

THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES

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INDEPENDENT ALDERMEN.

In an article of "Independence of Aldermen" the Sun this morning says:

The discussion of the public library contract, and the propriety of an alderman appearing as a sub-contractor, will, if carried out to its legitimate conclusion, involve a criticism of a majority of present and past members of the council. It is said that a rather large share of the insurance on city property is placed in companies represented here by a prominent member of the treasury board. Several who are in trade have sold various supplies to the fire department, the school board, the public works and other departments. Lawyers in the council have assisted in civic litigation. One newspaper and job printing firm has had at different times two partners in the council and never gave up the city patronage either of the newspaper or the job office. The city buys oil from a firm, one of whose members is in the council. Contractors who were not aldermen have not hesitated to buy from members of the council supplies required for their work. Probably they have as a rule rather favored aldermen in sub-contracts or in purchasing supplies. It would not be possible to go over the books of the city in any year without finding traces of direct deals of the city with several members of the council, perhaps a majority of them.

The Times pointed out some time ago that a survey of the city accounts for years past would show that firms in which aldermen were interested had furnished supplies to the city, and that it would seem a hardship if this were never permitted.

The Sun's article, however, is too general in its application. For instance, the act does not apply to members of joint stock companies, and therefore there is no application to the case of an alderman who is a shareholder in a company doing business with the city. With regard to insurance, the city's business is divided among a number of different companies, and the company and not its agent is the party to the agreement. Of course the agent gets a commission, but his company must give satisfactory rates or it would not get the business, just as a mercantile company in which an alderman might be a shareholder would have to meet the prices of other merchants tendering for a contract for supplies. There is a great difference between the case of an agent for an insurance company and that of a contractor who is in business on his own account. With regard to the statement that lawyers in the council have assisted in civic litigation, the recorder has expressed the view that in such a case the lawyer receiving money from the city would be disqualified as an alderman. That point has been definitely settled and since that opinion was given no lawyer who was also an alderman has been paid by the city in connection with any civic case.

The particular case arising in regard to the public library differs from the others mentioned by the Sun, and the opinion of the recorder will no doubt be sought in that connection. The section of the act governing the case reads as follows:

No person shall be qualified to be elected, or to be or sit as mayor, alderman or councillor during such time as he shall hold any office or place of profit in the gift or disposal of the common council, the emoluments of which are paid out of the funds of the city, or during such time as he shall have directly or indirectly, by himself or partner, any share or interest in any contract or employment with, by, or on behalf of the corporation; provided such disqualification shall not arise from any person being a shareholder in any corporate company having a contract with the corporation, or any share or interest in any lease, sale, or purchase of corporation lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or any agreement for said lease, or for the loan of money; and no mayor, alderman or councillor shall receive into his hands any moneys, for or on account of any contract, work or employment made, done, or performed, by or on behalf of, or by direction of the said corporation, but all moneys due by the corporation on any such account shall be paid by the chamberlain of the city to the person or persons who shall actually have done such work, and shall be entitled to such moneys, by, under, or for such contract, work, or employment.

The only penalty attached to the violation of this section is disqualification. There can be no question that the spirit of the law has been violated in the past. A distinction, however, is made between individual contractors and those who are shareholders in companies. Perhaps the law is bad. If so, it should be amended. If not, it should be obeyed.

DOES HE LIKE IT?

Mayor A. B. Crosby of Halifax, N.S. will be remembered, recently promulgated a doctrine of "Halifax for the Halifaxians—none others need apply" and in a line with this he vetoed the appointment of F. W. Barbour, a St. John man, as supervisor of projected water extensions in the Nova Scotia city. His action was based on his contention that Mr. Barbour, though unfortunate enough

to be born in St. John, was a member of an American engineering firm. Mr. Barbour did not get the appointment and Mayor Crosby triumphed.

On Monday, nine Halifaxians who were going to work in the United States were turned back at Eastport. Last night they passed through St. John en route to Halifax. Again Mayor Crosby's doctrine Halifax for the Halifaxians; but this time the shoe is on the other foot. Does it pinch?

THE TANYARD BOY.

The Times a few days ago published an item stating that there was a "tanyard boy" at Hampton; that he was formerly of this city; and that he was exercising a bad influence over boys of susceptible nature in that village.

This morning this journal received the following letter from Hampton, Hampton, Nov. 18th 1904.

Dear Sir—I request you to print this in the Times whatever the cost may be, I will forfeit you I am the tanyard boy and very sorry that men so hilly-edged would clasp themselves with small boys on the corner but perhaps in time the moon will change the mans idear to the better and give the tanyard boys a rest the leader is included and I hope in time that we will have the informant included. This mans hear is never at content only when he is taken part with babies or half grown boys but this time he met one whom was one stage to many for the highly-edged gent whom tries to take part with smart entlent well learned active parties on scotact but this big head with out a hear can never make a point now his gave up his passion and talks with the tanyard boy

Hi Hi old pal for ever

I will put a stamp in this letter so you will drop me a line let me no what your charge will be and I will refund the cash at once.

The writer signs his name, but requests that it be withheld. As an addition to the curiosities of literature, and an illustration of the workings of the mind of the tanyard boy, the communication is not without interest.

B. O. Lott, who was the liberal candidate in West Hastings, Ont., in the federal elections, is charged with handling bogus ballot boxes. E. Gus Porter, the conservative member elect, and Lott's opponent, was once in jail for twenty four hours for voting twice at a dominion election. Philip Lott, the chief witness in the ballot box case, was convicted and fined last summer for selling liquor without a license. The next gentleman to appear in this odorous case should be the man who threw stones at his grandmother.

The United States officials continue to turn back sturdy and intelligent young Canadians, and receive with open arms the scum of Europe. That is one reason why the United States has Black Hand societies, bomb throwers, factory wreckers, and that sort of nation builders. There is no accounting for tastes.

There may be an exodus of harmless lunatics to the county almshouses, as a result of the present enquiry at the provincial hospital for the cure of nervous diseases. If that is proposed, the county councils will have a new problem to solve.

FORTUNES IN TEETH.

Canadian Dentists Use \$100,000 Worth of Gold Annually.

Of the wealth of this country there is a certain part that has never entered into the reports of the census of fiscal departments of the government. There is, if the estimates of men who should know are to be taken as authoritative, over \$50,000,000 personal wealth, in the shape of gold, of which the government is entirely ignorant, or, if not ignorant, has decided not to mention in its financial reports. Each year there is over \$100,000 worth of gold that disappears that is lost to the moneys of the world, and yet it is not lost.

AS TO UNION OF CHURCHES.

No Organic Union of Protestant Churches in the States.

Close Affiliation of American Religious Bodies Seems to be the Most That Can be Expected - Gratification Expressed That the Day of Interdenominational Bitterness Has Passed.

(Boston Transcript.)

While it is true that the various American religious bodies are showing a marked tendency to get together to a degree never before realized in the religious life of the country, it is a matter of great regret to the leaders who are working for organic union between some of the bodies that a more or less close affiliation seems to be the most that is likely of accomplishment for some years to come. There are many, on the other hand, who hold that such affiliation, carrying with it a friendly co-operation in the work of home and foreign missions and other church benevolence, is all that is desirable now or at any time. Those hold that the separation of the Protestant Church into denominations is by no means unfortunate and that by its efficiency of Christian work is promoted. At the same time they express gratification that the day of interdenominational bitterness has passed, but hold that friendship and co-operation do not imply union either present or ultimate. It is pointed out that plans of union, even if definitely agreed upon between leading men in various bodies, are very likely to fail when they come up for action before a whole denomination, and that objectors to organic union are in many cases supporters of plans for affiliation. Of the union plans now before the churches for definite action, practically none seems reasonably certain of accomplishment.

It is put down by many as a foregone conclusion that the union of the Presbyterian North and Cumberland Presbyteries, although it has been favorably upon by both General Assemblies, will not materialize. The Presbyteries of the Cumberland body, up to date, have voted, twenty-seven for and seventeen against the union. It is evident that even if a majority favor it there will be so strong a majority opposed that a division of the denomination is practically certain, and the Cumberland Church will be continued, even if a majority of its presbyteries go into the Northern body. In the Presbyterian Church North but few presbyteries have thus far acted in the matter, but a number have acted upon another overture from its General Assembly which bears a close relation to the matter. This overture permits the organization of separate presbyteries for colored people within the boundaries of existing presbyteries—"but in no case without their consent." The last clause is held to be ambiguous, and the opponents of union with the Cumberland Church are pointing out that under the clause, if adopted, presbyteries in the South might organize separate presbyteries for their colored churches, whether or not the colored ministers and members wanted them.

It is realized that the Cumberland Church, which is strong in the South, will not unite with the Northern church if the latter forbids the organization of separate presbyteries for colored people, and while the real objection of a number of Northern leaders to the union with the Cumberland Church is based on doctrinal rather than racial grounds, they are making a preliminary fight on the latter in the hope that the former may not need to be taken up. Of the Northern presbyteries which have voted on the overture regarding separate presbyteries for colored people a majority have acted favorably, but it is said that a number of them did not realize the effect of the clause mentioned and thought the permission granted was that of the colored churches and not the white. In the St. Louis presbytery, for example, favorable action taken may be reconsidered for this reason. The doctrinal differences between the Cumberland and Northern Presbyterian churches are not great, but leaders in both bodies consider them essential. It is admitted on all sides that the plan of union could not have gotten so far along as it has, had it not been for the action of the Northern General Assembly in 1903, which some call revision of the creed. Other hold that the Westminster Confession has not been revised. This is another point which is said to be sure to keep the two bodies apart, even if the colored question is settled.

Organic union between the Methodist Protestant and United Brethren denominations seems more promising at the present time than does any other union plan. Both these bodies are included in the proposed General Council of the United Churches on which the Congregationalists and Methodist Protestants have acted favorably, and United Brethren are to act at their General Conference next spring. But the General Council will be but a name for a close affiliation and leaders in the two bodies first named are urging organic union. Congregationalists may also come into the scheme, but many consider it improbable. There are others who hold that the United Brethren and Methodist Protestants will be satisfied with affiliation and will never get farther. Even if organic union is accomplished between these bodies it will take at least four years from next spring to adopt the plan, as the United Brethren General Conference meets quadrennially. Another union plan now talked of is between Disciples of Christ and Free-

will Baptists. These bodies have respectively a million and a quarter and eighty-five thousand members, and are practically alike in doctrine. Both are immersionists. The Free-will Baptists are strong in New England, while the Disciples are strong in the Middle and Southwest. There is yet no definite plan of union, and there are many who fall to see how two bodies congregational in government, with no centralized authority, can talk.

In all the talk of denominational union in this country there has been no proposition of union or affiliation wide enough to include the Roman Catholic Church. But in France there has been discussed the advisability of a union of Protestant and Roman interests, not an official discussion in any sense, but merely an interchange of the views of individuals. The matter was started by La Revue, a Parisian periodical, which invited responses as to whether the reunion of the Catholic and Protestant churches is desirable or possible. There were many replies, from both Catholics and Protestants, and the majority of the writers agreed on the desirability of such union, but all recognized the almost insurmountable obstacles to its realization. Many expressed a desire for some plan of co-operation to withstand the forces of irreligion and infidelity. Rev. Charles Wagner, now in this country, expressed his belief that while reunion may not be possible, concert of action certainly is. Nothing is likely to come of the discussion, but it shows the existence of a sentiment that has received wide approbation.

T. W. LAWSON SUED.

New York Lawyer Asks \$350,000 From Boston Capitalist—Suit is Not an Outcome of "Frenzied Finance" Articles.

New York, Nov. 22.—But little information could be obtained tonight as to the grounds upon which Paul Fuller, a New York lawyer, brought suit against Thomas W. Lawson, of Boston, today for \$350,000.

On behalf of Mr. Fuller it was denied that the suit was in any connection with Mr. Lawson's recent magazine articles. It was declared that Mr. Fuller alone was the plaintiff in the suit which was of a purely private nature. It was added that any information on the subject should come from Mr. Fuller's attorneys in Boston. Mr. Fuller is a member of the firm of Coudert Bros. In connection with this suit Mr. Lawson issued a statement in Boston last night.

FLOATED EASILY.

The Steamer Sicilian Prince, Ashore Near Point Lookout, Got Off Without Trouble.

New York, Nov. 23.—After lying fast in the sand near Point Lookout off the Long Island shore since early Sunday morning, the Prince Line steamship Sicilian Prince was floated at high tide yesterday.

According to the Marine Observers who have watched the vessel since she first went ashore she is not damaged to any great extent. It was expected that she would proceed immediately to her dock in Brooklyn.

The work of lightening the vessel was continued all day, cargo ballast and baggage being removed to barges. The sea was not heavy and the wind light so that the ship was in little danger of pounding.

MARINE NOTES.

British barkentine Nora Wiggins is loading at Calais Maine for Las Palmas and is expected to sail to day.

The schooner McClure, Weston, from Ship Harbor, N. S., for New York, reports Nov. 18, 20 miles W of Seal Island, in heavy NE gale, about 25,000 laths from deckload were washed overboard and lost.

From the returns compiled by Lloyd's Register of Shipping, it appears that, including warships there were 393 vessels of 1,046,308 tons gross under construction in the United Kingdom at the close of the quarter ended September 30, 1904. The tonnage under construction is now about 53,000 tons more than it was at the end of June, 1904. Compared, however, with the total reached in September, 1901, which is the highest on record, the present figures show a reduction of 387,000 tons, or 20 percent. Of the vessels under construction, 301, of 746,179 tons, are under the supervision of the surveyors of Lloyd's Register with a view to classification by this society. In addition, 53 vessels, of 139,966 tons, are building abroad, with a view to classification. The total tonnage at the present time under the supervision of Lloyd's Register is thus 354 vessels, of 901,145 tons.

OVERDUE WITH BIG CARGO.

Boston, Nov. 22.—The big Spanish tramp steamer Jupiter is now eight days overdue at this port from Java and the Underwriters who are heavily interested are becoming anxious regarding her.

The Jupiter has on board one of the largest cargoes of sugar ever shipped to this port from Java, its value approximating \$600,000. The dead weight of the cargo is 7,000 tons and the steamer was well down to her marks when she commenced her passage.

DROWNED AT PORTLAND.

Portland, Me., Nov. 22.—Wm. Guilford, Engineer of a harbor steamer fell from a wharf this evening and was drowned. His home was in this city. He is survived by a mother.

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Old Gentleman.—What has been the cause of your downfall? Tramp.—Well, yer see, I used to be a music teacher, but I've bin out uv work ever since dis had dese here automatic plianer players.—(Judge)

SUGGESTIONS BY READERS FOR INTERESTING FEATURES OF THE TIMES WILL BE WELCOMED AND GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION.

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 of Saint John 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 twentieth day of November A. D. 1904. JNO RUSSELL, JR., W. H. MURRAY, JOHN E. MOORE, JAMES V. RUSSELL, H. D. TROOP, Provisional Directors.

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