

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 25, 1914.

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## THE RAILWAY CRISIS

At a conference of the city council and the council of the board of trade yesterday it was decided to send a committee to Ottawa to ask for additional aid for the construction of bridges across the St. John and Kennebec rivers, in order to bring the St. John Valley Railway into St. John by the Rethers route. Mr. J. M. Robinson stated the case very clearly when he pointed out that at the present time one end of the Valley Railway would be connected at Centreville with the C. P. R., while the other end is at Gagetown, and if the line came down the west side of the river it also would end on the C. P. R., at Westfield. The C. P. R. now controls the traffic of the west side of the river and also controls the line from Fredericton through Minto to Norton; while the president of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company has important business relations with the C. P. R., and its vice-president is a C. P. R. official, and the general manager of the Intercolonial was also formerly connected with the C. P. R.

This, then, is the situation. The people of St. John and of the province had hoped and had been led to believe that the St. John Valley Railway would be connected with the Grand Trunk Pacific, and would thus secure a large measure of Transcontinental traffic, without which, as Mr. Foster pointed out yesterday, it would not pay the interest on cost of construction. Some of the speakers presented facts yesterday which give color to the suggestion that reports to the government regarding the east and west side routes may have been designed to prevent the adoption of the Rethers route, and ensure the termination of the line on the C. P. R. at Westfield. The discussion yesterday simply put into words what is in the public mind, and made it more clear that prompt and vigorous action should be taken to ensure the bringing of the Valley Railway by the Rethers route to St. John, making connection at the other end with the National Transcontinental.

The citizens are watching the movements of their representatives with a great deal of interest. Any attempt of a great railway corporation, or even to save the credit of a government at the expense of the province will be carefully noted and kept in mind when the day of reckoning comes. The fact that a number of supporters of the Fleming government are actively engaged in guarding the city's interests is as much to their credit as inaction on the part of others at this critical time would be to their discredit. The trimmer and the man who puts party first and the welfare of the province second will be marked men.

What was done at yesterday's conference is but a beginning. The real centre of the trouble is not Ottawa but Fredericton, and the question of an additional bond guarantee is to be fought out there. The people are still without full information regarding the finances of the St. John Valley Railway, and certainly no consideration whatever should be given to any request for additional assistance until full information has been placed before the people's representatives, and the two questions of the route from Gagetown to St. John and that of connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific have been definitely answered. All the people along the St. John valley are interested in this matter, and should make their voices heard and their influence felt. The province is really facing a crisis in this matter of the Valley Railway, and no further financial burden should be placed upon the people until all the facts concerning the whole question have been placed before them.

## A RECREATION CENTRE

A fine illustration of what is being done in large American cities to provide the people with innocent sources of pleasure and improvement is found in the record of Stanford Park, Chicago, which lately celebrated the fourth anniversary of its opening. Stanford Park is named after the late Mr. George W. Stanford, who is described as the "Father of the West Park System" in Chicago, and was for many years president of the West Chicago Park Commission, as well as for four years a member of the board of education. The Times prints on another page the report of Stanford Park for the last year, showing the varied activities, which are all free, and which cannot but have a beneficial effect upon the people of the surrounding community. A little card accompanying the report tells that there are gymnasium classes for children every afternoon and for adults every evening, and that the men's gymnasium is open on Sunday afternoons. There are shower baths where soap and towels are furnished free, and there are baths for both men and women. A public library and reading room is open every day, and on Sundays from two until six p. m. There is a play room and game room for children under ten years in the afternoon,

and children over fourteen in the evening; and it is open to all on Saturdays. There is an assembly hall which can be obtained without charge for dances and entertainments. Illustrated lectures are given every Tuesday afternoon for children, and in the evening for adults. Social dances open to persons over sixteen years of age are held every Thursday evening. An orchestra practices every Wednesday evening. There are club rooms which are open for meetings either afternoon or evening. All of these uses are free to all of the people. In their report the directors say:—

"During the four years Stanford Park has been open to the public, the total attendance has passed the three million mark, including over 1,000,000 shower baths and swims. Yet the foregoing figures and uses should be interpreted in terms of better health, less delinquency, applied justice, neighborliness, democracy, brotherhood and good citizenship. We have co-operated for the common good, and have tried to serve the functions of a social, civic and recreation centre to the neighborhood in which Stanford Park is placed. If progress, and recreation is recreation."

The number of candidates for the civic elections continues to grow. It will probably be necessary to have the double election.

The statements made by the British government in relation to the army officers and Ulster will not be entirely satisfactory to its supporters in the house. The government does not appear to have displayed its usual firmness in the matter.

Engineer Swan commends Oak Bay on the St. Croix as the Charlotte county port which should become an auxiliary to St. John when another winter port is needed. The harbor of L'Etang is not considered by experts to be in the same class.

The Fleming government admits that the St. John and Quebec Railway Company has applied for an additional bond guarantee of \$100,000 per mile. Before the application is considered the people of the province want information that has thus far been withheld.

Hon. George P. Graham charges on his responsibility as a member of parliament that there are wilful falsehoods in the Gutelius transcontinental report. Mr. Graham's searching indictment disposes most effectively of that partisan document.

The Chatham World, Conservative, pays this tribute to Hon. Dr. Landry:—"Hon. Dr. Landry's budget speech was, in some respects the ablest presentation of a financial situation that was even made. He gravely said, for instance, that the loans which were contracted did not increase the public debt, because they were to pay current loans that had been obtained from the banks! The government gets an advance from the banks, then it floats bonds for money to repay the banks, and the public debt is not increased! The discoverer of this great plan of borrowing without getting into debt is sure to become finance minister of Canada some day."

The government at Ottawa does not manifest any great eagerness to answer questions asked by members of the opposition. The latter complain that they have great difficulty in getting before the house the information asked for. One would think that a government pledged to pure and economic administration would be eager to give all the information possible to the country. The people in these provinces would be glad to know just how much traffic has been carried between St. John and Halifax as a result of the switching of the Empire steamships to that port, and what profit there was in the business for the government railway. There are many other questions of interest concerning which it may be hoped the members of the opposition will continue to manifest a very proper curiosity.

Hon. George P. Graham in his speech in parliament yesterday riddled the Gutelius-Staunton report on the Transcontinental Railway and exposed in the clearest manner its purely partisan character and the gross inaccuracies which it contained. At the very outset of his speech he was able to convict the acting minister of railways of making a misstatement to the house and the country of \$41,000,000 as to the amount of capital cost upon which the Grand Trunk Pacific will pay rental after the year 1928. Mr. Graham charged that the Gutelius report was not only utterly misleading, but injurious to the country, and to the Grand Trunk Pacific, which is a great national enterprise. From the time Mr. Gutelius, formerly of the C. P. R., became the chief advisor of the minister of railways, the policy of degrading and discrediting the Grand Trunk Pacific as planned and constructed by the Laurier government became the policy of the Borden government.

## MOTHER! IS CHILD'S STOMACH SOUR, SICK?

If Cross, Feverish, Constipated, Give "California Syrup of Figs"

Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if nature is clogged; that is a rare sign its little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with sour waste. When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul waste, the sour bile and fermenting food passes out of the bowels, and you have a well and playful child again. Children love this harmless "fruit laxative," and mothers can rest easy after giving it, because it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet.

Keep it handy, Mother! A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Remember there are counterfeits sold here, so surely look and see that your is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company." Hand back with contempt any other fig syrup.

## BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25.  
Sir Thomas Taylor, former chief justice of Manitoba, who is now living retired in Hamilton, Ont., attains his eighty-first birthday today. Sir Thomas was in office in Winnipeg from 1887 to 1899 and during that time, as well as since, has taken an active part in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church. In this connection, an amusing story is related by his friends. While in Winnipeg he wrote a book on the law of the church which, unfortunately, had a very small sale. Sir Thomas, always quick tempered, took the supposed small sale to heart and one day obtained a wheelbarrow, piled all the unsold copies of his book in it, wheeled it over to the Red River and dumped the whole edition into the water.

## LIGHTER VEIN

A Sensitive Protest  
"You've gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to give your boy an education," said a father to a young man who was about to leave for college. "I wouldn't mind that," replied Farmer Cornsloss, if Josh wouldn't come home and expect to learn me as much in two or three weeks as he found out during the whole term."

The doctor said he would put me on my feet again in two weeks.  
"Well, didn't he do it?"  
"Yes, he certainly did. I had to sell my bicycle to pay his bill."

From Jest to Earnest  
She, aged seven, was sobbing bitterly when he, aged seventy, met her in the park.  
"What is the trouble, little girl?" he inquired.  
"Hoo, hoo! I've lost my penny!" she sobbed.  
He promptly reached down in his pocket and produced a penny which he offered her with a comforting smile.  
"Well, never mind," he said, soothingly. "Here's your penny; now stop crying."  
She clutched the coin and glared at him with scornful, flashing eyes.  
"Oh, you wicked man. You had my penny all the time!"

"Didn't your husband storm when you showed him your milliner's bill?"  
"I should say he did!"  
"Well, what did you do?"  
"Oh, he told me to get a dressmaker's bill, and then he was speechless."

A pompous physician who was inclined to criticize others was watching a stonemason build a fence for his neighbor. He thought the mason used too much mortar.  
"Jin," he said, "mortar covers up a good many mistakes, doesn't it?"  
"Yes, doctor," calmly replied the mason, "and so does the spade."—Harper's Magazine.

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## HYDRO-ELECTRIC WAS DISCUSSED

Strong Opposition From Salmon Fishing Interests and Lumbermen—Will be Privately Considered Next Tuesday

Federicton, N. B., March 24.—The bill to incorporate the St. John River Hydro-Electric Company was the chief measure before the House today.

Mr. Tilley presented the petition of the St. John Valley Hydro-Electric Company to extend its power and light lines into Kings county.

The house went into committee with Mr. Black in the chair, and agreed to the bill to confirm sales of land made under the order of the chancery division of the supreme court to amend the Children's Protection Act and to authorize the bill to authorize the lease of crown lands for certain purposes.

When the corporation committee met again this evening discussion was continued on the hydro-electric bill.

T. F. Allen appeared in behalf of the Tobique salmon interests and opposed the measure. He placed the value of the Tobique to the Bay of Fundy at \$80,000 annually. No fish could spawn in the lower St. John, he said, and if the proposed dam was built the fish could not go above it, and the two or three million young salmon hatched each year at Grand Falls hatchery would have difficulty in getting out.

J. H. F. Winslow wanted to know how much of the \$800,000 of stock had been applied for and paid up.

John Kilburn said he did not think the lumbering industry would be affected by the proposed dam. J. F. Gregory replied to this by saying that the speak-

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End such misery now! Get the small bottle of "Ely's Cream Balm" at any drug store.

Federicton when so important a matter was being dealt with.

The bill will be privately considered on Tuesday morning next.

A certain congressman in the United States has a disastrous experience in gold mine speculation. One day some of his colleagues were discussing the subject of speculation when one of them said to this western member:

"Old chap, as an expert, give us a definition of the term 'bonanza.'"

"A 'bonanza'?" replied the western man with emphasis, "is a hole in the ground owned by a champion liar!"

"Come in and have 'It charged' was the inviting sign in front of a place of business in a Jersey town. A stranger, being somewhat low in funds, walked briskly. "I understand that I can get things charged here," he said, addressing one of the employees. "Only storage batteries," replied the other man.

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