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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 11, 1911.

NO CHARTER, NO COMMISSION.

Helplessly at sea for argument and barren of any new campaign material, the Times presented a pitiable spectacle last evening as it implored the citizens to cease asking questions about the Commission plan and to vote as they were told. The sudden awakening of the people to the fact that they know absolutely nothing of the way St. John will be governed under Commission rule has thrown the organs of the movement into confusion and left them powerless to stem the rising tide of opposition.

A week ago to all appearances the Commission campaign was going as merrily as a marriage bell. Speakers had addressed numerous public meetings, dilated on the advantages of "business methods" and eulogized the plan in outline as a heaven-sent gift for St. John. Advertisements had spread far and wide the good news that St. John was going to be governed "in the same way as the affairs of a large business corporation." The Telegraph and Times daily paraded in their columns the horrible results of the present system under which 234 loads of stone, for which, by the way, the city was not responsible, could not be accounted for. An army of workers swarmed through the wards and, if the Commission organs are to be believed, were making converts at every step. Then the foolish people began to ask a number of pertinent and important questions, and not a soul could answer them!

Inquisitive citizens started writing to the Globe inquiring whether the Chamberlain, the Police Magistrate, the Recorder, the Chief of Police, and Chief of the Fire Department would be appointed by the commissioners or elected by the people. The Globe naturally entered a protest. "No one can answer these questions," it told its correspondents, "because no one knows."

Then the morning organ of Commission received a series of communications from Rev. W. H. Sampson, which floored it completely. The rector of St. George's as a citizen and a ratepayer showed a natural desire to vote intelligently at the plebiscite. He seems to have taken the "business methods" for granted, and wished to probe a little deeper. "Can anyone tell me," he asked the Telegraph, "what salary the commissioners will receive?" "Will they all receive the same amount and who will fix the salary?" "When fixed, can it be increased or diminished, if so by whom?" "What is the qualification for a commissioner?" "Is there any provision to be made for the representation of St. John West in the board of commissioners?"

And the Telegraph, after beating about the bush trying to persuade Mr. Sampson that his questions were mere matters of detail, and of no importance until the people had been committed to Commission, ended by telling Mr. Sampson nothing that he did not know before. Save and except that it assured Mr. Sampson that the claims of Carleton to elect a Commission would be considered, which, if the speakers, the pamphlets, the advertisements, and the Telegraph's own columns are to be believed is untrue, because if there is one thing certain about the Commission plan it is that all the commissioners must be elected at large.

Mr. Sampson's opinion of the Telegraph's report may be briefly summed up in an extract from his interview in The Standard:—

"The Telegraph's editorial reference to my letter is no reply whatever to the questions I raised.

"I asked for information on one point which is of particular interest to Carleton and on several other points which interest all the citizens. I am advised to wait and see what will be done about them."

"That is not satisfactory to me, and I don't think it will be satisfactory to the people of Carleton. Why should we be asked to vote in the dark?"

"The men who are promoting the Commission 'should be prepared to tell us what they propose to do about it. We don't want a pig in a poke, and it is 'not satisfactory to say that all these points will be 'adjusted after the plebiscite is taken. We want to 'know what we are voting for beforehand.'"

In a laudable effort to stop the murrain of citizens who "want to know," the Times made a heart-rending appeal for a vote of confidence yesterday. The Times was clearly very miserable. "It is impossible," it wailed, "to answer EVERY question that may be asked about how this or that office or department may be affected by this new city charter." But the unfortunate condition of affairs exists that neither the Times, nor the Telegraph, nor the Citizens' Committee, nor any one connected with the movement can answer ANY question that has been asked. They are blind leaders of the blind, and the people of St. John are showing a decided aversion to what invariably follows—being led into the ditch.

It is all very well for the Times to assume that "reasonable citizens are quite willing to trust the charter committee of which Mr. James A. Belyea is chairman," and to which it adds a number of nameless gentlemen in various walks of life, who may or may not be willing to serve. The situation narrows down to this: IS THIS CITY WITH A POPULATION OF 55,000 PEOPLE, AND A STANDING IN THE WORLD'S MARKETS TODAY AS HIGH AS ANY CITY IN CANADA, GOING TO REVOLUTIONIZE ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND TAKE A LEAP IN THE DARK AT THE BIDDING OF CERTAIN WELL MEANING GENTLEMEN WHO SUM UP THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS NEW PLAN IN SIX WORDS, "FIVE COMMISSIONERS," "ABSOLUTE CONTROL," "BUSINESS METHODS?"

Is there any city in the world that would commit such an act of folly? Granted, for the moment, that the Commission plan is all that is claimed for it. The system must always be made to fit local conditions, especially in St. John is this necessary, and the people are entitled to know, and should know, down to the smallest detail what that system means to them before they vote for it at the polls. It is the practice elsewhere. The city of Cambridge, Mass., the most recent city in the States to consider this plan, is given the right to vote upon the entire charter at the next State election in November. WHY SHOULD ST. JOHN BE STEPMERGED INTO COMMISSION WITHOUT BEING PERMITTED TO GIVE THE MATTER FULL AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION?

To put the matter plainly, the Executive of the Citizens' Committee have overshot the mark. They have gone too fast. Enthusiasm counts for much, but in an important problem of this kind something more than enthusiasm is needed. Facts are necessary. The ability to answer questions is essential. After pains-

taking investigation to be in a position to say to the people "there is your charter under Commission government. Vote on it," is the least that the citizens of St. John have a right to expect. They have been denied that right, and can only enforce it by their votes against Commission at the polls.

TIMBER LANDS LEGISLATION.

The Telegraph is greatly perturbed because the Government of the Province have introduced legislation by which the people will obtain a portion of the increased value of timber lands that are transferred from the original holder to others.

When the system of leasing Crown Lands to lumbermen was introduced in this Province, the tenure was for one year only. The term was extended early in the Blair Administration to ten years. In 1892, a year before the expiry of the ten-year leases, the Blair Government appointed a commission to inquire into the lumber industry. That commission recommended leases in perpetuity, but the Government did not accept the recommendation in full but decided on leasing the lands for a term of twenty-five years. The suggestion for long term leases came from the operators, supported also by the bankers, who furnished the money for the operators.

The main reason urged in favor of the longer tenure was the stability it gave to the business. It was a guarantee to the banker that the operator would be in the same location one year after another, and the advances made were safer than if the operator was compelled to compete every year at public auction for his limits.

In granting the leases the Crown Land Department reserved the right to fix the annual rental for renewals of licenses, the rate of stumpage to be paid, the quantity of lumber that might be taken from the land under lease, and to make all other regulations regarding the cutting of timber on the Public Domain.

These leases were for a period of twenty-five years from 1893, and all leases made since that date are for the unexpired term. Since 1893 there has been a great increase in the value of timber lands, not only in New Brunswick, but all over the continent. At least three large fortunes have been made in this Province through the transfer of timber leases. In each case the profits went to the holder of the lease, the Province gaining nothing through the enhanced value of its lands.

The bill now before the House provides regarding future transfers as follows:—"No licensee of any timber license or permit shall hereafter sell, assign, or in any way transfer to any other person or company the interest of such licensee therein under the license until such licensee shall have paid to the Province such sum as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council shall deem 'just and adequate.'"

There does not seem to be any valid objection to the course taken by the Government to secure a share of the profits arising from the transfer of a lease of a portion of the Public Domain. Certainly the owner has an equal right to share the profit with the holder. It is not a case where the enhanced value is the result of the labors of the lessee, nor has it arisen from any improvements made on the land by him. The theory regarding timber lands is that they neither increase nor decrease in value through their operation. The annual cut is presumed to represent the annual growth, and, if not devastated by fire, the lands possess the same value in merchantable logs year after year.

It is noteworthy that when any considerable area is denuded of timber by fire the operators promptly abandon the block, compelling the Province to suffer any loss there may be. This has been the custom for years and now the Government proposes, as a matter of equity, that if compelled to take the risk of loss by fire the provincial treasury is entitled equally to share in the profits of a transfer—a proposal which will be recognized as just by fair-minded people, and has already been assented to by some of the lumbermen themselves.

There is nothing in the change proposed by the Government to affect the interests of operators, who continue to carry out the conditions of their leases. It affects only the speculator who is willing to sell out his interests, for that is all he has to sell, in the lease. Had the law been changed a few years ago before the transfers already referred to were made, the revenue of the Province would have considerably increased. The proposal is entirely in accord with the policy of the Hazen Government to get for the people their due from the Crown Lands. No injustice is done the operator through this policy. He gets value for every dollar he pays and pays only for what he takes from the Public Domain.

As previously pointed out the rate of stumpage on Crown Lands is less than on private lands, the tenure is also more secure and not affected by the legislation now before the House, unless it is proposed to transfer the lease. In this event the Province simply proposes that a portion of the enhanced value of Crown Lands, due entirely to the growing scarcity of timber, and not due to the efforts of the lumbermen, shall go to the public treasury. There is nothing revolutionary in this policy, and nothing to excite the hysterical headlines of the Telegraph yesterday morning.

Current Comment

(Westminster Gazette.)

A correspondent of the " Scotsman " gives some interesting particulars of the early life of an old lady who has just died in Edinburgh at the age of ninety-seven. Mrs. Jean Burke was a Macgregor whose ancestors came from the Braes of Balquidder, and in whose family there runs a tradition that they were direct descendants of Rob Roy. Mrs. Burke, in her young days, along with her two sisters, resided next door to Sir Walter Scott and saw him regularly every morning leaving his house for his duties in Parliament House. The three young Macgregors, consistent with the tradition of their family, were in the habit of wearing cloaks of Rob Roy tartan, and the old lady recalled how Sir Walter Scott used to greet them, as they started for school, with the words "Rob Roy Macgregor."

(Montreal Gazette.)

According to some observers of the situation at Ottawa, the Government does not know whether to dissolve Parliament at an early date, in the hopes of getting a favorable judgment of the country before its party is further injured by its reciprocity bargain, or to wait for a year, and on the strength of the census returns, try to gerrymander the life out of the Conservative party in a redistribution bill. The Laurier Government has got itself into about the same position as the Ross Government of Ontario was before the people threw it into the political ditch. It is afraid of the people, and, instead of trusting them, tries to trick them.

(Vancouver Province.)

Canada has just entered upon an era of development of its mineral, electrical, and water resources, and the young man who is thoroughly equipped along these lines has the assurance of permanent and lucrative employment.

(Buffalo Courier.)

Be prepared to hear more about the awakening of China. A Chicago firm the other day shipped 10,000 alarm clocks to Peking.

SPRING SKIN TROUBLES

Pimples, Eruptions and "Spotty Complexions."

At this season, scores of people—girls and young women especially—find their faces disfigured by pimples, dark spots, eruptions, etc. The skin needs attention—needs renovating after the trying time it has passed through during winter. Just think what it has gone through! You have been out in rain and sleet and snow. You have been at one moment perspiring from skating, or some other exertion. Then you have stood to "cool off." You have spent hours of the day indoors at a temperature equal to summer heat. Then you have covered up your skin—except your face—and gone out into a temperature away below zero! No wonder that, with all these changes the skin of the face and neck shows signs of needing attention.

Zam-Buk and Zam-Buk Soap are the remedies. Smear Zam-Buk lightly over the spots, the eruptions, the sallow patches, at night, and wash with Zam-Buk Soap (only 25c. per tablet) each day. Then notice how quickly your appearance improves. As the rich, refined, herbal essences sink deep into the tissue, the hard, scurf-like patches are removed. Better color results. The vessels of the skin become transparent. The blood beneath is able to import its proper coloring to the face, and the delicate bloom of health replaces the sallowness and pallor of disease.

Zam-Buk is also a sure cure for skin injuries and diseases. Eczema, ulcers, ringworm, scald to the use. For cuts, burns, bruises, children's rashes, etc., it is unequalled and for piles. Mothers will find Zam-Buk Soap best for baby's bath. All drug stores and stores at 50c. box for Zam-Buk and 25c. tablet (or 3 for 70c.) for the Soap. If you have any difficulty in obtaining either from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, and send price.

SWISS LIFE

IN CANADA

No Need to Go to Europe to Enjoy Alpine Sports when C. P. R. Plans for Rockies are Perfected.

A glimpse of Swiss life in Swiss settings is to be given the people who live on this continent of America without their having to cross the Atlantic to obtain it. It is not intended to remove the little European Republic bodily from where it is—though room in plenty may be found for a score or more of Switzerland in the Canadian Rockies—but a typical Swiss village is to be created in the Province of British Columbia, a few miles from the foot of the great mountains—a very comprehensive idea of the home, the habits and the customs of the hardy mountaineers who dwell across the sea.

The corps of Swiss guides who are annually brought over by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. to assist mountain climbers in their ascent are to be furnished permanent homes by the railway company in a part of the Rockies that will suit their needs. They will be given a new house in the mountains, during months of otherwise comparative idleness, ample opportunities for further development of strenuous outdoor athletic sports. It will give them and their families a new home in this land, and while commencing on an unpretentious scale, will doubtless develop into a large settlement, peopled by a hardy class of self-reliant adventurous men who know the ways to summits of untrod peaks as the average man knows the highways and byways of his own city. It will add to the picturesque quality of the surroundings, and furnish a pleasing and interesting sight to that great brotherhood of tourists who are continually passing through the mountains on Canada's pioneer transcontinental road. It will be a development of great interest to the growth of the new Switzerland in Canada.

The site which has been chosen for the future Swiss villages of Canada lies in the Province of British Columbia on the north side of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the first village will be situated at the foot of the great mountains, where the quaint Canadian village of Golden. Golden embraces within its borders the point of union of the Kicking Horse and the Columbia rivers. Here the latter brown, slow and solemn finds its pulses quickened, the volume of its flow increased and a change of hue given to the color of its waters by the tempestuous entrance of the glacial flood of the Kicking Horse, as it speeds on its onward way to the Divide of the Rockies. On every side of the site, mountains of varying contour rise above the small plateau. To the east are the steep, snow-capped peaks of the Rock mountain range; to the west and to the south are seen the more gradual and well wooded slopes of the Selkirk range. In the distance, while the center trickles, a small stream with limpid springs from the foothills. The wooded mountains to the south are favorite haunts of deer and bear; the Columbia river teems with fish which are good for eating; the high rocky peaks to the north, which for nearly every month in the year are snow-capped, are good as the haunts of the mountain goat, mountain sheep and the grizzly bear. A movement is on foot to try the introduction of the chamois into the mountainous region, which would give further zest to the sportsman's appetite. In the nearby mountain fastnesses, in every direction, there are splendid chances for easy hunting during the proper season and for snow-shoeing, skiing, and tobogganing, while skating and curling are already popular pastimes at Golden during the months of snow. Further afield are high virgin peaks yet unclimbed

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and unnamed, which offer great temptations to the experienced Alpineist.

The new village is to be called "Edelweiss"—the bridal flower of the Swiss—and its location is on a plateau which rises two hundred feet from the bottom lands, and within unobstructed view of the passing trains. The spot is a most picturesque one. The plateau of the hill sides are dotted with clumps of poplar, whose light greenish leaves pleasingly contrast with the darker shades of fir and spruce, these combining to form an unusually pretty picture. The cottages—half a dozen to start with—will naturally be distinctly Swiss in architectural design, construction and surroundings—in fact they will blend into the Swiss atmosphere. In the rich alluvial soil the dwellers will find opportunities galore for gardening in the small individual houses which are attached to the cottages, and these will contribute materially towards the upkeep of the household, and doubtless will eventually expand into sources of supply for the profitable local markets.

The Columbia river, which flows from Lake Windermere and the other mother lakes about 100 miles south of Golden, is one of the most turbulent waterways in the world. Its course is northwest to north, and is called Boat Encampment, where it makes what is called the Big Bend, and turns south again crossing under the C. P. R. tracks near Revelstoke, the railway having cut across the mountain range to meet it. From here it flows on into the Arrow Lakes, and into United States territory, finally emptying itself into the Pacific Ocean in Oregon, nearly 2,000 miles distant by its meanderings from its source. Between Golden and Windermere there are splendid roads now much used by motorists and these will be extended to Banff and Calgary on the main line of the C. P. R. and to Port Steel and the Crow's Nest Pass branch of the railway on the south. They will be the great automobile highways for motorists through a region that may well be termed the playground of the world, not the least interesting feature of which will be the new "Edelweiss" and its people.

Stationary Engineers Meet. A meeting of stationary engineers was held at 30 Charlotte street, last evening, but owing to the fact that the charter had not been received from the Canadian organization, nothing was done. Another meeting will be held in the same hall next Monday evening.

Musical Examinations. McGill University conservatoire of music will hold the local examination in St. John in the parlor of St. David's church on Thursday of this week, at 2 o'clock. Rev. Angus A. Graham, the local representative, will preside.

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