

The Evening Times and Star

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HOLDING UP THE MIRROR.

The New Brunswick Power Company is sorely vexed. The offenders are the people of St. John. They are "pig-headed." They are "mushy." They "will not listen to common sense." They "go ahead blindfolded to almost certain destruction" and "foolishly laugh at ruin." A very earnest mouthpiece of the Power Company has, in the words quoted, made public its estimate of the people of this City.

There is, however, it is comforting to observe, a ray of hope. We may change our minds about competing against the Power Company and leave it in full possession of the field, in which case the appropriate terms would be withdrawn. We might be boneheads, or saps, or fatheads—but we would not be "pigheads" any more. The Musquash current and the whole Power franchise would be "hogged," but not by us.

Expressed in other terms there is another way in which the citizens would be regarded by the Power Company as showing some faint evidence of "common sense." A steam stand-by would do the trick. This luxury is not needed in Ontario, but the New Brunswick Power Company is not in Ontario—and it has a steam stand-by—and if the City would buy it, along with all the other plant of the Company, at the Company's price, the charge that we are going "blindfolded to destruction" would of course be withdrawn.

One other course, very easy and simple, is suggested by the Company to the City as a means of grace. If a committee of leading taxpayers would sit down with the Power Company and make a "satisfactory settlement" there would be an end of "nonsensical expenditure." The people, it appears, have done something, or are doing something, or propose to do something "foolish and blind," and only a committee, on which the Power Company would be represented, and which would make a "satisfactory settlement—satisfactory to the Power Company—could possibly save the situation. This is very easy and simple. The people have been indicted three times at the police and they indicted to do, and they are doing it—hand over their arms and ammunition to the Power Company the latter will give them gas and put them out of their misery. For the Power Company, we are informed, could deliver gas at \$1.65 instead of \$2.50, if it could lay its hands on Musquash.

Really it is wonderful what the Company could do in the matter of price reductions if it could get that worthless Musquash power. But, if it does not get it, "improvements are out of the question." Hence we are exhorted to drop "a foolish whim," and "personal feelings and hatred," and "personal animosity," and let the Company pour its beneficence upon us.

It is to be feared, however, that the pig-headed, mulish, foolish, ignorant, prejudiced and whim-chasing people will not consent either to be bludgeoned or gassed. They may even, in their foolish way, resent the description of themselves in the terms the Times has quoted. Even the three Commissioners who are described as against a second distribution system but "prefer to sacrifice the City rather than to imperil their own jobs" may have something to say.

After all, if the Musquash current is able to reduce the price of electricity and gas, give an improved street railway service, and do other works of magic hitherto unknown in these parts, it might be a very good thing for the City to hold on to it, as a servant that will never grow old, or weak, or incompetent, or "mushy," or "pig-headed," as long as rain falls and water flows.

THE FARMER'S PROBLEM.

It has been found in New Brunswick, in the matter of potato raising, that specialized farming does not pay. The same result has come about in Ontario in dairying and also in specializing on live stock. This was made clear in Ottawa last week when Prof. Letch of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph and Prof. Barton of Macdonald College were before the special committee on agricultural conditions. There was a very general and illuminating discussion. Prof. Letch submitted the results of a survey made in 1921 of seventeen farms in Dufferin County, Ontario, engaged exclusively in live stock raising, and of seventeen in Oxford County, exclusively engaged in dairying. In each case there was an average loss on each farm, which in his opinion would not have occurred if there had been less specialization. With regard to dairying he said "enquiries showed that the farmer whose revenue was two-thirds from dairy products and one-third from other sources had a profit of \$500 a year more than the farmer who specialized highly in dairying." Prof. Barton also expressed the view that farming in Ontario and Quebec was not sufficiently mixed. "Too many farms," he said, "were no longer self-sustaining, as men had gone

into dairying to the exclusion of everything else, and did not even produce their own vegetables and eggs." Prof. Letch rapped the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario on the poor quality of their butter and some of their cheese. Australia, he said, made better butter than either of them, and New Zealand cheese is a serious competitor in the British market. He also declared that agriculture was today our least profitable industry, and farmers work longer hours for less remuneration. While they could improve their condition by better farming and more mixed farming, and better breeding and feeding of live stock, there was the great handicap of high freight rates, which was one of their biggest burdens. To meet the situation as it exists today the farmer, Prof. Letch declared, must reduce his standard of living and increase production, and he should be relieved of at least a portion of the present burden of freight charges.

Under such conditions as exist in the farming industry all over the country it is perhaps not unnatural that the agriculturalist should consider the political aspect of the case, and lose some of their regard for old party shibboleths. Politics, however, will not solve their problem without the aid of science in farming methods.

THE WATER POWERS.

New York State has entered a suit to annul the federal water power act. Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania has written to the Governor of New York urging that the latter state withdraw the suit and calling attention to a giant power plan which he outlined recently and which would care for the power needs of the entire northeastern portion of the United States. Governor Pinchot wrote:

"After eighteen years of study and work upon this problem, I have come confidently to expect the growth of a nation-wide interlocking power system. No small part of this future power development, especially water power development, will, I believe, be made by state and municipal enterprise—some perhaps by national or even international undertakings. The federal water power law gives preference to states and municipalities which may desire to construct or take over and operate water power projects and relieve them from all rental if they deliver power to consumers at cost, which I understand to be the purpose of your plan. Thus proceeding under the federal water power act and by accepting the preference it gives to state enterprise over private enterprise, New York can initiate the new policy under the most favorable circumstances and without the delay inseparable from litigation and can do so without jeopardizing the interests of other states."

All over the continent the battle is on between power at cost and power at a fat profit to private corporations. Governor Pinchot sees that the advantage to the people is along lines of public development of water powers. He would heartily endorse what the Province of New Brunswick has done, and would be still more enthusiastic over a provincial development with Grand Falls as the key to the situation.

A mouthpiece of the Power Company has discovered that business in St. John is not flourishing; that profits have dwindled; that there is little prospect of improvement; and that therefore the City should hand over the Musquash current or issue enough bonds to buy out the Company at the Company's price. Where, oh, where is the Sunshine Club? This gloom must be dispelled.

CURIO FOR FLOWER SHOW.

"Resurrection Flower" From Egypt Tomb To Be Exhibited.

From the tomb of an Egyptian high-priest to the big Flower Show which opens at the Grand Central Palace, New York, on Monday, is the history of the Resurrection Flower which will be one of the curiosities shown there, a dried, dead flower, which comes to life. It is a little bronze colored flower, about the size of a silver quarter. After immersion in water, its petals open and it changes from a dried weed to a living blossom.

It was given to Dr. L. Decker, a New Yorker, who was on an expedition to locate lost mines in Upper Egypt, in 1848, by an Arab to whom he had rendered professional services. It was the Arab's story that the flower had come from the tomb of the high-priest. The history of the flower and its study by naturalists in this country is given in an account of Dr. Decker's treasure in Harper's Magazine in April, 1856. Photographed copies of the pages of the magazine, and its cover will be shown with the flower. The flower was bequeathed by Dr. Decker to the late Dr. C. J. Eames.

When Dr. Decker returned with his "Resurrection Flower," it was examined by Prof. Torrey, celebrated botanist, who said that the flower seemed reached America, but that he himself possessed one.

WHAT'S WHAT

By Helen Deale



It is bad form to settle a financial transaction between friends by handing over the money in public, as the woman illustrated is doing, without inclosing the bills in an envelope or other covering. In this case, the other woman had purchased matinee tickets for both by request, and it was perfectly proper that one-half the expenditure should be returned to her. But it could have been done privately, either by mailing a check for the amount due or by enclosing the money before returning it.

Some ultra-particular people never hand over uncovered money, even wages to household help. It is put into an envelope, as is done in business houses, and, most certainly, the domestic workers appreciate this delicate touch. Said one: "You can tell she's a lady—she never hands out pay as if 'twas a painful operation. She just leaves it on the table in a waddy envelope, and says, 'off-hand like, 'This is yours, Maggie.'"

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TO HIM WHO PLANTS A TREE.

(Author Unknown)

Perhaps our God has somewhere made a thing
More beautiful to see
Than a majestic tree
But if He has, I think it grows
Where whiter souls than ours do sing.
Who plant a tree, he is akin to God,
In this impatient age.

Where quick returns engage
The fevered service of the crowd,
In reverent wisdom he is bowed.
The blessed man that plants a long
lived tree
That shall grow nobly on
When is dead and gone,
He seems to me to love his kind
With true sincerity of mind.
He seems to love his fellow yet to be
Above his grave the suns shall flush
and fade.

The seasons come and go
And shadows shall drift and blow;
But sun and rain that from his tomb
Efface his name, renew the bloom
And glory of the monument he made.

LIGHTER VEIN.

A wife is a person who thinks she wouldn't be a nervous if you were not there to criticize her driving.

Rarely Does It, Anyway.

When the average man reads the newspaper he has scattered, he thinks he's a great help about the house—Rochester Times Union.

How He Was "Done."

Old Skinfitt—Here, boy, what's this you were shooting? "Great shooting, I tell you. I can see nothing about it in the paper."
Sharp Sam—That's the swindle. You are the sixty-first.

One Way of Breaking the News.

Mary (age six)—"Mummie, I know what I'm going to give you for your birthday. A nice fruit dish."
Mother—"But I have one, dear."
Yes, I know, but I've just broken it."

In Excellent Repair.

"Well, well, if it isn't you, Mrs. Hennessy! And how have you been all this time?"
Mrs. Hennessy—Sure, I'm like the average—seldom sick and never well!"—Life.

Worse.

"How's your wife, Blinks?" asked Jinks.
"Her head troubles her a good deal," confessed Blinks.
"Neuralgia?" queried Jinks.
"No," answered Blinks sadly. "She wants a new hat."

Resourceful.

"He's perfectly quiet," remarked the man to the two girls who were hiring a pony and trap. "Only you must take care to keep the rein off his tail."

"We won't forget," they said. When they returned he asked them how they had got on.

"Splendidly!" they exclaimed. "We had one sharp shower, but we took it in turn to hold the umbrella over the horse's tail, so there was no real danger."

COMMENDS LEAGUE'S RECORD FOR THREE YEARS WORK

What the League of Nations has accomplished in its three years of service is told by Sarah Wambaugh, a former member of the Secretariat and expert adviser to the Secretary-General of the League on the Saar and Danzig questions, in an article called "Where the League Keeps Peace" in the March issue of "Our World."

The peaceful settlement of the Aaland Islands dispute, which was bringing Sweden and Finland to the brink of war the building of a foundation for agreement between Poland and Lithuania and the ownership of Vilna, the wind-up of the cut in Upper Silesia, which was threatening disaster between Germany and Poland, the arrangement for the plebiscite in the Saar Basin, to decide whether the inhabitants are to become French, return to Germany or remain under the League, are accomplishments of which the organization can be proud, Miss Wambaugh maintains.

She says:

"On January tenth the League completed its first three years of service. The problems which have faced it have been such problems as the world has struggled for centuries to solve. The approach has been new. The methods of foreign offices could be adapted only with extreme caution. The new methods must be international. The Council, the Assembly, the Secretariat, all have been pioneers making paths in the wilderness."

"Today those paths are made. The question now is not 'Will the League know what to do in this matter?' but 'Will the League be allowed by the Powers to deal with the question?'"

SAYS CHURCHES ARE ALL BEHIND LEAGUE

The entire church forces of the United States would rally to a government proposal based on the principles of the League of Nations, declares Charles S. Macfarland, General Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

In an article in the March issue of "Our World," the Reverend Macfarland writes:

"To blame the churches because they have not stopped war is nothing more nor less than to blame them because they have not extinguished sin from the world and is but another way of asserting the obvious truth that the principles of Christianity have not yet gained control over the social, political or economic order throughout the world."

"The churches have, for at least the last half-century, taken a clear position of opposition to aggressive war and more recently have expressed the faith that war itself can be outlawed, and in this progress it is interesting to note that the churches of America have exercised a real leadership. At first their action was largely negative, but when they began to think and act together through the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America their attitude immediately became positive and constructive."

"Indeed, so far as I have been able to discover, the proposal of a League of Nations made by any representative body of our people was first made at the Inter-Church Conference in New York in 1905, where the first steps were taken for the organization of the Federal Council, and came through the lips of Chief Justice David Brewer. The first organized body in the world, representing the church bodies in this country, was probably the Commission on Peace and Arbitration (now the Commission on International Justice and Good Will), of the Federal Council, formed in 1912. The significance of this step was that it marked the transition from mere negative protests against the wrongs of war to constructive proposals of substitutes for war as a means of settling international disputes. When the churchmen began to do corporate thinking on this subject, it became clear at a glance that the fundamental moral principles involved needed to find expression in political institutions. The League of Nations, therefore, was the natural outcome of this step."

LEAGUE OR NEW WAR, PREDICTS JUSTICE CLARKE

Another war in inevitable unless the United States helps to place, international affairs under better control, Justice Clark predicts.

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LABOR DEMANDS MAY PUT A STOP TO BOOM

We have heard much the last few weeks about the coming building boom in this city. Just now, however, the tide is turning toward the materialization of this boom; we are marking time while the parties who have in their hands the negotiation of the terms upon which a great amount of new construction shall be made strive to reach an understanding sufficiently definite for them to affix their signatures to the necessary documents. There remain about eighteen days for them to negotiate an agreement; the present one expires on April 1. The demand is based upon an alleged increase in the cost of living.

The employers declare they will not pay this increase. They affirm that the public, the people at large who in the final analysis must meet all such increments of cost, ought not to be required to pay it. They refer to the "peak" summer our building unions were at work in Boston at \$1 an hour, and under an agreement proposed by the unions, which would have been a very large part of the new construction now in prospect will not be erected. In confirmation of this claim they are informed by certain architects that their customers notify them of intention to cancel if costs of building go so high.

The building in prospect falls within two general classes—a huge amount of industrial and other large construction aggregating in value perhaps \$100,000,000, and a smaller amount of other building, a considerable part of it apartment houses, reaching a total perhaps of \$15,000,000. This latter is usually referred to as speculative building; the owners are comparatively indifferent to the amount of their labor costs, and then grade the rentals accordingly. Thus the tenants refund the outlay of the owners, and hence with women upon the soaring costs of places to live. It is the other class of construction in which the cancellations will occur. In the larger number, that is, \$10,000,000, it is emphatically predicted, will shrivel to a relatively small sum if labor costs go higher.

It is for the public to say which side in the present deadlock is right. Public sentiment may have much to do with the outcome.

WHISKEY IN IRELAND.

(Toronto Globe.)

A correspondent of The London Spectator writes that many years ago Mr. Alexander Guthrie, one of the sons of the great Dr. Guthrie, and that if whiskey could be taken out of Ireland all questions and troubles would be speedily settled. At the time he subjected the statement to a certain discount, "such as some of us have been accustomed to apply to statements coming from our teetotal friends." Subsequently, however, that he read, and in particular a lecture by Dr. Coffey, Professor of Logic in the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, called "The Entry Within the Camp," showed that there was far more substance in Mr. Guthrie's statement than he had supposed. This opinion was strongly confirmed by what he saw in Ireland in 1913, and he has become a subscriber to several Irish temperance societies.

The situation is appalling. In Scotland we have between 5,000 and 6,000 public-house licenses, and in Ireland, with a smaller population, there are 17,000 licenses, and in addition untold oceans of "pots." The Editor of The Spectator adds: "We are inclined to agree with our correspondent and should like to return for the subject, though we fear that our Radical critics may ask us by what right we are interfering with the right of self-determination given to Great Britain and Ireland."

NOVA SCOTIA APPLES GREAT ENTHUSIASM

A grower, writing in an English fruit trade paper, describes his inspection of the shipment of the Nova Scotia apples as they arrived for the London market and has some very complimentary things to say of them. After a tour of the warehouse in which the apples were stored, he describes the inspection proceeding:

"There was a sample of Cox's Orange Pippin which might have been taken straight to the Imperial Fruit Show and put into competition with the best that was exhibited there. Another barrel opened for my inspection was the apples, and a third and a fourth—the apples all evenly packed layers and, so far as I could see, not a fruit damaged. The opening of another barrel revealed weathly showing up brilliantly red, in spite of the gloom of the warehouse, just as sound as the Cox's, just as even, and though there was nothing in the barrels except the apples, it did not appear as if a single specimen had moved from the place where it was packed. I could see, not a fruit damaged. The opening of another barrel revealed weathly showing up brilliantly red, in spite of the gloom of the warehouse, just as sound as the Cox's, just as even, and though there was nothing in the barrels except the apples, it did not appear as if a single specimen had moved from the place where it was packed. 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