# THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 19, 1905.

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.


## THE FAIR OF NATIONS

The auspicious opening of the Fair of Nations last evening must have been intensely gratifying to the ladies, and to the citizens generally, who have awaited with eager interest the date of the event. The attendance amounted almost to a crush, despite the size of the rink, and universal admiration was expressed as the people passed from booth to booth or paused to survey the whole animated and brilliant scene. The opening speeches were bright and brief. Mayor White has the rare and happy faculty in a public speaker of taking his inspiration from his surroundings, and what he said last evening was both entertaining and appropriate; while Mr. Tilley's earnest plea for the Y.M.C.A. was no less timely and was admirably made. It now remains for the citizens to extend a liberal patronage, and at the same time enjoy what is from an artistic standpoint as well as for other reasons a most attractive exhibition and entertainment.

## THE INSURANCE SCANDALS

The announcement that there may be some arrests in connection with the insurance scandals in the United States is not altogether unexpected, although the methods of high finance are usually such as to protect the financiers from legal entanglements.

But there is another question which people are beginning to ask. A considerable time has elapsed since the first startling disclosures were made relative to the conduct of the affairs of the three great companies involved, and there has as yet been no apparent change. Are the present heads of these "beneficent" institutions to remain in office? They are in no hurry to resign, and so far as the public can see they are in no immediate danger of dismissal. What is to come of all this eager investigation, and when will the house-cleaning begin?

## BRITAIN'S UNEMPLOYED

A London letter in the Montreal Gazette deals in a very interesting way with the question of the unemployed in England, dealing not only with Gen. Booth's colonization scheme but with a plan to get people back to the soil in the United Kingdom itself. The writer says:—

"General Booth's emigration scheme is everywhere exciting the most serious consideration and enquiries from would-be settlers in Canada and Australia are pouring in upon the Salvation Army officials. The pathetic appeals from many of our better class workers for assistance to the new countries, are proving the urgent need of a big national scheme of redistribution of our workless or struggling surplus population. If General Booth's plans continue to have the public attention they deserve, we should see the whole business being undertaken by a responsible State department. It is too much to be left by any government to private enterprise. So far General Booth is greatly encouraged by the approval of the colonial premiers.

"While General Booth's emigration scheme is likely to help a host of settlers to Australia and Canada, the question, why not colonize the idle lands of our own beautiful country? is again being brought to the front. The reform of our land system may be too slow to check the exodus from the rural districts, but if anything short of peasant proprietorship would keep the laborer on the soil, it should be the prospect that now offers of getting a comfortable cottage at a low rent. The Garden City Cottage exhibition, which closes next week, has settled the question of the possibility of building cheap cottages. A prize was given this week for the best £150 cottage. The competition proved that for that comparatively trifling sum a sound, comfortable cottage can be built, and the landlords through the country have now an opportunity of building new homes for their tenants in the decayed and dilapidated villages, and so removing one of the excuses of the laborer and his family for rushing away to the cities. It may be this cottage exhibition will have the effect of revolutionizing the rural districts."

The lack of mutual understanding between the churches and organized labor in England is given as the reason why the churches do not influence as strongly as might be expected the lives of the working classes. Mr. Steadman, parliamentary secretary of the Trade Union Congress, says there is a mutual suspicion between organized Christianity and labor. He reminds the churches that in five years 100 of the largest unions have spent six and a half millions sterling in unemployed relief and old age allowances. The churches, he says, have not understood the great good done by the vast body of self-denying workingmen to their fellows, and have been too apt to look upon a trade unionist as a striker and a fighter. The advances lately made by the churches give Mr. Steadman the hope that churches and trade unions will soon be found working together, and the social and moral status of the working classes vastly improved.

The Galicians, or, as they should be correctly named, the Ruthenians, in western Canada have a newspaper in their own language. The Winnipeg Free Press says: "The paper has eight pages of matter, and these are as large as the Free Press. There is no other publication of the same kind in Canada, although there are between 75,000 and 100,000 people resident in the west, who speak that tongue. The illustrations are good and represent agricultural scenes in western Canada. The paper has now been published for two years, and originated among the people themselves. The fact that the Ruthenian people have come to support this paper to a degree enabling the publisher to produce such an issue as yesterday's indicates that they should be counted amongst the prosperous and intelligent people that are helping to build up the western parts of the Dominion of Canada."

We learn with a shock of surprise and regret that the thrifty habits of the occidental nations have been adopted to some extent in Japan. The Japan Times publishes news of a number of cases of embezzlement by Japanese naval officers. Paymaster Commander Takenouich, who was financing naval construction in England, has fled after embezzling $165,000. Paymaster Kagi and Lieut. Commander Sakuma of the Maizuru naval yard were implicated. It appears, however, that the orientals still have something to learn. The authorities are reactionary. They have sent Kagi to jail for seven years, and Sakuma for two years, and will give the other fellow eleven years if they catch him.

"The Church of the Ascension yesterday contributed $450 toward the proposed local consumption sanitarium. In connection with the movement, Relief Officer McMenemy has prepared a pamphlet setting forth the dangers of the white plague and the steps that are being taken to stamp it out. In 1903 10 per cent. of all the deaths in the Dominion of Canada were caused by consumption. It is estimated that between 30,000 and 40,000 persons in the Dominion are affected by the disease. There are 400 in Hamilton alone The License Holders' Protective Association held a meeting, and decided to do something toward helping along the sanitarium fund."

Despite its rapid growth and the great amount of capital and enteprise centered there, the city of Winnipeg has not yet been able to cope successfully with typhoid fever. The Telegram says: "It was stated on good authority yesterday that during the month of September, 398 cases of typhoid fever were reported at the city health office." It is stated that sixty-five of these cases came from outside points to city hospitals, but the city record is sufficiently discouraging. The provincial health authorities are now investigating to learn if possible the cause of the prevalence of the disease.

It is stated that fifty thousand head of cattle will be shipped from the Alberta ranges this year, and the despatch adds:- "The prosperity among the farmers and stockmen can be understood in the light of statements by implement men that five times as much more was collected last month on machinery notes as was collected for the same time last year. One firm has out in Alberta $300,000 of these notes, and the payment before maturity to save the three months' interest has been very large."

Another bank official who was a respected citizen and active church member, being the largest contributor to the church he attended, has killed himself after lending $700,000 or $800,000 of the bank's funds to politicians. The day of revelations in high finance apparently is not yet ended. It would appear that this bank cashier was the victim of a system of political graft for which he was not responsible.

The value of the work of the Salvation Army has just been recognized in a notable manner in Toronto. Last week Premier Whitney formally opened the new Maternity Hospital in that city, which cost $12,000. Among the subscriptions received were $2,000 from Mr. Timothy Eaton, $1,000 from Senator Cox, and $500 from Mr. E. B. Osler, M.P.

The Ottawa Journal does not share the opinion expressed in some opposition quarters relative to Hon Mr. Aylesworth. It says: "Few will question the value of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's selection. Indeed the Prime Minister is to be congratulated on his having been able to persuade a man of Mr. Aylesworth's type to enter the cabinet."

There are now 211 associations, with more than 75,000 members, forming the railroad branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, says the Railway Age. The association has 130 buildings, valued at $2,257,000. In the last twelve months there have been expended $1,100,000 for new buildings and repairs, of which railways contributed $700,000.

Montreal has ordered all power companies in the city to put their wires underground within five years, and has decided to assume itself the duty of clearing the sidewalks in winter, taxing the people to pay the bill. In both cases the city has taken wise action.

In connection with the movement for a sanitarium in this province for consumptives, the following item from Hamilton, Ont., is of interest:-

The Montreal City Council has appointed a commission of experts to report on the cost of the production of gas.


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**FOR WOMEN.**

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# Men of Saint John.

MAGISTRATE RITCHIE.

Hon. Robert J. Ritchie, son of the late Marmaduke Ritchie, was born in the city of St. John in the year 1845. After receiving his education at the Grammar School of this city, and the seminary then in existence, he entered as a student-at-law in the office of the late John G. Campbell, and was admitted to the bar in 1867.

During the succeeding ten years, Mr. Ritchie had an extensive legal practice, and was recognized as one of the leading legal lights of this city.

In 1877 he married Miss Mary Short, daughter of the late John Short, a well-known shipbuilder of St. Stephen.

In 1878, Mr. Ritchie entered politics as a Liberal candidate and was elected to the local house. In 1882 he was again elected, with Elder, McLellan and Quinton. On the defeat of the Hanington government, Hon. Mr. Ritchie went into the Blair administration, and in 1883 was made solicitor-general for New Brunswick; Hon. Mr. Elder being provincial secretary at the same time. In 1886 Mr. Ritchie was re-elected with Hon. Mr. McLellan, who succeeded Hon. Dr. Elder as provincial secretary.

The late R. Lester Peters, under an agreement with the common council and the provincial government had undertaken to perform for the period of ten years the duties of police magistrate and common clerk for the city of St. John. In 1889 the city of St. John and the town of Portland were united, and by the



HON. R. J. RITCHIE

Union Act the constitution of the city court underwent certain changes. Up to the year 1889 two judges constituted the old city court, of which court the common clerk ex-officio was a puisne judge. Under the Union Act the police magistrate ex-officio was made sole judge of the new city court. The government, in which Mr. Ritchie was the solicitor general, appointed him to the office of the police magistrate, and Mr. Peters continued to occupy the office of common clerk held by him for many years before the making of the agreement above referred to.

The importance of the office Mr. Ritchie holds may be estimated when it is considered that he has to dispose of all criminal business arising within the area of the entire city. He now does the business that before the union was transacted in the Portland police and civil courts, together with the business before the police court and the trial of causes disposed of by the old city court. Under the old City Court Act, the presiding judge received a portion of the fees as a remuneration for service rendered. Under the present act the city court fees all go into the city funds, and the judge's salary is paid by the city.

In 1892, Mr. Ritchie was appointed a queen's counsel under the government of Sir John A. Macdonald.

When Mr. Ritchie was solicitor general all the criminal cases were tried either by Attorney General Blair or by the solicitor general, and even when the house was in session Hon. Mr. Ritchie looked after the crown business in his district. As solicitor general he was interested in many important cases, some of which are well remembered by the older citizens. Some said that he was a fair crown officer, others that he was a blood-thirsty officer, but all will agree that he was a most industrious official. His great forte was cross-examining a witness, and it has been jocosely said of him that he should write a book on "Convictions." The legal fraternity all agree that Mr. Ritchie was one of the greatest cross-examiners at the bar in Canada.

In the society world Hon. Mr. Ritchie has been very prominent for many years. Shortly after the organization of the Irish Friendly Society he was elected president, his predecessors being John G. Campbell, father of The Sketch, and the late Judge Kelly of Prince Edward Island. For the past twenty years, Judge Ritchie has taken a very active interest in the temperance movement, and was at one time president of the Father Matthew Total Abstinence Society. For several years he was also president of the Catholic Total Abstinence Association in New Brunswick, and was the first lay vice-president of the Total Abstinence Union of America.

Those interested in the Father Matthew Society between 1870 and 1885 will remember Mr. Ritchie as one of the leading temperance workers of the day, and an enthusiastic orator.

At present Police Magistrate Ritchie is president of Branch 134 of the C. M. B. A., a life member of the Home for Incurables, a member of the Board of Governors for the Boys' Industrial School at Silver Falls, a director of the Rockwood Park Association, and one of the managing committee of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Hon. Mr. Ritchie has one son, Edmund Short Ritchie, barrister, at present practising his profession in this city.

## CAPT. PRATT MAKES A HAUL

St. Andrews, N. B., Oct. 18—Cruiser Curlew, Capt. Pratt, arrived in the harbor this afternoon towing a small fleet that had been seized for violation of the fishery law. Included in the seizue were several dories, but the names of the owners are unknown and a two-masted vessel belonging to Will Tucker, Back Bay.

Another boat belonging to William Hicks was seized and the fine paid.

Mrs. I. O. Beatteay and Mrs. G. S. Williams went to Moncton yesterday.


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