The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 7, 1909.

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MR. ROBINSON'S SPEECH

In his speech in the budget debate yesterday Hon. Mr. Robinson pointed out that the present government was not responsible for the increased revenue, which was due to the policy of their predecessors. His reply to the assertion that the province had lost $200,000 a year through false scaling was right to the point. If the government knew that there was such a loss they were equally guilty in failing to collect the amount. With regard to the roads, the ex-premier was quite within the mark when he declared that the old government never wasted the people's money to the extent to which it was wasted last October. Touching the finances, he discounted the boast of the government by pointing out that the bills for 1908 are not all paid. Dealing with the audit act he pointed out that the late government recommended such an act and some of the changes suggested had been adopted, but this government had given themselves power by order-in-council to over-ride the act, which provided no adequate check upon their expenditures. Mr. Robinson directed attention to the fact that the members of the government had nothing to say now about the province being on the verge of bankruptcy, although when in opposition that was the burden of their cry. They had violated their pledge to call for tenders for public works. They had failed to keep their pledges relative to the highway act. They had taken no step to keep their promise relative to pensions for teachers. Although when in opposition they had criticised the aid given to the International Railway they now pursued the policy of the old government. The cost of school books to the province had not been reduced. After abolishing the office of agent-general at London they had re-established it. In short, the government had violated pledges and failed to pursue a policy of retrenchment and reform.

The budget debate has served to bring out clearly the weakness and insincerity of the government, whose members cannot hope to distract attention from their own faults and failures by attacks upon their predecessors in office.

UP TO MR. HAZEN

The report of the agricultural commission has been presented to the legislature. Having made Dr. Landry the agricultural minister it was necessary to teach him something about agriculture, and this commission was sent out, partly for that purpose and partly to make the farmers believe they had a friend in the Hazen government.

The money spent on this commission might have been saved to the province, for though its report is of value it could have been prepared without the expense of the commission. Secretary Hubbard, who has been a farmer, a publisher of a farmers' journal, and a manager of exhibitions, could have written down every recommendation made by this commission without attending any of those 116 meetings. He has been attending such meetings and hearing such evidence for many years. He could have done the work alone, and quite as well as it has been done by this roving commission.

For the commission, though it makes many detailed suggestions, and many more of a general character, has done nothing more than tabulate what has been common knowledge. The need of agricultural education, of better roads, of more attention to live stock and seeds and fertilizers and fruits and markets and immigration has long been apparent. These themes have been the burden of speeches at fairs and farmers' meetings for years past.

However, the people of the province would be disposed to overlook the expense of educating the agricultural minister, and the various spectacular features, if the government would set itself seriously to the task of developing a vigorous agricultural policy. There is as yet no evidence that such will be the case. To carry out all the suggestions of the commission would involve not only a very large expenditure but a general reorganization of the whole agricultural department. The government has been lavish in promises to the farmers, and was able to postpone action by appointing this commission. The commission has now reported, and there can be no further delay. The government must tell the people what it proposes to do. It is not necessary to assure anybody living in the province that there are great agricultural possibilities. Prof. Robertson told the farmers at Fredericton the other day that they should be getting $10,000,000 more per year than they are now getting from the area already under cultivation. It is up to the government, with the report of its commission before it, to develop such a policy as will encourage the farmers to adopt better methods, educate their children along right lines, get more out of the soil, market it to better advantage, and in a general way get more out of life on the farm than is possible under present undeveloped conditions.

A SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

What is called the personal service movement, recently established in London, promises to do much good along lines of social improvement. The appeal which was issued last fall invited men and women to offer themselves as friends and helpers throughout the winter to families in difficult circumstances. An article in World Wide, abridged from a longer one by Violet R. Markham in the Commonwealth, gives this interesting explanation of the movement:

"No investigation of cases was undertaken by the Personal Service Association, a task which would have been impossible under the circumstances. The promoters put themselves in touch with the Central (Unemployed) Body and the Charity Organization Society, and the names of all families to be visited under the scheme were selected and recommended by the one body or the other. Seven thousand communications passed in and out of the office during the first two months, and as a net result of these efforts the Association today numbers about 550 helpers at work in 40 districts of London under the guidance of 60 trained and expert district heads. The practical problem lies in how best to employ enthusiasm and often untrained good-will in the public service, having due regard to the great social laws which should condition all social work. It is this problem to which the personal service movement would fain make its contribution. As a social agency it competes with no other organization. Its labors are without prejudice to those which seek radical cures in the framework of society. It expresses no judgment as between social and individual, merely asserting that personal service and personal kindness remain essential factors in good work of any kind, however viewed. As already stated, the association undertakes no first-hand investigation of families, and relief is an incidental part of its work. It is primarily a recruiting agency which aims at enlisting volunteers of various types for social service and drafting them to the work for which they are best fitted. On the individual and human side it undertakes to put the helper, without the difficulty and paraphernalia of committee work, in touch with the individual family. The basis of the whole relationship is that of friendly intercourse. The helper is encouraged to view the relationship, not in a careless or superficial light, but as a very real and fundamental fact in his or her own life as well as in that of the family visited. The ideal visitor will enter into every detail of that family with sympathy and interest, he will follow up the lives of the boys and girls, enter into their hopes and fears, their work, their amusements. He will stand by them in trouble, and find perhaps in his turn that they stand by him no less faithfully."

Of the method of providing work for the helpers, through a personal service committee, the article says:

"Families cannot be visited haphazard without reference to their circumstances as social units, difficult problems cannot be attacked by amateurs without adequate help and guidance. And so the personal service association approaches existing charitable agencies and asks them to select and recommend families who would welcome a visitor, and in order not to leave the latter unsupported in his work the helpers are next organized into groups of twenty or less, and over each group is placed a district head. Our district heads in every case are men and women of much experience, and to the enthusiasm with which these already busy people have thrown themselves into the work we owe primarily the success of the scheme. The helper must refer to the district head when difficulties arise or when it is desired to give financial assistance to a family. A monthly report also must be filled in by the helper and sent to the district head. Order and system on the one hand are thus ensured and checks placed on the philanthropic individualism which expresses itself in indiscriminate relief; on the other the helper is brought simply and without formality in touch with facts, and under his district head acquires valuable training in the school of experience."

Though the time is short it is evident that there will be more than the usual amount of interest in the civic elections. It should be possible for the citizens to select a group of men from those whose names are mentioned such as would improve the civic administration.

An exposition of musical instruments will be held at Rotterdam. It opens May 19.

Stores open till 8 p.m. St. John, April 7th, 1909.

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A bargain to us makes the bargain to you, that's why these extra large, good grain, strong sponges are yours while they last 15 cents each
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ONLY A SMILE

(By George Macdonald)

Only a smile that was given me
On the crowded street one day,
But it pierced the gloom of my saddened heart,
Like a sudden sunbeam ray.
The shadow of doubt hung over me,
And the burden of pain I bore,
And the voice of hope I could not hear,
Tho' I listened o'er and o'er.

But there came a rift in the crowd about
And a face that I knew passed by,
And the smile I caught was brighter to me
Than the blue of a summer sky;
For it gave me back the sunshine,
And it scattered each sombre thought,
And my heart rejoiced in the kindly warmth
Which that kindly smile had brought.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

UNCLE EZRA SAYS:

"The longest way round may be the surest way home, but there's allus ther eternal femernine question: "Where hev you been?"

A TOBACCO HEART.

(New York Sun.)

I might have wed, but realize.
What married life might mean,
And so I but idealized
My Lady Nicotine.

OUR NAVAL POLICY.

(Toronto Telegram.)

The meaning of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's remarks is that in the first place Canada is not likely to attempt anything, and if Canada does attempt anything it will be some naval exploit similar to the outfitting of the Arctic expedition.

SUCCESS

Success is like a wary fish
Down in the waters deep;
He waves his fins and blinks his eye,
An' 'pears to be asleep.
You drop your hook, all baited nice,
Down where you see him lay;
An' if you tech him in the nose,
He's apt to back away.

O, fish "Success" is purty shy,
Won't gobble up your bait
At fust, but you light up your pipe
An' settle down an' wait.
You stick right there, a-holt the line,
Till he gits weak an' thin;
Bimeby he'll swaller hook an' all,
An' you can pull him in.

WAYWARD WILLIE.

Baby whimpered for a drink;
Willie filled her up with ink.
Mamma, laughing at the lad,
Fed the babe with blotting pad.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Papa, quick as quick could be,
Took a filler, which you see
Used to fill a fountain pen,
And pumped baby out again.

AT THE BARBER'S.

A little soap,
A little rub;
A little scrape,
A little scrub.

A little grease,
A little scald;
A little "life"
If head is bald.

A little scent,
A little chalk;
A little brush,
A lot of talk.

PAVEMENT PHILOSOPHY

It's harder to admit that you are licked than 'tis to realize it.

Lobsters are high.—Exchange. Usually not so high as they think they are.

The Optimist Club is a big one, but not the big one you are thinking of.

If the coat fits, wear it; but make sure first it doesn't belong to somebody else.

Post cards are still going to be one of the leading summer attractions.

Laugh and the world laughs with you, providing you are not laughing at the world.

Speaking of cabriolets and open-work, you might say: "How much on the head—how little on the feet!"

Why this nervousness about umbrellas? A fair exchange is no robbery, and no man can consistently carry more than one.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

New Brunswick

H. N. Atherton, of Woodstock, is after the egg record. He has a Rhode Island Red pullet, whose average eggs measure 6x7 inches.

William O'Brien of St. Andrews, was arraigned in the police court at Bangor on Monday on the charge of larceny from the person. It is claimed by the police that O'Brien and James Clarke of Bangor spent the night at a Bangor hotel. When Clark awoke, he found that $80, which he had previously displayed in O'Brien's presence, was missing.

Nova Scotia

The new vessel, "Lady Sybil," to be put in the Pictou—Magdalene route this year, will be a decided acquisition to the steamers sailing out of Pictou, and will be an ideal excursion boat.

E. M. McDonald, M.P., left Ottawa on Monday on the advice of his physician, to spend some time in a southern clime. He is accompanied by Mrs. McDonald. For several weeks, Mr. McDonald has been confined to his room more or less, and was troubled so much with hoarseness that rest and change of air was deemed imperative.

It is said the Dominion Steel Co., of Sydney, are to make good use of the big check they received from the Dominion Coal Co., by purchasing the coal mines and steel plant of the Nova Scotia Steel Co., at Sydney Mines, and that the Nova Scotia people will in turn purchase the Thorburn colliery and build new smelting furnaces below Trenton on the East River.

Allan Henderson was sworn in as Stipendiary Magistrate for the town of Stellarton, Tuesday evening.

In January, 1847, there was on the stocks in New Glasgow and Pictou, 1 ship 5 barques, and 7 Brigs, and in River John the same winter, 2 barques and 2 brigs were built.

On Friday, a man by the name of Alex. Cameron, while returning from a lumbering camp to his home in Hopewell, near New Glasgow, was thrown from his wagon near Mr. Dan. Fraser's home, in South Stellarton, and broke his leg.

Sheriff Ingraham of Sydney, after looking at a photo of Leon Sippepil and Tony Arosha, thinks they were once in Sydney.

The embargo on shipping at Louisburg that prevailed for the last week on account of the drift ice, was renewed on Sunday, and six steamers for cargo and one for a harbor, arrived in port.

John McInnis, who died at Glace Bay on Monday, was 88 years of age. He immigrated from North Uist, Scotland, with his parents in 1828. When a young man he chose mining as an occupation, and continued working as a minor, with the General Mining Association for 64 years. During that long period, he never met with an accident.

The furniture and chinaware business of Jost Bros, at Sydney, has been purchased for Harrington Limited, the company now consolidating enterprises at Sydney.

David Faulkner of Selma, met death under peculiarly distressing circumstances on Saturday last. He went out to prune some trees and was found dead beneath a tree, by Mrs. Faulkner, who went to call him. It is not known whether death was caused by the fall or by a shock of paralysis. He was an aged man and had a stroke of paralysis a few years ago.

"A young person shall not be employed in or about any shop for a longer period than eight hours, exclusive of meal times, nor for a longer period than five hours on any Saturday, exclusive of meal times, and there shall be allowed as meal time to every young person so employed not less than one hour for the noon day meal on each day." This is an amendment to the hours of labor for children and young persons' act now before the Nova Scotia legislature.

On Friday night Roy McMullin and Raymond Ridout, who were working in No. 4 colliery at Sydney Mines, were caught under a fall of stone from the roof and both were very severely crushed. Mr. McMullin had his thigh bone and his jaw broken and there is but little hope for his recovery.

On Monday morning, Captain Munro, of Windsor, received a telegram reporting the news of the death at Roselyn, Long Island, New York, on Sunday of Joseph Mumford, who lived in Windsor.

Fears are entertained for the safety of the steamer De Capo, which left St. John's Nfld., some ten days ago for Cape Breton ports. The steamer which is under charter with the North Atlantic Collieries Co., took a cargo of coal from Port Morien to Newfoundland and is now on her return passage.

While leaving a wharf at Halifax on Monday the collier Wobun, just overhauled and repaired by N. Evans & Son, was thrown against the end of the wharf. Her bulwarks were bent in. The accident made it necessary to take her back to Dartmouth, where the damage will be repaired.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company have now 100,000 tons banked at Sydney Mines as against 30,000 tons this time last year. This is sufficient to supply the steel plant at Sydney Mines for a full twelve months. The Dominion Coal Company have 60,000 tons banked and the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. about 40,000 tons.

News has been received that the sailing of the Canada line steamer Willehad, which was advertised to sail from Bremen for Halifax on April 3rd, has been cancelled. This means that it is unlikely that any steamer of the new line will call at Halifax this season.

The repairs to the steamer Janeta, lying at the Halifax dry dock, will be completed by the end of the week. The temporary repairs will cost $1,000. The permanent repairs, which will not be made there, will cost about $15,000.

The cable steamer Mackay-Bennett sailed Monday night from Halifax for Newfoundland. She will first repair a defective cable and will then conduct the survey for the shore end of the new cable which is to be laid from New York to Newfoundland. It will take several months to complete this work.

H. C. Read of Sackville and James Stevenson of Boston, are in Amherst attending the annual meeting of the Wallace Stone Quarry.

The Bank of England profits for six months ended February 28th, were $3,286,235; after providing for a semi-annual dividend of 4 1-2 per cent., the "rest" or surplus was $15,124,000. Dividends for the past five years have been 9 per cent., following year at 9 1-2 per cent, and six years at 10 per cent.

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" 8 to 11, 1.85
" 6 to 7½, 1.50

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FREDERICTON ELIMINATES THE POLICE COMMISSION

City Council Decides to Return to Old Order—The Crocket-Hanson Case

Fredericton, N. B., April 6.—The proceedings in the Crocket-Hanson assault case, which was resumed in the police court this afternoon, were decidedly spicy and provided entertainment for a large crowd.

The principal actors in the comedy-drama were two men of the same name, A. E. Hanson, the defendant, and R. B. Hanson, counsel for O. S. Crocket, the complainant.

The cross-firing commenced when Col. Marsh read a certificate from Dr. McGrath setting forth that R. W. McLellan, counsel for the defence, had been too ill on Monday to attend court.

Counsel for the complainant remarked sarcastically that Mr. McLellan had made a quick recovery, which observation brought a rebuke from the bench and another from Mr. McLellan.

Hanson was called as the first witness for the defence, and admitted having assaulted Crocket on the afternoon of March 18. He described the incident in detail and claimed that he had adopted this means to get square with Crocket for reflecting on his professional reputation in parliament and elsewhere. On meeting Crocket in front of Shute & Company's store he thus addressed him:

"You are the man who went out of your way to malign my professional reputation on the hustings, in newspapers and in parliament, and d—— you, I won't stand for it."

After thus giving vent to his feelings, he drew off with his open hand and struck the M. P. with what he described as an "ignominious slap in the face." Crocket made a pass at him with his clenched fist in way of retaliation, but failed to land. At this, witness drew off and struck him a blow in the face which knocked his hat off. He declared he would not have done this had Crocket not endeavored to strike him, as he only intended to slap him. He denied that he made use of any vulgar language.

Asked under cross-examination if he had ever assaulted other people, he replied: "I have never been in the habit of assaulting people as much as you have with your vile tongue." Counsel wanted defendant committed for contempt, but the magistrate refused to entertain the proposition.

Witness, proceeding, said that when he accosted Crocket he gave him no chance to reply. "I had the satisfaction of slapping his mouth and that was all I wanted," he declared.

Arthur A. Shute, the next witness, testified that he had seen Hanson slap Crocket in the face, but did not hear what words had been passed between them.

Mayor Chestnut, who separated the contestants, said that he did not see any blow struck but saw Crocket's hat fall off. As he stepped towards the scrappers he saw Crocket make a pass at Hanson, but he did not land.

This concluded the evidence, and Col. Marsh adjourned the case until Thursday for argument of counsel.

After holding office for a short period of time, the Fredericton police commission appointed under an act of assembly passed last session, was relegated to oblivion this evening by the unanimous vote of the city council. This step was taken by the aldermen in fulfilment of a pre-election pledge and created no surprise. The law gives the council power to remove the commission from office by a two-thirds vote, that is what was done this evening.