

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 7, 1905.

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THE LOBBY.

Corporation influence, as a factor in legislation, has become so great an evil in the United States that the various states have been aroused to action in defence of the rights of the people.

The province of New Brunswick is not free from this sinister influence. Whenever the representatives of the people at large seek a measure of justice at the hands of a corporation, its lobbyists swarm to Fredericton, button-hole the members of the legislature, and by every artful means endeavor to prevent the bill from becoming law, or amend it so that it shall have little or no effect.

The experience of this city is a case in point. In a general way, if the members of the legislature were asked if they believed the citizens of St. John capable of administering their own civic affairs fairly and in the public interest without undue harshness toward any person or cause, they would unhesitatingly assent to the proposition. But when this smooth and well paid advocate of a corporation which pays large dividends appear on the scene there arises in some minds a doubt whether after all the city is capable of self-government. Is this province to be ruled by the lobby?

WELCOME SETTLERS.

The New England states are likely to contribute many new settlers to the Canadian West. L. R. Holme, writing to the Boston Transcript, says:—

"New England is likely to contribute this year more freely than ever before to the stream of immigration pouring into the Canadian Northwest. For some years the western farmers have gone north and exchanged their improved farms for the prairie holdings of the easterner, and this spring has caught the infection, and not a week passes but several families from Boston and its neighborhood apply for the certificate of the Canadian government that entitles them to transportation to the Northwest at greatly reduced rates. 'It would, however, be a mistake to consider them Americans in the full sense of the term. Many of them hail from Canada or England, and have come to the United States with no particular success, and others, if New England born, are of Canadian or British parentage, and have ever harbored a specially soft spot for the land of their fathers. To them Canada is not a foreign land, and the change of allegiance, if change there comes more naturally than to an American of several generations' standing."

Canada will welcome these people, who are so well fitted to become citizens of a young and progressive country, and who are so thoroughly in sympathy with the spirit of Canadian institutions.

THE PRESS AND OTHERS.

Mr. J. A. Likely is reported to have said to the municipalities committee in Fredericton that "it seemed to be the habit of the St. John press that it must find fault with something, and that the street railway and the city council were the objects of its attack."

With regard to the city council, Mr. Likely was one of the promoters and is one of the most active members of the Citizens' League, and has been mentioned several times as a probable League candidate in the effort to defeat the present council. In regard to the council, therefore, Mr. Likely stands cheek-by-jowl with the press which he criticizes.

With regard to the street railway company, however, there is a difference. While the press stands for the rights of the people Mr. Likely stands for a fourteen per cent dividend.

A GOLD MINE.

The advocates of the street railway company who spoke and lobbied at Fredericton this week did not tell the members that in addition to its usual large dividend on watered stock last year the company set aside about \$50,000 as a rest and as much or more for a fund to provide against accidents. Yet The Times is informed that this is the fact.

Stock in this company is eagerly sought after by investors. It makes its profits at the expense of the people of St. John.

The members of the legislature should bear this in mind.

It may be taken for granted that the absence of news from the seat of war in Manchuria does not indicate any cessation of activity on the part of the Japanese. The same keen intelligence that has directed operations with such amazing success for months past is in planning and executing new moves against the Russians, and unless peace is formally declared

there will be more desperate fighting before many weeks. In the meantime affairs in Russia appear to be approaching a crisis, and it would seem that the clamor for reform cannot much longer be resisted by the bureaucracy. If the voice of the people is heard and heeded, the war will speedily terminate.

The Citizens' League will meet this evening. The executive, which plaintively asked the members to exercise patience while it wrestled with reluctant candidates, will doubtless give an account of its stewardship and outline its plans for the future. It may be hoped that the gentlemen who crowded the board of trade rooms at the earlier meetings, filled with zeal for reform, will not absent themselves this evening. There should be something doing.

The people of St. John will expect Messrs. Lantalm, Robertson, Purdy, Maxwell, and Lowell to fight for the passage of the street railway and water extension bills sent up by this city. Mr. Hazen, as a citizen of St. John, is well aware of the absolute justice of the city's claims regarding these matters. Hon. Dr. Pugsley is equally well informed.

A parliamentary session at Ottawa which it was expected would be brief and uneventful has already developed sensational features of a character which does not make for national peace and harmony. Ancient prejudices are easily stirred into new life. Under the veneer of an alleged tolerance the spirit of strife is only hidden, and not subdued.

Advertisers who value circulation in a newspaper in the afternoon field in this city will find it to their advantage to make some comparisons and enquiries with regard to the circulation of the Times. Quite a number have done so, and the result is seen in the steadily increasing patronage given to this paper by wide-awake advertisers.

It is natural that persons financially interested in the street railway should vigorously oppose any measure before the legislature which would in any way restrict the powers and privileges of the company. It will, however, be clear to the minds of the members of the house that the interests of the city are more important than those of a grasping corporation.

When legislation is sought that would increase the taxes of the humble citizen he cannot afford the luxury of a gifted lobby at Fredericton, to persuade the members that it is all wrong. He has to pay his taxes.

It is suggested that the question whether the street railway property is exempt from taxation under one of the earlier acts relating thereto might be settled in the courts. If all else fails that method should be adopted.

The controversy at Ottawa, is very interesting, even if somewhat inflammatory, but what the people of St. John are watching most eagerly at present is the fate of the city's bills at Fredericton.

What St. John asks of the legislature is recognition of the fact that the citizens should be the best judges of what is in the interests of the city as a whole. That appears to be a reasonable proposition.

Stockholders in the New Brunswick Telephone Company naturally do not believe in municipal ownership in their territory, whatever they may think of municipal ownership in the abstract.

In the New Brunswick Telephone Company to enjoy a monopoly in this city? That would be an astounding condition of affairs.

Which is more sacred—the rights of the public or the greed of a corporation?

SERVICE OF SONG.

The Cheerful Tilters Mission Band of Carmarthen St. Methodist church gave a service of song entitled "Hearts of Gold," last evening. The school room was filled by an audience that greatly enjoyed the beautiful programme of singing and recitations.

TO WELCOME BISHOP CASEY.

His Lordship Bishop Casey left Liverpool today on the turbine Virginia.

The presidents and recording secretaries of all Catholic societies are requested to meet in St. Malachi's hall tonight, to consider the reception to be given to the Bishop on his arrival home.

Edgar's "Straight" is always stirring his views upon everything that comes up. "Daddy" knew, just it, yesterday, "view his views."

NELSON'S YEAR.

(Henry J. Morgan, in Ottawa Citizen.)

Canadians of all origins must feel indebted to Senator Donville, for taking the initiative towards securing a suitable celebration, by the people and Parliament of Canada, of the centennial anniversary of the death of Nelson, England, and the world's greatest naval hero.

I do not know what form the patriotic Senator's celebration is proposed to take, but I have no doubt, from the many expressions of approval in reference to it, that have come to me, that whatever may be done in the matter will be heartily endorsed by all classes of the King's subjects in Canada. This world has had but one Nelson, as we claim both immortals as among our very own. But while the world has had but one Nelson, it has had many a Nelson, and it is the proud privilege of the great nation to which we Canadians have the honor to belong, that we can claim both immortals as among our very own. But while the world has had but one Nelson, it has had many a Nelson, and it is the proud privilege of the great nation to which we Canadians have the honor to belong, that we can claim both immortals as among our very own.

moving to England, some time after, he purchased the estate of Lockerley Hall, formerly known as Oaklands, near Tisbury, Southampton, and became a J. P. A. D. L. a County Councillor, High Sheriff, Lord of the Manor, and a patron of several livings. His eldest daughter, Eliza Blanche, born August 8th, 1880, married August 5th, 1879, Herbert Horatio, Viscount Trevelyan, eldest son and heir of the third Earl Nelson. Consequently, the daughter of one Canadian and the great-granddaughter of another Canadian, will, with her husband, in the ordinary course of nature, succeed to all the honors and dignities won and worn by the immortal Nelson. It may not be out of place to add to the above that Colonel Reginald Dalgety, C.B., who distinguished himself at the battle of Abu Klea, and Colonel Edmund Dalgety, C.B., whose masterly occupation of Duxter and subsequent defence of Wepener, in the recent Boer war, gave him such deserved prominence in the army, are both descended from the couple first above mentioned, who married in Montreal, January 10th, 1785.

DEADLY ANALYSIS. An evening paper claims a daily sale of 4,000 copies. In order to accomplish this feat forty newshykes would have to sell 100 papers each, every day, in all sorts of weather, without variation, or fifty newshykes would have to sell 80 papers each.

WEST END LEAGUE. The members who attended the meeting of the West End League in City Hall Tuesday evening, wish it understood that the meeting was announced in all the papers of Monday's date. Hence the reason for the Shamrocks not being present is unknown. The "Martello's" wish it understood that theirs was the team which captured second place in West End League, instead of the Shamrocks, as stated by the Star Thursday evening. J. E. WATERS.

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TRURO LIGHT RATES RAISED.

Chambers Electric Company Makes a General Advance to Light Users.

Truro, April 6.—The Chambers Electric Light & Power Co. is again after the users of light and power in Truro. The rates, as reported in the "Times" some little time ago, have found their way into the pockets of the ratepayers. This has cut down the consumption of electric light and of course reduced greatly the income of the electric light plant. The company has issued notice of advanced rates in some cases meaning from 20 percent to 50 percent, and with a minimum charge of \$1.00 per light per year which will more than double up some of the smaller users of light, in private houses especially.

CHATHAM NEWS. Death of Mrs. Annie Ullock—Patrick Conroy's Funeral—Personal News.

Chatham, April 6.—Mrs. Annie Ullock, wife of the late Mr. Ullock, died at her home on Tuesday, after a short illness. She was 78 years of age. Her husband, who was a native of Black River, was a member of the local fire department, and had charge for five years of the fire engine.

FROM SACKVILLE. Sackville, April 6.—The monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary, met in the vestry of the Methodist church, Tuesday afternoon with a good attendance. After the usual routine of business, was over, Miss Hart, who for the past term, has been attending the Folia Mission Institute of Herkimer, N. Y., gave an interesting account of the work done over at that institution. The Synod is extended to Mrs. E. B. Smyth of this town, in the loss of her husband, the death of her sister, Miss Alice Gripps, of St. Stephen.

HARCOURT NEWS. Harcourt, April 6.—Mrs. Stephen M. Thun returned on Monday night from a several days' visit to Sackville Academy, where her daughter is a student in the musical department.

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