

The Evening Times

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 15, 1908.

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New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.

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CITY GOVERNMENT

In connection with city government by commission it is claimed by some authorities that what is called the Des Moines plan is the most advanced system yet devised. For the benefit of its readers the Times gives a summary of this plan as set forth in full in an act passed by the legislature of Iowa. It is a law that applies to cities in that state having a population of 25,000 or more, and may be brought into operation by a vote of the people.

The act provides that upon presentation of a petition signed by electors equal in number to twenty-five per cent. of all votes cast for all candidates for mayor, at the last preceding city election, the question of adopting the plan shall be submitted to the voters. The act provides for a mayor and four councilmen or aldermen, to be nominated and elected by the people at large for a term of two years. In case a vacancy occurs the remaining members shall appoint a new member, to hold office during the balance of the term.

The manner of election enables the people to make the best possible choice from among the candidates available. There is first a primary election for the nomination of candidates. Any person desiring to be a candidate for mayor or councilman files a statement with the city clerk, along with a petition from at least twenty-five qualified voters. Upon the expiration of the time of filing the statements and petitions for candidates, the names of all candidates are published for three successive days in all the daily newspapers. The people are then called upon to go to the polls and vote, each elector having the right to vote for one of the candidates for mayor and four of the candidates for councilman. When the result of this vote has been learned, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for mayor are made the majority candidates in the final election, and the eight candidates receiving the highest number of votes for councilman, or all such candidates if less than eight, are made the candidates upon the final ballot for councilman. Then another election is held to select the mayor and the four men who are to be the councilmen for the ensuing two years. The act provides very severe penalties for any person or candidate giving or accepting money or a bribe of any kind in connection with these elections.

This commission of five persons governs the city. The mayor presides, and a majority vote is necessary to pass any ordinance or other measure. The mayor has not the power of veto, but every resolution or ordinance must be signed by the mayor or two councilmen, and recorded, before it can be enforced. The act provides for the following five departments: Public affairs, accounts and finances, public safety, streets and public improvements, parks and public property. The mayor presides over the department of public affairs, and each councilman, by a majority vote, is made superintendent of one of the other departments. Thus each member of the council is the responsible head of a department. A change from one department to another may be made if it appears that the public service would be benefited thereby.

The term of office of all appointive officers in the city terminates when a new council is elected, and one of their first duties is to elect by a majority vote such officers as city clerk, solicitor, treasurer, auditor, city engineer, chief of fire department, street commissioner, etc.; and such officers may be removed by a majority vote by the members of the council upon due cause being shown.

The act further provides for a civil service commission of three persons, one of whom retires every two years; and their duty is to examine persons applying for positions in the employ of the city. The aim of this provision is to secure an honest, capable and satisfactory force, free from partisan distinction or control. It substitutes personal merit for political pull in securing and retaining positions as employees of the city.

The council have authority to fix the salaries of officers and employees. In their own case, however, the act fixes the salary. In cities of twenty-five to forty thousand people the mayor gets \$2,500 and each councilman \$1,800; in cities of forty to sixty thousand the mayor gets \$3,000 and each councilman \$2,500, the salaries being paid monthly. The council must hold regular meetings, and both regular and special meetings are open to the public.

All franchises to public service corpora-

tions must be submitted to a vote of the people for approval. No officer or employee of the city, elected or appointed is permitted to be, either directly or indirectly, financially interested in any civic contract or one in which any public service corporation is interested. The act further provides for complete publicity of city affairs, requiring a monthly statement of receipts and expenditures to be given to the newspapers, and providing further for an annual examination of the books of the city.

An important provision of the act is that establishing the right of recall; that is, it provides the ways and means by which a dishonest or incompetent mayor or councilman may be removed from office by a vote of the people. Still another section provides machinery by which, if the council refuses to pass a needed ordinance, the people can compel its passage. Moreover provision is made by which the people may reject any ordinance passed by the council which is not satisfactory to them. If after a term of six years a city is dissatisfied with the commission form of government, the act provides a means by which it may return to its former plan.

Briefly, the strong features of this plan may be stated as follows:

Commission elected by the people at large.

No franchise or other valuable rights transferred until the people vote upon it.

A responsible head for each department.

Non-partisan civil service commission.

Uniform system of accounting.

Machine politics rendered well-nigh impossible.

People's rights protected by the referendum, initiative and power of recall.

INDUSTRIAL WAR

Conveying in his appearance the impression of youth and great mental alertness, Dr. Magill, who addressed the Canadian Club last evening, very quickly convinced his hearers of the fact that he was a complete master of his subject, and of a method and style of expression at once pleasing and impressive.

In brief, Dr. Magill made it clear that Socialism is not at present to be considered as at all a factor in promoting industrial peace on this continent; that the abolition of trades unions would not ensure peace, even if it were not impossible; that co-operation and profit-sharing after a century of experiment, have not solved the problem nor commended themselves either to employers or employed; that compulsory arbitration has been only partially successful, and only in New Zealand and parts of Australia in a prosperous era of a dozen years, being rejected as a means of settling disputes both in England and America; that the councils of labor in France and Belgium are too limited in their scope to prevent strikes and lockouts; and that the most successful scheme yet devised in England and the United States for preventing trouble is that of joint agreement between associations of employers and unions of employees. This plan involves recognition of trades-unions by the employers. When a dispute arises, it is referred to a joint committee representing employers and employees. The weakness of the plan is that in some cases the committee fail to agree and either a lockout or a strike occurs. Dr. Magill suggests that if in such cases of disagreement the government would step in, through its department of labor, with such a measure as the Lemieux Act of Canada, and command a compulsory investigation, it would materially improve what he regards as the most rational and satisfactory method of preventing industrial war.

While dealing with portions of his subject, Dr. Magill was the earnest professor speaking to his class, clearing up point after point as he proceeded; but when at the close he pictured the unequal distribution of wealth, and the millions in Great Britain who are, because of economic conditions, forever on the verge of absolute want, he became the eloquent advocate of a cause and his brilliant peroration has seldom been surpassed within the walls of the old building where so many orators have swayed the minds and hearts of the people. His appeal to Canadians to so labor that such conditions as exist in the old country shall not prevail in this vast land of splendid possibilities was singularly forceful and effective. St. John will desire to see more of Dr. Magill.

Seldom do a group of speakers at a luncheon strike so uniformly high a note as did those at the Canadian Club luncheon last evening. The audience, it is true, was one to inspire a man to give of his best, and each of those called upon to say a few words rose to the occasion in a manner altogether creditable to themselves and pleasing to the audience. The Canadian Club is a valuable institution.

The reception to Mr. Justice Landry at the Canadian Club luncheon last evening when he rose by request to say a word on the resolution to endorse the consecration of Quebec battlefields must have been very gratifying to the distinguished representative of the Acadians. His remarks were at once appropriate and intensely patriotic.

"If the G. T. P. comes into St. John," said Vice-Pres. Morse to the Sun last night. Why "if"? Surely Dr. Pugsley could not have revised the Sun's report, or the little word would never have appeared in it.

Stores close at 6 p. m.

St. John, January 15, 1908.

Lumbermen and Teansters
Jackets at Bargain Prices.

We have put on the bargain counter today all Lumbermen's, Teansters and Working Men's Jackets. They include heavy Canvas Jackets with Flannel lining and Oskin interlining, thoroughly waterproof; heavy Tweed and Mackinaw Jackets, lined with heavy Flannel, and with large storm collars.

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PATENT LEATHER PUMPS, At 3.50
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KID, BEADED, TWO STRAP SLIPPERS, At 2.50
KID, BEADED, THREE STRAP SLIPPERS, At 3.25
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Call, Write or 'Phone Main 705

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Wednesday, January, 15th, 1908

I Have a Large Quantity of Felt Slippers,

Some have felt sole, some leather and felt, and some just leather; there are just a few pairs of each style, but nearly all the sizes are there. The Price is 35 cents a pair for Children, Ladies or Gentlemen. Come as soon as you can to get what you want.

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Wool Socks, Cashmere Socks, Mitts.

A. B. WETMORE, GLOVES ALL PRICES. 59 Garden St.

OFF AND ON

Mr. Rothschild Upstart
Had a very small heart.
When the plate passed him by he would
scold.
But it tickled his pride
When the crowd by his side
Said: "Upstart is pretty well off."

At a Sunday school fair
Mr. Upstart was there.
Not the last nor the least in the throng;
When he gave fifty pounds
You could hear all around—
"Mr. Upstart is pretty well off."

—Rubird Tipping.

IN LIGHTER VEIN
THE RESULT.

To "market," to "market,"
A fortune to win;
Home again, home again,
Shorn to the skin—Puck.

SAVING HER PELT.

"Look out!" cried the friendly walrus;
"here comes a hunter after you."
"I don't give a rap," chortled the fur-bearing seal, disappearing beneath the waves.—Philadelphia Press.

EVEN LOVE FAILED.

On the mighty deep.
The great ocean liner rolled and pitched.
"Henry," faltered the young bride, "do you still love me?"
"More than ever, darling!" was Henry's fervent answer.
Then there was an eloquent silence.
"Henry," she gasped, turning her pale, ghastly face away, "I thought that would make me feel better, but it doesn't!"—Chicago Tribune.

A DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.

(Philadelphia Ledger.)
"One wretched, blundering day," said a Pittsburgh iron man, "I had a cap with ear-tabs on when I met Mr. Carnegie on the street. He joked me about my ear-tabs. He told me a good Scotch ear-tab story. He said there was an old Scot who always used to curl—know the game—in ear-tabs, but one bitter day he appeared on the ice minus the tabs and a friend said: 'Hullo, whar's yer auld lug-warmers?' 'Oh,' was the reply, 'I've never worn them since my accident.'"
"Accident? What accident?"
"A man offered me a drink, an' w' they dashed flaps I didn't hear him."

AFT.

(From Harper's Weekly).

There is a well known metropolitan editor who dislikes nothing more than superfluous questions from his subordinates as to the conduct of their respective departments.

On one occasion, it is said, the telegraph editor approached with this query: "Here's a story of a big landslide in the west. Under what head shall I put it?"
"You might throw it in with the real estate transfers," caustically suggested the "old man."

DISCIPLINE MUST BE OBSERVED.

(From the Rochester Herald).

A new volunteer, who had not yet quite learned his business, was on sentry duty one night when a friend brought him a pie from the canteen.

As he sat on the grass eating the pie the major sauntered in in undress. The sentry, not recognizing him, did not salute, and the major stopped and said:
"What's that you have there?"
"Pie," said the sentry, good naturedly.
"Apple pie. Have a bit?"
The major frowned.
"Do you know who I am?" he asked.
"No," said the sentry, "unless you're the major's groom."
The major shook his head.
"Guess again," he growled.
"The barber from the village?"
"No."
"Maybe," here the sentry laughed—"maybe you're the major himself?"
"That's right, I am the major," was the stern reply.

The sentry scrambled to his feet.
"Good gracious!" he exclaimed. "Hold the pie, will you, while I present arms!"

PEOPLE OF NOTE



Thomas Nelson Page.

Thomas Nelson Page, the creator of "Marse Chan" and "Colonel Carter," is a Virginian who has made a marked success in depicting the darkey of the Old Dominion of before the War, and the chivalrous gentleman who fought for the cause of the Confederacy. Born on the Oakland Plantation in Hanover County, Virginia, on April 23rd, 1853, Mr. Page was only a lad when the Civil War ended and the favorite characters of his pen began to slowly die out. He attended Washington and Lee University and later graduated from the Law Department of the University of Virginia. He practised law in Richmond from 1875 until 1893. He has written many stories among his most famous being "Marse Chan," "In Old Virginia" and "Red Rock."

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