POOR DOCUMENT

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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Wm. Somerville

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 14, 1908.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's independent newspapers.

These newspapers advocate:
British connection
Honesty in public life
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.
No graft!
No deals!

"The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwine, The Maple Leaf forever."

PURIFY THE BALLOT

The purity committee in the recent election campaign in this city had a fairly effective organization, and was able to discover that both money and liquor were used to some extent, despite the pledges made by a representative committee from each party. The result of the committee's activity and the assurance it gives that with a larger and more aggressive organization it would be possible to bring the violators of the law to justice will no doubt have a salutary effect. It ought to be possible to so organize that even petty violations of the law would be discovered and punished. That is the consummation toward which the efforts of all good citizens should be directed. When one seriously contemplates the conditions as they have existed, the effect produced upon the mind cannot be other than disheartening. The man who goes to the ballot box goes to perform one of the highest duties of citizenship. He should go about this duty seriously, and with the full consciousness of what it may mean to the interests of the community. That there are so many persons who would have him go in a drunken state proves that we are yet very far removed from ideal conditions with regard to politics and the government of the country. It may be hoped that in future elections the organization which unquestionably did very valuable work will be even more alert, and have the sympathy of a much larger number of voters. After all, with the secret ballot there is not a great deal to be gained by the expenditure of money or the use of liquor. One of the parties in the recent contest no doubt would cheerfully assent to the truth of this proposition. It might be the turn of the other party the next time, but in the interests of the country we may hope that both parties will positively refuse hereafter to use a corruption fund in a political campaign. If they do not, then a strong purity committee should see to it that they pay the full penalty for this crime against the country.

PRISON REFORM

"There is also the question of prison reform. We propose, before a very long time, you will find to have large large numbers of this unfortunate criminal class of this province engaged in working out for the benefit of the government and the people the problem of whether their labor and their work cannot be utilized in something like an agricultural direction."

The above statement was made in Toronto, last week by Premier Whitney. It relates to a subject which has engaged the earnest attention of social reformers everywhere. The problem to which reference is made has not been successfully solved, but the nearest approach to a solution is found along lines similar to those suggested by the premier of Ontario. It is no longer considered enough to lock up a criminal and keep him under lock and key. It is recognized that he is still a human being, with capabilities which may, and should, if possible, be developed and directed along right lines of conduct. This is felt with a special force regarding petty criminals and those who have become practically incapacitated through the inordinate use of liquor. It has been found that by taking these persons and placing them on farms where they are under surveillance, but are yet able to enjoy outdoor life, and are compelled to busy themselves with some kind of productive work, in the vast majority of cases a genuine reform is effected. The press has of late referred to notable instances where the prison farm for habitual drunkards and those who frequently commit petty offences has been productive of great good. Premier Whitney in his remarks had been alluding to the forestry policy which his government proposed to carry out, and there seems to be a suggestion that it is his intention to secure legislation by which the criminals would be made to work in connection with the development of that policy.

This question is one of great importance to the citizens of St. John. If there was, at a reasonable distance from the city, a farm where habitual drunkards, vagrants, and even vagrant families could be sent, and compelled to devote themselves to outdoor work under healthy conditions, the result would greatly improve the conditions in the city, and make the records of the police court much less depressing to the reader than they are at the present time. It is now universally recognized that mere punishment ought not to be the aim of the prison, and if instead of the gloomy walls of the jail, the prisoner could be compelled to live in the open, under the healthful influences of country life, the appeal to that which is best in his or her nature would surely not be wholly in vain. It would be a very wise movement if the city should seek and gain authority to establish such a farm as that to which we have referred, and have it conducted in connection with the work of the police court, the Salvation Army and the Associated Charities.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

The school board of this city has declared itself in favor of free school books. Whether this can be accomplished at once is a question that involves large financial considerations, for the initial cost would be large. It is nevertheless true that free school books are a logical part of a free school system. The question which Mr. Hazen and his colleagues will have to consider is whether in the condition in which they may find the provincial finances they can afford so great an expenditure. It may be found expedient to bring about the change gradually. It is quite easy for the members of a school board, some of whose members are perhaps none too favorably disposed toward the incoming government, to pass resolutions of large and generous proportions; but Mr. Hazen will do well not to be diverted by any such proportions from the first task confronting him, which is to learn what his government can afford to do in matters already making demands upon the revenues of the province. When he comes to consider the whole question of school text books the extent to which books may be made free will naturally present itself, and will deserve to be taken up in the most enlightened spirit. The most careful calculations will be necessary, for much is involved, and haste in such a matter would be the height of folly. The people of the province will be disposed to give the new premier and his colleagues time to go into the subject thoroughly before declaring their policy.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

It ought to be safe to assume that as a result of the action of both the city council and the school board last evening the school buildings will be subjected to such a scrutiny as will result in making impossible in this city, even on the smallest scale, such a result as followed the outbreak of fire in Cleveland, Ohio. It is really surprising that such action is necessary after the numerous warnings of recent years. We are, however, a somewhat spasmodic people, who do things by fits and starts, under the pressure of momentary impulses or suggestions; and a work well begun is not necessarily well finished. But the question of the safety of the children is a matter of such grave importance that the public will expect any changes which may be necessary in the school buildings to be ordered without delay.

THE CONGO MEASURE

Discussing the scheme before the Belgian parliament to assume control of the Congo region, by purchasing from King Leopold the rights he has so grossly abused, the New York Evening Post says:

"There seems little reason to doubt that the Congo problem, so far as it concerns the questions at issue between the Belgian parliament and Leopold, is on the eve of a settlement. The king has given way on the chief mooted point, the maintenance of the crown domain, with its present special privileges; and its dissolution by royal decree is expected. The minor matters of finance involved do not greatly concern the world at large. Many factors had combined to make this notable victory for progress and justice possible. The thorough awakening of the Belgian national consciousness, the force of public opinion in Great Britain and the United States, King Leopold's years and growing infirmities made it inevitable that within a comparatively brief time a solution of one of the gravest political and moral problems of our time should be found. Undoubtedly, the firm stand taken by the British parliament hastened a settlement. Interest will therefore soon shift from the struggle for the redemption of the Congo to the manner in which Belgium proceeds to fulfil her new responsibilities."

SENATOR PROCTOR

The people of New Brunswick have an interest in the career of the late Senator Redfield Proctor, of Vermont, who died in Washington last week. The Senator was an occasional visitor to this city, and was one of the leading members of the syndicate which originally undertook the development of the power at Grand Falls. He was also well known as a sportsman, and as visitor to the hunting grounds and fishing streams of this province. The late senator was a man of marked ability, and is credited with having exerted a powerful influence in the United States in favor of the war between the United States and Spain. A speech which he delivered, produced a profound feeling in the senate and throughout the whole country. It was not the speech of a fire-brand, but the calm, dispassionate statement of a man who told in simple language what he had himself seen in Cuba. Here is an extract quoted by the New York Evening Post:

"I have endeavored to state in not intemperate mood what I saw and heard, and to make no argument thereon, but leave every one to draw his own conclusions. To me the strongest appeal is not the barbarity practised by Weyler nor the loss of the Maine, if our worst fears should prove true, terrible as are both of these incidents, but the spectacle of a million and a half of people, the entire native population of Cuba, struggling for freedom and deliverance from the worst misgovernment of which I ever had knowledge. But whether our action ought to be influenced by any one or all of these things, and, if so, how far, is another question."

Senator Proctor was also largely influential in securing the Republic nomination for President McKinley.

Senator Proctor was born in Proctorsville, Vermont, in 1831. He was the grandson of an officer in the war of the Revolution, who founded the town which bears his name. The senator himself took part in the civil war and rose to the rank of colonel, taking an active part in the great battle of Gettysburg. After the war he practised law for some time in Rutland, and a little later became associated with the development of the marble industry, and became the head of the most important marble industry in the United States. He was a member of the Vermont state legislature from 1867 until 1876, when he became lieutenant-governor and later was elected governor. He was a delegate to the national Republic conventions of 1884, 1888, and 1896. He was secretary of war for two years under President Harrison, and in 1891 was appointed senator, being re-elected in 1892, 1898 and 1904. His son, Fletcher Proctor, is now governor of Vermont, and this son will have the unusual duty of appointing his father's successor in the senate. Senator Proctor amassed a large fortune, and spent a considerable portion of it for benevolent purposes. He built the Proctor Hospital in Proctorsville, Vermont, and erected at Pittsford a costly sanitorium for the treatment of consumptives. He was thus alike prominent in business, in politics, and in works of benevolence.

THE LICENSING BILL

The London Leader of Feb. 28 gives a very interesting report of the address of Mr. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer in introducing the licensing bill which has aroused so much interest throughout the old country and Canada. The principles of the bill are stated to be a progressive reduction in the present facilities for retailing intoxicating drink, and the recovery by the state of dominion over the monopoly value of licenses. The features of special interest and importance in the bill are thus summarized by the Leader:

A time limit of fourteen years on compensation.

Within that time the number of licenses to be reduced throughout the country to numbers, fixed according to density of population, and ranging from one for 400 people in the country to one to 1,000 people in poor crowded quarters of the towns.

Total estimated reduction 30,000.

A central licensing commission to be appointed to approve schemes—which local authorities must draw up—and control funds.

Power to refuse to issue any new license given to majority of people in the locality.

Compensation for the loss of licenses to be paid out of a fund levied as at present on the trade, on a reduced scale.

No more appeals from town benches to quarter sessions.

No children allowed in bars.

All clubs to be registered annually. Chief constables or other high officials (not in uniform) may inspect any club, whether in Pall Mall or elsewhere.

Local option indicated at the end of the time limit.

Sunday opening in country limited to one hour mid-day—two hours evening.

Bona fide travellers to go six instead of three miles.

Among those who, who from the Peers' gallery, looked down and listened to Mr. Asquith's address, was the venerable Lord Peel, who submitted the minority report on the licensing commission some years ago. The present bill embodies many of the recommendations of that minority report. Lord Peel, in an interview on the Asquith bill, said that he considered it an admirable one. The Leader quotes interviews with quite a large number of persons the majority of whom regard the bill with favor. Those opposed to it are chiefly men who are interested in the great brewing interests of the country. For example, Mr. Gretton, M. P., a partner in Bass', declared that the fourteen years time limit is totally inadequate to breweries to pay interest on debentures and at the same time to set aside a sinking fund to ensure themselves against the extinction of licenses. This, he feared, would mean the ruin of some breweries. The fourteen years limit is a compromise. Strong temperance men would make the limit much shorter, while all in any way interested in the breweries would extend it for a longer period. We quote some extracts from the Leader's report of Mr. Asquith's speech, which will give our readers a clearer knowledge of the terms of this very important piece of proposed legislation. The statistics showing that there are now over 96,000 licensed premises in England and Wales, and that the new bill proposes to reduce this by over 30,000 in fourteen years, and the statement that local option is to a certain extent involved in the bill, are its outstanding features. We quote:

"Mr. Asquith having quoted the first clause of the bill providing for the compulsory reduction within a specified period of the number of on-licenses, throughout the country based on the density of population, sketched out the following table:

Persons to Acre.	One License for every
2 to 25	250 persons
25 to 50	600 "
50 to 75	700 "
75 to 100	800 "
100 to 200	900 "
Over 200	1,000 "

In England and Wales there are now 95,700 "on" licenses, or a proportion of 27.62 per 1,000 of the population. The scheme of reduction will suppress more than one-third of these and it is a duty which the licensing authority must fulfil, or, if they neglect it, the new licensing commission, consisting of a chairman and two members, which is to be set up, will do it for them. In addition to this compulsory reduction, the power will be restored to the licensing justices, which was taken away from them in 1904, in regard to the refusal of renewals and transfers of existing licenses subject to compensation during the period. Thus there will be optional reduction as well as compulsory reduction.

"The chancellor next came to the important point as to the amount of compensation to be paid, which works out as follows: An amount will be estimated sufficient to purchase the interest at a proper rate—four per cent. of an immediate annuity—for the unexpired years of the fourteen which the license has still to run to an end. To that will be added such a sum as the inland commissioners of revenue think just as compensation to the license holder. Mr. Asquith still held the house as he proceeded to expound the other features of the bill. His announcement that the people of the locality would have power over new licenses was received with great enthusiasm by the Liberals. The poll against new licenses is to stand good on a simple majority for at least three years, and he pretty clearly indicated that after the justices had done their duty for fourteen years provision will be made for a system of local option, though he did not give details. As to clubs there was was some merriment over the provision that any superior police officer in plain clothes may enter for purposes of inspection—"and this," remarked the chancellor of the exchequer—, 'applies all round, even to Pall Mall and St. James.'

"In the debate which followed Mr. Whittaker and other temperance men cordially approved the main principles of the bill, as did Mr. Arthur Henderson in a strong speech on behalf of the Labor party. The bill was read a first time without a division."

TAXING CIVIL SERVANTS

Dominion civil servants in the province of British Columbia have sustained a rude shock. It will be remembered that the civil servants in St. John have been subjected to taxation, and that while some of them have accepted the decision with a good grace others have resented it; and although the Supreme Court of the province has declared against them, they are carrying the case to the Supreme Court at Ottawa. In British Columbia, the provincial government has decided that all employes, civil servants, judges and other officials appointed by the Dominion government in that province will have to pay both income and poll taxes. Notice to this effect has been sent to all assessors and collectors, by order of the provincial secretary.

The poll tax was collected from all Dominion employes in British Columbia until about eight years ago, when an appeal was made to the courts, and such action was held to be beyond the rights of the province. The recent decision of the Imperial Privy Council in a case referred to it by one of the states of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the recent decision of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, have convinced the provincial government of its power to levy these taxes, and hence the action now taken. There is no announcement as yet whether the civil servants will fight the new law, but the provincial authorities are convinced that any such attempt, if made, would fail.

THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS

The Toronto World believes the federal elections will be held in June. On the other hand the Victoria Colonist thinks they will take place in November, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier recently stated that he feared parliament would be kept in session until September.

In connection with speculations on this subject the following article from the Charlottetown Guardian makes the following very interesting observations:

"The Liberal government of the Dominion under Sir Wilfrid Laurier was formed in 1896. At that time it had the active co-operation and support of the provincial government of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, an unbroken chain from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains. It afterwards gained the government of British Columbia, and federal and local Liberal parties were in the ascendant from ocean to ocean in 1900.

"Manitoba became Conservative in 1900, British Columbia in 1903; Ontario fell away to the Conservatives in 1905; Manitoba in 1907 and now New Brunswick in 1908. Only Nova Scotia, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and the two new provinces created in the Northwest in 1905 now remain in the Liberal column. The last provincial elections were held in the several provinces as follows:

Ontario, Jan. 25, 1905.
Quebec, Nov. 25, 1904.
Nova Scotia, June 20, 1906.
New Brunswick, March 3, 1908.
Prince Edward Island, Dec. 7, 1904.
Saskatchewan, Dec. 13, 1905.
Manitoba, March 7, 1907.
Alberta, Nov. 9, 1906.
British Columbia, Feb. 2, 1907.

"The last Dominion election was held in November 3, 1904. It will be quite possible to hold another session after the present one within the five years term. The next provincial elections coming due this year or in 1909 are those of Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario in order named."

OF MUTUAL BENEFIT

The announcement is made that a large delegation of Canadian school teachers will visit the schools of Great Britain during the present year. This tour should have a healthy effect upon the schools of both countries, and tend to draw closer the bonds of sympathy and unity in educational matters. Whatever tends to disseminate in the mother country a better knowledge of Canada is good for both countries, and must have beneficial results. On the other hand, it will be a kind of liberal education for the Canadian teachers to visit the famous centres of life in the mother country. The average Canadian, perhaps somewhat influenced by the contents of American newspapers and periodicals, is likely to get the impression that the old country has lost much of its vigor of life, and is subject to decadence. A visit to the great cities with their flourishing industries, and the general impression that is received in a run through the country, completely alters the point of view, and the Canadian comes home again with a very much stronger sense of pride in the mother country, and in Canada's connection therewith. Therefore, the coming tour of Canadian teachers may be regarded as a subject for general approval.

WIRELESS WONDERS

So remarkable have been the triumphs accomplished by wireless telegraphy, that one is prepared to accept almost any prediction that may be made concerning its future achievements. Prof. Willis L. Moore, chief of the United States Weather Bureau, declares that the time is coming when ocean transportation will be far safer than riding on a street car is today. Mr. Moore made this statement to the committee on agriculture of the house of representatives at Washington. He said it is only a matter of time when the governments of the world will compel every vessel above a certain tonnage to carry a wireless instrument and operator, and transmit all messages received by it.

The result of such legislation, he points out, would be that storms would be located and their direction made known to all vessels. When a vessel learns that a storm is centred in a certain locality, through one ship reporting to another its observations, it will be possible for her, in very many cases, by altering her course, to avoid the storm-belt; or, at all events, to be prepared to meet the conditions.

Prof. Moore is of opinion that wireless telegraphy should be under the control of the government, as the competition of different companies results in detriment and inconvenience. He mentions a case of a ship which was disabled and sent a wireless message, which message was received by a competing company, and suppressed. Therefore, while not prepared to advocate government ownership, he is convinced of the need of government control of all wireless systems. When the time comes that observations are received from the entire Atlantic ocean, and transmitted to vessels everywhere, it is clear that Prof. Moore's comparison between ocean and street car transportation will be at least to some extent justified.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The St. John Star says: "Moncton people now believe they are suffering from 'yaws.' We have been afraid of this for some time." Was the malady responsible for the Moncton vote on March 3?

* * *

The total output of coal in the United Kingdom last year was 267,828,276 tons, an increase of 16,777,467 tons over that of the previous year. There figures indicate the immense importance of the industry, and the army of workmen to whom it gives employment.

* * *

What is called the Small Holdings Act in England appears to be having a good effect in increasing the number of agriculturists in the country. A report handed down recently stated that the number of applications thus far made was 6,924 for 115,556 acres. The chairman of the Land Law Reform Association, discussing this report, said he thought they were on the threshold of obtaining reforms in respect of housing, both of town and country, such as would give the poorest classes the means of getting an honest, decent and sufficient livelihood.

* * *

The Charlottetown Guardian speaking of the premier-elect of this province says: "Mr. Hazen is personally a man of distinguished appearance, above the average height, and looks a strong man. He is an Episcopalian in creed. He possesses more than ordinary ability as a speaker and is capable of oratory. His manner in speaking is calm, dignified, courteous and persuasive, seldom if ever, becoming declamatory. His personal and political record is clean. Among the nine premiers of provinces he will stand easily in the first division."

* * *

The very high price of butter has given an impetus to the manufacture and sale of margarine in England. There has just been opened in Southall, London, a factory which is the largest of its kind in the world, with an output of 700 tons per week. The constituents of margarine are milk, refined beef suet, refined lard and arachide oil. In the factory referred to 650 persons are employed, and their white uniforms are changed and washed every day. At the luncheon which followed the formal opening of their factory Dr. Rutherford, M. P., declared that the nutritive value of margarine was as high as that of butter, and that margarine stood equal to butter in its production of force and in wholesomeness.

* * *

An interesting decision with regard to election campaign contributions has just been handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States. One Edward Thayer, of Dallas, Texas, a member of the Republican state committee, sent a letter to the deputy internal revenue collector in the campaign of 1906, urging him to contribute a portion of his salary in aid of the Republican ticket. Action was taken against Thayer, on the ground that the sending of such a letter constituted a violation of the civil service law. The court in Texas refused to hold Thayer guilty, because it was not proved that the recipient had read the letter in a federal building. This was a pretty fine technicality, and the decision of the Texas court has been reversed by the supreme tribunal.

* * *

The Congo treaty appears, after all, to be in some danger in the Belgian parliament. A cable from Brussels says: "Minister of State Beerneart, who was at first disposed to favor the treaty providing for the annexation of the Congo Independent State to Belgium, has now decided to oppose it because of the clauses granting recognition to private concessions providing for a grant of $10,000,000 to King Leopold. The defection of M. Beerneart and his followers will mean the further modication, or possibly the defeat of the treaty. In an interview M. Beerneart said that the clause in the treaty granting $10,000,000 to King Leopold was unconstitutional, inasmuch as his majesty had no right to spend a dollar of the public funds without the approval of his ministers."

The Press, the Public and the Parties.

(Toronto Globe.)

The meeting in Toronto last week of the Canadian Press Association gave distinct emphasis to the growing sense of responsibility to the public which dominates and directs the Press of Canada. To the public rather than to the political parties is that responsibility felt. More than ever before the party newspapers stand for independence within party lines. They are loyal to what is essential in historic Liberalism or historic Conservatism, but with increasing determination they resolve not to be dragged nolens volens in the train of their party or to dance attendance on any group of men who for the moment chance to be prominent and busy in the affairs of this or that party organization. If they are not consulted by the leaders and if they are not admitted to the caucus they decline to have their approval taken for granted. If they approve of a policy or support a line of action it is because it carries their judgment as being in the main in the public interest and consistent with the party's best traditions.

From the public point of view this independence in party journalism is a hopeful sign. The modern drift of party leadership is set so steadily in the direction of autocracy, and the caucus so frequently kills freedom of discussion and independence of judgment on the floor of the House that it becomes the more necessary for the Press of the parties to claim and to exercise the rights of free speech within party lines, if democracy itself is not to be strangled in the very home of free institutions.

For the Press itself this attitude of self-respecting independence is necessary if it is to draw to its service men of intelligence and force. The money rewards of newspaper work do not compensate for the drudgery it involves. It would be intolerable had it not other attractions than those of the salary list. But those opportunities for large public service are destroyed the moment a journal betrays what it feels to be mere short-sighted party expediency. The Press is too big to be the slave of the political opportunist. It was designed for larger service, and unless it is true to itself and to its own best ideals it will forfeit at the last even the poor ends of money returns and party influence for which it sells its soul. The public first, and the party only as a means of public ends—this is the sphere of service in which the Press can both save itself and minister to the deepest needs of the political party with which it is allied.

GOVERNMENT MODIFIES STOOD-OVER DRUG ACT

Ottawa, Ont., March 10—(Special)—Hon. Wm. Templeman has given notice of a bill to provide for the regulation of the sale of patent and proprietary medicines. The bill is considerably less drastic than the government measure introduced last year, and held over at the end of last session. The principal objection raised by the retail druggists to the last bill was as to the stamp tax on each bottle and on the new bill this is omitted, the department requiring only a registration tax. Regulations as to requiring an analysis of each formula submitted being made before any proprietary medicine can be placed on sale, and also modified to meet the objection that unnecessary delay would be caused to the manufacturers pending analysis of a large number of preparations that would be required to be analysed by a comparatively small staff of the inland revenue department.

STIFF SENTENCE FOR CHATHAM SCOTT ACT VIOLATOR

Chatham, N. B., March 10—(Special)—L. K. Lloyds was convicted this morning of a third offence against the Scott Act and Magistrate Connors imposed the full penalty of three months' in jail. Mrs. L. K. Lloyds was fined $50 on the first offence. Information in both cases was laid by Patrick McGinnis.

The Fiddle's Invitation.

When the winter hills are ghostlike an' the wind wears icy wings
I like an invitation from a fiddle's friendly strings.
My dancin' days—oh, my!
Don't you think they've passed me by!
I can dance the very stars out in the sleepy winter sky!

Oh, I'm not so much on springtime, when the sky is dreamy blue
An' your sweetheart pulls the violets an' pins 'em on for you;
"Gittin' old! Gittin' old!"
That's the story I am told;
Give me winter, an' a fiddle, an' I'll dance away the cold!

Oh, there's nothin' that I'm knowin', or that yet I'm like to know
That cheers me like the cabin lights that twinkle o'er the snow;
The lights that seem to say:
"Come an' dance the dark away!"
An' I follow—Oh, I follow till I hear the fiddle play!

The latch hangs on the outside—no trouble at the door;
"Come in, an' join the dancin'! Shake the white sand on the floor!"
An' my younger days I feel
As I hit it—toe-an'-heel,
An' go whirlin' to the music of the old Virginia reel!

At a fiddle's invitation I'm on hand! The world you see,
By the lively dance it led me made a dancin' chap o' me!
Life's a dance, an' I am in it;
Joy's the prize, an' I must win it.
An' on the road to Happiness I'll make a mile a minute!

Cypher's Poultry Foods.

Oyster Shells,
Crystal Grit,
Mann's Green Bone Cutters.

Write for catalogue and prices to

W. H. THORNE & CO., Ltd.
Market Square, St. John, N. B.

Mr. Hazen's Responsibility.

(Montreal Star).

Mr. Hazen and his colleagues will find much to reform in New Brunswick after twenty-five years' continuous rule by one group of politicians, many of them of the opportunist variety. The new premier has a sufficient majority to strengthen him for a resolute programme, and though he will be pursued by the train of camp followers who usually fall in behind the victor, he should know that the desire of the people is for prudent, effective and business-like government. Mr. Hazen is pledged to reduce the number of members in the assembly. Perhaps it would be still better to cut down the number of departments under paid ministers.

Nova Scotia, with a larger population and revenues, has only three paid ministers, while New Brunswick has six. The two new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are organized each with four ministers, while Ontario and Quebec, with their immensely larger resources and interests, have eight and seven respectively. It is true that the New Brunswick ministers have ridiculously small salaries, but on the other hand they give a ridiculously small share of their time to public business. Fredericton is the capital, but in no administration since Mr. Blair left the province has one of the heads of departments resided in that city. In the retiring administration the premier and surveyor-general lived at Moncton, the commissioner of agriculture near Chipman, the attorney-general in St. John, the commissioner of works in Campbellton, and the solicitor-general at Woodstock. Just before the election Mr. Allen, of Moncton, became provincial secretary, and announced his intention of residing in Fredericton. It was the custom of these ministers to meet about once a month at Fredericton. This was the only time when the ministers could be found together, and the only time when they were in sight of the offices of their departments. Each has had his own private business and went on with it, attending incidentally to departmental work.

Two of these ministers had a nominal salary of $2,100 each, three of $1,700 each and one at $1,200. They could not be expected to serve the public exclusively for that reward. As a matter of fact they received among them about as much in extras as in salary. They had a fictitious scale of traveling expenses. They made a charge for services when they left the province. The law officers took five per cent. commission on succession duties. Altogether Mr. Pugsley, as attorney-general with a nominal salary of $2,100, sometimes had an official income of four times that amount.

In the neighboring province of Nova Scotia the three ministers take salaries of $5,000 each with $1,000 extra for the premier. The British Columbia salaries are $4,000 with an extra $1,000 for the premier. Those of Saskatchewan and Alberta are the same as in Nova Scotia. But these ministers stay with their departments and give their whole time to public duties. The man who has business with two departments does not have to go to one corner of the province to find one minister, to another corner to seek the other, and then to Fredericton to consult with the officers.

Mr. Hazen would find some difficulty in adopting this system. The tendency has been the other way. One department was added two or three years ago. He will always have supporters willing to be ministers, and every section will desire representation in the cabinet. If he follow the line of least resistance he will leave things as they are, retaining the six departments for which the law now provides, leaving the salaries small and permitting the heads of departments to carry on private business. From an outside point of view it would appear that a stronger and more efficient organization would be effected by the usual method. If the management of New Brunswick affairs were a private business, conducted on business principles, it would be managed by a small but adequate staff, with a single headquarters, and with the undivided attention of the management.

BETROTHALS IN WRITING.

(Mail and Empire, Toronto.)

In the opinion of the Roman Catholic bishop of Northern Nebraska marriage engagements are too lightly regarded. He therefore decrees that all betrothals in his dioceses must hereafter be put in writing, and be witnessed by two persons, which will make an engagement hardly less serious than a marriage.

NELLIE'S APPLE PIE.

Knowing how dearly I love pie,
Fair Nellie, bent upon surprise,
Conceived the plan, upon the sly,
Of baking several apple pies.
They were to be of goodly size,
Not slender things, like those you buy;
But thick enough to tempt the eyes
Of epicures, who dote on pie.

Into the kitchen Nellie strode,
Her sleeves rolled up to elbow height;
"I'll make a pie," she loudly crowed,
"That will my better-half delight.
With apples to the brim I'll load
The richest crusts he ever ate;
And then I'll serve it a la mode—
For more I'll bet he'll pass his plate."

Into the flour the butter she
Rubbed with her dainty, lily hand,
Determined that the crust should be
The richest in the land.
"Oh, stop!" the maid exclaimed, "I see
You're putting too much butter there!"
Said Nell: "Away! Don't bother me!
I'm making pie crust light as air."

Now to the pie tin Nellie tried
To lift the crust so richly made;
Now flustered was my blushing bride,
She felt like calling out for aid.
It crumbled once, but undismayed,
She rolled it out once more, and then
It crumbled—bravely unafraid
She straightway rolled it out again.

But over this picture draw the veil,
Nor count the times she rolled it out;
Like snow before a howling gale,
The richest crust was put to rout.
Let us not speak such words as "fail,"
Nor laugh at Nellie's deep remorse;
Repress that loud derisive wail,
That apple pie was apple sauce.

—Detroit Free Press.

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