

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. DECEMBER 6, 1902.

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Publishers' Letter to Subscribers.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Nov. 15, 1902.

DEAR SIRS:—

We recently notified all subscribers asking them to remit the amount of their arrears before November 10, at which date we expected to close our books.

The response to this notice has been so very general that we have arranged to keep our books open until the 10th of December, so that all who remit before that date will have their name appear on our annual statement as paid up subscribers.

We heartily appreciate the kindness of all our friends in their prompt response, which betokens the interest taken by our subscribers in the welfare of the paper.

THE TELEGRAPH is the people's paper, and there is no more effective way of contributing to its success than by keeping the subscriptions paid up in advance. The management is thus enabled to take advantage of every opportunity to improve the paper and so in turn benefit the readers.

We take this opportunity of thanking all our subscribers who have remitted their subscriptions, and assuring those still in arrears, whom we know will remit in the near future, that their favors will be thankfully received. We hope that THE TELEGRAPH still brighter in the coming year, and so keep it the best SEMI-WEEKLY published in the Maritime Provinces; to this end we ask that all our friends should interest their neighbors in the paper, as the bigger our circulation patronage the better paper are we enabled to produce.

With best wishes, we remain,

Yours truly,

THE TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING CO.

C. J. MILLIGAN, Manager.

James C. Henderson is now canvassing in Charlotte Co. Wm. Somerville, Queens Co. These gentlemen are authorized to receive payment for subscriptions for either Daily or Weekly Telegraph.

ST. JOHN AND CATTLE SHIPMENTS.

Recent despatches show that for the present at least St. John must not expect any cattle over the C. P. R. through Maine. The I. C. R. must carry them, and it is prepared to do so.

St. John, therefore, will be very much interested in the arrangement made in Montreal last night that the C. P. R. will accept no more cattle from the west, and decline to take advantage of the offer made by the I. C. R. to transport from Jerome Junction to St. John the animals which the C. P. R. cannot bring to this port through Maine.

The Grand Trunk is doing just what the C. P. R. declines to do—that is, it is turning over its cattle to the I. C. R. for transport here. This is a matter which St. John should look into without delay. The statement of Mr. Bosworth, freight traffic manager of the C. P. R., that his company "really has not the cars" to send round the country 700 or 800 "les" is far from satisfactory. It does not follow that because the Canadian Pacific cannot bring cattle through Maine, St. John should be discriminated against, as it will be if the C. P. R. persists in the attitude disclosed by last night's despatches.

In the meantime the head offices of the cattle-carrying steamship lines should be supplied with news facts proving St. John's present right to a greater share of the cattle shipments.

Boston agents have shown that they would rather send ships to Halifax than to St. John. The reason is that freight is plentiful here, and once the steamers load at St. John the business would be likely to remain here to the permanent loss of Boston. We have taken much more grain from Boston than we have from Portland, for instance, and Boston is alive to the fact we may do the same thing with cattle, so it is in charge of advising that steamers be sent here to load.

Our Boston correspondent was told by Boston steamship agents that the insurance rates on steamers coming to St. John is higher than the rate to Halifax, a statement which St. John insurance men said yesterday is untrue, the rate to Portland, St. John and Halifax being the same. It may be that these agents, acting in Boston's interest, are using other information to the detriment of this port. It is important that the owners of the steamers should know the facts. Some of these facts are that the general freight which the steamers take in addition to the cattle is to be found here, that there is plenty of accommodation for cattle coming here over the I. C. R., and that the loading of cattle here is peculiarly easy and fast because of the great rise and fall of the tide.

The cattle men themselves can have no objection to St. John, and the steamship owners would have none if our advantages were clearly and aggressively presented to them. This should be a record year for the winter port.

The London report of fear that all cattle shipped from Canada may be forbidden entry at British ports because of the American cattle shipments from this port seems absurd. If there is now any chance of such an extreme course being adopted it doubtless will disappear once

the Imperial authorities are shown how unnecessary and unwise any such prohibition would be. There has been no trace of the disease outside the New England States. There is none in Maine; and of course cattle from the west should not be regarded with suspicion.

Colonel Tucker, M. P., reached Ottawa only in time to find that an order in council had been passed endorsing the prohibition against bonding cattle through Maine and refusing to permit vessels clearing from Boston or Portland to load cattle here. Lord Strathcona had cabled to Hon. Sydney Fisher that the British government would not approve of the C. P. R. bringing cattle through Maine, or of ships coming to Canadian ports until 21 days after clearance from any New England port.

Colonel Tucker, however, so strongly impressed upon the minister of agriculture the importance of the cattle trade to St. John and the fact that animals were in no danger of infection on the C. P. R. route that Hon. Mr. Fisher has again cabled to Lord Strathcona urging a further attempt to have the Imperial authorities consent to permit the entry of animals carried across a portion of Maine—where there is no disease—in sealed cars at high speed. A reply through the High Commissioner is expected today, but it is clear there is much fear that it will prove unfavorable.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE.

Only recently Theodore Roosevelt's public utterances have been compared with those of the German Emperor, and one does not read far into the president's annual message before realizing that in many things the two apostles of the strenuous life do resemble each other. The aggressive Wilhelm might have used the tone adopted by the strenuous president who says without remarkable relevancy: "This nation is seated on a continent flanked by two great oceans. It is composed of the descendants of pioneers or, in a sense, pioneers themselves; of men winnowed out from among the nations of the Old World by the energy, boldness, and love of adventure found in their own eager hearts. Such a nation, so placed, will surely wrest success from fortune. . . . Ours is not the creed of the weakling and the coward," etc.

Both men lean somewhat to Napoleonic phrases, and of course the Emperor has less need of excuse for it. Both use vigorous language, and are visibly moved by the mere thought of possible war. The president's exordium, somewhat bombastic as it is, will not strike the average American as so, though he might criticize the same words in the mouth of the War Lord.

Of Venezuela, the diplomatic storm centre just now, the president says nothing specific, but he says generally that at the moment there is not the slightest sign of trouble between the United States and any other nation over any question, and adds that no independent nation in this hemisphere has anything to fear from the United States, and need fear oppression from no other country—if it honestly discharges its obligations to foreigners. This may be interpreted as public notice to Venezuela that the Monroe Doctrine is not to be asserted to prevent Britain or Germany or both from taking measures to protect their interests in Castro's domain. There are indications that, within a few weeks, Venezuela has been notified privately that if she were depending upon American support in defying

ing the European powers, she might as well understand that such support would not be accorded in the present instance. The president meets the suggestion for a revision of the tariff for the sake of striking at the trusts with the reply that it is foolish. As to anti-trust legislation "I believe," he says, "that monopolies, unjust discriminations which prevent or cripple competition, fraudulent over capitalization, and other evils in trust organizations and practices which injuriously affect interstate trade can be prevented under the power of congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states through regulations and requirements operating directly upon such commerce, the instrumentalities thereof, and those engaged therein," and he earnestly recommends the passage of a law "reasonable but effective" so that "questions can be finally adjudicated how new laws doubt as to the necessity of constitutional amendment." If it is necessary to amend the constitution in order to reach the trust evils, he favors such amendment. Meanwhile he asks an appropriation for the better enforcement of the existing anti-trust law. Those who see mighty evils in the trusts will not find this language as violent as they had hoped.

Roosevelt strikes squarely at the people who see the United States does not require a big navy. Not to go on largely increasing the navy, he says, would "invite trouble and insure disaster." "Past experience has shown that futurity in refusing to recognize or prepare for any crisis in advance is usually succeeded by a mad panic of hysterical fear once the crisis has actually arrived." This past experience was that of the Spanish-American war. "Such Americans as were men of affairs realized during that war what must have happened had the nation suddenly found itself in conflict with a power of the first class. For them there is no turning backward now. The Monroe Doctrine is as strong as an American navy can make it so stronger."

The proper principle. That portion of the address of President W. M. Jarvis, of the Board of Trade dealing with the question of civic taxation will bear careful perusal. Mr. Jarvis has, at some pains, gathered interesting data concerning the valuations of property, comparative rates and proportion of taxation from the various forms of taxable property in a number of Canadian cities, which he uses as a basis upon which to build his argument regarding the proper assessment system for St. John. His plea for a fixed and definite basis of taxation will meet with ready acceptance by all students of the subject as the proper principle, however much variation of opinion there may be regarding the best means by which to apply it in practical operation.

The present difficulty in St. John lies in the uncertainty which surrounds the taxation of personal property and income, for it is generally accepted that it would be unfair to ask real estate to pay a heavier proportion of the entire assessment and it would be unwise to ask it to pay less. Mr. Jarvis agrees with The Telegraph that the proper distribution of the tax on personal property holders and receivers of income would be by levying the tax on a basis of the rental value of the premises occupied, whether for residential or business purposes, and by a system of license fees. In such a system the small rents might be exempted on the same plan and for the same reason as it is suggested to exempt incomes up to \$300 under the present assessment act. Such a system would do away with the difficulty at present experienced in the taxation of incomes of Federal officials. These officials would pay a tax based on household rentals the same as any other citizen who enjoys the civic services.

The present assessment act is bad in practice because bad in principle, and it is useless to attempt to make it sound by some rearrangement in its practical operation. That has been The Telegraph's plea from the beginning of the discussion, and until that fact is recognized no amelioration can be expected.

The trouble with the committee who have this matter in charge is that they have not the courage to make any radical change in the principles of civic taxation at present prevailing in St. John. They are assessment tinkers rather than men searching for facts upon which to base a sound system of civic assessment. And as a result, any conclusions they reach will be in the way merely of amendments to the operation of a vicious and unhealthy principle of civic taxation rather than a radical change to sound principles. They are looking for what people will say rather than for the actual facts which alone are of value in arriving at a sensible conclusion. And this, apparently the people have generally recognized by their absence from the meetings of the committee.

TWO LIBERAL VICTORIES.

The Conservative press has been endeavoring to create the impression that the trend of public opinion in Canada is against the government. This contention is not borne out by the result of the two by-elections held Wednesday in Argenteuil and Yarmouth, where the government candidates were elected by good majorities, that in the latter constituency being a record-breaker.

In Argenteuil the Conservatives made a desperate effort to recover the old constituency which Sir John Abbott re-ventured for many years. The Tory party selected the strongest candidate obtainable in Mr. Perley, the millionaire lumberman of Ottawa, a gentleman who is prominently identified with the lumbering industry of the county. He was in the field early in the contest, and is reported to have made a strong personal canvass of nearly every elector.

The party gave him all the assistance possible, and for the past three weeks Argenteuil has been flooded with Tory orators, such as Messrs. Mack, Berenson and Broder. Notwithstanding the influential position of Mr. Perley and the energetic efforts of the Tory workers, the Liberal candidate, Mr. Christie, has been elected by a majority of about 500 votes.

Argenteuil has been the scene of some great political battles, but it is generally conceded that the election yesterday was the most hotly contested one that has ever been held in that county. It cannot be called a Liberal constituency in the ordinary sense of the word, as in the thirteen elections which have been held since Confederation, the Tories were successful upon seven occasions.

The Liberal majorities have never been very large, except in the case of the late Doctor Christie, in 1900, when he had a plurality of 529 votes. On this occasion, however, the Conservatives had a weak candidate in Mr. Simpson. The Tories, realizing that it was a close constituency, yesterday did everything in their power to defeat the government, believing that success would add great prestige to their cry that the people wanted a change.

Mr. Christie was ably supported throughout the campaign by Mr. W. A. Weir, M. P., and other prominent Liberals. The party workers are to be congratulated on their great victory in Argenteuil.

The election of Mr. Bowman B. Law, by 548 of a majority, is a crushing blow to the Conservatives of Nova Scotia, and particularly to Mr. R. L. Borden, M. P., leader of the opposition. Mr. Corning, the defeated candidate, had the assistance of Messrs. A. C. Bell, M. P.; Chas. E. Tanner, M. P.; J. J. Ritchie, K. C., and others, while Hon. W. S. Fielding and D. C. Fraser, M. P., and Doctor Russell, M. P., rendered Mr. Law valuable service in the contest.

The Liberal majority Wednesday, of 848, is the largest ever obtained by any candidate in Yarmouth since Confederation, and exhibits a great increase over that obtained by Mr. Faint in 1900, when the latter was elected by 221.

The return of Mr. Law by such a magnificent majority must be a source of great pleasure to Hon. W. S. Fielding, and is a vindication of his leadership in the sister province.

The Liberal victory Wednesday is an affirmative answer to the Tory cry that it is "time for a change." The people of Yarmouth and Argenteuil do not agree with our Tory friends.

THE REFERENDUM.

Incomplete returns received at the early hour Friday morning indicate that the Ontario temperance party failed to carry the Liquor Act by Thursday's vote. The latest figures obtainable are: for the act, 105,183; against it, 65,000. It is expected that the districts not yet reported will increase the temperance majority.

The prohibitionists failed, for, unless they poll 219,000 votes, that is, a majority of the number cast at the last provincial election, the act is lost. The prohibition was made because it was felt that unless that many persons voted for the act there would not be public sentiment enough behind it to permit of its enforcement to the letter.

In spite of the earnest efforts made by the prohibitionists it seems that the apathy of the electorate generally has defeated their purpose. So many voters did not go to the polls at all that the election is a failure.

Encouraged by their majority, however,

the prohibition advocates will press for legislation at the coming session. It is likely that their opponents urged many voters to remain at home, since under the conditions not to vote at all was virtually to vote against prohibition. The result indicates that so much a feeling that the act would not prohibit. Vermont's course in abandoning a prohibition law after a long trial was cited against the temperance workers. Yet they made a great fight for a great principle whatever may be said of the act which the province has apparently refused to pass.

THE LATE W. K. REYNOLDS.

The province loses a gifted son by the death of William Kilby Reynolds. Few writers in Canada have attained the literary skill which marked many of Mr. Reynolds' articles, and fewer wrote so ably of so many subjects. And he served with distinction not here alone but in the offices of several of the leading American journals.

Were it possible now to collect and publish the best of his writings the volume would be one of great interest to New Brunswick readers. In addition to his charm of style Mr. Reynolds was an investigator of keen discernment and a writer of surprising resource. He knew St. John as few know it and his literary skill was yoke-fellow to a remarkable memory.

Readers of The Telegraph will recall many admirable articles which Mr. Reynolds at different times contributed to this newspaper. When he was a candidate here for the local legislature he was within a few votes of victory over the strongest of his opponents.

Among the many who regret the untimely death of Mr. Reynolds are all the newspaper men with whom his work brought him in contact, and whose admiration and affection alike he commanded.

GOOD NEWS.

There is good news indeed from Virginia. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, we are told, now takes an eight-mile tramp in the forenoon and enjoys the exercise enough to repeat it after dinner.

The man who looked tired and wan when he reached Hot Springs now has a healthy color and an elastic step. He tells his friends that he never felt better in his life, and they say he looks it, but they urge him to remain longer and so make it certain that he will keep the ground he has gained.

It is apparent that rest was the premier's great need after his never ceasing activity abroad. It is clear now that his physicians were right when they said he suffered from no organic weakness. It is to be hoped he will remain until after Christmas. There is no pressing public need which necessitates his presence at home. There is nothing to cause him to worry. Politically the country is singularly quiet.

The little news we had previously from Virginia was encouraging, but that of Virginia is especially good. When the premier, who is walking several miles a day now, comes north again he will, we hope, come as a giant refreshed. Meantime all Canada is glad he is enjoying the southern sunshine and thriving in it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Canada's Part in Imperial Defence.

To the Editor of The Telegraph: Sir: Since the proceedings of the conference of colonial premiers have been made public there has been a good deal of uncomplimentary comment in various quarters upon the shabbiness and stinginess of the Canadian government in refusing to contribute anything towards the support of the British navy. As usual in the case of these large questions there are reasons upon both sides and an unwillingness upon either to pay much attention to the arguments that may be advanced on the other. At first sight, it certainly does look rather mean for Canada to refuse to contribute towards the support of the British navy, but her own militia that "protected" Canada and repulsed the invaders. Indeed, some people go so far as to say that the chief "protection" which Canada has received from Great Britain has been the repeated sacrifices of valuable Canadian interests and territory as bribes to improve British relations with the United States. British "protection" availed Canada very little in 1814 and still less in 1842, in 1846, and in the years 1866-71.

This talk about our debt of gratitude to Great Britain for "protection" I think puts the case upon a wrong foundation and should be dropped as likely to do more harm than good. Still, I think as a loyal British subject that it would be a graceful and proper act for our government to make a moderate sized grant from year to year according to our means towards the expense of the British navy, not all upon the ground that we owe it to her for "protection" or for favors of any kind (e.g. she treats us as a foreign nation in her markets) but simply because we claim to be an integral part of the British empire and ought not to shirk paying fairly and equitably for our membership. I say "fairly and reasonably."

Yours truly,

THE BAIRD COMPANY, Limited, Woodstock, N. B.

The Largest Medical Practice in Canada

For the past seven years Dr. Sproule has been working up a practice in New England, where he has now assumed such enormous proportions as to extend to every portion of the United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. How has Dr. Sproule attracted such a large number of patients? By two means first, his great natural ability, and second, by honest dealing. The doctor never undertakes to treat a patient without first through an elaborate system of correspondence, satisfying himself that he can cure the case. Dr. Sproule never takes any man's money unless he can do him good, and then the cured patients are so enthusiastic about the doctor's matchless skill that as soon as they are well, they recommend their friends to try his treatment, and so his enormous practice is steadily increasing.



JAMES H. HEVENOR. DEAR DOCTOR SPROULE.—I have used your medicines and they have cured my health completely. My head is no longer so heavy. The dull hee that used to make life seem a burden is gone. My nose and head were full as charging all the time. My lungs were dry, so were my kidneys and liver. I was yellow and unhealthy looking, puffed and swollen. I was always cold. I gained right through your medicine and now I don't see how I could any better. I am a different man. Your grateful patient.

JAMES H. HEVENOR, Crow's Nest, B. C.

St. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 6, 1902.

Men's Overcoats!

We have some special snaps in Overcoats for cash buyers. We want your cash, and have marked the Overcoats down to a price that will save you from 25 to 50 per cent. by buying your Overcoat at this store. Call and see them. Men's Overcoats, - - \$4 to 15 Men's Ulsters, - - - \$3 to 6

J. N. HARVEY, Men's and Boys' 199 Union St. Clothier, Opera House Block St. John, N. B.

INTERESTING LABOR CASE.

It's About a Painter Who Was Expelled from Union Because He Served in Militia. Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 4.—In a special term of the supreme court at Albany this afternoon, Justice Wesley O. Howard granted an injunction restraining Painters' Union No. 62, of this city, from in any way treating Wm. M. Potter as not a member of the union. The summons is made returnable in 30 days.

Potter claims damages to the amount of \$2 a day since his discharge by his employers, that being the result of his expulsion, and also to the amount of \$500 for other damages. The injunction orders that he be restored to membership pending trial by the courts.

Potter has been refused employment by every master painter in Schenectady on the ground that he was not a union man.

Items of Interest.

All the live stock on Elmwood Farm, Sussex, owned by the late Thomas Roach, will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, Dec. 9th, at 10 o'clock a.m. This is a splendid chance for bargains in registered Ayrshires. See advt.

The donations to the public library last month were: Caricature History of Canadian Politics, by Benough from W. E. Earle, and two histories of the St. John fire of 1877, one by Dr. Geo. Stewart, the other by Col. R. H. Conwell, from Magnus Salibson.

The Baird Company's Wine of Tar, Honey and Wild Cherry. This is an ideal preparation for Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, and Asthma. Large six ounce bottle 50 cts. At all Dealers and Wholesale Drugists. THE BAIRD COMPANY, Limited, Woodstock, N. B.

Steady old Dobbin and little Mary, it is quite evident, have been on a successful shopping expedition. Mary, my to-day be a silver-haired grandmother, and Christie's Biscuits mingle on her table to-day with quaint old china and silver just as they did fifty years ago when Mary and Dobbin went to the store to buy groceries. Christie's Biscuits. Over 600 varieties. At all grocers.