

POOR DOCUMENT

AUGUST 19 1920

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1920

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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. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Price—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—Chicago, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

HARBOR PLEDGES

On the eve of the elections of 1911 Sir Robert Borden gave a pledge that the harbor of St. John, in fact all of the leading national harbors, would be nationalized if his party came into power. That pledge was carried out, or is in process of being carried out, so far as Halifax is concerned. But it was not carried out in the case of St. John. In the case of Halifax the terminals have been constructed at national expense not through charging interest and sinking funds against the port's traffic.

In the case of St. John it is proposed not only that the harbor traffic shall pay interest and sinking fund upon all new improvements, and upon the \$2,000,000 worth of property which the commission is to take over, but also that the traffic must provide for three per cent interest upon the cost of all existing government property which is to be transferred.

This existing government property, presumably wharves, dredging, elevator, the marine wharf included, was provided at federal expense as a national work for the benefit of national transportation. The people of St. John certainly were not contemplated that interest charges on the cost of such government works would be made a charge against the port's traffic under harbor commission, but such is to be the case if the act is accepted.

The citizens are entitled to know all these proposals compare with what has been done at Montreal and Quebec and what is being done in Vancouver. It has been openly stated in Montreal that in the case of Quebec the government has not insisted upon the payment of interest. Citizens will not readily see why one policy should be applied to Halifax and another to St. John. They learn from the act that no new construction will be undertaken here until the harbor commissioners have satisfied the government that the revenue from port traffic will be sufficient to finance the new work, in addition to meeting the fixed charges upon all the existing property taken over. They naturally ask themselves whether no better arrangement can be obtained.

As to the absolute need for harbor development here in the national interest there can be no question. It may be cheerfully assumed that advocates of the present harbor commission act and its critics alike are equally sincere and anxious to have the harbor facilities enlarged so that they will be adequate for the national trade through St. John. Remembering what happened in the case of old pledges, new pledges may be regarded as pledges merely. The present act loads the harbor traffic with too great a burden at the outset. And thus far neither the government nor the official spokesmen for the act has told the people of St. John just what additional facilities will be constructed here, or within what time they will be constructed—provided always that the port charges are great enough to finance new work in addition to old.

QUOTIS.

At a meeting of the St. John Quoit Club in Halifax the other day a man was welcomed who had joined the club fifty-five years ago. Mr. Justice Longley has been a member for thirty-four years. In various parts of Nova Scotia are living men who at one time or another were members of this club. The game of quoits deserves to flourish, but is wholly neglected in St. John. Who, that has lived in the country has not pitched quoits with horse-shoes—or even with flat stones? One can hear the shout that greeted the man or boy who made a "ringer." The game trains the eye, the hand and the muscles. It is more edifying than most other contests, but has a fascination of its own. The Improvement League are missing an opportunity to arouse the sympathetic interest of the older men by their failure to provide quoit beds. There is a comradeship and joviality about the game that has made it survive in Halifax, and brought to a recent tournament three competitors from other towns. The quoit pitcher gets healthy exercise in the open air, with the exhilaration of a good game and enjoyable companionship. One rather envies Halifax its St. John Quoit Club and the good times its members have enjoyed for so many years.

NOVA SCOTIA'S WARNING.

It has been said that no great public question was involved in the provincial elections recently held in Nova Scotia. It would be nearer the truth to say that no sharp local issue was involved. What happened in Nova Scotia, however, means a great deal more than general satisfaction in the province regarding the Murray administration. The Ottawa Citizen points out that Nova Scotia is an intelligent province and one keenly interested in the general political situation in the Dominion, and it argues that the verdict of the elections there is of the utmost federal significance. The Citizen believes that the Nova Scotia voters seized the opportunity to express their opinion of the government of Canada, the result being that the Conservative party, "representative of the policies now prevalent in the fed-

eral administration, has been almost completely wiped out." In the former legislative the Conservatives held thirteen seats. Today they hold only one, and it is to be kept in mind that a change of seventeen votes in that one constituency would have left the Conservatives without a single representative in the next House. The Citizen proceeds to apply the lesson to Dominion politics.

"The lesson of Nova Scotia is plain. It is a forerunner of what may be expected all over the country when the present federal administration ventures to face the electors. In view of this test it is hardly likely that the Meighen government will be induced by any prospect to bring on a general election. Such a step would mean the complete annihilation of the present makeshift administration. But, on the other hand, delay will not make matters any better. In 1916 after five years of federal Conservative rule in the Dominion, Nova Scotia elected thirteen Conservatives to its provincial legislature. In 1920, after nine years of Conservative rule in the Dominion, it elects one Conservative to the skin of its teeth. Even the most shortsighted partisan must be able to read the handwriting on the wall when written in characters as large and clear as this."

Whatever may be the dangers of delay—and undoubtedly they are many—Hon. Mr. Meighen evidently prefers any risk to that of an early general election. He has seemingly made up his mind that the outlook for the success of his party is hopeless unless he can succeed in borrowing a great deal of strength from Liberal Quebec, and that province is to receive persistent overtures in the hope that it may be persuaded to give aid to the cause of the protectionists. The country sees clearly that the Meighen government, which has no mandate from the people, will defer the elections as long as possible. And the public at large knows well how to interpret such an attitude.

THE NEW PARTY.

Ontario National Liberal and Conservative members of the house of commons and senate met in conference yesterday in Ottawa. The primary object of the gathering was to arrange for a party convention in Ontario, this being the first step taken in the organization programme for the new party. The programme will embrace the appointment of a national chairman or organizer, the appointment of a director of publicity and propaganda, and the summoning of conventions in each of the provinces and the territories.

Dr. W. J. Black has resigned as chairman of the Soldiers' Settlement Board to become director of the organization work of the new party.

At a meeting held in Sutton, Ont., on Tuesday night, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King asked if the Conservatives had a voice in the creation of the new party. He answered his own question by saying that he did not, but that he was in the negative and declared that the new party and the new policy was the line of action of the supporters of the new party.

BOARD OF TRADE.

At a meeting yesterday morning the report of the harbor committee regarding proposals made by Hon. R. W. Wignmore was heard. The report favored the leasing of the wharves at Negro Point and decided that the floating grain proposal should have more consideration before being disposed of. R. E. Armstrong submitted a report on the freight rate hearing at Ottawa. A letter was read from the Atlantic ports of Canada were not receiving their share of western grain, New York getting most of it. The Vancouver schedule of rates was found to be in many respects lower than that here. The location of the provincial general agent's office in London was discussed and it was proposed to have the office for the Maritime Provinces there or, failing that, one for all Canada.

U. S. SHIPPING BOARD.

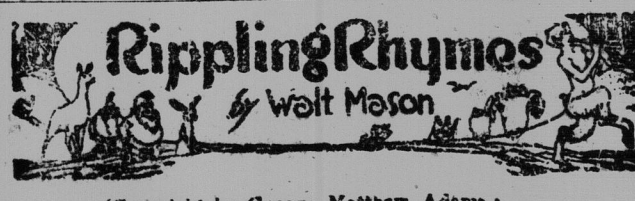
WILL SELL 2,000 BOATS. Washington, Aug. 18.—Preparations for the sale of government-owned steel merchant ships will begin at once, says Chairman Benson of the Shipping Board, today. Plans for an extensive advertising campaign to place the vessels on the market are under way, he said, and actual disposal of the ships will begin in a few days. Hereafter, a ripple of laughter arose. "That's all," said the speaker, "and the fellow departed amid the applause of the spectators."

Regina, Sask., August 18.—What appears to be the original declaration of war between the police and the Reil rebels in the Duck Lake country in 1885, was fired by the rebels, was brought here recently by W. H. White, of Winnipeg.

It is a single sheet of foolscap, signed by Hugh A. Davidson, Corporal, Royal North West Mounted Police, who accompanied Major Crozier to Duck Lake in March, 1885, stating that he distinctly heard a shot fired from the rebel ranks before Major Crozier gave his men the order to fire. The declaration was made at Prince Albert May 30, 1888, and attested by Stephen Brewster, a notary public.

QUEBEC MANUFACTURERS INVITE BRETHREN FROM ONTARIO TO VISIT

Montreal, Aug. 18.—At a meeting of the Quebec division of the Central Manufacturers Association here it was decided yesterday to invite the Ontario branch to visit this province next month to extend the entente cordiale between the two provinces. The party will be entertained at Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, Quebec and Montreal and plans are under way for a tour covering many of the chief centres of the province.



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GOVERNMENT.

"Wise government can do a lot to brighten up our days; wise government will hit the spot in fifty-seven ways. And still we'll have to buckle down and saw our share of oak, if we'd have credit in the town and not be always broke. Good government will help us all, if we should help ourselves, and we'll have pictures on the wall, and pies upon the shelves; and we're secure in what we own of land or hay or gold, and when we earn a shining bone, it's ours, to have and hold. And we're protected in our car, and in our bed, at rest; good government will go that far, when it is at its best. But it won't take the place of toil, by which the prudent thrive; it will not hoe the weedy soil, or keep the corn alive. I don't depend on man-made laws to help me dodge life's ills; the smoothest law that ever was won't pay my monthly bills. The noblest statue in the book won't keep the wolf away, or buy a sack of spuds to cook, if I loaf round all day. I leave my slack at morning, bent on hours of useful toil; I don't depend on government to make the kettle boil."

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Unionist Happenings of Other Days

FORT TALBOT.

On August 18, 1814, when the United States and Britain were at war with each other and the battles were being fought on Canadian territory, the Americans made a raid from Amherstburg upon Fort Talbot, southwest of the city of London and about eight miles from Port Stanley. A detachment of about 100 men from Detroit and a force of Indians formed the assault on the little village. The place consisted of a few thatched huts. The invaders robbed the houses of all they could carry away, even to household furniture and wearing apparel. The number left destitute of clothing and food was forty-nine men, thirty-seven women—five of whom were seventy years of age, and 148 children. The principal inhabitants were carried off as prisoners of war, among them being a member of the legislature, although at the time he was suffering severely from fever and ague. It was one of the most cruel and wanton events of the three years' struggle.

But the British had inflicted a sharp defeat on the invaders the day or two earlier when they cut out two armed vessels—the Somers and the Ohio—under the guns of thirty-five men and officers. This had aroused the fighting spirits of the English forces and they had been carried about eight miles and launched to attack the three American boats which lay under the guns of Fort Erie, inflicting considerable loss on the British. The attack was carried out in the dead of night, the darkness reaching the side of the enemy by answering the sentry that they were provision boats. The Somers and the Ohio were boarded and carried with little trouble. The third would have shared the same fate if its decks had not been cut, allowing it to drift away. The Somers carried two twelve pounders and the other ship one; each carried a crew of thirty-five men and officers. The capture was made with the loss of two men killed and four wounded. The prisoners were taken to Frenchman's Creek, where the prisoners were sent to Fort George.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Miss Gertrude called the new maid and said tartly: "If you don't mind, I shall have to dispense with your services." "But I do my best," Maria insisted. "Yesterday afternoon you insulted a friend of mine." "Why, I never even—"

"When Mr. G. called for me with his golf club he said you slammed the door in his face."

"Yes."

"I'm sorry, miss, but I thought he was an umbrella man."

"Gentlemen of the jury," the eminent counsel wound up his eloquent oration, chivalrous race. As men you would say to insult a woman—or ill-treat one—black at meandered in the wings, unmanly to one of the gentle sex."

He paused with an angry glance at the back of the court, where there was sudden disturbance. Then he shrank back as a stern looking woman faced him.

"And only this morning," she said, loudly, "that man called me a meddlesome cat."

She was the eminent lawyer's mother-in-law.

Quick wit is indispensable in the vagabond performer.

Hereford on an occasion when she was giving an entertainment. The audience was at close attention and the speaker black at meandered in the wings, unmanly to one of the gentle sex."

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POPULAR TEACHERS RETURNING HOME

Saw Devastated Areas by Courtesy of Newspaper Winning Pulitzer Prize.

Wisconsin's eleven most popular school teachers were among the cabin passengers who reached Montreal on Sunday night on the Andover Dominion liner Saturnia from Glasgow. The party, of which ten members belonged to the fair sex, was in charge of Matthew L. Spencer of Seattle, Dean of the School of Journalism of the University of Washington, and the returning from a European tour arranged by the Milwaukee Journal in connection with the late Joseph Pulitzer's annual prize for the American newspaper having had the greatest influence for good during the year.

In February, 1918, announcement was made that the prize had been awarded to the Journal for its work of rallying public opinion in the State of Wisconsin, many of whose citizens are of German birth, to the support of the Government during the war. The Journal thereupon asked the people to select by a general vote the state's most popular school teachers, who were sent overseas to see for themselves the damage wrought by the Hun.

The party sailed on June 26th, from New York, and visited, in addition to the battlefields of France and Belgium, Paris, London, and Edinburgh, also spending some time in Switzerland. Members of the party returned that although the devastation in the war area was even greater than they had believed possible, the work of rehabilitation was now well in hand.

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