THE EVENING TIMES.

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THE VALLEY RAILWAY

The announcement was made by Premier Pugsley in the legislature yesterday that the government had received a proposition from Mackenzie & Mann for the survey and construction of a line of railway down the St. John valley from Woodstock to St. John. From the further statements made by the premier, there seems no doubt that by the guarantee of bonds to a fair amount the construction of the road may be secured.

This is far and away the most important announcement made during the present session of the legislature, or during any session in recent years. For if the work can be accomplished, as suggested, there will be not only enormous benefit to the region traversed, but to St. John and the province generally. Since Mackenzie & Mann are looking for eastward extension and a terminal port for their transcontinental line they could not find a better route than the one proposed, or so good a port as St. John. They would find a large local traffic all along the valley, while the construction of the road would lead to great development in one of the richest regions in the province.

It must be borne in mind that this province will progress more rapidly in the future than in the past, and with a railway traversing so fine a territory, already well settled and highly productive, there would be offered rare opportunities for the development of splendid resources. All this is clearly and fully set forth in Premier Pugsley's admirable address, which is printed on another page, and which the Times commends to the attention of every reader.

There can be no doubt of the reception to be given to any reasonable proposition along the lines indicated for the construction of this road. The need of the railway, the desirability of making it a link in a transcontinental line with St. John as a terminus, the importance of affording better facilities for the development of one of the fairest regions in all New Brunswick,—all these considerations will impress themselves upon the minds of the members of the legislature.

Premier Pugsley intimates that no bonus will be asked for, and his clear statement of the cost to the province of bonuses to railways in the past strengthens his position. The premier is proverbially optimistic, but in regard to the proposition he outlined to the house yesterday his optimism will prove infectious. The people will await with great interest the terms of the proposition which the government will make to the railway builders, whose western system is now one of the great systems of Canada, and whose success in all that they have undertaken has been so remarkable

The prospect of opening up by railroad the lovely and fertile region along the river between St. John and Fredericton will sepecially appeal to St. John people, as well as to the thrifty farmers along the route. During the winter the latter have felt the need of better means of communication, which would enable them to develop their resources to a far greater extent. A railroad within easy reach would arouse a new spirit of enterprise, and vastly benefit the whole river district. St. John people would welcome a service that would enable them to reach more easily in summer the lovely resorts all along the river, whose shores, as the late Gov. Russell of Massachussetts once said, must sooner or later be dotted with the villas of wealthy citizens of both Canada and the United States.

The whole prospect opens up possibilities of great moment, and Premier Pugsley may fairly regard with satisfaction the fact that as premier he has been able to make to the house and country an announcement of so much promise for the future welfare of one of the finest sections not only of New Brunswick, but of the Dominion.

THE SHAKING OUT

A sane and reasonable view of financial affairs in the United States is that of the American Metal Market, a trade journal, which regards actual conditions and is not disturbed by stock market vagaries. We quote a portion of an article in this week's issue:—

"A calm reflection over the events of the past week should, we think, bring with it no feelings of apprehension, but should rather tend to strengthen confidence in the stability of our general business situation and our financial resources. It was becoming plain that the money situation here and abroad was unable to meet the legitimate demands of the great, world-wide business movement, and at the same time provide ammunition for a continued speculative movement in stocks, securities, and the locking up of funds in problematical and unproductive new mining and speculative ventures. Had the strain been continued, business would certainly have suffered. Some sacrifice and adjustment had to be made. The break came at the weakest point, and fortunately where the least damage would accrue to the general prosperity of the country. The sharp, acute and enormous liquidation in Wall Street has considerably cleared the financial atmosphere, and our producing, manufacturing and consuming interests have to that extent been benefited. The manner in which business has acted under the stress of one of the most extraordinary weeks in financial history speaks volumes for the solidity and legitimacy of our situation."

The Metal Market says further that there must be a slackening up in the demand for funds for new enterprises, or prices will go lower, but to this it adds: "It may be too early to give an opinion, but that there is to be any serious turning back of the hands on the dial of our business clock we do not believe, while any general collapse seems to us impossible."

BOYS' CLUBS

The citizens of St. John should take note of the fact that in Halifax there is a boys' club, which is doing splendid work. In telling of a concert given in aid of the club by the ladies' auxiliary, the Recorder says:—

"The Ladies' Auxiliary have equipped the gymnasium of the club and maintain it from year to year—a most effective branch of the club life. Since January of this year over one hundred members have been enrolled, and many improvements and expansions are contemplated for next year's work. There is an average nightly attendance of about fifty boys, who would otherwise, in all probability, be idling upon the streets; surely this effort is a worthy one, and must be productive of good to the community at large."

The members of the Every Day Club in St. John were compelled to exclude boys, and have been looking in vain for quarters where a boys' club might be established. As many as seventy-five boys of tender years, who would otherwise in most cases be on the streets were in the habit of attending the club. Owing to the crowd of men to be accommodated in the rooms, and because the two classes do not mix well, the boys had to be sent back to the street. How do the right thinking citizens feel regarding this problem? Is there not something they can do for the boys who need the good influences of a well conducted club?

Socialism has some friends in Toronto. By a vote of 67 to nothing, the Amalgamated Carpenters' and Joiners' local union of that city has endorsed the Socialist party of Canada, and declared it to be unnecessary to form any other labor party for Canada. The resolution adopted was: "That, having regard for the record of the Socialist party of Canada and in the actions of their elected members in the legislature of British Columbia, viz., Hawthornethwaite and Williams, and on the Toronto Board of Education, James Simpson, No. 4 Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners endorse the Socialistic party of Canada as the political party of the laboring class and consider it unnecessary that any other be formed."

It appears that Mr. McNamara, the parliamentary secretary of the local government board, who has joined the London branch of the United Irish League, is a Canadian. The Toronto Mail and Empire says: "Mr. McNamara, who has represented Camberwell since 1900, and was recently appointed to his present position is one of the Canadian members in the British House of Commons. He was born in Montreal in 1861."

It now apepars that the greatest legal talent of the United States has been engaged for weeks in the trial of an insane man. This would be a remarkable outcome of a trial that has revealed so much of the hideousness of "life's other side."

The new Transvaal parliament has a language dispute on its hands at the very beginning. The Boers insist upon speaking Dutch, while the Englishmen desire their own language. It will doubtless be a dual language parliament. The bill to bar Asiatic labor went through the lower house without opposition.

Another St. John delegation has been heard at Fredericton. Possibly there will not be any others this session. There is plenty of material but it is doubtful if there is sufficient enthusiasm. Of course there is no telling what the next public meeting may develop.

It is unfortunate that sectional differences should render of no effect the effort of the government of Nova Scotia to provide the province with facilities for technical educational.

Toronto led Canada in the value of new buildings erected last year. Its $13,169,398 was followed closely by Winnipeg with $12,760,450.

The United States and Mexico are slow in making up their minds about prohibiting hostilities between Honduras and Nicaragua

THE QUEBEC ELECTIONS

Premier Gouin Will Not Commit Himself to Saying When They Will Be Held.

QUEBEC, March 21—(Special.)— Premier Gouin, when interviewed this morning on the reported likelihood of the provincial elections being held in the fall if the British parliament ratified the amendments to the British North America Act dealing with subsidies paid to the colonies, declared that this was the first intimation he had of the matter, as the question had never been discussed as yet. However, he was non-committal and would not forecast the future action of the government, as he said it was impossible for him to do so at present, for the reason that the question of going before the people next fall had not been brought up as yet.

J. P. Hood, of the Charlottetown Guardian, is at the Royal. He will leave today on the steamer Empress of Ireland on a trip to the British Isles and the continent.

Close 6 p. m.; Saturday, 11. St. John, N. B., March 2?, 190?



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LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN

Most of the things that worry us
Don't matter much;
Too many of us fret and fuss
At every touch.
There's nothing that's of great concern
Except to live and love and learn.

Suppose the world don't go our way,
What of it, then?
We have the better chance today
To act like men
And still insist at every turn
We're here to live and love and learn.

It isn't doing what we could
That counts for most;
It's being brave and kind and good
Amid the host.
Far better than to crave and yearn
Is just to live and love and learn.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

A FELLOW FEELING.

"What made you so sympathetic toward the prisoner?"

"Well," answered the juror, "after being locked up away from home and friends ourselves, we realized what it is to be in the clutches of the law and felt sorry for him."—Washington Star.

* * *

MAYBE EVEN SO.

The poetess of passion, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, sings of "The warm, red mouth that mocked him and denied." If he'd been a fellow of nerve and mettle he wouldn't have been denied; he would have grabbed and kissed her and let her do her kicking afterward. — Springfield Republican.

Perhaps it was the warm red mouth of a demijohn and he didn't have a corkscrew. Houston Post.

* * *

NAUGHTY JACK.

A daring theft Jack wrought last night
On darling little Rose.
He stole some things he wanted, right
Beneath her very nose.
—Philadelphia Press.

'Tis to be hoped that if fair Rose
Returned the blissful smack
Jack did not overlook a bet,
But turned and kissed her back.
—Houston Post.

* * *

A COLLECTOR.

If you'd be a collector
Start early in life,
Get a job, then a cottage,
And then a wee wife,
Flag the stork to come by
With a baby or two,
To laugh and to tumble
And gurgle and goo;
Then you've a collection
Nobody can beat,
That puts songs in your heart
And a dance to your feet.

* * *

CURIOUS DISHES.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

"A couple of lax sandwiches, if you please."

"We don't keep 'em, sir."

"Ah, don't you? A cromacy, then."

"Sorry, but we don't carry cromacies."

"Then give me a bubble and a squeak."

The waitress with a sour smile, shook her head.

"Toad in the hole?"

"No, sir."

Red with rage, the man clapped on his hat and left the eating house.

"He is an English emigrant," the waitress said. "Lots of English emigrants come here, and they are always asking for the queerest dishes — bubble and squeak, lax sandwiches, toad in the hole, cromancies. It would pay us to serve them these dishes, and we'd do so only we don't know what they are.

GOOD TIMES ONLY BEGUN

(Montreal Herald.)

If one can judge from outward circumstances, we would venture the opinion that the good times of Canada are only at the beginning It is the century for Canada, and the influx of population into this country is going to keep up just so long as our unpeopled acres offer better inducements than do the thickly settled lands of the old world And settlement means wealth—wealth produced and wealth made in supplying the wants of these newcomers. The stock market has just received a black eye, and yet we fail to see how this affects the farmers very much. They deal in the genuine article of commerce. They produce necessaries of life and production is not keeping pace with consumption in Canada. Farm products, therefore, stand to remain firm; yet there may be temporary rises and falls. In fact, prices in some farm products have been too high, but they can stand a little depreciation and then be on a paying basis for farmers.

The outlook is rosy for the Canadian farmer. He stands in a peculiar position of safety at present, while all around seems tremulous with the fever of uncertainty. While population increases in Canada at the rate it is, there can be little fear for a bad break in the prices of agricultural products. No man has yet so complete a control of the market as to "corner" the necessaries of life. The farmer feeds them all, which fact is coming to be realized more than ever. He is at the bottom of the productive world. By his exertions, all the delicate social machinery moves. There are other distributors of this wealth, but the farmer is the creator. Hitherto he has borne the heavy end of the stick, and it is time he was assuming some of the good things. Let him combine to maintain his rights. Let him get right with politics. Let him demand his just recognition in the law making of the country.

Rev. Dr. Carmichael, speaking in a city church on Sunday, made the statement that Saskatchewan Province alone could support the whole population of Canada. If this is true, and no one knows better than this western preacher, then how unfounded are our fears for a big cycle of bad times. This bugbear of lean years seems to afflict some writers to a nightmare fever. This is Canada's turn.

MEETING NEXT WEEK

It is understood that the adjourned meeting of citizens to discuss the various systems for the election of aldermen and to take up civic matters in general will be held in the Opera House next week, if arrangements for the use of the building can be made. A. O. Skinner, the chairman of last Tuesday night's meeting, said yesterday that it was uncertain, but if it was the meeting would be held there so that a much larger number of the taxpayers might be able to attend.

A delegation consisting of Mr. Skinner, J. H. McRobbie, Ald. Vanwart, Dr. A. D. Smith, O. H. Warwick and J. N. Harvey went to Fredericton last evening to present to the municipalities committee the resolutions passed at the recent meeting. Ald. McGoldrick and Ald. Pickett also went to the capital.

MR. WILLISON AT HALIFAX

Halifax, N. S., March 21—J. S. Willison, editor of the Toronto News, tonight delivered the inaugural address at the opening of the Canadian Club of Halifax. He was greeted by a great audience, and his address on Forty Years of Confederation was heard with great interest. Mr. Willison spoke for an hour and a half. A vote of thanks was moved by Governor Fraser and seconded by J. A. Chisholm, and was tendered in felicitous terms by G. S. Campbell, who occupied the chair. Mr. Willison will leave in the morning for St. John by the Pacific express.

C. W. Spencer, of Montreal, general manager for McKenzie & Mann, was in the city yesterday and left on the Halifax train. He had gone before the announcement came from Fredericton about the proposed new railway down the St. John river valley, and therefore could not be interviewed on the subject.

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