THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.

QUEBEC POLITICS.

Unless the good offices of Sir Wilfrid Laurier have the effect of restoring harmony in the liberal party the coming session of the Quebec legislature will be even more lively than if there were a strong conservative opposition. Premier Parent was in Ottawa last week, in consultation with Sir Wilfrid, and to ask on behalf of his government that the provincial subsidy for Quebec be increased by about seven hundred thousand dollars. When questioned about the attacks made upon him he said:—"I intend to meet the legislature at its approaching session as prime minister relying uoon the magnificent majority with which I was sustained at the recent elections. I have been attacked by members of my own party but I defy them to make good their charges."

If Premier Parent's political enemies in his own party are equally defiant there will be a lively time in the ancient city this winter.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has gone to Quebec.

THEY WANT MR. BORDEN.

The question of the leadership of the federal opposition is a topic of interested discussion in the upper provinces. Mr. Tarte's paper La Patrie has said that at the conservative caucus to be held in Ottawa on January 10th, Mr. R. L. Borden will "peremptorily refuse to re-enter politics."

When shown this statement Hon. Geo. E. Foster declined to believe it.

"What should be done," said Mr. Foster, "is to provide Mr. Borden with a seat at once, and I have great hope that that will be done. I do not believe in allowing leaders who have happened to lose their constituencies to fall by the way. Mr. Borden deserves, and I am quite certain the liberal-conservative party will accord him, both for his and their sake, the greatest assistance in this matter."

E. F. Clarkei M. P. said:

"I am of the opinion that every conservative who will take his seat in the house of commons when parliament re-assembles is desirous and most anxious that Mr. Borden shall retain the leadership of the party. His followers appreciated the fact that they are asking him to make still further sacrifices in the public interest and they rely upon his patriotism to do so. He occupies a most honorable and conspicuous place in the public life of Canada, and his followers in and out of parliament will be a unit in according him their hearty confidence and support."

A. E. Kemp M. P. and A. C. Macdonell M. P. also refused to credit the report. Mr. Macdonell declared that "there was not a conservative member in Ontario who would not gladly give up his seat for Mr. Borden, and he believed the rank and file of the party in the province was solidly behind their present leader."

CIVIC TAXATION.

The special revenue committee of the Montreal city council, which has been looking into the question of taxation, has decided in favor of an income tax to be levied on all who do not pay any other tax, but incomes up to $700 are to be exempt. The report which was adopted is thus quoted by the Witness:—

A special tax, not exceeding two or three percent on the salary, wages or income of every person working or carrying on business or residing in the city and paying no tax to the said city as proprietor, or tenant, nor any business tax, provided the sum of $700 on said salaries or wages, and that of $700 on said income be exempted from such tax. All persons subject to such tax shall furnish the board of assessors, before the 1st of June in each year, with a statement of their salary, wages, revenue or income, duly sworn to before a justice of the peace for the district of Montreal. All companies, business or industrial firms and all persons employing regularly persons residing outside of the city limits, shall furnish the board of assessors, before the 1st of June, in each year, with a statement duly sworn to before a justice of the peace, showing the names, residence and salaries or wages of such persons.

It shall be lawful for the board of assessors, in case the said statements should not be produced within the delay so fixed or should not be considered as sufficient, to estimate and enter upon the tax roll the amount of the salary, wages, revenue or income of the person thus neglecting to make such statement or making a false statement, as the case may be, as approximately as possible, and the amount so entered shall be held legal and valid for the purpose of computing the tax payable by such person and compelling payment of the same, according to law.

In order to facilitate the collection of the income tax, all commercial or industrial companies or corporations and all banks and monetary institutions and all hotelkeepers, and boarding-house keepers, shall give to the board of assessors the information required in order to know the persons subject to such tax and to ascertain their income.

Where such income is not a salary or other fixed amount capable of being estimated for the current year, the income of such person for the purposes of assessment shall be taken to be not less than the amount of his income during the year ending on the 31st day of December then last past.

Every agent, trustee or person who collects or receives or is in any way in the possession or control of income for, or on behalf of a person who is resident out of the province, shall be assessed in respert of such income.

Every person assessed under this section shall be so assessed at his place of business, if any, or if he has no place of business, at his residence.

It is further recommended, says the Witness, that an annual and fixed tax be levied on every person or company carrying on or exercising, either on his or its own account, on as agent for others, any trade, industry, occupation, or profession, art, means of profit or subsistence or of gain whatsoever, not enumerated in the charter or the by-laws of the city; also that companies enjoying franchises be compelled to pay a tax based on the value of the public domain they occupy, either for their conduits or for any other purposes in connection with their operations or industry.

It was further decided to recommend that the city treasurer, comptroller and chairman of board of assessors visit United States cities where an income tax is collected and learn how the law is framed and enforced.

Of course the recommendations of the revenue committee must be approved by the council before legislation is secured.

The proposed commission on the St. John assessment law will no doubt get some valuable hints from Montreal, where the whole question of civic revenue is being exhaustively considered.

The Toronto board of fire underwriters have decided to grant a reduction in the key rate of insurance in the congested district from $1 to 50 cents, and a general reduction of 20 per cent. in the rates upon all dwellings in Toronto when the improvements to the fire protection system mentioned in the $700,000 by-law to be voted upon on January 2 have been made. It will take about a year to complete the improvements and until then the present rates will stand.

With the announcement of the launching of the second turbine steamship for the Allan line comes an authoritative statement that the report that the trial of the first one was nnsatisfactory was utterly false. The owners say they are convinced these steamers will be a complete success.

Russia is moving in the direction of emancipation from the despotic rule of past centuries. The way is long, but the Czar's ukase gives promise of better days.

It is announced that a chair of anatomy is shortly to be established in connection with the science depkrtment of Manitoba University.

By a vote of 422 to 46 the people of Calgary have decided in favor of installing a municipal electric plant in that city.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

The Dailey Stock Company scored a big hit at the Opera House yesterday, when they presented as their holiday attraction, "Our New Minister." At eight o'clock last night the S.. R. O. sign was hung up, and when the curtain rose for the first act, the house was packed to the doors.

"Our New Minister" was written by Denman Thompson, the famous dramatist. The character and rural atmosphere which surrounds the plot of the play is near to life.

Charles Booth, as Thaddeus Strong "Our new Mininster," gave a fine portrayal of the part, and was a favorite with the audience all through the play.

Geo. Robinson did well as Lem Ransom, a reformed convict.

Homer, Mullaney, as the "county detective who was known all over America," kept the audience in a constant uproar. His specialty between the second and third acts was well received.

The part of Nance Ransom, was properly handled by Miss Helen Ray. Miss Hartley, as the "Bowery Boy" was good and her singing between the first and second acts, brought forth hearty applause from the audience. "Our New Minister" will be repeated tonight and tomorrow afternoon and evening.

Commencing Thursday and continuing for the balance of the week another new play, Tess of D'Urberville, will be the attraction. On New Year's Day a great attraction is in rehearsal. Reserved seats for all performances can be had at the Opera House box office.

At the Ranche. Cantle—Marcow must have been fuller than a goat last night. You see, he forgot to take off his boots.

Leathers—Why can't you look at the matter more charitably? Perhaps he was perfectly sober, and only took the precaution that a brave man might be expected to take to die with his boots on.

INCENSE TO MAMMON ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Where Canada's Old and Worn Out Dollar Bills Are Destroyed By Cremation ---The Sweat Stained Money of the People.

(Arthur B. Hannay, in the Montreal Herald.)

Ottawa, Dec. 17:—The trinity in Gothic architecture which stand upon Parliament Hill, are a delight to the eye and an inspiration to the imagination.

Summer or winter, sunshine or rain, night or day, charm envelopes their exterior. At any time or season it is irresistible. With equal force the three buildings make their pleasant petition to the sight. But one of them has the power to appeal to another of the senses. While without the Eastern Black entrances the eye, within it offends the nose. There is distinctly a smell about the inside of the building. It is a peculiar smell, and not a pleasant one, Whatever may be the experience of the nose which the tourist pokes into his block for the first time, the smell which swarms up it is bound to surprise. It is not like anything alive. Still there is something human about it. It is offensively familiar too. It embraces strangers like an old friend. The further into the interior of the building one penetrates the more clinging and enveloping this odor becomes. But its distribution is not equal. There are parts of the building where one only sniffs inquisitively, and wonders what it is. There are other parts of the building where one merely wishes to move on and get away from the unpleasantness. There are other parts where the stranger is seized with a frantic desire to call for the health department.

There are some important public characters who have daily intercourse, with this odor. The office of the Prime Minister is in the building but on the outskirts of the smell The Governor-General has his office a little further within the zone of olfaction. The Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General have offices within smelling distance. The Secretary of State's is nearer the source of distress, and the Finance Minister is also in the thick of it. It may interest the reader to know that he or she doubtless has a share in the creation of this smell. The matter ials for it have been carefully gathered from every individual in the land, and carefully conveyed to the eastern block of the Capitol. The contribution of each amounts to practically nothing. The stupendous whole, however, is appalling. The source of all the smell is filthy lucre. The dirty dollar bills gathered from all over the country are stored in a vault in the office of the Controller of the Currency. It is not without reason that the Auditor-General recently wrote so feelingly of "the sweat-stained money of the people," He is just around the corner from the vault, and knows what he is writing about.

That sweat has come from the honest butcher, and baker, and candlestick maker, The banker, the broker, the brewer, the bartender, the bricklayer each has had his fingers on these bills, and each touch has soiled a little. The finest ladies in the land have contributed their perfumed portion to the defilement. The stains upon the notes have been gathered in all kinds of places and in all sorts of causes. In rewarding virtue and in pandering to vice, in testing honestly and in tempting weakness, in fleeing from those who hath not to those who hath the bills have travelled and grown filthy. They have met corruption on the collection plate and in the pocket of the footpad. Finally these travellers, tattered and torn, dirty and defaced, have been gathered by all the banks of the land and sent back whence they issued crisp crinky months or years before.

The place of beginning also is the scene of the end of Dominion bills. The one, two and four dollar notes, fresh and green from the note printer to the office of the Controller of Currency. They cost a little over a cent and a half each. They are in sheets of four, and have to be signed before they are legal tender. In the office in the eastern end of the Eastern Block there are twenty men and women busy from morning until night in the summer time, counting signing and sending out the new Dominion notes. In the winter time the chief business of the staff is the counting of the mutilated bills which banks have sent to the Deputy Controllers, and they, after mutilating them beyond the possibility of further use, have sent them on to Ottawa. They come by the hundred weight, and accumlate by the ton or cord. They are kept in a big burglar-proof vault, with a Dominion policeman and a steel grating always in front of them This precaution seems almost superfluous, for the signatures have been cut off every bill, and they are each marked so they could not be passed on any one but a blind man. A safebreaker would find this a profitable field in which to ply his trade.

Every morning the door of the vault is opened, and there issues forth millions of microbes and a great rush of smell. Two messengers, stout of arm and staunch of stomach, enter under the surveillance of one of the finance officials, and throw the big bundles of dirty bills into a commonplace pine box. Each of these bundles contains a thousand bills. Sixty-two bundles of packages of them are taken, each containing one thousand dollars. Then the box is carried to the cellar, and the bills are thrown into a furnace. This is an old-fashioned affair, and it does not look as if it had cremated eighty-five millions of stuff that once passed from hand to hand as good money. It just contains the charge neatly. Then a match is applied, and the furnace locked. Before the day is over the bills have been reduced to ashes.

There is a tradition that a good but simple Canadian from the vicinity of Quebec once witnessed this operation. His eyes stuck out at the sight of the great packages of notes which his experience told him were as good money as any man could want. When he saw the bills thrown into the furnace he protested against such extravagance. When he saw the match applied he pleaded for just one of the packages. "If the government thinks so little of the money that it destroys it, I do not see why I should not have what it does not want. Give me one bundle," was the way he put it. He went home to his neighbors without the money, but with a story of official disregard for wealth which horrified the community. He had discovered the secret of the deficits which occurred in those days, and of which the orators had so much to say before the church doors on Sundays. Thereafter he voted against the government, and raised a large family for the same purpose. They are doubtless voting that way yet.

It is after the sacrificial fire has been lighted that the smell generally becomes rampant. The heat sends the microbes rushing out of the furnace to escape destruction. They make excursions to the furthest recesses of the building. Then life loses its charm for the clerks in the canal side of the Eastern Block.

There is to be a change in the method of disposing of the tattered notes. The Finance Department has a modern and more sanitary system under consideration at the present time. In the United States the notes are no longer burned, but are pulped, and the pulp is sold and made into souvenirs. It is likely that some such method will be soon adopted at Ottawa. Then the notes will doubtless be destroyed as fast as they come in, and the wonderful odor of the Finance Department will be a thing of the past. The incense to Mammon will rise no more.

AT THE YORK THEATRE.

The biggest house of the year greeted the specialty artists in the York Theatre Monday afternoon. There were six features on the bill and when all was through Manager Hyde's list for this week was voted the best of the season. Hyde and Leola appeared again in the tramp act, and have not lost any popularity. Carson Bros. were particularly fine in their gymnastic work. Their feats of strength and agility were marvellous and called forth deserved applause. Owing to the space between the horizontal bars not being exactly right, one of the brothers got a rather nasty fall by coming in contact with the lower bar before he expected to reach it. He brought up violently against the bar and dropped heavily to the floor, landing upon his feet and back. He was able to continue the performance, however. The other specialties included Jones and Walton in a comedy sketch, Farrel, comedian, whistler and dancer; Reilly and Adams in an Irish sketch, and Hilton the Hebrew juggler. A matinee will be given daily.

A GOOD BREAKFAST.

There is no disputing the excellence of "SWISS FOOD." Its enormously increasing sales prove its quality. P. McIntosh & Son, Millers, Toronto.

Wilkins—So you think Fred and Agnes are really and truly in love with one another?

Miller—They can be no doubt about it. Why, they came over from London in the same steamer and were seasick together, and they were actually on speaking terms when they landed!

THE MAN SHOPPER.

From the Chicago Tribune.

I am the man shopper.
I am one among a million souls, and yet I am a million souls in one.
I strive hither and thither, looking for something to give Lizzie, and for the talking doll for my sister's cousin's niece.
I have in my vest pocket the list. Mine is one of 1,000,000 vest pockets, and mine is 1,000,000 vest pockets in one.
I must find pearl handled opera glasses for Cousin Jennie (if I can get anything decent for $8.89.)
I must get a hundred other things—for this is the season of joy and gladness.

I am the man shopper.
I wonder what friends and kindred would do without us.
I see a man with a game eye and a striped cravat. He is buying a silver flask. He is happy. He is kicking about his change.
I see a man in a frock coat and a white tie—a pastor. He is spotting the slipper counter and looking for members of his flock.

I am bumped into a cash boy; I am scolded by a woman with a pompadour and a trusting child for stepping on to her dress.

I am the man shopper.
I hear a hundred gay girls giggle about what they will get for him. I also hear them gurgle about what he ought to get for them.
I am pained. I have leaned against some holly. I am told by another floorwalker how to go to the novelty counter.
I tell him how to go somewhere else.
I am asked by 700 people if I have been waited on.
I am full of the fierce joy of being in and among, and up, and through, and altogether and utterly of the great mass of humanity.
I feel Tiny Timmified and all the world may hang up its stocking.
I am the—For the last time, sir, GET OFF MY FEET!

IN TELEGRAPHIC AND GENERAL NEWS THE TIMES LEADS.

PRESENTS FOR YOUR FRIENDS.

Wonderfully Beautiful.

Is the line of Christmas Goods I am showing this year. The stock includes the Choicest and Best and Newest Styles in

Watches, Chains, Necklets, Pendants, Lockets, Charms, Bracelets, Brooches, Rings, Links, Buttons, Bangles, Scarf Pins, &c.

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Don't forget that you can assist the doctor greatly in getting the best results from his prescriptions by having them filled properly. You make sure of this in bringing them here. We can afford you absolute security both as to quality of drugs and accuracy of compounding.

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Dealer in Soft Coal, Hard and Soft Wood and Kindling. Cracked Oats.
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JAMES P. QUINN,
Dealer in all kinds of Fresh, Smoked, and Boneless FISH. Oysters and Clams.

Judge Saunderson, who is practising law in Everett, Washington, formerly lived in Kentland, Ind., the boyhood home of George Ade, the humorist.

"Ade was a peculiar character in his younger years," says the judge. He made my office a sort of loafing place during the little time he spent in loafing. He was employed on a farm owned by a banker. One day he walked into the office and said to me:—

"That man is the best I ever worked for."

"Why?" I asked, for I knew that something funny was coming from Ade.

"Well," he replied, "he doesn't ask a man to do a day's work in ten hours—he gives him sixteen."

Two men went into a Boston drug store and told the proprietor that they had made a soda water bet and would have their sodas now, and when the bet was decided the loser would drop in and pay for them, if that would be satisfactory to the druggist. He answered that it would, and after the sodas had been enjoyed, he asked:

"By the way, what was the bet?"

"My friend here," said one of the men, "bets that when Bunker Hill monument falls it will fall towards the north and I bet it won't."

Customer—By the way, what do you mean by what you call blend whiskey?

Liquad Dealer—A blend sir, is the word we use to distinguish our doctored whiskeys from the adulterated whiskeys that come from other houses.

Customer (angrily) "I found a live fish in the milk yesterday."

Milkman—"That is not at all strange. My cows drink water from a trout stream."

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED, having been appointed by the Common Council of the City of St. John, a committee of the said Council for conducting the sale of the Fisheries on the eastern side of the Bay, River and Harbor of St. John, and of the Fisheries on the western side of the harbor, in the City of St. John, for the ensuing year, pursuant to law, hereby give notice that the Fishery lots along the east side of the Bay, River and Harbor and all the Fisheries heretofore enjoyed and possessed by the inhabitants on the east side of the harbor, with those in and surrounding Navy Island, and also the Fishery lots of the western side of the harbor, will be sold at Public Auction on TUESDAY, the THIRD DAY OF JANUARY NEXT, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the old City Court Room (so called), in the Court House, in the City of St. John, for the fishing season of the ensuing year to end on the 15th day of December, 1905.

Dated the 15th day of December, 1904.

THOMAS H. BULLOCK,
JAMES H. FRINK,
CHARLES H. BRANNEN,
JOHN McGOLDRICK,
JAMES CARLETON,
WILLIAM S. DALEY,
ISAIAH W. HOLDER.

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LIGHTNING HITCH,
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Men's, - - $1.75
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Skates attached Free.

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A LARGE ASSORTMENT
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AT LOWEST CASH PRICES.
Men's Hand Made Kip Long Boots, $3.00.

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There is this about Diamonds, they are good for a life time; worth as much at one time as another.

We have a fine assortment of Diamond Rings, about any size of stone or style of setting you may desire.

Our stock of watches and jewelry in general is Big Enough to Supply Everybodies Wants.

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Importer and Dealer in Builders and Housekeepers' HARDWARE, PAINTS, OILS and GLASS.
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