

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1908.

The Evening Times.

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THE EVENING TIMES, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH. 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."

NO ANSWER YET The people do not expect the St. John Sun to be at all startled by statements of large profits on work done for the government. The Sun has been in the habit of getting job printing and farming it out to other offices, thus making it necessary to add two profits to the actual cost of the work. But in dealing with this matter of dredging in St. John harbor the Sun deliberately seeks to mislead the people. For example, it says today: "What seems to worry The Times most of all is its computation that the Dominion Dredging Company for its ten months' work in this harbor made a profit of \$110,000 exclusive of repairs (it is very careful not to estimate what profit Mr. Mayes made). How far astray this calculation may be The Sun does not know. It does know, however, that for all the work which it did here this Company was paid at the rate of 90 cents per cubic yard of excavation, the rate at which Mr. Mayes was being paid for the same work when, at the urgent request of the civic authorities the government sent another dredge here."

In the first place, the Times computation did not figure out a profit of \$110,000 for the Dominion Dredging Co. for ten months' work, but a profit of \$210,150.20 in ten months on an actual investment of \$131,875. In the second place the fact that Mr. Mayes was successful in getting 90 cents for a portion of work which he did is no justification whatever for giving the Dominion Company a contract for soft digging at 90 cents.

The Sun is deliberately evading the question which goes to the root of the whole matter. It is this—Why did not the government itself buy the dredge which was bought later by the Dominion Dredging Co.—and do the work itself? It had the authority and the money, and sent a man in search of a dredge. Why was no purchase made?

The Sun cannot evade the issue by reference to Mr. Mayes. If Mr. Mayes was overpaid, that also was due to the government's failure to do its own dredging at this national port. Most of the work done by him was done at 55 cents, and not at 90 cents per yard.

Are the citizens of St. John content that the government should hand over some hundreds of thousands of dollars in profits to contractors and have the amount charged up to the port as so much more done for St. John? Are the people of the country content that this sort of thing shall continue? If the federal public works department is as helpless and incompetent as the Sun's arguments would suggest, it is surely time for a change.

ENQUIRY SHUT OFF

The government majority in the house of commons yesterday refused to continue the enquiry growing out of charges made by Mayor Hodgins to the effect that as a result of over-classification public money was wasted in enormous over-payments to contractors on the Grand Trunk Pacific. The Sun's Ottawa correspondent gives a grossly partisan report of the discussion, and seeks to make it appear that there was also lately no foundation for the charges. It is true that Mayor Hodgins withdrew the personal charge made against the commissioners, but the charge of over-classification was fully proven. The minority report of the committee of enquiry said: "As shown by papers and documents produced by the commissioners many charges of over-classification, of excessive allowances, and undue payments by the commissioners to contractors of a like description to those charged by Mayor Hodgins, have formally been made by and on behalf of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company, which charges involve, and are

examples of enormous over-payments out of the public funds, and are of serious concern to the Dominion. They cover and include not only charges made by Mayor Hodgins, but other specific and more serious complaints of a like nature and description, and not merely for the period dealt with by Mayor Hodgins, but continue up to the time of the order of reference to your committee. Such complaints and charges are within the scope of the order within which the committee have been conducting this inquiry and should be investigated by them."

The committee has not been permitted to investigate these charges. The enquiry has been choked off. On this point the Victoria Colonist says: "Major Hodgins had no authority to speak for the people of Canada, and while he may have felt compelled to withdraw his personal allegations of dishonesty, he had no warrant to authorize an abandonment of the investigation. The report of the majority of the committee is not greatly unlike the dismissal of a defect in the Police Court because of a defect in the information. The accused goes free from punishment, but the tainted Over-classification has been established, the payments for which amount in the aggregate to a very large amount. No one cares whether he thought the commissioners honest or otherwise; what the public wanted to know was if the railway was costing more than it ought to. This has been proved."

DESERVES SUPPORT

The effort of the New Brunswick Fish, Forest and Game Protective Association to establish branches throughout the province and establish a sufficient fund to pay the ordinary expenses of the general public. No such organization can be a success without popular sympathy and support. This association has already done valuable work in arousing public attention to the need and value of protective measures. The province has in its forests and streams and the denizens thereof an asset of great value, that should be preserved. Unless there is an association whose members feel themselves charged with this patriotic duty the policy of waste and destruction will continue. There may be little of personal advantage in it for any member, but every citizen owes something to the commonwealth, and the general welfare is not dissociated from the welfare of individuals. If there were in every county a strong branch or branches of this association its protective and progressive work could be carried on with very little sacrifice of time or effort, and the result would be of great benefit to the province.

The Victoria Colonist says:—"The Canada which the men of forty years ago planned has proved greater in its possibilities than they ever dreamed. Their poetic imaginations, their knowledge of the country, their practical views of what might be accomplished, fell far short of what we today realize that the Dominion may become, what we know it will become, if we are true to ourselves and our destiny. But we could, with advantage, catch something of the spirit of those by-gone days. We might, with advantage, be less strictly utilitarian and give a greater place to sentimentality in our country first in our thoughts and the welfare of our party second."

For the information of the Sun it may be stated that Mr. G. S. Mayes is still dredging in the harbor at 50 cents—90 cents—per cubic yard. Dr. Pugh's statement shows that Mr. Mayes dug 429,159 yards at 55 cents, compared with 230,343 yards at 90 cents. The Dominion Dredging Co. got 90 cents for all its work, and all soft digging.

The British public and indeed the citizens of the empire everywhere, have an apt reason for respecting the stout champion of the Boers, General Botha. He has just prevented his countrymen from abolishing British preferences.

The treasury board has declared itself in favor of providing the schools with proper fire escapes, and also enlarging the Winter street building. Both measures are demanded in the public interest and should be endorsed by the council.

The dullness in the lumber trade is indicated by the fact that the shipment of spruce deals from St. John to transatlantic ports for the past six months was almost 31,000,000 feet less than for the like period last year.

The supplementary estimates brought down at Ottawa suggest an election next fall. The government will need all the arguments of this sort that it can muster, for its general record will not bear a searching scrutiny.

The final tests show that St. John has now a splendid system of water supply by gravitation, with adequate pressure for fire protection.

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"SO AS BY FIRE"

There are two equal loves, each passion strong. And one doth still desire, and one deny. Strange war within, these twin, their whole life long. For either both must live, or both must die. If love denial prevail and have his will. He saves alike his brother, love desire. If love desire shall win, by you must kill. Then burn alive upon his brother's pyre. But, though denial be life, desire be death. Spendrift of life, I yield to death desire. I feel the burning of love's withdrawn breath. And know Fate's will—yet freely choose the fire. Some single perfect love burned pure of shame. May trace the Phoenix, deathless, from the flame. —Curtis Hidden Page, in Smart Set.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

UNAVAILING BORROW. Mrs. Houlihan (sobbing)—"I never saw you till the day before my unfortunate marriage. Mr. Houlihan—"At I often wish you had not seen me till the day after!"—Pick-Me-Up.

POOR JOHNNY.

"No," explained Mrs. Lapelling Johnny says he wasn't bitten by the dog, but I'm not going to take any chances. I shall have him surgically removed just as I get him to the doctor's."—New York Times.

AS SHE REMEMBERED.

"Yes," remarked Mrs. Malaprop-Parlington, "we had a lovely time in Venice. There are no cars, you know, because the streets are all full of water. One hires a chandler and he carries you about in a gondola."—Cleveland Leader.

VERY AWFUL.

Hebrew—"But, father, that handsome foreign count says he will do something desperate and awful if I do not marry his Father (dryly)—"He will. He will have to go to work."—Baltimore American.

THE TIME FLEW.

Nervous Traveler (to seat companion)—"How fast should you say you are traveling?" Companion (who has been flirting with the girl across the way)—"About a smile a minute."—Life.

A SHREWD GUESS.

"I guess my father must have been a pretty good fellow, for he never got into any trouble." "Why?" inquired the other. "Because he never asked me any questions about the things I do."—Washington Star.

CHANGED IDEALS.

"I suppose," said the manager, "that you are still determined to marry the girl?" "No," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "I haven't been thinking so much of marrying since the stage. What I would like now is some way of lowering railway fares."—Washington Star.

WAS A MERRY WIDOW.

"Laura," growled the husband, "what have you taken all those clothes out of the closet for?" "Now, there's no use in making any fuss about it, George," said his wife with a note of defiance in her voice. "I don't have some place where I could hang my new spring hat."—Chicago Tribune.

A THIRTY BRIDGROOM.

A clergyman not long ago received the following notice regarding a marriage that was to take place at the parish church: "This is to give you notice that I and Miss Jennina Arabella Bready is coming to you on Saturday afternoon next to undergo the operation of matrimony at your house at five o'clock, when the ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Mr. Bready."—Ladies Home Journal.

GREAT BRITAIN AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE

(Toronto World.) Remarkable progress has to all appearance been made in Britain regarding the extension of the parliamentary suffrage to women. Notwithstanding the prolonged and somewhat foolish vagaries of the militant section of the suffragettes, annoying to those against whom their demonstrations were directed, but amusing to the public generally, few of the stolid British citizens regarded the movement with more than tolerance. But the large and exceptionally well organized procession that paraded the streets of London and found its way to Hyde Park was a demonstration of another kind, and has caused serious searching of heart among politicians of all parties. In the ranks were many of the foremost women in the United Kingdom, and in face of their united demand, it can no longer be denied that the question of women's suffrage must be considered seriously on its merits at no remote date. The demonstration was an answer to Premier Asquith's requirement that the government be satisfied as to the desire of the majority of British women to be granted franchise rights. All, perhaps, it has so far proved, is what cannot be denied, that many women do want to be put on a footing of equality with men. Its immediate result has been to promote the anti-suffrage movement, which curiously enough has had its origin among the social leaders, whose political activities on behalf of their relatives and party friends has been a marked feature of the national life for the last thirty years. Possibly these ladies realize that as the power behind the throne, the government and the party, they wield today generally to full electoral rights would do much to diminish, if not to destroy. For another of Mr. Asquith's conditions was that if any women have the franchise, all must. And it is questionable whether an extension of the franchise, which would in effect amount to a revolution, is feasible at least in the meantime. Certainly it would be a "leap in the dark," even more uncertain than that which happened with the grant of household suffrage.

THE MODERN PROBLEM

(Canadian Courier.) Elgin county, Ontario, has a problem: something of an old one, but in many respects always new. The boys and girls are leaving the farm. One of the finest and most prosperous counties in America is being deserted by its young folk by the business college and the correspondence school and the glamour and Goldsmith will have to arise in Elgin county as the dirge of the deserted village. Farmers in that beautiful Garden of Eden county are more prosperous than ever before; they have more cattle and more sheep and more hogs and more chickens and more money in the bank. But what they lack nowadays is what their ancestors had most of years ago—youthful folk to take up the land and do the work on the place. Great crops and no man to harvest them; hired men hard to get and harder to keep; son and daughter heir to a good farm worrying along somewhere at a few dollars a week clerking or being a typewriter. This is the plaint of Elgin in a day when farming by machinery has lost most of the drudgery it had in the old hand days. In a Vienna newspaper appeared the following: "Wanted, by important firm, a commercial agent; good talker, arrogant and unscrupulous; good salary, with prospect of increase if satisfactory all round."

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