pole, and is not discouraged by a frosty reception at Ottawa.

The C. P. R. Montreal train was three hours late yesterday afternoon. The delay was said to be caused by the hold-up in traffic at a collapsed bridge near Sherbrooke (P. Q.). It was found necessary to use the Boston & Maine line via New-Port Junction, in order to keep communication open with Montreal. Commencing today the main line of the C. P. R. will be open again.

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A GOODLY HERITAGE

Could chance or fate, or heaven's decree More highly favored lot assign Than I enjoy with acres free. To books with gold in every line, The rapid effusions of the Nine, The lore of scientist and sage, And deeds and lives that brightly shine? I have a goodly heritage.

The lines are fallen unto me In pleasant places where the pine Stands guardian o'er the maple tree, And elm their arms entwined. A land of corn I rot of wine, Of stirring annals and presage Of peaceful, glorious years benign: I have a goodly heritage.

I hold domestic joy in fee I would not for the world resign: My children sit upon my knee, Their mother lays her hand in mine, And friendship's mild delights combine With love's endearments to engage My heart, and broaden and refine: I have a goodly heritage.

I have a human friend divine, A heavenly country and a page Of Holy Writ: should I repine? I have a goodly heritage.

—W. M. M., in Montreal Witness.

IN LIGHTER VEIN A RECKLESS FELLOW.

Yacht Owner—So the commodore let his skipper go, did he? His Captain—Yes; he was too blamed reckless. He'd think nothing of going out with only ten cases of champagne aboard, and the commodore says as how twenty is the limit of safety.—Puck.

DIDN'T MISS A MEAL.

Mistress—Did you remember to feed the cat every day during my absence? Servant—Every day but one, ma'am. Mistress—And didn't the poor thing have anything to eat all day? Servant—Oh, yes, ma'am. She ate the canary.—Chicago Daily News.

AS OLD AS MAN.

An old physician of the last generation was not a very brusque manner and old-fashioned methods. One time a lady called him in to treat her baby who was slightly ailing. The doctor prescribed castor oil. "But, doctor," protested the young mother, "castor oil is such an old-fashioned remedy." "Madam," replied the doctor, "babies are old-fashioned things."—Ladies Home Journal.

WHY HE DEPARTED.

The elder Sotherton, the creator of the Lord Dunsford fame, was extremely sensitive to interruptions of any sort. Seeing a man in the act of leaving his box during the delivery of one of the actor's best speeches, he shouted out: "Hi, you air, do you know there is another act?" The offender was equal to the occasion, however. He turned to the actor and answered cheerfully, "Oh, yes; that's why I'm going!"—Arctur.

AS IT WILL BE.

"Will you have this here woman to be your lawful wedded wife?" "That's what I loved I would." "Will you love honor and obey her?" "Ain't you got that switched 'round person?" said the bridegroom. "John?" said the bride-elect, "don't you reckon the parson knows his business?" Answered the question! "Yes, air," said the bridegroom, meekly, "I reckon I'll have to!"—Atlantic Constitution.

A BORDEN CHALLENGE (Montreal Gazette.)

Mr. Borden's speech at Winnipeg will make it harder for the government at the next session of parliament to refuse an enquiry into the source of the campaign funds used by the two parties in the parliamentary election of 1904. Mr. Aylesworth and Mr. Pugsley have referred to the Conservative fund and reproached Mr. Borden personally in the connection. Mr. Pugsley especially has spoken as from personal knowledge, and where it came from and what was done with it. Mr. Pugsley is a man of weight and a leader of his party, speaking with the authority and responsibility of a minister. Mr. Borden tells him, and all others, that if an investigation is desired he is ready to aid in it, provided, of course, that both funds are dealt with. Mr. Borden favors a royal commission rather than a parliamentary committee for the work. The body to conduct the enquiry, however, is a matter of detail. The point of importance is that the leader of the Opposition, responding to the attacks of ministers, declares his readiness to go the whole length in finding out the origin, amount and use of campaign funds. He also promises to tell what he knows about the Conservative fund. The government can hardly avoid meeting this challenge, which its own members provoked. If it does meet it and there is a real enquiry, it may easily be said that some remarkable disclosures will be made, and some now prominent men will be laid low.

WEDDINGS Howe-Chipman

Sussex, N. B., Nov. 4.—(Special)—Joseph Howe, the celebrated athlete and graduate of Acadia, now principal of the Grammar school here, shipped quietly away on Thursday last to his home in Kentville (N. S.), where he was supposed to spend the Thanksgiving holiday, and in addition to his holiday he got married and arrived here Saturday with his charming bride. The event was a great surprise to the teaching staff, pupils and public generally. The interesting event took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Chipman, of Chipman's Corner (N. S.), when their daughter, Miss Annie S. was united in marriage to Joseph Howe by Rev. D. E. W. White, of Kentville. The bride was attired in white silk and her traveling gown was of navy blue broadcloth with hat to match. Mr. and Mrs. Howe will reside on Main street, Sussex.

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