

The Evening Times and Star

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BRIGHT PROSPECTS At the end of the old year and on the eve of the new, the people of New Brunswick, and especially of St. John, are in a position to regard the situation with the greatest satisfaction. The year 1911 was one of progress in the province, and brought a number of large projects to the point of realization. The year 1912 will witness greater general progress in the province than has been experienced in any single year in its history.

Take for example the railways of the province. We are told that a regular service will be begun on the Grand Trunk Pacific between Moncton and Plaster Rock. This is an event of great importance. There will also be begun the construction of the Valley Railway, which means so much to the development of a rich section of the province, and the city of St. John. The railway from Fredericton to Miramichi will also be begun, and will bring the coal fields of Queens County within reach of the markets all along the C. P. R.

Turning from the railways to a consideration of the general development of resources, the year 1912 should witness the beginning of a great industry in Albert County, in connection with the very extensive and valuable oil shales in which the Northern Railway has lately made a large investment. There will be further development of the natural gas and oil deposits in Albert County, and this means industrial growth in Moncton and other places. It has been announced that the Canadian Iron Corporation will, in 1912, largely increase their operations at the iron mines in Leogaster. Doubtless there will be other movements to develop natural resources of which, at the present time, little is said.

In connection with other resources it is worthy of note that special attention is to be given to the development of one branch of the fisheries, and that at least two large sardine factories are promised. When we turn to the subject of agriculture, it is evident that the coming year will witness a general advance and improvement in methods, while there is every indication that the planting of orchards, and a general movement to make this a great fruit producing province, will be a notable feature of the year.

Most hopeful, perhaps, of any movement is that in relation to immigration. The action which has been taken by the St. John Board of Trade, and endorsed by leading business men of other cities and towns in the province, is an indication that we are to have a general migration campaign in which the people at large are to take an active interest, while the proposed joint action of the provincial and federal governments will surely tend to bring immigrants in steadily increasing numbers to the farms of New Brunswick.

There will also be during the coming year a further development of a hopeful spirit, and a determination to build up New Brunswick, which will tend very largely to overcome the desire of people to migrate to the western provinces. Premier Fleming has estimated that twenty million dollars will be spent in New Brunswick in the next five years, on great works for the development of the province. His estimate is probably below the mark. Probably half that sum will be spent at St. John within five years, while the Valley Railway will cost the other half, leaving out of the count altogether the other enterprises already mentioned, and others that will certainly develop before five years have passed. The situation therefore is one that must inspire the people with the greatest confidence in the future of New Brunswick.

Turning now to the city of St. John, we have to note that the new year will place this city under the commission form of government, which is believed will result in a much more satisfactory and progressive administration of the city's affairs. A very good indication of the spirit in which the business community is entering upon the new year is shown in the effort, which will no doubt be successful, to enlarge the Board of Trade by the addition of a large number of young business men, who have hitherto taken no active part in the movement to boom the city. As this paper has before pointed out, the great works at Cuntomay Bay and at West St. John, the erection of the new bridge across the falls, the addition of some new factories, and general activities in the building trade, will make the next few years very busy ones in this city.

One of the most significant signs of the times is the general interest, taken in real estate, which is steadily improving in value in the city and suburbs. Turning from matters relating to industry and trade, the year 1912 will witness progress in other directions in this city. During the last year the Board of Health and its medical inspectors have done much to improve health conditions in the city, and they will do much more in 1912. From present indications, the new year will also see an end of the present very undesirable conditions in connection with the St. John Jail. It may be fairly assumed that the vision farm project will be adopted, and that a new era will dawn in the treatment of unfortunate who at present gravitate between the saloon and the jail. Perhaps also, a new system will be adopted for the treatment of juvenile delinquents, an important step which will be out of the policy of providing

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RAGGED ROVER

I have still a vision of him, Ragged Rover, as he lay In the sunshine of the morning On the doorstone worn and gray; Where the honeysuckle trellis Hung its tinted blossoms low, And the willow-weep with its basket Swung its burden to and fro; Where the maples were a-quiver In the pleasant June-time breeze; And where drowsed among the phloxes Half a hundred golden bees.

Yes, I have a vision with me Of a home upon a hill; And my heart is sad with longing And my eyes with tear-drops fill. Would he were here to-day, That I was so long ago When across the smilt meadows Rover with me used to go Yonder where the graceful lindens Threw their shadows far and cool, And the waters waited for me In the brimming swimming pool.

I can see him drive the cattle From the pasture through the lane With their mellow bells a-tinkle, Sending out a slow refrain; I can see him drive them homeward, Speckle, Brindle, Bess and Belle; And the herd from down the valley As the shades of even fell. Thus I wander like a pilgrim— Slow the steps that once were strong; Back to greet him, Ragged Rover, And my childhood's ceaseless song.—Lottie Clark Manchester, in Our Dumb Animals.

IN LIGHTER VEIN BEWARE! she looks at you with soulful eyes. Has tender ways and doleful sighs, A spirit which—why and how— Would be the world's encounter quail; A vision, sweet, guileless, pure, That seems from scheming thoughts secure An archangel's smile, her smile; 'Tis the art of every cunning flirt.—Judge.

WANTED FRESH AMUSEMENT. Johnny—"Mamma, I wish I had a little sister." Mamma—"Why do you wish that, dear?" Johnny—"Cause I'm tired of teasing the cat."—Stray Stories.

A USE FOR ALL. "Did you know that they can make sheets out of all kinds of things?" "How about banana skins?" "They make slippers out of them."—Smart Set.

RUBBING IT IN. Patient (angrily)—"The size of your bill makes my head hurt." Doctor—"Then that will be \$20 more for sterilizing your system."—Boston Transcript.

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE. William Dean Howells is a stout opponent of those novelists who, under the pretext of reforming their readers, write books about vice. "Such writers," said Mr. Howells, at a luncheon at Kittery Point, Me., "remind me of a lad whose mother said to him: 'Why, Johnny, I do believe you're teaching that parrot to swear.'" "No, I'm not, mother," the boy replied. "I'm just telling it what it mustn't say."—Los Angeles Times.

MORNING NEWS OVER THE WIRES. An investigation is to be made by the U. S. government into the International Harvester Co., the alleged shipping combine and the so-called Money Trust. R. V. Bourke, of Ottawa, has been appointed secretary of the civil service "reform" commission. Albert Mosher, Elmer Cudworth and Leonard White, of Westport, Mass., were drowned when their boat was capsized in the Westport river. A heavy gale caused their boat to capsize. It was reported yesterday that it had been agreed that Rev. Clarence Richardson in Boston would plead guilty to second degree murder, but this was emphatically denied by the district attorney who said that nothing less than a plea of guilty of murder in the first degree would be accepted before proceedings would be dropped.

RAILWAY FROM HARTLAND. During the fall and winter of 1910 and 1911 a survey was made by the Hartland and Miramichi Railway company from Hartland to Knowlsville, a distance of about twenty-four miles, and since that time negotiations have been carried on with the C. P. R. and the Grand Trunk for the purpose of getting a running agreement when the road is constructed, and the local government has also been interested in reference to giving a guarantee of bonds for the same.

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AT CITY HALL

Business of the Safety Board of Works and Ferry Committee

At a meeting of the board of safety, last evening, applications for the lease and purchase of lots in the city and Lancaster were received and considered. The matter of providing a superannuation or pension fund for employees of the fire department was referred to the committee which has under consideration the pension plan for the police. It was recommended that Dr. W. H. Simon have his allowance increased to \$200 per year for services as veterinary. Petitions for extra street lights were laid over. It was recommended that George Clark, janitor of city hall, get \$90 per month. The chairman and director were instructed to notify the chief of police that the policeman appointed for the purpose, be removed from the list at once according to order of council.

Those present at the meeting were: Alderman Russell, the chairman, Aldermen Potts, Scully, Elliot, Green, J. B. Jones, Wigmore, Wilson, W. T. Jones and McLeod. The company, clerk of the director and chief of the fire department. The board dealt with various applications for the purchase of lots now under lease, fixing the price at which they would sell, as follows: Fred A. Peters, lots at eastern end of Union street and Elliott Row, \$5,000; offer \$1,000. W. H. Simon, lots on Orange street, \$800 for one, or \$1,200 for both; offer \$800 for both. Randolph & Baker, 115 acres at Green Head, assessors valuation, \$38,000; offer \$6,000. Left to committee. Samuel McClelland, lot corner Union and Rodney streets, W. E. 8,000; offer was \$400. Ella M. and Margaret E. Kelly, lot in Lancaster, \$400; offer was \$250. Chas. P. Baker, Thomson house and lot, Spar Cove Road, \$1,000. The application of the Fairview Baptist church for a deed to their property was referred to the committee. Wm. Fair withdrew his offer of \$500 for a lot in Lancaster, and made an offer of \$400. Renewals of leases were granted to Annie E. Thomas, Queen street, W. F. 1,000; and to Wm. McLeod, Brook Ward, W. E. 3,000. Permission was given to Wm. Lewis & Sons to remove the British street lamp up to the adjoining lot. Aldermen J. B. Jones, McLeod, Green and Elliot, the director, were appointed a committee to look into the matter of re-arranging the street lights. The application of W. H. Simon, V. S., for an increase of allowance was the cause of a rather spirited debate. Ald. Green asked for the story of the delivery of hay to certain fire stations. The director said that he had let the matter of inspection of hay to the veterinary. Ald. C. T. Jones asked the director if he were throwing the dirty work on others. Ald. Potts arose to a point of order and said that no alderman had the right to come there and talk to heads of departments as Ald. Jones was doing. Ald. Jones replied that he was as much a gentleman as Ald. Potts.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the quality of hay supplied to the fire department and Ald. C. T. Jones suggested that if contractors could not supply goods according to contract their contract should be forfeited. In answer to Ald. C. T. Jones the director said that he had ordered a few bundles of hay delivered to fire stations 6 and 7. Ald. Potts said that some one seemed anxious to loose the hay when the director ordered only a few bundles, that about sixty should be delivered. Chief Kerr informed the board that 21 bundles had been delivered at No. 7 and 32 bundles at No. 6 station yesterday. Although the contract calls for inspection at the different stations, it was decided that the director and inspector could use their judgment in this matter. The proposed purchase of the Magee building, Water street, was discussed at a meeting of the ferry committee and board of works, and it was decided to recommend that the purchase be made if the building can be secured for \$50,000. The agents of the owners have refused to accept less than \$55,000. A discussion of the ferry revenue led to proposals to increase the fares for all classes of traffic, but no action was taken. The report of the ferry superintendent, as given in the Times yesterday, was adopted. The committee also recommended to the council the petition of the mates and collectors for an increase of \$10 a month. The tender of J. S. Gregory for 200 piling at \$1,300 was accepted. Permission of the board was granted for the placing of fire bells on the direct line in the residences of Ald. Green and Fred Kee.

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