

The Evening Times and Star

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

At a private meeting at City Hall on Saturday a committee of three, not one of whom is a leading St. John business man, was appointed to look into the books of the New Brunswick Power Company. Why was the meeting private? Why was the Commercial Club not represented? Why were these three gentlemen selected? Not so very long ago Messrs. A. H. Wetmore, George E. Barbour and O. H. Peters were a committee to look into the company's affairs. Why was not one of them, or some other outstanding business man appointed? Are the mayor and council determined to do business with the power company at any cost? The time has come for plain speaking. Are the rights of the people to be protected—or disregarded? The Times makes no reflection upon the gentlemen who form the committee, and Mr. Phillips is known to be an advocate of municipal distribution; but why should the business men of St. John be ignored when a matter the most vital to the city that has come up for many years is to be settled? And why do any business at all with the company at this stage?

HYDRO DISTRIBUTION

The chief usefulness of the Ross report is that it provides the opponents of the provincial government with some cheap and handy ammunition. As the power from Musquash is not yet being delivered those who are so disposed may give full rein to their imagination, and it would not be surprising if some person especially gifted in that respect should assert that there is no water at all in Musquash except when the tide flows in. However, the Hydro Electric Commission is going on with its work, and the people all along the route from St. John to Moncton are looking forward to a supply of cheap light and power before next winter.

They will not be eager to let any private interests come between them and the boon the government brings to their doors. They will urge that as the light and power are made available by the expenditure of public money the people should get the full benefit, and that it would be as reasonable to allow private concerns to collect toll on the highways and bridges as on this other product of public taxation. If the people of St. John do not take the same view they will betray a singular lack of reasoning power or a remarkable desire to enrich somebody else at their expense. No private money has been invested to bring the current to the sub-station near Fairville. The users of light and power must pay for it, but they should not be compelled to provide a profit for a distributing company, since that would defeat the purpose of the government in its effort to confer the greatest possible amount of benefit. The policy of distribution at cost should be adhered to, and there should be no agreement of any kind that would add a profit to the cost. The cost of distribution will not be found in the Ross report, and must be got from reliable sources by the city council.

WHY THIS FLIRTATION?

The more the city council flirts with the New Brunswick Power Company the stronger will be the popular demand for civic distribution of the current from Musquash. Who was responsible for inviting representatives of the power company to Saturday's conference? What has the city to do with finding out at what cost the company can distribute power? The city's business is to find out how cheaply it can distribute the power itself. This has not been done; nor does there seem to be any marked desire on the part of the present city council to have it done. The citizens must regard with disfavor and suspicion any conference held between the city council and the power company before the council has learned the cost of a civic distribution plant. There must be no dickerings with the power company. The city is offered a stated amount of power at a stated maximum cost. There must be such a distribution system as will eliminate waste and give the consumers full benefit. To do less would be to betray the interests of the people for whose benefit the expenditure at Musquash was made. To pass any portion of that benefit over to such a corporation as the New Brunswick Power Company would be a betrayal, pure and simple. The city does not need to bargain with the company. It is at long last the city's turn to dictate, and if the present city council falls down the people must get one more to their liking.

Toronto Globe:—"The liquor traffic that the people of seven provinces have voted out cannot with safety be voted in again by members of their Legislature."

UNREMEMBRANCE.

(Thomas Hood.)
It is not death, that some time in a sigh
This eloquence shall take its
speechless flight;
That some time these bright stars, that
now reply
In sunlight to the sun, shall set in night;
That this warm conscious flesh shall
perish quite,
And all life's ruddy springs forget to
flow;
That thoughts shall cease, and the immortal
spirit
Be lapped in alien clay and laid below;
It is but death to know this—but to
know
That pious thoughts which visit at new
graves
In tender pilgrimage, will cease to go
So duly and so oft, and when grass
waves
Over the past away, there may be then
No resurrection in the minds of men.

LIGHTER VEIN.

A Reasonable Conclusion.
A lady reports that her colored laundress said to her: "Somehow, ah neval keeked much for books, but (after a thoughtful pause) ah kaint read an' mebbe that has sumpt to do w' it."
—Boston Transcript.

Well-Known Post.

"Why did you decline to express your opinion when the caller asked for it?"
"He didn't really want my opinion," replied Senator Sorghum.
"He was longed to start an argument," someone wanted to start an argument."
—Washington Star.

Past booth after booth went the rich merchant, followed by a smart footman in livery, for the annual Christmas bazaar was in full swing.
"Ah, Mr. Swankington," gushed a pretty girl at one of the booths, "what are you going to buy? Auntie and I are in charge of this booth. We have cushions, pen-wipers, and all sorts of things."
"There's one thing I should like to buy," said the amorous visitor. "Do you sell kisses at your booth?"
"Oh, certainly," came the prompt reply. "A sovereign each."
"Right," said the aristocrat. "I'll take two, please."
"Auntie," cried the wily dame, "forward, please. Two kisses for this gentleman."
For a moment the wealthy one was nonplussed, but only for a moment.
"James," he said, coolly, "just take this purchase, please."

Mr. Foddes had sent in a very big account for "expenses," so the head of the firm sent him.
"Mr. Foddes," said the head of the firm. "I notice that there is a considerable item for meals in your expense account."
"Er—I was entertaining customers and prospective buyers, sir," ventured Mr. Foddes.
"All right," replied the boss. "I'm not complaining, but I hope you will bear in mind that we are selling motor cars, and not lady the chorus ever buys a motor car."

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT.

(Montreal Gazette.)
There is evidence of widespread dissatisfaction with the operation of the Dominion Bankruptcy Act. The law is a comparatively new one, and was designed to give the country the benefit of uniformity and expedition in bankruptcy proceedings. To this end it replaced the old Insolvency Law of Quebec and other provinces. The new law has been the subject of serious criticism among commercial bodies. It has not had a long trial, but it has operated during a period of commercial depression and has been sufficiently numerous to enable the average man of business to form a reasonable conclusion as to its advantages and disadvantages. Evidently a restoration of the provincial law, is desired by those who are most nearly affected by the operation of the statute. It has been more than once suggested that the Dominion law facilitates fraud, and what seem to be good grounds for this suggestion are the new law adds to the cost of bankruptcy proceedings, that it enables certain individuals to make business of insolvency, that an extension of time is as costly as bankruptcy so that in cases available assignments are made, and that the heavier creditors are placed at a disadvantage in respect of their rights. These are weighty objections to the Dominion law, and it is not surprising that there is no reason why this end could not be served without prejudice to the interests which ought to rank first in their claim to protection under an insolvency law. There are unscrupulous men as well as men of honor and integrity in business. The latter, happily, far outnumber the former, but parliament cannot afford to content itself with legislation which may tend to place a premium upon fraud. The strong adverse criticism which has arisen as a result of the actual operation of the Dominion Bankruptcy Act calls for a re-examination of the law with a view to such amendments as experience has shown to be necessary.

SOME "HOWLERS."

These answers were not made by Canadian Boy Scouts. They are from a foreign source.—From one of the big cities come the following "answers" received during a recent examination in first aid.
For fractures—"To see if the limb is broken, wriggle it gently back and forth."
Dog bite—"Put the dog away for several days and if he has not recovered then kill him."
When clothing is on fire—"Get the person whose clothing is on fire to lay down and roll to some body of water and roll in."
To enter a room filled with smoke—"Put a soiled handkerchief in your nose and mouth."
To rescue a person who has broken through the ice—"Take two or three handkerchiefs and tie them together and throw the boy in the ice with the handkerchiefs and pull him out."
In case of a nose bleed—"Put a roll of paper under upper lip and if this fails, plug the nose and let it run down the throat."
To remove grit in the eye—"Roll the eyelid back once. Let the patient wet the stick with their own saliva so as to cause no pain."
To rescue a person who has fallen through the ice—"You would dig a hole down farther in the ice and try and find them."
For gas poisoning—"You would try and get the most gas out by squeezing them, the rest would give them something to 'fiddle' them."
For a bad wound on head—"Apply turpentine around neck to stop bleeding to death."

What do you think of that cigar I just gave you? Satisfying, eh?
"I should say so. One of them would satisfy a man for life."

NEW POPE HELPED CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Also Gave Spiritual Care to Working Girls in Earlier Milan Days—Scholar Became Diplomat.

Little chimney sweeps and young working girls were the special care of Cardinal Ratti during the long years when he was the prefect of the Ambrosian Library in Milan, according to "One Who Knows Him" in The London Tablet of June 25 last, which was just after Archbishop Ratti of Milan was created a cardinal, this "One Who Knows Him" wrote of the humane heart of him who is now Pope. The article is headed "The New Cardinal-Archbishop of Milan." It reads in part:
"In the midst of his literary and scientific labors, Dr. Ratti was devoted to his work as a priest and director of souls. During the years of his early priesthood he devoted himself with admirable zeal to the very end of his sojourn in the city."
"For over thirty years he gave to it all the enthusiasm of his sacerdotal heart. No good work was undertaken in that ever active home of good works in which Don Achille Ratti was not the chief co-operator."
"In 1888 he organized an association of school mistresses, of which he retained the direction during the whole period of his stay in the city. The congregations of Children of Mary for the young ladies of Milanese high society, for those of the middle classes, clerical work girls and all the social classes, had the benefit of his direction and of his elevated and edifying though simply instructions."

Instructed Little Sweeps.
"The humblest of the little guests of the Cenacle were the little chimney sweeps, a race which has disappeared from our country. These little fellows are gathered together by the good Cenacle nuns for religious instruction. And the learned prefect of the Ambrosian Library, in the midst of his absorbing work, found time to pass the afternoon of feast days in teaching catechism to the little boys in the Church of S. Sepolcro, and also to prepare the little chimney sweeps for their first communion on the occasion of which he would share their little feasts and their innocent games."

"This life of combined learned labors and apostolic works was suddenly interrupted just ten years ago when, in 1911, Mgr. Ratti was called to Rome as Prefect of the Vatican Library and assistant to Father Ehrlich, who he succeeded as Prefect in 1918, when he was made Prothonotary Apostolic."

"The great war which has changed so many things in this world, put an end to Mgr. Ratti's career as a librarian. The war had not yet come to an end when, on April 29, 1918, Pope Benedict XV. sent him out as Apostolic Visitor to Poland in order to regulate the complicated affairs of the church in that unfortunate country."

When Poland finally obtained her restored independence, the Holy Father, to show his sympathy with the Catholic people, appointed Mgr. Ratti Apostolic Nuncio to the new Republic of Poland, creating him in the Consistory of July 9, 1918, titular Archbishop of Trento.

"The sudden transference of one hitherto known almost exclusively as a scholar and a writer from the tranquility of a great library passed amidst ancient codices and biographical research, to the active life of diplomacy in the very midst of one of the most disturbed periods of Europe caused universal surprise."

"Poland, after the peace of Brest-Litovsk, was a chaotic state. German troops, although there was a council of Regency consisting of Archbishop (now Cardinal) Kakowski and two others. The new government was in every way extremely difficult and critical, but the new Nuncio displayed such remarkable tact and diplomatic skill and even heroism that he was able to bring about a settlement of both the political and ecclesiastical difficulties which surrounded the birth of the new Republic."

"It was briefly owing to his efforts that two articles were introduced into the constitution of the state, the one declaring that the Catholic religion occupies the first position in the Polish state, and the second providing—still more practically important—that no measures concerning the Catholic church may be taken without preliminary agreement with the Holy See."

Helped to Free Prisoners.
"Even outside Poland the intrepid Nuncio was able to exercise important influence in various directions. Through his diplomatic good offices he obtained the liberation of many prisoners and hostages from the hands of the Russian Bolsheviks, including the Archbishop of Minsk."

"Quite recently he was appointed on an extraordinary mission as Ecclesiastical Commissioner for the pacific in Upper Silesia, and this at the unanimous request of Poland, Germany and the International Commission."

Two interesting precedents in connection with Monsignor Ratti's appointment have been noted in the Italian papers. This is the second occasion on which a Nuncio Apostolic in Poland has been recalled from Warsaw to be Archbishop of Milan and Cardinal, the same having happened to Monsignor Benedetto Józefinski in 1718. It is stated, moreover, that the Cardinal title assigned to Monsignor Ratti, namely, that of San Martino del Monti, was held for four years by the Cardinal's illustrious predecessor, St. Charles Borromeo."

"One Who Knows" writes interestingly of a visit he received from Mgr. Ratti in September of 1909 I had the privilege, as rector of St. Bede's College, to receive a visit from Dr. Ratti," he says. "When Dr. Ratti was subprefect of the Ambrosian Library, he was making a tour of England, and they were guests of the Cenacle Convent, which is next door to St. Bede's College."

"Two or three times subsequently while passing through Milan on my way to or from Rome I was my good fortune to meet Dr. Ratti in the midst of his learned treasure house, the Ambrosian Library, and to examine minutely its great collection of invaluable manuscripts and other books, besides its many other artistic treasures."
"The Ecclesiastical Librarian was always pleased to

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NEW MOVE BY RUSSIAN CHIEFS

United Front on World Problems Affecting Capital and Labor.
Riga, March 6.—A united front on world problems affecting capital and labor and a meeting of all internationalists are recommended by the executive leaders of the third internationale after a two weeks decision in conference. The vote was 46 to 10.

Leon Trotsky and other Russian chiefs who were instrumental in hastening this decision said that the move simply was in keeping with new tactics having as their purpose a flank attack on capitalism instead of the old open battle for an immediate world revolution.

Some opponents however, consider that this step means the ultimate destruction of the third internationale which would become only the left wing of a united body if the conference were held and Amsterdam and other groups agreed to a general union.

The French, Italian and Spanish representatives voted against conference with "the enemies" on the final ballot. Trotsky, Zinoviev, Radek and Lunacharsky and other Russians declared in favor of the meeting.

Lenine was not present at the sessions but his influence is understood to have been for a movement synchronizing activities of the internationales with recent changes in Russian policies.

A group of twenty-two Russian communists, charged at the new economic system, which they describe as a resurrection of the bourgeoisie, presented to the conference a bill of complaint against

NEW LABOR PARTY IN THE DOMINION

Ottawa, March 6.—A branch of a new labor party known as the Workers Party of Canada, has been formed in Ottawa. It aims to take part in every activity in which workers are interested. A mass meeting of local workers held yesterday was addressed by Tom Bell of Toronto, organizer for the Workers Party. About 75 men attended.

CANADIANS PLAN TO ATTEND SWISS FAIR

From inquiries received by the Canadian Pacific it is considered probable that there will be several Canadian importers and exporters to sail on the "Melita" for Southampton and Antwerp from St. John, on her April 15 sailing, to attend the sixth Swiss Sample Fair in Basel from April 22 to May 2.

Bathing Suit Parade.

St. Petersburg, Fla., February 17.—St. Petersburg's bathing suit fashions have clashed over the propriety of holding bathing suit parades as a feature of the week next month. Three women's organizations have filed protests with Mayor Pulver, declaring that such a display of bathing apparel would be indecent unless exhibited on lay figures.

The Purty League recently urged the mayor to appoint a bathing suit inspector "to protect married men from the wiles of the sea vamp." No action has been taken on this request.