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**BEST POTATOES**  
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**J. J. ROSSITER,**

Our Motto: "Suum Cuique."



("To Every Man His Own.")

**The Mail and Advocate**

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Editor and Business Manager: JOHN J. ST. JOHN.

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**CIVIC ELECTIONS**

PUBLIC interest seem to live up as the hour draws nigh for voting. At first it looked as if there would be few candidates offering to serve the city as Councillors; but within the past few days several citizens have announced through the press their determination to enter the field. This is a good sign and one which should stimulate citizens generally to take a deeper interest in this important matter than was evidently manifested by them lately.

Mr. Gosling, the Chairman of the present Board of Commissioners, and nearly all the Board have decided to enter the race. They have acted wisely in adopting this course as it will give the public an opportunity to pronounce on their labors the past three years.

We sincerely hope that the voters on polling day will bear in mind the fact that the object of a civic election is to select men who will act in the best interests of the city. Every householder and taxpayer should vote. It is his right to do so and the bigger the vote the better the endorsement or otherwise of the present Board will be made public.

That the present Board of Commissioners have done some good work would be foolish to deny; equally so would be to say they have been perfect. Many problems which the public understood were to be attended to by them have been neglected; but perhaps the Commissioners have had valid reasons for so doing.

We are of opinion that Mr. Gosling and his associates who are running on the ticket with him would do well to call a public meeting and meet the taxpayers and explain to them why they have conducted municipal matters the past three years as they have. In this way quite a lot of misunderstanding on both sides would be cleaned up. The Commissioners have given quite a lot of study and time to civic problems and we opine to the belief that they should in justice to themselves at least give a public explanation of their stewardship.

That a vast deal of improvements are needed on every hand is very apparent; but whilst admitting that we must also bear in mind that the question of taxation to meet those needed improvements is a very troublesome factor in solving the problem. People generally are against increased taxation of any kind; but many of the pressing needs of the city will to our mind have to remain as they are if extra financial burdens are not imposed.

On the other hand there is no denying that quite a large sum of money is spent in repairing streets, etc., which does not bring in the results to the city that they should. This has been very much in evidence since the first Council came into power some few years ago. We do not think the present

Board are to blame in this respect any more than the former Boards were. Too much attention was given to individual needs by some Councillors and this practice has grown of late years to such an extent that the funds of the city have been expended with no thought of the general welfare of the tax-payers.

However, Mr. Gosling and his associates have decided to let the public pass judgment on their work and it is to be hoped that on polling day the citizens will do so on the sole merits of their case and not on personalities. The citizens are the jury in the present premises and they should exercise their power in the same spirit as it is given them.

Up to the present time it looks as if we will have only two gentlemen seeking the Mayoralty chair, Mr. Gosling and Mr. Walter O'D. Kelly. The latter is a young man of many years business standing and though young should prove a progressive and energetic head of our civic administration. Mr. Gosling is a well known figure in our commercial life and is the "father" of the present commission form of government. His work there the past three years must be the ground upon which the voters should pass judgment. He has given three years of his time and service to the city and we feel sure is prepared to abide by the decision of the tax-payers at the poll.

The matter rests entirely with the ratepayers. They are the supreme judges of the case; and their decision on June 20th next must be accepted by all as vox populi.

**THE WAR**

TO-DAY'S press despatches contain a message of more than ordinary importance as regards the progress of this great world's war. The message we refer to is one from London dealing with a semi-official French communication referring to what is said to be the failure of the German strategy.

It is quite apparent that Austria has made a blunder in withdrawing her forces from the Russian front in order to launch heavy offensives against our brave ally Italy. The recent whirlwind advances of the Russians in Galicia and Volhynia are the direct result of this move of Austria's.

This is a serious matter for the Central Powers and one which cannot be too seriously considered in view of the enormous losses suffered by the Germans in their drive on Verdun.

Turkey has practically collapsed as far as being a serious factor in the war; Bulgaria seems to have come to the parting of the ways with the Central Powers, and except for a few warlike movements in Greek Macedonia has virtually been no help to the Teutonic Alliance the past few months.

Added to these is the smashing defeat administered to the German navy by Beatty's battle squadron. It is not then altogether too optimistic to look for a close of the war by the end of 1917. Some military experts, including many prominent neutrals, predict the war will end in September, 1917.

Professor Pollard as quoted in to-day's cable news says he looks for a big offensive by the Allies on the Western front before long. Within the past few weeks we have seen many indications which would strengthen this belief. The French on this front have been strengthened by a large force of Russians and the British whilst not alone holding their full front have successfully repulsed all German attacks in such a manner that Joffre is quite satisfied that the British forces at present are quite sufficient to hold the day. Doubtless when the drive comes for the fray and we may expect to hear of smashing victories on the Western front which will eclipse all previous victories of the war.

The war must be fought to a finish on the Western front. This all military experts are agreed on and in view of the statements of Professor Pollard we may be nearer the moment than we really think. We have no fear of what the result will be. Germany is fighting a desperate game; but now that France and Britain are able to supply munitions on a larger scale than Germany the result of almost two years sacrifice seems to point that the day of final victory is not so far off.

**DIPHTHERIA AT POUCH COVE**  
There is one case of diphtheria at Pouch Cove reported a couple of days ago. The patient, a child, is being looked after by the doctor at Torbay.

**PRESIDENT WILSON**

THAT President Wilson was nominated by acclamation at the Democratic National Convention came as no surprise to us. For the past few months there seemed to have been that feeling throughout the States. One of the strongest factors in his nomination was the fact that he had pledged his word to the American people to keep the country out of war.

The average American looked upon Roosevelt as a dangerous man for the Presidency. He was responsible for the Spanish-American War and his action in 1912 in splitting the Republican party asunder had the effect of making thousands of Republicans vote for a Democratic President.

The nomination of Hughes on the Republican ticket would not have the effect of defeating Wilson even if the Progressives and Republicans had to unite solidly for Hughes is not acceptable to the Republican party bosses. His sympathies on the war are known only to himself and it is safe to say that the majority of the Irish and German voters would not lean towards one who has refused to clearly state just where he stands.

Even at this early date it is safe to say that President Wilson will be again elected as President with a large majority.

**WORLD'S PRESS**

**We Must Have Faith**

Times of India.—We must have faith in the fundamental justice of our cause, and the profound conviction that we are fighting for principles that must prevail, no matter how toilsome and gloomy may be the path to our goal; service as the one antidote to doubt and pessimism. It is for this reason that we venture to suggest as the call for the spring and summer, and all the months of war that are before us, the motto which was taken from the blind King of the Bohemia after the battle of Crecy, and has ever since been borne by the Prince of Wales—*Ich Dien, I serve.* This war is not to be won by things material only, indispensable as they may be; it must be fought from day to day, from month to month, from year to year indeed by the spiritual forces of the Allies, and those spiritual forces, based on faith, can be upheld only by service. Once again we urge that the paramount need of every citizen of the Empire is Faith, and that the need for a sure foundation for our confidence in victory will become increasingly evident with every month of the war. That confidence will be easy, if, taking the motto "I Serve" for ourselves, we find, with the French people, the heart's ease that comes from all being at work for the war.

**The Men of Skye**

London Chronicle.—The statement that every available man in the island of Lewis is serving either in the Army or Navy, or is called up for service, recalls a fact which Smiles introduced into one of his books, that "no less than a thousand men from a little storm-beaten island of Skye" stood in ranks at Waterloo. Viewing the grievous depopulation of the Scottish isles owing to the crofter troubles, he asked where should we find such men, and in such numbers, if the call of war were again to come. The call has come, and it is good to know that the spirit, if not the numbers, of the descendants of those sturdy soldiers is as high as a century ago.

**Heroic French School Teacher**

New York Press.—Some day, when peace reigns and the story of the great war is written, there will be a chapter devoted to the courage of school teachers who amid bursting shells have held their classes in order that the youth of France might not be neglected in their studies. Rheims, constantly under bombardment by the Germans, continues its educational service to its children. In the champagne cellars the school teachers of Rheims are sheltering more than 13,000 children and offering them the possibilities of continuing their studies.

**Her Fear**

Nervous Old Lady (as train stops suddenly)—"Whats the matter?"  
Trainman—"There is a 200-foot embankment here and a whole train just rolled down it."  
Nervous Old Lady—"Oh, dear, I hope it wasn't ours."

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

**REVEILLE**

**BY CALCAR**

THE city will be glad, no doubt, to have an opportunity to express an opinion of the work performed by Mr. Gosling and his associates and Mr. Gosling and those other gentlemen of the Commission are only doing themselves justice by coming before the people with an account of their stewardship. It may be that citizens will so appreciate the work they have so far done, little account as it is, that they will give them a chance to finish their work.

It will be remembered that Mr. Gosling asked for one year of office at first. The year being up a further extension of time was asked and given so that the important work the Commission had in hand might receive the finishing touches. Two years instead of one have now passed and yet the wonderful work is incomplete.

We have seen a copy of the New Charter. This new charter is a most wonderful and fearful thing. It is to say the least about it an absurdity, and the best thing that could be done with it is in charity to burn it and then strive to forget it. From a casual look through it, the idea is forced upon one, that as it took two precious years to get the thing together, it might well take another two to get the kinks out of it. The easiest way and the most satisfactory would be to destroy it. It took two invaluable years to produce it, let us not throw good money after bad, by wasting any further time over it.

Was it to get up an absurd charter for the city that we put Messrs. Gosling and his fellow Commissioners in office? We misunderstand the proposition if that is what the Commissioners had in mind. The misunderstanding is due entirely to Mr. Gosling, for at the time, previous to the appointment of the Commission, that he was laboring the idea not one word was said to the people about a new charter. We can hardly think the deception was intentional, but there it is, the people were deceived, and if Mr. Gosling is to be condemned, he has only himself to blame.

It was generally, universally understood we might say, that the Commission was to take up the study of city affairs with a view to making recommendations to the regular Council as to ways and means of effecting certain improvements. So general was this belief, that most people thought

the Commissioners would only sit at a sort of wing to the regularly elected Council.

It was understood that the Commissioners had no authority to make expenditures, but they were not long in office before it was apparent that they intended to usurp all the authority of a regularly elected body. They launched forth into expensive undertakings and in a direction that was the very least expected to meet popular approval, by reason of the fact that it was least urgent. We refer now to the laying of the new water system, tarry roads, etc. In connection with these undertakings was the grossest mismanagement and extravagance, so gross as to amount to a scandal.

There has been understanding all round. In the first place the people did not understand that the Commission meant, and then the Commission seems to have had a misunderstanding as to the prerogatives of office conferred upon them by their appointment. It is a pity that this is so, for although the Commissioners have labored hard and we believe conscientiously they have labored in a direction contrary to the wish of the people. Had the Commissioners confined themselves to a study of the city's problems, as was generally thought they would do, a great deal of good might have been accomplished.

Two years have been wasted on a worthless, if not actually, mischievous charter that might have been usefully employed in a study of the housing problem, which is the most insistent of the many questions which confront this city to-day.

People have been given parks,

**GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS**

June 16

FIRST water turned on in town from Windsor Lake, 1862.  
Rev. H. Dunfield, Rev. C. Jeffrey, and Rev. A. C. Waghorne ordained, 1878.  
Railway commissioners first appointed, 1880.  
William H. Horwood and Edward Shea, jr., admitted to Bar, 1884.

Captain Francis, of coastal steamer Curlew, buried, 1887.  
Robert Stein injured by being thrown from railway train, 1899.  
Augustus O. Hayward's house, Pennywell Road, burnt, 1837.  
Explosion in Glace Bay mines; 20 persons killed, 1899.  
American brig, Advance, Capt. Kane, arrived in St. John's, on her way to search for Sir John Franklin, 1853.

Rev. William C. Shears (Church of England) ordained, 1867.  
Rev. Messrs. Romilly, Bradshaw, Evans and Bull (Church of England ministers) ordained, 1880.

The F.P.U. sloop, 'Paragon' left here yesterday for Oporto, fish laden by A. H. Murray.

that must dwell in squalor. They ask for utility and you give them stiff and formal, puny imitation of nature, they cry out for decent homes to dwell in and you give them fancy grounds to walk in (if they can reach them), "they ask for bread and you give them a stone."

**A ROSE**

A RED ROSE, gemmed with pearly dew  
And breathing fragrant balm,  
Within an English garden grew,  
Where reigned a restful calm;  
For it a eve the throistles sang,  
Their chansons sweet and low,  
Round it the stately lilies sprang  
In garments white as snow.

One Summer eve, when hill and dell  
Were bathed in sunset's gold,  
Two lovers said a long farewell  
Within that garden old;  
And, when the maiden turned away,  
Not seeing sky or land,  
That red rose wet with tear-drops lay  
Within her lover's hand.

Where English blood was poured  
Like rain  
One fateful battle-day,  
Lifeless, amid the heaps of slain,  
A youthful soldier lay;  
And, when his comrades gathered round  
And far had fled the foes,  
Above his gallant heart they found  
A blood-stained withered rose!

—M. Rock.

**Scolding Down.**

Hub—Look here Mary, it was only last month I paid a dressmaker's bill for \$74 and here is another one for \$60.  
Wife—Well dear, doesn't that show that I am beginning to spend less?

**Reid-Newfoundland Co.**

**SUNDAY EXCURSIONS.**

**BOWRING PARK.** First Train leaves West End Promenade at 2.15 p.m. and every hour during the evening.  
**TORS COVE.** Train leaves St. John's Station at 2.00 p.m., and leaves Tors Cove returning at 7.30 p.m.  
**KELLOGGERS.** Train leaves St. John's Station at 2.30 p.m., and leaves Kellogg's returning at 8.07 p.m.  
(This Train will not stop at Waterford Bridge leaving St. John's).

**Reid Newfoundland Co.**

**GEORGE KNOWLING**

**Men's and Boys' Clothing Dept.**

Our Men's and Boys' Clothing Department has always been noted for

Best Value for the Money.

We keep the largest and best selected stock in the City. We now are showing

- Spring and Summer Clothing
- Raincoats Macintoshes
- Shirts Caps Ties Footwear

**PROVISIONS and GROCERIES.**

We have the best selected and lowest priced stock obtainable.

- Flour
- Molasses
- Seeds
- Pork
- Teas
- Medicines.

Call and get our prices or write if you cannot come.

**Largest and Best Selected Stock - Lowest Prices.**

**Hardware Department.**

- Fishery Supplies, Manilla Rope, Coir Rope, Hemp Rope, Marlin, Fish Hooks, Patent Logs
- Ship Side Lights, Steering Wheels, Anchors
- Motor Ignition Batteries, Spirit Compasses
- Dory Compasses, Motor Engine Oil, and Grease, Washing Machines, Wringing Machines, Garden and Farm Tools, Carpenters Tools, Fish Beams and Weights, Electric Lanterns, Pocket Flash Lights, Oil Cooking Stoves, Office Safes.

**Women's and Children's Clothing**

We have now open and ready the largest and best selected stock of

- Costumes
- Blouses
- Underclothing
- Corsets
- Skirts
- Raincoats
- Dressmaking and Millinery done on premises.
- Dress Muslins Linens and Silks.

**GEORGE KNOWLING**