

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOV. 2, 1905.

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THE CITIZENS' LEAGUE

The chief aim of the Citizens' League, which will this evening resume its deliberations on civic affairs, should be to discover men. No system that may be devised will produce satisfactory results in civic government unless men in whom ability, courage and the higher type of civic patriotism are embodied can be induced to take up the work. It is believed by many people that a district system of representation would simplify the task of securing such men as candidates for seats at the council board. The present system has certainly failed in this respect. It is not contended that there have been no good men in the council during the period of election by the whole city vote, or that results were any less satisfactory than under the former system of many wards of varying size; but there has not been that business-like grasp of affairs, or that keen oversight of the work of civic officials which produce the best service at the least cost to the taxpayer. The affairs of this city have not been conducted as intelligently and successfully as the business of an astute merchant or manufacturer would be conducted. Possibly such a condition is unattainable, but it can at least be approximated by the united effort of able and fearless representatives, who are not to be deterred from their duty to the public by considerations of personal interest, sectional appeals, or the artificial influence of the lobby. There is a feeling that an able city council than those of many years past can be secured, and this it is presumed, is the chief aim of the Citizens' League.

But in any case the League may be of great service to the city, merely as an organization for the consideration and discussion of civic affairs, arousing a more general interest on the part of the taxpayer in matters which concern them far more directly than those of provincial and federal import.

IN PIOUS TORONTO

A plumbers' combine is under fire in Toronto, and important developments are promised. The crown attorney is in charge of the case for the city, and he makes this interesting statement of how the combine "worked" the city:

"At the time tenders were being received for the Isolation Hospital my information goes to show that fraud was committed. The association declared this job an open contract. The Master Plumbers placed their tenders before the association before they sent them to the corporation. The amounts of these tenders were added, and an average obtained. The plumber whose figure was nearest the average was given the contract. Five per cent. was added to the amount of the contract for the association, besides enough to give every person who had put in a tender about \$30 apiece, to be paid when the money was received from the city. Then a number of contracts were submitted to the corporation, but none were allowed to tender within 10 per cent. of the amount of the chosen plumber's figure. In this manner the city was shuffled out of about \$250."

It is apparently not without some reason that the Toronto News recently raised a modest objection to the phrase, "pious Toronto." The crown attorney says further:

"If a private citizen is not satisfied with the way he is being served by the plumber he can get no satisfaction. Another plumber who may be asked to tender must correspond with the plumber who made the first tender, and if his figure is \$100 for a job the second tenderer must make his bid \$110. Thus there is practically no competition."

The result of the investigation is expected to be the dissolution of the combine. This may be bad for the plumbers, but tradition saith that a plumber is a very resourceful man.

IN NEW YORK

New York might endure the election of such a man as William Randolph Hearst to the mayoralty, but it is hardly conceivable that even at a time when the scandals involved in "high finance" are so much in evidence the chief city of the United States should deliver itself into the hands of a man whose newspapers have been for years an evil influence. He is taking advantage of a time of social unrest to push his own personal fortunes, and does not hesitate to make promises which he knows he cannot fulfil. The story is not a new one. It stands out frequently on the pages of the history of cities and states. But if society is sometimes willing to let such a man have his fling there is always a reaction and a return to sanity. Hearst will probably be defeated, as he deserves to be, and it seems also probable that Jerome will be re-elected district attorney, which is perhaps even more desirable than the defeat of Hearst for the mayoralty. Hearst as mayor could only debauch the city with in the limit of the law. Jerome, as district attorney, stands pre-eminently for law and order, and in deadly opposition to the reign of graft.

IN RUSSIA

The disturbances now occurring in Russian cities are caused by those who desire a complete revolution, out of which might come an improvement of their own fortunes. The same class precipitated the French Revolution. It may be hoped that they will not succeed in Russia, which has not only before it the example of the French Revolution with its attendant horrors, but has the assurance that reform

may be secured without such a complete and terrible overturn of the present constituted authority.

The Boston Transcript has the following admirable review of the situation:

"The programme of reform is now but outlined. It must be filled in yet in great detail. This work presumably is to be done by the legislature, and then will come the test. In many countries similarly constituted and similarly enfranchised the first legislatures have proved unpracticable, in some disastrous. The worst government France has ever known was that of a legislature chosen when the conservative forces that had sought to limit the revolution to constitutional reform had lost their power. A legislature composed of generous visionaries, of demagogues and anarchists worked more horrors and more havoc in two years than French kings had worked in two centuries, but it fairly reflected the confusion of a people so newly enfranchised that they had not realized that freedom is a gift laden with responsibilities. The Russian people are even less prepared for a constitutional regime than were the French, but they have a temperamental better fitted for ultimate adaptation of parliamentary methods to their needs. They are not as mercurial. They are not so likely to give way to the impulse of the moment. They are not so logical as to be blind to the importance of modifying principles that have worked well elsewhere to suit Russian conditions. The adjustment of Russia to the new regime may be a tedious process, full of vexations and disappointment. The golden age never dawns to proclamations. Years may elapse before the fruit of the reform is perceptible, but the friends of Russia need not lose heart. Whatever else may happen, Russia will not go backward, though she may go forward very slowly. The great fact that now stands out too clearly to be questioned is the establishment of the constitutional principle. That of itself is revolution. Of the ultimate value of the revolution to Russia there can be little doubt. Russia has been a giant compelled to march with fetters on. These struck off, Russian progress will be accelerated at a wonderful rate. Rendered a strong man ready to run a race, the Russia of the future will be capable of far greater achievement than the Russia of the past. There are in the Russians the qualities of a great people. These qualities will be called into an activity of which they were incapable under the old regime. The Russian revolution of 1905 may be known in history as one wholly beneficent to Russia and the world."

A despatch states that the population of Greater New York, as counted by the State Enumeration Bureau, is 4,014,304. The population of the entire state is given as 8,066,672 people.

LIFE INSURANCE

(The Shareholder and Insurance Gazette.)

The business of life insurance has grown to immense proportions, because the insuring public put confidence in the representations made. While they regarded the premiums as somewhat of a severe tax upon slender incomes, they nevertheless were pleased with the expectation that as years increased, dividends would be declared which would materially reduce those payments and thus aid in maintaining them. That such expectations have not been fulfilled, but have, on the contrary, been sorely disappointing becomes all the more distressing, when it is considered, as the developments have shown, that the profits which should have gone to the policy-holders, have been devoted in a most unpardonable manner to purposes for which they were never intended. In this there is justifiable cause for a loss of confidence, and the men who have so grossly betrayed the confidence reposed in them should be driven from office. The disclosures will lead to a stirring up in insurance circles. The occasion should be taken advantage of to enquire into what can be done to reduce expenses and increase profits. The maintenance of a proper reserve is the first consideration. As the companies increase in years their resources should increase, giving increased revenue. If the extension of a company's business involves an increased expenditure, which deprives the policy-holders of the benefits they were led to expect, it seems that it would be safer and wiser to limit the increasing operations of a company to what may be called a healthy condition, for the increase deprives the policy-holders of what is justly theirs, in fulfillment of the obligations assumed, tacit though they be, so far as the application and the policy are concerned. It is now beyond a doubt that the price of insurance is higher than it ought to be, and if the shaking up of the American companies and the letting in of the powerful search-lights which have been used has no other result than that of turning the current of the revenue to its legitimate bed, the benefit will be great. These companies are now before the public, not so much on their own merits as on those of their managers. The public awaits the result with interest. Their success and failure are in the balance and a short time will show which is the weightier. In the meantime, the object lesson to other companies should be beneficial. Let them examine closely into all their bearings and see, not that they are in good working order, but in the best possible order. Increasing age has been accompanied with enlarged growth. It must needs be that extensive pruning is needful. Let this be done regardless of results. If the policy-holders' dividends cannot be maintained at what they were represented they would likely be, this pruning will no doubt bring out new shoots which will benefit the tree and produce new fruit. So far as our Canadian companies are concerned, they will probably have an opportunity at an early date of showing that they are administered with honesty and economy.

HOTEL ARRIVALS

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St. John, N. B., Nov. 2, 1905.

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YELLOW FEVER SITUATION

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 1.—For the first time since the fever was announced here, on July 21, not a single new case was reported today. There are only 18 cases under treatment. Up to date there has been no frost, nor any temperature approaching frost. The death rate up to date is 13.01 per cent. Yellow fever report to 6 p. m. today: New cases, none.

Total, 3,390; deaths, two; total, 448. Cases under treatment, 18; cases discharged, 2,930.

OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT

Remember the King Edward Stock Co. at the Opera House tonight. Your only chance to see this excellent company in Uncle Si; also the first appearance in St. John of the Whalen quartette.

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Saint
John.

W. E. RAYMOND

William E. Raymond, one of the proprietors of the Royal Hotel, was born in Hampton (N.B.), March 27, 1850, and is therefore in his 55th year. He is a son of James Woolsey Raymond. He is a descendant of loyalists on both sides of the family.

Mr. Raymond attended the superior schools in his boyhood, and completed his education with a business course at King's Commercial College. He was engaged in farming until 1879, when he came to this city and has since been identified with the Royal Hotel. He was employed with his uncle, Thomas Fowler Raymond, then proprietor of the hotel, until 1893, when on the death of his uncle he formed a partnership with H. A. Doherty, and the business has been conducted by them since that time.

Many important changes have been made in the hotel since Raymond & Doherty became the proprietors, and it now occupies the position of one of the leading hotels in lower Canada. In 1899



W. E. RAYMOND

the building on the corner of King and Germain streets, occupied by S. McDiarmid was taken over and remodelled, making a large addition to the capacity of the house. Last August the building at 22-26 Germain street, known as the Keator property was secured and 24 rooms were fitted up as sample ple rooms for the use of their commercial patrons. The Royal Hotel has 125 guest rooms with accommodation for about 200 guests. There are about 40 employees, of whom about 25 support families. The amount paid out in wages each month is somewhat over \$1,000.

Mr. Raymond is a member of the Foresters and of various branches of Masonry. He is a member of Hibernia Lodge, of Carleton Chapter, St. John Preceptory and the Mystic Shrine, being treasurer in the latter.

In 1885 he married Miss Annie Smith, daughter of William M. Smith and they have four children, three boys and one girl.

Mr. Raymond owns a very pretty summer cottage at Lakeside, which he calls "Toulouse," after an ancestor of his, the Count of Toulouse, of France. His city residence is at 31 Dorchester street.

ANOTHER BIG HIT

Pollard's Lilliputians Continue to Grow in Favor at York Theatre.

Another very large audience was at the York theatre last night to enjoy Pollard's Australian Lilliputian Opera Company in "A Runaway Girl." The company is certainly the best juvenile aggregation ever seen before the footlights in this city. The acting of the Professor, by Master Freddie Heintz, was excellent, and he again made a hit. Daphne Pollard as Carmelita was as usual splendid. Signor Polani, by Johnny Heintz, kept the large audience convulsed with laughter throughout the performance. Teddy McNamara again scored a big hit as Flipper. Each member of the company acted their parts well. The bright music in which "A Runaway Girl" abounds was well sung, particularly in the choruses.

At the York Theatre tonight, Friday and Saturday nights, the company will present "The Belle of New York," one of the breeziest and amusing of American compositions, it contains an amusing thread of story, many pleasing and original songs and specialties being shown. This is considered one of the best things in the vast repertoire of the company, and has been played by them all over the Orient, South Africa, China, Japan, and the western United States.

The comedy to be given on Saturday afternoon will be "The Lady Slavey." Seats should be secured well in advance for the matinees during the Pollard engagement. All seats are reserved.

A COMPARISON

(Montreal Witness.) The despatches from St. Petersburg during the past few months especially read like leaves torn from M. Taine's description of the days immediately preceding the French revolution. The winter of 1788-1789 was terrible—especially in Paris; and all France was excited by distress and hope. The capital swarmed with incomers from the country districts round; crowds of desperate country folk pressed in. All this mass floated about Paris, and was engulfed therein, as in a great sewer, the honest poor and the criminal alike; some sought work, some begged, all provided about a prey to hunger and the rumors of the streets. "Vagabonds, ragged fellows, many almost naked, with appalling faces—beings one does not remember to have seen by daylight a frightful physiognomy, a hideous attire. Such is the impression left by the crowd which swarmed in the lower districts of Paris; this is the rough material out of which the Parisian and decisive element in the revolution was made." This passage from Taine might have been written by a Russian author today concerning St. Petersburg, excepting that a revolution and dethronement have not yet been made and may yet be stayed.

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