

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1926

# The Evening Times-Star

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## CIVIC ADMINISTRATION.

The Times-Star is publishing today on this page the first of a short series of articles dealing with various forms of municipal administration. Today's contribution is to grant authority to municipal government in Great Britain, and other systems, including the Council-Manager form, will be taken up in due course.

At this time when the citizens are considering the advisability of a plebiscite on the question of changing from Commission government to the Council-Manager form, these articles are timely and will afford no little information which can be used as a basis of comparison and as a means enabling the reader to form conclusions as to the merits of the several plans concerning which the facts are presented.

The civic elections are now but a few weeks away, and the Citizens' Committee, whose action has concentrated public attention upon civic matters, is proposing to ask the Legislature, very early in the session which opens on Thursday, to grant authority for a plebiscite which would be taken at the civic elections in April, and if the people should vote for a change of system, the new form would be carried into effect a year hence.

The articles which we are publishing are not designed so much to advocate any particular system as to present the facts concerning several systems and so make it an easier matter to reach an intelligent conclusion. The various organizations represent' by the citizens' committee, we may feel sure, have no desire but to secure for Saint John the highest measure of efficiency and the greatest possible degree of progress.

Commission government has not brought the results expected from it, or predicted for it. At this time in Saint John's history it is of the highest importance that we should utilize every possible means of securing a more rapid expansion not only of the port, but of our industries and our business generally. We must give thought to taxation, which has become unduly high, and to many other matters relating to our contentment and prosperity. The Citizens' Committee is doing an excellent work in bringing these matters to the attention of our citizens, and any plan that is likely to result in improvement, and to create a greater feeling of justified confidence in the future, should receive a most sympathetic hearing.

## THE O. T. A. ISSUE.

The Toronto Telegram sees in the Ontario Temperance Act a source of worry for the Conservative party, both provincial and federal.

"It is now understood that Premier Ferguson is delaying a concrete statement through constant pressure being brought to bear on him by the Conservative leaders in the federal House. On account of a possibility of a Dominion election in the next few months Ottawa Conservatives have been urging Premier Ferguson to 'keep quiet' on the O. T. A. as long as possible."

The Telegram says the fear is expressed that the declaration of a wet policy by Mr. Ferguson might lose the party several Ontario seats in a federal election. Whether this be true or not, the Ontario Premier has refused to rise to the Liberal bait in the Legislature, and nobody but himself appears to know whether he will come forward with a wet policy or not. His followers are apparently divided on the question, one section favoring a pronounced wet policy for the province. If the Telegram is well-informed there is a further complication, in that the bringing of the Ontario Government's action upon federal politics must be considered. It looks, however, as though Mr. Ferguson will go to the country in June on a platform including extensive modification of the O. T. A.

## CONCERNING THE GOAT.

We are informed that the Dominion Government recognizes the increasing importance of the goat. Its persistent and obstinate refusal to be made the goat naturally inclines one to believe the information is correct. The present article, however, has to do with the goat as a factor in the livestock industry of Canada. The federal Department of Agriculture will include a goat exhibit this year in its livestock display at fairs on the prairies. It has appeared to the British Columbia Goat Breeders' Association for the loan of some pure bred stock for exhibition purposes. More and better goats appear to be the slogan. The industry has made a good deal of progress in the Pacific province, and the goat exhibit at this year's Provincial Exhibition will be a notable feature of the livestock display.

Time was when goats stood upon the hills of Saint John and gazed contemplatively over their whiskers upon the roofs and streets below. They were scavengers of a sort, and the things they ate and the relish with which these were eaten were a source of wonderment to the youth who surveyed them at a respectful distance, for a goat of those days could bend his knees and plant his head in the anus

tomy of a human with agonizing results. The female of the species gave milk, and the writer remembers a sturdy boy at a country school, years and years ago, who carried, as part of his daily lunch a small bottle of goat's milk. "Them was the days."

May we not anticipate the return of the goat to his ancient haunts? He is still to be found in the neighborhood, but not as an aristocratic animal who has passed the official test applied to dairy cattle. If British Columbia finds the goat profitable, and if he is likely to adorn the prairie farm, why should not the Maritimes butt in?

The interesting announcement is made that an aviation line is to be operated between Venezuela and Colombia and New York, by way of Panama and Key West, Florida, and that it will be under German control, for the benefit of German trade in South America. The Chicago Journal of Commerce recalls the fact that two years ago American aviators flew from Panama across Central America, making charts of landing fields and airways, but no further action was taken, and now Germany is to take the lead.

A Quebec dispatch tells of the incorporation of an \$8,000,000 company to manufacture artificial silk at Drummondville. It says the work of construction of vast plants will begin in April, and that the new method of utilizing pulp for the making of artificial silk will be adopted. The dispatch says further that Drummondville people expect the population of the town to grow from five to twenty thousand, and that efforts will be made to bring back French-Canadians now working in silk centres in the United States. Quebec province is making great industrial progress.

Mr. Hugh Farrell, associate editor of the New York Commercial, declares that the use of direct steam power for railway locomotives is soon to be abandoned, and that "the change from the steam to the electric locomotive on heavy-traffic lines is much nearer than you probably suppose it is." There are, he says, two reasons for this statement. "One is that the development of the steam engine is resulting in a more complicated machine, and the other is that the development of the electric locomotive is resulting in a simpler machine. Obviously, I might add, because the steam engine is becoming more complicated the end of its development is already in sight, and then I might tell you that the development of the electric locomotive is still in its infancy."

## Odds and Ends

### He Pays

(Ludo in Manchester Guardian.)

IN A PLACE where tax collectors dwell

I saw a Briton felled.

And the moon he made as they piled their trade

Was odd, to say the least:

"Oh, I am a Serb and a Parley-vo, An Italian gay and free, And a Belgian bright and a Muscovite, And I daresay a Portugee!"

So I said to him, "Yes—but, look, my lad, You're a Briton, bold and true—So how can you say, in this mournful way, That you're all these other things, too?"

He replied with a sickly sort of smile, "It's a point as home forgets; Have you never heard tell of the war debts?" Well,

I'm the man that pays those debts.

"I pay in full to Amerikee, But my pals to me they pay (Oh, I oughtn't to mind, for they are so kind!)

A bit when they feel that way.

"Well, there's some of 'em do, and An Italian gay and free, And none of 'em all that's due; But I pay my lot to the final shot—And I jolly well pay theirs, too."

"So I am a Serb, and a Parley-vo, An Italian gay and free, And a Belgian bright, and a Muscovite, And I daresay a Portugee!"

### The Busy Man

(N. Y. Ledger.)

If you want to get a favor done By some obliging friend, And want a promise, safe and sure, On which you may depend, Don't go to him who always has Much leisure time to plan, But go to him who's always doing, Just ask the busy man.

The man with leisure never has A moment he can spare, He's always "putting off" until His friends are in despair. But he whose every waking hour Is crowded full of work Forgets the art of wasting time—He cannot stop to chafe.

So when you want a favor done And want it right away, Go to the man who constantly Works twenty-four hours a day, He'll find a moment, sure, somewhere, That has no other use, And fix you while the idle man Is framing an excuse.

## What System of Civic Government Do You Think Best?

(The Times-Star presents today the first of a series of articles dealing with various forms of municipal administration. The second article will appear in an early issue. These articles have been prepared by a competent writer at the request of this newspaper in order to give readers comprehensive and accurate information from which to draw conclusions and institute comparisons. Readers are invited to examine the information thus presented and to judge for themselves. Today's article deals with Municipal Government in Great Britain.)

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

IN NO OTHER country, perhaps, is the government of its towns and cities so generally satisfactory to the people as in Great Britain. A brief consideration, therefore, of the system in operation there may be of interest to the citizens of Saint John at the present juncture.

The foundation of the system of municipal government at present in operation in Great Britain was laid by the Municipal Reform Bill of 1835. After an experience of nearly half a century, during which time there has been an enormous increase in urban population, giving rise to new social problems and the enactment of many supplementary laws, it was decided in 1882 to consolidate and revise all the then existing legislation in one comprehensive and lucid code which has ever since been in force.

In brief, the code provides for an elective council, the size of which is proportionate to the size of the city. The franchise is sufficiently broad to be thoroughly representative of the resident population, but it is based upon the assumption that no public interest requires the participation in municipal elections of persons of no standing in the community, or of persons who have occupied some place of business, or residence within the municipality for twelve months previous to the election.

The city is divided into wards of approximately uniform size as to population. Three councillors are elected by each ward for a term of three years, one-third of the number being elected each year. That is to say, one-third of the councillors retire annually unless re-elected as councillors.

Any citizen qualified to vote is eligible for election as a councillor. Unlike the system formerly in use in Saint John, the councillor, therefore, need not be a resident of that ward, but he must be a resident of the city. The council elects from its members a mayor, who is elected for a term of one year, and is eligible for re-election.

The councillors thus elected direct by the people elect one-third as many aldermen as there are councillors. The aldermen serve for a term of three years, one-half the number retiring at three-year intervals. Constitutionally the functions of aldermen and councillors do not differ from those of the councillors. Anyone who is eligible for election as a councillor is equally eligible for election as an alderman. Custom and usage, however, have made the position of alderman a somewhat more honorable one, and aldermen are usually selected from among the retiring councillors in recognition of their services to the city.

The functions of the British municipal council are legislative, directive and advisory, rather than administrative. For the purpose of advice and direction a number of standing committees are appointed, the chairman of which are usually, though not necessarily, aldermen. These committees keep a close oversight of the work of the several departments, and report to the council at its fortnightly meetings, but their work is strictly supervisory.

For administration of the city's business, dependence is placed upon the highly skilled permanent heads of departments, who are selected and appointed by the council because of their experience and special qualifications for the branch of service which they are directed to direct. These heads of departments are responsible to the council through the chairman of committees, who, with the mayor, form a sort of cabinet within the council.

The British system, while thoroughly democratic, secures continuity of policy and stability, as well as efficiency. The feature of stability is perhaps as much due to the habits and customs of the people as it is to any provision of the law, for although the law permits a considerable change in the personnel of the council every year, the people seldom avail themselves of the opportunity for change to its full extent. Retiring councillors and aldermen are frequently re-elected by acclamation for many successive terms.

Space does not permit of any adequate reference to the splendid achievements of city government in Great Britain—the extent and character of work undertaken to promote the convenience, health and general welfare of the inhabitants. Suffice it to say that in progressiveness and enterprise, the control of public utilities, conservation of health, profitable disposal of sewage and garbage, improvement of housing conditions, elimination of slums, town planning and all else that goes to the making of a well-ordered modern city, Great Britain is not one whit behind, but rather in advance of any other country.

### YOUNG LOOKING.

HOT! And there is a portrait of my great-grandfather.

Guest: Wonderful! Why, he does not look any older than you—Meg.

Grandmother Blatter.

## Why Not Look Behind?



### Poems That Live

#### A BALLAD OF TREES AND THE MASTER.

Into the woods my Master went,  
Clean forsoot, forsoot.  
Into the woods my Master came,  
Forsoot with love and shame.  
But the olives they were not blind to him,  
The little gray leaves were kind to him;  
The thorn tree had a mind to him  
When into the woods he came.

Out of the woods my Master went,  
And He was well content.  
Out of the woods my Master came,  
Content with death and shame.  
'Twas on a tree they slew him last  
When out of the woods he came.

—Sidney Lanier.

## The Best of Advice

BY CLARK KINNAIRD.

### THE TRIUMPH OF COMMON SENSE.

IT WAS held by William James that the greatest common sense achievement, after the discovery of one Time and one Space, probably is the concept of permanently existing things.

When a rattle drops out of the hand of a baby, he does not look to see where it has gone. Non-perception he accepts as annihilation until he finds a better belief. That our perceptions mean beings, rattles that are there whether we hold them in our hands, thoughts and things, matter and mind, what happens to us, that once employed, it never gets forgotten. It applies with equal felicity to things and persons, to the objective and to the subjective realm.

THE NOTIONS of one Time and one Space as single continuous receptacles; the distinction between thoughts and things, matter and mind, permanent subjects and changing attributes; the conception of classes as sub-classes, and finally the separation of fortuitous from regular connections; surely, as James believed, all these were once definite concepts made historic by our ancestors in their attempts to get the chaos of their crude individual experiences into a more shareable and manageable shape.

"They proved of such sovereign use as denominated that they are now a part of the common stock of mankind."

### Other Views

#### DOMINIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY.

(London Daily Empire.)

Much remains to be done before the problem of full Dominion participation in Empire foreign policy is placed on a completely satisfactory basis. Time will bring the solution. The idea that in seeking to promote European peace Great Britain is European first and imperial afterwards has no foundation in fact. The peace of Europe, it cannot be frequently heeded, is an asset to the whole Empire.

#### SUNDAY LABOR.

(Sherbrooke Tribune.)

In requesting industrialists to keep church Sundays, Mr. Taschereau is certainly to win the approbation not only of good Catholics, but also of every honest citizen who has the interests of this province at heart. It is, moreover, universally admitted that Sunday labor brings wealth to nobody, neither to the employer nor to the employed. Then why persist in infringing a law based not only on the principles of religion, but on the principles of logic and good sense as well?

#### THE AUSTRIAN CRISIS.

(Paris Temps.)

Austria is still faced with the task of achieving her economic reconstruction, which depends entirely on herself. It is with this task in view that M. Ramel has decided that he should obtain a new mandate from the national council, since it really is a question of establishing the basis of an entirely new policy. The Viennese section of the Christian Social party, which must calculate on resistance in provincial and rural districts, has elaborated, under the inspiration of the former finance minister, M. Guertler, a vast program which has for its main object a rapprochement, from the political point of view, with the social opposites, and the exertion of pressure on financial groups by force to bring back Austrian capital, placed abroad, and finally a retardation of imports of foreign coal for the benefit of Austrian lignite. It is hoped by these means, while really appearing only expedients, to cause some sort of reaction against the economic crisis, which is becoming more serious every week, since Austria, with a half million of something like six and a half million people, has no less than three hundred thousand people out of work.

## Twenty Years Ago Today

From Times' Files.

The wedding of Miss Mona Thompson and Captain Herbert S. Clinch, of the 10th Hussars, took place in St. Stephen's Church.

A wonderful event in the form of a moving picture show was announced.

Manifests for 40 cars of American products were received this day by the Customs department for shipment by white-port steamers from here.

## The Very Idea!

By Hal Cockburn.

### MITTENS.

OF ALL the things that kiddies wear, when going out to play, it seems they take the poorest care of mittens, day by day. They either just misplace them, or they get them soiled, or they lose them. It's no wonder mothers fret. A youngster dashes in the door, and stories sad are told. "Aw, I can't wear these any more. My hands got freckles cold. I only threw three snow-balls 'es' to have a little fun, an' lookit at my mittens, mom—they're soaked, an' weigh a ton."

Mom hangs them on the register and turns the heat up high. The youngster waits and fuses, with a quite impatient sigh. And then, when they are fairly dry, the kiddie shouts, "Aw, gee, I gotta have a new pair—these 'er stiff as they can be."

It's mittens, mittens, mittens that are ruined, stayed or lost. A little forgets, it seems, that even mittens cost. But even so, we buy them, for a parent understands—it takes a lot to keep the warmth in busy little hands.

\*\*\*

We're all content with our lot—if it's a whole lot.

\*\*\*

If, in the future, husbands would tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—wives wouldn't believe them anyhow, on account of the past.

\*\*\*

My sympathy today goes out to the husband who distinctly heard his wife say, "You are the blight of my life" when for ten years he thought she was saying "light."

\*\*\*

They fed the kitty catnip and it liked up every bit.

My golly, there's no wonder that it threw a catnip fit.

\*\*\*

NOW, HONESTLY—

Feeling kinda groggy, huh?

Well, maybe, after all it's your own fault.

The outdoors is full of fresh air. Do you get it?

God gave you legs to walk with and arms to exercise with. Do you use them?

It's the easiest thing in the world to walk right up and take deep breaths, and build up your lungs. Ever take any?

Don't look for sympathy, when your spirit lags—look for exercise, fresh air and fair treatment to your system.

\*\*\*

Girls kiss and make up 'cause it rubs off.

\*\*\*

Hurrah! The old man comes home to supper, kisses the good wife, brings the kids something, comments on a wonderful meal, and tells the Mrs. "We're goin' to a movie tomorr night." Great stuff—but what's he been doin'?

\*\*\*

EMPLOYER (who has just fired a man): "What do you mean, you've always held your own with us?"

JUST OUTBID: "Well, I didn't have anything when I came here—and I've still got it."

\*\*\*

HUMANITY'S BROMIDES: "I'll never forget the time, etc."

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THOUGHT I'd die! "Why, the same thing happened to me."

\*\*\*

Clothes make the man \*\*\*

\*\*\*

... earn a lot of money \*\*\*

\*\*\*

... when they're his wife's \*\*\*

\*\*\*

FABLES IN FACT.

ONCE UPON ANY OLD TIME THERE WAS A HUSBAND WHO CAME HOME EVERY NIGHT PERIOD NOT ONLY THAT COMMA BUT HE ALSO COOKED THE MEALS COMMA WASHED THE DISHES COMMA DID THE MOPPING COMMA MENDED THE BABY'S WHATCHEMACALLITS COMMA DARNED HIS OWN SOCKS AND SO FORTH PERIOD HIS GOOD WIFE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TELL THE NEIGHBORS WHAT A WONDERFUL HUSBAND HE WAS PERIOD AND WHAT DO THE NEIGHBORS THINK OF HIM QUESTION MARK THEY DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO KISS HIM OR KILL 'M PERIOD.

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## Dinner Stories

A COLORED preacher in Alabama had at one time served a short jail sentence and was fearful lest his congregation discover the fact, as in his later years he had been a model of rectitude.

One Sunday, rising to begin his sermon, his heart sank to see a former cellmate sitting in the front row. Quick thinking was necessary. Fixing his eye on the unwelcome guest, the preacher announced solemnly:

"Ah takes mah text dis mornin' from de sixty-fifth chapter and fo' hundredth verse of de book of Job, which

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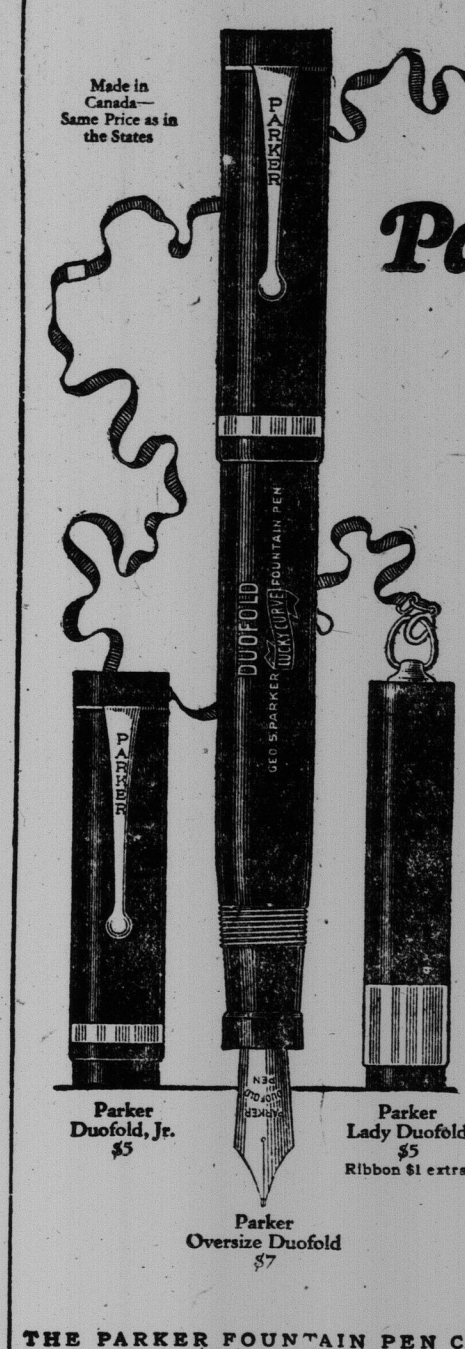
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