

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1924

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by New Brunswick Publishing Co., Ltd., J. D. McKenna, President.
Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.
The Times has the largest circulation of any paper in the Maritime Provinces.
Special Advertising Representative—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 380 Madison Ave., CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg.
The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE CIVIC BATTLE

As a means of whetting the appetite for the final struggle yesterday's primary election would be hard to beat. It leaves the door wide open to speculation, and general interest will be keenly sharpened. The City Hall count this morning leaves Mr. McAvity only fourteen votes behind Mr. Fisher, but as there appears to be no provision for a recount—which might go either way—the Mayor is left to fight it out with Mr. Potts. A bit better than seventy per cent. of the eligible voters went to the polls yesterday, as compared with sixty-five per cent. in the eliminating election of 1922, and there should be a materially larger vote on April 28.

We shall have two weeks of very spirited campaigning, with much doubt in many cases until the votes have been counted. The electors, it is evident, were much more interested than the quiet campaign of the last few weeks indicated. Though the eligible list was lamentably small, election day produced a much livelier struggle than was anticipated, and the votes of some of those who are in the finals are so close that their friends and supporters will be sure to speed up the fighting pace to the end.

Mr. Potts and Dr. Frink had the honor of leading the poll, and Mr. McAvity was second. Messrs. Frink, Harding, McAvity, and Corbett, and their friends will be asking where the Sprout vote and the Thornton is going to go in the finals, and there is a puzzle. There is that question in the mayoralty fight too, for most of the mayoralty aspirants received a measure of support of which they must be proud, and the 3,000 or more votes cast for the defeated candidates contain all sorts of possibilities for April 28.

There is a lively race ahead—a mightily lively one beyond doubt. Citizens now have a chance to weigh the issues and the candidates with care, and it is imperative upon them to do so in order that they may select sure when they vote again that they are conscientiously striving to serve the city. There should be a really heavy vote by the eligibles in the final.

This year's elections serve to remind everybody of the necessity of examining the taxation and collection system in order to find some method of preventing such large numbers from forfeiting their franchise. That problem is of pressing importance.

In yesterday's battle, and in contemplating the final one, many who take time to analyze the returns, will have reason to recall Sir John Macdonald's saying about elections and horse races. They are indeed uncertain.

WELCOME VISITORS.

A work of wide usefulness is being done by Sir Halford MacKinder and his associates of the Imperial Shipping Committee, who are personally investigating long standing complaints concerning discrimination against North Atlantic ports in the matter of freight and insurance rates. St. John heartily welcomes these gentlemen today. Ours is one of the Canadian ports undoubtedly suffering from such discrimination, and it is fortunate that we have this opportunity not only to present these influential investigators with the facts as we see them, but also to make them acquainted with the port's favorable location, its present capacity, and its possibilities. The amount of traffic handled through St. John during the war when despatch was a vital consideration is well worth bringing to their attention. Our port, too, is wholly free from ice trouble and is easily accessible winter and summer. Our short rail haul to Canadian centres, and the safety of approach by sea are valuable factors. The great dry dock, which the visitors today inspected, is another of our advantages.

As to insurance rates, which have militated greatly against us, there is in the view of our shipping men a very clear case of injustice. It is of interest in this connection to present briefly a reference to this matter made before the St. John branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada recently by Dr. Howard T. Barnes, D. Sc., F. R. S., of McGill University. In speaking of the iceberg danger he said:

The iceberg broken off from a fiord in Greenland drifts southerly with the Arctic current at a rate of from ten to thirty miles per day and may take two years to reach opposite Newfoundland.

In northern waters the iceberg is large and easily found, but as it moves southerly it disintegrates into several smaller ones which are largely below the surface and become scattered over a wider area. The speaker claimed the northern lane of navigation through the Atlantic was narrower and consequently safer than the southern lanes from American ports to Europe where the danger zone was much wider, and held that the insurance rates in favor of the southern Atlantic route are an unfair discrimination against Canadian ports.

INCOME TAXES.

Disappointment over the failure of the Dominion Government to make any reduction in the federal income taxes lends additional interest to the proposed reductions in the United States.

A table showing changes affecting one class of taxpayer only, but which changes are approximately those for other classes also, is given in a Washington despatch of April 10. This table refers to the total tax, both normal and surtax, to be paid by a married man without any dependents, under the various plans proposed.

At present such a taxpayer, with a net income of \$3,000, pays \$20. Under the Mellon plan he would pay \$11.25; under the Senate plan, \$7.50; and under the House plan the same. The \$4,000 man now pays \$60. The Mellon plan would reduce his tax to \$38.75 and the House and Senate plan to \$22.50. The \$5,000 income now pays \$100. Mellon would make it \$56.25, and the House and Senate would cut it to \$37.50.

The \$10,000 income now pays \$220. Secretary Mellon would ask for \$337.50. The House plan says \$265.10, and the Senate \$237.50.

Incomes from \$20,000 up to a million would escape much more lightly than they do now under all the plans proposed, but the cuts are not so heavy as on the lower incomes. The man with an income of \$50,000 now pays \$8,640. The Mellon plan would cut this to \$6,687, and the House scheme would knock off \$300 more. The million dollar income now pays a tax of \$250,640, but Mr. Mellon would let the poor devil off with \$236,817. The House plan is less merciful. It says \$412,690. Thus while Congress is more lenient to the smaller taxpayers than the Secretary of the Treasury, it is less considerate than he is as the incomes run into big money.

The proposed reductions, while those for one class only are quoted, are of interest to Canadians of limited means, indicating as they do the likelihood that Congress will deal generously with those Americans whose earnings are small or moderate, while if Mr. Mellon has his way there will be very extensive cutting of taxes all the way to the top.

It is said at City Hall that there is no provision for a recount under the Commission form of government. Why not?

The City Hall count this morning leaves the election figures just as they were published in this morning's Telegraph-Journal with the exception that Mr. Thornton loses forty-eight. His defeat was one of the election surprises.

Gentlemen of sporting proclivities who go so far as to bet on elections—assuming that there are any—will find some temptation in the final race for the mayoralty and commissionerships. The next swing of the votes cast for the defeated candidates invites some lively guessing.

Of \$600,000,000 involved in business failures in the United States in the last year fully \$200,000,000 represented fraudulent bankruptcies, according to the president of the National Association of Credit Men. He says that at the present rate of increase these deliberate failures would undermine American business within a few years. The association is to spend \$500,000 to fight the class who go into bankruptcy to defraud their creditors.

Somebody has figured it out that the taxation reduction in the new budget means a saving of \$3.70 a head. It all depends on how much you buy, and how many you buy for. Anyhow, it does not sound revolutionary. Still, twenty per cent. off the sales tax, and fifty in some cases, ought to help considerably. Governments do not seem to make the progress they should in developing painless taxation. Also, the income tax, federal or civic, is not so sacred an institution that it will not bear reduction, particularly in the lower grades of earnings.

Press Comment

THE FARMER'S PLIGHT.

(Minneapolis Journal.)
What is the country coming to, when a bushel of wheat will not buy two golf balls?

HEROINES ARE OLDER NOW.

(Bangor Commercial.)

Age is slowly creeping upon the heroines of romantic love, but seems to be doing it in the characteristically way age has with women, very slowly. For the age of the heroine has advanced in more than 50 years only from 17 to 28.

Twenty-eight is now the average age for a heroine of a love story, the fact having been established by the examination of more than 27,000 scenarios submitted in a recent contest. Whereas, in 1870, so the judges declare, it was 17.

There is another peculiarity about the age of the heroine. In the scenarios submitted by women writers—and these were 60 per cent. of the entire number—the age of the heroine averaged about five years more than the age of the heroine created by the man writer. Women will see nothing strange in this but will take it as a proof of the efficiency of the beauty parlor, whose secrets every woman knows but which are intended for the deception of men.

But age is creeping upon the woman politician also, although she will probably not consider it a serious matter. For although a woman becomes a voter at 21, it is the woman of 35 who is going to decide the elections. So says Mrs. Maud Wood Park, president of the League of Women Voters, who says 35 is the age of the woman whose influence is to be felt in politics.

CAN PAY, AND MUST.

(N. Y. Herald-Tribune.)

Germany has the resources with which to pay, as the Dawes experts show. She has not paid because she has made no honest effort to balance her budget, levy adequate taxes or put her wealth and population to work to square her war account. The underlying principle of the Dawes plan is that Germany's taxation must be "fairly as heavy proportionately as that of any of the powers represented on the (Reparation) Commission." To enforce such an equality is to do Germany no injustice. It is to show her a measure of generosity which her conduct since the armistice has scarcely merited.

Germany brought immeasurable woes upon the world. She has done almost nothing as yet in the way of atonement. She cannot now reject the Dawes report without inviting universal condemnation and national ruin. And no other nation concerned can well afford to obstruct a finding so manifestly sound and constructive. We have reached the point at which the reparation deadlock can be readily broken and European recuperation can be assured. The experts' plan, luminous and fair-minded as it is, deserves a trial not only on its conspicuous merits but because there is no alternative to it which promises help to Europe. It is an inestimable contribution to a world which is sick of selfish political wrangling and eager to see Europe again at work and at peace.

DYSPEPSIA

WAS SO BAD

Could Hardly Eat

Anything

Mrs. C. Stone, Natick, Ont., writes: "Some time ago I had a very serious attack of dyspepsia, and was also troubled with gas on my stomach. I could hardly eat anything, and very often had pains after meals. I had used different medicines, but they didn't seem to do me any good. At last I happened to run on the track of Burdock Blood Bitters, and after using it for a short time I felt a lot better. I continued its use until I was completely relieved and now I am ready to recommend it to anyone trouble as I was."

Burdock Blood Bitters is manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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behind such a settlement as the committee offers. A noisy minority here in the hyphenated press and elsewhere has tried to prove that this country favored letting Germany escape her debts to France, Great Britain and Italy, when all the time we were insisting that these three Allied nations pay their debts to us. That has never been the American view.

SOME OF THE JOYS

(Philadelphia Bulletin)

The throb of a motor beneath my feet, And my hand on the wheel; An old-fashioned road not of concrete. And the country's wide appeal; Say—twenty miles an hour. Slow? Well, it's fast enough for me. Some like it forty or more, I know. But I want to really see.

There are children playing near a stream, A stately house on a hill; A little dark wood that's like a dream. So lovely it is, and still, A neglected garden, a meadow, where Cows are contentedly munching grass. And the smell of sod in the very air. And the song of birds as we pass. What's that? A shot? Well, I declare— It's that back tire! How I could swear!

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

The Cook's Party

"Big party at your house last night." "Yes." "You didn't invite me?" "Wasn't invited myself." "Huh?" "My cook gave it."

Full of Sound and Fury
The Hostess—"Thank you so much, Mr. Krasnoffski, for your beautiful playing. What do you think of the piano?"
The Pianist—"Ah, madame, I do not in English, know how to politely ex-

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press, but if it were an automobile, it is what they call it in America the Elizabeth of tin."—London Humorist.

Spring
Spring starts 'em working overtime. With poets it's the open season: They find some reason for their rhyme And make much rhyme with little reason.

Congential
"Hello, old man!" exclaimed Dudley, at the Literary Circle reception. "It's a pleasant surprise to meet you here." "Good of you to say so, old chap," replied Brown.

The Modern "Gesture"
"To be in fashion today," says the London Bystander, "the one word to be used on every possible occasion is Gesture. What a chance for a ballad writer! 'I don't love yer 'cos yer're witty, Nor becuz yer're more than pretty, And it ain't becuz yer're such a rippin' pal; And it ain't that, yer're the sweetest, And completest and Polite-est, Nah! It's jess yer little Gesture, little gal!"

MASONS POSTPONE WAGE OFFER ACTION

It was decided that no action would be taken for a couple of days at least in reference to the ultimatum of the general contractors that they would seek men outside the city limits if the local bricklayers and masons did not return to work by April 15 at a \$1 an hour rate of wages. This decision was taken at a meeting of the local union of Bricklayers and Masons last evening with Alfred J. Harris, president, in the chair.

MISSION CIRCLE MEETS.

The Silver Falls Missionary Circle met last evening at the parsonage with Mrs. Leonard Wason in the chair. There was a good attendance and an interesting programme. Miss Pickle read an excellent paper on Canadian Missionary work and was assisted by Mrs. Wason and Miss Hattie Bustin. Violin solos were given by Allan Bus-

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tin and vocal solos by Miss Vera Bustin. Miss Marjorie Wason was at the piano. An offering was taken for missionary work.

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