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## THE DAILY TELEGRAPH THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's Independent newspapers. These newspapers advocate British connection. Honesty in public life. Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion. No graft. No deals! "The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose and the Maple Leaf forever."

## Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 14, 1911.

## THE COUNCIL SAID YES

The city council agreed yesterday with-out dissent to the board of trade's request for action to secure a plebiscite on the commission plan of government. It was thought there would be some objection, but, as the fact became known that the majority favored giving the people a chance to vote on the question, the minority, if any, doubtless did not care to place itself in the position of those who would deny the people the right to express their views.

There were several illustrations yesterday of the need of more business-like methods, especially when serious charges were made by some aldermen against others, and the lie was exchanged across the floor of the council chamber.

Now that the way has been cleared it will be the duty of those who favor the commission plan to give the people all available information concerning it, as developed in the experience of cities where it has been tried. There will be much misunderstanding at the outset, and clear and plain statements should be prepared, and public meetings held, so that all parties may be heard and an intelligent judgment formed.

The city council is to be congratulated on the broad and reasonable view it has taken, and it may be hoped that every member will make a close study of the commission plan, so that if it is adopted in St. John it may carry with it all the safeguards required to protect the interests of all the people.

## WEARY OF REFORM

The city council pursued a most extraordinary course yesterday when, against the protest of its committee, the ex-market clerk was restored to office. Not a single reason worthy of the name was given for the action of the majority of the council. It had appointed a committee and asked it to bring order out of chaos in the country market. Before the committee had completed its task it has been saddled with an official who by a sworn enquiry was declared to have failed in the performance of his duty. This is clearly an invitation to any official to disregard his duty and rely on the sympathy plea for his safety or prompt reinstatement. The market committee must not feel itself justified in going the length of handing in its resignation, although it could not be blamed if it did so; but in any case the members will feel that they have been stepped in the face, and that it would be folly for them to go any further with their efforts to reform the conditions in the market. Ald. Jones and White clearly stated their views, and asked that the committee be given time to complete its task before the council interfered in this matter; but their reasonable request was treated with contempt. Those who expected good to result from the market enquiry will now lose hope. The plea that Clerk Dunham did certain things because he was told to do them might be adopted; The council cannot square itself for its failure to deal with those higher up by the simple process of reinstating a minor official whom they suspended on what they regarded as ample evidence of failure to perform his duty.

## AN EMPIRE YEAR

The London Morning Post observes that the year 1911 may well become known as the Empire year, and directs attention to a number of events of imperial importance that will attract visitors from the overseas states in perhaps larger numbers than ever before to London. In the first place this will be the year of the coronation, at which all the overseas states will be largely represented. It will also be the year of an imperial conference, which should be of more significance and more far-reaching in its results than any previously held. The Post well says that this conference should draw more closely than ever before the bonds that unite the mother country and her daughter states. Then there is to be the Festival of Empire at the Crystal Palace, and a Coronation Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush. It is expected also that this year will see the completion of the national memorial of Queen Victoria. In view of all this it is fair to assume that more Canadians will visit England this year than in any previous year, and that there will be a like movement to the mother country from all the other states of the empire. Such a gathering of influential citizens from all parts of the empire will do much to cement the bonds of union, and make citizens everywhere more proud of the imperial tie which unites them as one people.

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## THE FORWARD MOVEMENT

Last week's Canadian Courier has an editorial paragraph which is headed "Boasting at St. John." The editor playfully observes that if the tides of the Bay of Fundy were not older than this city the enthusiasm of the citizens might be credited with being the cause thereof. The Courier would be glad to see the enthusiasm of the city spread to towns and villages throughout the province. Reference is made to the enormous growth of trade in this city, and to its importance as a terminus of transcontinental railways. The tone of the speeches at the recent gathering of commercial travelers as guests of the board of trade is commended, and the Courier remarks that it is quite evident that St. John intends to do its part in eradicating any feeling of depression which may have taken possession of Eastern Canada.

It is very gratifying to have journals in other cities making reference to this kind of thing in St. John. The fact is worth noting that the board of trade is very largely responsible for the new spirit of optimism that has brought this city so forcibly to the attention of the outside public. The Telegraph a few days ago referred to the opportunity which the board offered to the younger business men to get together and unite their efforts for the advancement of the interests of the city. A very great deal of benefit is derived from a full and free exchange of views. A man may have what appears to him to be an excellent theory until he meets another man who sees its weakness or has a better theory. When a group of earnest men meet regularly and discuss matters, each from his own point of view, they are bound in the end, if they are animated by public spirit, to arrive at a working scheme which will work out to the advantage of the city. There has been for years complaint of a lack of public spirit and there is no better time than in these opening days of the new year to form new resolutions and proceed with vigor to carry them out.

The advance of municipal ownership in recent years has been very remarkable. Thirty years ago there was but one public electric lighting plant in the United States. There are now more than 2,000, and the whole tendency is toward the public ownership of lighting plants. In Great Britain more than one-half the lighting plants belong to the public authorities, and more than one-half the street railway systems are owned and operated by municipalities, with nearly sixty per cent of the total track mileage.

## MUNICIPAL TRACING

Except in the item of water supply, municipal ownership has not had a fair chance in the United States, owing to the prevalence of the spoils system and the great power and resistance of the private companies. Even when cities and towns have been allowed to enter upon the operation of these public utilities they have been restricted and hampered in regard to the field of operation; by the limitation of indebtedness and in other ways difficulties have been created making success almost impossible. Very few of the municipalities which have electric-lighting plants are allowed to do commercial lighting. They are almost in all cases confined to lighting the streets. If the law permitted them to sell commercial light they would be able to reduce the cost very materially. Even under these restrictions many of the plants have made an excellent showing.

Public sentiment in Great Britain is almost a unit in favor of the municipalization of street using monopolies. The Moderate and Progressive party in London are agreed on this subject. The only difference between them is that the Moderate party oppose the invasion of municipal trading into the competitive field—municipal banking, insurance, housing, supply of gas stoves, electric fixtures, and other matters advocated by the Progressives. The movement in England is not in any sense a theoretical one. The chief advocates of it are found among the commercial and mercantile classes. The larger cities and boroughs of Great Britain are mainly in the hands of business men, who largely make up the personnel of municipal administration, and the movement began with them. Some cities there have owned their water and gas undertakings for more than a generation. The later extension of the movement to street railways, electric lighting and power, and telephone service, have been urged as a natural and proper application of a programme that had already justified itself in a commercial and social way.

The movement is not unopposed in England, and it is a heated political question. This is to be expected, for municipal trading is trenching on private business—the "big business" of municipal franchises, and here and there on the small business of the manufacturer and retail dealer. The great mass of the people, however, are with the movement, the opposition mainly coming from a comparatively small number of persons, most of whom are interested directly or indirectly in public service corporations. But a desire for better and more efficient service, and the belief that under public ownership rates and charges could be reduced to the consumer and the earnings made for the improvement of the plant or the reduction of the cost, are making the movement irresistible. Particularly when the enterprises are felt to be public in their nature, because of their monopolistic character and the lack of that competition which in other activities secures low rates and efficient services, the reasonableness of the movement is overcoming opposition. The life and comfort of the people as well as the proper administration of the city's departments are dependent upon water, light, power and transit. The telephone, too, is a natural monopoly, and any argument which can be advanced in favor of the city's control of its water supply has equal force here. But many of the cities of the north of England have gone far beyond the ownership of those public utilities and have engaged in various activities from the selling of insurance to the cultivation of hops. The objection is often heard in Canadian cities that the utilities already owned by the cities are but indifferently administered, therefore it would be foolish to entrust them with others. Unfortunately it is true that our record in many cases is not such as to cause pride, but in the case of St. John this is not the case. The city's functions have been found to be their very salvation. They have discharged the fewer responsibilities better because they have had other and serious ones thrust upon them. It has had the effect of causing all to conceive highly of the function of the city; city officers have attracted to them the best and ablest citizens, and thus they have become efficient and pure. Between them there is a friendly and wholesome rivalry to see what each one can gain by trading in the way of increased comfort and happiness for the citizens.

Here the corporate city is little thought of, and is left, generally speaking, to be managed by a poor class of civic politicians, who become careless and weak. It is just possible that this will be found the only way to purify our city government; that is, to exalt and expand the city's functions. The action of the Common Council in connection with the market shows that the aldermen refuse to take their responsibility seriously. A paid commission, whose members would devote all their time to public business, and who felt that a great majority of the electors expected them to administer our affairs without fear or favor, could scarcely fail to improve vastly upon present conditions in every department.

But more interesting is the movement in Hungary to establish reformatories for young offenders and much more accurate and reliable are their statistics of results obtained. Those under twenty years of age may be sent by the court to a house of correction or to a separate cell. There are four houses of correction for boys and young men and one for girls and young women, with accommodation for 700 males and 240 females. It is claimed that after release sixty-five per cent show good conduct records, eleven per cent variable, ten per cent bad, eight per cent unknown, and six per cent are reported as dead. The younger inmates are kept in family-like groups and are taught handicrafts, ordinary school branches and religion.

Education—physical, industrial, moral and spiritual—with disciplinary measures necessary for control, is the idea aimed at in each case. The thought of retribution is abandoned, and that of education for life as the only means of social protection, rules all the orders and methods of such establishments. Conditional liberation, after a period of preparation and discipline, on parole and under supervision, and recall by the managers, is the process in preparation for free life. The last stage in that preparation for free life is the free life itself. The architecture of the buildings, the programme for each day, the regulations, the choice of officials, the diet, the occupations, the school and worship are all made to conform to the principle of education for a free life of voluntary activity and conformity to law. The experience of the United States and other countries indicates that a very large percentage of the discharged prisoners do well after their release. There is no reasonable ground for doubt that the reformatory methods yield vastly better results than any others. The methods that bring results are cheaper in the end.

Meantime—and always—much can be done by educating the parents as to their responsibilities and how to discharge them.

## COMMISSION CRITICS

Some critics of the commission plan are still talking as though the commissioners would be appointed. It cannot be said too frequently that the commissioners would be elected—by a vote of all the taxpayers. In talking about the commission plan this is the first fact to be kept in mind. The commission plan represents responsible government, and it is closer to the people than the aldermen are under the existing scheme. And any man who does not keep faith can be removed before the expiration of his term.

One opponent of the commission plan fears that it would weaken or destroy the present system of audit and financial control. But the fact is that an improved form of civic government would strengthen that feature of the financial department. The office of auditor is not necessarily elective. But if it were the people would certainly elect a trustworthy man like the present official, and he would be wholly independent of the commission. Commission government is business government.

Another critic says the five commissioners would be overwhelmed, or might be in the Municipal Council. Why? The five would represent all the money, responsibility and power that the aldermen or councillors represent now. The argument that the relations between a civic commission and a municipal council could not be adjusted satisfactorily is not a formidable one. Critics of the commission plan will have to do better if they are to get a hearing. The main thing now is to persuade the civic electors to give the commission plan reasonable study. It is a question for the taxpayers as a body, and they should examine the evidence itself as the wisest possible; to send them for two or three years to Dorchester, is to cultivate criminals as a gardener cultivates mushrooms. We cannot kill them. We cannot starve them. But we have at present no adequate provision or institution that holds out hope and promise for correction, instruction and reform. So the Council suggests that to build a wall along a dangerous cliff is to perform a higher service than merely to wait and watch at the bottom with an ambulance.

To the present chaos and disorder of our methods is due a great part of the existing evils, and we owe it to the coming generations, as well as to the individuals in need of correction and instruction, not to burden them with the load bequeathed to us from ignorance, if we can in any measure diminish it. The transient, the dull children, the juvenile offenders and the feeble minded, unless tactfully and carefully helped, will be in danger of becoming helpless or rebellious paupers or criminals. Trustful children are generally those that have a strain of an ancestral wandering instinct. They are cases of "reversion to type." All children are naturally travelers. And when the home environment is cramped, the mother nervous and irritable with toil and poor nourishment, there the boy is irresistibly driven forth. A reformatory of this nature would receive many truant children that parents cannot now govern. And children whom teachers have pronounced "incorrigible," and who have tried to deserve the name by appropriate conduct, might find in reformatory compulsory education a chance to train their hands to useful industry. Crime is not necessary; it is only a natural product of neglect. And we have learned by many experiences what costly and bitter consequences follow this neglect.

Under a commission one man would be responsible for public works, including streets. If the streets remained as bad as they have been during the last few years, do you think that particular commissioner would hold his job long?

St. John is feeling the edge of a real estate boom. Land prices in New Brunswick, particularly along the old and new lines of railway, are going to rise—indeed, are rising already. Improved transportation and improving markets are big influences that the whole province will feel.

It is certainly discouraging to hear from the mayor a statement to the effect that there does not seem much of a prospect for agreement between the city and C. P. R. in regard to the west side shore lots. It had been hoped that affairs had come to a point where only minor details were to be settled.

The men who are discussing better trade relations at Washington are not taking Canada or the United States into their confidence while negotiations are proceeding; but when the talking is over the results reached will be proclaimed and the people of both countries will see exactly what sort of a bargain is possible. The protectionists, on both sides of the boundary, fear the worst. The consumers are not terrified by the thought of lower prices secured through competition.

Premier Hazen is quoted by the Montreal Star as saying that several offers for the construction of the St. John Valley road have been received, "but no decision has been reached in the matter." Mr. A. R. Slipp, M. P. P., for Queens, tells the Fredericton Board of Trade (Mr. Slipp) is confident that the proposed road will be commenced within twelve months and that it will be part of a trunk line, if so where do Mr. Gould and his trolley line scheme come in? And why twelve months? The lapse of that period will bring us to next January, and railroad building is not begun in midwinter in New Brunswick. Mr. Hazen will be hearing from the people of the river countries.

The Manitoba Free Press notes that Liberalism, Radicalism and Socialism are well served in Great Britain by the writing fraternity. Among the intellectuals who during the past few years have shown active sympathy with forward policies are such men as J. K. Jerome, Maurice Hewlett, Sir Quiller Couch, A. E. W. Mason, H. G. Wells, John Galsworthy and Bernard Shaw. On the other side Rudyard Kipling is conspicuous. Recent English papers report a vigorous speech by Jerome K. Jerome against the House of Lords as an obstacle in the way of social reform. "I have seen my share of other countries," said Mr. Jerome, and I say, without fear of contradiction, that in no country in the world—not even in Russia—is the gulf between the rich and the poor wider, deeper, more menacing than in England. And it was not the poor that dug it."

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## MEDICAL INSPECTION

Medical inspection in the schools of Toronto was begun last May and the report of the supervising nurse shows how great was the need of such inspection and how it may serve the vital interests of a very large number of children who otherwise might go on in their school work under a very serious handicap. During the month of September, for example, no less than 3,297 children were referred to their family physicians for advice and treatment, and 2,000 were sent to their family dentists. Since the system was adopted last May over 55,000 inspections have been made, and in a great many cases children were found to be suffering from some physical defect which ought to be overcome without delay. These nurses found many children suffering from eye, ear, or skin diseases, defective vision, defective hearing, enlarged glands or tonsils, and hundreds of visits were paid to the homes of pupils in order to prevail upon parents to do what was necessary to remove the defects from which their children suffered.

The city of St. John has not yet adopted medical inspection in the schools. It should be adopted here and in other provincial cities. The children should be given a fair start in life. Many of them do not get it because of the ignorance or indifference of parents. There is as much reason for having medical inspection as for teaching the children their daily lessons. It is true that such inspection involves some expenditure, but surely money could not be better expended than to increase the physical and mental efficiency of the children.

## NOTE AND COMMENT

Are the same old market conditions to be revived? The history of our "civic investigations"—and the results—would be amusing if the subject were less unpleasant to thoughtful taxpayers.

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## FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

CHRISTIANITY'S APPEARANCE IN EUROPE.  
By George B. Ide.

At the port of Troas, a spot rich in memories of the olden time, with the ruins of Ilum in the distance and the classic waves of the Aegean breaking at their feet, were now assembled Paul, Silas and Luke—three obscure and unknown voyagers—but bound on a mightier mission than had ever before been wafted over these far-famed waters. Across the narrow strait on which they gazed, the ships of Greece had come to the siege of Troy, and full in their view lay the renowned Tenedos. Along the very coast where they stood the myriads of Xerxes had proudly marched, while his fleet covered the sea. And, in later days, the same isle-gemmed billows had been ploughed by many a Roman galley, exulting in the pomp of victory. But never had they borne a freight so precious, or one charged with such vast results as that which was now to be committed to their keeping.

## ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

(Ottawa Free Press.)

The announcement that the dominion government has decided upon an extension of its trade commissioner service into South America, by the appointment of a trade commissioner to the Argentine Republic, with headquarters at Buenos Ayres, is one of the most welcome items of information which has come to us for many months.

It has long been a matter for wonder why Canada should not have taken advantage of its opportunities in the republics to the south of Texas, especially when the tremendous trade of Germany, and of the mother country with the great republic of the south is considered.

The fact is that, according to the latest official statistics, Canada and the Argentine have already built up a considerable trade, as is evidenced by the figure that in the last fiscal year our trade with the Argentine amounted to no less than \$5,051,467, and that the balance of trade was in favor of this country. Indeed, if the truth were to be known, it would probably be found that the bulk of the Canadian exports to the Argentine were products of Ottawa factories.

But be that as it may, the fact remains that we have here at our hand, without any official representative of Canada on

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It has long been a matter for wonder why Canada should not have taken advantage of its opportunities in the republics to the south of Texas, especially when the tremendous trade of Germany, and of the mother country with the great republic of the south is considered.

The fact is that, according to the latest official statistics, Canada and the Argentine have already built up a considerable trade, as is evidenced by the figure that in the last fiscal year our trade with the Argentine amounted to no less than \$5,051,467, and that the balance of trade was in favor of this country. Indeed, if the truth were to be known, it would probably be found that the bulk of the Canadian exports to the Argentine were products of Ottawa factories.

But be that as it may, the fact remains that we have here at our hand, without any official representative of Canada on

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