THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCT. 13, 1905.

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.

THE WATERWORKS

The water and sewerage board is quite right in declining to waste time talking about possible suits for damages in connection with the Loch Lomond contracts. That is a question to be discussed when it arises. The thing to do first is to forward by all possible means the completion of the work, and to this end the board very properly decided yesterday to lay the new pipe along the Marsh road as soon as it arrives. With regard to the larger contracts the city must stand behind its engineer and its own interpretation of the contracts made. That is what a private individual would do, and the council is acting in a like capacity for this community. There is no disposition to ask from the contractors anything more than they freely bound themselves to do when they signed the contracts. The city engaged an engineer, and made contracts under his direction with the full confidence in his ability. If he has erred in any respect the result will show it, but the city at this stage has nothing to do with talk about lawsuits or anything of that sort.

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION

A meeting of temperance workers is called for today at Windsor, N. S., to discuss a course of political action. The Hants Journal, whose editor is a pronounced prohibitionist, regards the meeting as one of unusual importance, and hopes for practical results. He says in Wednesday's issue:—

"The action of our legislators has not been in line with that progress which makes for the betterment of the people, and the workers for prohibition have reached a crisis in their history from a provincial standpoint, where they realize they must know just where and how they stand from the legislative outlook, or else drft with the current, which is not a safe proceeding for those who have high aims and higher ideals. In Prince Edward Island provincial prohibition is being attended with good results; and while all true temperance patriots would prefer to strike at the fountain head, and secure for the people of this grand country that inestimable blessing—dominion prohibition—they feel that until that glad period arrives they must be content with the next best obtainable by law, and as provincial prohibition is within their reach, that is the goal for which they are now striving, and which can be gained if all who profess to be true temperance men stick to their colors, and not only ask the powers that be to grant their request, but demand it as a right. The voters again and again have spoken out most emphatically in favor of the total prohibition of the liquor traffic."

ZEAL AND DISCRETION

The remarkable controversy between the Rev. James Simpson and Premier Peters, of Prince Edward Island, can hardly serve any useful purpose. There is a vast difference between the use of wine at a communion service and the ordinary treating custom of the day, and there does not appear to be any justification for bringing into the quarrel the name of Prince Louis of Battenberg. Those who favor prohibition ought not to lose sight of the fact that temperance in judgment and in speech also has its merits. It is quite evident that in this controversy the clergyman's zeal has somewhat outrun his discretion.

The State of Maine has just now another illustration of antagonism aroused by remarks which lacked discretion. Addressing a religious convention, Prof. A. W. Anthony, of Bates College, stated that summer visitors were lessening the people's regard for the Sabbath, and some of them demanded liquor in the hotels; and in some communities church-going was almost stopped in summer because the boarders must be cared for. Dealing then with the Maine prohibitory law, he said:

"Last October, shortly after our state election, the treasurer of a 'foreign' brewery told a friend of mine that his concern did a business of $100,000 a month, and $28,000 a month in the State of Maine; that the sheriffs of Cumberland and Penobscot counties with their deputies were on the payrolls of the house as much as any other employes, that in Androscoggin county, then under Sheriff Charles S. Cummings, they could do no business excepting through special agents, who telephoned orders into headquarters every night, which were filled by express the next morning, and that these intolerable conditions in that county they intended to change and did change.

"I do not know that this brewer was telling the truth; but his statements have all the marks of candor. There is no question that money comes freely from Boston and other places to direct and coerce our elections into the avenues favorable to the liquor business. This is a menace to our free institutions and the character of our citizens. This wholesale liquor power is directing its attention to our state and its law; this outside power has decreed that the law must go. It has a part of the press in its hire, some of the politicians and many liquor dealers and drinkers throughout the state. From without it undertakes to control us."

Prof. Anthony could hardly have given much thought to this speech, which involved very serious charges against officials of the state, and against a portion of the press. Quite naturally the press took up the challenge, and we find the Portland Express making the following reply:—

"Men who are earnestly engaged in reform work sometimes develop a zeal which leads them into temptation. When a man poses as ahead of the times we look to see him making wild statements and oftentimes indulging in the pastime of making charges against men which he cannot prove, and which have as a basis only his own suspicions.

"When a speaker of the prominence of Prof. Anthony of Bates College tells of the tales of a brewer, and names the sheriffs of various counties as being on the pay roll of the breweries as much as the men who drive the drays, or perform any other open service, we are disposed to dismiss the story as an over-zealous effort to arouse the interest of his hearers in a good cause.

"The professor had the saving grace to say that he did not know whether the brewer was telling him the truth. That being the case it seems to us it would have been wiser to omit the story altogether. There is not much doubt that there have been times when sheriffs have been in the pay of law breakers. Sometimes corrupt men get into office and fatten up for a time upon the spoils they are able to collect. But the last state of that man is always worse than the first."

Another paper, the Portland Argus, says:—

"When a speaker of the prominence of Prof. Anthony of Bates College asserts that the wholesale liquor power has 'a part of the press' of this state 'in its hire,' it should be presumed that he speaks advisedly and has the facts to sustain that assertion. In that case it would seem to be incumbent upon Prof. Anthony to make these facts public. We say it should be presumed that he speaks advisedly and from knowledge. But we do not suppose that it will be so presumed by any reasonable person."

The Waterville Sentinel also calls for names. It says:—

"It is unfair and unjust for Mr. Anthony to thus reflect upon the honor and the high standing of the Maine newspapers, without specifying the guilty paper. As it is now the entire press of Maine is cast under a cloud of suspicion by the insinuation made in the foregoing quotation. Present the proof, if you have any, Mr. Anthony."

But the Portland Express goes a step farther. Since Prof. Anthony has opened up the subject it follows him into a discussion of the summer tourist business and church attendance in this way:—

"There was another feature of Prof. Anthony's address which challenges attention. He thinks that the coming of summer tourists to Maine is having a bad effect upon the religious life of the people of our state. According to his idea they teach our people to lessen their interest in the churches and to lose their respect for religious things. If there has been a loss in this particular in Maine it is to be found in reasons other than the summer visitors. The religious denominations seeking for those reasons will not have far to look. We don't mean to criticise the efforts of the churches or to lessen the importance of the matters which they seek to impress upon the public, but it is a fact that in many cases the vital parts of the religion which they profess are not taught or practiced by the churches, and when this is the case the rest, change and recuperation possible of a Sunday to the man tired from a week of work, tied down to a routine of six days, offers greater benefit to the individual than the preaching which he will hear if he attends church. And the individual is not to be blamed for seeking that which seems to do him the most good. While we must respect all that is good in the church, acknowledging that there is much that is good, we feel that the lack of appreciation of that good, so far as it exists among our people, can be traced to a lack in the churches themselves in the presentation of Truth to the churchgoers."

Prof. Anthony, on reflection, will no doubt admit that he fairly provoked this or a similar retort; and also that it is neither for the benefit of the cause of prohibition nor of the churches to have such statements go to the public in the editorial columns of a reputable newspaper. In his address he should have made specific charges, and should not have left the whole press of the state open to the imputation of bribery in the interests of the liquor traffic.

Of A. B. Aylesworth the Montreal Witness says:—"From a financial point of view Mr. Aylesworth's acceptance of a portfolio means a large sacrifice for he is today in receipt of an income from his legal practice at least three times as large as his cabinet appointment will yield. In this respect his case much resembles that of Sir William Mulock, into whose shoes he is stepping. The present postmaster-general is a man who worked his way from very small means to a position of affluence. To him nine years' cabinet service has undoubtedly involved a considerable money loss."

With a fine disregard for truth the Star states that the Times "was again beaten" in the ex-convict yarn about Frank Higgins. The Times, as it stated on Wednesday, had the story, but, like the Sun next morning, had better use for its space than to attempt to gold-brick its readers with rubbish of that sort. Moreover, the Star knew that the Times had the story, and has therefore deliberately wandered from the truth.

The building permits issued in Winnipeg up to date this year, says the Free Press are now in excess of $9,900,000, and it is not improbable that they will reach $11,000,000 before the year is ended.

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Yesterday was another big day—bigger than the previous. People are now fully awake to the importance of this big sale and are taking advantage—have you?

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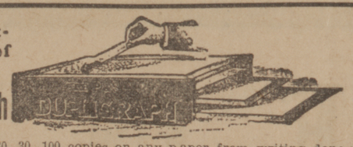
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THIS JAIL A HORROR

Plain Language Used by Grand Jury at Cobourg---Lunatics, Epileptics, Convicts and Prisoners Herded Together.

(Toronto Globe).

The provincial secretary has received from the clerk of the peace at Cobourg a copy of the presentment of the grand jury of the recent assizes there, at which Justice Teetzel presided. The latter ordered the clerk to forward the document, in which the conditions of the Cobourg jail are dealt with in plain language. In part the presentment says that the authorities in the different municipalities composing the counties of Northumberland and Durham are sending their indigents nominally as vagrants to the Cobourg jail. The jury visited the jail, "in which these unhappy creatures are confined and discovered a deplorable condition of affairs." The room was totally inadequate to accommodate the number of inmates, the indigents being herded like animals in quarters altogether improperly ventilated and reeking with odors.

"In the hospital alone, which is located in two small rooms," says the presentment, "we found no less than nine aged and bedridden occupants. This place was a horror.

The female indigent ward was clean and well taken care of by the matron, Mrs. Snelgrove.

The jury discovered lunatics, indigents, convicts, epileptics and prisoners awaiting trial all herded together. The cells are partially underground, and totally unsanitary, owing to the bad sewerage and inadequate water supply. The governor and officials of the jail are doing everything possible in the discharge of their duties, but "the conditions generally prevailing at the jail are a shame and disgrace to modern civilization, and the counties council, whose parsimony and niggardliness have been the cause of these conditions, should be severely censured for allowing such a state of affairs to exist."

Inquiry at the provincial secretary's department elicited the statement that for a number of years past the inspectors of the department have condemned the Cobourg jail, and that the government has requested the council of Northumberland and Durham to erect a house of refuge for the poor of the counties, instead of sending them to jail. On account of local feeling as to which one of the counties the institution shall be built in no progress has been made. The inspectors have on more than one occasion drawn the attention of the council to the Cobourg jail conditions, their report and representations confirming in the main the grand jury's presentment, and agreeing with the latter that under the circumstances the governor and the other officials are doing all that can be expected. It remains for the council to act. There does not seem to be any way by which the government can compel them to alter the jail or build a new one, or erect a house of refuge.

OBITUARY

Clarence Wright

The Winnipeg Free Press of Oct. 9th says:—"The funeral of Clarence Wright, of Brookfield, N. S., will take place today from Thomson's parlors to Elmwood cemetery. Mr. Wright was 30 years of age and leaves a wife in this city. Typhoid fever was the cause of death and Mrs. Wright is at present in the hospital also suffering from fever."

Mrs. Sarah B. Wood

Moncton, Oct. 12—(Special)—Moncton's oldest resident passed away this evening in the person of Mrs. Sarah Bownes Wood, relict of John Wood, of St. John. Had Mrs. Wood lived until the second of next month she would have been 100 years old.

She was born at White Haven, England, November 2, 1805, and came to Canada with her parents when ten years of age. The family settled at Richibucto first, but shortly after removed to what is now Upper Rexton. There she was married to John Wood and lived some thirty years in Kent county. Afterwards deceased moved to St. John with her husband and resided there up to seventeen years ago when she moved to Moncton. Her husband died in St. John twenty-nine years ago.

Deceased came of long lived family. Her parents lived to a ripe old age as did also most of their family. She was the mother of twelve children, six sons and two girls who are still living. Three sons—James, John and George, reside in St. John. The latter is baggagemaster on the I. C. R. running between St. John and Halifax. Richard lives in Boston, William in Indiana and Alfred in Moncton. The daughters are Mrs. Jas. Sullivan, Kouchibouguac, Kent county, and Miss Sarah Wood, living at home. The funeral takes place Sunday afternoon.

A. B. AYLESWORTH

Allen Bristol Aylesworth, K. C., is a native of Newburgh, Ont., and fifty-one years of age next month. Like Sir William Mulock, he enjoyed a brilliant career at Toronto University and was called to the bar in 1878. His eminence in the legal profession was recognized by his appointment as Q. C. by the Ontario government in 1889 and by the Dominion one year later. He is a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and a senator of Toronto University. In religion the prospective postmaster-general is a Methodist. His wife is Adelaide Augusta, daughter of C. H. Miller. He served as one of the commissioners on the Alaskan boundary tribunal and won loud applause in this country by his outspoken protest against what he regarded as an invasion of Canadian rights. Last winter he was invited by the premier to a seat in the cabinet without portfolio, and offered himself for election in Durham County, where, however, he was defeated by Colonel Harry Ward, Conservative.

THEY WILL GET THEIR TRAIN

Edmundston, N. B., Oct. 12—(Special)—A conference was held here this evening between Mayor Burpee and a number of leading citizens and Wm. Downie, the general superintendent of the Atlantic division of the C. P. R., and as a result Mr. Downie has promised to use his efforts to meet the wishes of the people here and if carried out an arrangement of train service for the winter season very satisfactory to the business people here will soon be in operation.

WILL BE SWORN IN MONDAY

Ottawa, Oct. 12—(Special)—A. B. Aylesworth, K. C., will be here on Monday next, when he will be sworn in a member of the privy council and appointed postmaster-general.

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