

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 8, 1905.

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THAT NEW BERTH

The question of the building for the proposed new steamship berth at Sand Point is one that needs to be settled without delay. It is no light task to construct a pier 300 or 400 feet long in this harbor, where a timber face of so great a height from the bottom must be put down. With timber at hand, and all the labor available, it will tax the energies of contractors to complete the wharf and warehouses in time for next winter's business. And we are told by the Canadian Pacific officials that unless there is a new berth their huge new steamers will not be sent here for cargo next winter.

The city waits to hear from the federal government with regard to the dredging. A favorable reply is expected. The construction of the berth is a national as well as a civic necessity, and will not in any way interfere with future arrangements looking to the conversion of St. John into a national port. The city will still control the situation and be in a position to negotiate. It might be well to examine the government once more of the urgency of the case.

SPECULATIVE ENTERPRISES

The provincial government will, no doubt, look carefully into the proposed solid storage proposition before deciding to guarantee the sum of \$75,000. It is, of course, desirable to have the government encourage any project which will advance the commercial interests of the city and province, and we would all like to see an eight-story warehouse erected here if there were a reasonable certainty that it would not be a losing speculation. The fact that the promoters are confident that the province will not be called upon to make good the amount of the guarantee is not conclusive evidence that the scheme is all right. The Central Railway gave to equally ray dreams a few years ago.

The Times, in common with all the citizens, likes to see money spent for the development of the trade of the port, but the government as well as the corporation which is asked should have some guarantee. If success merely depends upon the guarantee of a certain amount, the request is a reasonable one; but there should be some guarantee of success. Speculation, with the limited funds of this province, would not be justified. The two cheerful optimism of politicians sometimes leads to an expenditure which the results prove to have been unwise.

THE PROBLEM OF REFORM

The activity of a number of the clergy of the city of late in relation to the habits and pleasures of the people, and to the restrictive or prohibitive measures which should be taken for the purpose of reform, has attracted a great deal of attention. Naturally, also, it has by contrast raised another question. Some people think too much of some people violate the law. Some people go to entertainments all this as the truth, and admitting the existence of much that tends to demoralize the mind inevitably turns from the assertion to the reverent reformer who makes it, and asks this question: What have you to offer to the people who are suffering from this process of demoralization?

Have we quite got away from the idea that a church is a place where we make preparations and receive training for use in another world? Do the churches get in sleep enough with the life of today and the problems of today? Do they reach out and down to the lonely and struggling soul that is too much absorbed in the troubles of this world to care very much about the possibilities of the next one? Is religion as preached and practiced regarded as a welcome mandate to love and serve one's fellow men, or as a means of escaping certain disagreeable experiences in the hereafter?

These questions are bound to present themselves to the thoughtful mind when we contemplate existing conditions, and especially when religious teachers actively concern themselves with public matters as of late in this city.

It is not for a moment contended that they are not acting within their rights, or that evils complained of do not exist; but it is obvious that repression is not effective reform, and that there must be something more. Do the churches afford it? Do they by their atmosphere and practical work appeal to and attract? If not, why? Is it because of too much of what George Eliot styled "other-worldliness?"

Take an illustration. In a city church on a recent Sunday evening the minister preached a sermon on a scriptural subject on which opinion is sharply divided. Those who believed as the speaker believed did not need the sermon. Those who did not so believe would not be convinced by his argument. He did not come within a thousand years of the problems that vexed the minds of his hearers. Possibly to some, who had no problems, the sermon might serve as an intellectual tonic, or stimulate a gentle self-complacency; but to the troubled soul there was no message.

By contrast, let us take another illustration. In another city church the preacher took no particular account of dogma.

His message was simple, direct, and all embracing. "God is love, and to love is to serve." "The spirit of God is upon every man who loves and serves his fellow man." If all of us in and out of the churches could get close enough to that ideal, the next world would take care of itself, while this one would need less of our prophetic prediction, and the churches have larger congregations, because the members would be in closer touch with each other and with the life around them, while every sermon would be a message of love and a call to service.

The following dispatch from Detroit should interest those who object to the presence of an American engineer in St. John: "Dr. George Chase of Windsor and Dr. G. W. Robinson of Scarborough were today appointed house surgeons of St. Mary's Hospital for two years. Dr. Chase is a graduate of Toronto University, the medical and surgical staff of St. Mary's is now entirely Canadian. Dr. McLean, head surgeon, being a native of St. Mary's, and Dr. McIntyre, assistant, of Forest, Ontario." There are many doctors in the United States, but here are four Canadian doctors in one United States hospital.

For the information of eager financiers it may be observed that the bond market is dull. The New York Commercial says: "Should it prove true, as a Philadelphia paper asserts is the case, that the underwriters of the \$100,000,000 Pennsylvania bond offerings will be obliged to take up the greater part of the issue, the fact would not be surprising, in view of the recent heavy demands of the year for investment funds. The May circulars of the bond houses admitted a certain degree of dullness in the bond market and probably were merely acknowledging a condition which set in some time before."

Concerning the defeat in the New York state senate of a New York City bill providing for eighty-cent gas, the New York Commercial says: "There was beyond all question an underlying honest conviction in the senate that such a price was too low to permit reasonable dividends—and, in consequence, would work an injustice to thousands of innocent investors in local gas company stocks who are themselves advocates of higher prices for the product. The expected has happened."

The news of the death of Mr. Geo. McLeod is lamented with general regret. Although living in comparative retirement for a number of years, he is remembered as a prominent figure in the life of the province and the dominion during stirring periods of our history. The death of Mr. S. H. Ward, which is announced today, removes one of the most successful of New Brunswick wholesale merchants, and a good and worthy citizen.

An exchange observes that an encouraging sign of the times as regards general financial conditions in this country is found in the fact that business failures in Canada during April were 58 in number, and \$407,076 in amount of defaulted indebtedness, while in the corresponding month of 1904 there were 91 failures, with liabilities of \$981,170.

When the members of the provincial legislature go on a visit to the consolidated school at Kingston, the city should make provision to send the St. John board of school trustees along with them. Possibly it might result in waking them up to a sense of certain needs of the schools of this city, to which they continue to be cheerfully oblivious.

It is announced that accommodation has been booked for 285 members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association excursion party, which leaves Montreal on June 9 for England, by the steamer "Victoria." The tour of so many practical business men in the old country should prove of great benefit to both countries.

The present is a time which calls for wise counsels among shipping men and ship-laborers.

COMING TO THE YORK

It is a tribute in itself to any production these London days to see the Grand well filled and the audience much pleased, as was the case at the presentation of "Sweet Clover" last evening. This bright and interesting comedy-drama was new to Chatham, but it "made good" all the flattering advance press notices with which it was heralded. The plot is somewhat unique and departs pleasantly from the threadbare path of so many performances. The whole thing is intensely human and satirical, and is presented with a skill and a sense of humor that is unusual in the amateur drama. The company was an excellent one, and their work was well done. Chatham Daily Planet, March 28th.

This great company will be at York Theatre week of May 18th.

GRAND DRAWING FOR PHOTON W. The drawing for Photon W. under the auspices of the Shumaker Amateur Athletic Association, promises to be a great success.

The prizes are now coming in very fast. All winning tickets are required to be made return as soon as possible, as the drawing takes place on the 23rd of this month.

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 8, 1905.

ST. JOHN, N. B., May 8th, 1905.

CAN WE MAKE YOUR SUIT FOR THE 24TH?

If so it will be thoroughly well made; will fit well; will have proper style, and will cost you from \$3 to \$5 less than if you order it elsewhere. You'll have to order at once though. You'll be shown a fine assortment of Imported and Domestic Cloths to select from. See our

Men's Suits to measure, \$12.00 to \$25.00
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Chocolate
Lace Boots,
Sizes 8 to 10,

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Chocolate
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This is a fine kid stock, chocolate shade, spring-heel, Blucher styles, a good fitter, good wearer and a nice dressy summer boot.

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GOTHENBURG SYSTEM

Canadian Senate Discussing Its Introduction in Canada as a Solution of the Problem of Intemperance—Two Addresses in Its Favor.

An interesting discussion on the subject of temperance legislation was begun in the senate at Ottawa on Thursday last, and will be resumed on Wednesday of this week. It was introduced by Senator Beique, of Montreal, who sketched the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of the senate the British Gothenburg experiment and the establishment of public house trusts in England have materially advanced the solution of the temperance question and of the social reform problem, and that the time has arrived when like experiments should be made and like public house trusts established in Canada." The Montreal Witness thus reports the speech of Senator Beique. The senator said he desired to call attention to a social disease which had been the cause of many families' misfortune. He had recently seen an article by a French gentleman which had given the best words in alcoholism, and from which he would quote. The writer drew a picture of the ravages of the disease, leaving the victim open to temptation, destroying the mind and memory, destroying the will power, taking away domestic affection, promoting dissension and strife, and often ending in suicide. He said that the nation which allowed alcoholism, ended in slothfulness. Various views were held of the question but all were agreed that alcoholism should be kept out of the country.

Gothenburg System

Turning to the Gothenburg system, Mr. Beique alluded to the address delivered in November last by Sir Charles Bruce, once Governor of Manitoba, on "Public-house trust." Sir Charles reviewed Maine and other prohibitory states. At present prohibition existed only in law; in others, local option had been adopted. Prohibition, he quoted, had only been successful in sparsely populated districts. Sir Charles proceeded to deal with the control of the liquor traffic in Norway and Sweden. The most extensive control existed in Russia, where the government controlled the production of vodka east of the Urals, and allowed only to be sold in sealed packages, prohibiting also drinking rooms for the peasants. This had been done in hopes of securing profit from the traffic, and to "weed out" the liquor habit. Drunkenness had perceptibly diminished, and debauchery was disappearing in this district. The net profit to the Russian Government in 1903 amounted to about \$14,000,000 sterling.

In Scandinavian countries the Gothenburg system had been in vogue for 40 years, and more recently in Great Britain. This principle is to entrust the sale of liquor to a company, which are allowed a profit of five per cent on capital invested and the remainder going to reduce taxation. This system was first applied in Sweden, where about one-third of the municipal taxation was derived from the traffic. This gave the municipality an interest in the sale. Accordingly, in Norway it had been enacted that the profits should be devoted to public interests.

The consequence of this has been to change these countries from more drunken to more temperate nations. The present consumption per capita was 2.28 gallons in the United Kingdom; 1 gallon in the United States; 61 gallons in Russia; 22 gallons in Norway and Sweden. Norway and Sweden the consumption had been reduced from 24 litres per head in 1875, to 16.5 litres per head in 1897, and 18.6 litres per head in 1897.

England's Experience

The first license in England taken under the system was that of the Rev. Mr. Mordaunt, in 1877, which, however, did not include the sale of spirits. Then came the attempt of Bishop James, of Chester, and Major Crawford, in 1890, and finally the Public House Trust of 1901. Of this His Excellency Earl Grey is the moving spirit.

In a letter published in 1902, Earl Grey showed the very rapid growth of the Trust, which, in a few years, had almost controlled the business in England and Wales, only some counties being outside its operations. In this letter His Excellency showed how the Trust had changed the public house from a drinking place to a well conducted club, improved the character of the liquor supplied, and encouraged the use of non-intoxicant drinks. In November last year there were 145 licenses held by the Trust. Looking at the names of those who supported the Trust, it was no wonder that they had succeeded in obtaining such a number of licenses in a short time.

Quoting from a pamphlet issued by the Trust, Mr. Beique showed that its objects were, first, to promote temperance, and second, to prevent new licenses going into private hands. The dividend is limited to 5 per cent, all surplus profits being handed to a council for objects of public benefit, other than those maintained by rates. Under the Trust public houses became refreshment places rather than bars. The sale of food and non-intoxicants being encouraged.

An article in the "Witness" recently showed the decrease in the consumption of intoxicants in Great Britain since 1900, and this was, no doubt, largely due to the existence of these companies. These Public House Trust companies apply their profits to objects of public utility. The

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The Flour That's Good for both Bread and Pastry ROYAL STANDARD Scientifically milled to retain all the nutriment of the grain. Wholesale by NORTHRUP & CO., 23 and 24 South Wharf.

Caledon Head Company had expended of their profits in 1903, £308, and in 1904, £738, in baths, Saturday evening concerts, etc. One of the best elements of the system was the elimination of private profits, and the temptation to induce people to drink.

These trusts might be established not only in the large towns of Canada, but in the large new areas that would be opened up by the National Transcontinental Railway. It would be easy in these new areas to substitute the trusts for ordinary licenses, and he was sure it would be much to the interest of the Transcontinental Railway Commission and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, as well as conducive to peace and good order, both during and after construction, that such houses should be established. He hoped that philanthropists would take hold of the matter.

Senator Gowan, who also spoke, declared that the great remedy was education. The Gothenburg system would no doubt be very respectable and business-like, but the true principle was to educate the people and believe that drinking was injurious and conducive to crime. Senator David said he did not believe in prohibition. He agreed with Senator Beique that the trust system was one of the best means to remedy the evil effects of alcohol. It had been tried and there was no reason to think it would not do in this country what it has done in others.

In Canada He thought in Canada there should be a greater consumption of wine and light ales. The most sober provinces of France were the wine-producing provinces. He was of the opinion that all the governments of the country, local and federal, should endeavor to induce the people to use light wines and ales instead of strong liquors. In Great Britain they had adopted a measure which would finally drive out the saloons. The working man on his way home had to pass many of these saloons. He advocated the establishment of a low license for the sale of light wines and beers, subject to very heavy penalties for infraction. The federal government should impose very high duties on ale, strong liquors, native and imported. More education should be used as much as possible, and the clergy of all denominations had a wide field of usefulness in this respect. Prohibition would not have the anticipated effect, therefore they should limit and restrict on the lines of this resolution.

Mr. Wilson adjourned the debate till Wednesday next.

Today's War News Russian Fleet

SAIGON, French Indo-China, May 8. The Russian hospital ship Kormova, which indicated the approach of the fourth division of the Russian Second Pacific Squadron, commanded by Vice-Admiral Nebogatov, and some freighters, left the Cape St. James new base. The Russian squadron is said to be off the coast of Annam.

Angry at France

TOKYO, May 8. — A member of the Chamber of Commerce of this city has written to that organization suggesting organized commercial retaliation on France on account of the hospitality shown by her to the second Russian Pacific squadron. The writer proposes that the chambers of commerce throughout the empire act jointly in boycotting the goods of French merchants. It is possible that the chambers of commerce here will decline to consider the question.

Oyama Driving Russians

Fenghuangshing (or Maikaili), Manchuria, May 6.—Field Marshal Oyama seemed to be ready to assume the offensive on a large scale and activity has already begun against General Liner's left. This may be the prelude to another general battle. The Japanese have concentrated heavy columns on the two River and their advance divisions have been in contact with the Russians, who are holding the main road from Pailan to Balaichien.

On Thursday, the Japanese cavalry and infantry attacked the Russians in overwhelming force, forcing the latter to retire. Then, supported by infantry, the Japanese advanced and drove the Russian infantry out of the village of Pailan.

A Russian reconnoitering party, twenty miles further west ran into an ambush and all the party except five were killed. Fenghuangshing is about half way between Tie Pass and Harbin.

SKIN GRAFTING ON LARGE SCALE

ST. THOMAS, May 8.—(Special)—On Nov. 30, 1904, when Pierre Marquette, town-warden, ditched the Michigan Central freight train at Pailan and Pailan John Mathews was killed. Reuben Brown, 14 of this city was scalded badly. The burns have all healed except on one leg, and attending surgeons are now grafting human skin on the wounds. Already fifteen of Mr. Little's friends have donated pieces of skin for this purpose.

HAS BEEN SUE FOR VOTING

LONDON, Ont., May 8.—(Special)—A case of an unusual kind came before the assize court here today. John Shaw, post-master at Askin, South London, is being sued by Whit. Lancaster for a penalty of \$2,000 for having voted at the last parliamentary elections.

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