

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1922

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A WORD OF WARNING

Mayor Schofield has not made any public announcement since the Imperial speech in which he was advertised to tell all the facts about hydro. On that occasion he could see no money in sight for civic distribution of hydro, and submitted an estimate of \$3,227,000 as the minimum cost to the city if it took over the power company's plant and went in for municipal ownership. His worship therefore opposed municipal ownership of the plant or civic distribution of hydro, and advocated the policy of handing the current over to the power company for two years.

All we have heard from the mayor since he made that speech was a brief interview with the Globe, and his worship has neither denied nor affirmed its accuracy. In that interview he is reported to have declared for control of the power company, which means taking over the whole plant. Does that mean that he favors expending \$3,227,000, as estimated in his Imperial speech? If he does then the city would be in a worse position with municipal ownership than the power company is now, and there could never be any hope of lower rates for electric light, power, gas or street car fares.

Do those persons who are now shouting for municipal ownership, because the mayor is represented as having changed his mind, realize that his policy means taking over the whole power company plant at an inflated valuation and saddling the city with a heavier financial load than the power company now carries? The company has to keep up the cost to the consumer of light and power in order to pay the deficit on street railway and gas. Aside from the \$2,000,000 of common stock its capital is \$3,100,000. The city, according to the mayor's Imperial speech, would have to incur an expense of \$3,227,000 or more. Is that safe and sane business?

The citizens must not permit themselves to be argued or wheedled or frightened into a course of action that would fatten the New Brunswick Power Company at their expense. The citizens are not in the market to buy a street railway or gas plant. They are buying hydro, and they want it distributed at cost. Any proposed deal to take over the whole plant of the power company is put forward in the interests of the power company and not of the city. The issue in the final elections is the same as in the preliminary, and any attempt to dodge it or to introduce new proposals is not in the interests of the people. Civic distribution of hydro is the issue, and not the taking over of the New Brunswick Power Company's whole plant at a price that would burden the city with heavy charges and rob the people of the benefits of the Musquash development. Unless the voters play safe next Monday they will lose that benefit, and have the New Brunswick Power Company's whole plant unloaded on them at an inflated valuation.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

The consensus of opinion as expressed by commercial organizations and trade papers is that business conditions in Canada show some improvement. No rapid growth is to be expected, but the turn for the better has been made. Conditions in New Brunswick have never been as unfavorable as in most other provinces. The bank clearings and other indications have been of an encouraging character. Until the lumber trade revives we cannot anticipate marked activity in business generally, but a fairly steady demand for merchandise may be expected. The outlook for farming operations seems to suggest an early cropping season. Reports that come from various towns in the province indicate more activity than last year in building operations, and the like is probably true of St. John and its suburbs. We are all interested in western prospects, and a recent despatch from Winnipeg says—

"Depending as it does, on crop conditions the west is optimistic on preliminary reports. Moisture conditions over all three provinces is perhaps the best for ten years, although there are some points in southern Manitoba and all of Alberta which would be better for further precipitation. All three provinces show large increases in fallowed and ploughed land. West coast reports from manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers are all encouraging and good spring and summer business is looked for."

The Ontario government called upon the legislature to entrust the enquiry into hydro affairs to a royal commission instead of a committee of the house, and was able to carry its point. Referring to "experts" on the commission, the Toronto Globe enquires—"What assurance is there that so-called experts will have no prepossessions, and will be more open-minded than members of the legislature?" This is a very proper question. The engineering expert with a "prepossession" is no stranger, and more often than not he is prepossessed in favor of corporation rather than public control of utilities.

COLLEGE AND FARM.

In Ontario some doubt is expressed as to the real value of the provincial agricultural college. The college "was founded, and has been maintained at very considerable expense by the people of Ontario, to provide scientific education for agriculturists and for persons looking forward to the teaching of improved methods of agriculture and horticulture." The term has been lengthened so that a student may take a full course and receive the degree of bachelor of the science of agriculture. It occurred to one of the students recently to enquire of the professors recently to enquire the result as follows—

"Professor H. H. Lo Drew asked the members of the graduating class of 1922 to say what their plans were, and, if they did not intend to go back to the land, to tell why they had come to that decision. Seventy-three students replied. Only fifteen have definitely decided to return to the farm, and three others have not made up their minds what to do. All the rest will seek some occupation other than farming. Half of them are prevented from becoming farmers by lack of capital or because they see no possibility of earning sufficient revenue from the necessary investment of capital and expenditure of labor. In other words, they do not consider it possible to make farming pay under present conditions, even when scientific methods are adopted. The remainder frankly stated that they want better living conditions than they can secure by returning to the farm. Objections were made to long hours, monotony, lack of intellectual and social intercourse and excessively hard labor."

The Globe naturally wonders "how the graduates who hold these views as to what farm life involves can hope to become successful teachers of agriculture and instill in others the desire to follow an occupation from which they themselves turn away?" and it regards the answers given as proof that short courses rather than the longer graduate course should be encouraged. Undoubtedly it is right in the contention that "Outside short-course men yearly coming from and going back to the farm than seventy bachelors of science most of whom will never take part in the workaday life of the farms of the province."

The problem of making farm life more attractive and more profitable can only be solved by the aid of education and the application of scientific principles, and the knowledge should be given to the young man on the farm, who is content with farm life, rather than one who has other aims. Short courses have proved of very great advantage to many young farmers in New Brunswick, and the fruits of their study, as shown on the farm, have stimulated other farmers to improve their methods. The farmer who is content to follow the methods of his grandfather is out of the race.

FARMERS AND POLITICS.

President Burnell of the United Farmers of Manitoba told the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association in Winnipeg last week that the farmers had been driven into politics by economic pressure and were not fundamentally a political organization. They desired to improve conditions for people on the land, and while they expected to elect a majority of the new legislature, which he considered necessary to stable government, they were quite willing to co-operate with city members who had the same desire.

"I would like," he said, "to see a conference of the business interests in the west with the farmers. We could get further by conference than by fighting between the various interests." President Burnell here makes a wise suggestion. Legislation which would injure the farmer is not good for the business man, nor is that which injures the business man good for the farmer. There must be a common ground, and it is more likely to be reached by friendly conference than by political controversy. It appears to be generally accepted that the farmers will control the new legislature of Manitoba.

Chicago Tribune:—Coal is power. Water power, where available, will do as well as coal. It has been widely developed in this country but can be much more widely developed. There could be no better argument in favor of such development than this coal strike. The coal producers have failed. Let the hydro-electric power producers supplant them as far as possible.

The action of Germany in concluding a separate treaty with Russia while the Genoa conference was as yet in its preliminary stages, was a characteristically German performance. While Mr. Lloyd George is still optimistic the French and Italians regard the situation with deep concern. The smaller group of nations lying between Germany and Russia will undoubtedly scrutinize this treaty with a jealous eye.

RICHES.

My Lord sits in his castle hall,
A stately home beside the sea;
My humble cot is rude and small,
But all the stars belong to me.

My Lord sits in an ancient chair,
A feudal king upon his throne;
But Nature's pure and fragrant air,
The sunshine and the birds I own.

His Lordship's storms are golden showers,
The profits from a score of mills;
But I have endless leagues of flowers,
And mine the everlasting hills.

My Lord has many farms to rent,
Is rich in money, gems and wine;
But I am rich in sweet content,
And all the sunset gold is mine.

HOPE A. THOMSON.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Expensive Game.

"Did your wife belong to that whist club where the members had to pay a fine of a cent for every word spoken?"

"She did, but I made her resign. I couldn't afford it."

A CLUE.

A little boy startled his mother by saying: "Mammy, is there hair oil in this bottle?"

"Mercy no, dear!" she exclaimed, "that's gum."

"Oh!" said the child. Then, after a short silence, he asked: "Why can't I get my hat off, mammy?"

Possible.

"Do you think you could care for a chap like me?"

"Oh, yes, I think so—if he wasn't too much like you."

Light Stuff.

A woman advertised for a servant to do light house work.

She received a letter from a girl who said she would like the position, for she thought the sea air would do her good, but she wanted to know where the light-house was situated.

Swindled.

Sandy McNab took a fifty penny ticket in a raffle for a pony and trap. He won it.

Was he pleased at his good fortune? Not a bit.

When the pony and trap were brought to him he surveyed them gloomily. "I tell ye," he said, "the whole thing was a swindle."

"What's the matter?" asked his friends. "Where's the whip?" demanded Sandy.

LOCAL NEWS.

K. P. MEETING POSTPONED. Union Lodge, Knights of Pythias, will hold fortnightly convention Thursday, April 20, instead of Wednesday, 19th, owing to Sisterhood anniversary celebration Wednesday.

EXCHANGE DATE ROTARIAN TICKETS. Tickets for the Rotarian minstrel to be heard in the Imperial Theatre Wednesday and Thursday, April 26, 27, may be exchanged for reserve seat tickets at the theatre box office starting Monday, 24th, at 10 a.m.

Dancing, Orange Hall, Simonds street, Wednesday night, April 19. 25506-4-20

ANNIVERSARY. Pythian Sisters, Loyalist Temple, No. 13, will hold their anniversary Wednesday evening, April 19, eight o'clock, at Pythian Castle. All Pythian Sisters and their escorts invited. 25508-4-20

MAY HAVE A STIFF FIGHT. Strenuous Opposition Expected to Capitalizing of Ontario Motor Fees for Road Purposes.

Toronto, April 18.—It is stated that the Conservative group in the legislature will offer strong opposition to the proposal of Hon. F. C. Biggs, minister of public works to capitalize motor license fees for the next ten years in order to provide a fund for the carrying out of his highways scheme. Some Liberals and Farmer members are also reported to be opposed to this method of financing road building and it is predicted that the minister will have a fight on his hands in getting his bill through.

UNKNOWN GIRL FOUND SLAIN ON MOUNTAIN. Nude Body, With Skull Crushed, Had Been Lying for Months Near Stony Point, N. Y.

Stony Point, N. Y., April 18.—The nude body of a woman, apparently about 10 years old, with the skull crushed in, was found in an isolated spot in the mountains one-half mile from here. Concomitant with the discovery of the woman had been dead at least nine months. None of the clothing was found. The top of the skull had been crushed in, and the time the body had lain in the open, no other evidence of violence could be found.

Several knife slashes in trees surrounding the spot led the authorities to think the place had been marked by those responsible for the girl's death.

FLAPPER'S COSMETICS ALARMING PHYSICIANS. Dr. Love Fears for What Modern Girl Will Look Like at 40.

The "flapper" of today may have to adopt the Asiatic veil twenty years hence if she does not want to be described as "frightful, fat and forty," Dr. William L. Love of Brooklyn, a member of the Homeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York in an address on skin diseases before the society's seventieth annual meeting, declared that the growing generation cannot fail to view with alarm the increasing use of cosmetics by our young girls, not only of the genus "flapper" but others of supposedly good taste," said Dr. Love. "Many a girl has already ruined her complexion by these things. We tremble to think what many of the members of the growing generation will look like when they reach 40."

Dance of Death. London, April 18.—The victim, a young shorthand typist took part in a competition. She danced an Irish jig and then collapsed, dying almost immediately. At the inquest evidence was given that death was due to syncope, possibly caused by excitement and exertion. A verdict accordingly was returned.

TONIGHT'S MEETING AND THE ISSUE.

The hydro meeting in the Pythian Castle tonight is likely to be one of more than usual interest. At the commencement of the campaign for municipal ownership, there were two sides, one for and one against. Since the primaries there has been a remarkable change in the attitude of the opponents of municipal ownership and at the present time all candidates seem to favor it. The issue now appears to be, "Shall we buy by arbitration the whole plant of the Power Company, or shall we go ahead with our own distribution system?" Judging by the result of the primaries, it would appear that the citizens are anxious to take the Musquash power and go ahead distributing it independent of the Power Company, but men who a week ago were denouncing municipal ownership are now declaring themselves favorable to the purchase of the Power Company. It has been stated that the city could not finance a \$900,000 deal, but these same advocates seem to think a much larger deal could be handled now. Never in the history of St. John election campaigns has such a unique situation developed, and tonight's meeting will be of unusual interest.

HYDRO-McLELLAN WEST SIDE MEETING.

A public meeting will be held in the City Hall on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. Messrs. Phillips and McLellan will discuss Hydro and Civics. 25406-4-20

SCHOFIELD'S HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters have been established in the Furlong building, Charlotte street, for Mayor Schofield's campaign. Those interested in his re-election are invited to attend. Rooms open all day, and meetings will be held each evening this week.

BIG FIRE LOSS IN ONTARIO TOWN.

St. Jacobs, Ont., April 18.—Fire which occurred in St. Jacobs last night and which at one time threatened the greater part of the village, completely destroyed the large plant of the Snyder Flour Milling Co., the loss of which is not officially stated, but is estimated anywhere from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The loss at the flour milling plant includes 18,000 bushels of wheat and a large quantity of flour just ready for shipment.

VAGRANT HANGS SELF.

Toronto, April 18.—Thomas Church, aged 60, serving a sentence for vagrancy in the jail farm near Toronto, hanged himself with bed clothes attached to a bar above his cell door last evening. He had previously made an attempt to commit suicide.

SEIZE \$160,000 IN OPIUM.

Baltimore Customs Officers Arrest Ship Steward as Smuggler.

Baltimore, April 18.—What is said to be the largest amount of opium ever seized by customs house officials in Baltimore was taken from Samuel Au, steward of the steamer American Star, as he left the ship here. He had twenty-five pounds of the opiate valued at \$160,000, in his hands. He was arrested by a customs inspector.

Though Au refuses to state where he got the opium, customs officials believe he bought it in Theodosia, Russia, where the American Star discharged grain for the Russian famine relief.

OLD SONGS TRIED IN COURT.

"Ben Bolt" is Used Successfully in a Trial for Drunkenness.

San Francisco, April 18.—Old melodies will be tried out to dispel from his court what Police Judge Sylvio Lazarus termed "the customary air of resentment and hatred." He seeks a way to take the sting from "st and costs," and got his idea when a phonograph which a detective said was stolen, was brought into court and "Ben Bolt" was played during the trial of a drunken man.

The rab comes, Judge Lazarus said, in that some selections "might soften our hearts too much."

ELECTION CARDS.

SANDY CORBET'S PLATFORM.

Return to aldermanic ward system. The greatest argument for this system is to be found in the present chaotic conditions. The Commission is a failure, and the theory has been city fathers having one set of opinions one week and another set the next. What is to prevent another set of opinions to be formed shortly after election should some of these same city fathers be returned to office?

A ward system would prove a safeguard. Each ward alderman directly responsible to that ward—and no group of financiers could run the city to suit themselves. Any alderman who would live or die by his convictions would hardly take a chance and switch to live and change particularly after a defeat at the polls.

My platform has been published—and I stand for it square on it. The commission form of government may be likened to the first continental congress—with this difference: The commissioners don't seem to give a continental for the public.

ELECTION CARD.

Electorals of St. John. I regard the opinion as expressed by the citizens at the polls on the 10th inst. as decisive so far as it indicates the feelings of the electors in respect to the city acquiring and distributing the electrical energy from the Musquash development.

Holding this view, I am now prepared to vote for the city to take power from the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission and will support civic distribution of such energy in order to give the citizens light, heat and power at the lowest possible rates.

Like many other citizens, I presume, who have given serious consideration to this matter I have experienced much anxiety in my endeavors to find a solution of the difficulties which I encountered and which I had confidently hoped might be smoothed away when the engineers, who were employed to study and report, presented their findings. Unfortunately these reports were of so conflicting a character that I found it impossible to reach a conclusion sooner.

The citizens have spoken their minds in this matter, and as their servant and representative I am bound to respect their wishes and am ready to accept the results.

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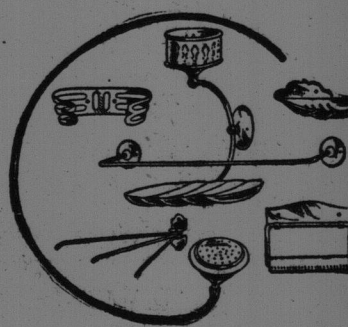
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GAS FOR UKRAINIAN RATS.

Soldiers Called to Exterminate Hordes Destroying Spring Sowings.

Moscow, April 18.—Officers and soldiers who served in the Russian army poison gas squads, are being pressed into service to exterminate great hordes of rats and field mice which are destroying the spring sowings in the fields of the Southern Ukraine, says a Kharkov dispatch.

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