

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 14, 1903

The St. John Evening Times is published at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

TELEPHONES: News and Editorial, 122; Advertising Dept., 785; Circulation Dept., 15.

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

Special Representative—Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Building, New York; Tribune Building, Chicago.

British and European Representative—The Clogher Publicity Syndicate, 30 & 31 Outer Temple, Strand, London.

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own to support."

TODAY'S CONFERENCE

In view of the coming by-elections the provincial opposition is wise in holding a general conference of leaders from all sections to consider general matters of policy. As the Times pointed out some days ago, the situation in regard to provincial politics has changed completely since March last. Mr. Hazen, who then repudiated federal issues, has since rushed in to the federal arena, dragging his colleagues after him, and they have emerged so thoroughly beaten that they now tremble for their supremacy in provincial affairs. There is the more reason for this fear because they have not measured up to the standard of provincial administration which they set for themselves when in opposition.

Mr. Robinson and his supporters, therefore, have every reason to regard the political outlook with satisfaction. They have but to declare an aggressive policy and popular sympathy and support will be turned in their direction. Premier Hazen has suffered much in public estimation because of his course in the affidavit affair in the federal campaign in this city, and his government has as yet shown no signs whatever of constructive ability. They have been busy with fishing commissions, the filing of petty offences, and the foolish and vain attempt to carry the province for Mr. Borden.

Mr. Robinson, therefore, has a splendid opportunity to do not only his party but his province good service. There should be no difficulty in drawing first blood in the by-elections. When the house meets the skillful application of the probe will show the people that the new government is far more one of promise than of satisfactory performance.

BRIGHT OUTLOOK WEST

Very gratifying news of improved business conditions comes from Western Canada. The Winnipeg correspondent of the Toronto Globe says that the good crop and its prompt movement, and the high prices obtained, have made money easier, restored confidence, and given a great impetus to trade and industry. This is good news for eastern as well as Western Canada. We quote some paragraphs:

"The bountiful crops of the past season in Western Canada have already exerted a very favorable influence on business, and a substantial improvement in the general situation is to be noted. The heavy yields and the marked improvement in the quality of the grain, especially of wheat, have combined with the prevailing high prices to bring in a large amount of money, and the distribution of the revenues thus obtained has stimulated business in nearly every line. The enterprise and activity of the railways have been important contributory factors in bringing about a better state of affairs, and it may be said to their credit that they have done their whole duty this fall in expediting the movement to market of western Canada products. The shipments of grain through Winnipeg during September and October were larger than those for the same months in any previous year, even the memorable season of 1905 being surpassed. The activity in this connection is apparently to be maintained during November, if the returns available so far may be taken as a guide. For the first six days of this month 3,108 cars of wheat were inspected here, in addition to 113 cars at Calgary. The maintenance of such a rate of delivery will mean that about 17,000,000 bushels of wheat will go forward in the month, and it may be presumed that all of it will be available for shipment by the water route from the head of Lake Superior. This will make a total of more than 44,000,000 bushels for the three months from the beginning of the crop year, Sept. 1. It is likely that the total will be over 40,000,000 bushels."

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after allowances are made for delays of various kinds. The movement of oats for the same period is likely to reach a total of 5,000,000 bushels, and of barley nearly 1,000,000 bushels. High prices may be expected for all that portion of the grain crop which moves out before the freeze-up comes, and it is not out of the way to suppose that the return to the farmers on this account during the three months will be \$40,000,000. Divide that sum among the communities of the three prairie provinces, according to their respective capacities for production, and the amount for each will be found to go a long way toward keeping business active and healthy.

"Railway earnings, customs revenues, bank clearings, and building permits are some of the factors by means of which an indication of the commercial trend may be obtained. All of these have shown improvement within the past couple of months, and comparisons with other years go to prove that the old-time confidence is rapidly returning. The two principal railways in the west have prospered this fall, and the series of decreases in gross earnings which characterized the greater part of this year seem to have come to a stop. Customs revenues at many of the important points indicate that business is on a better basis than it has been for many months, and a more healthy feeling in industrial and mercantile circles is indicated thereby. Bank clearings have gone up at a rapid rate, and increases have taken the place of decreases, as in the case of railway earnings. The figures of building operations, which furnish the best means of testing the strength of the commercial structure in a new country, are at least holding their own in comparison with other years, and some cities report gratifying increases.

"There are other means of judging how far the reaction from depression has proceeded. Reports on collections are much more favorable than they were a year ago, and it is in this branch of business life that the returns from a fine big crop are most accurately reflected. The 4th of November furnished many agreeable surprises. It is not pretended that the entire western country has absolved itself from the indubitable which hung over it when the furious activity of the growing time suddenly ceased. But a long step towards liquidation of the total liability has been taken, and the men in charge of the purse-strings are now able to see their way clearly. The retail merchants are the men who have the best opportunity of noting improvement in the circulation of money, and they are full of confidence in the outlook. They find that their customers are meeting their obligations promptly and are beginning to resume buying operations on something like a large scale."

The Italian who snatched at a knife in the court room at Chipman may not have intended to use it on any person. It may merely have been an unconscious exhibition of a trait in the national character. But it is just as well that he got handcuffs instead of the knife.

Dominion Parole Officer Archibald takes the right view when he declares that society should do something more for its chronic drunkards than merely send them to jail time after time for a short period, to be quickly followed in each case by another debauch.

If a ruler of pronounced liberal tendencies should ascend the throne of China the peaceful and beneficent revolution which is in progress in that great country would receive such an impetus as would command the wondering attention of the world.

It is something new to read of a scramble for stocks in Wall street. The general tendency for a long time has been to unload. Confidence has been largely restored by Taft's election.

The progress of the ward prohibition campaign indicates that a vote may be taken in four or five of the city wards early in the new year.

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SENSATIONAL RESCUE OF WOMEN FROM FIRE

Thrilling Scenes at Fire in Boston Apartment House Last Night.

Boston, Mass., Nov. 13.—A fire which started in the basement from some unknown cause to-night, practically destroyed the three-story brick apartment house at 3 Elm Hill Park, Roxbury, causing a loss of \$15,000.

Gladys Meyers, aged 16 years, jumped from the third floor to the street and suffered internal injuries.

Miss Stella Hayman, aged 23 years, of Germantown, Pa., was overcome by the smoke and rescued by her fiancé, Dr. Edmund Meyers.

Battle line steamship Cheronea, Captain Cook, left Flume last Monday for Huelva, to load ore for United States.

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GETHESEMANE

The night is dark-behold, the shade was deeper in the still garden of Gethsemane. When the calm voice awoke the weary sleeper, "Couldst thou not watch an hour along with me?"

O thou, so weary of thy self-denial, And so impatient of thy little cross, Is it so hard to bear thy daily trials— To count all earthly things a painful loss? What if thou always sufferest tribulation? What if thy Christian warfare never cease? The gaining of the quiet habitation Shall gather thee to everlasting peace.

Here are we all to suffer, walking lonely The path that Jesus once Himself hath gone; Watch thou this hour in trustful patience only. This one dark hour before the eternal dawn. And He will come in His own time from heaven. To set His earnest-hearted children free; Watch only through the dark and painful even. And the bright morning yet will break for thee. —Lyra Anglicana.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

COMPENSATION.

"Pardon me," said Assum, "but it must be pretty tough to be married to a strong-minded woman." "Oh!" replied Henpeck, "it has its advantages. When my wife thinks she needs burglars downstairs she won't trust me to go down and investigate." —Philadelphia Press.

FOOTBALL NEWS.

Mother (reading telegram)—Henry telegraphs that the football match is over, and he came out with three broken ribs. Father (eagerly)—And who won? Mother—He doesn't say. Father (impatiently)—Confound it all! That boy never thinks of anybody but himself. Now I must wait until I get the morning paper.—Tic-Bits.

TOO CHEAP.

The class at Kirk had been reading the story of Joseph and his brethren, and it came to the turn of the visiting minister to examine the boys. The replies to all his questions had been quick, intelligent and correct. Such as: "What great crimes did these sons of Joseph commit?" "They sold their brother, Joseph." "Quite correct. And how much?" "Twenty pieces of silver." "And what added to the cruelty and wickedness of these bad brothers?" "A pause. "What made their treachery even more detestable and heinous?" "Then a bright little fellow stretched out an eager hand. "Well, my man?" "Please, sir, they sell't him over cheap."

COULDN'T DENY IT.

At a recent examination in a school in a Scottish town the inspector asked a little boy (a bit of a dunce) who was Napoleon Bonaparte. "Please, sir," was the lad's reply, "he was just a maulie like yerse!"

IN THE SAME CLASS.

"It's really distressing to think," said the wealthy Mr. Farrassy, "that many very common and ignorant people will be admitted to Heaven." "Well," replied Mr. Cutting, "that needn't worry you." —Philadelphia Press.

THE ALERT SENTRY.

A sentry, an Irishman, was on post duty for the first time at night. He called the officer of the day approach. He called—"Who comes there?" "Officer of the day," was the reply. "Then what are you doing out at night?" asked the sentry.

THIS WAS A POSER.

"Well, I don't care!" exclaimed the enraged undergraduate to his friend. "No man with any sense would approve of your actions!" "But," calmly inquired his friend, irritably, "how do you know what a man with any sense would do?"

FREE KINDERGARTEN REPORTS ARE READ

Annual Meeting was held last Evening—Proposal to Make Kindergarten Part of School System.

The annual meeting of the Free Kindergarten committee last night in the Board of Trade rooms was not largely attended. Mayor Bullock was in the chair. The secretary's report showed that in the three branches 115 children were enrolled during the past year. Many others who wished to be enrolled were turned away for want of accommodation. After referring to the reports provided for the children, the report stated that the expense of maintenance was \$1,890.26. Last year the city made a grant of \$300.

The report stated that last spring the committee applied to the local government for aid. In replying to the communication, Dr. Inch, chief superintendent of education, had said he would do all in his power to further the introduction of the kindergarten into the public schools. Reference was then made to the fact that Japan had adopted the kindergarten and that it had become an integral part of the American educational system in Cuba and the Philippines. The committee desired to have a kindergarten established in connection with the provincial normal school, believing it would be of great value. In conclusion it was intimated that Miss Agnes McKenzie, head of the kindergarten department, in Truro, is expected to visit this city soon.

The report of the treasurer showed that the receipts last year were \$1,884.24, with expenditures of \$1,890.26, leaving a deficit of \$15.02.

Mrs. Matthews gave a verbal report of the work carried on in the north end and in the teacher training school. Addresses were delivered by W. E. Earle, W. F. Hatheway, Rev. Neil McLaughlin, Rev. W. W. McMaster and Rev. W. J. Keirstead. All dwelt on the great importance of the free kindergarten work in the city and expressed the hope that the time would soon come when it would be introduced as part of the public school system.

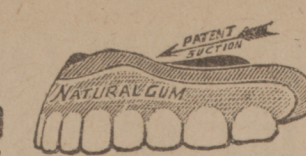
Mrs. H. H. Pickett spoke of the encouragements and discouragements which the committee had met with in their work. She said she thought the board of school trustees of this city had influence with the provincial board and if they asked for it the kindergarten would be introduced as part of the school system.

Mayor Bullock in reply said that in his opinion the kindergarten would not be introduced under the personnel of the present school board. The superintendent, he said, was opposed to it and the board was largely guided by his advice in matters pertaining to the curriculum. He hinted that the only way the committee could accomplish their object was by bringing pressure to bear on the city council, who were the custodians of the people's money. The officers of last year were re-elected. They are: Mrs. Hatheway, president; Mrs. Holman, Mrs. Flewelling, vice presidents; Mrs. Irwin, secretary; Miss M. Gunn, treasurer.

Dr. H. S. Bridges was asked last night about the statement Mayor Bullock made at the annual meeting of the Free Kindergarten that he was opposed to that movement and that the board was largely guided by his advice in matters of the curriculum. In reply he stated that he was not opposed to the free kindergarten movement. As far as the curriculum was concerned that was entirely fixed by the provincial board and no local board had authority to add subjects without its sanction.

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