

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 2, 1914.

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CLEAN UP THE CITY

The mayor of Amherst has issued a proclamation naming May 11 as a general clean-up day for the town. The mayor arrived at this decision after a conference with the Daughters of the Empire. The town council will give some financial assistance, but all the citizens are asked to do their part, so that at the close of the day the town may be cleared of all the rubbish now lying about the streets, alleys, yards and houses, and the sanitary conditions and the general appearance of Amherst improved to that extent.

WELL DONE FAIRVILLE

It will not be surprising if Fairville should set an example to St. John in the matter of definite and well organized community work. An article on our page of today's Times tells of a movement in progress which aims to unite representatives of all churches and social organizations for a definite programme of social welfare work, with special reference to playgrounds and greater attention to kindly and helpful supervision of the activities of the young. The people of Fairville are to be congratulated upon the spirit which has been manifested, and in carrying out the proposed work they will be doing more than merely improving the conditions in their own little town. They will be giving encouragement to every social service worker in the city of St. John, and they will be setting an example to other communities in the province, which is greatly needed to stimulate the people to forget their differences and unite their efforts to promote movements which all are agreed are of benefit, and are really needed to improve the conditions of living in every village, town and city.

NATIONAL LABOR BUREAU

Legislation is proposed in the United States to establish at Washington a national clearing house for labor. The purpose of such a bureau would be to give prompt and full information regarding the conditions of labor all over the country. It necessarily happens in so large a country that while some localities have a surplus of labor there are others where many more persons could be employed than are quickly available. If a ready means were established to let idle men in one locality know about the need of labor in others, so that there would be no guess work about it, the result should be beneficial to both localities. Describing the purpose of the proposed new legislation the Bangor Commercial says: "In recent years much along the above lines has been accomplished by state, municipal and private bureaus, but these have always felt their limitations in regard to exact knowledge of conditions in distant communities. The present proposition is for the establishment of a government bureau of labor exchange with a number of branches and agents, to conduct free employment agencies and to keep in touch with the pulse of non-employment and demand for labor over the country. This one section may be suffering for labor while another has an overplus. Then it will be the business of the national clearing house to record the varying needs of the sections and to see that the surplus is diminished and the needs elsewhere supplied. The central clearing house is to serve as an equalizer."

THE COMMISSION PLAN

The Globe appears to be as strongly opposed as ever to the commission plan of government, and appears to believe it possible, if not probable, that there will be a return in this city to the outworn and discredited city council system with ward representation. Anyone who has gone about with his eyes open since the commission plan was adopted, and has observed how civic affairs have been conducted, and how it was possible for a citizen to reach at any time the man directly responsible for the affairs of any department, can only smile at a plea for a return to the system of small ward politics, divided authority, evasion of responsibility, and general inability to get results. The fact that all but one of the present commissioners had been members of the city council under the old system is no argument whatever in favor of a return to the old system. The gentlemen who will now be in control of the departments at city hall will be able under the present system to do infinitely better work than was possible under the old system. If they fail to do so they cannot evade the responsibility, for it rests directly upon them and not be laid upon the shoulders of others. The commission plan of government has come to stay. There may be amendments and improvements, and this

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Dr. W. Bell Dawson, superintendent of the Dominion Survey of Tide and Currents, and a man whose work has been of immense practical importance, reaches his sixtieth birthday to-day. Doctor Dawson, who is the second son of the late Sir J. W. Dawson, was born in Pictou, N. S., and studied at McGill University, whence he graduated with high honors. He was later admitted to the highest school of engineering in France, and led his class there at graduation. From the Institution of Civil Engineers of London, he received his present appointment in 1899, he engaged in a long series of engineering undertakings in Canada, principally in connection with railway construction. Under his supervision there are now issued annually those tide tables for the principal harbors of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, which are invaluable to mariners. For this work Doctor Dawson received the Watt Gold Medal from the Institution of Civil Engineers of London.

Also born to-day:—Lt.-Col. G. S. Cantle, general superintendent of car service, P. R. Montreal, born in Montreal, 1867. Dr. J. D. Logan, poet and newspaper man, Montreal, born in Antigonish, N. S., 1859.

Experience "I've run across some queer specimens of manhood in my time," said the taxi driver. "Well," replied the aviator, "I've fallen in with some queer people, too."

Drawing a Bead "Did you follow the thread of her discourse?" "No! I soon saw that she just wanted to string me."—Judge.

Our ancestors would great cumbersome watches with keys and were satisfied if they ran within a couple of minutes a day.

Today there is a growing demand for watches that are small and thin and that will run within 30 seconds a month.

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The state of Colorado is constantly afflicted with labor troubles of a serious character. Both regular and state troops are now in the coal mining district endeavoring to restore order. Conditions are very serious when troops and strikers clash, but there is apparently some prospect that further armed strife will be avoided. The United States pays a high price not only for the economic conditions which prevail, but for the class of immigrants it permits to settle in its mining districts.

An Ottawa despatch says that the government may reintroduce the bill dealing with taking over the branch lines of the Intercolonial. One of the best means of stimulating the growth of portions of these provinces would be to take over the branch lines and encourage the development of traffic. Nevertheless the terms on which these lines are taken over should be subject to review by parliament. There should be no political bargains in connection with the branch railways.

The announcement that representatives of several English concerns are en route to St. John to look into the prospect for the establishment of branch factories for Canada in this city is very interesting, and it may be hoped more will come of it than has come of a good many other such announcements during the last year or two. The city needs more factories, and should make every effort to secure any industry which there is a reasonable certainty of establishing on a successful basis.

The Halifax board of trade is resolved to secure the exclusive winter mail service for that port, if promptness and energy and a determination to ignore the claims of St. John can secure such a result. The attitude of the St. John board of trade is more praiseworthy in that it does not attempt to completely exclude Halifax, but it will not do to let the statements made in behalf of Halifax go without an answer; and the council of the St. John board is therefore wise to press the matter with energy and persistence at Ottawa, and give the whole country at the earliest possible moment the fullest information regarding the advantages of St. John as a mail port.

Bats in the Philippine Islands are as big as cats, and with the wings spread measure 8 ft. from tip to tip. A bite from one of them is said to be poisonous.

If it is so hot that the horse sweats in the stable at night, the him outside. Unless he cools off during the night he cannot well stand the next day's heat.

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