The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 29, 1908.

The St. John Evening Times is publishe d 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.

JOHN RUSSELL, JR., Manager. A. M. BELDING, Editor.

TELEPHONES—News and Editorial, 192; Advertising Dept., 705; Circulation Dept., 15.

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

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

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

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AGRICULTURE

The act providing for an agricultural commission is perhaps the most important passed by the present legislature. It will prove to be so if the personnel of the commission and the extent of its labors are as they should be. The agricultural interests of the province require more attention than they have received. The conditions are such that intelligent action is necessary to make farming more popular and more profitable. It is not easy to say off-hand what should be done. Prof. Robertson, in his address at Fredericton, laid down some general principles and said many things which must have the effect of stimulating and encouraging those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits. It was the word of a man who knows. His address was full of valuable suggestions. But to achieve general results there must be general and effective organization, and a satisfactory system. The commission will set out to inform itself concerning conditions and prospects, and to learn as far as possible the views of the farmers themselves. Their drawbacks as well as their advantages and possibilities will be considered. It is not necessary to send out a commission to learn whether the soil of New Brunswick will produce hay, grain, potatoes, and other vegetables and fruits, or whether livestock will thrive in the province. These facts are established. The soil is productive, the climate favorable. That which it is necessary to learn has relation to the question of producing the right crops under the most favorable scientific conditions, and to secure the maximum yield at the minimum cost; and also of applying the same principles to the raising of livestock, and the question of marketing all produce to the best advantage. There is also the question of farm-help, and the problem of making farm-work and farm-life more attractive; for the social side of agricultural development is one of great importance. Prof. Robertson declares, and none will contradict the statement, that an intelligent and contented rural populaion is one of the greatest of national assets. In New Brunswick the change from the rough and ready methods of the pioneer dweller on the soil, then in a wilderness state, toward the more highly specialized system in vogue in older countries, has been slow and tedious. Men are tenacious of their opinions, which they perhaps inherited from a generation living under entirely different conditions; and, if an occasional experiment along other lines fails, they are the more confirmed in their own views. There are prejudices to overcome, lessons to teach, and a wider outlook to be encouraged. But the first step necessary is one of enquiry. To advance the interests of the farming community an educative policy must be adopted, and the government must itself learn in what direction such a policy should tend to produce the best results. Men of all shades of politics should take advantage of the visits of the commission to all parts of the province to forward the work it has in hand; for the question of improved methods of agriculture is infinitely more important than any partisan consideration.

NEW INDUSTRIES

The decision reached by a meeting of business men in Ottawa, that the city should have a publicity department, with authority to expend $5,000 per year, prompts the Journal to make some observations which have a wider application than to the capital city alone. We quote:

"There is no doubt that a civic publicity department with an appropriation of $5,000 would be an excellent thing for Ottawa. But what is the use of expending a lot of money in an attempt to induce new industries to come to Ottawa on the plea of cheap power, fine shipping facilities and eligible location? The chief drawing card is cheap power, but the city has no cheap power to offer new industries. The last new industry of any importance that attempted to locate here was the British carpet factory which has since become the leading industry of Peterboro. That company only wanted 50 horse-power to commence with, at a reasonable figure, and the best price they could get was $32 per horse power. That was prohibitory, and the industry was lost to Ottawa. When Mr. Whitehead, of the Axminster Carpet company, came to Ottawa he had already satisfied himself by looking at the map that Ottawa was well situated, and had such rail and water shipping facilities as exactly suited his business. He did not want any bonus, free site, fixed assessment, or any other concession. All he wanted was power at least as cheap as he could get it elsewhere. And $32 per horse-power was the best he could get. To spend $5,000 a year on publicity to secure industries on the strength of cheap power, when in reality the power available is dearer than in other cities, is like a firm sending out commercial travellers to make sales when it cannot deliver the goods. Ottawa may have a million potential horse-power within forty miles of the city hall, but so long as it cannot furnish a factory with 50 horse-power at less than $32 per h.p. business men will not waste their time talking business with a publicity department. As in the case of the carpet factory the promoters of a new industry do not want to discuss hydro power but hydro-electric power, and that delivered at the factory."

This question of cheap power so dominates the industrial situation that the best and most effective argument any city can present to an individual or a corporation in favor of establishing an industry within its limits is the assurance that it has cheaper power to offer than any of its competitors—meaning of course competitors which are also in a position to assemble raw material and distribute the manufactured product. The question is one that should be uppermost in the minds of those who desire to secure new industries for St. John. This city has many exceptional advantages. Indeed its existing factories furnish a strong argument in its favor. But this city should be the home of some large industries, any one of which would employ as many hands as half a dozen of those now in existence. Here comes in the question of cheap power. What are the conditions and what are the prospects in that respect?

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Workmen's Compensation Act advanced legislation, and is evidently satisfactory to the members of the opposition as well as of the government party. The opposition did not challenge a vote on amendments which were adopted yesterday. These amendments offer some safeguards in the interest of the employer without relieving him from liability in any case where there is just cause for action. It would probably be impossible to get a law that would entirely satisfy all employers, but an honest effort has been made to secure a fairly satisfactory enactment. The members of the opposition did not appear to any advantage in the debate; but, as Mr. Hazen observed, they sought to be on both sides at once.

Whoever is familiar with cases of accident to working men knows that great hardship is frequently involved, and that in too many cases adequate compensatiaon is not secured, because the plaintiff has not enough money to press the case. It would be equally true if opportunity were given that employers would at times be made to suffer injustice at the hands of a grasping or vindictive workman. The aim of the new law is to so adjust the relations that both parties to any dispute will have a square deal. Further amendments may from time to time become necessary, but none appear as yet to have commended themselves to Mr. Robinson and his followers.

In the matter of the Moncton street railway franchise the members of the company holding the original franchise appear to have satisfied the municipalities committee of the legislature that an injustice would be done them if they were unceremoniously deprived of their vested rights. In general, the committee favors the principle of municipal control.

Recalling the somewhat unprogressive state of the University of New Brunswick not many years ago, it is a source of universal satisfaction to note the vigorous life of which abundant evidence appears in the record of this year's closing exercises.

Dr. Pugsley's bill continues to be a burning question. Mr. Flemming has named an arbitrator and the matter may now be adjusted.

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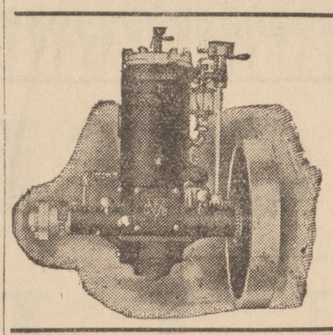

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WAITING YET

"Go prove that you possess the right
To men's respect," said she;
"Go set your goal upon the height,
And then come back to me."

He went, resolving to succeeed,
And in good time returned;
She listened to him humbly plead,
But still his love she spurned.

"Go burn the midnight oil," she said,
"Go taste the sweets of fame,
And come again when men are led
To often speak your name."

He went away, with hope renewed,
And when renown was claimed,
He sought her out again and sued,
And all his virtues named.

"Go prove that you have talents, which
The great possess," said she,
"Go list yourself among the rich,
And then come back to me."

He went away and left her there
Where first they two had met;
The man became a millionaire,
The woman's waiting yet.

IN LGHTER VEIN

JUST A WAY THEY HAVE.

Lives of milkmen oft remind us
They can take of chalk a lump,
And by artful mixing blind us
To the liquid from the pump.
—Exchange.

DIPLOMATIC.

"That man Crumlett has more invitations to dinner than any other man in town."

"How does he work it?"

"He tells every hostess with a grown-up daughter that she must have married very young."

ON TIME.

Master—John, be sure to tell me when it is 4 o'clock.

Servant—Yes, sir.

Master—Don't forget it. I promised to meet my wife at 2.30, and she'll be provoked if I'm not there when she arrives.

POOR O'FLANNAGAN.

O'Flannagan came home one night with a deep band of black crape around his hat.

"Why, Mike!" exclaimed his wife, "what are ye wearin' that mournful thing for?"

"I'm wearin' it for yer first husband," replied Mike firmly. "I'm sorry he's dead."
—Argonaut.

COMPRENEZ-VOUS?

Lisette (to Jules, just returned from a year's study in London)—"Dis donc, Jules—Qu'est-ce que c'est donc ces trois R's dont on parle en Angleterre?"

Jules—"Les trois R's?—N' sais pas—tiens—c'la me r'vient—v'la! Rotten, Rippin, et Right O."—Punch.

FOUND HE WAS RIGHT.

"Yes," said Henpeck, "I married her because I thought her the most even-tempered woman I ever met."

"And now you know that she isn't?" queried his friend.

"Well-er-not exactly. She's very even-tempered—always mad about something."
—Syracuse Herald.

HE WENT ABOUT IT QUIETLY.

A strange story comes from one of the Balkan states, where commercial morality is still in its infancy. At a recent banquet given at the house of the prime minister a distinguished diplomat complained to his host that the minister of justice, next to whom he was sitting, had taken his watch. The prime minister said: "Ah, he shouldn't have done that. I will get it back for you." Sure enough, toward the end of the evening the watch was returned to its owner. "And what did he say?" asked the guest. "Sh-h! He does not know I have got it back," said the prime minister.—Philadelphia Record.

MAKE PLAYGROUNDS FOR ALL THE BOYS

Take the Idle and Mischievous Groups From the Street Corners and Alleys.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

About this season of the year, and again in the autumn, there are the usual complaints regarding the small boys and youths of the community loafing on the corners, annoying passers-by, creating disturbances, and committing acts of petty mischief. The newspapers are full of letters of complaint, and the police authorities are continually being requested to disperse groups that loaf on the corners and to prevent the mischief which Satan finds for idle hands to do. It is even proposed that the small boys shall be chased off to bed by the curfew at nine o'clock. Those who are loudest in their complaints seldom reflect that they, in common with the rest of the community, are responsible for the prevailing conditions.

It is during the spring and autumn that the small boy gives trouble. Instinct causes him to seek the open air, and nature has blessed him with an abundance of energy and animal spirits, but the exigencies of civilization debar him from enjoying himself as he does at other seasons of the year in most of our city districts. Where he snowshoed and skated in the winter, Keep-Off-The-Grass signs drive him on to the street; when he plays ball or romps on the street, the complaint-worried policeman chases him on to the sidewalk; when he gathers in idle groups at the street corners because there is no place else for him to go, he is again complained about and harried by the police as a loafer and maker of unseemly noises. There seems to be no place for him in the scheme of things and, driven from pillar to post, he roams about and his misdirected energy finds employment in mischief. If there was some place for him to play he would go there and play and mind his own business as he does during the winter. He does not want to be bothered by the grown-ups if they will only let him alone. But he has to do something and have some place to do it in.

The solution of the whole matter is that if playgrounds existed in each section of the city similar to Cartier or Anglesea square the boys would flock to these playgrounds and enjoy themselves in their own way without troubling anybody. They did it in the winter and they would do it in the autumn if the community but recognized the rights of the rising generation by providing such places for them.

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