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ST. JOHN STAR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 12, 1901.

REV. MR. HOYT'S LETTER.

The suggestion made by Rev. Mr. Hoyt in a letter to today's Star is worthy of careful consideration. It would be possible to utilize the old penitentiary building as a house of correction for the longer term prisoners it would relieve the congested condition of the jail, and the certainty that hard labor would really mean hard labor would have a salutary effect on those who now regard jail life as a welcome period of healthful relaxation. The truth of what Mr. Hoyt says from the economic standpoint of the value of the stone deposits near the old structure, for macadamizing purposes, is apparent to all who have gone over the road leading to Silver Falls in connection with the project of jail enlargement. It is not yet too late to give further consideration to this suggestion.

MORE WHARF ROOM NEEDED.

The work of reconstruction on the wharf at Reed's point is not progressing as rapidly as was expected. The work was to be done by July 1st, but it is accomplished there will have to be some lively work. The St. Croix, of the I. S. S. line will then come on the route and the new wharf will be needed. If it is not ready, the situation will be a little awkward. There is a lot of talk on the street of the possibility of the D. A. R. putting a steamer on the St. John-Boston route. This is altogether unlikely, as the company would not be anxious to invite new competition in their own field. Even if they came here, or if a steamer were put on the New York route, there would be great difficulty in securing a berth. The same would be true if the Prince Edward went on the south shore route—unless she could get the use of the idle wharves at the head of the harbor owned by the government. The question of increased wharf accommodation on the east side of the harbor is one of special importance. Any increase of traffic would make more wharf room an imperative need.

THE FABIAN LEAGUE.

The meeting of the Fabian league last evening was an affair of much interest, and a number of the addresses given were worthy of a much larger audience. The paper read by Mr. Dykeman showed that he had given a great deal of care and attention to its preparation, and it was of the sort to challenge the close attention of his hearers. The general discussion took a rather wide range, but was none the less interesting; and it was brought back to the particular subject in hand—that of municipal ownership of lighting plants—by the admirable address of Ald. Macrae and Baxter, who, with Ald. Waring, were among those present. Ald. Macrae pointed out with great force that the Fabian league should consider a matter now before the city council, and if they favored the acquisition by the city of the west side lighting plant and franchise, they should bring their influence to bear upon the aldermen who are opposed to such action—dealing with a concrete question now before the public rather than general statements concerning public ownership. Ald. Baxter endorsed this view, and very clearly set forth the present position of affairs with regard to the west side lighting system. He was rather pessimistic as to the possibility of getting a two-thirds vote of the council in favor of the proposed purchase, but remarked that the gentlemen who professed to favor the principle of municipal ownership would have an opportunity if the purchase were not made, to vote on the question of lighting the west side from the north end station. If that failed, makers would go on as at present until it pleased the Street Railway company to extend their wires to the west side, drive the weaker company to the wall, and control the business. Years hence, he believed, if the latter alternative prevailed, the present city council would be condemned for not seizing the opportunity to acquire a very valuable franchise. The alderman was opposed to any harsh criticism of those members of the council who opposed the purchase because they did not favor so large an expenditure for a second hand plant, etc. He observed, there was sometimes a tendency to rush things, and a wise caution was commendable. There was a majority of the council in favor of the purchase, and they might have rushed it through the other day, but they felt that such a course would be very unwise, since a two-thirds vote would be necessary to the issue of the debentures to complete the bargain.

A WORD TO THE OVER-WISE.

The Star is pleased to observe that it has excited the interested attention of the valued Telegraph. It is really time that large and empty journal interested itself in a live topic. Realizing how much more interesting

and more widely read are the excellent police reports in this paper than any in our own country and dry-as-dust editorials, the Telegraph fervently calls for the suppression of the former. The Telegraph admits that the other evening papers have tried to profit by their careful reading of the Star, and this ambitious young journal is equally and cheerfully willing to set the pace for the morning sanitarian for variety editors.

The Telegraph's hypocritical appeal to the "sober Christian people of St. John," and its allusions to "coarse wit," will be taken at their real value by a discerning public. The Star has no desire to ridicule the misfortunes of any individual or any class. The daily police record, as presented from day to day in this paper, is an object lesson that reveals certain conditions of life among us just as they are. It is not necessary, for example, to use silly cartoons; neither is a black board needed. What is pitiable about these cases is obvious. If there be a touch of humor in the picture, let us have it. There is need of it.

Without presuming to dictate, the Star begs to commend to the editor and editors as well as those who edit the valued Telegraph, the following observations from the pen of George Elliot:

"I laugh at you, O fellow-men! If I trace with curious interest your labyrinthine self-delusions, and smile at your hopeless endeavors in a rashly chosen part, it is not that I feel myself aloof from you. The more intimately I seem to discern your weaknesses, the stronger to me is the proof that I share them. No man can know his brother simply as a spectator. Dear blunders, I am one of you. I wince at the fact, but I am not ignorant of it, that I too am laughable on unusual occasions; nay, in the very whirlwind and tempest of my anger, I include myself under my own indignation. If the human race has a bad reputation, I perceive that I cannot escape being compromised. And thus while I carry in myself the key to other men's experience, it is only by observing others that I can so far correct my self-ignorance as to arrive at the certainty that I am liable to commit myself unawares, and to manifest some incompetency which I know no more of than the blind man knows his own face in the glass."

BRETHREN AT VARIANCE.

Relations are strained between the Moncton Transcript and the Chatham Advance. Brother Hawke has criticized the crown land administration of the local government. Brother Smith, with his usual eagerness to defend all governments, rushes to the defence and assails the Transcript with sound and fury. Whereupon Brother Hawke observes that Premier Tweedie would get along better without the support of the Chatham Advance. "But, perhaps," concludes Brother Hawke, "it is unfair to hold Mr. Tweedie altogether responsible for the Advance, as he might point to the personality of its editor and plead with convincing force and truthfulness that he should not be held responsible if he fails to create a silk purse out of a sow's ear like the Advance man."

NO MORE BAD DREAMS.

Musical dentistry is the newest thing in Paris. It was expounded before a recent meeting of the Academy of Medicine, by an enthusiastic physician who has adopted it. The idea is to have sweet music played before and when the anesthetic is administered. By the new method a phonograph is used. The patient puts the tube to his ear, the music is started, the gas administered, and shortly afterwards the occupant of the once-dreaded dental chair awakes from pleasant dreams to see the smiling surgeon showing him a varied choice of musical selections can, and indeed, should be made to suit different temperaments and teeth. The physician spoke quite enthusiastically about the new process to the assembled academicians, and is eager to apply the musical method to surgical operations in general. If teeth can be drawn to music why not limbs cut off and tungs extracted? The possibilities appear to be unlimited.

VERY FREE USE OF TAFFY.

Grant Richards, a London publisher, is at present in America studying the methods of American publishers, and endeavoring to secure English copyrights for recent American novels. He says that there is a great demand for American literature in England, which is quite a new taste, due to the better knowledge which now prevails of American conditions. Mr. Richards says that there is a much wider prevalence of the reading habit on this side of the Atlantic, and the reading public is on a much higher plane. Mr. Richards' humble views of his country's taste for literature, and his laudatory statements about America and her work is quoted at length in a New York paper. The following is a sample of his conversation when interviewed. He had evidently very shrewdly gauged the capacity of his audience for taffy:

"Nothing in the whole United States has impressed me more than my discovery a few days ago of a little news stand, the proprietor of which was a boy sixteen years old. On his little four-foot counter he displayed for sale

ten recent novels. With all my experience as a publisher, I could not have made a better selection than the seven-boy old. Now such a sight would be impossible in London. Six-shilling novels on a new stand? Never."

And again he says: "Magazines, to my mind, constitute another field in which Americans excel us. No popular magazine published in England can, in my opinion, compare in its general excellence with the leading magazines of the same class in this country."

Even the cheaper ones seem to be written and made up for a more intelligent and higher class of readers than ours. The articles are more timely. Their subjects are selected more with a view to what people want to read about than with us. Taken as a whole, American magazines are a splendid spur of contemporary American thought and progress."

As if suddenly becoming aware of his confessions being unfair to his own country this loquacious publisher concludes with:—"So far as the mechanical production of books is concerned, American popular editions are, as a rule, better than English; but, on the other hand, our publishers are a better book if we want to. For example, the 'Outward Bound' is a much finer edition of Kipling than has ever been attempted with us, but it is excelled by the recent Edinburgh edition of Robert Louis Stevenson."

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

A HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the Star: Sir—The reason given by Judge Forbes for sending the convict Manson to exile, as well as your amusing article upon Jimmy the Squealer, are among the evidences which have been accumulating of late, proving the necessity of a house of correction, which would make provision for the idle as well as the vicious, and at the same time relieve the congested state of the population in the jail. Previous to the removal of the provincial penitentiary from St. John, the "drunks" and other minor offences found asylum in that institution, and the sentence "forty days with hard labor" had a meaning. Why could the same building not be applied to the same purpose now?

A large solid stone structure, which could be put to any other purpose, is going to decay. A few thousand dollars would make it fitted for the purpose, and it would be worth many thousand dollars more than the outlay.

It can be of no value to the government, and therefore, I should think, could be easily conveyed to the county. The county already owns the adjoining land, as Alma house property, so that a road could be easily constructed without interfering with the Industrial hall in the front.

Besides this, the best material for roads has been found upon the lot on which this building is situated. This has been proved upon trial. If any one wishes to test it, let him drive out to Silver Falls and note the material with which the road is macadamized.

A stone crusher connected with the establishment would afford employment to the inmates, and at the same time produce a much needed improvement on the roads of the city and county.

In this way a trip "across the state" would be a trip to idlers, as it was in the olden time. Yours, etc., LEO A. HOYT.

DISTRICT MEETING.

Financial and Statistical Reports Received This Morning.

The Methodist district meeting continued its session today. Rev. Geo. Steel presided. After the opening devotional service reports were received from the different circuits and missions. The membership statistics were first given. They are:

Table with columns: Church, Mem., Inc., Dec. Lists churches like Queen square, Canterbury, etc., with membership numbers.

Total decrease, 51. The statistical returns were first brought in. They were the amount raised for all purposes, ministers' salary, circuit purposes, and conventional funds:

Table with columns: Church, Amount. Lists churches like Queen square, Canterbury, etc., with financial amounts.

COL. CHAR. W. RAYMOND.

Colonel Charles W. Raymond, an esteemed resident of Woodstock, and father of Rev. W. O. Raymond, of this city, died at his home Monday evening, a few moments after his eldest son, Rev. Mr. Raymond, arrived. Col. Raymond was 81 years of age. There are three sons, Rev. W. O. Raymond, Lee and Arthur, and one daughter, Bessie, unmarried. From his boyhood days Col. Raymond was active in militia work, and was very prominent in his church, being liberal in his offerings, and a constant attendant. He is said of him that he leaves behind a record of a spotless life.

ALEXANDER, Man. June 11.—John Bonnie, a farmer, aged 45, blew off the top of his head with a shotgun this morning. Cause unknown.

THE STAR

Has more news of interest to St. John people than any other paper.

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A FINE STORY OR TWO.

(Toronto Star.) "On this question as to whether fisherman's tales," said Brown. "I want to say that queer things happen, which, when related, cause people who know nothing about fishing to suspect that somebody's lying."

"That's just it," said Smith. "That's the point." "Now, I was up the Georgian Bay a week ago and I got talking to an intelligent fisherman, who told me of a trout caught at Byng Inlet that was found to have a table-knife inside it."

"A table-knife. They have the knife yet, having kept it as a curiosity. I was inclined to doubt the story, but since coming home I met a man who had just been to Byng Inlet, and asked him about it. He said he hadn't heard the story, but since I mentioned it he felt quite certain it was true, as he had seen a table-knife there."

"No doubt that's how it got to Byng Inlet," said Smith. "but how did it get into the fish?" "Easy enough. The fisherman told me that lake trout were notorious for gobbling any moving thing in the water. A stavey in one of the steamers had probably thrown the knife out when emptying a pan of fish-water, and in a hurry the trout couldn't tell a knife from a spoon."

"I know cases quite as strange," said Smith. "Hold on—hold on. I thought of fish-stories. You let me talk. The incident that I experienced persons would doubt. He caught a big trout and observed that it was remarkably thin and worried looking. Its condition surprised him. When opened he found in it a stone the size of a hen's egg. He thought it couldn't do any thing by the Canada Eastern this afternoon for Newcastle on a salmon fishing trip."

"I suppose somebody on a steamer had thrown the stone at a sea-gull, and the gull had dropped it into the water. You let me talk. The incident that I experienced persons would doubt. He caught a big trout and observed that it was remarkably thin and worried looking. Its condition surprised him. When opened he found in it a stone the size of a hen's egg. He thought it couldn't do any thing by the Canada Eastern this afternoon for Newcastle on a salmon fishing trip."

"Well, not altogether, but it was a story I saw once in the New York Sun that seemed to make the greatest impression on him. You remember the story of the big mudcat?" "No, I don't recall it."

"Very remarkable case. Big mudcat—baffled 'em all. Got away with a dozen lines—smooth fringed with hooks. Man at last hit on an scheme and went down all prepared—put heavy sinker on line and a cork on hook for bait. The mud-cat took it—did it again, and so on for an hour. At last the mud-cat fastened—simply couldn't stay down, he was so full of cork. It was pathetic to see him diving and trying to grab a root to hang to at the bottom. He went out in a boat and roped him in."

"You shouldn't have told that one." "Why not?" "Well, it's a little too much of a corker."

MINISTER'S VISITS.

That Baltimore preacher who declared recently that a minister visiting a sick room does more harm than good, seems to have called forth a good deal of censure from his brethren of the cloth, and from others as well. Leslie's Weekly in discussing it says:—"The ministerial visitor is represented as tip-toeing around and offering consolatory prayers, things, it is said, which are often enough to make a well man sick."

Pastoral visitation upon the city might have been of this order in times past, but it is the rare exception today. The ministerial profession is made up generally of intelligent and sensible men, who realize as fully as any one can do that such conduct as that described would be utterly out of place in a sick-room. It is unfair and unjust to give out the impression that ministers are a kind of pious ogres whose presence at the bedside of the sick and suffering is unwelcome and repellent. As a rule, the facts are the contrary of this. The pastoral visitant brings comfort, hope and cheer to the weak and languishing, and his presence is often like a benediction rather than a source of gloom and depression."

AN ENDLESS TASK.

She—"Do you think it is work for a woman to talk?" He—"Oh, yes; you know they do say woman's work is never done."—Yonkers Statesman.

HEB SYMPATHISED.

Miss Summergirl—"They found a man-eating shark dead on the beach today. I wonder what could have killed it?" Miss Fickell—"Starvation, I guess. If it were a man-eating shark."—Boston Journal.

CLEARLY EXPLAINED.

Employer—"See here when you go on a street car errand it takes you longer than a walking errand." Office Boy—"Well, y' see, I alius walks th' street car errands; an' it takes some time to get down an' eat what I buys with th' dime."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Red Rose tea is good tea.

WANTED.

WANTED—A good compositor on book and job work at once. SUN PRINTING CO. CARPENTERS WANTED—Apply to WILLIAM HUMPHREYS, 118 St. James street.

WANTED—Carpenters, male or female, through the city to handle a rapid selling book on the war. Good commissions. Address "M.," Star Office.

WANTED—On China blue dishes, brass candlesticks, pewter mugs and plates, brass and silver pitchers, old postage stamps on the envelope used before 1860, mahogany chairs, tables, sofas. Send a card or call at 118 Germain street, W. A. KAIN, above Trinity church.

BOARDING. BOARDERS WANTED—Good board and accommodation. Apply at 29 Victoria st.

FOR EXCHANGE. 2 Doors, 7 ft. 11 in. x 2 ft. 10 in., and 4 Doors, 7 ft. 8 in. x 2 ft. 10 in., with hinges, for offers. Apply Door, Star Office, St. John.

MONEY TO LOAN. On Freehold and Leasehold Property—repayable by monthly instalments or otherwise. Apply to CHAPMAN & TILLEY, Barristers, Palmer's Building, Princess street.

OUTING DAYS.

(The Star will be glad to receive communications for this column, relating to fishing resorts, fishing parties, fisherman's luck, and that sort of thing.)

F. B. Nesbitt, J. B. Hamlin, and H. A. Fitch of New Bedford, Mass., arrived in Fredericton on Tuesday and left by the Canada Eastern this afternoon for Newcastle on a salmon fishing trip.

A party of fishermen from the city went out this week to the second lake, Loch Lomond, and on Monday and Tuesday morning had excellent sport, taking many dozens of the trout. One of the fish taken weighed a pound and a half.

A pleasure party of five left this afternoon in C. T. White's steam launch, Gracia Bell, for a ten day's cruise on the river. The party is in charge of G. R. Sherwood, of Sussex, and is composed of W. L. Baker, Hamilton, of St. John, and M. G. White, of Sussex. They go first to Fredericton and from there will cruise around to different points on the river.

ST. JOHN, N. B., June 11. To the Editor of the Star:

Sir—I read with a great deal of interest the article in last night's Star, telling of the proposed salmon feeding station at Bangor. I am of opinion that our own provincial government might with profit do much more than it has ever done to increase the value of our trout and salmon fisheries. There are lakes and streams within easy reach of St. John which ought to be valuable for fishing resorts, and which it should be possible to re-stock and protect, so that our own people would have better sport and the tourists who come would also be able to say of the place that they found good sport with the rod near St. John. There is no more valuable asset than good trout and salmon fishing resorts. The question of providing better fishing near St. John would be well worthy of the careful and particular consideration of the provincial government, the city council, tourist association and board of trade.

Yours, etc., PROGRESS.

A PARISIAN ROMANCE.

A Beautiful Woman Looked in the Dark Alone for Twenty-Five Years. PARIS, June 8.—The sensation of the week has been the arrest of Madame Monnier, a rich, miserly land owner of the neighborhood of Pottiers, and her son, a former prefect of the department of Vienna, and a leader of Pottiers society, on the charge of incarcerating Madame Monnier, daughter of Madame Monnier, for 25 years in a room in Madame Monnier's house.

The police were anonymously notified of a woman's detention, entered the house and found Madame Monnier shut up in a room in darkness, lying on a mattress, stark naked, and so emaciated that she appeared to be a living skeleton. The woman was covered with filth, worms, rats and all kinds of vermin. The unfortunate woman, who had partially lost her reason, was taken to a hospital. It was said she would die, but she is now improving.

Twenty-five years ago she was a beautiful brunette, and fell in love with a lawyer without means. Her mother disapproved of their love and confined her in the room in which she has only recently left. The son pleaded that he acted as he did on account of filial piety, and that the mother was responsible. The lawyer died in 1882.

There was another dramatic development in the case today. Madame Monnier died in prison of heart disease. The gravity of her crime was brought home to her at the judge's session Thursday. She became ill and died suddenly in the infirmary of the prison this morning.