

The Daily Journal

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1922

AN INSPIRING SIGHT.

"The Hidden Hand" behind The Telegraph has been paddling a canoe up the Musquash and waves the glad news back that the water's fine. Miles of it, he says. Real water! Deep, too! "An inspiring sight!"

None of that tiresome detail about rainfall, run off, water shed and such technical twaddle in this report. Why, it doesn't matter if no rain falls for months and months. There's the water. Look at it. We don't believe it could ever be exhausted. What if Engineer Ross of Montreal did say that there wasn't enough water there and that, if the City wanted to play with hydro, it must keep a steam plant in reserve?

What if Engineers Mead and Sheidenhelm, the leading authorities on hydraulics in the United States did say just the same thing, just the other day?

What if Engineer Kirby of the C. P. R. in his speech Wednesday night in this city (which the organs did not report) said that the storage dams of Musquash would have to be replenished four times each season to supply the required power?

What if the engineers agree that it takes five hundred cubic feet of water to make one KWH of power and the Commission's own figures show a present Musquash storage accumulation for months during a very wet season, of only enough water to produce considerably less than six million, not to speak of Moncton?

What of that? "One thing is certain," says The Telegraph, "no citizen of St. John who goes to the east and west branches of the Musquash and travels by canoe over the miles and miles of stored water will for a moment believe that there is the slightest danger of the minimum supply of water at any season of the year falling below the conservative estimates." What a pity the various engineers did not take that little canoe trip. What a pity we all could not take it, even apart from the effect on the campaign. "For," says The Telegraph, rhapsodizing about these miles and miles of stored water, "it is an inspiring sight!"

That's the only phrase that is really disquieting in the whole Telegraph report, the figures and facts of which, by the way, are not credited to anybody except the mysterious canoeist. Most of us who have looked long and frequently upon lots of water may question its value as a source of inspiration and wonder if it really was water which inspired that canoeing excursionist.

MR. FOSTER AND THE HYDRO

Premier Foster gave a statement to The Telegraph yesterday defending the Hydro Commission's Musquash policy and attempting to discredit the report of expert engineers who declare there is not enough power at Musquash to fill the commission's proposed contracts, and also declaring on his own responsibility that the promised power can be delivered.

Having so far entered into the civic campaign, Mr. Foster should give more information. He might state where the commission got the estimates upon which he bases his personal guarantee, what they are, and where they are.

If he were to lose office would the succeeding government be bound to carry out his hydro policy?

If for any reason the Hydro Commission should fail to give a continuous supply of sufficient power and the city should suffer substantial damage by that failure, what recourse would the city have?

Is it not a fact that, though a legal contract made by a government is binding upon successive governments, yet the government operation of government-owned power systems is a matter of party policy which might be revised at the next election?

Is it not a fact that if the city should suffer by a lapse of power under a government hydro contract it could not sue the government for compensation; it could only sue a group of government employees called a commission, and could only sue them if the government itself gave consent?

THE WEIGHT OF INDEPENDENT OPINION

The "Hidden Hand" organs yesterday buried away on an inner page the report of the hydro experts, Messrs. Mead and Sheidenhelm, which stated that there was not sufficient power at Musquash and that the contract as it stands at present should not be entered into, but they plastered all over their front pages their own contradictory statement. (Unsupported by a single quoted authority except an unnamed canoe paddler who saw so much water the sight of it inspired him) that there was enough water to cover St. John fifty feet deep for five months even if it never rained a drop.

At a meeting of the local Engineering Institute, on Tuesday night, Mr. C. C. Kirby, district engineer of the C. P. R., talking as one professional engineer to others of his profession, with no axe to grind, said what practically amounts to the same thing as the report of the experts. The organs in their report of the engineers' banquet "forgot" to mention what Mr. Kirby said. Mr. Kirby is a man standing high in his profession. He took a trip around Musquash but, apparently the marvellous vision of lakes of water was not such an inspiring sight to him as it was to the famous unknown canoeist.

Mr. Kirby said that the actual run-off in 1921 was 33.6 feet, which is less than the required amount of water to generate the necessary power. He referred to the discrepancies in the reports of the rainfall, quoting the Mitchell re-

port which gave the rain fall at Musquash as 33.6 feet against a rainfall at St. John, registered at the Meteorological Bureau, of 27.5 feet. He brought out the point that 500 cubic feet of water are necessary to generate one KWH, whereas the greatest storage capacity of Musquash is two and a half billion cubic feet, which is only one-fourth of the amount of water necessary to give a continuous power generation of the 21,000,000 KWH claimed for Musquash. He concluded by making the statement that "if it can be proved that Musquash has the power then the Power Company should make every effort to co-operate with the city in effecting some settlement."

Mr. Kirby is an entirely disinterested engineer, except in so far as he wishes a course of action taken which will be in the best interests of St. John. No other engineer at that banquet took exception to any statement he made and the obvious reason is that they tacitly agreed with him. The Institute decided not to go on record as supporting any line of action in the present controversy. A number of the engineers who were present are Government engineers and as such it is only right that they should remain silent.

The organs of the hidden hand may vilify Mr. Ross, and Mr. Sheidenhelm. They may do their best to paint them as unscrupulous and lying engineers who would sacrifice the very excellent reputations they undoubtedly enjoy, in order to show that Musquash has not the power. But, one is tempted to wonder, however, how the organs of the hidden hand would have received Mr. Sheidenhelm's report had it stated the power was at Musquash. One does not have to wonder long. He would have been the finest, the best informed, the most conscientious and the most learned hydro engineer on the continent. But because he dared to tell what he found to be the truth after a thorough investigation and because that truth was not to the liking of these organs, they indignantly denounce him. But they cannot denounce Mr. Kirby. All the citizens of St. John know Mr. Kirby and the fact that he doubts the ability of Musquash to deliver the goods should have a great deal of weight with any citizen who conscientiously has the good of his city at heart.

BOLSTERING UP MUSQUASH

All the abuse which the organs of the "hidden hand" are casting upon Mr. Sheidenhelm is wasted. Mr. Sheidenhelm was engaged by the City of St. John as an expert to investigate Musquash before concluding the contract with the Power Commission. The action of Mayor McLellan in engaging Mr. Sheidenhelm was approved by every member of the city council. Why were the organs of the "hidden hand" so averse to having him engaged? Why did they say that Mr. Kirby was perfectly competent of advising the city? Does not their very opposition in this matter show that they have not the city's welfare at heart but rather that they are trying to bolster up the case for Musquash? They say Mr. Kirby is quite competent to advise the city. Mr. Kirby is the engineer of the New Brunswick Hydro Commission, which is trying to sell hydro to St. John. It is ridiculous to say that he should advise the city. His job is to advise the hydro commission and he appears to be attending to his job in a competent manner, but he was not engaged to advise the city. The city has its own solicitor and so has the hydro commission. It is even infinitely more important in a technical contract such as the one before the city council, that the city should have a technical hydro expert than a legal expert.

LABOR KNOWS

The members of organized labor in St. John should not allow themselves to be influenced by the deceiving statements of the organs of the "hidden hand". In voting for Mr. McLellan, organized labor is not going back on any platform which may have as its plank the "public ownership of public utilities". Mr. McLellan is just as strongly in favor of public ownership as is Mr. Fisher. Statements to the contrary are only made with the intention to deceive and are just a part of the corrupt and disreputable campaign which is being waged by the "hidden hand".

Labor knows the organs of the "hidden hand". Labor knows how impossible it always has been to get any statement, any fair report, or any decent expression of opinion on labor matters, in either of those organs. Labor probably knows more about the workings of the "hidden hand" than do most of the citizens of St. John because the people of the laboring classes are the ones who have suffered most from the grip which that hand has had upon the throat of St. John for many years. Labor knows how untruthful are the allegations, the misrepresentations and the vile insinuations which have filled the columns of those papers. Labor knows the two platforms of the candidates and Labor is able to judge for itself which will be to the best advantage of St. John and to Labor. Labor knows that to build another distribution system and to compete with the Power Company will mean increased taxation for the workingman. Labor knows that St. John must have street car service and that this cannot be maintained at reasonable rates under civic operation unless the Power Company is taken over by the city.

Labor knows the two candidates. It knows that the organs which are now denouncing Mr. McLellan, extolled his virtues only a few months ago. Labor knows that those organs were just as well acquainted with his record, which they now try to condemn, at that time as they are at present. Knowing these things, Labor, knows that those organs which are trying to curry favor with Labor, now, are insincere, have not the welfare of St. John at heart, and are merely working for the individual gain of the "hidden hand" without any intention of trying to obtain a fair deal for Labor.

Labor also knows Mr. Fisher's record of inactivity at City Hall.

The electricity produced by hydro and supplied at South Bay is far superior to the brand of juice supplied to the city, so the organs report. That will be of great interest to electrical engineers who have heretofore considered electrical power much the same whatever its source. But it does seem reasonable that electricity made from nice clean water should be whiter and clearer than that made from dirty black coal.

An election card reads, "Having been nominated by a large and representative body of citizens as a candidate for the office of Mayor."

Everybody in St. John knows that "the large and representative body of citizens" consisted of ten. Remember the "Ten Tailors of Tooley Street" who issued the proclamation starting "We, the People of England".

GOOD NEWS

By Berton Braley.

I like the friendly letter that is full of pleasant chatter.
Or the letter from the folks back home;
And the bustling girlish letter crammed with bright and slangy patter,
And the letter from across the foam;
I like the prim epistle from some dear old maiden auntie,
And a comrade's letter, true and tried;
But the best of all these missives, though it otherwise is scanty,
Is the letter with the check inside.

There's the letter full of crosses (indicating loving kisses)
Which will give each lover's heart a thrill,
There's the letter (far from joyous any missive such as this is)
Which "begs to call attention to a bill;"
Business letters, begging letters, letters gay and letters merry,
But the best of all epistles—though the thought sounds mercenary—
Is the letter with the check inside.

Friends may write to calm and cheer you in a manner sympathetic,
And it's nice to have them write that way,
Other folks may spur you onward with their phrases energetic,
And—you may take their advice, some day;
But when things are going badly with no sign of getting better
And you think the game of life's a snide,
It's then you get new courage from the truly helpful letter,
The letter with the check inside.

IS THE CITY TO BE RULED BY A GROUP OF "GRAFTING POLITICAL ACROBATS"?

James McMenamin Places Some Cold, Hard Facts Before Both the Workingman and the Business Man.

St. John, Nov. 8, 1922.

Editor of Journal:
Sir—There is a question involved in the coming Mayoralty contest that is of greater importance to the citizens than how or by whom the hydro power is to be distributed. The question is of such vital importance to the growth and welfare of the city, that if it were properly settled by the citizens, there would be no hydro or unemployment problems to confront us. The question is: Will the city of St. John continue to be ruled by, and in the interests of a certain group of business men and grafting political acrobats that always seem to be on the right side of politics, no matter which side holds the keys to the Federal or Provincial treasuries? Or will it be ruled by the people and in the interest of the people as a whole?

In order to see where we have drifted under the present regime we need only open our eyes and observe the thousands of men that are walking the streets in idleness. It is not necessary to inquire why they are not employed, too well we know there is no employment for them. But if we ask ourselves why there is no employment for those idle men, there is but one answer to the question: Industry has been driven out of the city by civic misrule. If we assemble the various commissioners—in our mind's eye—that graced, or disgraced, the council chamber and inquire into the incense that prompted them to serve, or to unserved us, we find that a large proportion of them were representing the dominating interests to the detriment of the people. City Hall was converted into a borrowing and spending bureau; taxes became so high that our chief industry—lumber—languished and died nothing has taken its place, nor will anything be allowed to take its place that will interfere with the present system of family compact. The city has been partially maintained for two years on borrowed money expended on the streets, presumably to provide work for the idle men, but ostensibly that the money would circulate amongst the merchants. If the working men were considered other than a means towards an end they would not have received tax receipts in their pay envelopes instead of money. To place the most favorable construction possible on the transaction: they have mortgaged our future to tide us over the present.

A few years ago the Eaton Co., wishing to establish a mail order house in St. John that would employ one thousand or more people—petitioned the council for some "concessions," What was the result? Pressure was brought to bear on the council by the dominating interests, with the result that the industry went to Moncton. An American fish packing company, guaranteeing to employ from 40 to 60 people all the year around, petitioned the council to be relieved from a portion of the city taxes. Was their petition considered?

Only recently the York and Cornwall Cotton Co. were obliged to present an ultimatum to the council that if they did not reduce the valuation on their property, they would remove their plant to the upper provinces. The council reluctantly did so. The same may be said of the Simms Brush Co. Those who thought their special province was to tax productive industry to the verge of bankruptcy, and protect unproductive mercantile establishments. A few years ago the assessors presented the city's total valuation to the council, so they might arrive at a tax rate. The mayor found that he must either increase the tax rate or the valuation. He told the assessors to go out and dig up several millions more of taxable property. They increased the valuation on the homes owned—and in many instances mortgaged—by the poor man that raised a roof over his head by sacrifice and thrift. If this man paints his house or adds a storm door, or double windows to his property, his taxes are increased. He, in turn, is obliged to increase the rental of his tenants. The Real Estate Cos. take advantage of these increased rents, by increasing the rents on their tenants. The working man must demand more wages from their employers. Finally we banish the industry, but the community remains, and suffers from lack of employment. This will account for the rate of the men walking the streets of St. John looking for work.

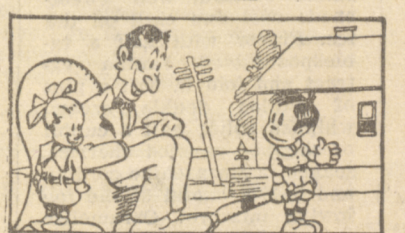
On Monday, Nov. 12th, the working man and the small business man will have an opportunity of correcting this abuse by re-electing Mayor McLellan. Remember, Mr. Business Man, you can not get the dollar until we earn it. In order to thoroughly remedy the existing abuses, the Mayor must be backed up by an energetic and consistent board of commissioners. This can only be accomplished by recalling the present vasculating incumbents and elect-

Yours,
JAMES McMENAMIN.

THE LAUGH LINE



Considerate.
Mother—I'm surprised that you hit your little friend.
Willie—But I got tired of playing with him and I wanted to go home.
Mother—Then why didn't you tell him so?
Willie—Why, mother, that wouldn't have been polite.



According to Agreement.
Father—Jimmy, I'm ashamed of you. How can you be so selfish? You've eaten your sister's share of cake.
Jimmy—Well, didn't you always tell me in any argument to take Betty's part?

There is no excuse for a coal dealer's daughters staying single.

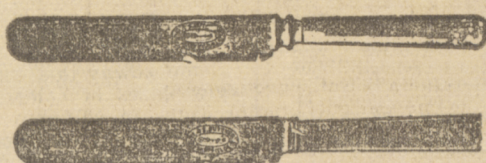


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