

## THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 22, 1904.

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## THE CITY COUNCIL.

The time is opportune for a complete reconsideration by the citizens of St. John of the system of electing members of the city council.

Complaint has been made many times that the council is not as representative as it should be of the practical and progressive business interests of the city. Of late there has been more than the usual amount of criticism of the council, and the popular discontent has been accentuated by the unsatisfactory manner of dealing with certain important matters.

There is general dissatisfaction with the manner in which the affairs of the various civic departments are conducted. The annual expenditure is very large and taxes are increasing, but there is not that improvement in the service which it is felt should follow. On the streets, for example, the expenditure has very greatly increased in recent years, but the condition of the streets does not appreciably improve. There is a well defined feeling that a general shaking up in civic circles would produce good results. In all departments, there is room for a decided improvement. There is a lack of vigor and progressiveness, and too much of the happy-go-lucky habit, with occasional incidents such as those of the public library and fire department investigation to create a doubt in the public mind as to the good faith and good intentions of the council. The mistakes of the boards of works, all of which cost the taxpayers something, are a constant source of criticism. Whether blunders made in the various departments are due to the heads of those departments, or to the boards which are supposed to control them, the result to the taxpayer is the same. A change is needed.

It is clear that no change of any importance will be made under the present system. When the old ward system was abolished, it was believed that the method of electing aldermen by the whole city would produce better results. That belief has not been sustained. The time has come to try another method, and it appears to be clear that one somewhat like the old ward system would produce the best results. If the city were divided into six or seven districts, taking Carleton, as one, and each district elected two or three aldermen, it would, the Times believes, result in the selection of aldermen more independent and more thoroughly representative than is at present practicable. The man who knew that he had only to reckon with the electors of his own ward would be more independent, in dealing with matters affecting other parts of the city. And there could be no combinations between men from different districts on election day. It is also believed that if it were only necessary to appeal to the electors of a district it might be possible to get as candidates more thoroughly representative men than is possible where the whole city must be canvassed for a new candidate.

There is another reform that might be made along with this change. The number of members on the different boards might be greatly reduced, and yet give each district representation. It would not be necessary to put one man on several boards, and therefore each man would have more time to give to the affairs of the particular board with which he was connected. There would be less talk and more business.

The time is opportune for consideration of this whole question. The people are not satisfied with the results of the present system. They should therefore give attention to the question of a change, along lines likely to produce a better civic government and a better administration of its various departments.

## A GRIM TRAGEDY.

Seldom does a sadder tale of the sea come over the wires than that found in the papers this morning.

Some 220 miles east of the Bermudas, on Nov. 13th, the British steamer Aros Castle sighted the Spanish bark Tafalla, with crew of 15 men, waterlogged and helpless. A storm was raging and the efforts of the Aros Castle to rescue the Spanish crew were unavailing. Three nights and two days she lay by, and at night the two vessels signalled each other with rockets and flare lights. Then, about 4 a. m. on the third night the crew of the Aros Castle got no answering signal, and at dawn there was only the empty sea. The devoted bark, with all on board, had evidently gone down. The days and nights of alternate hope and fear, and of ever increasing exhaustion, had ended in another of the grim tragedies of the ocean.

## POLICE PROTECTION.

The fact that a man was sandbagged and mobbed on the street last night directs attention once more to the need of adequate police protection in St. John.

It is not contended that a larger

police force could have prevented last night's occurrence, but the shock of such a crime raises the general question of protection for the public.

The winter season is at hand. For some months to come the city will have within its limits at all times a considerable number of rough characters who are not here in summer. The cattlemen who come to Sand Point include some very undesirable persons, who must be sharply looked after. With his present force the chief of police cannot provide a proper patrol of the whole city and keep an eye on these hungry and reckless gentry, whose ideas of the rights of property are sometimes governed by their capacity to lift it. The safety board should give immediate attention to the question of an efficient police service for the winter months.

## WORSE THAN ST. JOHN.

If the following statement in the Toronto Star is correct, there is little cause for wonder that the city wants to get control of the street railway.

Converts are being won right along to the idea that on the street cars of this city those who cannot get seats should be entitled to travel standing on the payment of a half fare. The plan would have its drawbacks, of course. Many would seek to avoid seats as determinedly as they now seek to secure them, and possibly the overcrowding would not be much relieved. But, at any rate, an inferior service would only be paid for at an inferior price.

If the experience of last winter is to be repeated it might be well to compel the company to supply its conductors with "sidewalk transfers," which could be supplied to passengers who, after paying their fares, find it necessary to get off and walk home. One evening last winter a citizen, after trying to get home by three different lines and paying a fare on each, had to perform half the journey on foot. Thousands of fares were paid last winter for which service was not rendered by the company. The passenger who pays his fare and does not get his ride ought to receive a "sidewalk transfer" good for a ride some other day when the company is able to give value for the money it has received.

One of the steamship captains who arrived in port yesterday expressed surprise that more piers had not been constructed this year. It would be interesting to know what the next step will be in this direction. The C. P. R. deal is off, the city cannot spend any more of its own money, and the question of nationalizing the ports has not got beyond the region of more or less hazy consideration. And yet this national port needs more facilities, and the need will be much greater before the Grand Trunk Pacific railway is even well under way.

The London Spectator publishes an appeal signed by the Deans of Durham, Ely and Lincoln, the Archbishop of Manchester, and other prominent liberal clergy, of the Church of England, protesting against the re-establishment in Great Britain of the system of protection. Doubtless Mr. Chamberlain can secure a counter appeal from some clergy who are not liberals in politics.

The Toronto board of control has adopted without discussion a resolution recommending that the government be requested to take over the long-distance telephone and telegraph lines. A letter was received from W. D. Lighthall, secretary of the League of Canadian Municipalities, suggesting that legislation be asked for, making the Bell Telephone Company subject to municipal regulation.

Parliament is called to meet on Jan. 11th. The session is not likely to be a long one. The Telegraph, Ottawa correspondent expresses the view that the business should be concluded by the end of April or early in May.

At the last meeting of the city council of Halifax, the resolution accepting Andrew Carnegie's offer to furnish \$75,000 for a library was rescinded, and Mr. Carnegie will be notified to that effect.

The tone of the United States press continues to be extremely hopeful, and even confident, with regard to the continuance of sound business conditions, and even of expansion, in that country.

The secret investigation in City Hall last night is said to have been a warm affair, and it is said that Ald. Christie got a Roland for his Oliver. What will be the next step?

The Premier of Quebec reminds us of that historic Parent who had so many children she didn't know what to do.—(Toronto News).

THE LARGE DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE TIMES MAKES IT AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD MEDIUM FOR UP-TO-DATE ADVERTISERS.

## CHAMPLAIN MONUMENT.

Historical Society Asks City For \$2,500—Action is Deferred.

A meeting of the treasury board was held yesterday afternoon in the council chambers to confer with the representatives of the N. B. Historical Society relative to the proposed Champlain memorial in this city.

Ald. McGoldrick presided and D. R. Jack explained the object of the delegation which was to urge upon the council the desirability of a statue to the great French discoverer and to ask aid from them to the extent of \$2,500.

Remarks were also made by Rev. W. C. Gaynor, S. D. Scott J. D. Howe, and Hamilton McCarthy, the designer of the monument.

The delegation then withdrew and the aldermen discussed the matter to the same extent. It was pointed out by Ald. Macne that the Quebec monuments had been paid for by the federal and local governments, and if this were so, it was hardly fair to ask the city to share in a similar landmark here.

The tercentenary had already cost \$2,000 and various grants during the past twelve months had eaten up \$10,050 of the civic assets. As the regular chairman was away it was finally decided to let the matter rest at present and Ald. Maxwell introduced a motion to that effect. It was carried and the board adjourned.

## HE TOOK THE WRONG TRAIN.

Daniel Simpson, an Immigrant Got Mixed and Almost Lost His Family.

What looked like a case of desertion occurred at the depot yesterday. Daniel Simpson, with his wife and two small children, arrived on the steamer Montrose, yesterday, and came over to the depot, intending to take the train for the west. Mr. Simpson returned to Sand Point to look after their baggage. The woman and children waited in the station until long after dark without their supper. Then Mr. McGrath, who has charge of the restaurant, gave them all a good meal, and had them taken to the Halifax house.

At a late hour the poor wife had given up all hope of again seeing her husband, but the train from Boston arrived about 12 o'clock bringing an anxious and inquiring father. His relief was very plain when told of the whereabouts of his family.

He had gone to Carleton and had taken passage on the immigrant train which left that side of the harbor for the west. Being a stranger, he thought the train would pass through the St. John depot and he would get his family aboard there. He soon learned his mistake, but was compelled to go as far as the Junction, where he took the Boston express for a return to the city. It is not likely that Mr. Simpson and family will again be separated on their journey to the wheat lands.

## THE SUICIDE OF RUBY FERGUSON.

"Came to Death By Her Own Hand" the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury.

The inquest into the death of Ruby Ferguson, of Carleton, was resumed last evening, before Coroner Kenney. Dr. Day testified to the condition in which he found the girl, every indication being that she had taken carbolic acid, and he consequently treated her for the same.

Mrs. John Connor, half sister of the dead girl, told how the latter had purchased five cents worth of carbolic acid for a cut in her arm. The bottle produced was the same used. Last Wednesday morning she called to Ruby, asking her if she was up. Ruby answered something. Her boy came in and said Ruby had taken carbolic acid. Witness immediately sent her husband for a doctor.

John Connor gave testimony similar to that of his wife.

The jury shortly brought in a verdict to the effect that Ruby Ferguson came to her death by carbolic acid administered by her own hand. They could find no reason whatever as to why she had committed the deed. They also found that all bodily conditions were normal.

## HAS PURCHASED FINE BUSINESS.

D. A. Morrison Becomes Proprietor of an Amherst Establishment.

D. A. Morrison, who has represented the firm of Baird and Peters, wholesale grocers, for some years, has decided to go into business for himself. He has purchased the wholesale and retail business now conducted at Amherst, N. S. by Fillmore and Morris. The change of proprietors will go into effect on February 1st. Capt. Morrison has been a very active worker in the Douglas avenue Christian church, and is prominent in Y. M. C. A. circles. He holds a captain's commission in the militia, and was one of the South African contingent.

## MAY HAVE VAUDEVILLE.

It is understood that a number of well known amusement caterers are endeavoring to make arrangements with the St. John Railway Co. to run a Vaudeville Theatre at Seaside Park, next season. An enquiry at the Company's office elicited the fact, that although the matter has been talked of, nothing definite has been decided.

## THE CITY THEATRES.

The Magistrate at the Opera House—Vaudeville at the York.

The audience at the opera house last evening had an opportunity of seeing Albert Perry in an entirely new line of work.

This was the feature of the production of "The Magistrate" by the Dailey stock company.

The Magistrate has not been seen in St. John for several years and consequently to many it appealed with all the zest and piquancy of an untasted viand on the theatrical menu.

It is a Pinerio production, but even if that author's name was not featured on the programme it would be easy to recognize the comedy as from the Pinerio pen. The author is in the happier vein and the bright humor and dialogue have all the Pinerio sparkle while the situations and climaxes are marked out by his master hand which is a guarantee of their quality. Moreover it is lacking in the broad, and sometimes even indelicate, lines and situations which figure in some of his more recent productions as for example, "The second Mrs. Languey" or "The notorious Mrs. Ebb-smith." In other words the Magistrate contains all the author's effervescence and sprightliness without the sediment in the bottom of the cup. The most fastidious can quaff long and deeply without tainting the lips.

While it can hardly be termed a one man play the interest naturally centres around the magistrate who is at all times the pivotal figure.

Mr. Perry played this superlatively well. In make up, gesture, mannerism elocution he was most satisfying and criticism in his case must be only praise. Richard Taber played the son-in-law well and received much applause. George Robinson was capable in the role of Bullamy while Charles Barringer as Col. Lukyn did the best work he has yet done here. Mr. Brown was only fair as Horace Vale. Mr. O'Malley had a "bit" as Warrington but it was an excellent study. The ladies with the exception of Miss Carr had roles which were not exacting. Miss Carr played the Magistrate's wife in excellent style her scenes with her husband being particularly good. The piece was well staged with the exception of the third act. As the piece was written this act is supposed to be laid in the open police court and it is believed, originally consisted of two scenes, the court room and the magistrate's ante-chamber. Last night's production had the whole act occur in the ante-room, and the trial took place "off stage." The ante-room was furnished more luxuriously than the magistrate's own house. It made a pretty picture but was not all in keeping with the traditions of Mulberry street. On the whole, however, the performance was an excellent one.

## AT THE YORK THEATRE.

This is the ninth week of vaudeville at the York Theatre. There was a large audience last night, and that they fully appreciated the efforts of the different artists was clearly shown by the generous applause, with which each number was received. Erin and Tyler in a comedy roller skating and gymnastic sketch were exceedingly good. This team consists of a man and a woman. The man who has but one leg does some difficult feats on roller skates, after which he does some athletic work and high kicking.

John M. Irwin, (Young Sharkey) a character change artist, was very good.

Belmont and O'Brien, English Travesty artists, kept the audience in an uproar from the time they came on the stage. They are good mirth provokers and deserved all the applause they received. Alice A. Thornton, in artistic songs and dances was well received. She has a good voice and dances well. William and Melburn, a young man and young lady, who play the banjo and sing, proved themselves as the programme says, polite vaudeville entertainers Burke and Dempsey created much amusement; their act abounded with humor, and their singing of popular airs was a feature.

Barr and Evans, in a comedy sketch kept the audience convulsed with laughter at their appearance and funny actions.

Taken as a whole the entertainment is very pleasing, and is up to the standard of previous companies. They should draw crowded houses.

## COMING TO ST. JOHN.

St. John citizens will learn with interest of the coming visit of Mr. Bernhard Lindman, the celebrated Prussian expert of Montreal. This eminent specialist will be at the Royal Hotel Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, where he will treat all cases of Rupture—no charge for examination or advice.

Read the following letter which is only one of many hundreds.

44 Fort Street, Montreal, Aug. 15th, 1904.

B. Lindman, Esq.,

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BENJAMIN LAMB.

The St. John Primary Union will meet Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock in Centenary church parlor. Mrs. Jeanette C. Bullock will give suggestions on the lesson for the following Sunday and Miss Burditt will continue her talk on Primary Plans.

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## Wanted AT ONCE.

Tenders for tearing down wooden building on Church Street, adjoining the Daily Telegraph building, and clearing up that lot and the lot adjoining the Telegraph building on Canterbury street, preparatory to the erection of a new building. Tenders to be received at the office of THE EVENING TIMES before 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22nd.

## NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the first general meeting of "The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. (Limited)" will be held at the office of the Evening Times on the corner of Canterbury and Church Streets, in the City of Saint John, in the County and Province of New Brunswick on

THURSDAY, the 1st Day of  
December, A. D. 1904,

at the hour of half past three o'clock in the afternoon, for the organization of the said company, adoption of by-laws, election of directors and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the said meeting.

Dated the twelfth day of November A. D., 1904.

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