

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 22 Prince William Street,
St. John, N. B., Canada.

H. V. MACKINNON, Manager.

R. E. WALKER, Editor.

Commercial Advertising:
By Carrier \$5.00
By Mail 3.00
Semi-Weekly by Mail 1.00
Invariably in Advance.
Phone Main 1910.
Intercommunicating System Connecting All Departments.
ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1913.

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

An important step towards the protection of woman and child labor in Canada has been taken by Mr. Crothers, Minister of Labor, in deciding to appoint women representatives of the Labor Department, whose duty it will be to keep in close touch with conditions surrounding the employment of women and children in shops and factories and in domestic service. The first four inspectors will be located at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, and if the work proves successful female representatives of the Department will be appointed to all other cities in the Dominion.

Acting as correspondents for the Labor Gazette these representatives will supply monthly reports on current conditions of female and child labor. While not having the same powers as conferred upon the provincial inspectors their work will be along similar lines. They will cover all movements that affect women directly or indirectly as an industrial class and will pay special attention to such features as changes in wages and hours of labor affecting women, strikes and lockouts, women's organizations and openings for female employment. Special investigations will also be made for the Labor Department.

There will be general agreement with the position taken by Mr. Crothers that in the past too little attention has been paid to the thousands of women and children all over the Dominion who are employed in various lines of industry and in domestic service. The number of factories where women and children are employed is constantly increasing. There can be no doubt that the inauguration of this plan will result in marked improvement in many of the conditions surrounding such class of labor, not only by giving publicity, but by leading the way to practical legislation.

MIXED FARMING FOR THE WEST.

The advantages that would accrue to the West from a more general adoption of mixed farming have been emphasized strongly again and again by men well qualified to judge. Two authoritative opinions on this point in the Hamilton Spectator are worth quoting.

Mr. Patrick Burns, of Calgary, who is regarded as one of the best informed men in the West and ranks as king of the cattle business in the Canadian ranching country, is outspoken in his condemnation of the practice of growing wheat and nothing else. In a recent interview, he says: "I said publicly three or four years ago that 'there would be a beef famine in Western Canada. I then said repeatedly that unless farmers went more into mixed farming, the inevitable 'would follow. Here today we are 'face to face with a position of affairs which, viewed in any light, is 'a serious one; indeed, in all my long 'experience of trade, meat today is at 'a higher price than I have ever 'known it."

"The whole situation has been created by farmers themselves, in making 'wheat-growing the alpha and omega 'of their existence. It has been 'wheat, wheat, wheat, nothing but 'wheat; and unless the farmers adopt 'a different policy, the situation will 'become worse instead of better as 'time goes on."

Being a rancher as well as a cattle buyer himself, Mr. Burns knows how profitable is stockraising. "We have 'lots of cattle," he says, "and in common with other ranchers, are making 'piles of money. Anyone can make 'money. Every man in Canada is doing 'the same thing in the stock business. If the actual market price of 'that steer yonder is \$100, it is not 'for me to say that a similar animal 'coming from our own ranch is only 'worth \$80. It is a question of market value, and the high market value 'has been solely created by the neglect of mixed farming."

Coming a little farther East, the Spectator quotes Mr. Lawrence, Minister of Agriculture in the Manitoba Cabinet, on the question. In a recent speech in the Legislature, he emphasized the necessity of mixed farming, if the agricultural interests of the Province were to keep pace with the demands of a rapidly increasing urban population. Immense sums of money, he said, are being sent out of the Province annually for the purchase of dairy products, which, if there was anything like mixed farming in Manitoba, would remain at home. "It is 'a striking commentary," he added, "on the failure of the farmers of the 'Province to take advantage of an opportunity right at their doors, that 'for milk and cream alone the City of 'Winnipeg last year spent more than '\$100,000 among the dairymen of Minnesota, and that in the same period '\$1,500,000 worth of butter were imported into the Province. For do the

farmers of Manitoba begin to supply the market for eggs and poultry. These facts can scarcely be gainsaid, seeing they are placed upon record by men of the West. As the Spectator points out, the situation is quite as well understood in the East as in the West, but it is just as well for the West to bear its own testimony.

BRITISH FOOD PRICES.

The increased cost of living in the Old Country is strikingly illustrated by figures published in the January number of the Labor Gazette, issued by the British Board of Trade. The Gazette states that the net rise in wholesale prices, which has been a feature of recent years, continued throughout 1912 at an accelerated rate, and the retail prices of food showed a marked increase, the index number for the year being 5.1 per cent. higher than for 1911, the greatest increase in any year for which statistics are available.

Compared with 1911 there was an increase per cent. in the retail price of sixteen articles of food as follows:

Wheat	18.6
Oatmeal	15.2
Rice	15.2
Sugar	11.2
Cheese	9.9
Bread	9.1
Flour	7.5
Bacon	5.5
Butter	4.7
Mutton	3.9
Eggs	3.3
Raisins	2.3
Pork	1.3
Potatoes	0.9

"If this rise in prices," says a British commentator, "had taken place under a Unionist Tariff Reform Government we can imagine the fierce denunciations of Protection that would have come from Free Traders. But as it has taken place under a Free Trade Government, it would, of course, be rank heresy to ascribe it to Cobdenism."

A WORD OF APPROVAL.

The decision of the Provincial Immigration Department in co-operation with the Council of the St. John Board of Trade, to place an agent on the West Side to induce immigrants bound for the West, to settle in New Brunswick, is the subject of very favorable comment in the Ottawa Journal. It regards this action as timely in view of the figures as to the relative populations of Eastern and Western Canada given in Parliament recently by Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture.

"It was shown," says the Journal, "that in Eastern Canada, the urban population had increased while the rural population had actually decreased, while in the five Western provinces, from Ontario to the Pacific, both urban and rural populations had increased, the former enormously. This great proportionate growth of Western cities suggests, upon reflection, that too many of the immigrants who have been pouring into the West have been unable to take advantage of the exceptional opportunities offered them to go upon the land. Beyond doubt, many who were lured to the West might have stayed in the East with greater advantage to themselves and to the country at large. Any signs of overcrowding in the cities that are evident in Canada today are found in the West, while it is in the East that the depopulation of the land is most otherwise than normal. Growth is most otherwise than normal. 'Immigrants have been pouring into Canada for years. They come to the East, and they go to the West. The good business men of St. John, N. B., have begun to see that they are missing something by calmly watching trainloads after trainloads of good settlers pass out of their railway stations bound for Western Canada. In all modesty and without disparaging the prestige of the West, they have begun to make up for the negligence of the past by pointing out to these newcomers that they were already in Canada when they got off the ship. The fact that the campaign has met with success proves that a similar argument would have been effective in the past."

"Canada is proud of the growth of the Canadian West. As a land of promise, the West appeals to the imagination of new comers in this country, while to the people of Eastern Canada the press, which tells of the expansion of the West, carries an appeal more concrete and even more enticing. No man who is a failure in the East can be assured of success in the West, any more than a bridge player who has been getting poor cards, can get better ones by walking around his chair. But the desire to change one's luck in the game of life by moving about is a natural one, and the idea of the West is attractive. 'Eastern Canada cannot afford to be outdone in enterprise by Western Canada. New Brunswick, by her work

in keeping immigrants in Eastern Canada, has set the other Eastern provinces a good example. Let the others follow suit. What will be the result? The immigrants will be just as happy as if they had followed their noses across the country. The West will not grumble; she can take care of herself, and is sure of a big proportion of the new citizens anyway. The Eastern part of the country, which needs the newcomers most, will thrive as never before."

Placing a representative on the West Side to interview immigrants and distribute literature relating to the Province has already brought good results. Before the Winter Port season ends it is reasonable to expect that quite a number of immigrants will have been induced to see the advantages that New Brunswick has to offer.

PROTECTING THE FISHERMEN.

The salmon fishermen in Mr. J. B. M. Baxter's constituency will appreciate his action in defending their interests before the St. John River Commission on the question of the proposed dam to be constructed by the St. John Hydro-Electric Company. It was through Mr. Baxter's efforts that a rider was put in the Bill before the Legislature last session suspending operations until an enquiry had been held as to whether or not the fishermen's interests would be adversely affected. On that occasion Mr. Baxter, ex-M. P., with characteristic disregard for the fishermen he represented, voted for the Bill. It was through Mr. Baxter that the Commission consented to hear the representatives of the fishermen. He appeared in their interest and declined to take any fee. It has been the habit of organs of the local opposition to refer to Mr. Baxter as a city lawyer representing a constituency largely composed of farmers and fishermen. His action clearly demonstrates that he is prepared to safeguard the interests of all of his constituents when occasion requires.

CURRENT COMMENT

Nearing Anarchy.
(New York Sun.)

It is worth noting that four clerks in the post office at Dundee, Scotland, have been seriously injured by the bursting into flames of packages containing tubes of chemicals that had been addressed and mailed by militant suffragists to Premier Asquith. It wants but a step further to the employment of bombs and the other recognized weapons of anarchy. At least that is how the matter strikes ordinary, non-militant people. In the meantime Mr. Pankhurst placidly repeats his asseveration that the militants intend no physical harm to anybody and are adopting only such methods as will not endanger life. If Mrs. Pankhurst is sincere she should read again the story of a certain Frankenstein.

A Veteran Still on Deck.

(Mitchell Advocate.)
Wednesday's Globe said "that Mr. H. E. Smallpiece entered upon the sixtieth year of his age yesterday. He is probably one of the oldest active newspapermen in the Dominion, having been a lad in the Globe office as far back as 1864." The Advocate editor knocks this record into a cocked hat. He worked on the Globe during the years of 1856 and 1857, when the paper was printed in an old red brick building, which was reached by steps south side of King street, Toronto. Mr. Tye was foreman in the composing room. Since March, 1860, he has been, and is still, editor of the Advocate, nearly fifty-three years, and is now in his seventy-third year.

Extreme Measures.

(Montreal Herald.)
Neither solitary confinement nor the horrors of tube feeding worry the leaders of the militant suffragists. It has remained for America to devise a plan for putting the fiery females to flight. Down in Washington they are going to let loose a horde of mice and rats when the militants pass. This is just too mean for anything. If this sort of thing is kept up we see the end of the "cause" in America.

A New Decision.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
The fact that an express company declares either orally or by means of a notice on a ticket that it will not pay more than \$50 should it lose an article valued at any amount and owned by a customer has hardly the effect of an Act of Parliament. Judge Morson has very sensibly decided that the statement of the express company does not limit its liability.

Home Truths.

(Calgary Herald.)
We Albertans do not pay enough attention to Provincial affairs. For seven years we have permitted an incompetent and wasteful Government to run our business, and the result is a burden of debt and a financial situation that puts Alberta at the foot of the Canadian list of Provinces. We must turn Sifton out and make a new deal.

In Earnest.

(London Free Press.)
The Government is thoroughly in earnest on the question of building the Hudson Bay Railway and the Western Canada line, and a half million for the first of these and two millions for the second looks like business.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Her Name.
Her parents named her "Marguerite." And friends and kindred said "How sweet!" But here I will relate to you What happened as she upward grew.

Her older sister called her "Meg"; Her teasing brother called her "Peg"; Her girlish chums to "Daisy" took; Plain "Maggie" satisfied the cook.

And "Madge" she was to her papa; And "Maggie" to her fond mamma; And "Peggie" in her grandma's voice; And "Maggie" as her grandpa's choice.

With "Margery" her teacher's word, While "Rita" she herself preferred— Now, in this list with names replete, I say, what became of "Marguerite?"

This Language of Ours.
"Why did you send your countenance to such a proceeding?" "I hadn't the face to refuse."

Bad Luck for Bob.
Hub (with newspaper)—Here's a scientist declares that in the course of time the human race will become entirely destitute of teeth.

Wife—Oh dear! And my young brother Bob is studying to be a dentist.

The Secret of His Choice.
"So of the two girls you were after, you married Alice." "Yes. You see she has three married sisters, while the other girl was an only child."

"What's that got to do with it?" "My boy, it's better to have four wives and children than to have one."

Tut, Tut.
"You will forgive me if I—er—ask you something—something—?" "Sure I will, I know you would be asking it soon."

"Ah, you know what I am about to ask you? Your heart has told you what?" "Sure. You're going to ask me when the last car goes by."—Houset Post.

Knew Trouble Would Come.
Cholly—Tell your sister I am here; Little man. And here's a dime for your trouble. Bobby—Yes; she said there's trouble if I let you know she was in.

Golf from the Fence.
"Do you think golf a suitable game for men?" "I should say not. Why, I saw a man playing once, and all he did was to walk around a field with a club in his hand and stop every few minutes to swear."

Very Simple—Very.
An old lady, leaving church after a service which had been attended by a crowded congregation was heard to say: "If everybody else would only do as I do, and stay quietly in their seats till every one else has gone out, there would not be such a crush at the doors!"—Milwaukee Sentinel.

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Native—Yes; the Sock and Buskin Club played "Little Mac; or, the Mountain Mystery."

"Ah! And what was the mystery?" "As near as I could make out, the mystery was how the audience stood it till the last act was over."—San Francisco Star.

ASHORE AND FULL OF WATER.
Rockland, Me., Feb. 9.—The three masted schooner Rebecca J. Moulton, of New London, Conn., which went ashore on Two Bush ledge, on Eastern Penobscot Bay, yesterday, was floated by a tug and towed to this port today. She had 12 feet of water in her hold.

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