

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 14, 1908.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The ladies who presented the case at Fredericton yesterday in favor of granting women the same privileges in regard to the provincial franchise that they now enjoy in municipal affairs must have strongly impressed the government with the reasonableness of their claim. Mr. Hazen presented the other side of the case, since it is necessary for a government to view a question from both sides, but the other side in this case is essentially weak, and the government may be expected within a reasonable time to grant the moderate privilege, which is also a right, that was asked for by the delegation yesterday.

That women do not now avail themselves to the full of their right to vote in municipal affairs is no argument against conceding that right. Very many men do not vote when they should, and many others do not vote as intelligently as a cultured woman would do. Now that industrial conditions are such that women must enter so largely into industrial and commercial pursuits, there is a special reason why they should have some voice in shaping legislation affecting their interests. In all legislation relating to moral and social reform woman's influence would largely be on the right side. It is not very gallant, to put it mildly, for a man to argue that women must be prepared to work in the mines, act as firemen, policemen or soldiers before they are given the right to vote. If an intelligent woman, such as those who appeared before the government yesterday is not qualified to form an intelligent opinion on public questions, what shall be said of Galicians, Russians, Roumanians and others whose votes are regarded as of so great value in Manitoba and the west? It is merely a question of time when the franchise will generally be extended to women. This change will come gradually, but that it will come there can be no reasonable doubt. The test has been made in Australia, New Zealand, Finland, and some parts of the United States, and the result justifies the hope and strengthens the claims of the women.

THE HIGHWAY ACT

The provincial opposition was galvanized into some semblance of life yesterday, in the discussion of the highway act. The ground of objection is the very sensible provision that the government have the power to appoint one member of each highway board.

These boards, as pointed out by Mr. Flemming, receive over \$100,000 annually from the public treasury, and it is but fair that the government have some representation. Mr. Hazen and Mr. Morrissey were able to say that in all the letters received commending the principles of the bill there was no criticism of this particular feature. The people of the municipalities will still practically control the highway boards, since they appoint two of the three members. The attempt, therefore, of the opposition to create in the counties a prejudice against the new government will fail. Besides, if it is found that in any respect the act does not lead to such results as are anticipated it may easily be amended. However, it is well that the opposition should make itself heard, since the chief function of an opposition is to search out the weak points in all proposed legislation. Even when it has a weak case itself, the discussion tends to bring out clearly the character of a measure, and afford the people fuller information on which to base their judgment.

BIDDING FOR VOTES

Hon. A. G. McKay, leader of the Ontario opposition, is making a bid for the temperance vote. Under the present Ontario law it is necessary to get a three fifths vote to secure local option, and the temperance people have been urging that the law be amended, to make a bare majority suffice to defeat the license system in any municipality. Mr. McKay has announced that if the opposition win in the provincial elections next month they will repeal the three fifths clause. In the present temper of the people, if the record of the Ontario Liberal party were better than it is, this announcement would bring much strength to the opposition party, for there has been a tremendous growth in sentiment in favor of local option. But the people of the province remember that both the Mowat and Ross governments played fast and loose with the prohibitionists, and violated pledges over and over again. Moreover, the Whitney government, while not yet converted to the majority idea in regard to local option, has vigorously enforced the existing laws, and has been perfectly frank in its declaration of policy with regard to the whole matter. Aside from this difference of opinion between the government and the temperance people, the general record of the government has been so good that the opposition has been unable to arouse any enthusiasm. It is very unlikely, therefore, in view of all the circumstances, that Mr. McKay's bid for the temperance vote will have the result which he desires.

THE FORESTERS

The chief bone of contention among the members of the Independent Order of Foresters is the attitude of the order toward the old members. There are many men whose means of subsistence is very limited, who became members of this order because it offered cheap insurance, and who have also found it rather difficult to pay even the small monthly assessments required of them. They were assured when they joined and the assurance has been repeated annually ever since, that they were absolutely protected. The majority of them were not well versed in such matters, and believed the representations made to them. If now they are to find themselves deceived, and compelled to pay very heavy back assessments in addition to increased assessments in the future, there will be many who must of necessity drop out of the ranks, and be deprived of that on which they had relied to provide for their families when they had passed to the final reward of all good Foresters. These are the men who made the order what it is, built up its large surplus and paid for the extension of the order even to those parts of the world where it did not prove an unqualified success. The plea put forth in their behalf is that even if the rates must for the future be increased the burden for past miscalculation on the part of the heads of the order be not pressed too heavily upon them. This is the view expressed by the high court of Nova Scotia, and the view that will undoubtedly be urged with force at the various high courts and the Supreme Court as well.

The temperance movement is gaining ground in France. A recent Paris cable says:—"The French distillers are in a state of agitation similar to that from which the British brewers are suffering over the draft of a law that has been laid before the Senate by Senators Benanger and De Lanazelle for the total prohibition of the manufacture of absinthe. A similar motion has been rejected by the Chamber of Deputies, but the action of the two senators is already disconcerting business. Probably no drink has a worse reputation than absinthe, but the distillers point out that absinthe is practically unknown in Brittany and Normandy, which head the statistics of inebriety in France. The producers of the raw materials, such as the herbiciculturist, growers of French hyssop, the makers of bottles and corks, in short the legion employed in the trade, are making common cause with the distillers, while it is pointed out that the national treasury would lose \$12,500,000 annually by the prohibition of absinthe."

The Montreal Gazette says:—"The branches of the Methodist Church in the United States are making overtures towards union, seemingly with the prospect that the object will be attained. It is coming that Christian bodies see that what they agree on is more important than what they differ about. To sink the inconsequential thing under such circumstances becomes the course of wisdom. It is to the credit of the churches in Canada that they first saw and acted on this. The Presbyterian churches came one, and then the Methodist bodies and their offshoots gathered together, and Methodism and Presbyterianism and Christianity were made stronger thereby."

The discussion at the board of trade rooms last evening was apparently a waste of time. No resolutions were adopted, either for or against any provision of the Workmen's Compensation

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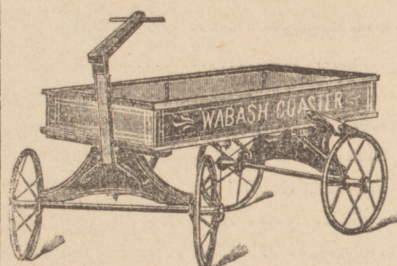
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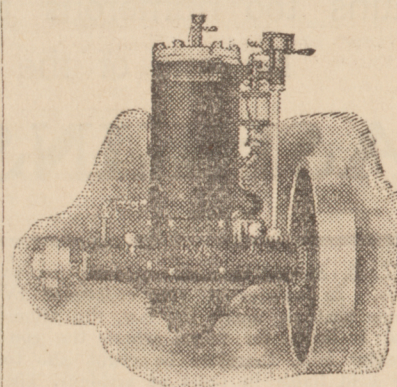
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This is the ship of pearl which, poets feign,
Sails the unshadowed main—
The venturous bark that flings
On the sweet summer wind its purple wings
In gulfs enchanted, where the Siren sings,
And coral reefs lie bare,
Where the cold sea-maids rise to sun their streaming hair.

In webs of living gauze no more unfurl—
Wrecked is the ship of pearl!
And every chambered cell,
Where its dreaming life was wont to dwell,
As the frail tenant shaped his growing shell—
Before thee lies revealed—
Its iris of glistening pearl.
Unmolested, unharmed,
It lies on the green sea-bed
Smiling in the sun, and all the fountains of heaven
Unmindful of the wreck that lies on the green sea-bed.

Year after year beheld the silent toll
That spread his listless coil:
Still, as the spiral grew,
He left the past years' dwelling for the new,
Stole with soft step its shining archway through,
Built up its idle door,
Stretched in his last-found home, and knew the old no more.

Thanks for the heavenly message brought
By thee, Child of the wandering sea,
Cast from her lap, forlorn!
From thy dead lips a clearer note is born
Than ever Triton blew from wreathed horn!
While on mine ear it rings,
Through the deep caves of thought I hear
A voice that sings:—

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

—Oliver Wendell Holmes (1896-94).

IN LIGHTER VEIN

GOING TO SLEEP.

"Did you try counting 1,000 sheep, as I told you?"
"Yes, doc. But then I got to figuring what I could get for 'em by the pound at present prices, and after that I just could not go to sleep."—Kansas City Journal.

WHAT HE MISSED.

"Gracious!" exclaimed Mrs. Goodley, "just listen to that clatter!" I'm positive he's swearing. Evidently he's missed his vacation."
"No," replied her husband, "I think it was his train."—Philadelphia Press.

OLD AND SLOW.

Mr. Brownback—"I done met old Cuhnel Bludd on de street dis mornin', and by de time I had suicated wid him 'n' minutes dat white man had done called me a black fish no less dan twice!"
Mr. Wombat—"Twice? Uh-well, ash, de Cuhnel sho gits slower and slower, de older he grows."—Puck.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

Marco Bozzaris was cheering his band: "Strike! till the last armed foe expires! Strike for your altars and your fires! Strike! till the red wheels of the rosters on the other side!"
"Strike for the green graves of your sires!"
"Out!" yelled the rosters.

A few minutes later, as the published score attests, Marco himself, after making a hit that cleared the bases and won the game, died gloriously at the home plate.

SURE CURE FOR LOVE.

W. E. Grange, author of the "History of Primitive Love," referred, in the course of a lecture in Boston, to the modern cynical view of love that prevails.
"I remember once," said Professor Grange, "hearing a bricklayer and a plumber discuss love in a smoking car."
"I hold," said the bricklayer, "that if you are terribly in love the way to cure yourself is to run away."
"The plumber shook his head and sneered. 'That will cure you,' he said, 'provided you run away with the girl.'"

ENGLISH FOR THE ENGLISH.

ANSWERS.
The absurd practice of printing bills of fare in French evidently annoyed the patriotic Britcher. After glancing down the card he called the head waiter before him.
"I don't want any of this stuff!" he exclaimed. "Haven't you got anything fit to eat? Got any sine qua non?"
"No, sir. I am afraid we are all out, sir!" gasped the waiter.

"Any tempus fugit? Any sine die? No? Well, bring me some somper idem."
"Very sorry, sir, but I'm afraid we haven't," the man said, trying to edge away.
"Oh, well, bring me some a pluribus unum!" said the diner, sinking back in his chair.

"Seems like I've heard of that," muttered the man, and rushed to the kitchen, only to return with a haggard look upon his face.
"Ain't got that, either!" he said, despondently.

"Well, see if you can find me some roast beef, potatoes, coffee and apple-tart," suggested the patron.
"Yesir! Inamintur!" exclaimed the waiter in delight, and disappeared like a flash through the swinging door.

THIS SKIRT A HUMMER

A Bifurcated Garment Almost Raises a Riot on Parisian Race Course.

Paris, May 13.—Disturbances which threatened to become a riot arose at the Longchamps race course from the appearance in the members' enclosure of four young women attired in ultra fashionable gowns. The dressmakers of the Rue de la Paix frequently boom their latest creations at Longchamps, but Sunday's experiment was too daring, even for Parisians. The gowns were so classic, so tight-fitting and so transparent that some of the onlookers rubbed their eyes with amazement, others blushed, others turned indignantly away, while some laughed and jeered. The wearers had been sent by their employers to advertise the social of the "Dixie" and "Pasha" variety of the most sensational of them have a divided skirt, showing the outlines of the lower limbs. The excitement became so intense that the police were obliged to remove the young women from the enclosure. A blushing policeman wrapped his cloak about a divided skirt and conducted the owner to a cab. Summonses were talked of, but the police today decided not to act. Director Toumy, of the municipal police, said: "It seems these dresses are the latest fashion. I think them somewhat daring, but if it is the prevailing fashion there is nothing more to be said."

MAY "ROD AND GUN."

Exceedingly attractive is the May number of "Rod and Gun and Motor Sports in Canada," published by W. J. Taylor at Woodstock, Ont. Stories of hunting moose, mountain goat, bear, deer and ducks surely offend no variety to the hunter, while to the fisherman the papers on salmon in Ontario rivers by the Rev. Dr. Murdoch, and mackinonge fishing by W. Hickson must call up memories and awaken thoughts such as only the fisherman can know. "Early Posing Difficulties in Eastern Canada," is full of the deepest interest. The visit of the president of the Alpine Club to Canada is described and a touching account given of the fatal accident which occurred to the leader of the party attempting a record climb in the Swiss Alps. "The Majesty of the Mails," a story of the heroic efforts made by the letter carriers of the far north to deliver mails is told in graphic fashion. Amongst the many other interesting pieces to be found within this number is a page of "Chance Don't's"—most appropriate as the canoe season of the year is just beginning, and an account of a one-legged trapper who makes his own wooden legs.

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