

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1919

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THE CURRIER REPORT.

In its annual report just issued the New Brunswick Power Company sets down its assets at a value of \$5,650,910.98.

The Currier Commission, whose report is just out, finds that the cost of the property of the company in service on Jan. 1, 1919, is \$2,800,000. It excludes altogether the water power privileges, which of course are taken into the company's statement of assets.

The commission recommends, however, that the \$3,000,000 issue of bonds and preferred stock be allowed to stand as valid, and that \$200,000 of the \$2,000,000 of common stock, commonly designated as "water," be recognized, but no dividend paid on it until a separate reserve of \$300,000 has been built up out of earnings.

If the city decided to purchase the company's property and franchises, the commission names \$2,800,000 plus ten per cent as the price, with any premium it might be necessary to pay on bonds.

If the city does not purchase, the commission recommends a board of seven directors, of whom three would be named by the governor-in-council, the city would have no voice whatever.

It cannot be said that this report meets the views of the citizens in regard to the valuation of the company's property or in the matter of public control. Until the full report has been received and studied further criticism may fairly be withheld. It will be for the citizens to give the report a most careful examination, adopt a course of action, and present their views as vigorously as they did a year ago. The legislature has power to deal with the whole matter and the city's interests must be vigorously defended.

THE QUESTION OF PORTS.

The Empress of Britain did not go to Portland, Maine. This question of the possible removal of U. S. R. steamships to that port must not be lost sight of. If St. John needs more facilities they must be provided. Canadian trade need not leave Canadian ports unless somebody fails to do what is right. One of the speakers at a public meeting in Portland yesterday revived the old falsehood about untold dangers and impendments in the Bay of Fundy. The record shows that St. John is quite as safe as Portland, and the steamship companies know it. The government at Ottawa must do justice to this port and see that no lack of facilities interferes with its development. Before the end of this year the port will be linked up with another transcontinental line in which the government itself is interested. The whole country profits by having proper facilities at St. John for a growing ocean traffic. If the port of Portland profits at the expense of Canadian ports it will be because these ports do not get a square deal. That is a blunt fact which cannot be overlooked.

WHY A JUVENILE COURT?

Last year a group of six boys did damage amounting to five or six hundred dollars, by theft and vandalism, to the property of a citizen of St. John. These boys were summoned to the police court and from there went back to the old influences and environment. These boys lived in one street and their leader, sixteen years old, had left school when in the second grade.

If there had been a juvenile court with probation officers, the judge would have on his desk when these boys came up a report on each of them. That report, in the shape of a blank form filled in by the probation officer after investigation would tell the name, age and nationality of the boy; the names, ages, occupation, weekly wages and religion of the parents and their nationality; the type of dwelling, number of rooms, rent paid, number of persons in the household, lodgers, if any, character of father and mother, moral conditions of home, sanitation, and social conditions of neighborhood; the school record of the boy if at school, or, if employed, where and for what hours and at what wages; with name and address of employer; the church, Sunday school, club, playground or other organization with which the boy was connected; the character of his associates, his habits and interests, and his physical and mental condition. It may reasonably be assumed that this information, gathered by an experienced officer, would be fairly comprehensive and accurate, and the judge would find in it a guide to the course he should pursue in trying to help each boy to a better life, for that is the purpose of the juvenile court.

If the judge decided to give the boy another chance the probation officer would make frequent visits to the home and seek to remove whatever cause existed there which might tend to delinquency. But under the probation system there is another influence cast around the boy. Through the agency of the court what may be termed a key man is selected in every church, who is responsible for having a number of men called upon to take a personal interest in any wayward boy of a family normally connected with that church. And it may be added just here that what-

ever applies to boys applies to underprivileged girls as well, and big sisters are at work as well as big brothers. It is on record that before the war a decrease in juvenile delinquency followed the introduction of the juvenile court in Canadian cities. During the war, for reasons that are obvious, delinquency increased and but for these courts it would have assumed very much larger proportions.

But a juvenile court judge has much more to do than hear cases. It is his duty to study the city; to discover general causes contributing to delinquency, and direct public attention to them, and submit suggestions for their removal. His most important work, from the community standpoint, may be done outside of the court room, in conjunction with the various agencies promoting social welfare. It is a big task, and to suggest that it could be tackled on the ordinary work of a police magistrate is to belittle a work of vital importance to the well-being of the children of the city.

Objection has been taken to the cost of a juvenile court. Such an objection does not appeal to the citizen already referred to, who suffered a loss of five or six hundred dollars last year through the depredations of a gang of boys. How much property is stolen or destroyed by such boys all over the city in the course of a year? Consider also the cost of keeping a considerable number of boys in the industrial school. From the purely financial standpoint it pays to have such a court.

But who will place a value in dollars and cents on the boys and girls of St. John? What of the wayward lads of past years who gave their lives in France or Flanders? Or of those who fought and are coming back to Canada? What of that great number of boys who if allowed to drift may become criminals, but if their energies are directed into right channels may become worthy and even distinguished citizens? Why haggle about the cost of an agency that will help to conserve the greatest asset any country possesses—its boys and girls?

A juvenile court deals with boys and girls, but also with those who contribute to their delinquency. It deals effectively with truancy. It makes for better home influence and surroundings. It brings the people face to face with the problem of the feeble-minded, for defectives are subjected to mental tests as well as physical examination, and when we get a little farther along in Canada there will be proper provision for the care of those who are not mentally fit to be at large. There are boys in industrial homes with other boys who ought to be segregated, for their own good and the good of the community.

But that is aside from the present question of a juvenile court for St. John. It is the first and a very urgent requirement. There is no criticism of any of those now dispensing justice. This is simply a demand for something more and better in the interests of the child-life of the city. The Times has pointed out that splendid work is being done by the juvenile court of Halifax. St. John cannot afford to go on as at present, without being justly charged with being a party to the debasement of numbers of its boys and girls.

The Halifax Chronicle adds this to the spice of life in the fog-belt:—"It is very interesting indeed to note, after all the inferred slaps at the port of Halifax, and the existence of fog along this coast, that on each of several important occasions lately fog has been practically the undoing of ships arriving at New York and Boston. A thrill of excitement runs through the veins of all Allied peoples to learn that President Wilson's warship, George Washington, narrowly escaped being wrecked quite close to the port of Boston on account of dense fog. President Wilson might have come to Halifax and escaped any such serious risk. The steamship companies should have their vessels heavily insured if they plan to send them to those great American ports."

The Unionist caucus at Ottawa is said to have decided not to deal with the tariff until the latter part of the session, going on first with the government's reconstruction programme. Of course the opposition will have something to say about it, but there will probably be a general disposition to get on with the business of the country as rapidly as possible, giving the most urgent measures the right of way.

WON THE PRIZES.

At a masquerade dance in Tipperary Hall last night the prize winners were Miss Pearl Ramsey, "Irish Colleen," first prize; Miss Florence McNutt, "Grandma," second prize.

Where Power is Very Cheap.

Although it costs but six cents a day in India for men to wave fans to keep the air circulating in houses, they are gradually being replaced by electric fans as cheaper and more reliable.

A VAGRANT'S EPIGRAM.

Change was his mistress, Chance his counsellor, Love could not keep him, Duty forged no chain. The wide seas and the mountains called to him, And gray dawn saw his camp-fires in the rain.

Sweet hands might tremble! Ah, but he must go. Revel might hold him for a little space, But, turning past the laughter and the lamps, His eyes must ever catch the luring face.

Dear eyes might question! Yea, and melt again! Rare lips, a quiver, silently implore; But ever must he turn his furtive head And hear the other summons at the door.

Change was his mistress, Chance his counsellor, The dark pines knew his whistle up the trail, Why tarries he today? And yesterday Adventure lit her stars without vail!

THEODORE G. ROBERTS.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Could Make No Mistake.

An editor said on his return from England:

"The English beer is changed, indeed, from the potent and rich drink of previous days. Ah, well, no doubt it's for the best. The insipid, watery beer of today will do no harm."

"But the marvelous beer of the past made men slaves. There's a story about a young Englishman who used to take his beer out of his own pewter mug. He said to the barmaid one day:

"Always give me my beer in my own mug. Never any other. Make no mistake."

"Oh, no fear of making any mistake about your mug, sir," said the barmaid.

"No," said the young man.

"No," said she. "The handle's always warm."

Pretty Soft.

"Has your made all arrangements for your marriage, Mandy?"

"Well, not quite all, Dinah. I've got to buy a tuxedo, an' rent a house, an' get mah husband a job, an' buy him a good suit o' close, an' get some regular washin' work to do. An' when them's done I kin name de happy day."

Naming the Baby.

A man hurriedly entered a post office to find an address in the telephone directory, says the Portland Telegram, but he found a lady studying the book very intently. He waited patiently for a while, but she seemed no nearer the object of her search, and as his time was limited he finally ventured: "If you are in no great hurry, madam, would you be so kind as to allow me to glance in that book for just a moment?" "Oh, certainly," replied the lady; "I was just looking it over to find a pretty name for baby."

A Great Chance for Young Men and Boys to Buy Mahogany, Neolin Sole Boots, On Saturday March First

Men's Broad, Medium and Recede Toes, genuine Neolin soles and solid rubber heels.

\$10.00 grades.....	\$8.00
8.50 grades.....	7.00
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Boys' Medium and Recede Toes.

Sizes 1 to 1-2	
\$5.50 grade.....	\$4.95
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Sizes 11, 12, 13

\$4.75 grade.....	\$4.00
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RUSSIANS ABHOR CONFERENCE IDEA WITH BOLSHIEVSKI

Is Moral Impossibility for 60,000,000 People, States Former Omsk Ruler—Latter Now in New York

New York, Feb. 27.—Characterizing the proposed Prince's Island conference as a "moral impossibility," abhorrent to more than 60,000,000 Russians who oppose the Bolsheviki, and declaring his purpose to appeal to the Allies to send "quick and energetic economic and military aid to Russia," Nicolaie Avskentseff, former president of the All-Russian provisional government, Omsk, who was deposed last November as the result of a coup d'etat by Admiral Alexander Kolchak, explained here the object of his mission to the peace conference.

Mr. Avskentseff, a stalwart, light-haired, blue-eyed Russian of the build of the late Count Witte, is accompanied by several members of his administration, Vladimir Zenzinov, ex-minister of labor and agriculture, and Eugene Rogosky, ex-minister of police, and also by Andre Argunoff, who in event of the ex-president's death, would have succeeded him. The party, which arrived in New York by way of Canada, Wednesday night, expects to sail for Paris in about two weeks. Meanwhile the members will confer with Madame Breshkovskaya, "the Grandmother of the Russian Revolution," and other Kersky partisans, now in this country.

Before his election to the presidency, Mr. Avskentseff was a prisoner of the Bolsheviki in the fortress of Saint Peter and Paul in Petrograd. Previously to that he had been minister of the interior in the Kersky cabinet. Upon his release from prison he joined the anti-Bolsheviki in Eastern Russia, and on Sept. 23, 1918, at a small town called Oufa, near the Ural Mountains, was chosen head of the provisional government by delegates from the Siberian, Caspian, Archangel, Ural, Samara and Cossack provinces.

He said it was his government that aided in every way the military successes of the Czech-Slovak army of liberation in Siberia, and that the coup d'etat was a "severe disaster" by General Isyrov, commander of those troops.


"Bolshevism has compromised Socialism and is killing democracy," said Mr. Avskentseff. "It is not only complete lawlessness, but it is a process of educating the people to indulge in anarchy. Instead of being a government of peasants and workers, the Bolsheviki are usurpers who subsist on a terrorism beside which the violence of the Czarist government pales into insignificance."

"Russia has a right to expect aid from the Allies. Exhausted from three years of struggle against Germany, in which she made innumerable sacrifices for the cause of the Allies—without regarding her own interests, sacrificing the blood of her sons—she should receive aid from the Allies. Bolshevism is a world menace, and in sending economic and military help they will not be aiding Russia alone but civilization itself."

Mr. Avskentseff attributed the overthrow of the government at Omsk to military and naval officers of monarchial tendencies who, he said, poisoned Admiral Kolchak's mind and caused him to betray his superiors.

The real danger of the Bolsheviki to the world, according to the former Russian president, lies in the measure of the success of their efforts to "legalize" Bolshevism.

According to the former president, if the Allies wait for Russia to be destroyed utterly by anarchy and lawlessness they will be forced in the end to interfere.



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vene, and in that case, he said, "the expense of Russian people would be found opposed to military occupation."

MRS. EMMA BRITT

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Texarkana, Texas.—"I keep house and I was weak, run-down and nervous, back ached a good deal of the time, so it was hard to take care of my chickens and do my work. Vinol has restored my strength, and my nervousness has gone, so I can do my work as well as ever."

—Mrs. Emma Britt.

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Wasson's Drug Store, The Ross Drug Co., St. John. Vinol is sold in Fairville by T. H. Wilson, and at the best drug store in every town and city in the country.

Another Union Service Is Held

A second earnest and deeply reverent service of humble intercession for the reunion of Christendom was held in the city last night within the walls of Centenary church, and was taken part in by all the Protestant denominations in the city. The service followed the usual order of the Methodist church in which it was held, and clergymen representing all of the Protestant denominations took part in it and in inspired prayer and addresses, in praise and silent worship, the devout spirit of the intercession was clearly manifest. A very large congregation assembled in the church and intention of the religious fervor was expressed in the hushed silences and the eager participation in the well known hymns which were sung.

The clergymen representing the Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian, Anglican and Baptist churches and the Salvation Army who attended took their place in the choir and the opening of the service was marked by silent prayer. After all had joined in the doxology, the invocation of God's blessing was made by Rev. H. A. Goodwin. Rev. J. A. MacKeigan led in extemporaneous prayer and Brigadier Moore led the responsive readings; the lesson was read by Rev. F. J. Appleman. Rev. S. S. Poole, in his prayer, expressed the thought that the spirit of unity might be of larger growth. Rev. R. P. McKim gave an address, after which Rev. Neil McLaughlin led in prayer. Rev. H. A. Goodwin pronounced the benediction and the service closed with silent prayer.

The clergymen who did not take part in the service but were seated in the choir were as follows: Baptist, Rev. D. J. McPherson, Rev. J. H. Jenner, Rev. L. A. Tedford, Rev. F. H. Wentworth; Methodist, Rev. E. A. Westmoreland, Rev. Dr. George Steele, Rev. J. C. Berrie, Rev. F. E. Boothroyd, Rev. G. P. Dawson, Rev. H. Penna; Anglican, Rev. Canon R. A. Armstrong, Ven. Arch-

deacon A. H. Crowfoot, Rev. R. Taylor McKim, Rev. D. H. Loweth, Rev. Canon A. W. Daniel, Rev. G. A. Kuhring, Rev. W. P. Dunham, Rev. J. H. A. Holmes, Rev. W. H. Sampson, Rev. H. A. Cody; Presbyterian, Rev. H. C. Fraser, Rev. H. L. Eisenor; Salvation Army, Adjutant Best.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Woman's power in America is well illustrated by the thousands of women who entered almost every line of business to replace men who were drafted during the war. Health proved their strongest asset. Many women, however, developed weak, nervous conditions and could not stand the strain of a business life. Such women should remember there is one tried and true remedy in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which for forty-five years has been restoring health and strength to the women of America.

Miss Margaret Mina Russell of South Nelson and John E. Smith of Rogersville were united in marriage on Wednesday in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Norton. Rev. M. F. O'Brien officiated.

DR. J. O. LAMBERT

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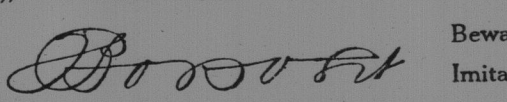
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