

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1920

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VOTE ON MONDAY.

Monday is election day in this city. A mayor and two commissioners are to be chosen. They will form a majority of the new council. That council will have many very important matters to decide upon during the next two years. It is clearly the duty of every qualified voter to have a voice in the selection of the new men. The latter should feel that the citizens generally are interested in civic affairs and will watch with personal interest the course of administration. Those who can vote but will not do so can have no just cause to complain of anything that is done. Those who refuse to accept the responsibility of citizenship cannot rid themselves of responsibility when things go wrong. If a full vote is polled the men elected will be encouraged to exert themselves to the utmost to give the city good government. They will feel that the people are interested in what they do. The candidates are well-known citizens. Do some three of them the honor of voting for them on Monday. It is a duty as well as a right.

NOW THE PLEBISCITE.

The war between the liquor interests and the advocates of prohibition has taken a new turn. The former have gained a temporary advantage that will prolong the struggle. Even the most obstinate defender of the traffic knows perfectly well what the end will be, and it is regrettable that men of standing permit themselves to get on the wrong side of the question. They know this province and this Dominion are going bone dry because the people want it so, and that present conditions are not creditable or productive of good citizenship. Had the referendum been held, the result would have been no need of a plebiscite. Now the province must have both, with the expense entailed, and the debauchery for another year or so that results from the importation of liquor from Quebec. Organization of the province for the plebiscite will of course be the next step, and the defection of at least one newspaper from the cause of prohibition will naturally have to be taken into account. Of course all this would have been unnecessary had the "banquet at Ottawa" not "passed the buck" to the provinces; but it is now up to the people of the provinces to act.

THOSE WESTERN RESOURCES.

The report from Ottawa that the government is being vigorously pressed to hand over the natural resources to the western provinces, and that the agreement is sought which would be fair to the maritime provinces, lends force to the recent speech of Mr. J. C. Tory, says the Halifax Chronicle, presented very ably the case of Nova Scotia in common with its sister maritime provinces, for adequate compensation in connection with the western school lands and the extension of the territorial boundaries of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The maritime provinces paid their share for the vast territory purchased from the Hudson Bay Company and for all the northwest territories later made into provinces. They helped to open up and build up that country. When the new provinces were set up, sections in every township of the western lands were set aside for school purposes for their benefit. The Halifax Chronicle says:

"Under this arrangement the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have received over twenty-four million acres of school lands, approximately twice the area of Nova Scotia. The interest on the funded principal of these lands, which had been sold up to March 31, 1918, paid to the three provinces amounted to over seven million dollars, or, roughly speaking, nearly two and a half millions for each of three prairie provinces. The total value of the unsold lands in the three provinces is estimated at nearly two hundred million dollars, which, Mr. Tory points out, would eventually give to Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan practically ten million dollars a year for school purposes. Nova Scotia, as one of the original purchasers of these lands, has a right to share in these returns and this increment. She paid her share of the purchase price; she has assisted in organizing and developing, through her contributions to the federal treasury, the new provinces which today possess from them in maintaining and developing their educational system. Ontario and Quebec have already received very generous compensation through the extension of their territorial boundaries, whereby vast hinterlands have been added to the area of both these provinces. Nova Scotia, as one of the original partners of the Dominion, had a proprietary interest in these lands, and, as a matter of equity and right, is entitled to compensation. By reason of our geographical position extension of our territorial boundaries is impossible. Compensation must, therefore, come in the form of money grants and increased subsidies, which should be a matter of fair readjustment, having consideration not only to our proprietary interests in all these lands, but to our position as an integral and important part of the confederation.

Using the formal valuation of one dollar an acre, Mr. Tory computes that Nova Scotia would be entitled to thirty-seven million dollars, New Brunswick to twenty-six million dollars, and Prince Edward Island to seven million dollars, as a fair compensation for their share in these lands."

The people of the three maritime provinces will agree with the Chronicle that: "The time has come when our case for readjustment should be laid formally before the federal government, backed, as Mr. Tory contemplates, by the united voices of the three provinces. We hope, therefore, Mr. Tory's resolution will be pressed to a conclusion, and that a conference of the three provinces will be held at an early date. If we stand solidly together and support our case with the united force of the people, we may demand a settlement, not as a matter of grace or favor, but as a matter of equity and justice."

THAT RATE BASE.

In sporting parlance St. John has been "trimmed" by the legislature. The original contention of the city, after careful investigation, was that the New Brunswick Power Co. had about \$1,850,000 actually invested in St. John. The Currier Commission declared this was too low, and made the figure \$3,800,000. The supreme court in turn reduced this to \$2,877,000. Now the legislature declares a proper rate base to be \$3,100,000. Having given the company authority to issue bonds and stocks to that amount the legislative body appears to have felt that it should recognize its own handiwork. It is therefore gratifying to know that hereafter the issuing of securities by public utility corporations will not be assented to with a gay abandon which disregards the interests of the public. We may perhaps be thankful that the house did not also recognize the common stock and enable the company to exact dividends on \$6,100,000.

We shall see now what effect the decision of the legislature will have on the services rendered by the company and the charges for those services. It would be folly to assume that hereafter all will be peace and harmony between the city and the company. The fight is not over. It is entering upon a new phase.

PLANT A GARDEN.

The War Gardens Association of St. John, which did such good work in the direction of encouraging home gardening during the war, has passed out of existence, but the purpose for which that organization was called into being still exists. There is still a pressing need for garden production. One has only to look at the present potato situation to properly appreciate this fact. If every one who has a little plot of ground attached to his home would undertake to plant something in the way of food vegetables the coming summer he would not only be doing a splendid thing for himself and his family but he would be doing much toward bringing about a lowering in the cost of living. Other communities, recognizing the need that exists for a campaign of garden planting, are getting busy. An exchange contains a reference to what the "Flower City" of Rochester, N. Y. is doing in this direction. Through its garden committee a campaign for home planting has been initiated, which promises to be very successful. The plan of campaign is outlined as follows:

"The city has been divided into nine districts, each district composed of homes of about equal grade. In each district a committee has been appointed to work up interest, register entries for prize competition, acquaint planters with the points on which their gardens will be judged, inspect and keep records of inspections, and award prizes to winners. Separate competitions will be held for schools, churches, firehouses and police stations. Each of these classes will register without reference to districts, and a committee functions for each class in the same way that the district committees function in their respective districts. Besides cash prizes, which will be awarded to first prize winners, certificates will be awarded to second and third prize winners. Honorable mention will be given in deserved cases. In the working out of this plan it is hoped to create competition between neighborhoods and streets. It often happens that when one or two residents on a street become interested in the home planting movement, others on the street will follow their example, with the result that whole streets and sections become transformed in a season or two. Such a programme may not be possible in St. John, but there is much that the people of this city, and neighborhood can do towards the encouragement of home planting."

It was obviously unfair that Hon. Dr. Roberts should go on administering the health department without salary. It was equally obvious that the man who developed the public health policy should remain at its head until it was in complete working order throughout the province. His public health act is one of the best advertisements the province has ever received, and only bitter partisanship could protest against the action taken by the legislature yesterday. This province owes a lasting debt to the minister of health. It was not to be expected the act would work with perfect smoothness, since it involved radical changes, but it has worked with far less friction than might have been expected.



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HOUSES ARE SCARCE.

The town is short of dwellings of small or larger size, and so we hear the yellings of heartick homeless guys; they hustle, holler, screech, try to rent a shelter of some hard-hearted peller, unmoved by all their cries. It's hard to raise the ante, for any common gent; for he could build a shanty with what he pays in rent; but there's no builder willing to take his hard-earned shilling and help him make a killing, and hence his loud lament. I see the homeless hiding around me everywhere; their bosoms they are striking, and tearing of their hair; men flaunt their rolls of knicker, and cry, "Rent us a shack, or we are simply goners, alas, and eke alack! Our kids and wives are weeping, for they must do their sleeping in barns where rain is seeping through every beasty crack! O m' God, and granias in corncribs sit and sigh, while through the open cranies the winds go whizzing by; then rent to us, my master, a house with lath and plaster, or there will be disaster, and fireworks popping high in the rain—there are no houses that they can rent or hire, which grievous fact arouses my stern patrician ire; that men who have the plunder can't rest, a rooftop under, fills me with wrath and wonder, the while I kick my ire."

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Dominion Happenings of Other Days

ISRAEL'S POORT.

On April 25, 1900, the Canadian Mounted Rifles, busy as "beetle chasers" in South Africa, were destined to fight one of their sharpest battles in the winning of the war for the empire. They had arrived in Cape Town several months earlier to find that the Boers were losing but there was much chasing yet to be done before the beginning of April the enemy had inflicted a severe loss upon the British and was part of the work of the Canadians to wipe out the mark.

The Boers were firmly established on a hill known as Israel's Poort. The place was well examined and the Mounted Rifles were led to the attack. The guns shelled the hill for hours and a faint attack was delivered on one front in order to screen the action of other troops that were encircling the place. At length a rush was made but only to discover that the enemy had the range marked at 700 yards and were pouring in a furious fire. The order to retreat to cover was given and in a few minutes the last of the Boers had been captured. But Colonel Ochterlony and other Canadian officers, recklessly exposing themselves, succeeded in getting the men to cover in a ravine. A bullet, however, cut through the neck of the officer and clipped a rank badge from his shoulder, for as soon as he was spotted by the enemy a withering fire was rained on the column.

When the troops were safe in cover, plans were made for a new attack with the bayonet. When the foe saw the khaki clad line coming his way there was a quick flight and in a few minutes the last of the Boers had been captured. When Israel's Poort and the Canadians were established in their places.

WALKING IN SPRING.

Walking in spring, car's joys go with me, all The pride of hills, trees, flows and fields new-born; And little streams come singing up the road To run a while beside me. Blue skies call Ahead, but here keep pace with me, too. And soon the wind. Only the road, in scorn, Darts on before, hearing my slow foot-fall.

Who lacks companionship on such a day Lacks the sweet surge of life within his veins! Goes listless in a world of friends—ignores Beauty's wide nod and feels no answer. Oh, I have found more friendship in spring lanes Than vex came two-footed to my doors.—Cyril Gordon Taylor, in The Poetry Review.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Frightful Drill! The Mistress (to the new maid)—"I'm sorry you can't get on with the other maids." The New Maid—"Nobody could!" Mistress—"Frightful drill frumps; not one of 'em been in more nor five places this year."—London Sketch.

A Real Prize.

"I, I have come to ask you for your daughter's hand." "All right, my boy! I think you'll find it in the dish-water." "Then the young man left, smiling, knowing that if such was the case he had won a prize."

Sensitive About It.

"Angry! Why, I merely asked her if she was installed in their new home yet." "Well, you see, they've bought everything on instalment and she probably thought your words had a double meaning."

Social Amenities.

Mr. Boreleigh was making a social call on the lady, who had been up late the night before, was unable to hide the physical evidence of her fatigue. "What, yawning already?" exclaimed Boreleigh. "You have doubtless received several stupid visitors already this afternoon."

The White Collar Crew.

"He has no ambition?" "No." "Refuses to learn a trade and insists on remaining a member of the underpaid white collar brigade."

Doubtful.

"What are you thinking of, my dear?" "I was wondering if Jonah's wife believed him when he explained his absence from home by telling her he had been swallowed by a whale."—Puck Weekly.

LEFT MUCH TO CHARITY.

The death of Miss Mary E. Hunt took place recently in Boston, leaving an estate valued at \$600,000, which was mostly bequeathed to charitable institutions. Miss Hunt is well known in St. John, having spent her summers in the suburban district of Renfrew, where she had a summer home, and in the fall at the Royal Hotel in the city. Miss Ada Stuart of St. John, who has been her companion for several years, was with her when she died.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATED IN ROYAL MANNER

Large Gathering at Bond's Last Night Heard Inspiring Address by Major Rev. E. B. Hooper.

For the first time in six years the men of St. George's Society last night held a banquet in Bond's restaurant in honor of the feast day of their patron saint. It was very largely attended and was enjoyed thoroughly, with music, song and oratory. The dining room was nicely decorated with various old English mottoes on the walls, and table decorations of red and white. Following the dinner which proved very tempting, telegrams were read by the secretary, J. U. Thomas, from branches of the society in other centers extending greetings of the day.

Honorable Justice Grimmer, president of the society, was chairman and had as his guests, Col. Alexander MacMillan, D.S.O., president of St. Andrew's Society; Genl. Macdonell, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major (Rev.) E. B. Hooper, Henry S. Culver, United States Consul. The toast to the governor-general, proposed by Chas. Masters, was responded to by the singing of "O Canada." Dr. Jas. Manning proposed the president of the United States.

The toast was responded to by Henry S. Culver, American consul, who, after thanking the gathering for the cordial manner in which the toast had been honored, made a strong plea for international brotherhood. He spoke of the great events which have elapsed since the year 1812, when the last distinct of the kind was held in this city, and said that it is a wonder that there is such a thing today as a safe and opening of commerce. He questioned whether the world had progressed and said that in the present time there is great danger of losing ground and drifting into chaos. Nations, he said, could not advance today under the old system of autocracy, which is a relic of barbarism. There was a new world before the people, based on the rights of man, and on peace and night. The late war, he thought, was a great misfortune, but it emphasized the power of the Almighty God. From the crucible had come the brotherhood of man; all nations, creeds and colors fighting for one end and one purpose, and he thought that commercial and industrial development was the greatest thing for a people; he thought brotherly love would be a better passport to the heavenly kingdom. In closing he appealed to Canadians to open the doors of the west country to the many who are suffering and homeless in devastated Europe.

Major Hooper, introduced by Justice Grimmer, the toast to "The day we celebrate" was responded to by Major The Rev. E. B. Hooper, chaplain with the Canadian forces. He referred to the story of St. George's day which appeared in the Telegraph yesterday, and said that St. George had waved over many a hard fought battle field, in both hemispheres, and that he had been used by the London merchants in olden days when engaged in foreign ventures and in the now the greatest national symbol in the world. Referring to the part that Canada played in the war, he said that he believed that Canada would always take the field when an enemy like the Hun challenges the peace of the world. He had ministered to the Canadian soldier for five years and knew something about the work of the Red Cross, for which the banner of St. George will forever stand.

Two years ago he had been in England, addressing a meeting, when the news of Zebrugg was given to the world, and it was five years ago that the Canadians had their baptism of that dastardly unsoldierly weapon, the German poison gas, at the second battle of Ypres. But the Canadians held their ground, though equipped with masks—they there saved the situation. Some men went over seas came back blackguards; they were blackguards before they went over. But he had found that every man had some stream of gold, some good in him, and he asked the gathering to help in the development of that good. "Don't, for God's sake," he said, "condemn the returned soldier. These splendid lads have been living the service of the society tomorrow."

E. T. Sturdee proposed "The Forces of the Empire," to which Brigadier-General Macdonnell, C.M.G., D.S.O., responded. Dr. Walker proposed the "Sister Societies," which brought forth replies from Alexander MacMillan, president of St. Andrew's Society, and T. H. Parker, president of the Sons of England. F. E. Hanington proposed "The City of St. John," to which Mayor Hayes replied. Bond's orchestra furnished music for the evening and excellent solos were rendered by P. J. Hunter, G. H. Mayes, L. E. Morrison and DeWitt Cairns; D. Arnold Fox was the accompanist.

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