

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 20, 1923

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.
Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2437.
The Times has the largest circulation of any paper in the Maritime Provinces.
Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg.
The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

TRAFALGAR DAY.

Tomorrow comes the Trafalgar anniversary, and the people of the Empire, honoring the memory of peerless Nelson, remember what sea power has meant in their nation's history, and give thought to what, perchance, it may mean again. But for the ships and the gallant souls who manned them, the Empire had been impossible. That wonderful heritage is ours to keep, to guard, and to pass on inviolate to those who come after.

The story of Trafalgar loses none of its glorious inspiration with the passage of time, the story of Nelson's greatest triumph and of his death in the hour when victory was complete and Britain's mastery of the seas was established. Southey in a few words sets the stage for the action of Cadiz by setting forth the significance of the issue:

"The vast plans of the French Emperor included an expedition to cross the Channel and crush England, and to accomplish this he gathered all his available French ships and also those of his ally, Spain. These were intended to protect his army in its passage to England, but Nelson met the French and Spanish fleet off the Spanish coast at Cape Trafalgar, and Britain's empire over the seas was established beyond controversy."

In communicating to Collingwood the order of battle and how the enemy's line was to be broken, "Nelson said that his admirals and captains, knowing his precise object to be that of a close and decisive action, would supply any deficiency of signals and act accordingly. In case signals cannot be seen or clearly understood, no captain can do wrong if he places his ship alongside that of an enemy."

Villeneuve had superiority in numbers and still more in guns, but could not prevail against the spirit and the resolution of the English led by Nelson in the Victory. "The English fleet," says Southey, "consisted of twenty-seven sail of the line and four frigates; the French, of thirty-three and seven large frigates. The French superiority was more in size and weight of metal than in numbers. They had four thousand troops on board; and the best of them could be procured—many of them Tyrolese—were disciplined through the ships. Signal was made to lean down upon the enemy in two lines, Collingwood in the Royal Sovereign leading the leeward line of thirteen ships, and Nelson in the Victory the weather line of fourteen. The fleet having set all sail Nelson retired to his cabin and wrote a prayer for victory. "May the great God, whom I worship, grant to my country, and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory; and may no misconduct in anyone tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the dominant feature in the British fleet. For myself individually, I commit my life to Him that made me; and may His blessing alight on my endeavors for serving my country faithfully. To Him I resign myself, and the just cause which is intrusted to me to defend. Amen, Amen, Amen." Nelson's immortal signal "England expects every man to do his duty," was "received throughout the fleet with a shout of answering acclamation, made sublime by the spirit which it breathed and the feeling which it expressed."

The Victory was the first ship to fire from ships, which hoped to disable her before she could close with them. "The Victory had not yet returned a single gun; fifty of her men had been by this time killed or wounded, and her main-topmast, with all her studding-sails, and her bows shot away. Nelson declared that in all his battles he had seen nothing which had surpassed the cool courage of his crew on this occasion. At four minutes after twelve the Victory opened fire from both sides of her deck." Soon afterwards she ran aboard the Redoubtable, from the mizen-top of which Nelson received the ball which caused his death. He had prayed that humanity might characterize the victory he expected, and supposing the Redoubtable had struck her twice gave orders to cease firing upon her. From the ship he twice heard her received his death wound. He lived long enough to receive Hardy's assurance that he had gained a complete victory. "How many of the enemy were taken?" Hardy did not know, "but fourteen or fifteen at least." "That's well," Nelson responded, "but I have gained for twenty." And a little later, "Now I am satisfied. Thank God, I have done my duty." At half-past four he died, his mighty work accomplished.

To recall the familiar story—it cannot be too familiar—is to recall and emphasize the common duty to the heritage the great admirals kept for us, the duty to keep the old flag flying, to guard the Empire by sea and by land, by sacrifice and by devotion, to honor Nelson and the great captain best by keeping alive the spirit that made them and the race great, to keep the nation worthy of its priceless inheritance.

CIVIC EFFICIENCY.

Ottawa is having a discussion as to civic methods and efficiency, and opinion there still favors an annual election for Mayor rather than the two-year term adopted in many other cities. The longer term for the chief executive official has been brought into force as a rule because of the argument that it brings more continuity of policy, gives a man time to carry his ideas into effect, and makes him more independent than he is under the one-year rule. The two-year term is likely to be abandoned in Chatham, Ont., on the ground that unless there is an annual election the interest of citizens in community matters tends to decline. The Ottawa Journal thinks the short term in practice affords the advantages unfavorable to the longer one, and avoids some of the disadvantages, and it stoutly contends that there is no trouble about continuity of policy as Ottawa is always ready to re-elect a good man—a state of affairs indicating a just and vigilant citizenship.

"The people of Ottawa," says the Journal, "have shown a disposition to retain good men in the Mayor's office and in the City Council as long as they wish to remain, re-electing them year after year. Thus we have that continuity of policy that is urged as one of the benefits of the two-year term. Nor does an honest, capable member of the City Council need to be forever striving to guide his attitude and actions in the disposition of civic questions with a view to vote-catching at the annual election. If he lets the interests of the city be his guide he has little occasion to worry about re-election. The annual election does not only assist in maintaining the interest of the people in civic affairs, it also serves to keep the office holder alert. He is less likely to be negligent of his duties and responsibilities if he has to go before his constituents at the end of every year and give an account of his stewardship than if he were permitted to forget them for two years."

It sounds all right, but when does the Mayor of Ottawa find time to eat and sleep? One is moved to ask that question upon reading in the Citizen a partial list of the Mayor's activities: "Early and late the Mayor must be on hand. To gain an idea of the time and thought he must put into his job as Mayor, one need only enumerate the functions he must take part in during the average week. If it is the first or third week in a month, an auspicious beginning is made with a City Council meeting. Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon there is a Board of Control meeting. That would be a comparatively simple matter, but there are also special meetings and adjourned meetings which occupy long hours of effort. Then there is the special Tuesday night Board of Control meeting, inaugurated this year, to receive deputations. The latter never fail to turn up. This list by no means exhausts the engagements the Mayor is called upon to meet. Almost each day there is a committee gathering of some sort; sometimes two. If it is not the street railway committee, it is the hospital, playgrounds, group insurance, town planning, tree planting, plumbing, building by-law or some other committee. And if there is no committee, there may be a meeting of the police commission, the Hydro-Electric Commission or the Board of Health, all of which he is a member ex-officio. In case he has a few minutes yet to spare, there is probably a reception or a deputation, a civic welcome or a municipal celebration. Between times he must attend to correspondence and other matters."

The length of the civic term has probably less bearing upon good civic government than is commonly supposed. The people succeed in electing good candidates and in keeping their affairs in order if they constantly show a lively and intelligent interest in civic affairs. If they are careless and apathetic no particular system of civic administration will give satisfaction. Everywhere it is increasingly difficult to get strong and capable men to accept official duties which involve a great sacrifice of time and which are too often a thankless task. The more lively and general the interest of the taxpayers, the better the chance to get good candidates and satisfactory government whether the term be one year or two.

One that Bonar Law told to Lloyd George's expense after they parted company has been revived in connection with the former Prime Minister's American tour. The son of an old Scotch widow was made a prisoner in a war against a savage hill tribe and carried into captivity, chained to one of his captors. The bad news came in a letter from a brother soldier. As the old lady could not read very well, a neighbor came over and read out the letter to her, feeling what a dreadful blow it would be to the old woman to hear of her son being manacled to

a savage and in captivity. After the letter had been read, the old woman took off her glasses, wiped them, slowly digested the information and then said meaningly: "God help the pair body that's tied up to our Davie."

Work on the dry dock goes forward swiftly and the great structure will be in readiness for the opening on Oct. 29. The workers of all grades at the plant are showing an admirable spirit in rushing the big enterprise to completion. They are proud of the job, and well they may be.

Perhaps no one knows western conditions better than Patrick Burns of Calgary. He says this year's crop means "prosperity for the West, prosperity for the farmer and the merchant alike. It gives us new hope and assures us that the winter may be faced without fear."

Having received a circular from the directors of the Port of Portland boat-harbor, the Halifax Chronicle comments their enterprise but stamps their claims as extravagant, saying: "It is significant that the Portland authorities find it necessary to make this bid for business and especially that they should seek to draw comparisons unfavorable to the ports of Halifax and St. John. In point of fact the volume of Canadian trade which passes through the port of Portland is comparatively small. It is not now nor is it ever likely to be a serious competitor for business with our own port."

ADMIRALS ALL.

(Newbolt).
Edinburgh, Grenville, Raleigh, Drake, Here's to the bold and free,
Benbow, Collingwood, Byron, Blake, Hall! to the Kings of the Sea,
Admirals all, for England's sake,
Honor be yours and fame,
And honor as long as waves shall break
To Nelson's peerless name.

Essex was fretting in Cadiz Bay
With the galleons fair in sight;
Howard at last must give him his way,
And the word was passed to fight.
Never was schoolboy gayer than he,
Since holidays first began;
He tested his bonnet to wind and sea,
And under the guns he ran.

Drake nor devil nor Spaniard feared,
Their cities he put to the sack;
He singled his Catholic Majesty's beard
And harried his ships to wrack.
He was playing at Plymouth a rubber of bowls
When the great Armada came;
But he said, "They must wait their turn,
God's will, and the day of doom."

And he stooped—and finished the game.
Fifteen sail were the Dutchmen bold,
Duncan he had but two;
But he anchored them fast where he liked,
And his colors aloft he flew.
"I've taken the depth to a fathom," he cried,
"And I'll sink with a right good will,
For I know when we're all of us under the tide
My dog will be fluttering still."

Splinters were flying above, below,
When Nelson sailed the Sound;
"Mark you, I wouldn't be elsewhere now,"
Said he, "for a thousand pound."
The Admiral's signal bade him fly,
But he wickedly wagged his head,
He clapped his glass in his sightless eye
And—"I'm damned if I see it," he said.

Admirals all, they said their say,
"The echoes are ringing still."
Admirals all, they went their way,
To the haven under the hill,
But they left us a kingdom none can take.
The realm of the circling sea,
To be ruled by the rightful sons of Blake
And the Rodneys yet to be.

Admirals all for England's sake,
Honor be yours and fame,
And honor, as long as waves shall break,
To Nelson's peerless name.
IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Literally Speaking.
Wally "W" will hit in a moment. Selly (swallowing another mouthful of sand)—"No, indeed, I'm full of grit."

Mrs. Jones was entertaining friends at a select little 2 o'clock tea, and Tommy was in high feather.
"Ma," he said, as cake was being handed round, "may I have some tongue, please?"
"There isn't any tongue, dear," answered his mother.
"That's funny," commented Tommy. "I heard father say there would be plenty of it."

Absolutely Not.
"This is our latest novelty," said the manufacturer proudly. "Good, isn't it?"
"Not bad," replied the visitor, "but"

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HARMSWORTH DOCUMENTS REVEAL ROMANTIC STORIES OF EARLY CANADA

Vaudreuil's Action may have Prevented Montcalm from Holding Quebec.

London, Oct. 20.—(Special cable to Canadian Press by Geo. Hambleton, staff correspondent)—Romantic stories from the dim pages of Canadian history are being slowly unfolded from the collection of original documents which Sir Leicester Harmsworth has presented to the Canadian Government as memorial to his brother the late Lord Northcliffe.

There are volumes of maps, diaries and communications but ranking chief in interest among them so far is a letter in faded handwriting. It was written by Gen. Montcalm to De Bougainville, his second in command, seven days before Wolfe's soldiers made their way up the steep heights at Wolfe's Cove and captured the Plains of Abraham.

At that time Gen. Montcalm's army was camped on the Beaufort shore below Quebec, but Montcalm apparently was aware of the weak link in the French defences on the Heights of Abraham.

There, above Wolfe's Cove, De Rumigny was in command of a French outpost. "I am sending a regiment of Guenée (an old French province) to Monsieur De Rumigny," Montcalm writes to De Bougainville as he adds the warning words "Observez bien."

New differences of opinion seemed to have arisen between Montcalm, who was in command of the French troops, and Vaudreuil, the Civil Governor of Quebec. Vaudreuil thought the regiment of Guenée, which was counted among the flower of the French army, was not needed and the regiment was sent back to Beauport.

On September 12, 1759, Montcalm again ordered the regiment of Guenée to assist at De Rumigny's outpost. Vaudreuil replied that he would see about it tomorrow. Tomorrow never came. That same night Wolfe's soldiers climbed the slope and defeated the French forces on the Plains of Abraham.

What would have happened had the regiment of Guenée been there to defend the way is a matter of keen speculation. In the face of such resistance Wolfe's men might not have succeeded at all and the French regiment in Canada might have had a very different history.

The documents are now being closely examined by Dr. A. G. Doughty, Dominion archivist. They are so numerous that only a cursory examination has been possible up to the present time. In all likelihood other correspondence will be found bearing additional light on the Montcalm-Vaudreuil episode.

You can't hold a candle to the goods we make.
"Are you in the same business?"
"No, we make gunpowder."

Although the notice plainly stated that no fishing was allowed, the angler sat placidly dangling his line over the stream. The irate keeper who approached him was surprised to see the line was baited with a potato. In an amused voice he asked the angler what he was doing.
"Fishing," was the reply. "You see, my health has been upset by financial worries, and I came down here to see what fresh air would do for me."

Thinking that the man was mentally weak, the keeper did not trouble him, and walked away.
That evening, in the local inn, the keeper was telling his friends about his amusing experience when he walked the angler.
"Caught anything?" inquired the innkeeper thoughtfully.
The angler opened his basket and displayed a fine lot of fish.
"Here," interposed the keeper, "you didn't catch those with a potato?"
"No," was the cool reply; "that was what I caught you with."

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Letters To The Editor

LOWER COVE BOULEVARD.

To the Editor of The Times.
Sir,—As I previously stated, a delegation of citizens would wait on the members of the Common Council, to urge removal of the fence erected by the Exhibition Association across Wentworth street to the Barracks Square. It was because the Association desired to maintain this barrier that the delegation waited upon the Commissioners.

It was made clear from the arguments of the opponents that during the summer months hundreds of persons from various sections of the city were attracted to this beautiful spot for rest and recreation for themselves and their children, or in watching others enjoying themselves in the water south of the "Barrack Point," where a number of bathing houses had been erected by the energetic young men of the neighborhood. The objection raised by members of the Exhibition executive would seem to indicate that all the grounds outside of the enclosure belonged to the Dominion Government and, therefore, the City Council had no right to extend Wentworth street, and construct a driveway, as had been done some years ago, around the southern boundary of the Exhibition grounds, thence to Sydney street. This matter has been referred to the Commissioner of Public Works to report back to the Council. In the meantime I have made an examination of the records, and I find that in the year 1888 the Department of Militia and Defence, as representing His Majesty the King, gave the City of St. John a clear title to all the land in dispute.

With these facts before them the Commissioners should experience little difficulty in meeting the views of the citizens who are asking for the restoration of the facilities they so long enjoyed.

Yours truly,
JOHN B. JONES.

PLANS COMPLETED FOR DOCK PICTURES

Plans for taking official motion pictures of the ceremonies in connection with the opening of the mammoth dry dock on Monday afternoon, Oct. 29, were practically completed at a meeting of the citizens' committee last evening in Mayor Fisher's office. Walter H. Golding, chairman of the picture committee, gave a comprehensive report of what could be done in the direction and he was empowered to proceed along lines he suggested. His suggestion was:

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Notice that these pictures be purchased outright by the city and shown at various motion picture houses throughout Canada and then filed for future occasions was heartily endorsed.

Mr. Golding also was empowered to complete arrangements to have "still" pictures taken for publication in the photographic sections of some of the leading newspapers of the continent. Reporting for the parade committee of which he is chairman, Commissioner John Thornton announced that the Gyo Club had offered to provide a float for "Miss Canada" (Miss Winnifred Blair) in the parade and that the offer had been accepted. He said that to date the following organizations had definitely decided to enter floats: Gyo Club, Garrison Club, civic employees, firemen, St. John Power Boat Club, Pythian Sisters. The chairman announced that Guy L. Short had been appointed secretary of the parade committee and that W. E. Scully, M. P. P., had been added to the committee. Commissioner Thornton expressed himself as being confident that the parade would be a huge success. Mortuary prizes, he said, would be put up by P. S. A. McMullen, reporting for the band committee, submitted prices for the services of the four bands. He was instructed to engage the bands at the prices they named. Those present at the meeting were: Mayor Fisher, Commissioners Bullock and Thornton, Messrs. T. F. Drummond, W. H. Golding, E. J. Terry, Lieutenants, St. John Power Boat Club, Pythian Sisters. The chairman announced that Guy L. Short had been appointed secretary of the parade committee and that W. E. Scully, M. P. P., had been added to the committee.

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