

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 31, 1914.

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THE MOVEMENT SPREADS

Tax reform is the subject of a very interesting article in this week's issue of the Maritime Merchant. Referring to the assessment system in Halifax, it is declared that under the present system it is "absolutely impossible to arrive at anything like an equitable distribution of the burdens of conducting municipal affairs; the system is too complicated to begin with and the wild guesses at property values only make matters worse."

Discussing the remedy the Merchant points out that the only tax cannot pass on to others is the tax paid on land. The man who rents out houses can unload the taxation on the tenants, and the merchants can unload on the consumer what he pays on his store and merchandise. It is pointed out also that the simpler the elements of taxation the better, and that it is quite impossible to get a fair estimate of the value of personal property in houses or merchandise in stores.

A new system is now proposed for Halifax which would gradually eliminate the tax on buildings and personally. This, from the standpoint of the storekeeper and manufacturer, the Merchant thinks should be satisfactory. It adds:—

"A community is well advised in eliminating taxes on improvements and personal property to whatever extent it can, for the more it does so the more direct does its taxation become, and the more clearly it is apparent just what an individual pays. But more than that, improvements are encouraged when they are not taxed. Whenever a town is convinced that it has too many dogs it taxes them, and the dogs disappear, or at least do not increase in number. Without just that intent we tax improvements, and we get corresponding results. On the other more than that, it is on the land, improvements by building and otherwise come rapidly, this is according to experience. And business and industry are encouraged when enterprise is not fined."

There are, however, two elements in the proposed Halifax scheme to which the Merchant takes objection, and there will doubtless be general agreement on the part of thoughtful readers that the objection is well taken. It is proposed to have a poll tax and an income tax. There is no good reason for the poll tax, while the income tax, as the Merchant observes, is said to be productive of perjury; and in any case such a tax in actual experience favors the rich as against the poor.

It is very gratifying to learn that throughout Nova Scotia, as well as New Brunswick, this question of getting a better system of taxation is arousing more general interest, and that we seem to be within measurable distance of at least the adoption of the principle of home rule in taxation, enabling committees like St. John and Halifax to make such gradual changes in their system of taxation as will make it more equitable, and produce better results in point of revenue without increasing the burden on any individual who is now taxed enough.

POTATO DISEASES

The anxiety of the potato growers of Maine to prevent the introduction of potato diseases by the importation into the United States of potatoes from Canada had a good deal of humming about it. That there are diseases in the potatoes raised in Maine was plainly declared at a two days' meeting of Maine potato growers held in Bangor this week, by Dr. N. T. Cook, plant pathologist of the New Jersey experimental station. Dr. Cook bluntly told the Maine men that he was not there to compliment them on their great potato growing industry, but to tell them something about the diseased potatoes they ship to New Jersey. The latter state has gone into potato growing within the last few years, and Dr. Cook estimates that from thirty to fifty per cent of the loss each year is due to diseased seed. Last spring there were more complaints about Maine potatoes than ever before.

"The first complaints," said Dr. Cook, "were concerning a peculiar bacterial rotting. The complaints were made because of the large number of rotten tubers, which were mushy and had become smeared over the sound tubers."

ready some of the New Jersey growers who had previously bought their seed in Maine are ordering from New York state. In conclusion he said:—

"Is it not time for some concerted action for the improvement of our seed potatoes? Cannot something be done which will guarantee seed potatoes reasonably free from disease? It is very evident that inspection of seed at the time of shipment will not eliminate all of the diseases. But cannot something be done in Maine and other northern states which grow potatoes for seed, by which the purity and freedom from disease will be more certain than at present? Plans for such a movement are under consideration and I suppose they will be taken up by other speakers at this meeting and therefore I will not discuss them at this time. However, I am convinced that such a movement will result in an improvement of the industry in the states to the south and will thereby increase your market for seed potatoes."

The cancellation of the suburban train shows that St. John and Kings county need more vigorous representation at Ottawa.

A report from Ottawa says there appears to be a deficit this year of about thirteen million dollars. If this should prove correct, it will also prove that the country is saddled with a spendthrift government.

If the assurance that is now given that the work on the new wharves will be rushed to completion this year should prove to be well founded, it will mean great activity on the west side and the employment of large numbers of men.

If the charges made by Messrs. Nichols and Macnab against the members of the Quebec legislature are proven, there will be some vigorous housecleaning at the Quebec capital. Sir Lomer Gouin is affording every facility to bring out the evidence.

Hon. Frank Cochrane says the Intercolonial Railway should be run as other railways are run. Would any other railway make such an agreement as that made by Mr. Gutelius with the C. P. R., to haul freight at minimum rates between St. John and Halifax?

The bishop of London has proved that the militant suffragettes have been making false statements regarding the treatment of some of their comrades who are in prison. The suffragette movement has spent its force and will be hereafter a waning influence.

The government of South Africa has not only deported some of the leaders in the recent great strike, but vigorously defends its course in parliament, where the labor members are endeavoring to make political capital out of the incident. The struggle there is watched with deep interest in other countries.

The opposition made an effort in parliament yesterday to get from Mr. Hazen some information about the Borden naval policy. Of course Mr. Hazen was unable to supply the information. He could not even say what the government's attitude would be toward the Levesque bill for the repeal of the naval service act.

A good many citizens appear to have a wrong impression about the effect of the proposed new paving law. What it proposes is that the man who receives the most benefit by an increase in the value of his property fronting on a well paved street shall pay a larger proportion of the cost than the citizen whose benefit is very much less.

It is an interesting fact that those political gladiators of Ontario, Sir George Ross and Sir James Whitney, who fought each other so vigorously for many years, are now patients in the same hospital. We can readily imagine that each of them from day to day will be as glad to learn of the other's improvement in health as if there had never been a political disagreement between them.

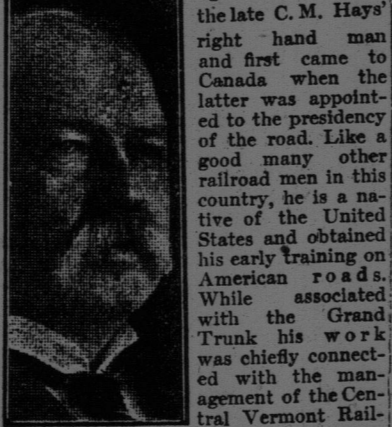
The Labor Legislation Association says that unemployment in Canada and the United States at present is extremely acute, and it proposes to ask the governments of both countries to take action to relieve the situation. The unemployed in Toronto have already suggested to Mr. Borden that a portion of that thirty-five million dollars, which he had set apart to assist British shipbuilding companies, should be utilized to provide work for men in Canada.

While grave citizens sit in cushioned pews or other comfortable seats and listen to solemn addresses on the evils that threaten our social life, and perhaps flatter themselves that they are contributing something to the sum of human welfare, the boys and girls are running about the streets forming their own opinions about these grave citizens, and also forming habits for which the influences of the street are peculiarly adapted. If each of the grave citizens would interest himself or herself in some one boy or girl, or group of boys and girls, the effect would be much more noticeable than any amount of fervid oratory or profound discussion.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31. This is the fifty-ninth birthday of the Hon. George E. Faulkner, of Halifax, former speaker of the Nova Scotia legislature and now a member of the government without portfolio. A man of great tenacity of purpose and thoroughgoing courage in standing by his convictions, his strength was never better illustrated than when the agitation for the municipalization of the Halifax Electric Tramway was at its height. The Tramway Company applied for power to increase their capital and Mr. Faulkner introduced a bill for that purpose. He was at once hailed as a traitor to his constituents. A public meeting was called by the mayor to condemn the action of the government. Instead of staying away as a less courageous man might have done, Mr. Faulkner appeared on the scene and took a seat on the platform. He was afforded an opportunity to dictate himself, doing it so effectively that he was given an ovation and the mountain which had been reared out of a molehill, was completely dissolved.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1. E. H. Fitzhugh, former vice-president of the Grand Trunk Railway system, is sixty-one years of age today. He was the late C. M. Hays' right hand man and first came to Canada when the latter was appointed to the presidency of the road. Like a good many other railroad men in this country, he is a native of the United States and obtained his early training on American roads.



While associated with the Grand Trunk his work was chiefly connected with the management of the Central Vermont road, the New England subsidiary line of the Canadian system, and he it was that led in the fight against the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway for entrance into Providence.

LIGHTER VEIN

No Time For It.

Timekeeper (arranging starts for golf tournament)—"Name, please." Golfer—"M. de Valmont." Timekeeper—"But, mon, we canna bother ourselves w' names like that here. Yell start at nine-thirty the mornin' to the name o' McPherson."—The Sketch.

Feminine Prerogative

Husband (shaving)—"Bother the razor!" Wife—"What's the matter now? You're dreadfully ill tempered." Husband—"The razor is abominably dull!" Wife—"Dull? Why, I ripped up an old skirt with it yesterday and it cut beautifully."

All That's Expected

When we pick up the telephone receiver and find that a woman desires to talk to us we know that "uh-huh" is about all we shall be expected to say.—Toledo "Blade."

His Didn't Stick

"Rober," asked the teacher, "did you throw any of those paper wads sticking on the blackboard?" "No," replied Robert. "Mine didn't stick."—"Judge."

After the Engagement

Mother—"I suppose, dear, that Jack will be coming round to see me." Daughter—"Oh, that's all right. He said he had seen you and he wanted to marry me just the same.—Exchange."

Hard Luck

"Wasn't Jack a suitor for Miss Richleigh's hand?" "Yes, but he didn't." "Didn't what?" "Suit her."

The Fisherman at Home

Dear father took a fishing trip. He has rheumatic pain And various symptoms of the grip, He never once complains, For life at present seems to hold All joy that he could wish, He doesn't mind a little cold, He nearly caught a fish.

He tells about his bill we stand

And stare with wandering eyes, It nearly chewed off father's hand, So fearful was its bite. It winked at him and tried to sing And waded a fin in play, It did a horripole and a fling, And then it swam away.

In museums I have stood around

And viewed the monsters o'er, Which in the ages past were found Displaying near the shore. These curious creatures are for me, With scant importance fraught; But oh the fish I long to see, That father nearly caught.

The February Maid Should Wear The AMETHYST

This beautiful stone has the advantage of being moderate in price and always brings untold fortune to its wearer. So the ancients say.

We have prepared for the February demand most lavishly.

SINGLE STONES and HOOPS, ALSO COMBINATIONS

Allan Gundry 79 King Street Diamond Importer and Jeweler

I. C. SPECIAL SHORT LINK CRANE CHAIN. This is an extra high grade chain at a slight advance in price over ordinary chain. SIZES CARRIED IN STOCK:—3-16 to 1 1/4 inch. We also carry best quality American Close Link Coil Chain, proved—sizes 1-4 to 1 1/4 inch, and a complete stock of Electric Welded Chain. T.M. AVITY & SONS, LTD.

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Blue and White Enamel Ware. We have just received a consignment of Austria Elite Ware, White lined. This Enamel Ware is of the finest quality triple coated. We have it in Pots and Pans, Tea Pots, Stew Pans etc., and can supply your wants to satisfaction. We are in a position to fit out your entire kitchen. We sell the FAWCETT line of stoves. They can't be beat. R. H. IRWIN, 18 - 20 Haymarket Square Phone 1614

NATURAL WOLF. This is going to be the thing for next season; very stylish looking and has the wear. We have just two sets of it left. Sale Price, \$45.00. This is the last week of these big reductions. F. S. THOMAS, 539 and 545 Main Street

COAL CONSUMERS' COAL CO., LIMITED. Full measure of heat, no clinkers and very little ash. High-grade coal and perfectly clean is the kind we sell. 331 Charlotte Street Phone Main 2670

"MASTER MASON" An Excellent Tobacco. Cut from our original "American Navy" plug. Equally good as a smoke or as a chew. Made from the finest American leaf tobacco. SOLD BY ALL DEALERS. Manufactured by ROCK CITY TOBACCO CO., QUEBEC.

Dried Apples. 3 pounds for 25 cents. JAS. COLLINS 120 UNION STREET, Opp. Opera House. APOLI & STEEL'S PILLS. Are the acknowledged leading remedy for all Female complaints. Recommended by the Medical Faculty. The genuine bear the signature of Wm. Martin (registered without which none are genuine). No lady should be without them. Sold by Chemists & Druggists. Martin, Phar. Chemist, Southampton, Eng.

Come in And Let Us Show You. Our Cottons, Longcloths, Prints, Lawns, Sheetings, Pillow Cottons, Muslins, Etc., a splendid variety of Ham-burg Trimmings, new stock, all widths, very cheap. A. B. WETMORE, 59 Garden Street

The Bread Most Folks Prefer BUTTERNUT. If you haven't tried Butternut Bread, you don't know what you've been missing. It has a flavor quite its own, and is delightfully appetizing. Butternut Bread contains all that is most healthful and nourishing in the strongest and best Canadian flour, its texture is light and even, and its crust soft and of a beautiful golden brown. You needn't hesitate to place Butternut Bread before your most critical guests. Ask Your Grocer For It

THIS IS THE WEATHER FOR HEAVY SOLED BOOTS. Come in and see our Men's Viscolized Sole and Cushion Sole Laced Boots at \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00, \$6.50 and \$7.00, Black or Tan. Open Saturday Nights until 10.30.

Francis & Vaughan 19 KING STREET. BARGAINS. Men's Heavy Undershirts, wool and fleece lined, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c each. (Boys' 20c and 25c). Women's Fleece Lined Vests and Drawers 22c. Wonderful Values. ARNOLD'S DEPARTMENT STORE 83-85 Charlotte Street

COAL and WOOD. Directory of the leading fuel Dealers in St. John. COAL. OLD MINES SYDNEY especially adapted for grates. SPRINGHILL ROUND a splendid range coal. RESERVE SCREENED gives excellent results for all household purposes. All sizes of BEST HARD COAL always in stock. R. P. & W. F. STAR, Ltd. 49 Mythe St. 226 Union St.

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DRY HARDWOOD \$2.25 per load, delivered. DRY SOFT-WOOD \$1.50 per load, delivered. SOFT COAL from \$3.50 per load, delivered, up.

Geo. Dick, 46 Britain St. Phone 1116

Assessors' Notice. The Board of Assessors of Taxes for the City of Saint John hereby require all persons liable to be rated for the year 1914 forthwith to furnish to the Assessors true statements of all their property, real estate, personal estate, and income, which is assessable under the "Saint John City Assessment Act, 1908," and hereby give notice that blank forms on which statements may be furnished can be obtained at the office of the Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath and filed in the office of the Assessors, within thirty days from the date of this notice. Dated this Fifth day of January, A. D. 1914.

Arthur W. Sharp, Chairman, Assessors of Taxes. Timothy T. Lantulum, John Ross. Extracts from "The Saint John City Assessment Act, 1908." "Sec. 82. The Assessors shall ascertain, as nearly as possible, the particulars of the real estate, the personal property, and the income of any person, who has not brought in a statement in accordance with their notice and as required by this law, and shall make an estimate thereof at the true value and amount, to the best of their information and belief; and such estimate shall be conclusive upon all persons who have not filed their statements in due time, unless they can show a reasonable excuse for the omission." "Sec. 48. No person shall have an abatement unless he has filed with the Assessors the statement under oath within the time required; nor shall the Common Council, in any such case, sustain an appeal from the judgment of the Assessors, unless they shall be satisfied that there was good cause why the statement was not filed in due time as herein provided. 8440-2-6

FIRE INSURANCE. Absolute security for the least money. E. L. JARVIS General Agent for Maritime Provinces Agents Wanted