The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 20, 1908.

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AGRICULTURE

There was a general and very interesting discussion in the legislature yesterday on the subject of agriculture. The government policy in two important particulars will commend itself to the people. In the first place, it is proposed to investigate conditions and get the views of the farmers without making an extravagant expenditure for commissioners. In the second place Premier Hazen announced that no member of the house would be appointed on this or any commission. Hon. Mr. Landry, Hon. Mr. Flemming and the premier made it clear that it is the intention of the government to get a clear grasp of the situation before a general policy is formulated, and their aim is to encourage the settlement of lands, further develop the dairying and fruit raising industries, and make departmental action, wherever it touches the interests of the farmers, do so effectively. It is also proposed to have a settled policy with respect to government aid to exhibitions, and this will put an end to the unseemly scramble for grants for different localities. The discontinuance of the grant to the agent-general in London will be followed, we may presume, by such action as will give the province more effective representation in the old country, since it is recognized that something should be done to bring before a desirable class of people the advantages of New Brunswick as a field for settlement, especially for small farmers with sufficient capital to establish themselves comfortably in a new home.

FOREST PRESERVATION

Speaking in Quebec province a day or two since, Hon. Charles Devlin, minister of colonization, spoke of the outcry to impose an export duty on pulpwood, and declared that it would strike a fatal blow at colonization. Of 850,000 cords of pulpwood exported to the United States, only 108,000 had been cut in the domains of the Crown. The rest came from the land of colonists and the private owners. Mr. Devlin concluded by showing from statistics that the wood pulp industry in Quebec province was rapidly developing.

In contrast to Mr. Devlin's views we may quote from President Roosevelt's message to congress:

"Shall we continue," says the message, "the waste and destruction of our national resources, in the form of our forests or shall we conserve them? There is no other question of equal gravity before the nation."

Another important communication to Congress stated: "When the forests fail, the lumber business, now the fourth greatest industry in the country, will disappear. Suffering among all building industries will follow immediately; mining will become vastly more expensive. Then naturally the price of coal, iron and other minerals will rise; by this the railroads will be directly affected and the cost of transportation and water power for lighting, manufacturing and transportation, will feel the pinch. And through misuse the forests are failing."

LITERATURE

The reader who confines his or her attention to the pages of magazines and reviews, or the essays of eminent philosophers and scientists, loses much of the spice of literature, which abounds in the columns of journals devoted to the annals of quiet neighborhoods. How refreshing, for example to turn from the pages of Emerson to a Carleton county exchange and read:

"Highgate is not a very large place but a very pleasant place to live and a busy little place. We have a nice school house, a shoe maker, a dressmaker and a horse doctor; now we want a post office and telephone and then we might do very well."

Here are information, aspiration, and philosophic comment. Happy Highgate with its shoe maker, its dress maker and its horse doctor. Happy even in the absence of a post office; for it might get one like that with which this metropolitan city is afflicted, and thus be doomed to discontent forevermore. As to the telephone, its presence robs anticipation of its flavor, since anticipation ends where immediate knowledge begins—and the telephone brings instant knowledge to the doors of all subscribers. And this from Muniac:

"I do not see Freddie going to the Dew Drop Inn as often as he used to, I wonder why. But never mind Fred what the young people say, you might be the white hen's chicken some day. Since the new government got in some people gets a job night and day and others have to walk around the roads."

The direct simplicity and sprightliness of this announcement and apostrophe come as a joyous relief when one has perhaps been poring over Carlyle or Browning. Freddie and the Dew Drop Inn, the white hen and her brood, and the vicissitudes of polities are so charmingly blended. But it is not all sunshine, even in Carleton county. Righteous anger is betimes aroused, and the vials of wrath which Hon. Mr. McLeod pours upon Hon. Mr. Robinson in the legislature, or the St. John Sun pours upon Borden and his villainous crew at Ottawa seem kindly references when compared with the broadside of honest indignation hurled from Waterville. We quote again:

"As we see some items most every week from Mutton Head, Waterville, York county, I think it time for him to put his hand over his mouth and sweep his own dooryard first; he is very little good to himself or anybody else; he has given a fair recommendation of himself through his writing; you are safe to compare Mutton Head to nobody. If he wants to see the face of a pug dog, he should look in the glass. Well, Mutton Head, a good pile of wood is better than to bum and have no wood. Look after your own business and you will have all you can handle, don't talk about your betters. You have already made a fool of yourself and you are a disgrace to Waterville, for people think they are all soft like you; stop and think you are lacking in brains. Now, Mutton Head, you write more and I can answer you, and you may get a short fate. You think nobody knows you. All for this time but I will tell you more about Mutton Head later on."

The blighting force of this attack will not be lost upon the gentlemen at Fredericton. The dark and threatening suggestion at its close recalls Dr. Pugsley's famous speech at Fairville. S' Blood! But this enemy is formidable. It is with a sense of relief, therefore, that we turn to another column, the poet's corner, and revel in verse from which the following is an extract:

Now this Ben Hur
He thinks he knows it all,
If he comes to East Waterville
He'll think he struck a squall.
The people they are all
Good and true.
And if they catch him
I'll tell you what they will do.
They will hit him
And they'll kick him
And wipe him on the floor
And when they get through with him
He'll never write no more.

There are those who tell us that Canada has no literature. This journal is glad to be able to submit the evidence to the contrary. Some, indeed, will say we have too much of it.

If the city council succeeds in enforcing regulations to keep the streets clean it will have earned the gratitude of the public. But as a matter of fact the public are too careless. A little thought on the part of citizens generally would to a large extent prevent the littering of streets. Now that we are nearing the season when tourists and other visitors come in large numbers the reputation of the city demands neatness and cleanliness, even if an ordinary feeling of self-respect failed to suggest the desirability. Shop-keepers should be especially careful about throwing waste material upon the streets. The police can give valuable assistance in this matter.

Mayor Hodgins, C. E., at the enquiry into charges made of excessive classification on the G. T. P. construction work declared that he was advised by a commissioner to favor the contractors, and that some of his classifications were amended, to give the contractors credit for solid rock excavation where it was really loose rock. By such methods as this, with official connivance, the country could be fleeced of millions on a work of such magnitude as the trans-continental railway. Revelations of this sort are entirely too frequent, and they constitute a grave public scandal.

Before the Union of Municipalities yesterday at Fredericton, Dr. A. W. MacRae asked why it was that the maritime provinces were so far behind in the matter of ownership of public utilities. The question is pertinent, and the Union itself may do good service by keeping it prominently before the public.

Mr. Ames, in parliament yesterday told of the alienation of vauable timber resources in the west by special concessions to the favorites, including the brother-in-law of the Hon. Mr. Sifton. He told also how a complete exposure was burked by the action of government supporters. This is not pleasant reading.

Two fatalities in two days is a grim record in the loading of a steamship. The life of the 'longshoreman is not only arduous and the amount of work uncertain, but there is always serious danger to life and limb; and every possible safeguard should be employed.

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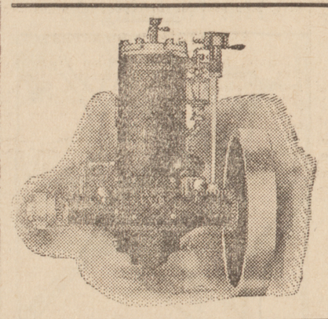
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THE MOTHER AS HEROINE

Warriors and statesmen have their meed of praise,
And what they do or suffer men record;
But the long sacrifice of woman's days
Passes without a thought—without a word;
And many a holy struggle for the sake
Of duties sternly, faithfully fulfilled,—
For which the anxious mind must watch and wake,
And the strong feelings of the heart be still'd,—
Goes by unheeded as the summer wind,
And leaves no memory and no trace behind!
Yet, it may be, more lofty courage dwells
In one meek heart which braves an adverse fate,
Than his, whose ardent soul indignant swells
Warm'd by the flight, or cheer'd through high debate:
The Soldier dies surrounded;—could he live
Alone to suffer, and alone to strive?
—Caroline Sheridan Norton.

IN LGHTER VEIN

FOR THE KING.

The baby son of the King of Spain has been enrolled in the Spanish army. Of course he will join the infantry.—Ottawa Citizen.

AN ANARCHIST.

"Father," said little Rollo, "what is an anarchist?"

"An anarchist, my son, is a man who would try to mob the umpire, even if he was doing everything possible to give the home team the best of it."—Washington Star.

NOT THE PLACE TO THINK.

Cleverton (who has hired a taximeter cab to propose in)—"Say 'yes,' darling?"

Miss Calumet—"Give me time to think."

"Heavens! But not in here! Consider the expense!"—Life.

NOBODY.

First Guest—Who is that insignificant looking little man standing near the door?

Second Guest—I can't tell you who he is, but I know what he is. He is the hostess' husband.

THE PURIST AT LARGE.

"I suppose I really ought to wear glasses. My eyesight is very poor."

"Your earhearing is all right, though, isn't it?"

SERIOUS COMPLICATION.

"I've just ben to see Mr. Garlicks," said Mrs. Lapsling, laying aside her wraps. "They're all well except Mr. Garlick; he's got an awfully bad knee. As near as I can make out from what the doctor says the poor man is threatened with diagnosis of the bone."

SCORED A SUCCESS.

"Borus, that last magazine story of yours made a hit with me."

"Glad to hear it, Naggus. First time it ever happened. Wat it the plot of the story that caught you, or the execution of it?"

"Neither one. It was the novelty of it. Thtre was no bridge playing or altomobile riding in it, and the hero didn't smoke cigaroots."

HE KNEW BOYS.

"I set my boy to sawin' some wood today," said Farmer Korntop.

"Did ye," said Farmer Nearbye. "I'll send my boy over to help him if ye ——"

"No, don't ye; I want the job did in a hurry!"—Philadelphia Press.

IN THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. Landry Asks About Remuneration to Quebec Bridge Engineer.

Ottawa, May 20 (Special)

In the senate Hon. Mr. Landry asked if in addition to the $45,000 paid to Mr. Hoare as chief engineer of the Quebec Bridge Company, of which Mr. Parent is president, he had received money from the Transcontinental Railway commission, of which Mr. Parent is chairman.

Hon. Mr. Scott said the answer given him by the commission was "yes." These payments were in 1904-05 salary $1,767 and expenses $23.00; in 1905-6 salary $2,400 and expenses $224; in 1906-7 salary $1,800 and expenses $210 in 1907 08, salary $2,400 and expenses $248.

On motion for a third reading of a senate bill to incorporate the Dominion Lumbering and Power Company, Senator Davis moved an amendment to strike out a provision declaring that any general act of Ontario or Quebec, now or hereafter in force, not inconsistent with any general federal act relating to the transmission and distribution of electricity shall apply to this company.

The amendment was defeated by 31 to 12 and the bill was read a third time.

The senate, in committee, took up a bill introduced by Senator Casgrain to amend the Railway Act, to restore a condition, which existed up to 1903. When the railway acts were consolidated up to that time the bonds were a first claim on a railroad's assets but, inadvertently, Senator Casgrain believed, the working charges in 1903 were made a first charge on the earnings and property of the road. His bill proposed to restore the old condition by which bonds were a first claim on property and working expenses were a first charge on earnings. After discussion progress was reported on the bill.

The following bills were given their third reading: Respecting the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company, to repeal the canned goods act, to amend the meat and canned foods act, for the relief of Catharine Ann Cannon, for the relief of Ada Katarah Stewart Paulding, for the relief of Mary Alexander.

CONVICT CHUM STOLE NAME OF HIS FRIEND

A Man Booked as Thief in Jail, When He Was Never There, Seeks Legal Redress.

(Boston Journal.)

Chafing under the obnoxious distinction of being listed in the criminal records of Massachusetts as a convict, doing time for larceny in the Concord Reformatory, while in reality he has never been under arrest and is now honorably employed in Portland, Me., Colin A. MacLeod, a mighty decent fellow when he worked on The Journal and a mighty decent fellow wherever else he has worked, is seeking legal redress for the unmerited smirch that has been cast on his good name by the meanness of Edward J. McNeil, who used to be his friend. Arrested in Wakefield on the charge of stealing from his landlady, McNeil falsely swore in court that he was MacLeod, and was sentenced under the name of his former chum, although he had been identified beyond doubt by Boston inspectors as McNeil, a man with a police record on file at Boston headquarters.

District Attorney John J. Higgins, who prosecuted McNeil, can't see, he says, how anything can be done to help MacLeod out, although, "of course it is unfortunate that an innocent man should be recorded as a convict." The superintendent of the reformatory says he has no authority to change the records. However, MacLeod has consulted lawyers.

McNeil and MacLeod are about the same age, 30 years. MacLeod comes from an excellent family in Lake Megantic, P. Q. McNeil is a native of Cape Breton, N. S. Seven years ago both were employed by the General Electric Company in Lynn. Then MacLeod took up newspaper work in Boston.

JUST LOOKING ?
WELL BE SURE TO LOOK HERE.

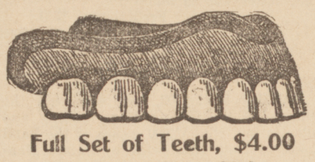
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