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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1922

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THE ALTERNATIVES

If the New Brunswick Power Company secured control of Musquash power and agreed to make a rate to consumers as low as a civic distribution system would give, it would still be a bargain for the city. The city is now offered the power at a maximum of 12 per kilowatt hour. This price provides a sinking fund which in due time would pay off the two millions of dollars the Musquash development has cost. Thereafter the only charge would be for upkeep, and a rate of less than half a cent would suffice. If the power company got the current it would have to make a continuous profit. The price would stay up, and it would not be the New Brunswick Power Company if it did not find excuses for increasing the rates. But of course the company would never consent to as low a rate as the city can get under civic distribution, and there is no reason whatever for such a conference as Mr. Bodell now proposes. To enter such a conference would be a confession that the city cannot do business without paying continuous tribute to a corporation which has for years charged exorbitant prices for inefficient services. The second Bodell proposition would not give the power people at cost. It would, however, fasten the power company upon the city for another long period as a monopoly, ever seeking as in the past to gain more profit at the people's expense. The people declared their views in April. They will be declared again in the recall election. Meanwhile the thing for the city council to do is to sign up the contract for power and call for tenders for a civic distribution system. Pressure will undoubtedly be brought to bear on the government from the province at large to let the Musquash power and begin to get revenue from it. Already one such demand has appeared in print, the writer pointing out that if St. John does not want the power the government should market it elsewhere, and relieve the people of the province at large from taxation to pay for an idle plant at Musquash. To say that the city should let the government sell the New Brunswick Power Company is to say that St. John does not want power at cost, but does want to go on paying monopoly prices for services.

If the city takes the Musquash current at 12, it and other localities taking the power will be paying for service plus plant, for the sinking fund will pay for the plant—and thereafter the only charge will be for upkeep. If the power company gets the current, it and not the city will get the benefit, and the rates, instead of coming down, will soon be increased one way or another as a result of monopoly conditions. The city must get the current and distribute it, and get power at cost.

BOWSER THE LEADER

Hon. W. J. Bowser has been re-elected as leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia. The Ottawa Journal says this "comes somewhat as a surprise" and adds: "Although possessed of great abilities, he is a man wholly lacking in those half-fellow-well-met qualities commonly ascribed as essential to success in a political career. Of unyielding will, and with a forceful personality, he has found difficulty in working with other men, and, in addition, is supposed to have the hostility of a wing of the party that was staunchly for Sir Richard McBride."

It appears that Hon. H. H. Stevens, who was a member of the Melchior cabinet at Ottawa, was also a candidate for the leadership, and the Journal is surprised that he was not chosen. Hon. Mr. Bowser is a native of Rexburg, N. B., and is a prominent lawyer of Vancouver. He was a candidate in that city for the house of commons in 1896, but was defeated. He was elected a member of the British Columbia legislature in 1898, and again in 1907, and at every general election since. He became attorney general in 1907, and upon dissolution of the McBride ministry in 1916 was made premier. In the general elections of the following year, however, his party was defeated. The Conservatives in the Pacific province have gained courage as a result of the by-election following the entry of Hon. Dr. King into the cabinet at Ottawa, as the seat he held in the legislature was captured by the opposition. The Oliver government, however, is still strongly entrenched, and Hon. Mr. Bowser may remain in opposition for years to come.

The power at Musquash has been developed. The current will be sold whether St. John takes it or not. The property taken at Musquash for development purposes will be paid for at the rate the courts fix. To say, therefore, that the sale of the current to the city has anything to do with the price to be paid for Musquash lands is but the vagary of an unbalanced mind.

Prohibition was defeated in the referendum in Sweden, but the vote in its favor was so large that it is only a question of a few years when the dry will win. The cities went against it, but most of the rural districts were in its favor.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

Universal interest attaches to a conference which began on Saturday between the prime ministers of Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Yugoslavia. An American writer expresses a belief that there may be a new alignment in Europe, with France, Belgium, Poland and the three states already named on the one side, and Germany, Italy, Greece, and perhaps Britain on the other. Austria is an uncertain quantity, and Italy is said to be eager to have a close alliance with that country. The Italian minister to Belgrade is attending the Little Entente conference, and a Washington despatch expresses the view that the question of an alliance with Italy will be advocated. Italy is represented as desiring this result, as an offset to French influence. There appears to be a drift back toward the old balance-of-power theory, and the League of Nations is described as confronted with serious difficulty. Of course there could be no re-grouping of nations that would leave Russia permanently out of the reckoning. At the moment, what to do with Austria, which is in an almost hopeless financial condition, appears to be one of the chief questions at issue, and she does not know which way to turn. The American correspondent who looks for a new national grouping within the next few years is disposed to think Britain will direct one and France the other, but this is a mere assumption which lacks real support. Britain and France have too much in common to array themselves permanently in opposition to each other.

TOO HIGH A DEATH RATE.

"The highest death rate is 1.3 in New Brunswick, and the lowest .6 in both Saskatchewan and Alberta."

The above quotation is from a report issued in Ottawa. It is not the kind of report the people of this province should regard with any degree of satisfaction. There is every reason to believe, however, that within a year or two there will be a different story to tell. We have already made substantial progress in St. John in reducing the infant death rate, and it will be reduced still more as the Health Centre work is developed. The universal medical inspection of school children in the province and the gradual increase in the number of public health nurses will have a notable effect, for they will result in a more general education in health subjects and a generally better standard of health all over the province. It may be hoped that the element of politics will be eliminated wherever and whenever public health matters are brought up for discussion, since the matter is far too important to be made the football of the partisan. The extent of expenditure is a fair subject for reasonable discussion, but the individual who sneers at or belittles health service instead of trying to make it more efficient is not a good citizen. A robust citizen is greatly to be desired, and nowhere should it be desired more generally than in New Brunswick.

The continuous rain has done much damage to crops and roads in the south-eastern part of the province. It is most unfortunate that at a time when many farmers were anticipating exceptionally good crops, gathered in fine condition, they should suffer so much loss. Roads can be mended even if it costs money, but a ruined crop cannot be replaced. If the power company got the Musquash current, would the property owners there get pay for their property? Some silly advocates are trying to convey the impression that they would not.

The coal strike situation in the United States continues to improve, and a settlement in Nova Scotia is expected this week.

The recall of the mayor is now assured. It only remains to name his successor.

SENSATION AT VIENNA MEETING

Dutch Delegate Advocates a World Conference for Abolishing of Tariffs.

Vienna, Aug. 29.—A sensational incident occurred at yesterday's session of the inter-parliamentary union conference here when M. Treub of Holland, after reading a paper on international commerce, departed from his subject to advocate international free trade. He denounced what he termed the chauvinistic trade barriers erected by the newly formed European states, and presented a resolution for the summoning of a world conference to abolish tariffs. The British spokesman objected to the introduction of controversial political questions and threatened the withdrawal of the British delegation. He was strongly supported by the U. S. delegation.

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF RADIO EACH DAY

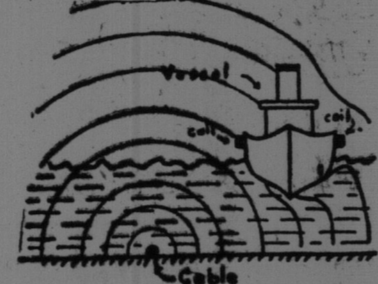
By Edward N. Davis

Formerly Technical Electrical Expert For U. S. Government

Lesson No. 50.

THE RADIO PILOTING CABLE.

A recent invention of great potential value as an aid to navigation has been developed and tested which is dependent upon the development of the vacuum tube and the amplifier for its operation. This device, which is known as the "radio plotting cable," depends upon a form of loop or pick-up coil with suitable amplifier at the receiving end to receive the signals, emanating from an insulated cable laid along the harbor bottom. The cable extends from a source of alternating current of about 500 cycle frequency located on shore, along the channel to a point several miles away at the harbor entrance. Around every electrical conductor in which a current flows there is set up a magnetic field which rises and falls with the rise and fall of the current in the wire. The farther from the conductor the magnetic field is, the weaker it is. The "radio plotting cable" being too weak to be detected by any known apparatus. The "radio plotting cable" by virtue of the alternating current flowing through it has set up around it an alternating magnetic field which, with suitable apparatus on the ship, may be picked up at a distance of 1,000 yards.



(Radio Plotting Cable)

The receiving equipment on the vessel consists of two coils, one mounted on each side of the ship in a vertical position, each coil having several hundred turns of wire wound on a four foot frame supported about fifteen feet above the water line. By means of a double throw switch either coil may be thrown into circuit with an audio frequency amplifier and by noting the comparative strength of signals received in the two coils, the position of the cable with respect to the ship may be ascertained. When the vessel is directly over the cable the strength of the signal will have the same value in either coil.

An interesting feature noted during the tests of this apparatus was the shielding effect of the steel hull of the vessel which was responsible for the reception of radio signals when slightly to one side of the cable than were received when the vessel was directly over the cable.

The "radio plotting cable" is useful over short distances only and serves as a guide to vessels during foggy weather when the navigating officers cannot see the buoys which mark the channel. Practical tests of this system on a vessel at the entrance of New York harbor, during which the cable was tested by the vessel was screened out by the vessel's hull, so that the navigating officer could not see the cable, demonstrated the usefulness of the system. The pilot was able to maintain a course at either side of the cable without difficulty and without previous experience with the system. Experiments have been conducted at several points along the coast with a view to ascertaining the range of usefulness of the radio plotting cable, all of which tests have been quite helpful in obtaining data for the further development of the system.

A system based on a similar idea has been experimented with for guiding airplanes over land, but so far has not proved practicable.

RADIO IN CRIME DETECTION.

One of the most famous detectives of the United States, whose reputation in the detection of crime is international, presents the wide use of radio in the performance of criminal acts.

A big feature in the rapid identification of persons held on suspicion would be the broadcasting of fingerprints which has been for years a powerful means of convicting the guilty.

Perfection of a system for sending fingerprints broadcast would allow a quick report from all the criminal bureaus possessing records under the Bertillon system.

The great disadvantage of broadcasting information contained in radio messages has been the lack of secrecy. Information may be coded, ciphered and sent by the use of a secret key, but these methods are complicated and are very susceptible to error due to the untrustworthy character of the message. There is a practically untapped field in radio for systems of communication which are secret and at the same time flexible and reliable.

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IN THE RAIN.

Raining—cold from the murky sky
To the soldier's helmet, hard,
Cautious it comes like patting drums
Where the bayonet cuts and kills.

Raining—as sharp as the steady thrust
To the shoulders covered by thin
Worn rags and the slow, steady creep
Where the snitching damp creeps in.

Fiercely it beats on the windows
To the soldier's helmet, hard,
The hurried beat like pattering feet
Rattles the casement-guard.

Pitilessly, relentlessly,
Cold and clammy and chill
As the breath of the wind of death
That choke and blind and kill.

Fiercely it comes without retard,
As fresh as the pavement hard,
"Till I sigh for a glimpse of God's blue sky
And a ray of the summer sun."

T. E. D.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Labelled.
In an art gallery two women were standing before Millet's famous picture "The Sower."

"I wonder what kind of grain he is sowing," said one woman.

"Wheat, of course," replied her companion, "don't you see the name in the corner?"

Classical Music.
Instructor—"Frank, tell the class about the Anabasis. What was the Anabasis?"

Frank—"It was—er—it was a piece of music they played on the Xenophon."

Less Expensive.
"Edith says she would rather dance than eat."

"Well, she'll find plenty of men who would rather sign a dance programme than a dinner check."

Worth Remembering.
"Why do you turn out for every road hog that comes along?" said the misanthrope crossly. "The right of way is ours, isn't it?"

"Oh, undoubtedly," answered he, calmly. "As for our turning out, the reason is plainly suggested in this epitaph which appeared in a newspaper recently."

"Here lies the body of William Jay, who died maintaining his right of way. He was right, dead right, as he spoke along."

But he's just as dead as he'd been wrong."

"LEST WE FORGET."

To the Editor of the Times-Star:
Sir,—Permit me to say that the Navy League deeply appreciates the spirit of loyalty which has prompted Mr. Walter Golding, manager of the Imperial Theatre, to arrange for an exhibition of the famous naval war films which were presented by the British government to Captain (Rev.) Smith.

These films, which it has been my pleasure to see, truthfully portray many sea and air incidents of the great struggle, and they should serve to

awaken in the minds of old and young a deep respect for Britain's seafaring men, as well as for the men of the British navy and merchant marine who made such great sacrifices and performed such wonderful deeds of daring for the salvation of their country.

The children of St. John—the men and women of tomorrow—are the ones who should be persuaded to take a particular interest in these sea-fighting scenes, so that they, too, may become imbued with a spirit of loyalty towards Britain's king and empire.

Captain Smith, who has promised to explain these pictures to the audiences, is a man who has had a splendid war record, he having had charge of the defence of the North Sea fisheries during the war years. Lt.-Col. Williams, secretary of the Dominion executive of the Navy League, writes that Captain Smith was a personal friend of his, and that he was a man who has had a splendid war record, he having had charge of the defence of the North Sea fisheries during the war years.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the Navy League's appreciation of Mr. Golding's thoughtful act.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. ARMSTRONG,
President New Brunswick Branch of Navy League.

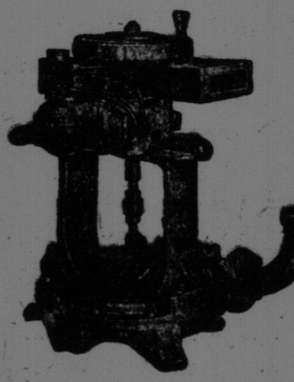
SHRINERS ENTERTAIN

J. S. McCandless, Imperial Potentate, Guest of Luxor Temple—Fine Moose Head Presented.

James S. McCandless, Imperial potentate of the Mystic Shrine, who arrived here yesterday on a visit to Luxor Temple, was taken on an automobile trip to Rothesay in the afternoon. Last evening the nobles formed up at the Victoria Hotel and marched to the Temple, where a banquet was served. A short toast list was carried out, including "The King," "The Imperial Council," "The Imperial Potentate," "The President of the United States," "Luxor Temple," and "Our Sister Temples." In reply to the toast to himself, Mr. McCandless paid a tribute to the fraternity and to the fine type of Canadian manhood. He told of the plan to build seven hospitals in North America for the treatment of crippled children, one of which will be in Montreal. Following the toast to the city, and the freedom of Luxor Temple.

The toast to the guest of honor was proposed by George E. Day, and Dr. F. S. Sawaya delivered a short address of welcome in Arabic, which was replied to by Mr. McCandless in the Hawaiian language. Addresses were also given by A. M. Rowan of St. John, Noble Scholastic of Boston, and Noble Magistrate of Boston. During the programme a solo was given by DeWitt Cairns. Mr. McCandless left last night for Halifax, where he will be the guest of Philip Temple.

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LIKELY ABANDON WARSHIP RALEIGH

Quebec, Aug. 29.—The Chronicle says that it has been learned from a reliable source that, acting on the advice of expert wreckers and the judgment of admiralty has decided to abandon H. M. S. Raleigh, stranded on the rocks at Point Amour, Straits of Belle Isle. The accident, it is said, was due to severe weather, and that the Raleigh was being steered to clear an iceberg when which fairly tore the greater part of her bottom open and now it is agreed that the ship, with her guns and stores, will have to be abandoned unless the

British admiralty finally decides otherwise.

OLD BRITISH WARSHIPS TO BE SCRAPPED

London, Aug. 29.—The Times understands that arrangements have been made for sending several old British warships to Germany to be broken up.

As the admiralty's policy of late has been to refuse German offers for old vessels as scrap, it is assumed those to be sent are among a group sold several months ago. It is reported in shipping circles that Germany is finding a ready market in Russia for scrap metal, which would account for her demand for old tonnage.

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