

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 9, 1905.

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.

TODAY IN ALBERTA

It is generally expected that the Liberals will win today in the first general election in the new province of Alberta. The Liberals are in power at Ottawa and the aid of the federal government is of course given to the Liberals of Alberta. There are many influences, of the sort that appeal to self-interest, in favor of the government. The Toronto Globe's correspondent in the constituency expresses the belief that the government will carry eighteen of the twenty-five seats. Of course the other side also predicts victory, but a much more modest one. Mr. R. B. Bennett, the Conservative leader, and Mr. W. J. Walsh, president of the Conservative Association, claim that they will have a majority of two, on the platform of provincial rights. It will not be at all surprising if the government wins, because a defeat would be a severe rebuke to the Ottawa government, and would probably mean a like verdict in Saskatchewan a few weeks later. Hence every effort will be made to get Alberta in line with Ottawa.

IN NEW YORK

An unexpected thing has happened in New York. Tammany appears to have so far surpassed even its own record for corruption in an election that the sympathy of such men as Irvine, the Republican candidate; Jerome, the incorruptible District Attorney; and of such bitter anti-Hearst papers as the Evening Post, are now ranged alongside of Hearst, demanding a re-count and the seating of Hearst as mayor if the charges made are proved. The New York despatches in today's Times reveal a remarkable state of affairs. It is evidently felt that even four years of Hearst in the mayor's chair would be preferable to the shame and disgrace of having a mayor elected by such tactics as are alleged to have been pursued by Tammany.

Of course the charges are not proven, and Tammany has not yet said anything about the tactics of the Hearst party, which it will doubtless be found were not above reproach. But for the moment Hearst appears to be in the ascendancy, and the centre of public interest, not because his record is clean or his course admired, but because he embodies the protest against the alleged outrages committed by Tammany. There is little danger that he will become a popular hero, but it ought to be expected that Tammany will be put out of business as the ruling power in New York for some years to come.

The developments of the next few days will be watched with eager interest, for excitement appears to be at fever heat.

THE UNEMPLOYED

Parades of unemployed men in London are no novelty, and the average London mob is a rather good-natured one, quite willing to preserve order and to respect the authority of the police.

The present situation, however, with winter at hand, is apparently more distressing than usual, and the women have joined in a demonstration to enforce consideration of the pauperized condition of so many thousands of people. A cable last Monday said:—

"Six thousand women today escorted deputations of the wives and daughters of unemployed men in London's east-end to an interview with Premier Balfour at his official residence in Downing street. Fifty thousand unemployed men lined the route of their march."

It is stated that Mr. Balfour expressed sympathy with the delegation and promised that the government would do what it could to mitigate the distress. The cable further says:—

"Some of the women did not hesitate to tell the Premier that unless something is speedily done to lessen their sufferings there will be bloodshed. 'Don't forget that hungry men are desperate men,' said one of the speakers. All had the same tale to tell of husbands out of work and starving wives and children."

At a mass meeting held later, some rather fierce talk was indulged in, and Mr. Crooks, M.P., declared that everybody who wanted work must have it. He added the rather foolish remark "that a revolution in England would not be behind the revolution in Russia in securing the demands of the people."

The problem of the unemployed in London and other great cities will not be solved by revolution of the sort that is apparently meant by Mr. Crooks, M.P., which is based on the theory that a government is a body of unlimited resources, which has only to speak and social conditions which are the development of years are utterly changed. The root of the trouble lies too deep for such a remedy. The best the government can do is to encourage and aid these people to get away from surroundings and conditions which keep them always at the door of want.

AN UNWISE STRIKE

History tells us that in English factory towns, when labor saving machinery was introduced, there were strikes and riots, because men feared that the machine would starve the man. This was many years ago, and the machine has multiplied and is regarded as a most important and valuable factor in the world's work.

It is therefore with some surprise one reads that in Toronto last week, because a firm of stone-cutters introduced a planer to enable them to compete with an American concern that is making a bid

for their market, over fifty of their stone-cutters quit work, enforcing the idleness of a score of other men, and threatening serious delay on several large buildings which the firm had contracted to supply with stone.

Of course there can be but one end to such a strike. But the firm are placed in a very awkward position. They need the machine, which cost them considerable money, in order to meet competition. They are expected to carry out their contracts for cut stone, and at a critical time their men refuse to work. These men were very ill-advised. Labor's problems must be solved in some other way than by futile strikes against the introduction of machinery.

A NEEDED LESSON

The Times a few days ago told of the exposure of the grafting scheme of the plumbers of Toronto to fleece the city and those citizens who had buildings to construct. The exposure was made by the crown attorney, and as a result the Attorney General has taken a hand and ordered that the Master Plumbers and Steamfitters' Co-operative Association, Limited, be indicted on the charge of "conspiring to restrain trade contrary to the provisions of the criminal code in that behalf."

How successfully the combine was able to levy what tolls it chose upon the public is shown in the following statement from the Toronto Globe:—

The operations of the plumbers' combine have for some years been such as to arouse the keenest resentment on the part of the building public. The organization was complete, the manufacturers being bound not to sell to non-members, the master plumbers arranging between themselves who should get the various contracts and the prices at which tenders should be made for the work; and the journeymen plumbers' Union agreeing to support the Masters' Association in bringing recalcitrant members back into the ranks and to crush out the independent master plumbers. Therefore the public found it useless to endeavor to get away from the clutches of the association, although it was known that toll was levied upon contracts by the association, which also fixed the prices which the public should pay. As an illustration of the perfection of the organization it is stated that one builder, having a relative employed in a supply house in a large city across the border, determined not to submit to the exorbitant demands of the association and resolved to accept tenders he received from them. He ordered the plumbing supplies for a block of houses through his relative, employed his own mechanics and did the plumbing by day labor, with the result that he effected a very large saving below the tender price. Encouraged by his success he built another block of houses, but when he ordered the supplies from the same firm that had supplied him previously he was unable to obtain them. The Toronto association had traced the goods back to the sellers and closed that source of supply.

As a result of the actions taken against members of the combine, and the probability of criminal prosecution, there has been a sudden drop in prices. For example:—

The price demanded last year by a member of the combine for the plumbing work upon a large warehouse was \$3,400; recently tenders were again invited for the same work, and the price quoted, also by a member of the combine, was \$2,500, a reduction of \$900. In one of the buildings on Bay street destroyed by the fire the plumbing and heating under the operations of the combine cost \$1,900, although the price of similar plumbing for the old building before the combine began working was only \$1,400. In another instance there was a difference of \$294 between the prices of plumbing in a \$500 job on a front street building before and after the combine was formed.

Now that the Attorney-General has invoked the criminal code, there is likely to be a pronounced change of heart among the master plumbers of Toronto.

Montreal has a problem of some magnitude to be solved. The president of the Light, Heat & Power Company states that if the law providing for the placing of electric wires under ground is enforced it will cost the city over a million dollars to install a conduit system for fire alarm wires, and will result in an increase of over 100 per cent. in the price of light, heat and power.

Grand Duke Vladimir has followed the example of the Procurator of the Holy Synod and resigned. This removes another stumbling block from the path of reform in Russia. The bureaucracy is wisely yielding to the pressure of the times.

The tariff commission has been informed by manufacturers in Montreal that they need more protection. The tariff debate in parliament next session promises to be a very interesting one.

Lake Manitoba was frozen and two steamers caught in the ice off-shore before the first of November.

WEDDINGS

Griffin-Ritchie

A pretty wedding took place at seven o'clock last evening in the Cathedral when Rev. A. W. Meahan united in marriage Mary G. Ritchie, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Ritchie of 90 Exmouth street, to D. J. Griffin, of the James Robertson Co. The bride was becomingly attired in purple and white silk hat to match, and was attended by Miss Mary Hunter. M. W. Ritchie supported the groom. Many handsome presents were received by the happy couple.

Guest (at railroad restaurant)—"Here, you where's that beefsteak I ordered a quarter of an hour ago?"

Waiter—"But, my dear sir, there's plenty of time. Your train left twenty minutes ago."—F. LeBlond.

Store open till 8 to-night.

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MEN'S SWEATERS, 75c. to \$2.50 each
BOYS' SWEATERS, 50c. to \$1.50 each
MEN'S UNDERWEAR, 50c. to \$2.50 each
BOYS' UNDERWEAR, 20c. to 75c. each

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November 8th—Threatening Snow.

November 9th—(Today)—A Hail and Rain Storm.

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\$6.00.

MEN'S BLACK ALASKA CALF WATERPROOF BALIS, leg nine inches high, and closed to the top.

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And other lines for less money that will be comfortable in cold weather and stand hard winter wear.

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Royal Standard Flour for Bread.

Ask your grocer for Royal Standard Flour. Wholesale by

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Men of Saint John.

R. PARKER HAMM

R. Parker Hamm, biscuit manufacturer and confectioner, is a son of the late Matthias and Catherine (Ketchum) Hamm, and is of Loyalist descent. He was born on January 25, 1885, and received all his education in the public schools of St. John. He first worked as clerk with his father, who conducted a large grocery business in the North End. He remained there but a short time, however, when, with but small capital, he started business on his own account and opened a livery stable in the North End. This he conducted successfully for five years, or until 1888. In December of that year he formed a partnership with his



R. PARKER HAMM

brother and built and equipped a wooden building on Main street, for the manufacture of biscuits, and started business under the firm name of Hamm Bros. The business increased until, in 1902, they erected a large three-story brick building and store on the lot adjoining the first structure, and equipped it with the largest biscuit oven in Canada, and the most modern machinery for the manufacture of their line of goods.

In November, 1904, the partnership was dissolved, and R. Parker Hamm purchased the entire business, which he has since conducted under the original firm name, and since taking it over has doubled the capacity. He has been engaged in the manufacture of biscuits for seventeen years.

In politics Mr. Hamm is a staunch Liberal, having been an active ward worker in several elections. He is a Past Chief Ranger of the Canadian Order of Foresters, and is a strong temperance advocate.

In November, 1887, he married Miss Helen E. Andrews, of St. John, and they have three children—two boys and a girl—all living at home.

THE INSURANCE INVESTIGATION

New York, Nov. 8.—In the testimony of John R. Hegeman, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, before the insurance investigating committee, upon the resumption of the insurance investigation today, it was brought out that industrial insurance was considerably more expensive than other forms of life insurance, and Mr. Hegeman, after classing industrial insurance as retail and the ordinary life as wholesale, illustrated the fact by an example in which for a stated age it was shown that for \$1,000, policy of ordinary life, the Metropolitan charged \$16.55 annually, while for \$884, the nearest amount for the stated age under the industrial plan, \$31.20 was charged.

Mr. Hegeman illustrated with a most graphic comparison later on. To show that industrial business was more expensive than ordinary life, he said that a premium of \$65 on an old line plan is paid once, twice, or, at the oftentimes, four times a year. In the industrial field, the average premium is ten cents a week and for the same money, 650 persons have to be called upon and this has to be done 52 times a year.

Mr. Hegeman was on the stand the greater part of the afternoon and his testimony was along the line of the amount of the company's increase in business.

At the morning session Emory McClintock, actuary of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, who has been examined in part in previous sessions, was called and continued his testimony on technical insurance.

A member of the investigating committee said today that the defeat of McKeown, who yesterday failed of re-election, would not affect the constitutionality of the proceedings of the committee. He said that McKeown's term did not expire until the end of this year by which time it was hoped the hearings would be ended.

The first witness was Emory McClintock, actuary of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, who has been under examination several days before he submitted a statement of earnings and dividends of the company for five years, which showed that in 1894 the realized earnings of the company was \$6,624,677. The total dividends for this year were \$2,714,549, of which \$338,500 were annual dividends. Asked as to the method of arriving at the amount of dividend to be apportioned each year he said that the apportionment of dividends for 1904 were estimated and made up in November, 1903, before it was known that the earnings of 1904 would be \$6,624,677. The earnings of 1903 were \$5,563,861.

Assemblyman Cox, asked, but why not give greater dividends if the company can afford it?

"We fix the rate with due regard to the circumstances of the company," said the witness. "If we can afford it, we give more, if not then we give less."

LIVE STOCK SHIPMENTS

Shipments of live stock from Montreal for week ending Nov. 4:

	Cattle	Sheep
To Liverpool	2,347	867
To London	2,183	2,183
To Glasgow	799	799
Total	5,229	287
Last week	2,989	870

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