THE EVENING TIMES.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 4, 1907.

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THE LATE DR. MARCH

Wherever he was personally well known, the news of the death of Dr. J. E. March will be received with a sense of personal bereavement. That at forty-seven years of age, with the apparent promise of years before him, he should have been calmly anticipating the blow that fell yesterday, and yet went bravely on with the performance of his duties, reveals the character of the man. Few men possessed in a higher degree those gifts which win personal regard. The Times tells on another page the story of his life, which, in its many-sidedness brought Dr. March into close relations with so many people. The soul of hospitality, he was also the life of any company, his quick wit, his fine musical gifts, and his very exuberance of life making him the most congenial of comrades. Had Dr. March devoted his attention to music instead of medicine, he must have achieved more than ordinary success. Those of his musical compositions which have been published possess much merit. In the years of his service as port physician at St. John, Dr. March revealed a faculty for organization and systematic work that was greatly appreciated by the department. He had mechanical skill, and was also of an inventive turn, and his work in connection with the erection of the detention hospital and quarantine buildings on Partridge Island was of great value. The annual militia camp at Sussex will not be quite the same without his presence. A graduate in medicine at nineteen, his life was filled with work, and its early termination is widely and sincerely mourned.

OTTAWA GOSSIP

Rev. Dr. Rose, who was formerly pastor of the Dominion Methodist church in Ottawa, writes to defend against the charge of cowardice those ministers who have not discussed in the pulpit the unsavory rumors from Ottawa. What he says is of special interest at this time:—

"I must confess that five years' residence in Ottawa taught me one thing, to distrust utterly the gossip which prevails in regard to our public men. To credit what one hears there is to believe in no one's honor, honesty, or chastity. The greater part of what was said I knew to be untrue, and I came, in time, to discredit the rest. To secure the smallest political advantage, the lowest and most unworthy tales against the uprightness and decency of public men are sometimes circulated. No reputation seems wholly safe. The contribution to public righteousness most needed is a sturdy campaign against falsehood and slander, and a plea for the charity which hopeth all things. To accept, and from the well-protected pulpit, to repeat the unspecified and unsustained charges against men in high places, appears to me to be guilty of 'taking up a reproach against one's neighbor.'"

CANADA'S INFLUENCE

London and colonial comment on Sir Wilfrid Laurier's recent remarks on the preference in inter-imperial trade shows how important a position Canada has attained in the estimation of the mother country and the over-seas partners in the imperial compact. Sir Wilfrid's utterance was eagerly awaited, and had it been more emphatic in reference to the advantages of preferential trade it would have been the more welcome to the representatives of Australia and other colonies. Last night's cables intimate that English radicals are somewhat troubled by the Canadian premier's remarks, since they have held that Canada was not at all interested in a mutual preference. It seems quite clear that the question of preferential trade will be one of the leading topics of discussion at the conference of premiers. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrives in London and the representatives of the various outlying portions of the empire get together, they may make history in a larger sense than now seems probable. This conference is not like former ones, which were held incidentally in connection with a great celebration in London, at which the premiers were present. This time they go to London for the specific purpose of meeting together to discuss matters of inter-imperial interest. One, and it may be the chief of these, is preferential trade.

HUDSON BAY ROUTE

The Quebec Telegraph appears to believe that the opening of the Hudson Bay route will materially affect the trade of the St. Lawrence. Its remarks are based on letters received from Quebec men now living in the northwest, "who would be the last to throw cold water on our legitimate expectations, but believe they are rendering us a real service in opening our eyes to the logic of hard facts."

There is reason to believe that these correspondents are not well informed as to the length of time the Hudson Bay route is open to navigation, for they do not at all agree with the statements made by Commissioner Lowe in his book, based on actual study of conditions. Nevertheless their statement of the case is worthy of attention. We quote from the Quebec Telegraph:—

"As regards the trade of the northwest, they are convinced that we shall get very little or none of it, not enough at all events to justify the brilliant castles in the air, which we are building or with which we are allowing ourselves to be beguiled. In fact, they claim that we stand rather to lose an important branch of it, which we actually have—immigration. They base their conclusion on the fact that Hudson Bay is the natural inlet and outlet to Manitoba and the northwest provinces, that the government and people of these provinces are determined at all cost to obtain rail communications with it and put its navigation to a practical test at the earliest possible moment, and that, if the dominion government does not undertake the work before long, some of the most important railway and steamship men, capitalists and financiers on both sides of the Atlantic are prepared to carry it out. They profess to have the most indisputable evidence that Hudson Bay and straits can be successfully navigated during five or six months of the year, which is about as much as the St. Lawrence route offers; that this period of open and safe navigation is possibly capable of extension through the use of vessels specially built for the purpose and the proper lighting of the bay and straits, and that with the successful demonstration of the practicability of the new route, Hudson Bay will become the great highway between the great west and the markets of the old world, as it will be by far the shortest, the most direct and the cheapest. Not only will the tide of immigration be turned directly to the west through the bay, but it will offer the shortest line to the east, both for passengers and freight, especially grain, which will greatly reduce the cost of transportation as it exists in the west at present. Under the circumstances, our correspondents deem it altogether idle to think that after the experience of the present winter, which has resulted in so great a blockade of their last year grain crop, the northwest provinces will be content to place their dependence only as briefly as they can help it upon the all rail routes, present or future, through the older provinces. They may utilize these to some extent during the winter months, but it may be taken for granted that they will do so when no other outlet is open to them, which will not be of very much benefit to the ports of Montreal or Quebec, whatever brief advantage it may bring to St. John and Halifax."

The courtesies of journalism in Nova Scotia are pre-eminent. Thus we find the New Glasgow Chronicle referring to the Pictou Standard in these endearing terms: "A friend, who is not careful as to what he reads, tells us that the Standard's zoological specimen of the musteline carnivores of the genus Mephitis and allied genera, the variety known as Mephitis Americano or common skunk, is again on the rampage. This is the time of year they generally make their appearance from the hiding places under old barns, and should be chased back with a shot gun if necessary; they are a menace to the public health."

President Skinner of the Exhibition Association and the other recent delegates to Ottawa must have read with something like surprise the statement of the minister of militia yesterday that the drill hall may yet be erected on the grounds at Barrack Point. It was supposed that the department had definitely decided to make an exchange and hand over those grounds to the Exhibition Association, which without them would have to go out of business. A delegation should interview the minister before he departs for London. This matter should be settled, and without further delay.

Addressing the western members of parliament at a luncheon in Halifax last week Mr. A. M. Bell, president of the board of trade, said:—"Nova Scotia is the only province of the Dominion without transcontinental railway communication. The C. P. R. is seeking permission to come into Nova Scotia over the rails of the I. C. R. We ask your assistance, said Mr. Bell, to secure through Halifax an outlet for the C. P. R.. Halifax harbor should be spoken of not as our harbor but as your harbor—a national asset."

The situation in regard to the dredging on the west side is such that it might be a good plan for Mayor Sears to proceed to Ottawa for a few days and press upon the public works department the urgency of the case. The city council has done all that it can do, and the responsibility now rests upon the government, but if nothing is done there will be those a few months hence, when the results of delay are apparent, who will assert that it is all the fault of the city council.

Mr. Bourassa's resolution yesterday was another flash in the pan. The house sustained the speaker in ruling out of order his resolution with reference to Mr. Fowler.

The spirit of April First appears to have fastened itself on the good people of Digby for a longer period than usual. But the vaccination joke is not appreciated by the travelling public.

St. John is not as large as Toronto, but despite the fact that there is no rush of aldermanic candidates this town will be able to boast of a higher tax rate than that of Toronto.

Mr. Burns, M. P. P., is hopeful that an extensive iron industry will yet be established in Gloucester, with the ores discovered in that county.

C. J. Osman, M. P. P., Mrs. Osman and son, of Hillsboro, were at the Royal yesterday.

Stores open till 8 o'clock. St. John, April 4, 1907.

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WETMORE'S | Store Open Evenings. | Garden St.

TOO MANY MEN SEEKING WIVES

A Joke That Made Life a Burden to Mr. Ball of Birmingham.

To the Editor of The Toronto Globe: In your issue of Feb. 23rd I see my name mentioned in connection with an article headed, "English Women Seeking Husbands." Of course, it is hardly to be expected that even so well posted a journal as the Globe would be able to keep track of the officials and their respective departments., but it is hardly fair to my friend, Mr. G. H. Mitchell (who for such a length of time and with such good results has been the emigration agent in Birmingham) that I should be alluded to as the emigration agent there. My department is entirely separate, and has dealings wiah trade only.

This story arose in a joke. Still, as the correspondence has reached such tremendous proportions, and people are evidently taking the matter seriously, I think it is time the matter is explained.

The local correspondent of "Canada" called into see me one day and mentioned that a letter had been received in a barrel of apples at the market, asking, in the event of it reaching a young lady, that she would correspond with the writer with a view to marriage. I said: "Oh, that's nothing. I have had a number of letters from men in Canada asking me to get wives for them. I turned them over to a newspaper here, and I understand good results followed." Evidently, this representative thought the matter would make good copy, so he published it in Canada. Some London papers copied the item; then the agent of the Canadian Associated Press in London, with true Robertsonian humor, cabled it to Canada, where it has been published in many papers. It has gone to South Africa, Cuba, the United States, and letters continue to pour in daily asking me to find prospective husbands and prospective wives.

It is needless for me to say that I am much too busy a man to establish a matrimonial bureau. As I considered the idea valuable, I have made an arrangement with the manager of Canada, 52 Long Acre, London, who will give all correspondence the serious attention it deserves. In the future, as in the past, all correspondence will be sent to him and treated confidentially.

Should any of your readers desire to follow the matter further, let them address as above. P. B. Ball,
Canadian Commercial Agent, Birmingham.

Birmingham, March 14.

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BACK TO EARTH

When Lenten penances are o'er,
And Easter lilies bloom no more,
I wonder will my lady's eyes
Retain the calm that in them lies?

I wonder if her cheek will show
The cold, chaste pallor of the snow,
And on her lip, so richly red,
This chilling languor still be spread?

Or will she, when the spell is past,
When she is done with prayer and fast,
Be, as she comes to us once more,
The same gay sinner as before?

—Judge.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

A DEFINITION.

A stick and a ball and a wee, small boy,
A whack; and the ball is off;
A walk of a mile; then do it again,
And that is the game of golf.

—Lippincott's.

A MIND'S-EYE VIEW.

"And is your castle in Spain a skyscraper?"

"Yes; fourteen fairy stories high."—Harper's Weekly.

ALL HE KNEW ABOUT IT.

Knicker—"You can't paint the lily."

Subbubs—"Never got a seed catalogue, did you?"—New York Sun.

* * *

He—"Darling, have you ever loved any other man as much as you do me?"

She—"No; not in the winter."—Chicago News.

* * *

REMINISCENCE.

Mrs, Jawback—"I married you because I pitied you. Nobody else would."

Mr. Jawback—"Well, everybody does now."—Cleveland Leader.

* * *

MOTHER KEPT THE SECRET.

Father—"Don't you know that it hurt your mother as much to punish you as it did you?"

Son—"Yes, but I'll bet the neighbors ain't certain of it!"—Florida Times-Union.

* * *

BETWEEN THE ACTS.

"Just as Jack was about to kiss me last night father walked into the room."

"What did you do?"

"I gave Jack a rain-check."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

* * *

OLD MAN'S TOE-SUITOR'S HEELS.

Peter—"Well, my boy, so you have interviewed your girl's father eh? Did you make the old codger toe the mark?"

Son—"Yes, dad. I was the mark."—Boston Transcript.

STRING HIM UP BY THE HEELS

(Montreal Witness)

What is going to be done with the scoundrel returning officer who defiled the new province of Saskatchewan at its birth, corrupted the sacred function of self-government at its fountain, and profaned the name of Liberalism by stuffing a ballot box at the late elections? We have never heard of anything like proportionate or fitting punishment being meted out to such traitors. Their crime is worse than robbery, or indeed, any personal crime. It is the highest treason against their country and against humanity. We do not know that government by majority is the perfection of government. But we do know that it is the best form of liberty that the world yet knows of. Its chief benefit does not lie in the good government it produces. The present government of Egypt by Lord Cromer is better than any democratic administration in existence. It lies in the training of the people to the highest of public duties, the laying upon them of the greatest of earthly responsibilities. The security of the electoral system is as sacred in our national life as the sanity of the brain in our individual life—as essential as the pulsation of the heart. He who profanes it by neglecting it is no patriot. He who robs his neighbor of his right by such nefarious means as those which led to the resignation of Dr. Tyerman, returned for Prince Albert, is the worst sort of criminal. Yet people in Canada seem to do this sort of thing without knowing it is wrong. They hold up their heads among their neighbors with hardly a blemish on their reputation, for their neighbors also hardly know it is wrong. We account little of the value of punishment as a deterrent from crime, except in so far as it lays the ban of society upon wrong-doing, and makes men ashamed to do it. When are we going to lay the ban of public opprobrium on this crime of crimes in proportion to its enormity?

A HOT ROAST

(New York Evening Post.)

To what despicable traits those reformers have come who would pass the Bingham Police bill, appears from the inquisitorial actions of the police commissioner and district attorney. It is bad enough to have Magistrate Whitman endeavoring to pry into the honest business relations between police captains and their clients, the saloon-keepers, but why these other officials should so far forget themselves as to inquire into so legitimate an undertaking as the police mortuary fund is beyond us. Somebody ought to tell them to mind their own business. A mortuary fund, everybody will agree, is a perfectly proper investment for the police, and it is nobody's affair whether it is $80,000 or $800,000. The force alone is interested, especially when it comes to the question whether the death benefits should be $500 or $1,000, or anything in between. And so many policemen die sudden deaths in riots, or at fires, or in pursuit of the midnight burglar, that the value of a large reserve is perfectly evident. This explains why the honest patrolman who is president of the Benevolent Association must have $8,000 in cash in a draw in his home, and why the rest is kept in a safe in cash. Who knows what emergency may arise? But only a vicious mind would believe that a mortuary fund could be used to put any legislation on ice or bury a bill. Every policeman will protest against that thought, as Mr. Dooley would say, "on his wurrud iv honor as an Irish gintleman an' an American citizen."

Fire in the drug store of G. C. Hughes, at the corner of Richmond and Brussels street, between one and two o'clock this morning, did about $1,000 damage. An alarm was sent in from box 14 and the chemical engine proved sufficient to cope with the flames. The building is owned by Edward McDonald, who has $4,000 insurance on the building, divided between Wm. Thomson & Co., White & Calkin, and J. W. & C. W. Hope Grant. Mr. Hughes carries $1,000 on his stock.

WHITEWEAR SALE

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Drawers, 25c. to $1.00 per pair.
Night Gowns, 65c. to $2.25 each.
Shirts, 60c., 75c., $1.00 to $2.25 each.
White Lawn Waists, 40c., 60c., $1.00 to $1.65 each.
Wall Paper Bargains—20,000 Rolls Beautiful Designs, 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 7c., to 20c. per Roll.

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