

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 1, 1907.

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New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.

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WE SECOND THE MOTION

The Telegraph, in an article copied in today's Times, nominates Dr. Pugsley for the delicate and difficult diplomatic mission to Tokio. The general public will appreciate the reasons set forth by the Telegraph, which would naturally weigh with the minister in deliberating upon his course in this exigency. He has much to do at home. And yet, international considerations cannot lightly be set aside. Mr. Kipling tells us that it is very difficult for an Englishman or a Canadian to gauge the subtle and elusive currents which sway the oriental mind. Moreover, the Japanese are a people marked by great gentleness and polish of demeanor. It would be a singular compliment to them to send on this mission a gentleman of Dr. Pugsley's rare attainments in the peaceful art of palaver. If necessary to the accomplishment of a diplomatic triumph for Canada at Tokio, let us muzzle Mr. Hazen, put Mr. W. Frank Hatheway in chains, and throw the whole Globe outfit into the harbor.

THE PORT OF MONTREAL

Speaking at the Manufacturers' banquet in Toronto last week, Mr. Geo. W. Stephens of Montreal, chairman of the harbor commission, made a very interesting comparison between the results of expenditure on harbor improvement in Montreal and New York. In Montreal about four and a half millions is being expended. Here is the comparison:— "Looking around for comparison, we find that New York is paying twenty-nine million dollars in the year 1907 for an improvement scheme almost identical with our own. For that twenty-nine million dollars New York builds eight piers and places upon them eight double-deck steel concrete sheds, having an area of a hundred and twenty thousand square feet less than the fourteen double-deck concrete sheds now being erected in Montreal. Montreal's development will place alongside every shed two railway tracks, whereas the New York development is inaccessible to railways, and cars have to be lightered on barges into ship and vice versa. This means that Canada is getting a port development for four and a half millions of dollars that New York has got to spend twenty-nine millions of dollars to obtain, and by having the additional advantage of direct intercommunication between the railways, sheds and ships it has been possible during the present season to effect a very considerable saving in the handling charges of freight through the port of Montreal."

Mr. Stephens made another statement that speaks highly in favor of the administration of Montreal harbor affairs. We quote again:— "Between the first of May and the first of August one million tons of freight passed over the wharves in Montreal, inward and out. Of this, 150,000 tons were handled direct from car to ship and vice versa, and on this directly handled freight it has been possible to make a saving of \$30,000 in three months. During the same period 12,500 freight cars have been handled by the traffic department of the commissioners at a charge of three dollars per car less than was made for the same service before the commissioners took over the handling of the railways. This makes an additional saving of \$37,500 to somebody in three months. On two items, therefore, alone it has been possible to reduce the cost to the people of Canada in Canada's national port of something like \$75,000 in the first three months of its being handled directly by the new commission. This means that Montreal is now able to handle 104,000 tons of freight for the same price that it used to handle 20,000 tons."

THE CHILDREN

At a meeting under the auspices of the local Council of Women in Ottawa last week the question of supervised playgrounds was discussed. The following report from the Citizen of the remarks of Ex-Mayor Cook are of interest in this connection:— "Ex-Mayor Cook was particularly interested in the supervised playgrounds and urged the members of the local council to

excite the interest of the city council in giving some grounds situated on Gladstone avenue and on Somerset street, to be used as playgrounds for the school children. Mr. Cook also expressed a suggestion regarding boys ten and twelve years old who attend the theatres night after night unattended by parents or guardians, and hoped that some steps might be taken in the near future to stop such conditions, which he did not believe were conducive to good."

This question of the care of small boys in the evenings should receive attention in St. John as well as Ottawa. Primarily it is a parental duty, and more should be done to awaken among parents a deeper sense of responsibility, but it is clear that more is required. There is a fine opportunity for men interested in the welfare of boys to institute boys' clubs, where the street wanderer could be subjected for a short time each evening during the winter to healthful and elevating influences.

Mr. S. L. Kydd, managing editor of the Montreal Gazette, has been forty years in journalism, and for thirty-three years of that time on the staff of the Gazette. His friends entertained Mr. Kydd at dinner at the Montreal Club on Saturday evening last, and presented him with a memento of the interesting occasion. Mr. Kydd is as far removed from the sensational type of journalist as one would expect to find on the staff of the steady-going and sober-paced Gazette, but he can play an opponent with considerable skill when occasion serves. His reminiscences of forty years in Canadian journalism should prove to be very interesting reading.

Let us rejoice. The branch railways are to be taken over by the Intercolonial. The dry dock is to be made a national work. More dredges are heading this way. The finances of the province were never more healthy. The wilderness regions are soon to be teeming with busy immigrant settlers. New industries are to spring up throughout the province. For further reasons for rejoicing see tomorrow's papers. Sufficient unto each day is the buncombe thereof.

An injustice has been done the deputy minister of labor, W. Mackenzie King, in a despatch from Vancouver, quoting him in favor of Asiatic as more reliable than white labor. Mr. King positively denies ever having made such a statement, which must have emanated from some other person named King, possibly the Chinese envoy from Washington.

The railways department is not to be congratulated on the manner in which it has fiddled for months with those overhead bridges at Stanley and Wall streets. One result of the inexcusable delay will be to further postpone the establishment of a satisfactory street car service in a large section of the city.

It is customary at this season of the year to hear rumors of the probable withdrawal of Allan steamships from the winter service to St. John. The news of today, therefore, does not come with the shock of a great surprise. Nevertheless the city council does well to grapple with the situation at once.

The late Mr. Blair was right in his contention that the Grand Trunk had broken faith with the I. C. R. in diverting business from that road. The road which has always been inimical to maritime province ports must now pay the score and mend its ways.

Several members of the municipal council asserted yesterday that the present condition of the jail was disgraceful. The morgue was also discussed. No action was taken. The disgrace continues.

The latest crop reports from Carleton County are more encouraging, but indicate that to produce prices will be high this winter.

And \$3,000,000 is to be spent at Grand Falls during the next year. Watch us grow.

ST. DAVID'S Y. P. A. Judging from the enthusiasm displayed last night at the annual meeting of St. David's church Young People's Association the coming season will be one of the most successful in the history of that society. The reports from the committees were received and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$64 on hand and it was decided to devote \$60 of this to the Jennie B. Robb fund. The first meeting of the association for the season will be on the 22nd inst. under the auspices of the social committee. The election of officers resulted as follows: Rev. A. A. Graham, honorary president; J. McMurray Reid, president; Bruce McWhite, 1st vice; Miss Lou Fraser, 2nd vice; W. J. Davis, secretary-treasurer; Miss Gertrude Hannah, assistant secretary-treasurer; Mrs. J. M. Barnes, pianist. The convenors of committees are: Reception, Neil J. Morrison; social, Mrs. G. W. Campbell; biblical, Andrew Malouin; musical, S. J. McGowan; literary, Miss Carrie Baillie; historical, Miss Pearl Murray; missionary, Alexander Watson. It is expected that the programme for the season's work will be ready for distribution on the 22nd inst.

THREE YEARS FOR FIREBUG Edmundston, N. B., Oct. 1.—Octave Bosse convicted of incendiarism was sentenced to three years in Dorchester by Judge Tuck today. Bosse is more than sixty years old.

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SIDEWALK CRITICS

One moonless night in early fall When brown October's just beginning My peaceful rest was rudely broke By dread alarm bells loudly ringing. I raised my bed room window high And took in this and that direction And there beheld the eastern sky Illumined by a bright reflection. I quickly dressed and hurried out To view the dreadful conflagration The night saw was truly grand And far beyond my expectation. Alluring as the sight may be It did not hold my rapt attention; A conversation overheard Is really worth my while to mention. Three men beside me who had come To view the dreadful conflagration Through their opinions went for naught Were loud in civic commination. One tongue of flame once licked the coats Of gallant lads with hose and axes Just then the critic said in scorn Are those the men voting our taxes. At that the upper floor gave way And settled down like rumbling thunder Two gallant fellows are seen no more That stood within that window yonder. A call is heard for outside help And many rush to lend assistance But those three men who criticized Have moved away a safer distance. To chew and smoke their cigarettes And criticize the fire is no more And tell how stupid men like those Are no protection to the city.

RUBIED TIPPING.

IN LIGHTER VEIN THE STATESMAN'S WIFE. On a railway journey Mrs. —, the wife of an M. P., discovered that her umbrella, which had been entrusted to the care of her husband, was missing. "Where's my umbrella?" she demanded. "I'm afraid I've forgotten it, my dear," meekly answered the M. P.; "it must still be in the train."

"In the train?" asserted the lady. "And to think that the affairs of the nation are entrusted to a man who doesn't know enough to take care of a woman's umbrella!" —Sketch.

HAD ONLY TWO.

Bessie's mamma was away and her father was helping her to dress. The tot was struggling to get her right shoe on the left foot, when her father exclaimed: "Why, Bessie, you're putting your shoes on the wrong feet."

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NATURALLY.

The teacher was trying to find out what sort of land was best adapted to the raising of cattle. "Now what would there have to be there before cows could live on the land?" he asked. "Calves, sir," was the instant reply of a bright youngster.

THE JUICE.

Robert had been playing in the snow with his new red mittens. When he re-entered the house mother asked: "Why, Robert, what makes your hands so red?" "Ah, that's only mitten juice," replied Robert, carelessly.

THE MAN FOR TOKIO

(From the Daily Telegraph.) It is announced that a member of the Laurier cabinet is to leave Canada for Tokio on October 20 for the purpose of securing a reasonable understanding with the Japanese government with respect to immigration. Sir Wilfrid, apparently has not as yet decided which of his ministers has the requisite fitness and diplomacy to discharge successfully this delicate duty. Mr. Fielding, it will be assumed, will have to remain at home, since the session is to begin in November. Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. Mr. Scott are scarcely equal to the demands of Japanese hospitality. Hon. Mr. Aylesworth and Hon. Mr. Oliver are scarcely suave enough for the Orient.

The process of elimination might be carried along to the exclusion of all members of the ministry save the Premier and one other. The Premier, of course, cannot go. The other minister, though eminently fitted by disposition and by training for this exacting mission, may be compelled to refuse it because of the pressing quality of the programme he has mapped out for himself here. He has St. John harbor and the local and federal seats in city and county to look after. He has a local government leaning somewhat heavily upon him. He has a libel suit pending against the Toronto World because of that journal's wicked insinuations about the campaign of 1904. The Globe has invited him to contribute to its columns an article as will illuminate his dark utterances at Fairville—utterances recalling at once the trouble and the reticence of Hamlet's father's ghost.

It is not for us to say offhand whether or not all these matters of sufficient gravity to chain this principal to his native land for such time as would be necessary to cover a journey to Tokio and back; yet if the cabinet is to be searched for the man most likely to be successful in making our harsh rejection of the Japs wear a pleasing aspect in Tokio it is hard to see how he can escape. It is plain enough, too, that if he were once on his way to Japan, he could not make any more unwise speeches like that in Fairville. At Ottawa they would consider this feature of the trip far from unimportant.

PREDICTS VICTORY

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) Mr. Borden is being received in the West with a degree of enthusiasm comparable only to that which he has been greeted throughout eastern Canada. There are three conditions which make for popularity in his case. First, he has a progressive platform, while his opponents have nothing to offer but the continuance of the present unhappy regime. Secondly, he is fighting the people's evils. Finally, his personality is such as to command confidence and admiration. With such a leader, and such a policy, the outlook for change at the coming general election is good, provided the forces which are opposed to improper conduct at Ottawa are united, and are earnest in the work, which, on behalf of Canada, ought certainly to be done.

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