

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 31, 1915.

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THE TRANSGRESSORS

The "plant" of the Manitoba Conservatives, designed to besmirch Premier Norris and the Liberals and distract attention from their own political ineptitude, has failed. This is a favorite device. It was tried in New Brunswick when Messrs. Carvell and Carter were bringing to light the political crookedness revealed before the Dugal Commission. It was tried at Ottawa when the war contract scandals were coming to light. But it is a poor game and a losing one.

The Royal Commission on the Fulerton charges in Manitoba has completely exonerated Premier Norris and the Liberal party, and has bluntly told the Hon. Mr. Howden that it does not believe his assertions, in the face of the evidence submitted. This ought to be of material assistance to Mr. Norris and the Liberals in the elections for which nominations have just been made. It cannot be believed that the people of Manitoba are so hardened to tales of graft that they will give the Conservatives another lease of power.

The government of New Brunswick has not had the grace to resign. It clings to office although it has utterly lost the confidence of the people, and has deserved their righteous condemnation. More unfortunate still, the leading Conservatives who sought to denounce it or insist upon a complete reorganization are silent. Do they oppose its record? If they do they, too, deserve to lose public confidence and to be taught that there is something of greater value than partisanship, and that it is commonly known as patriotism. He is not a patriot who whitewashes the political wrong-doers and encourages them to continue in their iniquity. Manitoba may be expected to set an example that New Brunswick should follow at the very first opportunity. Meanwhile we find out who collected that money from the liquor dealers, and what became of it.

RAILWAYS AND ST. JOHN

The Standard says:—"The Valley Railway will be completed and will come to St. John in due time to play its part in the development of this port."

Similar promises were made quite a number of years ago by the Flemming government. The people were deceived by the Valley Railway would be completed by the time the National Transcontinental railway was ready to handle through traffic. That was the "due time" to which the Standard refers, but it is past and gone. The National Transcontinental is ready for business, but the Valley Railway only runs to Gagetown and Centerville north, and the work of extending the line to St. John in one direction and linking it up with the National Transcontinental at the other is not being done.

Whenever the Standard talks on this subject it deals, in its own peculiar way, with the period prior to 1911. There have since been four years of Conservative rule at Ottawa, and even if it were true that the former government had failed to move quickly enough that would not account for or explain the four idle years since 1911. The Valley Railway should have been completed, and terminals should have been provided at St. John for the National Transcontinental. This work has not been done, and now there are unpleasant rumors and whispered conferences which appear to indicate still further disagreeable news for St. John people. Out with it, gentlemen. Let us know what St. John may expect at the hands of the present governments at Fredericton and Ottawa.

CITY GOVERNMENT.

It is an interesting fact that Montreal is in much the same position in regard to its city government as is the city of St. John, with the difference that when Montreal discarded the wholly objectionable old system it adopted the board of control plan instead of a straight commission. There is a city council with the board of control, but because the citizens did not choose the right kind of men the system has not worked out well. The case of the two cities is so nearly parallel that there will be general interest in St. John in the following article from the Montreal Gazette—

"The retention of the Board of Commissioners as part of the municipal administration has again been discussed at the City Hall in connection with a proposal that a vote of the citizens shall be taken on the matter. Were the issue presented to the rate-payers today the judgment would probably go against the commissioners. The story of the present organization is good. The weakness of the administration of the municipal affairs of a city the size of Montreal by a council acting through committees had become painfully evident. The plan of a board of commissioners which would plan and execute, working in co-operation with the city council, which would legislate and pass upon the commissioners' proposals, commended itself as likely to lead to improvement, and it does so still. The failure has been in the experiment, not in the principle involved. The first commissioners elected were all amateurs,

who did not appreciate to what their policy was leading. They did a great deal of work, with a minimum of scandal of the kind that had been much excused. They made some mistakes, however, notably in connection with the water works service; and they added to the municipal debt so great a sum that the consequences are likely to be seen soon in an increase in the heavy rate of taxation real property has to bear. The first commissioners, however, compare favorably with their successors, who are now in power. The public charges of corruption made by members against each other, the expensiveness of each other's integrity that mark almost every meeting, and their open failure to respect the dignity of their positions, with the exploitation of their faults and errors in the public prints, have contributed to destroy public confidence in them as a whole and to create a feeling that nothing could well be worse than the present order. Those who always opposed the Board of Commissioners as a part of the city's administrative machinery naturally think the time is opportune for taking the views of the voters on the question of putting an end to it. A vote on the issue also may be necessary before the board is accepted as permanent. Those, therefore, who think that the system as it is today is a good one would do well to make their opinions effective in the discussions that are likely to arise and also in the vote, if a vote is held at an early date. To give the board of commissioners the chance to justify itself, however, it is necessary that the terms of the present members should be cut short. Only the legislative body can do this. If a vote is held at an early date, it should be asked at the next session to give the people of the city an opportunity at the coming municipal elections to select new commissioners as well as new aldermen, and both for a term not exceeding two years. The four years' term for commissioners is too long to permit of the people correcting their mistakes of choice in time to avert serious mischief, and the opportunity of the people to correct their mistakes in choosing representatives is the only sure remedy for public wrong doing. Some action of the kind suggested is necessary to carry the experiment of the commissioners to success. Another year with a record such as has lately been presented would ensure the overwhelming overthrow of the board."

It will be observed that the Gazette is opposed to going back to the old discredited style of city council with committees. With regard to the new system it says: "The failure has been in the experiment, not in the principle involved." The principle of government by commission is also right, and yet it is being discredited in practice through failure of the commissioners to work heartily together for the public good.

Mr. Lloyd George would be glad to see Canada making more war materials. The Borden government will please take notice.

The Summerside dealer who made a profit of \$52.50 per horse on 81 horses for military purposes was doing a thrifty business.

How would it do for the warring Presbyterian factions to drop their wrangling over church union and have a shanty at the Germans?

Will the next German movement be a drive in the west parallel to the drive against Russia in the east? There's work ahead for Kitchener and French.

The only question to be answered with regard to Warsaw is whether the Russian armies can withdraw without disaster in the field, or whether some of them will be cut off.

The war news of the past week deepens the conviction that Britain must play an increasingly important part in the land fighting. She must therefore provide more and more men and munitions.

With news of the execution of Becker comes also the information that there is an apparent increase in crime in the city of New York. The reformers have not yet succeeded in their great task. Also, Murderer Thaw is again at large.

The new assessment commission will meet on Monday. More power to its elbow. It is not tax-paying that worries a man so much as the knowledge that while he pays in full there are others, probably better able to pay, who only do it in part.

The influence of Bourassa has developed a spirit in a portion of Quebec province which is running close to treason. Bourassa's friends in the Borden government have a fine opportunity to rise now and express their sentiments. Sir Mackenzie Bowell should urge them to do it.

High Patriotism.

In the name of your love for your country you must combat without truce the existence of every privilege, every inequality, upon the soil which has given you birth.—Mazzini.

PROCLAMATION

Fredericton, July 28.—His Honor the Lieut. Governor respectfully requests that Wednesday, the fourth day of August, be observed throughout the province as the first anniversary of Great Britain's declaration of war against Germany and that on that day clergy members of the several churches and others, in sermons and addresses, impress upon their hearers the determination to continue to victory the struggle for justice and liberty in which our nation and her allies are engaged.

His Honor further requests that entertainments be held on that day, the funds derived therefrom to be given to the Canadian Patriotic Fund to provide for the dependents of those who are fighting for the honor and integrity of the British Empire.

WILLIAM CRUICKSHANK, Private Secretary.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Beater—Beg pardon, sir, but at the last shoot you peppered my leg with a shot!

Sportsman—Well, I know that, and didn't I compensate you—pay you handsomely?

Beater—Certainly, sir. But there's to be another shoot on Tuesday and I thought perhaps a little on account of "Ask me!" asked one of his friends.

"They didn't seem to," laconically answered the actor.

"Well, didn't they give you encouragement? Didn't they ask you to come before the curtain?" persisted the friend.

"Ask me!" answered Crane. "Man, they dared me."

"Magnificent! I am glad you are sporting, Jake. I didn't know you were able to afford it."

"Then how can you wear it? Is it yours?"

"It's mine, it's a monument," "How's that?"

"Well, you see, my grandfather was very fond of me. He died his lifetime. When he died he left \$1000 by will with instructions for me to buy a stone with it. This is the stone."

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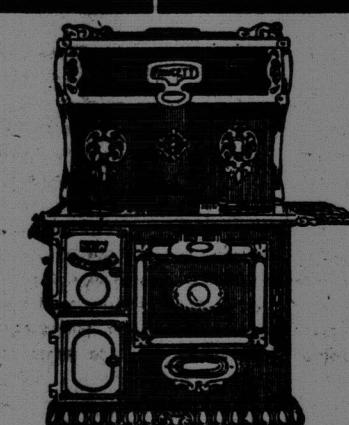
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VILLAGES RUN BY WOMEN

Owing to the War, Women Conduct Almost All Business and Government Functions in Some Villages

Owing to the war women are taking up many odd callings to make up for the shortage of men, but in the country women have always done whatever lay nearest to their hand.

In the village the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker, may all be women, and there is at least one small town in Devon in which women form the chief business element. The principal hotel is run by a woman and her daughter, a woman deftly cuts the joints and orders her son about.

A bakeress bakes the nicest bread, and her daughter trudges far into the country with two baskets slung on her back a picturesque figure of the female worker. The wine merchant is a woman who works up a nice little business, while a chemist's shop is owned by a woman, to say nothing of the trades which are to be found everywhere, sweet stuff shop, fancy shops and the like.

France being a country where universal service is the rule is nowadays depending largely on the work of women but even in the times of peace there were places where they were the chief citizens.

At Froissy in the Department of the Oise, most of the public appointments are held by women and will be until their present holders die.

There is a postmistress instead of a postmaster; the telegraph department is run by a woman, a stationmistress directs the porters at the local station; a woman barrier cuts the hair of the community; and the town clerk also takes "ess" on to the name of her calling.

In most cases these posts were held by husbands or brothers and the villagers considered their female relatives were their legitimate successors. This is also partly the case in the English town mentioned, although in some cases daughters have succeeded mothers to the general satisfaction.

Another French community is also directed by women, not by chance, but by custom and necessity. This is the rocky island of Ushant, drearily by sailors which breeds a hardy race of seamen, engaged either in the French navy or mercantile marine or in fishing, the work

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on land being done by the women.

In Russia a community of seven villages with 17,000 names is entirely ruled by women. Each village possesses a mayress and the offices of magistrate and policeman and postmaster—in fact every administrative post are also filled by the gentler sex. Some 80 years ago a bad epidemic occurred and the men made such a muddle of affairs and behaved so badly that the women took over the government to save themselves from starvation. So successful were they that they have continued to direct affairs ever since—London Answere.

Turner Jones, of Valdoia, Ga., sold a farmer six pairs of shoes, comprising the following sizes: An eight, nine and 10 for his three daughters, and 11 for the farmer himself and a 12 and 14 for his two sons. It is estimated that it required an average-size cowhide to furnish the leather for the shoes.

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