

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1919

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THE TORY PARTY PRESS.

It is unfortunate that the Conservative party in this province is without a reputable newspaper, commanding the respect of members of that party. The present condition is a part of the penalty paid for permitting the gruffing element to get into the saddle. Quite as humiliating to the fair-minded Conservative as the recent shameful revelations is the attitude of the press of the party, which has no word of censure for the wrongdoers but holds them up as paragons of political purity and high-minded patriotism. An unfortunate feature of the case is that there are scattered over the province, some readers who still believe in the party press, and whose views are largely colored by its distorted representation of the facts, its concealment of essential facts, its falsehoods, and its baseless charges against and coarse abuse of political opponents. Happily the number of such blind partisans grows steadily smaller. Some day, perhaps, the party will think it worth while to insist upon fairness in the discussion of public questions by its press, and upon giving the people all the facts necessary to fair judgment, not even withholding censure when such revelations are made as have during the last two or three years disgraced the province. It is quite certain that the great mass of the members of the Conservative party are restive and eager to see a change of leadership, and the abandonment of the methods which have caused them to blush for their leaders.

SPARE THE ROADS.

The appeal that is made to owners of motor cars by the New Brunswick Automobile Association deserves the most favorable response. Experience in past years has shown that heavy motor traffic in the early spring, when the frost is coming out churns up the best road and leaves it in bad condition. The owners of cars will bear this in mind they will have all the more pleasure throughout the summer, because the roads will be more smooth, and the money that would be spent to repair roads unnecessarily injured in the spring could be utilized for general road improvement. The motorists are not helping the government, but themselves, when they use discretion in this matter. They are also benefitting all users of the public roads, since all suffer when the roads are bad. The increasing use of heavy cars subjects the roads to a heavier burden, and it is for the good of all that the appeal is made to avoid such use of them in the early spring as would make them had for the summer traffic. A great deal has been done in the past two years to improve the roads of New Brunswick, and much more will be done this year. It is important that all who use the roads co-operate to keep them in good condition. Our people have not yet developed sufficient interest in a matter of so great importance, but as improvement becomes more general and apparent the desire to conserve the roads will grow and spread among them. That is a condition greatly to be desired.

OUR DEFECTIVES.

Dr. Helen MacMurely, who is a recognized authority on the subject, said at an enquiry in Toronto last week in relation to the feeble minded:—
"Out of every one thousand persons in the community there are perhaps about ten who require care and support from the community on account of mental defect or delinquency, or dependency, or insanity, or other reason. The number who require care on account of mental defect out of the above mentioned ten persons is about three or four—that is three or four out of one thousand, or about one out of three hundred in the community."
That is to say, in the city of St. John there are from one hundred and fifty to two hundred mental defectives who need special care and we have no facilities whatever for giving such care. If a feeble-minded boy or girl breaks a law, the most we can do is to send them to an institution where they mix with others of stronger mentality and perhaps more vicious tendencies. The feeble-minded are in our schools with other children, or they are going about without any steps being taken to develop what intelligence they have and save them from falling into vice and crime.
It is gratifying to know, however, that the minister of health, Hon. Dr. Roberts, has been giving this subject some attention and has been in conference with those who are alike interested in other parts of the province. The subject has forced itself upon the attention of the people of Ontario, especially in the city of Toronto, and there is a prospect that the whole problem will be taken up seriously in every province during the next year or two.

The Gleaner would like to meet another worthy man with \$10,000 that was hurting him.

The Fredericton Gleaner (\$10,000) says the McQueen report is a partisan document of no value.

The Federation of Labor is again on record in favor of vocational training.

St. John Globe:—"The facts, perhaps not all the facts,—but all the important facts,—are now matters of record, and they involve a few men in as contemptibly mean and dirty a political scandal as ever was unearthed in Canada. There is no getting away from the record. It establishes, beyond possibility of contradiction or dispute, that the consent of the people to a gift of food to the starving of Belgium was made the occasion of business incompetence, of graft, of fraud, of personal financing and political rottenness beyond the comprehension of intelligent men to understand. To cover up the humiliating disgraceful, disgusting proceedings, and prevent the public learning how those in authority had trafficked and profited at the expense of public patriotism and generosity, the expedient was resorted to of mixing the affair up with the Valley Railroad."

Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill utters the warning that there are still very grave dangers in Europe. The world has a right to expect, however, that the peace conference will dispel them. Germany appears to be moving toward more stable government, and Russia is not yet given over wholly to the Bolsheviks. The hope of the world lies in the league of nations. If for any reason that fails to measure up to its opportunities there are dark days ahead, but it cannot be believed that nations which have just emerged from the slaughter pen will fail to do their duty to humanity.

The Foster government has been all wrong in its treatment of the Nova Scotia Construction Company, or the company might have given a friend \$100,000 or so to be handed to the government as a small token of esteem. These railroad contractors are generous to a fault. They would help any government that showed a proper receptive spirit. The Foster government missed a great opportunity. As Mr. Polts says, the premier is not a statesman.

St. John Globe:—"An opposition party decision to argue that the province lost nothing; that the money Tennant paid was his own money; that Commissioner McQueen was partisan, would be nothing more nor less than an opposition party decision to condone the facts disclosed, to shield the guilty and to lend the party name and the party strength to a whitewash."

St. John Globe:—"The opposition, in and out of the House, should not permit itself to be made the tool of the men who abused the trust reposed in them as shamelessly as the Valley Railroad and Patriotic Potato evidence disclosed that trust was abused, in some instances for purely private gain."

Hon. B. Frank Smith will discuss the McQueen report with an eye on Carleton county. If he can retain the support of those for whose potatoes he found a market, at so snug a profit to himself, and get back into the legislature, the rest of the province may go bang.

St. John Globe:—"No reason exists why the clean men of the opposition party should assume responsibility for the unpatriotic, unworthy and discreditable acts of leaders, who, instead of being supported, should be driven from public life."

The Foster government continues to make history in good legislation. The housing, woman suffrage and soldiers' settlement bills are before the house, with another relating to better highways.

The Standard agrees that elections are not made with prayers. Let us see:—Westmorland county, \$10,000; Carleton county, \$6,000; Gleaner, \$10,000; organizer, \$1,687.83; Standard \$—?

The New Brunswick Federation of Labor declined to declare itself in favor of five per cent beer. By so doing it gained for itself another strong claim to public sympathy and approval.

The big question at Fredericton is the action to be taken following the McQueen report. All else is secondary. Are we to have a real house-cleaning at the capital, or a dab of whitewash?

Where are those potatoes that were not accounted for after the patriotism of the late provincial government had been fully expressed in its own peculiar way?

Let it be remembered when the St. John Standard says anything about the McQueen report that directors of the Standard are among those named and exposed in that historic document.

The McQueen report is expected to be up for consideration in the house next week. The sooner the better for clean politics in New Brunswick.

Sir Thomas White says he thinks the tariff can be dealt with in a manner to hold the support of all unionists. That suggests a sharp downward revision.

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HON. F. B. CARVELL SHOWS NEEDS OF FOREIGN CREDITS

Speaking recently in the House of Commons, Hon. F. B. Carvell showed clearly the need of Canada providing large credits in order to promote export trade. He said:—
"We realize that it will be our duty for the next five or six months, or possibly a year, to do all we can to secure business for the country and we are doing that. But it is not as easy to get business on the other side of the Atlantic as we thought it would be. We thought that all we would have to do would be to go over and say: 'We have a million feet of lumber to sell, who will give us the most for it?' The trouble is not that Europe does not like to buy our lumber and the other products that we have, but they have not got the money to pay for it. That is the real difficulty. As my hon. friend, the Minister of Finance stated yesterday, we are compelled to furnish credits; that is we have to put up money in Canada to buy the goods from our own people, then turn around and sell them to foreign countries and take our chance of getting the money back. We will get it back in time, but it means a heavy financial burden that the government has to carry."
In buying War Savings and Thrift Stamps the people of Canada provide the government with the funds that make possible these huge advances. Thus employment at good wages is provided for all classes, while those who invest their money in these stamps receive a substantial interest return.

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