

The Daily Journal

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1922.

A COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

Hats off to Commissioner Frink! He said it yesterday in straight flung words and few:—"A new spirit, a community spirit will have to develop if we are to progress."

Half the people of St. John are too busy damming the people of the other half to care a whit about their common interests. The city is split into warring groups and cliques more worried about keeping the other crowds from making a dollar than about making profit for themselves. Hatred, envy and all uncharitableness steam up through the sectional cleavages of our community life and blind the eyes of the people to the real possibilities of progress.

Even if municipal hydro power were profitably possible in a town so torn between hostile camps, even if it could do all that its advocates claim for it and then some, the city's problems would be far from solved. The power of civic pride, civic loyalty, civic co-operation is incomparably more essential than any other element in the right kind of civic growth.

There was a time, not many years ago, when St. John men went about Canada with their chests stuck out until their vest buttons were in danger. They had faith in their town—faith that moved mountains of difficulty—faith that unbent the taxpayers' pockets cheerfully for port and other development. You don't see much of it now. Criticism is replacing creative work; distrust is displacing devotion; depreciation displacing development. The voice of the knocker is loud in the land and sounds the keynote for the civic chorus.

Out under the bridges, sometimes every day you see a flood of water storming seaward, wasting through that gorge enough power to turn every wheel in town. But a few hours later every day, another flood of tidal power pours upward through the same rocky passage, completely neutralizing the other. Thousands of horse-power foaming downward; thousands pressing upward; net result—nothing.

St. John, today, is too much like that. If any man can find a way to turn those two tides in a similar direction for a common progressive purpose, this city's wanderings in the wilderness of inaction will have come to a happy end.

WANTED! A CONTRACT PROTECTING ST. JOHN.

Shortly after his inauguration yesterday Mayor Fisher wanted to sign up the contract for Musquash power immediately. The commissioners objected that they were not ready to sign the contract. It would well become the new Mayor of St. John if he would go a little deeper into the question of Musquash and study a little more the proposed contract before he tries to railroad it through the council.

One commissioner objected at the council meeting yesterday that there was no necessity of keeping Colonel Scheidenhelm in an advisory capacity as he had advised against signing any contract for the Musquash power. As Colonel Scheidenhelm pointed out to the council he had done nothing of the sort. He had advised the city not to enter into a contract for Musquash power which did not contain a provision for auxiliary power. In other words he advised the city not to enter into the contract as it stood at present. Apparently the other commissioners have seen the weight of his objections to the contract as it stands, for they are not ready to sign it. Mayor Fisher should not be afraid to study the report of Messrs. Mead and Scheidenhelm. He might learn something from that report which would help him greatly to act in the best interests of the city. Neither should he be averse to having Colonel Scheidenhelm present at the meeting when the contract is to be discussed with the New Brunswick Hydro Commission. The city should have a technical expert present at that meeting, especially if the Mayor refuses to pay any attention to the report which has been submitted by two of the most eminent engineers in America.

Colonel Scheidenhelm brought up a point yesterday, which was also brought up by Mr. R. A. Ross. He advised the council that it was necessary before signing a contract, to decide how they were going to distribute the hydro power. If they intended to go into competition with the Power Company, one form of contract would be needed and if they intended buying out the Power Company another form would be needed. The meaning of this is obvious. If the city goes into competition with the Power Company, it will be absolutely necessary to have a contract which provides for an auxiliary, otherwise those who take the Musquash power may find themselves without power at times, whereas if the city buys out the Power Company, the auxiliary will be provided by the sale of the Power Company property.

Running true to form, both evening papers tried to color Colonel Scheidenhelm's statement at the council meeting. Colonel Scheidenhelm actually said at the meeting yesterday that some form of auxiliary would be necessary but it did not have to be a steam auxiliary. That is what he said at the former meeting and if those who are trying to misquote him would take the trouble to read his report they would find that this is what he said in his report. Of course if they read his report they might find out some truths, of which they are pathetically desirous of remaining ignorant. One commissioner inferred that the promise of the Government to develop other water powers in eighteen months' time would be a sufficient auxiliary. Hardly! Eighteen months is a long time to wait after it has been found by actual

test that Musquash cannot deliver the goods. Then again, many things may come to pass in eighteen months. It should be remembered that the rest of the province will have something to say about expending greater sums for the benefit of St. John, and it should also be remembered that the policy of the present government regarding the water powers of the province may not be the policy of succeeding governments.

It is necessary to take all these things into consideration before signing any contract. The citizens voted for the signing of a contract for Musquash power but they voted for a contract which will protect the interests of St. John. Any endeavor to railroad the present proposed contract through the council will naturally be looked upon with suspicion.

THE LUZANNE TANGLE.

The Turkish demands which are to come before the Luzanne Conference, to be held for the purpose of re-settling the Turkish problem, are not regarded favorably by the British Government. While Great Britain stands by the agreements previously made with her allies, nevertheless, she regards unfavorably the Turkish demands for a plebiscite in Western Thrace, ratification of the Syrian frontier in favor of Turkey, and abolition of capitulations.

The meeting at Luzanne, which was to have been held several days ago, was postponed because the new and arrogant demands of the Turks made it difficult for the Allied Governments to arrive at a common decision regarding the concessions to be made. The British Foreign Office wants a thorough agreement beforehand, because otherwise it will be impossible for the Allies to avoid a dangerous situation. The French seem to feel no inclination to support Britain in any matter not to France's own interest and if immediate French interest requires it, they do not hesitate to go counter to British aims. Full advantage is being taken by the Turks of the situation in Great Britain, brought about by the election which took place yesterday. The Turks are trying to play Italy, France and Britain against each other in the hope that by so doing, they may isolate the British in order to compel them to surrender to the Angora demands. It is to be hoped that France and Italy may take a reasonable viewpoint of the British attitude so that a common decision may be arrived at. Otherwise no good can come from the proposed Luzanne Conference.

BUSINESS AND ONTARIO TAXES.

Before a meeting of the Committee on Waterways of the Ontario Legislature recently Colonel Thomas Gibson, vice-president of the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills, Limited, complained bitterly of the policy of the Ontario Government regarding water powers. "We are suffering from over-government," he said. "The heads of industries here are afraid of confiscatory legislation. We have in Quebec a competitor who is beating us out of our boots. If we are not careful within the next ten years Quebec will get \$100,000,000 that should be invested in this province." His testimony was borne out by Hon. F. H. Phippen representing the Kaministiquia Power Company; K. C. Wood, representing the Algoma Central Railway; and C. A. McDonald representing the Mond Nickel Company.

The fact that the treatment of private enterprise in Ontario is driving manufacturing plants into Quebec is a matter for considerable satisfaction in the latter province where individual initiative and enterprise is still encouraged. The Quebec Telegraph points out that not only does the province secure industries because there is no organized effort to discourage private development as in Ontario but taxes are actually lightened by rentals from water powers developed under close government control.

The difference between the policies of the Ontario Government and the Quebec Government in regard to water powers as applied to industry is fundamental. The Ontario Government has embarked on huge enterprises for the public development of water powers, and these enterprises have entailed an enormous burden on the taxpayers. In addition to that where water powers are being developed, or proposed to be developed, by private enterprises, conditions are inserted for forfeiture which give the impression that the ultimate policy of the Government is to take over these enterprises and run them. Naturally there is not that confidence which would be felt if private enterprise felt secure. In Quebec Province the Government is against embarking on business enterprises.

The Canadian General Electric Company which employs several thousand hands in Toronto recently announced that it was considering plans to remove its plants from the city in the event of some reasonable adjustment of taxes not being made. The Sheet Metal Products Company made a similar protest and has emphasized that the taxes on industries in the city of Montreal are much lower.

And with this burden on business Toronto is spending millions on the rehabilitation of the street railway system taken over a year ago from a private corporation. Appropriations by the city hall have already amounted to \$23,000,000. Every man, woman and child in the city has been charged with an expenditure of \$45 each and every passenger carried has paid about double fare—and the financial outpour continues.

Business men and manufacturers know that the alluring prospects of public ownership are not borne out in cold experience. They prefer to locate in a city which is soundly conducted rather than one which is spending millions in schemes which are based on a theory so often proved unsound. Service-at-cost is the slogan. But, Oh! What a cost.

The British election returns at an early hour this morning showed that the Conservatives had taken 130 seats; Georgians 18; Liberals, 20; Labor, 48; and Independents, 4. While these are by no means nearly complete returns, nevertheless they are sufficiently informative to show definitely the way the election is going. Indications are that the Conservatives will have a majority over all.

There will be general satisfaction that the proceedings taken against Sir Montagu Allan, in conformity with the provisions of the Bank Act, have ended in his honorable acquittal. Judge Decarie, who heard the case, in delivering judgment, praised the president for the diligence and prudence he had exercised.

COMPENSATION

By Berton Bralley
The singing and the dancing,
The laughter and the fun,
The wooing and romancing
Are over soon, and done.
The flirting and the courting,
The frolicking and play,
The revel and the sporting
Endure but for a day.

In time the blood grows colder,
In time the eyes grow dim,
And as we're waxing older
We live with waning vim.
Youth and its magic passes,
And by the frost of years
Is blighted, like the grasses,
When winter's snow appears.

Aye, all the merry clamor
And all the music sweet,
The spell of youth, the glamor,
Pass on with flying feet;
The feasting and the folly
Are glories swiftly past;
But oh, they make life jolly,
The little while they last!
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Reminiscences of New Brunswick

Henry More Smith
The Mysterious Stranger

The name of Henry More Smith, who made his appearance in New Brunswick early in the nineteenth century is one with which many people of the province are familiar. Stories of this "mysterious stranger" have come down to us from that time and ever so often some incident recalls the many interesting and wonderful episodes of his life in this province. The stories of his imprisonments and almost miraculous escapes make one of the most vivid and interesting narratives found outside of fiction.

The following account of his life and character, with a history of his career, was written by Mr. Walter Bates and published in 1895.

Henry More Smith, the noted individual who forms the subject of this narrative made his first appearance among us in the year 1812. Previous to this, we have no information concerning him. Some time in the month of July, in this year, he appeared at Windsor, in Nova Scotia, looking for employment and pretended to have emigrated lately from England. On being asked what his occupation was, he stated he was a tailor; but could turn his hand to any kind of mechanical business or country employment. He was decently clothed, genteel in his appearance, and prepossessing in his manner, and seemed to understand himself very well.

Although an entire stranger, he seemed to be acquainted with every part of the province, but studiously avoided to enter into close intimacy with any person, associated with few, and carefully concealed all knowledge of the means by which he came to the country, and also of his origin and connections, keeping his previous life and history in entire obscurity.

Finding no better employment, he engaged in the service of Mr. Bond, a respectable farmer in the village of Rawdon, who agreed with him for a month on trial, during which time he conducted himself with propriety and honesty; was industrious, careful and useful, to the entire satisfaction of Mr. Bond, his employer, and even beyond his expectations. He was perfectly inoffensive, gentle and obliging; used no intoxicating liquors, refrained from idle conversation and all improper language, and was apparently free from every evil habit. Being engaged for some time in working on a new road with a company of men, whose lodging was in a camp; rather than subject himself to the pain of their loose conversation in the camp, he would choose to retire to some neighboring barn, as he pretended, to sleep in quiet and was always early at work in the morning; but as the sequel will discover, he was very differently engaged. A ready conformity to Mr. Bond's religious principles, who was a very religious man of the Baptist persuasion, formed an easy yet successful means for further ingratiating himself into the favor of Mr. Bond and his family; his attendance on morning and evening prayers was always marked with regularity and seriousness, and in the absence of Mr. Bond, he would himself officiate in the most solemn and devout manner. The well directed aim of his hypocrisy secured for him almost all he could wish or expect from this family. He not only obtained the full confidence of Mr. Bond himself, but gained most effectually the affections of his favorite daughter, who was unable to conceal the strength of her attachment to him, and formed a resolution to give her hand to him in marriage. Application was made to Mr. Bond for his concurrence, and although a refusal was the consequence, yet so strong was the attachment, and so firmly were they determined to consummate their wishes, that neither the advice, the entreaties, nor the remonstrances of her friends were of any avail. She went with him and under the name of Frederick Henry More he there married her on the 12th of March, 1813, her name having been Elizabeth P.

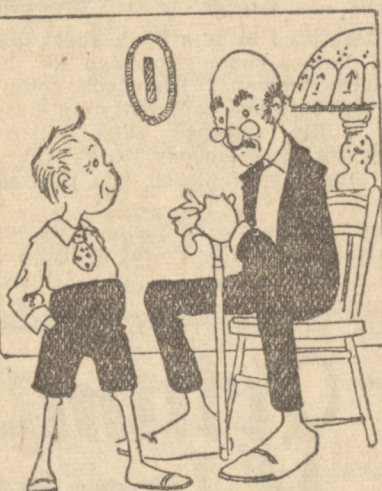
While he remained at Rawdon, although he professed to be a tailor, he did not pursue his business, but was chiefly engaged in farming or country occupations. After his removal to Windsor and his marriage to Miss Bond, he entered on a new line of business, uniting that of the tailor and pedlar together. In this character he made frequent visits to Halifax, always bringing with him a quantity of goods of various descriptions. At one time he was known to bring home a considerable sum of money, and upon being asked how he procured it and all those articles and goods he brought home, he replied that a friend by the name of Wilson supplied him with anything he wanted as a tailor. It is remarkable, however, that in all his trips to Halifax, he uniformly set out in the forenoon and returned the next morning. A certain gentleman, speaking of him as a tailor remarked that he could out very well and make up any article of clothing in a superior manner. In fact his genius was extraordinary, and he could execute anything well that he turned his attention to. A young man having applied to him for a new coat, he accordingly took his measure, and promised to bring the cloth with him the first time he went to Halifax. Very soon after, he made his journey to Halifax, and on his return, happening to meet the young man, he showed him from his portmanteau, the cloth which was a superior quality, and promised to have it made up on a certain day, which he punctually performed to the entire satisfaction of his employer, who paid him his price and carried off the coat.

THE LAUGH LINE



LEARNING THE ART

Dick—Dearest, it doesn't seem like the old smile you used to give me.
Eva—Oh, no, Dick; it isn't. This is a new one. I've been studying at a dramatic art school.



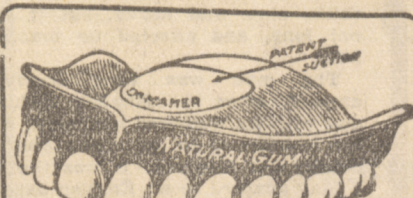
BEHIND THEIR PAYMENTS

Mr. Geat—What pretty furniture you have here.
Tommy—Yes, and I think the man we bought it from is sorry he sold it. He's always calling.

Degrees of Intimacy.
"Look here, waiter. You know me, don't you?"
"Oh, yes, sir; know you quite well, sir. Will you have Scotch or rye?"
"I don't want a drink, waiter, I find that I have left my purse at home, and I thought perhaps—"
"Sorry, sir, but I know you as well as I thought I did."

did not pursue his business, but was chiefly engaged in farming or country occupations. After his removal to Windsor and his marriage to Miss Bond, he entered on a new line of business, uniting that of the tailor and pedlar together. In this character he made frequent visits to Halifax, always bringing with him a quantity of goods of various descriptions. At one time he was known to bring home a considerable sum of money, and upon being asked how he procured it and all those articles and goods he brought home, he replied that a friend by the name of Wilson supplied him with anything he wanted as a tailor. It is remarkable, however, that in all his trips to Halifax, he uniformly set out in the forenoon and returned the next morning. A certain gentleman, speaking of him as a tailor remarked that he could out very well and make up any article of clothing in a superior manner. In fact his genius was extraordinary, and he could execute anything well that he turned his attention to. A young man having applied to him for a new coat, he accordingly took his measure, and promised to bring the cloth with him the first time he went to Halifax. Very soon after, he made his journey to Halifax, and on his return, happening to meet the young man, he showed him from his portmanteau, the cloth which was a superior quality, and promised to have it made up on a certain day, which he punctually performed to the entire satisfaction of his employer, who paid him his price and carried off the coat.

(Continued tomorrow.)

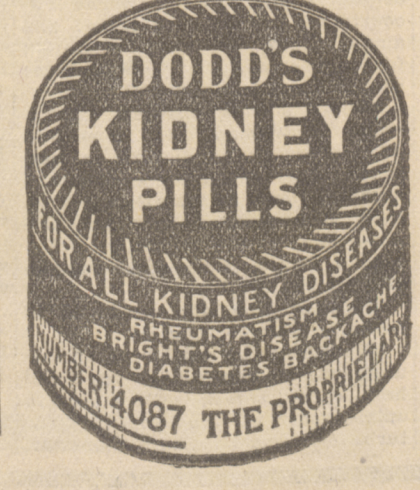


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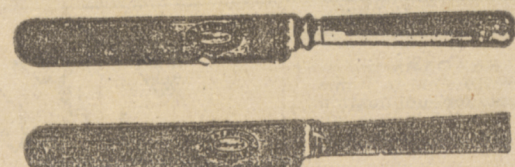
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