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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1911

The Evening Times and Star

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THE EVENING TIMES THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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CIVIC EMPLOYES AND COMMISSION

Many months ago the Common Council "decided" that heads of departments should have complete authority over employees and should hire and discharge according to their own judgment and be held responsible for results. But, as a matter of fact, some of the aldermen continually pursue heads of departments and urge them to appoint this man or that.

In regard to the ferry, the public works, and some others, the heads have been almost completely at the mercy of the more active aldermen for years. This works against efficiency and fair play. It prevents promotion by merit, and introduces and perpetuates favoritism, log-rolling, and all the worst influences of petty patronage and aldermanic "pull."

The employees are not independent of the aldermen, because the heads of departments are under the thumbs of the aldermen. And the worst feature of it is that some of the more objectionable aldermen are the most active in interfering with heads of departments and in their instances that these heads shall do as they wish. While, perhaps, no alderman goes to a head of department and orders him to do a certain thing, the aldermanic wish is often made clear in other ways, and unless the department head is a man of uncommon force and independence the alderman has his way.

The name of the late Dr. A. W. MacRae has been brought into the discussion of commission. As a matter of fact the late Alderman MacRae, who did much good work in the council in spite of some bitter opposition from certain would-be civic bosses of his time, was the first man John. He went away to Houston and to Galveston, and later to Des Moines, and secured copies of their commission charters, and made a close study of the whole question in the light of the information then available. He frequently expressed himself as favorable to commission.

The present system is one under which the citizens cannot hold any man responsible for the conduct of a department. Under the commission form of government the public would hold each commissioner responsible for the work over which he had direction. It would be much easier to secure justice and fairness from five men than from seventeen. Delay would be avoided, for instead of a monthly meeting, following the roundabout committee system at present in vogue, there would be frequent meetings of the commissioners and business would be done with dispatch and wholly in the public eye.

Civic employees who do their work and who are desirous of seeing progressive and fair methods introduced, would receive much better treatment under commission than they receive now under seventeen aldermen. Opponents of commission, who have begun to fear that there will be a change for the better, among civic employees for the purpose of prejudicing the commission cause. These reports will not stand the light of day. Each commissioner is responsible for his four fellow-commissioners in the first place, and to the public in the second place; and any commissioner, or all of them, must transact business in the most public way. If their methods proved objectionable they would not long remain in office. Commission is not for any one class, but for all classes. It represents the square deal in civic administration.

TAMMANY

The dead lock over the election of a United States senator from New York results in a very positive weakening of the authority and prestige of Tammany and of Murphy, its leader. There is one vice from which the Tammany ring is free and that is hypocrisy. It makes no secret of its purpose. All the world knows what it is, and what it is after. Richard Croker and under oath ones that he worked for his own pockets all the time. In one year the police graft was estimated at more than \$3,000,000. The city under Charles Murphy, ex-barrister, is now the Paradise of crooks. If the city is entirely as Mayor Gaynor has pronounced it, its order is for purposes of disorder. Its honor rooted in dishonest stands, and faith-unfalsified keeps it falsely true. Every department is under the control of Murphy, and his organization has ruled the city with but rare intermission, for a hundred and ten years. It is an outgrowth of the society of St. Tammany, but it has com-

CRIPPLE FROM RHEUMATISM

NOW IN PERFECT HEALTH THANKS TO "FRUIT-A-TIVES"

"Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 1st, 1910. 'I am well acquainted with a man known to thousands in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, who for nearly a year was practically a cripple from Rheumatism. He was so troubled with the disease that he found it difficult to even turn over in bed. His heart appeared so weak that he could hardly walk up stairs.

Last June, he received a sample of 'Fruit-a-tives'. He used them and after his recovery from the disease, he writes: 'I honestly believe that 'Fruit-a-tives' is no man in Vancouver who has not heard of it. It is a powerful political machine unequalled anywhere in the world. It moves with clockwork precision, and its great strength is in its intense opposition to government by aristocracy. It is ruled from the bottom of the social status instead of from the top. Nearly all its chiefs for the past seventy years have been guilty of crimes, ranging from embezzlement to the most brazen corruption. The leaders are usually the natural leaders of the people. They make themselves popular by charity and gifts, and afterwards sell out their people. They give gifts of coal and help the people out in their troubles; but as they grow rich and powerful, the kindness goes out of their charity, they cause the trouble they relieve, sacrifice the children in the schools, the people in the tenements, plant vice in the neighborhood and in the homes of the poor. On one occasion the murder of a witness detained in the Tenderloin Police station prevented District Attorney Jerome from exposing their so-called 'cadet' band, who made a business of selling the daughters of the tenements under the protection of the police.

Tammany takes untold millions from the city every year. At one time it was receiving \$400,000 a month from gambling and pool rooms alone. The ice trust is a Tammany trust, and through its banks it has alliances with Standard Oil. The real estate business of New York is more than a hundred millions a year and Tammany finds in this the richest graft of all. There are many other grafts that this organization has learned how to foster since the year 1850, when it carried the state of Jefferson and formed the Democratic party. The Tammany society has always frankly adhered to the doctrine preached at that time by the Clintons, that to the victor belong the spoils, and it has collected the spoils in ever increasing amounts with the growth of the city. The mayor will find it very difficult to substantiate his statement that 'New York is the most orderly large city in the world.' It is a paradise of crooks.

'New Brunswick made a good showing at the Amherst horse show.

Nova Scotia has amended its public utility legislation in order to give the commission power over car companies.

There is talk about approaching political conventions in St. John. It may be hoped that dates for these will not conflict with the civic election on April 18.

Mr. B. Frank Smith, of Woodstock, who was as one politically dead, has begun to revisit the glimpses of the moon, having been elected president of the St. John Valley Railway Company by the Conservatives.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer's proposal to prohibit the export of pulpwood is based on a resolution passed at the Liberal convention in Northumberland County some time ago. The legislature adopted the principle a year or two back.

A Conservative member of parliament with the courage of his convictions is Mr. Andrew Broder of Dundas. He administered a noteworthy rebuke to some of his party associates in the House of Commons on Wednesday. "There is nothing at all in the amendment and antipathy talk," he said. "One political party is as loyal as the other, though each wants to let off all the fireworks." Mr. Broder is the first Conservative who has discussed the proposed trade agreement on economic grounds, and who has not sought to confuse the issue by appeals to prejudice. His example is one that might well be followed by many other men in parliament.

"BRAVEST MAN IN 1910."

King Honors Scottish Fisherman—Royal Compliments

(London Chronicle).

The King received recently at Buckingham Palace "the bravest man in 1910," Frank Fraser, chief engineer on the Aberdeen trawler *Donside*, and presented him with the Stanhope gold medal awarded by the Royal Humane Society, only one which is given annually.

It was on that night of August 27 last that Fraser's heroic deed was performed. The *Donside* was fishing at the time on the Viking Bank about 225 miles from Aberdeen, and though it was blowing hard with a heavy sea running, the captain decided to shoot the trawl.

Unfortunately a deck hand was standing on a part of the net, and was carried over the side of the vessel. Fraser, who was below, rushed up on hearing the shouting, and at once plunged into the seething water, when he discovered that his own brother. It was only after fifteen minutes' patient work that both were got safely on board again.

Accompanied by Admiral Sir G. D. Morant (chairman of the Royal Humane Society, General Sir W. T. Adair, Mr. A. T. Haver and Mr. J. H. Blackwood, Fraser arrived at Buckingham Palace yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, and was at once presented to the presence of the King. Admiral Sir G. D. Morant introduced him to His Majesty. Afterwards Mr. Blackwood read an official account of Fraser's brave deed. The King then handed the medal

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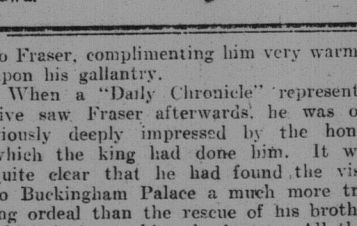
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