

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1923

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## DOES ST. JOHN NEED THIS?

The first meeting of the new City Council of Portland, Maine, under the city manager plan, lasted just twenty minutes. Mr. Philip J. Deering, chairman of the new council of five, one of whom is a woman, in a very brief inaugural address said that the first aim would be to reduce taxation and that expenditures would be kept within the limits of strict economy. He added:—  
"It is imperative that no racial, religious or political issue be allowed to infect itself into the affairs of the city," he said, "for all citizens are entitled to full recognition, irrespective of color, creed or politics, and it is our belief that the only qualification for office shall be honesty, efficiency and courteous treatment of the public. This council wishes it understood that it will approach questions with an open mind, that it has no favorites to reward, that it is not hampered by political promises or controlled by campaign pledges, but that its only pledge is to give the city a government based on business principles."

The only business transacted was the swearing in of the members and the appointment of a city manager and corporation counsel. The new Council evidently believes that it pays to have the right kind of a manager, for it has agreed to pay a salary of \$10,000 per year. The man chosen is Mr. Harry A. Binkhroff of Rutherford, N. J. He was not an applicant for the position but was sent for and finally agreed to accept the office. The Press Herald says:—  
"The new City Manager is a man of large experience in handling big projects, having been in charge of numerous important engineering projects in many parts of the United States and Canada. Until two years ago, when he established himself as a consulting engineer, he was for more than twenty years with Westinghouse, Church, Kerr & Co. of New York. He is fifty-two years old. He was in charge of the construction of the big Long Island City Powerhouse of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He built the new terminal in Winnipeg, which required a great deal of diversified construction, including altering streets, paving and building. He also was managing engineer in charge of the construction of the Muskeg Shoals Nitrate Plant No. 2, which was built by the Westinghouse concern. He has had charge of as many as 12,000 men at one time as a managing engineer, and has put through work costing twenty million dollars in a twelve month period."

The new manager will choose the chiefs of departments, subject to confirmation by Council, and as politics is barred the result should be a good staff of officials. The policy of "hands-off" in the matter of appointments is very strongly approved by the Press-Herald, which cites the City of Cleveland as an example. We quote:—  
"The newly elected Council of the city of Cleveland, which recently adopted the council-manager plan of government, similar to the one Portland now has, picked out a man for city manager and offered him the job. Before he agreed to accept it this man, Warren B. Hopkins, addressed the council a letter and declared that he would take the position only on the condition that he be left entirely alone in making selections of subordinate city officials without any interference on the part of the council or the politicians of Cleveland. If this was not agreed to Mr. Hopkins said he did not want to be city manager. When it became known that this was the attitude of this candidate for city manager the newspapers of Cleveland, voicing the wishes of the people, commended Mr. Hopkins for his stand and declared that unless the council agreed to the policy of hands-off in making appointments it would not be living up to the demands of the majority of the people who had favored the adoption of the new system of government."

Cleveland is the largest city that has thus far adopted the city manager plan, which appears to be growing steadily in favor.  
**THE NEW PARTY IN B. C.**  
The new Provincial Party is causing some stir in British Columbia. Delegates from all parts of the province met in Vancouver last week to draw up a platform. Some of those in attendance proved that they take their politics seriously enough to undergo hardship if necessary. The Sun says:—  
"The most distant point represented among the late arrivals was Fort St. John, in the Fort George riding. V. N. McLean, a rancher of this northern outpost, travelled 96 miles in a canoe with ice forming in the river, made part of the journey by pack horse, and then covered the rest of the way to the railway at Grande Prairie by auto. The rivers which had to be crossed made travelling especially difficult."  
The man who made that journey is evidently out for reform. It is interesting to note that Mr. J. N. Harvie,

formerly of St. John, was a member of the new party's committee on municipal problems. A writer in the Victoria Colonist vigorously attacks Gen. A. D. McRae, who has thus far led the party, and Sir Hilbert Tupper, because they did not rally to the Conservative Party under Hon. Mr. Bowser, instead of forming a new party, and the Colonist itself has charged that the origin of the latter party was in the first instance self ordained by a few ambitious spirits in Vancouver. To this a correspondent from Sidney, North Saanich replies:—  
"A third party was first mooted by the United Farmers' Association of B. C. at Vernon, and subsequently the co-operation of business men and others representing labor was sought from Victoria, Vancouver and the various parts of this province, and a conference was held at Vernon in the early part of this year. The result of this conference was the formation of the Provincial Party of B. C."

The fate of new parties in different provinces has never been such as to encourage their formation, but they sometimes accomplish a needed reform; and they always inject an element of uncertainty into an election campaign. They are perhaps a necessary safety valve, to be of occasional service. The Pacific Province will now have a bit of experience with one, and, when the time comes, a very spicy election campaign.

The complete reconciliation between Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. Arthur Meighen, and the acceptance by the former of the Conservatives policy and leadership, is an event of no little interest in the west. Mr. Rogers has not been in full accord with the party for some years. He was not in favor of Union Government. He was not greatly enamored of Mr. Meighen as leader of the Conservative party; and from time to time he has sounded a discordant note. In Saskatoon yesterday he buried the hatchet, and announced that whatever he possessed of energy and ability would be at the disposal of the party for the rest of his life. The Conservatives are girding up their loins for a determined forward movement toward Ottawa, and the western wing of the party will very heartily welcome the announcement of Mr. Rogers.

The Times-Star Christmas Stocking Fund will appeal to very many people. This paper is arranging to have distributed to children who would otherwise have a dull Christmas some of the cheer that more fortunate young people get as a matter of course. To each goes a pair of good woolen stockings, filled with candy and fruit. The homes to which these go are listed by clergy-men, the Associated Charities and others whose knowledge of conditions is unquestioned. This distribution does not interfere with any plans to send baskets of food and clothing to families. It is designed for the children alone, and for those who in the ordinary course would lack the sweets which help to make Christmas a day of delight.

Referring to the approach of the civic elections Mayor Hayward of Victoria, B. C., made some remarks last week that are applicable in other cities. He said:—"As there are several aldermen retiring this year, it behooves the citizens to see that business men of the calibre required to grapple with the city's problems in 1924 fill the vacancies which are to be created in the Council Chamber. Next year Victoria will face one of the crucial years of her existence. Steady, courageous men who will see the city safely past her financial dangers, are needed. With the taxes this year higher than ever before, and the uncontrollable expenditures bound to be higher next year, the city requires level heads in charge of her affairs."

Mr. M. P. Fennell of Montreal, president of the American Association of Port Authorities and general manager of the port of Montreal put the latter on the map in a speech in New York which concluded as follows:—"Gentlemen, just sit back and watch us grow. You will need to watch with both your eyes, for our progress will be so rapid, our expansion will be so wonderful, that to paraphrase Macaulay—the day will surely come when a representative of the foremost port of Canada, the greatest port on the North American continent, aye, the greatest harbor in the world will sit on a broken arch of Brooklyn Bridge, and sketch the ruins of the Bowery."

The United Farmers of Ontario will take no part as a provincial organization in politics for the next year, but if farmers in any section want a farmer candidate they will be free to act. This is the compromise arrived at by the two factions in the U. F. O. yesterday in convention at Toronto. It

really marks the passing of the Farmers' Party in that province.

St. John is unaccustomed to the hold-up man. The first one captured should be given such a lesson as would cause others to hesitate before attempting to ply their trade.

The coming battle between Mexican Government forces and the insurgents on the Vera Cruz front will either break the back of the rebellion or give the country a period of bitter and perhaps prolonged strife.

The German Chancellor declares that Germany is absolutely at the end of her resources, and may have to throw herself upon the League of Nations. What has France gained by her obstinate policy in regard to Germany?

The French Government is considering a measure to make voting in elections compulsory. Either that or loss of the franchise will probably be a remedy generally applied before many years have passed.

If New Brunswick farmers feel that times might be better, they are not alone in that feeling. A despatch from Houlton, Maine, says:—"Farmers are complaining of hard times and as always when conditions like this come business also is handicapped."

The making of a separate fisheries district of the Province of New Brunswick will give great satisfaction to all who are concerned with the industry. They will now do business with Ottawa direct, instead of by way of Halifax.

It looks as if a Labor Government would be formed in Great Britain, to be voted out of office again with perhaps as much despatch as seems likely to mark the passing of the Conservative Government when the House meets in January.

## Press Comment

### MEXICO'S LATEST REVOLUTION

(New York Herald)  
Five important Mexican States out of the twenty-nine States in the republic are reported in active revolt against President Obregon's Government. They include Chihuahua and Tamaulipas, bordering on the United States, the former the largest State in Mexico, and the latter the source of the chief oil exports. The great mineral State of San Luis Potosi, and the States of Vera Cruz on the east coast and Michoacan on the west coast are also reported to be moving troops against the Government.

Three other States—Oaxaca, Guerrero and Jalisco—show signs of breaking away from the regime in power at Mexico City. If their garibaldian revolt in the Obregon Government will be almost surrounded by hostile States and railroads serving the capital will be in control of rebels. Apparently Mexico is ready for another of the revolutions that are the curse of that unfortunate country. Since Mexico achieved independence in 1821 only three of her twenty-two Presidents have entered office without the aid of military force. The situation today resembles that of the United States in 1861, when President Lincoln's support of Vice-President Corbin as his successor precipitated the Madera revolution. President Obregon favors the candidacy of General Plutarco Elias Calles, Secretary of the Interior in the present Government. Obregon could scarcely do otherwise, because Calles is a powerful factor in making Obregon President. His troops were the backbone of Obregon's strength. Even his enemies admit that Calles is a competent soldier. Politically he leans toward radicalism, but perhaps no more so than Obregon, whose conduct in office has been far more conservative than his anti-election declarations indicated he would be.

The disturbances which have now reached the stage of revolt have been preparing for months. Adolfo de La Huerta, President of the republic and interim before Obregon's succession as Secretary of Finance in Obregon's Cabinet, announced his candidacy to succeed his chief and resigned to enter upon an active campaign. He was immediately accused of dishonesty in office, and the bitter debate that followed is bearing its logical result. Contrasted with Calles, De La Huerta is a conservative. His adjustment of the Government's debt problem, which brought him into close contact with American bankers, was an effective and constructive piece of work. He is considered more friendly to foreign capital than Calles is. Although De La Huerta is not a soldier, his name has been taken up by several of Mexico's chief military figures.

(New York Times)  
It is not easy to think of Adolfo de La Huerta, business man and financier, as the leader of a military revolt against his old friend Alvaro Obregon. But in Mexico such things happen. Carranza was a studious lawyer and Francisco Madero an amiable idealist, yet they both led insurrections. Writing of political conditions in Mexico in the present year, Professor E. A. Ross said that "men of property insist that there has been only one free election in Mexico in fifty years, that of 1911 in which Madero was elected. It is to be feared that De La Huerta left the City of Mexico for the field because he believed that there would not be a free election for him, as his opponent, Calles, was the choice of General Obregon. The battle cry of the insurgents is 'Down with imposition!' History is repeating itself. The Mexican Navy, which consists of two gunboats and ten Eagle boats, sympathizes with the De La Huerta movement. At widely separated points the ex-Cabinet Minister is being supported by malcontents. It is significant that President Obregon has declared martial law in the City of Mexico. Some of the rebels were lately loyal to the President, but have fallen out with him. Harmony between the former Minister of Finance and Obregon was no longer possible when Alberto Pani, who succeeded him, assailed his integrity in office. O politicians who are out of favor with the President almost invariably quit the capital. Mexican history is full of retirements to Vera Cruz by threatened politicians. Apparently what we are to see in

Mexico again is an appeal to the sword to settle a Presidential election. On the eve of recognition of the Obregon Government by the United States, the episode is distressing. The message sent by the Vera Cruz insurgents to President Obregon leaves no room for doubt that they are not in a mood to compromise. The President has no choice but to try conclusions with De La Huerta in the field. "This country 'will be put down,' declares President Obregon. Ominous words!

### PRESIDENT FOLLOWS UP.

(New York Herald)  
President Coolidge uses the strategy of following up a victory with a second and even more determined attack. Before the country has finished talking about the President's first message to Congress advocating tax reduction and opposing a bonus, Mr. Coolidge sends in a budget message in which he strikes even harder on both themes. "I have in mind," says the President, "that the taxpayers are the stockholders of the business corporation of the United States, and that if this business is showing a surplus of receipts the taxpayers should share therein in some material way that will be of immediate benefit."

There is no question about the surplus. It is more than \$200,000,000 in the fiscal year that ended June 30 last; it will be \$225,000,000 in the present fiscal year, and it is estimated at \$395,000,000 for the fiscal year 1925 if the present revenue laws are continued. Mr. Coolidge wishes to let a good part of this 1925 surplus remain in the pockets from which it has been coming. To this end he is proposing the Mellon plan of taxing earned income more lightly, reducing the percentage of the normal tax, eliminating the surtax on incomes above \$10,000, and readjusting it above that figure, and repealing the admission, message and nuisance taxes.

These reductions are only possible, the President says, "if the present pressure and co-ordinated effort for economy in our public expenditures be continued without relaxation and there be no embarkation upon any extraordinary expenditure programme." And he declares: "I know of nothing which will give the people of this nation greater assurance that we are unalterably committed to a campaign of economy than a reduction of our present taxation."

### WARNING FROM KANSAS.

(New York Times)  
With something of exasperation, perhaps, but with the art of expression for which he and a few other Kansans are noted, William Allen White of Emporia warns New Yorkers and people generally in this part of the country that their fight in defense of their imagined right to drink they are antagonizing the settled moral sentiment of the public are reported in active revolt against President Obregon's Government. They include Chihuahua and Tamaulipas, bordering on the United States, the former the largest State in Mexico, and the latter the source of the chief oil exports. The great mineral State of San Luis Potosi, and the States of Vera Cruz on the east coast and Michoacan on the west coast are also reported to be moving troops against the Government.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN.  
Hard Question.  
Willie:—"Pa, teacher says we are here to help others."  
Pa:—"Yes, that's so."  
Willie:—"Well, what are the others here for?"  
In The Past Tense.  
Johnnie:—"What yer got yer milt tied up fer? Been fightin'?"  
Jimmie:—"You betcha — and golly them were sharp teeth that George Smith used to have."  
Better Measure of His Own.  
Tommy:—"Mother, can't the cook put up my lunch instead of you doing it?"  
Mother:—"It's no trouble, my dear."  
Tommy:—"I know, but cook's got a better appetite than you got."

Give Her Time.  
Ed:—"I guess you've been out with worse looking fellows than I am, haven't you?"  
No answer.  
Ed:—"I say, I guess you've been out with worse looking fellows than I, haven't you?"  
Co-ed:—"I heard you the first time. I was just trying to think."

One Seat Attended To.  
The minister was at dinner with the Chaffee family. Johnny spoke up and said, "Can a church whistle?"  
"Why do you ask, Johnny?" inquired the preacher kindly.  
"Because he owes \$12 per rent and he says he is a-ying to let the church whistle for it."  
After the preacher had taken his departure there was a vocal solo by Johnny.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.  
All Teacher's Fault.  
A schoolboy who had brought home excellent weekly reports at the beginning of last term, returned with unsatisfactory reports toward the end. "How is it you are not doing so well?" asked his father anxiously.  
"It's teacher's fault," was the reply. "He's moved the boy that sat next to me."—People's Home Journal.

And Heavy One, Too!  
His wife had a cold, and could not go to church. But she insisted that he should go in her place. "Well," she inquired on his return, "and what was the burden of the vicar's sermon?" He sat down with a weary sigh. "All of it, my dear," he said.—London Daily Express.

Perfect Addition.  
"How long have you been married?"  
"Twenty years. Nine, three and eight at a stretch."—Detroit Free Press.

Very Good, Indeed.  
"Are your chances good in the mixed doubles?"  
"Very good. My most dangerous opponent is in love with my partner."—Meggendorfer Blatter (Munich).

Those He Forgot.  
That European critic who says America has no leisure class should scratch our officialdomers.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Social News Item.  
(From Kansas Paper.)  
Jim Harris and wife all-nighted with his mother, Mrs. Della Harris, one night last week.

Golf News.  
A hen sat on a putting green. Then ambled slowly by me; And when I tried to make my putt I found she'd laid a styptic.

Mutual Grief.  
"Be brave," my good woman," said the lady visiting a poor woman who had just lost her husband, "I know it's terrible, and I can sympathize with you."  
"Did you lose one, too?"  
"Well, he belongs to three golf clubs and it amounts to the same thing."

A Cow's Age.  
City Miss:—"How old is that cow?"  
Hank:—"Two years."  
City Miss:—"How can you tell?"  
Hank:—"By the horns."  
City Miss:—"Oh, yes, it has two horns, hasn't it?"

Hot Scotch.  
(From Judge.)  
A Scot whose name was Macintosh,

and who was proud of the fact that he was directly descended from the chief of the clan, was having a dispute over the fare he owed a taxi driver. The man with the metre talked loud and harshly, and it angered the Highlander.

"Do you know who I am?" he demanded, proudly drawing himself up to his full height. "I'm a Macintosh."

The taxi driver snorted. "I don't care if you're an umbrella," he said. "I'll have my rights."

Gathering Material.  
Teacher:—"You haven't washed your neck or your wrists this week. What do you expect to be when you're a man?"

Bobby:—"Ye? I'm gonna be a dirt farmer."

In the Hands of An Artist.  
Father:—"I know what those artists are. Why, he would run through your money in a year's time."

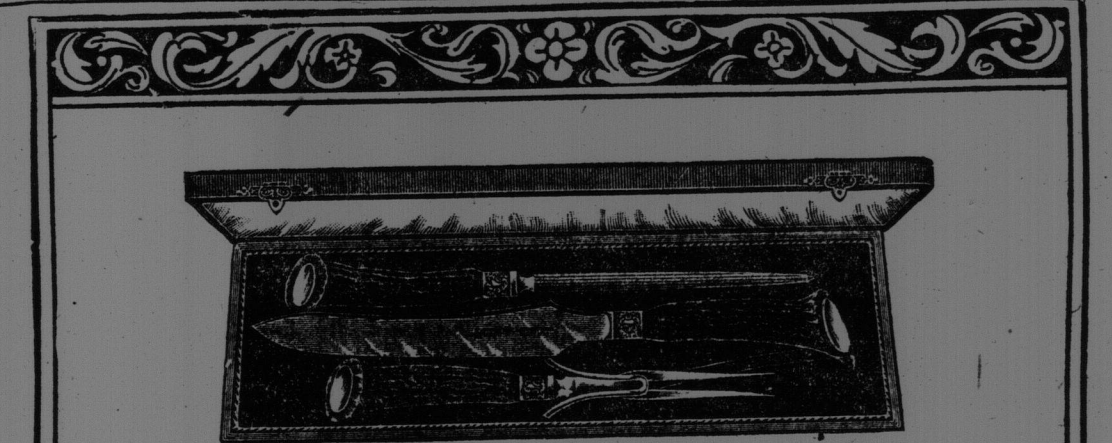
Daughter:—"Yes, papa, but he would spend it with such exquisite taste."

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A beautiful gift, and useful, is a bit of choice Cut Glass! And so many lovely pieces you'll find in our Holiday exhibit—Water Jugs, Water Bottlers, Tumblers, Sherbets, Creams, Sugars, Butter Dishes, Fruit Dishes, Celery Dishes and Spoon Dishes are but few suggestions. But you must see them to get any real idea of their beauty.

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