

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1922

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ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1922.

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## THE ISSUE IS CLEAR

It should be made clear, in discussing the hydro question in St. John, that the provincial government and its hydro-electric policy are not on trial, and that any time spent in talking about the Musquash development could only be so spent with a view to confusing the issue.

The one fact to be kept clearly in mind is that the hydro-electric commission, backed by the government and the province, offers the city the hydro-electric current at a low rate at a sub-station in Fairville; and the city council must decide whether it will give the citizens the full benefit of the expenditure of public money to provide cheap light and power, or whether it will give that benefit to the New Brunswick Power Company and fasten upon consumers for years to come rates as high as nearly as high as they are paying now.

This paper has said, and would again emphasize the remark, that it will make very little difference, so far as the growth of St. John is concerned, who sits in City Hall if we cannot get the full benefit of the Musquash development. There is another consideration. It would be easier to recall an unscrupulous factory city council than it would to get any concessions from a corporation legally empowered to levy a heavy toll upon the city for years to come.

The citizens have now an opportunity to get relief from an intolerable burden. If they permit themselves to be swayed by a campaign carried on in the interests of the New Brunswick Power Company they will simply bow their necks again to the yoke. Whoever advocates a deal with the New Brunswick Power Company that would not ensure a four cent rate for light and power within a comparatively short period is pleading for the power company and not for the welfare of the citizens. There are no insuperable obstacles in the way of civic distribution, and to load the hydro-electric current with charges to meet deficits on street railway and gas plant and pay dividends on an over-capitalization would make the Musquash development a waste of public money; for it was carried out to benefit the people, and not a private corporation.

It is most unfortunate that the city council did not last year learn beyond the shadow of doubt what a civic distribution would cost. That was the one thing which needed to be done as soon as a cheap hydro-electric current at the sub-station was offered. Then the city would have been in a position to say whether it wanted the current or not. It is of no advantage whatever to the city if the New Brunswick Power Company is to get the current and go on charging high rates. However, a committee, some of whose members cannot be charged with a passion for municipal ownership, has agreed that with a civic distribution system the city can distribute light and power much cheaper than the power company can afford to do it, and has shown that as the market expands the rate can be reduced. It is a safe estimate that with a civic sale of 8,000,000 kilowatt hours, and nobody doubts that Musquash can supply that amount, a four cent rate can be made; while the power company, to meet all its obligations, would need 10.17 cents.

It is easy to assert that enemies of the power company are seeking to do it injury. That is the kind of argument one would expect to hear, and there would be no doubt at all to its source; but the Kirby-Phillips report cannot be explained away on that ground, nor the fact that cheap electric current is offered at the sub-station.

One hears also a suggestion from some quarters that the hydro-electric commission is driving a hard bargain with the city. The answer to that is that the commission is merely seeking to meet in a legitimate way the cost of the Musquash development, and arrive in due time at a stage where the only charge will be the upkeep of the plant. To aid the city at the outset, while it is developing the market for light and power, the commission stands ready to defer for a period the payment of certain charges. The duty of the city council is clear. It should without further delay contract for the current it requires, and adopt such a course in regard to distribution as will give the citizens the full benefit. The future of St. John as an industrial centre depends upon cheap power. It is now within reach.

The standard says that the New Brunswick Power Company could not carry on its street railway and gas plants if the city distributed the Musquash current. In other words it would have consumers of light and gas pay the deficit on street railway and gas plant and the dividends on an over capitalization. The city is under no such obligation. It eventually agreed to take over all the company's property it would not be at an excessive capitalization, with \$2,000,000 more tacked on as common stock.

## NOVA SCOTIA COAL TROUBLE

The refusal of Hon. Mr. Macdougall, minister of labor, to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the trouble in the Nova Scotia coal regions is strongly approved by the Conservative Montreal Gazette. That journal vigorously denounces the Macdougall policy of loafing on the job, and points out that it is condemned by Mr. John L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers of America. The Gazette charges that Red propaganda is responsible for the Macdougall policy, and adds:

"Criticism of the minister of labor, which was the keynote of Wednesday's discussion in the Senate, does not afford a solution of this difficulty. That Mr. Macdougall might have gone further than he has gone, is possible, but he is at least entitled to credit for what he has done. He has condemned in the most unequivocal terms the methods advocated by Macdougall and has left no room for doubt as to where he stands in regard to the employment of those methods. His latest action is consistent with the attitude expressed in the forceful message sent by him to Macdougall when the latter's policy of sabotage was first made public."

But the Gazette goes further and pays its respects to the gentleman who was minister of labor in the Meighen administration. We quote again:—"If there is one individual less qualified than another to sit in judgment upon the minister in connection with the position thus taken, that individual is the former minister of labor. Yet Senator Robertson has the surprising hardihood to rise in defence of the Macdougall element, and to say that 'the message sent to their representatives would be resented by these men' who 'wouldn't stand such a reflection even from a minister of the crown.' Such utterances as these go far in explanation of the failure of Senator Robertson's administration as head of the department of labor. He is entitled to take to himself the dubious credit of having never, as minister, given expression to views which could be construed as a reflection upon the most extravagant claims or the most extreme methods of organized labor."

With regard to the Nova Scotia dispute it is gratifying to note that Macdougall on Friday last approved of the re-constitution of a conciliation board, and it may be that he will abandon the fatal policy of loafing on the job. The ugly feature of the case is that a majority of the miners appear to have been favorable to that policy, which persisted in would lead to the destruction of the industry from which they gain their livelihood. It is not by sabotage they can hope to improve their condition. At the present time American coal competes in St. John with coal from Cape Breton. This is due to the high cost of the latter. Whether the miner gets a fair proportion of that high cost ought to be capable of demonstration. Vice-President McDougall of the British Empire Steel Corporation says that "the rates of wages being paid under the Gillen conciliation board award represent a necessary adjustment to economic conditions, and are thirty-five per cent. above the rates of 1916 when the value of the dollar is taken into account." This also ought to be capable of demonstration or of being disproved. This time the proposed conciliation board may be able to bring about an agreement.

The Standard repeats the falsehood that the Kirby-Phillips report shows that the New Brunswick Power Company can distribute the Musquash current cheaper than the city can do it. The Kirby-Phillips report says that the power company could distribute 4,900,000 kilowatt hours at 6.22, and that it would cost the city 6.88, but the city would have an additional 8,000,000 kilowatt hours to give away or use as was deemed best to develop industries; while the power company, in order to meet the deficit on its other operations would have to charge 10.17 for the Musquash current. Moreover, if the city could develop a market for 8,000,000 kilowatt hours, which it would do in a comparatively short time, it could make a 4 cent rate. By gross misrepresentation the Standard seeks to mislead the public and save the day for the power company.

If the New Brunswick Power Company took over the distribution of light and power on the terms indicated by the Standard the public money spent at Musquash would not benefit this city to the extent of a single dollar. It would, on the other hand, put money into the coffers of the power company and fasten excessive rates for light and power upon the citizens, preventing the expansion of industries and the growth of the city.

Thomas J. Durick has added another store to the chain he now owns in Main street and at Newmarket. The latest addition is the White Drug Store in Campbellton. It is expected that Roy Mayes, Mr. Durick's chief clerk, will be appointed manager.

## GOLDEN CHAINS

(Rev. George Scott)  
One sang in reverend words and meet,  
In noble and exalted strains,  
That this whole world about the feet  
Of God is bound by Golden chains.

An endless rosary, whose beads  
Are attributes of God's pure mind,  
All patient love, all gracious deeds  
Of heavenly pity thrice refined.

And all the clasps are rounded years,  
Engraven with their joy and pain,  
The precious ministry of tears,  
The blessed rind in the rain.

And every link a mortal day,  
Enamelled by the shining hours,  
The glory of the sunset way,  
The fragrance of the moonlit bowers.

All exquisite and lovely things,  
All that we know or dream of good,  
All tender melody that brings  
Contentment to our nobler mood:

Are jewels on the golden links,  
Gleaming with undiminished fire,  
And courage for the soul that drinks  
The holiness of long desire.

An endless chain whose mighty sweep  
Circles the lesser heights we've gained,  
Whose fadless lights in glory steep  
The mountains of the unattained.

## LIGHTER VEIN

Just the Reverse.  
"Are you in pain, my little man?"  
asked the doctor of the little fellow.  
"No," answered the boy. "The pain's  
in me."

Too Fussy.  
"Dear, can you remember to bring  
some rat biscuits home this evening?"  
"Rat biscuits? That's the limit! No!  
If the rats can't get what we have in the  
house, let them leave!"

An Anxious Moment.  
"I sincerely cannot stand the sound of a  
motor-car horn," said Thompson.  
"Why not?" asked an acquaintance.  
"Some time ago my chauffeur stole my  
car and eloped with my wife, and every  
time I hear a horn I think he is  
bringing her back."

## DIETARDS IN IRELAND.

(Montreal Gazette.)  
Resourceful as Messrs. Griffith and Collins have shown themselves to be, it would seem that they are rapidly reaching an end of their resources. Barracks and strategic centres are being occupied by rival Republican and Free State forces, and although officers of the two sides fraternize on occasion, each side is giving demonstrations of its armed strength. In fact, in Ireland matters are rapidly being precipitated towards civil war. The verdict of a general election in Southern Ireland is eagerly awaited, despite the fact that Catholic Biggs and Mr. De Valera say they cannot agree to accept such a verdict. But this is no excuse for the brutal excesses that are taking place in Northern Ireland, more particularly in Belfast. The Ulster government is deserving of severe censure for not taking stronger measures to restore order, difficult though the task undoubtedly is.

Orange feeling has been aroused to fever heat, and the wild fighting men of the insubordinate republican army have also got out of control. Both sides are keeping pace with education and development of thought in India. This despite the fact that there were only 1,800 Mark Twain, has left pupils behind him, among them the senator at Washington who says that there is no reason why France should not be called upon to pay her debts at once, because she is extraordinarily rich. I was not present at the session where this senator spoke, but his remarks might be reconstructed somewhat as follows:—"I shall show you, gentlemen, that France is rich. In the first place, there has been no war—that's just a fairy tale, and I pity the fools who helped to spread the rumor, which cannot be controlled. The French pretend that they lost 1,500,000 men of military age, and that that would be a corresponding loss in America of 4,000,000. If that were true, I should certainly have heard it. They show us 1,500,000 wooden crosses, you say? They are just decorations to inspire pity in the hearts of creditors, and, furthermore, they are mere luxury. Why all this wood? The money would have been better used to pay the interest on French debts."

## PALESTINE.

(Montreal Gazette.)  
The plans for the future government of Palestine under the British mandate make provision for the appointment of a high commissioner, to be known also as commander-in-chief. He has the power to appoint an executive council, to be constituted in such a manner as may be directed by the British government. Sir Herbert Samuel established a record for fair-play and straightforward dealings, although many people were averse to the regime of a Jewish high commissioner, looking upon it as an encroachment upon the rights of the Arab. But circumstances justified the Palestinian British policy. A national home has been provided in the Promised Land for all those Hebrews who care to avail themselves of it, although such a procedure is not to be taken in any way as an interference with the rights of those who have previously resided in that country. Nothing must be allowed to prejudice the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities in Palestine, in the same degree as nothing is allowed to interfere with the rights of the political status of Jews in any other country. The aims and purposes of Zionism call for such an expression of opinion. Sir Herbert Samuel himself said that a complete Jewish state in Palestine would be a mistake, although most Jews have a hope that constant migration of Hebrews from all over the world to Palestine will end in such a consummation.

The Arabs in Palestine form a very important part of the community. There are vast tracts of land in that country which, it is supposed, can support another six or seven million people. Jews are expert traders and city merchants, but they are also equally good agriculturalists. There are now seventy-two Jewish colonies in Palestine, covering 180,000,000 acres of land. Some of them go back a long time to their foundation, but the majority have been established quite recently. The Jews with up-to-date machinery, are performing miracles in the Promised Land, and certainly eclipse the Arabs by their more up-to-date methods. Jewish vine planters produce three to four times more wine from the same material as the Arab. Jewish agriculturists? In the Bible they are referred to as a pastoral people, and as shepherds and holding other kindred occupations.

In future all three languages, Arabic, Hebrew and English, are to be permitted in the debates of the Palestine Council and in the government offices and law courts. The Palestine situation bristles with many difficulties and perhaps misunderstandings, although these are rapidly disappearing under that stabilizing British influence, which urges co-operation and universal amiable relationship between all branches of the community. The situation of "Shalom" or peace, which country," he wrote the following sarcastic comment, which appeared in a very often has a false ring. Bolshevism

is active in the Holy Land, as elsewhere. The Zionist extremists are also troublesome at times, although there are numerous Jews to whom the latter make no appeal. But fanatical elements anywhere are hard to satisfy. If the terms of the present mandate are not duly fulfilled in the opinion of any of the religious communities in Palestine, they will be entitled to forward their alleged grievances to the Secretary of State for submission to the League of Nations, unless the high commissioner gives a sufficient reason for its not being forwarded. Great Britain looks with hope to an era of peace, happiness and general prosperity being established in Palestine that will be universal between all the peoples of the Holy Land and from which will ensue a regime of good government, coupled with absolute justice and fair play for all the varying sections of all the peoples of that old and historical country.

## INDIAN CONTROL FOR THE INDIANS

Great Interrogation Mark of Empire, S. K. Ratcliffe told Canadian Club—Pessimistic for Future.

"Our race has made the finest contribution to the national problems of life as worked out among the free peoples of the British community. We have to crown this work by carrying forward over these seas occupied by peoples without our traditions or talent for self-government the same work. The great interrogation mark over the British Empire is whether our splendid achievements in bringing self-government among our own races can be applied to people who do not belong to our own modern world, but have to be gradually led forward toward the ideas of responsibility and freedom."

This was the opinion expressed on Monday before the Montreal Canadian Club by S. K. Ratcliffe, of the Manchester Guardian, in the course of an address on "England and India." Mr. Ratcliffe, who is at length with the Gandhi movement, and is inclined to be pessimistic as to the immediate future of India, believing that a policy of repression would have to be enforced, and that there would be unrest and trouble in the great peninsula for years to come. In opening, Mr. Ratcliffe traced the history of India from the old Indian Company days to the great mutiny of 1857, and the subsequent elimination of the company, and reorganization of the Indian government, and the proclamation issued by Queen Victoria, with the principle that there should be no distinction for color, race or creed, and that positions of responsibility would be given to Indians who were qualified for them.

This, he said, started the great educational and political movement in India, the political agitation gradually increasing, not at first with an idea of breaking with the British government, whose control was looked upon as providential, but with growing complaints that the promise of self-government was not kept. The fact that there were only 1,800 Mark Twain, has left pupils behind him, among them the senator at Washington who says that there is no reason why France should not be called upon to pay her debts at once, because she is extraordinarily rich. I was not present at the session where this senator spoke, but his remarks might be reconstructed somewhat as follows:—"I shall show you, gentlemen, that France is rich. In the first place, there has been no war—that's just a fairy tale, and I pity the fools who helped to spread the rumor, which cannot be controlled. The French pretend that they lost 1,500,000 men of military age, and that that would be a corresponding loss in America of 4,000,000. If that were true, I should certainly have heard it. They show us 1,500,000 wooden crosses, you say? They are just decorations to inspire pity in the hearts of creditors, and, furthermore, they are mere luxury. Why all this wood? The money would have been better used to pay the interest on French debts."

Then there grew up a younger school, who condemned the older leaders for using methods of mendacity to the British government, and should change to an assertion of rights and an affirmation of Indian ideas and ideals. Following this Lord Morley gave India a more representative council, but no representative parliamentary system. The war had caused a tremendous upheaval of Oriental thought, and with this awakening the British government in 1919 had created elected legislative assemblies, representing the greatest step ever taken by an imperial government.

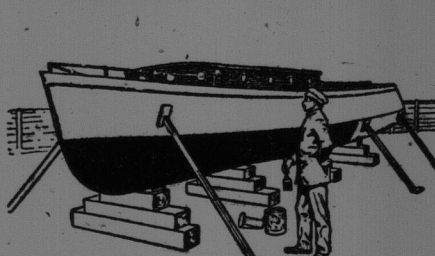
Still there was increasing unrest, because the imperial government could not keep pace with the political growth in India, after the convulsion caused by the great war. Now the government was faced by a great mass movement of millions of people who did not think in European terms, but were subject to tremendous states of emotion and realization. This brought Gandhi to the front, and Mr. Ratcliffe spent considerable time analyzing this movement, along the line of former speeches, pointing out that Gandhi was a mystic and idealist, not a politician. He had gained a remarkable ascendancy over millions of followers by his absolute sincerity, and his passionate creation of the ideas of India. Where other leaders had appealed to the educated Gandhi appealed to the masses, simply by religious fear, and the equal fervor for the expression of the soul of India, later developing into a demand for the absolute rule of India by the Indians and the ending of British rule altogether, which had led to his arrest and imprisonment for sedition, to which he had pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life.

It was hard to say what to do with such a man, said Mr. Ratcliffe, this did not end the trouble, and he feared that during the coming years the British would have to exercise repression to much greater extent to quell the growing unrest among the followers of Gandhi. There was hope, however, that the alliance between the Hindus and the Mohammedans, of which Gandhi had boasted, and the Muslims, who had been rejected Gandhi's non-violence philosophy, and threatened to secure by violent method such reforms as they wanted.

## U. S. SENATE GETS IT HARD.

When a French newspaper writer, Louis Forest, read in a cable dispatch that a United States Senator had said in Congress that France "ought to pay her debts at once, for she is a very rich country," he wrote the following sarcastic comment, which appeared in a

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regular number of The Paris Matin: "In the United States humor is as much a national product as cotton. Mark Twain, has left pupils behind him, among them the senator at Washington who says that there is no reason why France should not be called upon to pay her debts at once, because she is extraordinarily rich. I was not present at the session where this senator spoke, but his remarks might be reconstructed somewhat as follows:—"I shall show you, gentlemen, that France is rich. In the first place, there has been no war—that's just a fairy tale, and I pity the fools who helped to spread the rumor, which cannot be controlled. The French pretend that they lost 1,500,000 men of military age, and that that would be a corresponding loss in America of 4,000,000. If that were true, I should certainly have heard it. They show us 1,500,000 wooden crosses, you say? They are just decorations to inspire pity in the hearts of creditors, and, furthermore, they are mere luxury. Why all this wood? The money would have been better used to pay the interest on French debts."

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Twain turned over in his grave. He must have felt that politics must be getting mixed with literature.

# ROTARY MEN ELECT CAIRNS

Rochester, N. Y., April 2—William Cairns, of Ottawa, was unanimously nominated for governor of the fourth district Rotary clubs at the district convention here yesterday and Montreal was chosen for the place of the 1923 meeting. Mr. Cairns will be elected and installed at the international Rotary convention in Los Angeles in June. Toronto was awarded the cup for having the most representatives at the convention.

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