

THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEB. 5, 1907.

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The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

THE WEAK-KNEED COUNCIL

The gentlemen who framed the proposed new assessment law, which was defeated in the city council yesterday, believe that they had prepared a measure which would more equitably distribute the burden of taxation. The gross inequalities of the present system are not denied by anybody. Year after year the law has been assailed in the board of trade, in the city council and in the press. A commission was appointed to frame a new law. The members of the commission were men of recognized ability and business experience. They went exhaustively into the whole question, and sought to discover a method of righting some of the notorious wrongs of the old system without too radical a departure from the old method. When their work was completed they cheerfully explained to enquiring aldermen and business men the reasons for any proposition which seemed open to criticism. On the whole they produced a bill greatly superior to the existing law, and one that with some minor amendments was approved by the council of the board of trade, and would have been approved by a majority of the full board. There was every prospect that the bill would go to the legislature, and that by the time it emerged it would be a pretty good law, certainly far superior to the present one.

But yesterday the obstructionists of the council, the men who were afraid to face responsibility for new measures, and those who permit themselves to be persuaded by street corner cliques, joined to one or two who perhaps conscientiously oppose the bill, united their votes and the measure was thrown out.

It is the usual result, so far as this council is concerned. Whether it be an important measure, a departmental investigation, or anything that calls for firm and aggressive action, there are usually enough weak-kneed or ill-advised members to prevent a satisfactory outcome.

Now what will the board of trade do about it?

A TIMELY WORD

The Montreal Shareholder of last week sounded a note of wise warning to those who presume upon apparently healthy and prosperous conditions to indulge in speculation at the risk of their legitimate business interests. At the outset the Shareholder makes these concessions: "The Canadian people have every cause for thankfulness at the continued prosperity which prevails throughout the limits of the dominion. From all directions come reports of activity in business, and the accumulation of success. The bank statements are full of encouragement, and those of individual institutions reflect in no unmistakable manner the forward march of that prosperity which now prevails. There is no boom which may only last for a short time, and, like the bubble disappear on the slightest pinprick."

This is the bright side. But that there is another side, and that there are possibilities far from satisfactory to the imprudent speculator is clearly and admirably set forth in the following:

"At the same time, it may not be out of place to utter a warning voice against the growth of extravagance, which, if persisted in, cannot fail to produce an unsettled condition to avoid which every one should join hands. There is a get-rich-quick disposition prevailing that should be checked before it has been allowed to attain proportions with which it will be hard to grapple should they be unchecked. The speculative disposition leads many a man to take ventures, which he is not justified in undertaking, and it is against these that we would warn the unwary as well as the too daring. Small beginnings have large endings, and those endings are attended with downfall and disgrace. The young man, the middle-aged man and the more advanced in years, are impelled with a desire to make money, and yet their incomes are of so limited a nature that a slight venture only is made. This is followed by another, both of which are attended with unsatisfactory results, and another and a further plunge is made in the hope of recovering what has been lost. This is the danger which has to be guarded against, and those who have not the means to lose nor the strength to resist should avoid the struggle which would not have been entered upon had the cost been considered at the outset. Mistakes which may occur have a discouraging influence and often blight bright prospects. The danger of improper speculation is great, and there is no telling when it will stop. When the mining craze swept over this country a few years ago, thousands were affected and seriously injured by it. That craze, notwithstanding the severe lesson it taught, may again prevail, and bring misery and loss to many homes. By avoiding it at the very outset a battle will be won and undue speculation will be avoided. The success and prosperity which now abound should not be allowed to induce a relaxation of those business principles, strict adherence to which is more likely to be attended with beneficial results than will that insane speculation which leads men to stray from the strict path of business principles."

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

In the mass of contradictory statements concerning the success or otherwise of municipal ownership in Glasgow comes that of Robt. Paterson, of Glasgow,

who, writing to the British Weekly, says of that city's municipal enterprises:—"Glasgow has done exceedingly well in all it has taken over, with the single exception of the telephones, but that was because of the heavy opposition of the National Telephone Company, who spent a large amount of their profits in trying to smash Glasgow. The common good of Glasgow is mounting up rapidly; and just think of this, the death rate has been reduced from about thirty per thousand of twenty years ago to fourteen per thousand now! Our city improvement is a standing monument of good work, and our water and gas and tramways show large surpluses to the good."

QUEBEC BUDGET

The Montreal Herald thus sums up the very satisfactory features of the provincial budget of Quebec:—

Commercial travellers' tax abolished. Railway taxation to be changed. Thanks to increased federal subsidy no more timber limits to be sold. Net surplus, \$160,349.33. Receipts for last year came to \$456,244.01 more than was estimated. Last year's increase in ordinary expenditure only \$74,534.97 over previous year. Excess of liabilities of province over assets, decreased in last year by \$275,245.12.

A New York firm of brokers, angered by the attitude of President Roosevelt toward the grasping corporations, and its possible effect upon Wall street speculation, makes this somewhat hysterical comment: "In the wake of our daring presidential reformer, perhaps the central figure of the world today, there has sprung up a noisy retinue of state legislators, eager to reap in their little way the political-popularity-rewards which have been showered upon their leader. These imitators have unlimbered the legal cannon and are firing right and left at railroads and corporations, while the smaller fry of municipal authorities are following and shouting in the rear and beating tom-toms to scare the local corporations, and so incidentally to attain the affections of the voting populace."

The splendid response made by citizens to the appeal for funds for the Champlain monument will no doubt influence the city council and provincial government very favorably toward the proposition that they should give substantial aid. So much having been pledged, it is inconceivable that there should now be any suggestion of failure to secure the monument. The citizens are to be congratulated on the promptness with which subscriptions have come in, but there is still a considerable sum to be raised. The generosity of Senator Gilmor in sending a handsome contribution is greatly appreciated.

The Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. has won a victory in the council of that city. It has secured a vote for a 21-years extension of contract for gas and electric light, on its own terms. These, it is true, provide that the present price of gas, \$1.20, shall be reduced to 90 cents by May, 1910. As the contract must be approved by a by-law, there is still a chance for the citizens to fight the scheme.

The presence of Commissioner Coombs in this city directs special attention to the great work done by the Salvation Army in its rescue and reformation work, its immigration policy, and its work for education. The Army has become a potent factor in social development in Canada.

In moving the adjournment of the house yesterday as a tribute of sympathy for Lord and Lady Grey, whose daughter, Lady Victoria Grenfell, has died, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden eloquently voiced the feeling of the Canadian people. Their Excellencies have won the warm regard of the Canadian people.

In any matters affecting the respective interests of the ports of St. John and Halifax, the press of this city would doubtless be expected to be a unit in support of its interests. The press of Halifax may be safely counted on to look after the interests of that city.

The presentation to Messrs. Kelly and Rogers yesterday, by the city council, for their bravery in risking their lives to save the life of a comrade was a just recognition of a heroic deed.

Mr. John A. Chesley is well qualified to be a trade commissioner, having had a valuable business training and also having been much in public life.

The Canadian Club of St. John is to be organized in the board of trade rooms tomorrow afternoon at 4.30 o'clock. All interested should endeavor to attend.

The 12th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, of Newcastle, will furnish the artillery force for the guard of honor at the opening of the legislature on February 14th.

A. R. Wetmore, government engineer, Fredericton, was registered at the Dufferin yesterday.

Stores close at 6 p. m.

St. John, Feb. 5, 1907.

TROUSER SALE

Attracting Many Buyers.

From the great number of people buying Men's Pants at this sale, we are fully convinced that this is the time of year when men want extra pants. They are buying them here away below their real value. Come in and see.

\$2.50 Pants } Sale price, \$1.98
2.75 " }
3.00 " }

Other sale prices of Men's Pants, \$1 up.

J. N. HARVEY, TAILORING AND CLOTHING, Opera House Block.

Annual Sale.

It is the regular thing with us each February to go through our stock and pick out the sizes and kinds which are left over. The rapidity with which these are sold from our Bargain tables proves to us that the prices are most pleasing to our customers.

Perhaps you have never visited our sale. DO SO! We have bargains for men, women and boys and girls of all ages.

Sale Now On.

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\$21.50 Suits to Order \$16.50 \$6.00 Trousers to Order \$5.00
\$22.50 Suits to Order \$17.50 \$6.50 Trousers to Order \$5.50
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TELEPHONE 1782 C.

AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS

The hills are not so high as once they were, And the old woods that seemed so dark and vast. In those remembered child days of the past, Are only a few trees that now confer In whispers of the curious wayfarer Who stands and gazes so. The young trees cast Shy glances at me; they were sprouts when I last questioned them, and they were tenderer. The grey old empty house is like a dream That haunts the memory in the clear noon-day. The silent room of birth is tenanted By disembodied yearnings, and they seem Vaguely to know that I have found the way To something unimagined by the dead. —Elsa Barker, in the January Craftsman.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

INQUISITIVE. 'Most every man, Or fool or saint, Has touched the sign That's labelled "Paint!"' —New York Sun.

HORRIFIED HER.

Stranger—"Are all these children yours?" Peasant—"Thank the Lord, no! Only twelve of them."

HUSBANDS' PET NAMES.

"Why do some husbands call their wives 'Duckie'?" "Because they develop large bills."

FOR GOVERNMENT WORK.

Student—"Why do you not read your newspapers?" Government Clerk—"Oh, I keep them for the office, otherwise I should have nothing to do."

NOT IN HIS POSSESSION.

Beggar—"Oh, Signore, I have lost a leg." Crusty Old Gentleman—"Well, I haven't found it."

PROBABLY GOT FULL OFTENFER.

They were speaking of a hard drinker, and saying that when he was drunk he was at his cleverest. "Yes," said a man present. "Like the moon, the fuller he is the more he shines."

MORE SCHOOL DISSENSIONS

A Threatened Cleavage in Nova Scotia Because of Dissatisfaction With Present System.

[Sydney correspondence of Montreal Herald.]

SYDNEY, Feb. 1.—The province of Nova Scotia, before very many months will be the storm-centre of a fierce controversy over the question of schools. Politicians are endeavoring to blind their eyes to the situation; but it is in vain, the rumblings are already heard in the distance.

The Free School Act made no provision for the support of denominational schools, and the present Public Instruction Act is equally silent. Several years ago the Catholics, desirous of having control over their own children in matters educational as well as spiritual, began the erection of convents in all the large industrial centres. There are a great many of these now scattered throughout the province. Then they made application and were allowed by the department of education to share in the county funds. All the teachers employed are sisters, and receive their provincial grant as other teachers and Protestants have protested but their protestations have been overruled. The superintendent of education to whom the matter had been referred, gave it as his opinion that the convent schools were legally entitled to a share of the county funds.

It may be necessary to state that in the convents, Protestants are admitted, and given the same care and attention as Catholic children. The latter are given religious instruction, but outside the regular school hours.

Leading Protestants have not been satisfied with this arrangement and not long ago they submitted a "stated case" to several of the ablest counsel in Canada, and the opinion received has borne them out in their contention that the appropriation of the school funds of the province to convent schools, or in fact, denominational schools of any kind, is illegal. They are now preparing to bring the matter to the notice of the government, and it may be one of the questions that will come up for solution at the meeting of the local legislature at Halifax next month.

The remedy sought is an absolute cessation of the giving of any funds out of the treasury of the province to the support of denominational schools, immaterial of what religious body. It is a foregone conclusion that the application will raise a storm, and that it will be the signal for a fierce religious warfare. The Catholics have gone to enormous expenditure in building and equipping schools, and they are not to be blamed if they fight for the retention of their present privileges to the very last ditch.

It is not likely that a compromise can be effected either. The Protestants claim the payment of school funds as illegal, and being illegal, should stop. Catholics hold an entirely different view. The nearest to a compromise that can be suggested is a submission of a stated case to the supreme court. This, it may be added will be the question at issue in the mayoralty election for the city of Sydney in March next. Delegates representing Protestant organizations have secured pledges from candidates to support them when the psychological moment comes. The school question enters also into civic contests in several of the towns throughout the province. It has become so vital that people naturally inclined toward peace are becoming alarmed at the possible outcome.

The result is problematic; it may end in a compromise satisfactory to both parties or it may end in separate schools. This latter would be decidedly objectionable, apart altogether from the religious aspect. It is scarcely possible that it will end in the Catholic church giving over the instruction of her young to teachers holding views on religion different to her own tenets. In some sections Catholics are already supporting schools of their own. This is a big burden upon her people, but it is borne, apparently, quite cheerfully.

Valentines

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