

The Daily Mail

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TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1928.

A DISTURBING PROBLEM

A Halifax man writing in Willison's Monthly complains of the reluctance of suitable men nowadays to accept the office of mayor or aldermen. What he says of the city of Halifax is applicable to almost any other city and town in the maritime provinces. Here is what he says:

"What is it, people ask themselves, that has happened to the municipal spirit of the past? The record of our eastern cities shows the most deplorable and indeed ominous reluctance of suitable men to accept the office of mayor or alderman. Wards which in days gone by used to be hotly contested now have but one candidate when there is a vacancy. Acclamation after acclamation is to be seen. Those who used to dwell upon the darker aspect of civic politics, upon the blows exchanged by followers and the taunts bandied by leaders in a municipal contest, have now something different to occupy their dark, reflective moments. Is it interest in city affairs that is waning? Or is it the conditions of city council service that have become a deterrent? As I write, it is announced that in some five wards of the city of Halifax but one candidate has been nominated, and that the mayoralty is to be given by acclamation.

"No slur is here intended on the qualifications of those who thus have so easy a 'walk-over.' It may be that each one of them is obviously the outstanding man for the job, but the interests of a large city, or even a moderate sized city, are so great that general refusal to serve on city councils is a public danger. In all conscience, we have seen here in the East enough to warn us of what may happen when a city's finances are insufficiently watched. But in municipal as in provincial and federal affairs, we get just what we deserve. 'The best men don't go into politics'—so wrote Lord Bryce about the public life of the United States. Why, then, should these best men complain of any disasters that political mismanagement may bring about? In like manner we are confronted with the spectacle of these same superior people avoiding the turmoil of city management, preferring to attend to their private business, and then lamenting how much 'everything has gone to the dogs.'

"Another view of the matter is that the aloofness of our leading citizens from municipal life is due less to their prosecution of personal interests than to the effect of that tone of abusiveness with which city councillors are so constantly criticized. 'It is a thankless job,' they say. No doubt it is. But can we afford to see it thus avoided indefinitely? Here and there, of course, there is a shining exception. But the long list of uncontested elections for civic 'honors' has set a really disturbing problem to those concerned here in our eastern cities and towns for the improvement or even the maintenance of public welfare."

In the old days of the Scott Act much greater interest was manifested in Fredericton civic affairs than is the case today, although candidates of the best type were not always prevailed upon to offer. The outstanding issue in a civic contest in those days was the Scott Act. A council would be elected pledged to enforce the act to the limit, but just as sure as it lived up to its pre-election pledges it would be put out at next election and be replaced by a wet or more easy going board. Today with the liquor question removed from civic politics it is difficult to get sufficient candidates to ensure a contested election, but the quality of the available material seems to be superior to that of former times. Today Fredericton has for its chief magistrate one of the

outstanding business men of the province and he has been twice returned by acclamation. When His Worship served the city as an alderman some years ago his pronounced views as a temperance reformer always ensured him a contested election. No doubt present day apathy in civic politics is in a large measure due to the abolition of the saloon and the disappearance of its adjunct the ever alert ward heeler.

A man of 22 recently learned that the doctor who brought him into the world hadn't been paid, so he hastened around and paid him. With accumulated interest, the sum must have been just about half what it costs to be born in 1928.

Now comes, like dawn in the movies, a chap who says a centipede has only twenty legs. We don't believe it, and we still cling to our conviction that centipede is the only object we know that is one hundred per cent anything.

A movie star say her husband, whom she is trying to divorce, caused her great anguish of mind, and that it is understood the husband will make affidavit in a cross bill that she is bragging.

Mozart composed some of his greatest works while his wife read aloud, but we see where a Chilean author is making a trip around the world with his 11 children and trying to write a book.

It seems the parents of Freddie Riggs, the Seattle three-year-old who smokes cigars, never tried to break him of the habit. It certainly solved one Christmas gift problem.

A musical lawn mower is the great national need, in the opinion of a St. Louis editor. Something that will play "Coming Through the Rye," or "Bringing in the Sheaves."

Railways in Switzerland are planning to offer reduced fares to families of three or more who travel together. Here's competition for that other family bus—the automobile.

It take all kinds of wants to make up a well-balanced classified page, and a man in Milwaukee is advertising the loss of a large yellow tom cat.

An eminent painter says nothing is so offensive to the soul of a true artist as a straight line. Well, there is a dotted line.

Perhaps success magazine writers are ignoring something unusual in neglecting the oil multi-millionaires who don't take receipts for "loans."

A traffic authority says the worst accidents occur between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon. We thought it was just after the down payment.

We see where a writer in Harper's Magazine says amateur tennis is a racket.

There must have been one cigar lighter that worked, otherwise the patent could not have been issued.

All in all, this seems to be an ideal spring for living above the dam.

Guests at the Windsor The following are registered at the Windsor today: B. E. Huestis, G. A. Grant, J. McIssac, St. John; F. M. Flemming, Harcourt; S. G. Gibson, Montreal; M. J. Buckley, St. John; R. A. Cass, Montreal; F. A. McLean, St. John; C. R. Forbes, St. Stephen; H. W. Bell, C. H. Beateay, St. John; J. R. Sutherland, Sussex; C. B. Millidge, H. S. Estabrooks, Miss Nan Estabrooks, C. E. Ryan, J. W. Ellsworth, R. B. White, W. D. Steele, St. John; N. E. Lister, Woodstock; Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Hayward, Master Hayward, Hartland; H. W. Redstone, Hampton E. J. Underhill, Boston; A. H. Mitton, W. S. Charlton, St. John; W. P. Fox, Gagetown.

Enjoyable Dance. The dance put on last evening at the Od Gaiety by the students of the University of New Brunswick was well attended and proved very enjoyable. The college orchestra furnished the music.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Morning is a good time to begin saving daylight.

Now that the automobile speed record stands at 207 what does it matter?

Then there is the kind of man who is a good talker, but doesn't say much.

It's remarkable the yardage that can still be got out of a 1920 model lawn mower.

Lima Beane says the pursuit of happiness has become a simple matter of going from where you are to where you ain't.

First case of shell-shock on record was that suffered by the optimist who bet \$20 that he could locate the little pellet manipulated by the philanthropist.

Helen Rowland wants to know what it is about a middle-aged man that makes him attractive to the modern girl. If she ever finds out it will make a story.

David Buick, who invented the automobile bearing his name, "is living in comparative poverty." Doesn't even own his own automobile, but he has escaped the pages of the success magazines and is happy.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Charles Anderson of McAdam is a at the Barker House today.

James Hill, of McAdam, is registered at the Barker House this afternoon.

J. A. Wiener, of Montreal, is among the Barker House guests this afternoon.

Mrs. T. Priestman, of McAdam, is registered at the Barker today.

N. A. MacDonald, of Sherbrooke, is registered at the Barker House.

E. I. Barnes, of Shelton, Conn., is registered at the Barker House today.

Hon. L. P. D. Tilley, M. L. A. is a guest of the Barker this afternoon.

H. H. Brannen, of St. John, is registered at the Barker this afternoon.

C. E. Rose of St. John is a guest of the Barker House today.

J. Hogan, of St. John, is registered at the Barker Hous today.

A. M. Anderson, of Moncton, is registered at the Barker House.

Louise Reid, of Moncton is a guest of the Barker today.

Died at Devon.

Violet A. Burlock, aged 21 years, died at her home in Neill street, South Devon this morning after a lingering illness. Deceased was a popular young lady and her death will be regretted by a large circle of friends. She is survived by her father William F. Burlock, two brothers: Ernest and Wallace and one sister, Anna all at home. The mother of the deceased died about three years ago. Funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 o'clock and will be conducted by Rev. D. C. Kaine. Interment will be made at Sunny Bank.

DIED

BURLOCK—At her home in South Devon May 15th Violet A. Burlock aged 21 years. Funeral, Wednesday afternoon with service at the late home at 2.30 o'clock by Rev. D. C. Kaine. Interment at Sunny Bank Cemetery.

WANTED

An experienced male teacher of First or Superior Class of License to teach academic subjects in the pre-vocational and vocational school. Applications will be received by the undersigned until the 18th inst.

R. D. HANSON, Secretary Fredericton Vocational School.

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