

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1913

The Evening Times and Star

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WHY INSULT THEM?

Why should the Hon. J. D. Hazen insult his constituents by sending to the board of trade without comment the insulting communication of the deputy postmaster general? Does Mr. Hazen approve of the letter of the deputy postmaster general? Does its tone commend itself to him as courteous and proper? Does he agree with that official when he says this whole matter is "a fuss" due to the "ignorance" of St. John people? If not, why did he send it without comment to the president of the board of trade?

It is up to Mr. Hazen to keep the pledge he made to the board of trade in presence of Hon. Mr. Rogers, when he declared that St. John would have a square deal and a fair test of its merits as a mail port. Were the arrangements for such a fair test made when Mr. Hazen gave the assurance? If not, why were they not made before the Tunkland's mails were sent, after many hours delay, by the round-about, slow, inter-colonial route?

VIGILANCE REQUIRED

The protest of St. John against slow carriage of the mails to the west appears to have thrown the deputy postmaster general into a state of great excitement. The president of the St. John board of trade had wired Mr. Hazen, and he in turn wired the deputy postmaster general. The latter replied to Mr. Hazen, describing the St. John protest as "a fuss caused by ignorance of St. John people in regard to what is going on, coupled with agitation worked by special interest." He further declared the "whole agitation and noise purely fictitious and without meaning."

Despite the excited remarks of the deputy postmaster general, the people of St. John are not ignorant of the fact that the Tunkland's mails were held here for six hours and then sent over the long inter-colonial route on a regular train, which would result in a delay of nearly twenty-four hours in landing them in Toronto. It is declared by the deputy postmaster general that there was no letter mail on this boat. There seems to be considerable doubt on this point, but since it was a very heavy mail, there was no reasonable excuse for the long delay.

The citizens of St. John are again urged from certain quarters to be calm, and to trust Mr. Hazen and the government for the fullest measure of justice to this port. So long as the patronage flows freely in a certain direction, we may expect that sort of advice from that quarter. The fact is so well understood that the citizens will continue to exercise vigilance, and to insist that St. John as a mail port be given a fair show. If there had been a determination on the part of the government to pursue this course, the very first mail arriving here from Liverpool would have found a special train waiting to carry it as rapidly as possible to the west. Evidently, however, Mr. Hazen did not take the precaution to ask the postal department to give St. John fair play, and remained in ignorance of the course pursued, just as he did in the case of the Gutelius agreement, which also affected the interests of his constituency, until indignant protests from the board of trade and some of his own supporters pointed directly his attention to the sacrifice of the interests of the city he represents. What next?

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The political situation in Canada grows more interesting with the approach of the opening of parliament. Not only is the government preparing its programme for the session, but Liberal leaders have been in conference and are preparing to give a good account of themselves from the beginning of the parliamentary session. Last week Hon. Messrs. Fielding, King, Graham, Fisher and Rowell were in conference with Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Ottawa, and it is expected that some important announcements regarding the Liberal policy will be made at the flitting banquet in Montreal this week.

Premier Borden must next week listen to the representations of the Agricultural Council of Canada, which consists of the Ontario Grange, the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and the United Farmers of Alberta. Of them the Ottawa Journal (Conservative) says:—"They are coming to Ottawa in a big body to discuss certain matters with the government, but principally the question of the tariff. Precisely what their demands will be is not yet known, but it is fairly certain that they will ask that the government take advantage of the countervailing clause in the Wilson-Underwood tariff and put wheat on the free list; that there be at least a small increase in the British preference; and that agricultural implements be made duty free. There will likely be a number of other questions which they will bring to the attention of Rt. Hon. Mr. Borden and his colleagues, but they will be of minor importance as compared with the foregoing."

The Journal is confident that Mr. Borden will refuse to put wheat on the free list, and will hold to the position he

assumed in 1911, when he declared that free wheat would mean higher prices for the western farmer, but would divert traffic north and south instead of east and west. If Mr. Borden really assumes any such attitude, he will alienate the farmers of the whole country, who are just beginning to realize the enormous benefit to them of free entry into the great market of the United States.

It is the policy of the Tory press to represent the opposition as disorganized and dejected, and it is therefore worth while to quote what the Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Mail, which is an independent journal, has to say on this question. We quote:—"The session will be an active one. The Opposition are undoubtedly preparing to make it so. The hottest fighting will be over the Redistribution Bill, on the tariff and the Naval Bill. If it is introduced, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his lieutenants have been very busy conferring together this week. Besides those ex-ministers who have been visiting the capital more or less regularly, Hon. W. S. Fielding, on his arrival in Montreal from Halifax, at once hastened on to Ottawa and has been in consultation with the leader and his former colleagues. The Opposition is strong and in fine fettle. It is now putting the finishing touches on a new programme, which it hopes will rally the party and arouse a fighting enthusiasm from coast to coast. Recent events have been very encouraging for the Opposition. The defeat of Hon. Sidney Fisher was a disappointment, but was, perhaps, explained by the 'outsider' cry which kept the local Liberals from showing their real strength. The result in East Middlesex and South Bruce and the voting of the election in Macdonald were all a source of encouragement to the Liberals. A slight depression in the country with falling trade and decreased revenues is also considered an ideal time for Opposition activity and attack. Charges of extravagance or graft will also arouse keener interest in the country and the government will be thrown more on the defensive."

The farmers of York and Carleton counties are selling beef, hay and potatoes to American buyers, and the high prices offered have not, so far as can be learned, been refused by a single one of the many Empire-savers who in 1911 saw disaster to British connection in the development of a north and south trade.

The demand promptly sent from Winnipeg to Ottawa on receipt of a telegram from the St. John board of trade shows that the western people realize as clearly as we do in St. John the importance of giving the mails by way of St. John the quickest possible despatch. This is not a "fuss caused by ignorance," as the postal department would discover.

The rush of Christmas travel to the old country this year is larger than before. The Toronto World says it is largely due to the fact that times are dull in the west and therefore many people are going to the old country for the winter. In previous years St. John has had a good deal of benefit from this traffic. Thanks to the Gutelius agreement the benefit derived this year will be very much smaller. Meanwhile Halifax is over-crowded with passengers waiting for the steamers.

The Lord's Day Alliance has in Rev. Mr. Rochester an able and wise exponent. He is very careful to point out that the work of the Alliance is not connected with religious observances, but stands for the preservation of a day of rest. It insists that business should not be conducted on Sunday, and that the state ought not to encourage mere amusements on Sunday, especially when these are conducted as a business for purposes of gain. Mr. Rochester makes a point which ought to commend itself to the labor advocate of amusements on Sunday in Toronto, who denounced the Alliance, when he says that if there were no Alliance and no day of rest the working men would have no time to enjoy amusements. Preservation of the day as a day of rest, as far as this is possible, may easily be defended on purely economic grounds without any reference whatever to religious observances.

CANADA'S LATEST LOAN

(Special to Times)
London, Dec. 8.—The Bank of Montreal announces that the letters of allotment in the issue of £4,000,000 Canadian government stock have been posted. Information regarding the exact amount of stock subscribed is awaited with keen interest. Some disappointment is evidenced on the market as to this, but the actual result was not declared by the time the market closed on Saturday.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH POWDER 25c.
Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the urethra, clears the air passages, permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. See latest issue of the Canadian Medical Journal. All dealers or Remond, Bates & Co., Toronto.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Hon. Charles Murphy, secretary of state from 1908-1911, was born at Ottawa forty-nine years ago today. He practices law in his native city, where he has long occupied a prominent position in political circles. He is M. P. for Russell county.

Hon. E. D. Smith, dominion senator and noted fruit grower of St. Catherine's, was born in Wentworth county, Ontario, sixty years ago today. He is one of the largest fruit growers in Canada. For some years he represented Wentworth in parliament.

Hon. F. J. Fulton, who was for several years a member of the cabinet of British Columbia holding various portfolios, was born in Bedlington, England, on December 8, 1862.

Professor James Mayor, who holds the chair of political economy in the University of Toronto, was born in Stranraer, Scotland, on December 8, 1864.

LIGHTER VEIN

He was idealistic and poetical. She was practical—a good matrimonial combination. He came home one evening after a hard day at the office and said: "Mafia, my dear, do you realize that tomorrow will be our wedding?"

"Hank, my darling, I know it. Been thinking about it all day and have it all arranged. I have ordered a big wagon tomorrow afternoon and you will come home early from the office and carry it into the cellar."

"Noodles is the laziest man I know. He has an invention fixed so that by merely pulling a wire in bed he can light the fire, but that doesn't seem to improve matters."

"Why not?"

"He's too lazy to pull the wire."

Mrs. Willis (at the Ladies' Aid Society)—"Now, what can we do for the poor boys at the front?"

Mrs. Gillis—I was reading today where the soldiers are always making sorties. Now, why can't we get the recipe for those things and make them ourselves and send them to the boys—Fack's Quarterly.

Miss Cocker by name, and her niece, who bears the same cognomen, went one evening to a reception at the house of a friend. "What name?" inquired the footman.

"Miss Cocker," answered the elder.

"Miss Cocker, too," said the niece, hurriedly.

Whereupon the man of plush and buttons opened the drawing room door and, with all the dignity of his profession, ushered them into the midst of the company, with the convulsive announcement: "Miss Cocker and Miss Cockatoo!"

"Atkins," said the sergeant angrily, "why haven't you shaved this morning?"

"Ain't I shaved?" asked Atkins, in apparent surprise.

"No, you're not," insisted the sergeant; "and I want to know why."

"Well, you see, sergeant," replied the soldier, "there was a dozen of us in the same mirror, and I must have shaved some other man."

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AGED CLERGYMAN NOW

CLEARED BY GIRL WHO HAD
SENT HIM TO PRISON

Philadelphia, Dec. 8.—Viola Falls, a fifteen-year-old ward of the New Jersey Children's Society, whose testimony sent the Rev. George D. Huggins, a venerable Methodist clergyman of Jacobstown, N. J., to the state prison for a thirty-year term, now says the crime against her was committed by a school boy and that the minister is innocent. These facts, made public in an affidavit by the girl will be presented to the Board of Pardoners of Trenton tomorrow. It is confidently expected that the affidavit, with a petition of Burlington County friends of Mr. Huggins, will effect his release. He is now sixty-nine years old.

The trial which began in October, 1913, resulted in a verdict of guilty. The twelve petit jurors whose votes sent

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him to prison now say they believe him innocent. Their signatures were obtained to a separate petition for release, which will go to the Pardon Board with the other papers.

In July, 1911, Mr. and Mrs. Huggins, whose two sons had grown up and moved to Baltimore, felt a longing for the company of a young person and applied to the New Jersey Children's Society for a child whom they might adopt. C. V. Williams, superintendent of the society gave Viola Falls into their care for a three months' trial. They had retired from active farming and Mrs. Huggins said the girl had a life of ease.

Alvin Cummins of Montpelier, Vt., has in his possession a penny, the first money ever earned by his father, handed down as an heirloom. Ninety-five years ago his father, when four years old, earned the penny by driving a flock of turkeys out of a neighbor's garden.

Mrs. Melissa Hodgson, of Saco, Me., has received a silver service in recognition of her long term of work in the York mills. She entered the mills fifty-seven years ago last March and is now running four looms in the same factory where she began. She is seventy-eight years old.

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