The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N, B. JANUARY 7, 1908.

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ALD. FRINK'S PLAN

From some source the citizens will requre much fuller information concerning Ald. Frink's commission scheme than is at present available, before they are called upon to vote on the question.

There are many who believe the city could be better governed by a commission than by a city council as at present constituted. There are others who doubt whether better results would follow the proposed change. Commission government is relatively new and not fully understood by the people at large.

It is stated that Ald. Frink has gathered a large amount of information on the subject, and has studied conditions in cities under commission government. If all this information could be placed in concise form in the hands of every voter it would enable each to arrive at a more intelligent conclusion relative to the merits of the system.

In Toronto, when it was decided to take a vote on the Power By-law, which was carried by so large a majority, a typewritten letter setting forth clearly and fully the advantages to be gained, was sent from the mayor's office, broadcast over the city, for the information of the people. Perhaps his colleagues will agree to aid Ald. Frink in having prepared and circulated in some such manner a clear statement of the case for commission government in St. John.

There will be objections to the commission scheme. It will be contended that to hand over the affairs of the city for a term of years to four or five men would be a departure from the democratic principle in our institutions, and that it would be easier for interested parties to bribe some four or five men than sixteen or seventeen. These and other objections must be met and overcome before the people will vote for a commission. The matter is one of so much importance, and proposes so great a departure from established usage that there must be a full discussion before any action is taken that would bind the city to accept the proposition.

NOT AT ALL UNFAIR

In its efforts to obfuscate the clear issue between Premier Robinson and Mr. Flemming, the Sun is professedly grieved to observe the attitude of this fair-minded journal, which is accused of "mean and intentional unfairness."

The extent of the offense of the Times is that it has kept the issue clear. Mr. Flemming made a statement concerning the provincial finances, and the premier declared that it was "unparalleled misrepresentation." If the premier is right there is no need of an expert. If a misrepresentation is unparalleled in its enormity, so clever a man as the premier should be able to expose it as easily before an audience as when closeted with an expert. Mr. Flemming has challenged him to do so, and he has declined. Therefore the assumption that he fears he cannot make good his assertion about "unparalleled misrepresentation," seems fully justified. Even the Sun should be able to see the point, and as a dear friend urge the premier to accept the challenge.

DEFECTIVE LAWS

That the man Moore, whose grossness and brutality were revealed by his wife in the police court yesterday should go unpunished reveals a defect in our social and legal systems which should be remedied. If the man had been sent to jail the woman could not leave her children to go out and earn a living. There is absolutely no guarantee that the man will not continue in his course of drunkenness and brutality. Less than two weeks ago a man was before the magistrate on complaint of the agent of the S. P. C. A. that he and his wife by drunken habits neglected their children. They were severely lectured and let go. The man has since been seen on the street under the influence of liquor. When drunk he is a wife-beater, if his wife tells the truth.

The lash for men of this type would perhaps be the most effective remedy. Certainly some method should be devised to protect the sober wives and the little children of men who have lost their manhood as these men have done.

PATRIOTISM

That was a high imperial note which was struck by Lord Milner in a recent address, in which he charged that the English radical party assumed an attitude of anti-patriotism. He did not for a moment question their motives or their sincerity, but said they were opposed to national as distinct from cosmopolitan ideals. We quote an especially strong passage from his lordship's address:—

"They (the radicals) have no faith in the empire. They are anxious to show their impartiality by siding against their own countrymen. They object to their children being taught respect for the flag, and even for other people's children being allowed to learn it. But we Unionists are not cosmopolitans, but Britons. We have no envy or ill-will towards other nations. A man is not a worse neighbor because he loves his own family, but we do hold that it is not our business to look after others. It is our business to look after this country and our dependencies and the great kindred communities of our own race who own allegiance to the British flag. We believe that the strength and the unity of the British Empire is of vital and practical importance to every citizen. In all our propaganda and in all our policy let us continue to give that great principle a foremost place."

These closing words are words that will find an echo in the breasts of Canadians; for the people of this country desire as earnestly as Lord Milner the unity and strength of the empire; not for aggression but for the peaceful working out of a high destiny.

MONEY IN APPLES

New Brunswick advocates of greater attention to apple-culture in this province, in sections where experience has shown that orchards will flourish, will find a forcible argument in the following paragraph from the Port Perry, Ontario, Star:

"Mr. William Bateman of this town received a letter from his brother-in-law, Mr. Myron D. Silver of Sutton West., Ont., last Saturday, giving a statement of the proceeds of his orchard during the past season. He sold to J. O. Henry & Sons, Oshawa, over 1400 barrels for $2578 cash. He states that he didn't furnish a barrel nor pick an apple nor board the men, simply delivered apples at station, three-quarters of a mile; also sold $60 to neighbors in village and kept 20 barrels for family use. This orchard comprises 25 acres and consists of over 200 Northern Spy trees and other good shipping varieties, including Baldwins, Ben Davis, Russets, Greenings, etc. This orchard has been little or no expense to Mr. Silver, the trees having been planted when he purchased the property."

Seldom is public anxiety and sympathy more keenly aroused than in the case of the steamer Mount Royal, concerning whose fate hope and fear have alternated for so many days.

Another prize-fighter has gone down before "John Barleycorn." Even the most splendid physical development is not proof against the foe that "biteth like a serpent."

Local option got a black eye in a good many places in Ontario yesterday. Full returns are not yet at hand.

ANOTHER WATER SCARE LAST NIGHT

Break in Twelve Inch Main Deprived City of Water for More Than an Hour.

A break in the twelve-inch main which runs through the north side of Haymarket square, occurred at 8.50 o'clock Monday evening and for more than an hour the city was deprived of water, except at the extreme low levels. By disconnecting the section affected the service was restored sooon after eleven o'clock. Men were working all night to locate the break. The street car service was stopped for a time, and there was a general alarm among householders who feared a repetition of the water famine. Much of the precious liquid remaining in the pipes was in consequence drawn off.

When first discovered, the water had forced its way beneath one of the houses on the north side of the square and was running over the sidewalk. Following the line of least resistance under the hard surface of the ground it next spouted up among the trees in the square and also forced up the sidewalk in front of the store of John Beamish, making great rents in the asphalt.

As both a 12-inch and 15-inch main run under the roadway to supply the North End, it was impossible to tell which had burst. The 15-inch main was first disconnected, but as the flow of water continued, the 12-inch main was shut off at the stop cocks near the Marsh bridge and at the corner of Gilbert's lane. This had the desired effect and it then required only the short time for the water to circulate through the pipes over the city for the service to be restored.

At 11 o'clock the pressure began to rise rapidly again and at 12 o'clock was nearly at the usual height. The street cars were stalled for just half an hour and left unlighted in the streets. Had the boilers not been full when the break took place it is likely the city would have been without lights by 10 o'clock.

Some London papers says that custom fixes $250 a day as the amount to be paid in tips by royal visitors at Windsor castle. This amount is frequently exceeded, and Kaiser Wilhelm's recent short stay with King Edward cost him $10,000 in gratuities to servants.

Stores close at 6 o'clock. St. John, Jan. 7, 1908.

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We have marked the prices of both Men's and Boys' Overcoats so much below their real worth that you cannot afford to miss this chance if you are thinking of an Overcoat at all.

Men's regular $8.75 to $15.00 Overcoats, now $5.98, 7.50, 9.85 and $11.45.

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An Elocutionist

Once there was a little boy, whose name was Robert Reece;
And every Friday afternoon he had to speak a piece.
So many poems thus he learned, that soon he had a store
Of recitations in his head, and still kept learning more.

And now this is what happened: He was called upon, one week,
And totally forgot the piece he was about to speak!
His brain he cudgled. Not a word remained within his head!
And so he spoke at random, and this is what he said:

"My Beautiful, my Beautiful, who standest proudly by,
It was the schooner Hesperus—the breaking waves dashed high!
Why is the Forum crowded? What means this stir in Rome?
Under a spreading chestnut tree there is no place like home!

When Freedom from her mountain high cried, Twinkle, little star,
Shoot if you must this old gray head, King Henry of Navarre!
Roll on thou deep and dark blue castled crag of Drachenfels,
My name is Norval, on the Gramplan Hills, ring out, wild bells

If you're waking, call me early, to be or not to be,
The curfew must not ring tonight! Oh woodman spare that tree!
Charge, Chester, charge! On, Stanley, on! And let who will be clever!
The boy stood on the burning deck, but I go on forever!

His elocution was superb, his voice and gestures fine;
His schoolmates all applauded as he finished the last line.
"I see it doesn't matter," Robert thought, "what words I say,
So long as I declaim with oratorical display!"

—St. Nicholas.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Mark Twain, at a publishers' dinner in New York, talked of his reporting days in Virginia City, says an exchange.

"We were trying a horse thief one day," he said, "and all of a sudden the big, burly scoundrel pulled off his boot and threw it at the judge. It was a heavy boot, too. It was studded with hobnails.

"I am still rather proud of the way I wrote up that little incident, doing it neatly, and at the same time getting back on a rival reporter whom I disliked. I got it all in one paragraph—something like this:

"'Suddenly the blackguardly thief, pulling off his boot, hurled it with all his might straight at the judge's head. This desperate act might have been attended with most disastrous consequences, but, fortunately, the missile only struck a reporter, so that no harm was done.'"

NOTICE IT?

(Kansas City Times.)

There is a perfume in the air,
It's here, it's there, it's everywhere,
Through every home it permeates,
On every corner it awaits—
What is it?

Milady Lavish in her furs
'Tis hers, yet 'tis not wholly hers,
It also clings round Billy Broke,
Whose overcoat has been in soak—
What is it?

'Tis not that violets distilled
Or roses' attar has been spilled.
Not like sweet lavender is it,
Nor yet the lily—no, nix, nit—
It's mothballs.

* * *

A FREE "AD."

The little village could not boast of very many entertainments and consequently a concert was looked forward to with great delight by the inhabitants.

It so happened on one occasion that a singer of renown who had just scored some signal success at Covent Garden came down to spend a few days with the squire, and smilingly acquiesced in the request of the vicar that he should sing at the village concert.

His song, which was delivered with deep feeling, for which he was famous was the old favorite. "The Village Blacksmith."

In response to a vociferous encore he was about to give one of his operatic successes when the chairman tugged hard at his coat tail.

"Better sing t'owd 'un over again, mister," he said: "I 'appen to be the chap you've been singing about—the village blacksmith—and I reckon it 'ud only be fair to me if you was to sing it all over again and pop in another verse saying as 'ow I let out bicycles."—Punch.

PEOPLE OF NOTE



Frederick T. Gates

Rev. Frederick Taylor Gates is a retired clergyman whose main business is to look after John D. Rockefeller's charitable behests to deserving institutions and individuals. Mr. Gates was born in Broome county, N. Y., on July 2nd, 1853, and graduated with honors from the University of Rochester in 1877. He was secretary of the American Baptist Educational Society from 1889 to 1893. In the latter year Mr. Rockefeller, whose charitable giving had become enormous, asked Mr. Gates to investigate the demands on his benevolence and decide which were worthy. Since that time Mr. Gates has supervised the giving away of many millions of the Oil King's wealth.

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WOMEN'S . . . . . .85 and 1.20
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