

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 20, 1910.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

TELEPHONES:—News and Editorial, 192; Advertising Dept., 31; Circulation, 15.

Subscription prices:—Delivered by carrier, \$3.00 per year, by mail, \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Representatives—Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Building, New York; Tribune Building, Chicago.

British and European representatives—The Clougher Publicity Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar Square, London, England, where copies of this journal may be seen and to which subscribers intending to visit England may have their mail addressed.

THE EVENING TIMES
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CITY GOVERNMENT

Mayor Frink has declared himself in favor of the commission form of government in St. John. Studying the situation from the inside, he has confirmed the views of careful students on the outside, who have arrived at the conclusion that a radical change is needed before St. John will have a satisfactory civic administration.

The mayor's expression of views will stimulate public interest in the question. It is not only an evidence of earnest but of a healthy public interest when members of the Board of Trade are also giving their close attention to this subject. It may be taken for granted that efforts will be made to side-track the reformers and perpetuate or merely change a little the present objectionable system, but if the citizens keep their eyes open and take up the whole question with a determination to get better results than in the past from civic administration they will easily overcome all opposition. St. John, within six months, will be the scene of extensive developments along several lines. It needs more than at any former period an enlightened city government.

The town of Port Arthur is tired of the old system of government by city council, and will probably adopt during the next year the commission form. A news letter received by the Times from Port Arthur says:

"The citizens of Port Arthur believe that government by an elected, unremunerated city council of eight or nine men, going out of office after a year's work, thereby having no continuity or system, should be a thing of the past, and that it is unfair both to the city and the alderman to ask business men today to devote their time to the city's affairs, when their own business requires their attention. By actual statistics, aldermen in the city of Port Arthur have had to spend three-quarters of a day four days a week attending to the city's business. The Board of Trade and the Commercial Club endorse the principle of management by paid commission. After the Christmas holidays the leading organizations of the city will by the subject before the legislature, and ask for immediate release from the existing burdensome and extravagant system of management."

In pursuing this course Port Arthur is following the example of towns further west, where the search for the most satisfactory system of civic government appears to result in most cases in endorsement of the commission plan.

MR. H. L. SPENCER

St. John is not wholly given over to material considerations. There is a venerable man among us who, having outlived almost all his contemporaries of fifty years ago, can feel today that in this city the poet is not without honor. It was perhaps a good deal for the men of the newspaper profession to ask their fellow citizens at this particularly exciting season to join them in a tribute to Mr. H. L. Spencer, but the response has been so general and hearty as to prove that there is no time when St. John people are not generous and appreciative of the merits of a writer whose genius has appealed to their emotions. It is an especially pleasing fact that so many ladies and gentlemen of recognized ability contributed so generously to the fine programme of last evening, and that so large an audience heaved the storm, to show their appreciation alike of the programme and the purpose of the entertainment. Those who heard Mrs. E. A. Smith's recital of a number of Mr. Spencer's poems, with such tender feeling and admirable expression; and heard the rendering by a gifted quartette, with equally fine feeling and expression, of the song, "A Hundred Years to Come, have a new and better comprehension of the poet's work. The whole programme was one of exceptional merit, and it was only to be regretted that age and infirmity prevented Mr. Spencer from being present, to give personally to the audience the very interesting reminiscences read at the close.

The thanks of the newspaper men of St. John are due to their fellow citizens for a tribute, which brings the joy of Christmas to the heart of a lonely man, whose visions are of the past, and all whose friends of earlier years, to use his own expression "have gone away into the silence."

GETTING AND HOLDING SETTLERS

Mr. Thomas Hetherington, who is the Canadian immigration agent in New England, explains why there is a more active movement westward than to the maritime provinces. The man who thinks of coming to Canada has the inducement of reduced railway fares, free land and reduced rates on household effects to the west. If he asks about the maritime provinces there is a lack of arrangement to bring him into touch with that which he desires. There is no organized effort to turn the movement in this direction, by either provincial or federal departments.

But Mr. Hetherington goes farther. He is firmly convinced that in this province there should be a radical change of policy, to induce young men to stay on New Brunswick farms. One of the means of improving conditions, he believes, would be the establishment of banks, for the sole business of co-operating with farmers, as is done in the state of Massachusetts, where a man who can give satisfactory security, and is on enquiry found to be a man of intelligence and energy, can get reasonable assistance at a low rate of interest, and have a reasonable time in which to make payment.

The new armory at St. John is to be an admirably equipped headquarters for the militia. The plans provide for everything required for the convenience of officers and men.

If the city council restored the old conditions in the country market it would pursue the most extraordinary course ever proposed at city hall. The citizens are not disposed to stand for that kind of reform.

The Salvation Army immigration department hopes to bring some settlers from the old country to New Brunswick. It is fortunate that somebody is thinking about this matter. Where are the settlers the British government and the C. P. R. were to bring in large numbers to these parts?

Mr. Jamieson, M. P., tells the Standard that Mr. Borden will be premier within two years. Before that occurs Mr. Borden must get right on the naval question, the tariff question, and several others. He has shown a marked ability to shift his base, but that is really one of the reasons the people do not take him seriously. Much water will go under the bridge in two years.

A committee of the school board has decided in favor of medical inspection of the schools, if a workable scheme can be devised. Of course it is only a question of expense. Surely this city can afford what in other enlightened communities is now regarded as not merely a duty but a necessity. Medical inspection in the schools adds to the efficiency of the future citizens, and also prevents the spread of disease.

The London Daily Mail lately quoted Mr. Henri Bourassa as saying in an interview in Paris:—"In fifteen years, and before that time comes, the eastern provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, will have become French in language and Roman Catholic in faith."

Mr. Bourassa probably did not make any such statement. If he did, he should submit his head to a Parisian specialist for examination. On reading such an alleged interview one turns with satisfaction and approval to the statement of Sir C. H. Tupper in Halifax the other day. "Let us," said Sir Herbert, "drive to the four winds the Bourassa and 'Monks,' who would destroy and render of no effect the dreams of Howe, and the men who dreamed of imperial grandeur, in which Canada should have an honorable part."

On the question of reciprocity the Montreal Witness says:—"The present policy of our Canadian protectionists is to inculcate the idea that we do not need reciprocity, and that we can easily afford to turn down any advance made by Mr. Taft. 'Who wants it anyway?' was the question eloquently propounded by Mr. Foster some weeks ago, and now we are told that we cannot possibly need it because the Democrats are going to make a ten per cent tariff reduction, with still better cuts on special articles. It is perfectly true that the people of the United States need the downward revision that so many of them have been demanding, and may in time get ten per cent off their shoulders, or better; but the public men of Canada will take a pretty big responsibility upon them if they yield to the argument that we should reject all advances in the direction of reciprocity. Judging by their change of position on the naval policy, the Conservatives might easily in a year be blaming the Liberal government for having missed a great opportunity. This attitude would be perfectly safe if the opportunity were really gone."

Helen Sanborn Dunlop, four years old, of Nashua, N. H., has the distinction of being the youngest civilian student in the state. The little girl took her first lesson last Monday.

A SONG FOR CHRISTMAS

Sing me a rhyme of Christmas—
Sing me a jovial song
And though it is filled with laughter,
Let it be pure and strong.

Sing of the hosts brimmed over
With the story of the day—
Of the echo of childish voices
That will not die away.

Of the blare of the tassel'd hughie
And the timeless clatter and beat
Of the hound that throbs to muster
Squadrons of scampering feet.

But, O, let your voice fall fainter,
Till blent with a minor tone,
You temper your song with the beauty
Of the pity Christ hath shown.

And sing one verse for the voiceless
And yet, ere the song be done,
A verse for the ears that hear not,
And a verse for the sightless one.

For though it be time for singing
A merry Christmas glee,
Let a low, sweet voice of pathos
Run through the melody.

James Whitcomb Riley.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

ANNUAL NIGHTMARE
The Christmas present problem
Looms largely in the mind
When winter is approaching
And summer days have fled.
A man must spend like water
His coin for that and this,
As though it were a pleasure
He really would not miss.

—New York Telegram.
WILLING TO GO BROKE
Much as we hate being broke, we don't
know any better time to spend our last
dollar than the Christmas season.—Detroit
Free Press.

KNOWS IT
He: "What! Is Mrs. Wedalot going to
be led to the altar for the third time?"
She: "No, I should fancy not. She ought
to be able to find the way herself by
this time."

PURCHASED
Dyspepsia Specialist (irritably): "But,
madam, you must chew your food. What
were your teeth given you for?"
Patient (calmly): "They weren't given to
me; I bought 'em."

SWEETHEARTS
"There've been married five years and
are still sweethearts."
"Is that so?"
"Yes, she's going to give him silver mil-
lary brushes for Christmas."

IMPATIENT
Ye ho for the holly,
And the mistletoe bough,
But I can't wait till then,
So I'll just kiss her now.

POOR PA
A little boy was sent to a shop by his
mother and, being desirous to get away
to play, he made all the haste he could.
The shop was full of customers when he
arrived, but he pushed himself to the
front and cried out:

"I say, grocer, will you serve me quick?
It's for my father's dinner."
"Well, what do you want, my little
man?" said the grocer, leaving the customer he was serving.

"Two pounds of soft soap and a packet
of washing powder," was the quick re-
sponse.

BOBBY ON THE NEW BABY
We've got a new toy up 'our house.
It ain't no bigger nor a mouse.
It's eyes is blue, like sister's doll,
An' it's no more hair'n a billard ball.

"Where to bring in large numbers to these
parts?"
He's soft an' squishy as a cat.
Two pounds of soft soap and a packet
of washing powder," was the quick re-
sponse.

So far—I think it's mighty queer—
They do not like to let me near.
An' when I've ast to take him home,
They holler "No!" My how they shout!
But Paw and Maw, they do a pile
Of playin' with him all the while.

I hope some time the day will come
When I can play round with him some,
For if all the toys I ever see
He is the best of all that be.
You'd almost think, to hear him squeal,
That he was really, really real!

—Harper's Weekly.

THINK SKELETON
IS THAT OF ENGLISH
AMBASSADOR

Bones Found Believed to Be
Those of Lord Bathurst Who
Disappeared in 1809

Berlin, Dec. 20.—A skeleton found in a
wood near the village of Quidrow, Ger-
many, may turn out to be that of Lord
Bathurst, the English Ambassador at
Vienna, who disappeared on the 25th of
November, 1809, as he was returning to
England.

The ambassador's mysterious disappearance
caused great excitement throughout
Europe. Early in the spring of 1809
Lord Bathurst had been sent on a secret
mission to the Vienna court, and at the
conclusion of the peace meeting at Schon-
brunn, on October 18 of the same year, he
received orders to return home. He start-
ed on the journey, and travelled from Ber-
lin under the name of Koch, a merchant.

On November 25 he arrived in Berlin.
Here he entered a hotel beside the post-
ing station. In the evening, when the
journey should have been resumed,
Lord Bathurst was missing. His overcoat
was found later on a heap of wood in the
cellar of the posting station, and his
leggings in a wood near the village of
Quidrow.

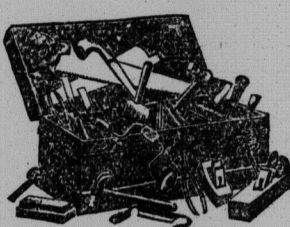
There was a secret military inquiry in-
to Lord Bathurst's disappearance, and a
rumor was circulated that he had been
murdered by the order of Napoleon. This
rumor was credited in some quarters, as
at the time, the enemy against France in
England had reached its highest stage.

When the inquiry into the envoy's dis-
appearance came to naught, prominent
criminologists and historians occupied
themselves with the case without, however
arriving at any conclusion.

Now, near the same spot where Lord
Bathurst's leggings were found, a man's
skeleton has been discovered. It is be-
lieved to be that of the English ambassa-
dor.

Fear of the Aviator
Just before his departure from England
for the aviation meet at Becon, Graham
White, the foremost English birdman,
in an interview thus described the nerve
strain of flying:—"It is the tension of fear
that, sometimes, may keep a man from
jumping—that the engine may fail, that a
stay may break, that a controlling wire may
snap. Any one of these things may hap-
pen, and one knows quite well, bring about a
fatal fall. The risk of air and the fact that
one is high above ground have very little
to do with the ordeal."

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