

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1912

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THE CITIZENS' TICKET

There is one very important reason why the electors of St. John should vote for all of the candidates put forward by the Citizens' Committee. Why is there a Citizens' Committee? and why are these candidates in the field? Why should the citizens of St. John vote for an overwhelming majority for the commission plan of city government? Simply because they wanted a better system of government and a better city council. They wanted, a new deal at City Hall. If they had been content with the old conditions and with the city council as at present constituted, they would not have voted for a change.

Having declared their want of confidence in the old system, they now want the new one introduced by men who have had no connection with the old order of things. This is a plain and simple statement of the fact.

The argument that a man to be a good commissioner should have had some previous experience in civic administration is not sound. What St. John wants today is a group of men who have not had experience as members of the city council. In the city of Montreal the plan that to serve the best interests of the city a candidate for civic honors should have experience in municipal affairs is being urged in the interests of one of the most objectionable men who has sat at the council board in that city in recent years.

We might learn a lesson from the same city of Montreal. The old city council had mismanaged the city to such an extent that the citizens would endure it no longer, and they adopted what is called the Board of Control system. This system brought about a great change for the better, but it was not completely successful, because along with the board of control there was still a board of aldermen who clashed with the board of control and tried to prevent the carrying out of its policies. But the particular point to which the Times desires to call attention is the fact that no one of the members of the present Board of Control in Montreal had any experience at all in civic legislation before accepting office two years ago, and their record of administration has been very much better than that of the old city council. The great need of the time in St. John is a business administration. In order to secure it the citizens must choose men pledged to the adoption of business methods, and who are not in any way associated with the old business-like regime. This is not a matter in which purely personal considerations should influence the electors. They want better government. They should vote for the candidates of the Citizens' Committee and give them a clear field to introduce business methods at City Hall.

THE MENTALLY DEFICIENT

An effort is being made in Ontario to arouse public sentiment to such a pitch that the government will be compelled to establish institutions for the mentally deficient of the province. The initiative was taken this week in Toronto, at a meeting in the city hall at which Mayor Geary presided. The various speakers made it clear that the conditions are so serious that the efforts of private individuals to improve them must fail. There was no lack of terrible examples of conditions brought about by the present indifference of society towards those who are mentally deficient. Dr. Helen MacMurphy showed that a royal commission had reported that the percentage of feeble-minded was one in two hundred and seventeen in England, one in one hundred and seventy-five in Ireland, one in four hundred in Scotland, one in three hundred in America. She said that the proportion in Canada was at least one in every one thousand, and probably twice as great. The problem is one which affects the administration of schools, police, hospitals and the courts of justice. Dr. Conboy, chairman of the board of education, stated that the board was utterly unable with its present equipment to deal properly with the backward children in the schools, and he believed that at least 40 to 50 per cent of the pupils were feeble minded. Dr. Gilmour declared that from 10 to 15 per cent of the prison population were mentally deficient.

The meeting discussed the whole question at great length, and an executive committee was appointed to outline a programme of research, and to cooperate with the Canadian Club in bringing some of the leading authorities on this question from Massachusetts to deliver addresses. The matter will also be brought before the ministerial association, and a vigorous campaign is promised for the purpose, as already stated, of arousing such a public sentiment as will compel action.

The members of the unions connected with the various building trades in Ottawa are petitioning the city council to establish workmen's cottages in the city and its outskirts. They suggest that the city purchase land, erect cottages thereon, and rent these to working men at the rate of \$30 to \$40 per month.

Referring to the cultivation of alfalfa in Quebec province, an exchange says: "Macdonald College has been doing some good work in the last few years in introducing alfalfa as a fodder crop in Quebec. For five years it has given successful crops at the college and a number of more progressive farmers have started growing it. But a very small percentage of the Quebec farmers know any more about alfalfa than the mention of its name, and

in order that it might be more widely understood experiments will be carried on in the counties of Huntingdon, Bromes and L'Assomption this summer.

The feeling appears to grow more general in Fredericton that the Flemming government will make an early appeal to the people. The Liberal party will not be caught napping.

Everybody in Canada would be glad to see arrangements made for closer trade relations between Canada and the West Indies, but this will never compensate for the loss of a free market for Canadian products in the United States.

Each day brings forth one or more new candidates for commissionerships. The campaign though short will be very lively, and the full ticket nominated by the Citizens' Committee should win by a very large majority.

The British House of Commons has rejected the bill which would have enfranchised a million women. A similar bill received its second reading last year with a large majority in its favor. The conduct of the suffragettes has caused a marked revulsion of feeling in parliament and throughout the country.

The city of Toronto has secured the land and is equipping a prison farm. This farm is to be for the reformation of the non-criminal class, those who pass through the police courts but are not charged with crime. Rev. Wm. B. Findlay has been selected as governor of the new institution, and is said to be eminently qualified to perform the duties devolving upon him.

There appears to be almost a certainty of the cessation of work in the anthracite coal mines in the United States at the end of this week. Both operators and men appear to be firm in their attitude, and the men will probably not return to work on Monday next. Such a strike will have a very serious effect upon business in the United States. It will also affect the price of coal in Canada. In England, on the other hand, the situation appears to have improved, and a number of crews of miners have returned to work.

The Ontario report on the hospitals and charities of the province has something to say about the establishment of local sanitariums. It declares that "far from being a menace to the community the establishment of these local institutions will not only effect a score of more patients under their shelter, but one of their great missions will be to teach a proper mode of life to the community in general, and to the consumptive in particular." The citizens of St. John do not appear to have a right estimate of the value of a local sanitarium, or they would not suffer the shame of having it said that there is no institution ready to open its doors, even to an orphan, who may be the victim of tuberculosis.

Why is there so much reluctance at Ottawa as well as Fredericton to pass legislation which would ensure the construction of the Valley Railway from Andover to Grand Falls? The question came up at Ottawa yesterday, and the Liberal members from that province were unable to get from Mr. Hazen and the government satisfactory assurances with regard to this matter. Mr. Hazen expressed confidence that the line will be built to Grand Falls, but is unwilling in the arrangement with the federal government for aid to bridges to have it expressly stipulated that the bridge at Andover must be built. Dr. Papeley, Mr. Carvell and Mr. Michael sought to protect the interests of the people of the section between Andover and Grand Falls, and Mr. Michael frankly stated that he feared there was a scheme to end the line at Andover. Hon. Mr. Hazen admitted that American connection might be made at Andover, but asserted that the line would be extended to Grand Falls. The bridge guarantee, however, was negated.

Mr. Bentley is another lumber operator who knows something about the cut on crown lands, and in a very clear address in the legislature yesterday he pointed out that the increased revenue derived by the government from crown lands is due to an increased cut of logs. Mr. Bentley also showed that the cut on private lands has been decreasing. The assertion of the government that the increased revenue is due to a more honest collection of stumpage dues is not borne out by the facts. While the revenue is being increased, the crown lands are being depleted of standing timber to an extent much greater than is realized by the majority of the people. Mr. Bentley also discussed the finances of the province, and pointed out that this government, with a vastly greater revenue than its predecessor, has not only increased the debt very materially but had a deficit on last year's operations. The facts brought out in his speech are worthy of the very serious attention of the electors of New Brunswick.

Willie was a smart boy and ambitious. His first job was a post in a local bank. "Willie, Willie," asked his uncle one day, "how are you getting on in business?" "I suppose you will soon be manager?" "Yes, uncle," replied Willie; "I'm already a draught clerk." "A draught clerk!" Good boy. And what are your duties?" "I open and shut the windows according to orders," said Willie, "and close the doors after people who leave 'em open."

KING COLE TEA You'll like the flavor

SPRING SONG

Hush! Tread lightly! Hold thy breath! Something stirred the underbrush. Dryad! Oread! Gnome or fay? Yet the wood-light shows 't is day. Only evening knows the way. Elfins creatures travel.

Hush! The light overhead is green, Gold, with glow mysterious. Does some fairy, fleet and shy, Think the moon is riding high, Bold and glorious in the sky, All the starlight dimming?

Hark! That rustling comes again! How my heart is racing! Was it Puck or Columbine? Apple Blossom, frail and fine? Is a goblin, thro' the vine, O'er my shoulder peering?

For a thrill half glee, half fear, Trembles through my scheme. Was it but the troubled trees, Or a message on the breeze? Only spirits, ill at ease— Springtime spirits, stirring! —Echel Hallet Porter in April Lippincott's.

IN LIGHTER VEN SOLVING THE DIFFICULTY

"I am sorry, Mrs. Tinkle," said the cashier, to the pretty little woman at the window, "but you have overdrawn the account placed here by your husband, to the amount of twenty dollars."

Mrs. Tinkle looked perplexed for a moment, then her face cleared and she smiled brightly. "Oh, I'll make that all right," she replied, and stepping to a table, she wrote out a check for the amount and gave it to the cashier.

FOR A PURPOSE

"But your stock is watered," "I know it," admitted the promoter of the new distillery corporation. "We had to water it to propitiate the temperance people."

"It was raining last night and I went to two receptions. I had the bad luck to lose my umbrella at the second."

"Well, it was lucky you didn't lose it at the first."

"Oh, I got it there."

"HE WAS A LADY." Butler—"There's a man, below to see you, sir."

"Mayberry—"What did you tell him?" Butler—"I told him you were in, and if it was a lady to say you were in, and if it was a man to say you were out."

"Mayberry—"What did he say?" Butler—"He said to tell you he was a lady."—Harvard Lampoon.

"THOUGHTFUL." "See here, I wrote and asked you when you were going to pay that old account, and included stamp, but you never answered."

"My dear sir, wouldn't it have been a mean trick to use your own stamp to dis-appoint you?"

"WHERE DOCTORS DISAGREE AND AGREE." Allopath—"Take a big dose of this."

Homeopath—"Take a little dose of that."

Osteopath—"Do not take any medicine!"

Professor Muldoon—"Fresh air and work."

Fra Hubbard—"It's a disgrace to be sick!"

Science Healer—"Do not take any medicine!" —Puck.

"HE GOT HIS HALF." Mack's National Monthly—"Can I get any work around here?" said Rastus Johnson, safe in the knowledge that there was not any.

"Yes, I want you to collect a bill for me from Mr. Sawyer, the lawyer. He has owed me this bill of \$20 for twenty years. If you can get the money I will give you a hundred years."

Old Rastus went to the business place of Mr. Sawyer and found him among a group of clients.

"Mr. Sawyer," said he, "Mr. Jones done told me you owed him \$20 for about a hundred years."

"You idiot," said Sawyer, coming over to him, "don't you see you are ruining my business? Here's a \$10 bill now go on."

Rastus went back to the merchant and was asked if he got anything.

"Well, sah, I got mah haf, sah, but you better watch when you go after yo'; he's right hot over it."

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