

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1914.

## "THE GLOOMS."

More dismal than a rainy day in June is a collection of Liberal opposition spellbinders when they start to point out that under Conservative rule the country is going to perdition. With lengthened faces and funeral tones they solemnly predict disaster so dire that even the most case hardened listener must be impressed with two things. The first is that the Grits who are using the public time to discuss the question of impending doom might be more usefully employed, if they expect to give value to the people who placed them in Parliament, or to the country that pays them; the second is a feeling of admiration mixed with apprehension. Admiration for the quality of conscience that will permit them to distort the facts in a stream of conversational effort that like Tennyson's brook bids fair to go on for ever. And apprehension lest their hardihood in flying in the face of the facts might call down upon them a fate like unto that of Ananias "the first Grit politician."

The Ottawa despatches tell us that in the House of Commons, yesterday afternoon Rodolphe Lemieux who during the Laurier administration held down the lucrative portfolio of Postmaster-General eclipsed all former efforts as a prophet of gloom. First he referred to the great number of men out of work in Canada, a number that Sir Wilfrid Laurier placed at 100,000, and went on to claim that their idleness was due largely to the inefficient administration of the government led by Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden. Assuming the population of Canada to be 8,000,000, and taking one in five as the proportion of adults of working age, gives us 1,600,000. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement is correct it means that one in every sixteen is unable to obtain employment.

Let us assume again that the city of St. John has a population of 55,000 people, and that one in every five of these is a worker; on that basis of calculation we have 11,000 workers. Taking Sir Wilfrid Laurier's figures as a base there should be in St. John almost 700 men who are idle because they cannot find work. Is there any one prepared to believe that in the city of St. John today can be found 700 men, anxious to work, but unable to secure employment? It requires more than the usual amount of credulity to swallow an such thing. And yet that is the sort of gospel the apostles of gloom in the Liberal opposition are attempting to spread at Ottawa.

In direct contradiction of their predictions comes the opinion from all well informed quarters that the depression from which this country, in common with the entire world, has been suffering for the past few months has largely passed over and that in a very short time the great industries and factories in Canada will again be running overtime turning out their products to the world. From England comes the news that the investors there recognize that Canada is again coming into its own. Even the Times, unfair and partisan as usual, has the following:

"News comes from London that Canada continues to be a favorite field for the investment of British capital. Very large sums will be needed for development of the work this year in all parts of the country, and favorable consideration of sound propositions by English capitalists is very much to be desired. St. John hopes to see considerable money from the old country invested here during the present year."

The investment of money is not made in a country consigned to the depths of financial and business perdition as the Grit spellbinders claim for Canada.

Of course it is true that there have been times when business in Canada was better than during the past few months. But it is also true that the men who are now howling of hard times are the men who feel it most—the seatless Grit ministers who were hurried from power by the indignant people of Canada on September 21st, 1911. Their depression is not the result of general business inactivity. Rather has it been caused by suddenly divorcing them from the fruits and advantages of office which since 1896 they had administered so consistently in the interests of themselves and their hordes of party camp followers.

## WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

Is the bought and paid for Telegraph preparing to attempt another political flop as the result of which it will eventually desert Hon. William Pugsley? Judging from a paragraph in yesterday's issue something of the sort may be in the wind. In discussing provincial politics and mentioning the fact that the provincial opposition party is not more strongly entrenched in public esteem the Telegraph says:

"The people of New Brunswick

are divided about equally in politics, and the protection of their interests demands that the Liberal party organize throughout the province for the purpose of actively contesting the next general election. The vote cast in New Brunswick at the last two or three general Federal elections shows that the Liberal party is ready to do its share if leadership and organization in provincial affairs are forthcoming."

Grits who have followed the career of Mr. Pugsley since he left the Conservative party to become an independent, and in turn deserted the independents to become a Grit, which interesting event occurred a few months after the accession of the Laurier party to federal power in 1896, have held the fond hope that in him they saw a reincarnation of a political Moses who might lead them out of the wilderness of opposition into the promised land. No matter how tortuous or slippery the path many of them were prepared to follow it. And since its latest "conversion" the Telegraph was supposed to also tag along. It is not long since the Telegraph was appealing to the New Brunswick Grits to strengthen the hands of Mr. Pugsley at Ottawa, and now it hints at the necessity of a new leader. Why? Is it possible that it realizes that the name of William Pugsley is no longer one to conjure with? Or is there another political flop on the tapis? An explanation from the Telegraph is awaited with interest.

## SOME SENSIBLE GRITS.

Evidence that the Liberal party in Canada is not entirely in accord with the actions or the policies of the Liberal opposition in Ottawa, and particularly with the majority in the Senate continues to accumulate. One of the most disgraceful exhibitions of partyism afforded during the last session was the defeat by the Grit majority in the Senate of the Government bill designed to grant assistance to roads throughout the Dominion. It will be remembered that this bill was carried through the House of Commons only in the face of the most determined opposition, but when it reached the Red Chamber the numerical strength of the Grits prevailed to the extent where it was thrown out. Now out in Manitoba comes a serious declaration of dissatisfaction with the Senate action. The Roblin Government has a good roads measure before it and to the credit of the Liberal representatives in the Manitoba Legislature it must be said that they do not far appreciate the value of the measure that their leader has gone on record as approving it. Commenting on the matter the Winnipeg Telegram says:

"No measure before the public today is calculated to contribute more substantially to the development of the province than the good roads policy of the Provincial Government. It is a good sign for the practical working out of the proposition that the Opposition actively supports the plan. It may be a Liberal principle, but the fact remains that the splendid measure in the Dominion Parliament was defeated in the Senate by the Liberal majority at the urgent request of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In co-operation with the provinces the Borden Government passed the bill through the House as a party measure. It was a serious blow to the good roads movement through Canada when the Senate refused its assent. It is to the credit of the Liberal Opposition in Manitoba that Leader Norris frankly favors the Roblin Government's policy for better roads. The examples of different states in this direction may be accepted as evidence of what may be accomplished for rural districts by improving the highways."

## WAS IT ANOTHER "ERROR?"

While the Times makes the claim in its own columns that it is a newspaper "with regard for the truth and the decencies of discussion," it remains painfully silent in regard to the Standard's charge that it is deliberately untruthful, and by the evidence of its own columns stands convicted of misrepresentation. If the Times is not content to remain passive under the brand The Standard has applied to it, it should explain to its readers why it stated that ten days before the 21st of January, or on January 11th, the Board of Trade applied to the local Marine Department for information regarding the percentage of losses in the Bay of Fundy? The Times' statement is absolutely untrue.

There was no occasion to apply for information regarding the safety of the Bay, at least until January 13th, when the Cobeguid went on Trinity Leagues. Why then should the Times state that two days previous to the accident an application was made for information intended to overcome any bad effect the accident might have created? And again, there was no slander on the Bay of Fundy until the foolish utterances of Captain Cliff

on January 16th, consequently there was nothing to refute.

Of course there is precedent for the supposition that the Times is silent only until it can frame up an excuse that will look half reasonable. It will be remembered that shortly after the Chateaugay by-election the Times deliberately made certain untrue statements to which this newspaper twice called attention. On that occasion the Times at first repeated the falsehood and then attempted to explain it as an error. Possibly in due course we may receive the same transparent excuse in the present case. If so it can only be said that the publication of false statements "by error" appears to have become a habit in the office of the Times.

Dr. J. W. Daniel, the senior Senator from St. John, will today celebrate his 69th birthday, and The Standard extends its hearty congratulations on the event. In various capacities, starting from the City Council first as an Alderman, then as Mayor, as a member of the Dominion Parliament, and latterly as a member of the Senate of Canada, Dr. Daniel has served his city and country well. It is good to know that he is in excellent health and with many years of good service yet before him.

Atlanta is the capital of Georgia, a prohibition state. It has a population of about 160,000. Yet in 1913 there were no less than 3,267 arrests for drunkenness. Its citizens must be so accustomed to "speak-easys," as to hardly articulate above a whisper in ordinary conversation.

## Diary of Events

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Honore Mercier became Prime Minister of Quebec twenty-seven years ago today, January 27, 1887. He had flashed like a comet across the political horizon of a country which was in a turmoil of sectarian and sectional passion. Born in 1840, Mercier became a lawyer and editor of Le Courrier. In 1878 he was solicitor general of Quebec, and in 1883 won the leadership of the Liberal party in Quebec. He was one of the leaders in the condemnation of the government for the execution of Riel. When Chapeau was offered the leadership of "Le Parti National," and refused, Mercier stepped forward. His eloquence won the adherence of many Catholics, who had previously been in antagonism to the principles of Liberalism. The provincial elections were held in 1886, and, as a result, Talbot was defeated by the assembly, and Mercier became prime minister on January 27th following. The Jesuits' estates question, which led to another keen sectarian controversy, soon came up, and Premier Mercier played a prominent part in arranging the terms of settlement. In 1891 his ministry was dismissed, and Mercier was indicted for conspiracy to defraud the province, but was acquitted. He died in 1894.

### THE HUMAN PROCESSION

KAISER FIFTY-FIVE TODAY While the German people will take a day off from their labors to sing "Hoch der Kaiser"—or attend socialistic meetings—today, Emperor Wilhelm is not likely to be very happy on this, the fifty-fifth anniversary of his birth. In the first place, the pesky socialists are very busy and constantly gaining in numbers, and Emperor Wilhelm hates socialism as the devil hates holy water. In the second place, the Kaiser has recently, and not for the first time, experienced how sharper than a soldier's dagger it is to rear a thankless child. Thirdly, and far from being least of his troubles, Wilhelm is feeling the high cost of living. During the past year of his reign the Emperor's expenditures have mounted up to an alarming rate, and have surpassed those of any previous year of his reign. The marriage of his only daughter, the entertainment of King George and the Czar and their large suites, and the festivities incident to the barest necessities of existence, at least a million dollars in Wilhelm's pocket money. Indeed, Christmas found the Kaiser so pinched that he could afford only \$10,000 of presents for his various relatives.

Most people could manage to struggle along on the Kaiser's income, however, for his private amounts to \$4,800,000 a year, and the empire at large gives him \$700,000 more, while his investments in various commercial enterprises at home and abroad adds considerably to the sum. It is estimated that his income is in the neighborhood of six millions a year, and yet he is complaining bitterly of the poverty that is dogging his footsteps, and threatens to sell another of his three-score palaces in order to relieve the strain. In the meantime, it is estimated that no less than a hundred thousand workmen in Berlin are out of employment, and are deprived of everything but the barest necessities of existence. The Emperor has often declared his inability to understand why so many Germans should want to substitute a socialistic republic for the benign rule of "God and Gott." The Kaiser's income of six millions a year, and the spectacle of hundreds of thousands dwelling in dire poverty, might be connected as cause and effect by some fanatical and anarchistic observers.

While the Kaiser's birthday is a legal holiday throughout the empire, very few now spend the day in singing the praises of the Emperor, or in praying for him in the churches. Socialistic meetings are a feature of the holiday. Earlier in his reign the Emperor was highly indignant at such manifestations of less majestic and ordered the speakers sent to jail. Now the Kaiser's birthday is a day when the whole empire are not large enough to hold a small part of those who observe the Kaiser's birthday by advocating his overthrow and the Kaiser has given it up as a hopeless job. The Kaiser now seeks to conciliate the disciples of Marx, but there is little doubt that when the Kaiser's second decade the throne the storm will break. The Crown Prince has openly advocated the suppression of the socialists by force.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN

### AND HE DID.

NO-I WILL NOT DECEIVE MY WIFE! IF I WANT TO SPEND AN EVENING WITH THE BOYS-I'LL TELL HER SO



### The Worst One.

Husband—"My love, we must get rid of that cook. Did you ever see a worse-looking chump than the one I've just put on my plate?"

Wife—"Yes, dear; the one you've just put on mine."

### The Effects of Time.

Teacher—"Now who can write me a sentence containing the word 'gruesome'?" Tommy went up to the blackboard, and this is what he wrote: "Dad did not shave for a week, and he grew some whiskers."

### How Did Dad Know?

Mother—"Now go kiss nurse good-night and let her put you to bed." Little Helen—"Don't want to. She slaps folks that try to kiss her now." Mother—"Why, what a story, Helen!" Helen—"Well you ask papa if she don't."

### Thoughtless Jason.

Farmer Stackridge (ruminatively)—"I kind o' believe I'll buy me one o' these 'ere safety razors that I see advertised so much."

Mrs. Stackridge (peevishly)—"Yes, that's just exactly like you, Jason! You ain't got no more consideration for a tolin' woman than a mill-stun! How do you s'pose I can rip up seams with a safety razor?"

### Not the Right Answer.

Tommy came home from school very morose. "Well, my son," observed his father cheerfully, "how did you get on at school today?" Tommy said he had been whipped and kept in. "It was because you told me the wrong answer," he added. "Last night I asked you how much was a million dollars and you said it 'was a hell of a lot.' That isn't the right answer."

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### Why "She" Worked.

"Doesn't it humiliate you to have to go through life this way?" asked the sympathetic woman as she purchased a photograph. "Yes, mam," replied the Bearded Lady. "If it wasn't for the wife and the kids I'd throw up the job today."

### Would Watch for Her.

A frightfully henpecked man was summoned to the bedside of his dying spouse. For forty years she had made his life a burden. "I think I am dying, David," she said, "and before I leave you I want to know if I shall ever see you in a better land." "I think not, Nancy," he replied, "not if I see you first!"

### Nerve Personified.

Mr. Wilkins was near the exploding point when his neighbor met him on the street. "That man Tompkins," he burst out, "has more nerve than anyone I ever met!" "Why?" asked his neighbor, curiously. "He came over to my house last evening and borrowed my gun to kill a dog that kept him awake nights." "Well, what of that?" asked the first one. "Now I lay me down to sleep," "You win," said the first man. "I didn't think you knew it."

### Proved His Knowledge.

A traveller in the West came across two men having a heated argument. The traveller drew near and heard. "What do you know about the Lord's Prayer?" I'll bet you \$10 you can't repeat the first line. "I'll take the bet," said the other man, and, turning to the stranger, asked him to hold the money. "Now what is the first line?" asked the first one. "You win," said the first man. "I didn't think you knew it."

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