

THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES

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NEW TYPE, NEW STORY.

The Times received yesterday its new dress of head and advertising type, and will have it in use in a few days. It is plainer and more attractive than that now in use. It was a somewhat expensive outfit, on the whole; but nothing is too good for the readers of the Times. This paper will begin tomorrow the publication of a new serial story of thrilling interest. It is a story of English life, concerning the conviction of an innocent man on the charge of murder, a political plot to assassinate a prime minister, and a love story. The story is a strong one, and the daily instalment will interest all lovers of clean and clever fiction. The surest way to get the reading of the whole story is to become a subscriber and have the Times regularly delivered.

THE GLOBE'S DILEMMA.

The attitude of the Globe people in the present political campaign is a source of some amusement. On Tuesday the Globe published a very long list of names of persons who were supposed to favor the candidature of Dr. Smith. The only purpose to be served by the publication would be to lessen the chances of Mr. Skinner as a candidate.

The second act of the comedy opened in Berryman's Hall, when Mr. Richard O'Brien explained that he was present because he had read that it was a liberal convention. He spoke very highly of Mr. Skinner, who had already been nominated, and expressed the hope that he would be elected to represent them in the legislature. Mr. O'Brien did not say that he hoped Mr. Skinner would be elected as a supporter of Premier Tweedie and Dr. Pugsley.

The third act opened in the Globe office yesterday, revealing the editor at his desk. He praised Mr. Skinner, as an earnest and enthusiastic liberal. Mr. Lowell, the county candidate, was also praised.

But still there was no reference to Mr. Tweedie or his government, or the record of the government. Unless the Globe gets a little farther over the public will be disposed to believe that in the present opinion of the Globe a liberal candidate must be supported even if he endorses a government unworthy of mention. Mr. Lantulum, no doubt, would argue that it was not always thus with the Globe.

CIVIC TAXATION.

The city treasurer of Montreal recently submitted a series of recommendations on the subject of civic taxation. The council of the board of trade took up the question, and at a meeting of the city council on Monday sent in the following recommendations, which will be read with special interest in St. John at the present time:—

The council of the board endorses the proposal to increase the tax on real estate, believing it to be the fairest of all means of raising revenue, as such a tax reaches directly or indirectly all citizens; the council considers that the rate of such taxation should not exceed 14 percent.

The council deems the retention of the water rate advisable, but it urges its reduction from 7 1/2 to 5 percent, provided the rate on realty is at the same time advanced, so as to avoid any reduction in the total revenue. The council most emphatically approves the taxation of vacant lots and recommends that they be assessed at their full value.

The recommendation of the city treasurer regarding the taxation of government property is approved as it stands, viz., that government property should be subject to special taxes for those improvements which add to the value of real estate, such as permanent paving, sidewalks, sewers, etc.

The council would strongly urge that unoccupied land appertaining to religious and benevolent institutions should be taxed, excepting when it immediately adjoins and is constantly required for the needs of the work; also that where trades and industries are carried on in public institutions in competition with taxpayers, such institutions should be subject to taxation.

The council agrees with the City Treasurer in disapproving as unwise or inexpedient, a poll tax or tax on income, taxation of household furniture, bank stock, money and mortgages.

The council emphatically disapproves the treasurer's recommendation that fire insurance companies should bear at least one-half the cost of the maintenance of the fire brigade, believing that were this suggestion adopted the insurance companies would immediately recoup themselves for such outlay by a further increase in the rates.

Commenting on the proposed increase in the tax on real estate the witness says:—

"It is the fairest of all, as it falls on all in proportion to their means, and as the land gets from the community whatever value it has. The advance of a quarter percent will be the easier borne seeing how handsomely real estate has been paying for the past year or two. Any way, our realty tax is less than half that imposed in some great cities, and as

compared with other Canadian cities. Toronto pays 1.90 percent to our one percent; Halifax pays 1.60 percent, and London, 1.84 percent on the full value.

THE PROGRESSIVE WEST.

Telephone extension is a feature of the progress of the west. A Winnipeg paper states that during the coming year the Bell Telephone company will extend its long distance lines throughout the province, connecting many new towns with Winnipeg. During the year the company expects to string some 500 miles of long distance wires, which will enable communication to be obtained with almost any point in Manitoba, and also with many places in the Territories. The same paper adds:—

The rural services throughout the country are developing. On the Portage plains over seventy farmers are connected by telephone within a radius of ten miles of Portage la Prairie, and they are all able to speak to one another, besides having the benefit of being able to talk with anyone on the town list of 250 subscribers. When this service was first started on the Portage plains, the company had hard work canvassing for the first twenty-five subscribers, but as soon as these telephones were installed the others rushed in without being asked, and today many are being refused telephones because they are beyond the ten-mile radius.

This rural system is being developed throughout the West very rapidly, the farmers now needing no canvass to convince them of the benefits to be derived by being connected with the nearest town by telephone, because by this means they are able to keep thoroughly posted on the market prices, besides many other things.

A cablegram from St. Petersburg, says:—"There is no longer any doubt that the government intends to commit itself to very extensive reforms, as the result of the liberal agitation begun when Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky made his advent as minister of the interior. The Zemstvoist demands for a direct representative body to make the laws of the nation will not be granted, but some medium in the form of a representative consultative body, which can voice the wishes of the people direct to the sovereign, now seems the probable outcome. An entirely new law for the liberalization of the press also is apparently certain.

In the month of November there were 2,654 homestead entries in the Canadian North-West. This is an increase of 235 over last year. The greatest number of entries was at Regina, the records being 737. At Yorkton, Edmonton and Battleford there was also a brisk business, the number of entries averaging from ten to fifteen each day.

Montreal does not believe in indiscriminate charity. It is stated that during the first eleven months of the present year, no fewer than 156 destitute people, none of whom had any legal or moral claim for the support of Montreal citizens, were sent out of the city by the Charity Organization Society. This work was done at a cost to the city of \$480.30.

Between Saturday night and Monday morning there were sixteen small fires in Montreal, caused by overheated furnaces, falling stove pipes, and hot ashes in wooden receptacles. The chief of the fire department makes the timely observation that in severe winter weather great care should be taken to prevent such fires.

The total Toronto assessment value for 1905 is \$148,813,071. That for 1904 was \$141,668,154, so that the increase is \$7,144,917. The News points out that at a rate of 19 mills the increase of revenue will be \$135,753, which will be little enough in view of the growing civic expenditure.

No lynching was reported in the United States throughout the month of November and the Chicago Tribune, which keeps a record of this and other crimes of blood as reported in the daily news, says it is the first full calendar month to pass without a lynching since 1885.

The Moncton Transcript contributes this astronomical item:—"One of the many St. John Tory newspapers announces that the moon is cracked. Is that so? How disasters multiply. It has been known for some time past that both the Sun and Star were cracked."

The Montreal Witness advocates a Canadian census every five years, arguing that the rapid growth of the country makes it a necessity.

The discussion in Berryman's Hall this evening, on civic taxation, should prove of much interest to the business men of the city.

AFTER THE RAILROADS.

Roosevelt Wants to Ensure Equitable Freight Rates.

Washington, Dec. 14.—President Roosevelt today considered with several friends his recommendations that increased powers be conferred by legislation upon the inter-state commerce commission. To all he indicated his earnest desire that action of a definite nature, that would bring results to the people, should be taken as soon as practicable. By invitation of the President a special committee of the commercial travelers protective association called on him today to consider his recommendation that the powers of the inter-state commerce commission be extended so as to enable the commission to pass upon questions of railroads freight rates, subjects only to review by the courts. The committee was headed by F. W. Crandall of St. Louis, chairman of the national railroad commission. The committee assured the President that, in the stand he had taken regarding railroad rates, he had the cordial support of the 25,000 travelers and jobbers which the committee represented.

YOUNG GIRL A FORGER.

New York Dec. 14.—Louise Williams, 16 years old, was held in \$200 bail at Newark N. J. today, on a charge of having passed forged checks for small amounts on Merchants.

The girl alleged that her father, George Williams, had compelled her to draw the checks. She had in her pocket when arrested a letter, which she said she had received from her father. The writer told her to draw another check, get it cashed and send the money to him.

Williams is said to be in Providence, R. I. It was from there that the letter was sent. A warrant has been issued for the man's arrest.

TURK AND BIBLE.

Constantinople, Dec. 15.—In consequence of American and British representations the porte has renewed its instructions to the provincial authorities to allow colporteurs to sell bibles in towns and villages. The porte however persists in objecting to colporteurs traversing the disturbed rural districts of European Turkey, on the pretext that their safety cannot be guaranteed and also to the sale of bibles in the Anatolian provinces in Asiatic Turkey, because of the alleged fear that the colporteurs may distribute seditious literature to the Armenians.

OBITUARY.

Andrew E. McLaughlin.

For the second time in a year death has visited the home of William McLaughlin, baker, of 318 Brussels street. Eleven months ago, Mr. McLaughlin's wife died, and yesterday his youngest son, Andrew Edgar, passed away. The lad, who was thirteen years old, had been suffering from tonsillitis, and, while it was known that his heart was weak, the end was quite sudden and unexpected. He was seized yesterday and seemed fairly well, when he was seized with heart failure and was soon beyond the reach of aid. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. McLaughlin and family in their affliction. The boy was a nephew of Rev. Father O'Neill, of Silver Falls.

THE DAILEYS, TONIGHT.

"The King of the Opium Ring" will be the attraction of the Opera house this evening. The Dailey Company have been presenting a line of comedy and high class dramas during the past few weeks and their efforts, in sensational melodrama will be watched with interest. It is safe to state that they are capable of portraying any line of parts, therefore this evening's entertainment should be quite out of the ordinary.

The action of the play is laid in San Francisco's Chinatown and deals with a leader of a gang of Chinese smugglers, who is known as "The King of the Opium Ring." A wealthy Chinese highbinder is in league with him in his nefarious pursuits and it is in the attempted carrying out of the same and their eventual defeat that the play proves so interesting. Albert Perry will be seen as the King of the Opium Ring, and Charles Baringer in cast of Wah Sing, the Chinese highbinder. George Robinson will be seen as Old Ironsides, and Mr. O'Malley will play Hop Toy of Fong Qee Wahy Society. Homer Mullaney is also cast in a congenial role.

The ladies of the company will appear in strong parts. A special feature will be the human tower of Chinamen in the third act. Specialties will also be introduced.

QUEEN'S RINK.

By present indications it would seem that skating will be more popular this season than ever before. Never were so many hockey clubs lined up for the season's play as now, and probably never as much interest was taken in the sport. More clubs are anxious to organize than can be accommodated with practice hours at the Queen's rink. With all this skating interest it is not a matter for surprise that there should be such a run on season tickets as Christmas gifts. Hundreds of season tickets for Queen's will reach the skaters from the management via Santa Claus. The Artillery band will be in attendance during the winter, and they are already practicing with a view to giving the patrons of the Queen's the very best in their line this winter.

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

ON MANUAL TRAINING.

T. B. Kidner, Provincial Superintendent, Meets Board of Trade.

T. B. Kidner, superintendent of manual training work in connection with the schools of this province, was in town, yesterday and talked with some of the Board of Trade delegates. Manual training departments have been established and are vigorously carried on in connection with the schools at Fredericton, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Milltown, Campbellton, Woodstock, Florenceville, Sackville and Kingston. The one last mentioned is in connection with the Macdonald consolidated school. Instruction is given in this work at the provincial normal school in Fredericton.

In the town schools mentioned the department is in charge of instructors who give much of their time to it, teaching the classes by relay.

One teacher in one room can take care of twenty pupils at once. Allowing half a day in the week for each boy taking this work, 200 can receive instruction from one master. The equipment costs \$500, and half is paid by the province. Mr. Kidner was asked how much it would cost to begin this work in St. John. He said that the same rule would apply as in the towns. Equipment for 200 boys would cost \$500, of which the province would pay half. One room would be required. These would need one teacher. Instructors employed in this province received \$650 to \$900. If one room were started here as an experiment, in connection say with one grade or one school, it would be advisable to employ a first-class instructor.

Mr. Kidner is not responsible for the following computation of the cost of providing for the instruction of all boys in three grades (say seven, eight and nine). In these three grades there are perhaps 1,000 boys and an attendance of 800 in these classes might in the end have to be provided for. This would call for four rooms, \$2,000 worth of equipment, and four teachers. The cost of the building and half the cost of equipment would be borne by the city. The staff, one principal and three assistants, would cost say \$3,000 a year, partly covered by the provincial allowance. Halifax has provided a \$20,000 building for manual training and domestic science. Mr. Kidner does not advise large outlays of this kind, especially at first. He thinks that it is better to be prudent in building, and to be exacting and thorough in the choice of instructors.

THE TIMES IS ALARMED.

Asserts That British Artillery Has No Modern Guns.

London, Dec. 15.—The Times today prints a special article in which complaint was made that there has been unparadonable delay in re-arming the artillery. The article declares that with the exception of 18 batteries of quick fire guns hurriedly bought during the Boer war, the British army has no guns that would seriously count. In a modern war great Britain's artillery would be hopelessly outclassed alike in range, accuracy and rapidity of fire, and would be knocked to pieces before it could inflict any serious damage upon the enemy. Owing to the reluctance of the treasury to find money and to other red tape delays nine months have been wasted since war Secretary Broderick's committee last March decided on models for new guns and it certainly will be two years before the army is properly provided.

UNCLE SAM'S REFERENCE.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Admission free of duty on all articles which are the product and growth of the Philippine islands, except tobacco and sugar, is provided for in an amendment proposed today by Senator Foraker to the act providing for the administration of the affairs of the Philippine islands, now before the Senate. The proposed amendment fixed the duty on sugar and tobacco at only 25 percent of the Dingray rates. It is provided also that all duties shall be paid into the treasury of the Philippine government to expend for the benefit of the islands. The present duty is 75 percent of the Dingray rates.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

Halifax, N. S. Dec. 14.—The annual meeting of the Maritime Commercial Travellers' Association was held at Halifax this evening, 150 members being present. The treasurer's statement showed a financial gain of \$4,263, on the business of the year. The total resources amount to \$31,648.

The following officers were elected: President—Joseph L. Hetherington. Vice-Presidents for Nova Scotia—George E. Davison, L. Clyde Davidson, Charles Blakie, J. B. Douglas. Vice-Presidents for New Brunswick—R. A. March, Henry Thomas, David M. Doherty, Alex. Binning. Treasurer—Wm. Robertson. A special will be attached to the C. P. R. from Halifax for those who will go from here to the annual dinner at St. John on Dec. 22.

Mrs. Kingle (whose husband had told her that the apartment in use was the proper thing for her, on the principle of suits to the sweet). Henry said an awfully nice thing to me today.

Mrs. Kingle—Yes. He said this was just the place for me—lats to the why, somehow that doesn't sound right, after all.

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A WESTERN TOWN.

Calgary to Have a \$60,000 Church and Municipal Electric Lighting.

The young men of Calgary have started a fund to build a Y. M. C. A. home and have already collected \$5,000.

Calgary taxpayers will have to face an overdraft of \$40,000 at the end of the year, the largest in the city's history.

At Calgary the Methodists are erecting a new church to cost \$60,000. It is to be the most modern edifice in the Territories, and will meet the needs of attendants for many years to come. An active campaign is to be waged among young men. In the basement of the church there will be a gymnasium, reading rooms, and swimming baths, in order that all young men may be drawn to the building.

At a recent meeting of the city council of Calgary it was decided to submit to the 'people of the city' a by-law to raise \$60,000 to instal a municipal electric lighting plant. It was carried by a majority of five votes to three. The vote will be taken on December 20. A proposition was presented to the Calgary Water Power company of \$80 a light for 85 lights. To this the council decided to add a clause restricting the company in their charges for their domestic lighting, but to this the company would not agree.

GOOD WORK FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

National Sanitarium Association Will Increase Accommodation at Muskoka Free Hospital.

Toronto, Dec. 14.—That the National Sanitarium Association is doing good work among those afflicted with tuberculosis is evident, the report of the physician in charge of the Cottage Sanitarium, Dr. O. H. Elliott.

It was shown that of the twelve patients discharged in 1897-98 as cured, ten are now in perfect health, and the other two cannot be traced. In the same year 23 were discharged with the disease arrested. Of these, four have not been traced, but of the remaining nineteen four have lapsed and died, one has died of another disease, and the remaining fourteen are as well or better than at the time of their discharge. In 1898-99 twenty-one were discharged as cured, and nineteen of these are still in perfect health.

In the Muskoka Free Hospital 197 patients were treated during the year, and there is urgent need for increased accommodation.

In the report of the secretary, Mr. J. S. Robertson, special mention is made of the spread of municipal interest in the work of the Sanitarium as shown by the contributions from the cities of Hamilton and Ottawa. The contributions received on maintenance and capital account during the year have reached \$26,000, the largest since the institution was opened. There is still, however, a large bank overdraft against the institution and the public is asked to contribute generously to put the institution on its feet.

Statistics from the Department of the Provincial Board of Health shows that consumption has decreased over 40 per cent. during the last three years.

STILL TALKING RECIPROCITY.

Boston, Dec. 14.—At the annual dinner of the New England Grain Dealers Association tonight at the Exchange Club, Henry M. Whitney, President, and Elwyn G. Preston, Secretary, respectively of the Chamber of Commerce, were guests.

Mr. Whitney spoke of reciprocity questions and said that the great opportunity of Boston for building up an enormous commercial city and giving to the Association international importance in the handling of its grain was lost because the people and merchants of Boston did not cry out against the policy that turned Canada away from the United States at the opportune time.

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