

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 2, 1918.

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THE COUNCIL'S FIRST DUTY.

It may be assumed that the city council realizes that the most important and urgent business before it today is the preparation of the city's case in relation to the demand of the New Brunswick Power Company for increased rates. Other matters can wait, but the legislature meets next week. A matter involving the interests of the citizens for years to come, and of far more importance to the people than any other now before the council is to come up for decision. The citizens recognize the seriousness of the situation. The city council represents them, but if it should hesitate to go far enough they must act in their own behalf. The Committee of One Hundred stands for the larger committee of over fifty thousand making up the citizenship of St. John. It will co-operate with and back up the council if the latter moves fast and far enough, and this it is assumed the council is prepared to do, now that there can be no misunderstanding the depth and breadth of public sentiment regarding the attempt of the power company to force the people to pay dividends on watered stock. It is known that the company has secured the services of able counsel, and is preparing to make a fight in which it will utilize every available argument and influence. It knows what it wants and has had much experience in going after legislative favors. The city council and the Committee of One Hundred should enlist the aid of other municipalities in securing general legislation safeguarding the rights of all of them, and this was suggested by Mr. W. F. Burditt at last night's meeting at the board of trade. The Convention of New Brunswick Municipalities should take a vigorous part in this struggle for public rights. St. John is the first point of attack. If the people lose here they will lose in other places later on. It is a people's fight.

CLINGING TO PATRONAGE

A conservative government hates to let go when it has control of patronage. The Ontario government has made a move in the direction of reform, but still keeps the strings in its own hands. The Toronto Globe tells the story: "The civil service bill introduced by the attorney-general of Ontario is good so far as it goes, but it stops short of attacking the patronage evil. It is not a root-and-branch reform—it touches only the branches. The commissioner to be appointed may make patronage more respectable, but he will be the servant of the party, not the public. Within the limits of the present system he will have the opportunity to effect improvements, but the greatest improvement would be the abolition of the system itself. The new regulations stipulate that no person shall be appointed to any office, clerkship, or service unless the appointment is necessary, and the person properly qualified. By means of this rule he may, if he is impartial and otherwise qualified for the post, raise the standard of admission to the civil service. Mr. Proudfoot put his finger on a radical defect when he asked whether the commissioner could consider applications from those who were not recommended to him by the government. The reply shows that the government has no intention of throwing open the doors of the civil service to applicants not of its own choosing. There is no valid reason why civil service reform should not be as thorough-going in the provincial as in the federal sphere. The Ontario government has refused to follow in the footsteps of the Dominion government because it is not prepared at present to forego a doubtful party advantage. With the extension of the life of the legislature by mutual consent, it would have been an opportune time for the administration to banish partisanship and place the public service on a merit basis, subject, of course, to preferential treatment of returned soldiers. The present arrangement cannot be regarded as a finality by civil service reformers."

PREMIER BREWSTER.

A public career of great service and greater promise ends with the death of Premier Brewster of British Columbia. New Brunswick people mourn his death, for he was a native of this province. He led the fight that rid British Columbia of a corrupt government in 1915, and has since been the leader of a progressive Liberal administration. Had he cared to leave the provincial field he would have been a member of the union government at Ottawa. A fearless and upright man, he rendered the Pacific province high service during the ten years he has been in public life, and his place will not easily be filled. His career has been followed with keen interest by New Brunswick people, especially since he became active in politics. Perhaps no province had a more reckless and extravagant government than that which Mr. Brew-

ster and his party hurled from power, and his victory was not without its effect in other provinces, including his own New Brunswick. The name of Premier Brewster was constantly on men's lips in connection with the formation of a union government at Ottawa, and he had come to be regarded as one of the most promising statesmen of this Dominion. The reforms he introduced in British Columbia stamped him as a man of courage and resource, who was mindful of his pledges and whose only desire in public life was the public good. He gave a needed inspiration at a critical period in the affairs of his adopted province, and gave head there to a political movement which has been nation-wide, and which, under Liberal auspices, promises cleaner administration of the affairs of all the provinces. Though death came while he was yet in the very prime of life, the service he has rendered will long bear fruit in British Columbia and in the wider field of Dominion affairs.

A REFORM IN SIGHT.

One of the reforms that can be accomplished when the new Children's Home is ready for use will be the removal of cases of juvenile delinquency from the atmosphere of the police cells and court. This change can be effected as soon as proper detention rooms for such delinquents are available, and they can be provided in connection with the new Children's Home, without bringing the wrong-doers into contact in any way with the other children in the home. Reference was made in the Times yesterday to the fact that Halifax has a juvenile court doing excellent work. In yesterday's mail came a copy of the report of the Department of Education in Manitoba, which contains a report on the juvenile court in Winnipeg. Since this court was instituted in 1908 it has dealt with over 6,000 children, under the Juvenile Delinquents Act and the Children's Protection Act of that province. Last year the cases dealt with were as follows:—

Traffic	5
Juvenile delinquency	2,825
Other cases	73
Neglected and destitute	98
Total	471

The total in the previous year was 665, as there were many more cases of truancy and neglect. The better showing in 1917 is attributed to prohibition, and Supt. Billard makes the significant statement that he is convinced that 75 per cent of the mental defectives—the greater proportion of whom are illegitimate children—owe their origin and their unhappy condition to the liquor traffic. The total number of children under supervision from the juvenile court in Winnipeg last year was 698, and 2,094 visits were paid by probation officers. Of the children before the court 127 were there for the second time—or more. The court supervises newsboys, of whom there are 788, who must secure a permit and a badge. Through co-operation with the secretary of the Manufacturers' Association positions are found for boys from time to time, so that they can quit selling papers. There is also a Newsboys' Club formed, in co-operation with the Y. M. C. A. for instruction in physical culture and swimming. Close supervision is kept over messenger services employing boys. In short, the juvenile court fills a most important part in promoting child welfare. In St. John this week four boys of tender years spent several days in the police cells. Three of them were released yesterday. They go back to the old environment, and the old temptations. There is no organized supervision. Boys come before the court time after time, and finally reach the reformatory, greatly hardened by their previous experiences. The city should see to it that much better provision is made for the supervision of delinquents before they become hardened, and this can be done in connection with the new Children's Home.

Senator Dennis and Dalhousie University are alike to be congratulated on the founding by the senator of a chair of government and political science, in memory of that gallant young officer, Capt. Eric Dennis, who died at Vimy Ridge. It is a noble memorial of a brave Canadian who gave his life for his country.

Regina owns the street railway of that city. The city council has decided to raise the fare to five cents, or twenty-one tickets for a dollar. Cheaper tickets for use by workmen in the early morning are still to be issued.

No measure to come before the legislature at its coming session is of more importance to the welfare of the province than that relating to the establishment of a thoroughly modern health department.

A free hand for Japan in the far east will probably be approved by her Allies. That would have a salutary effect in Russia as well as in Germany.

The Germans have got a taste of the American brand of fighting on the western front, and have no great stomach for it.

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ONLY A VOLUNTEER!!!

The following verses written by a member of the Twentieth were on the (Forest) members of which were on the Tuscania, torpedoed off the coast of Ireland, appear in the current issue of the American Forestry Magazine of Washington:

Why didn't I wait to be drafted
And led to the train by a band?
Or put in a claim for exemption?
Oh! Why did I hold up my hand?
Why didn't I wait for the banquet,
Why didn't I wait to be cheered?
For the draftee receives all the credit,
While I only volunteered.

But nobody gave me a banquet,
And never a soul a kind word.
The puff of the engine, the grind of the wheels,
Were all the goodbye that I heard.
Then off to the training camp hustled,
To be trained for a good half a year.
In the shuffle abandoned, forgotten,
I was only a volunteer.

Perhaps some day in the future
When my little boy sits on my knee
And asks what I did in the world war,
And his big eyes look into those eyes
Which at me so trustfully peer,
And tell him that I wasn't DRAFTED,
But was only a volunteer.

LIGHTER VEIN

Kernal—Did you bury all the dead as I ordered this morning?
Privit—Yes, sir, but we had a little trouble with one of them.

Kernal—What?
Privit—Why, one of them raised up on his elbow and said he wasn't dead, but then he was one of them—
Germans, and you never can believe anything they say, so we buried him anyway—Awww.

A negro was standing an examination for the position of rural free-delivery carrier. Among other questions written for him to answer was the poser: "What is the distance between the earth and the moon?" His prompt, but indignant, reply was: "See here! I ain't a-going to put me on dat route, I quit right now."

An Irish housekeeper was showing to some visitors the family portraits in the picture gallery. "That officer there in uniform," she said, "was the great-great-grandfather of the present owner of the property. He was a war hero and a hero of the most unfortunate of men. He never fought a battle in which he did not have a leg or arm carried away." Then she added, proudly: "He took part in twenty-four engagements."

A. R. Whaley, former operating vice-president of the New Haven, recently inspected the congestion in the Jersey terminals and was discussing it with the yardmaster, an old time railroad man.

"What's the basic trouble?" asked Whaley. "We use too many handle things better." "I'll tell you," said the yardmaster. "Twenty-five years ago when you and I started, they had wooden cars, but they had men of steel handling them. Now they've got steel cars, but there's a blamed lot of wooden men handling them."

PLAYGROUNDS EXECUTIVE.

The regular meeting of the executive of the Playgrounds Association was held in the Y. M. C. A. last evening and, in the absence of the president, Judge Ritchie presided. There were eleven members of the executive present. A most favorable report concerning the Boys' Club was read. In this report it is mentioned that every Saturday evening about forty of the boys from the club go to the Y. M. C. A. where they are allowed the use of the swimming pool, shower bath, and also have games in the gymnasium under the supervision of S. S. Marshall, physical director of the Y. M. C. A. At last night's meeting Mrs. T. N. Vincent was welcomed as a new member of the executive. It was decided to have the honor roll of the Boys' Club read up to date. The honor roll has now twenty names upon it whereas it should contain forty. Several applications were read for positions as teacher in the playgrounds during the coming season. The treasurer's report showed the association to be in a healthy financial condition. Substantial donations were gratefully received from W. E. Earle, R. B. Emerson and R. A. Corbett. The programme committee for March was appointed as follows: Mrs. J. H. Doody, Mrs. Groat, Mrs. Mulachy, Mrs. Good, Miss Goodwin, Miss Parks and Judge Ritchie.

"77"

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Other Details of Costume Fully as Picturesque, If Less Edible from Bovine Standpoint

Toronto Star.—A large cow-breakfast hat, grey flannel smock neatly belted in at the waist, grey riding breeches, canvas leggings, and stout boots, will be the serviceable and smart costume which the national service girls will wear on the farms next summer. So it was decided at a meeting Saturday. The uniform is not compulsory, but it is the one which the majority of the girls have chosen to adopt. Each girl will also wear on her arm the honored National Service badge, and, after two months' service, will be the proud possessor of the N. S. button. After the all important question of dress was decided, the girls proceeded to the discussion of contracts and salaries. It is agreed that they shall work for their own money. The girls are to be at home for the farmer so requires. They are not to do any scrubbing or washing as it would be too great a tax on their strength to do the heavy work of both the farm and the house. The arrangement is merely that the girls' housework must be included in the ten hours' work and not in addition to it. In many cases, where there is plenty of kitchen help, or where the girls board themselves in a private cottage, this work will not be required. They are to do as many farm work, with the exception of pitching, as this would be injurious to their strength. A clause to this effect, on the advice of Miss Winifred Harvey of the Ontario Government Employment Bureau, will be clearly stated in the contract. Already Miss Harvey has had requests

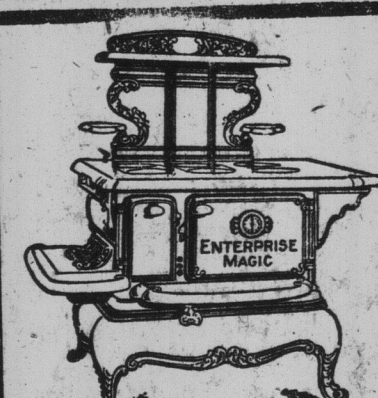
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from many farmers for the girl workers. She has now thirty-five vacancies. One farmer wants a dozen girls, and will turn over a cottage and supply a house-keeping outfit which best pleases the girls, and though they are expecting plenty of hard work, they are looking forward to the jolly times they are going to have "next summer on the farms."

BURNING SAWDUST.

In some portions of France where coal is so scarce and consequently so expensive that it is altogether unobtainable by the poorer class of people, sawdust is

being used as a substitute, according to the Popular Science Monthly. The sawdust is rammed down tightly in cylindrical metal boxes, and a few drops of petroleum are poured over it. The fire thus made can be used for cooking and all domestic purposes, and will burn for several hours.

Hon. Dr. Roberts last night made the statement that the new public health act to be introduced at the next session of the legislature would contain clauses in combat successfully the various contagious diseases which have been assuming such alarming proportions of late.

R. LeRoy Willis and Mr. Joseph of Detroit lectured at the monthly meeting of the New Brunswick Automobile Club last night, T. P. Regan presiding. Mr. Joseph is the brother of the inventor of the millimeter and he gave an instructive talk on the subject.

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