

The St. John Standard

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GOOD AND BAD TIMES.

In the course of the budget debate at Ottawa Liberal speakers attempted to make capital against the Government out of the period of financial depression through which this country is now passing. Free and general currency has been given to sweeping claims that under Laurier rule times were "good," while the reverse is the case today. Naturally the question arises as to the truth of the claim. What do the Liberals mean when they so glibly talk of the "good times" that now have passed away. It will be generally conceded that under the rule of Sir Wilfrid Laurier times were good for some of the favorites of the government and a brief review of the history of the Laurier party while they held the reins of power will confirm this view.

They were good times while millions of dollars of the public money were squandered without an adequate return to the people. They were good times during the progress of the National Transcontinental Railway project, a project conceived in political jobbery and carried on in iniquity. Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared the N. T. R. was not a mistake. It differed from the late Hon. A. G. Blair, who time and again warned him, and finally stepped down from his position as Minister of Railways sooner than tell the people that the railway could be built at a cost of \$61,000,000, when he knew it would require at least three times that amount of money. Those were the times the Liberals today call good times, but is the claim a correct one? Can good times consist in making money rapidly with no regard as to how it is made? Can good times exist while millions of dollars are being thrown to contractors and favorites without a fair return to the people for that money? Yet these wrongs were committed during the Laurier regime, and it is to be written in regret that Sir Wilfrid himself was too fond of power to punish the wrongdoers in his own party.

But the N. T. R. job, while the largest, is not the only one to the disgrace of the Laurier party. There was the scandal of the North Atlantic Trading Company where from \$300,000 to \$500,000 was stolen from the people of Canada. There was the voyage of the Arctic where graft was rampant in every transaction. And there were others, many of them, but it is not on record that the Liberal party in those good times took any steps to punish the guilty ones. Does such a condition constitute good times? Does it represent a high ideal of the duties of citizenship? We think not. The times of Laurier were not good times. Circumstances combined to produce a certain amount of prosperity, but in spite of this fact remains that political morality and commercial honesty sank to the lowest ebb in the history of Canada. Yet the people of Canada were tolerant.

Liberals are fond of marking it up against Sir John Macdonald that his government was dismissed from office on account of the Pacific scandal. That scandal involved the sum of \$25,000. Measured by it there has been sufficient scandal and rake off in any of the late years of the Laurier rule to turn from office half a dozen governments. That the men behind Sir Wilfrid were not sooner called upon to pay the penalty of their misdeeds was an illustration of their fortune. And now that an outraged public has hurled them from the treasury benches their supporters have the effrontery to declare that the era of good times departed with them. If the events of the Laurier rule are an accompaniment of "good times," then Canada will be satisfied to allow many years to elapse before there is a return of such a brand of "prosperity."

THE PROBLEM OF FARM HELP.

That ever live question, how can the farmer secure competent help? has received an interesting contribution in the form of a letter from a farmer to the Toronto Globe who tells a story, which, we hope, does not represent the experience of New Brunswick agriculturists. He says: "A short time ago we hired a farm hand, a Scotchman, in every way a suitable man. After about two weeks he asked for the use of a horse and sleigh to go to town after some money which he said was coming to him from Scotland. Before leaving he borrowed five dollars and an overcoat. Arrived in town, he telephoned that he would not get back home that night, left the horse and sleigh in the hotel and has not been heard of since.

"We then hired another man at \$300 a year. He remained a week and picked up his belongings and left. Men in the towns and cities will not work on the farm at any price and besides they are most of them totally useless to the farmer."

This gentleman goes on to argue, shadow of himself.

although it must be admitted that his conclusions seem to lack continuity of logical sequence, that if the farmer were allowed to bring in his agricultural implements free of duty and thereby reduce the cost of living it would make his life easier. Just what connection the tariff on agricultural implements has with the supply of farm labor is not easy to see but possibly the readers of the Toronto Globe are gifted with the clearer vision and to them it is perfectly plain. The question of securing farm help, however, is one above and apart from all politics and of sufficient importance to merit serious consideration.

In a recent issue of an agricultural journal there appeared an article from the pen of a farmer telling how he managed to keep his employees. "I pay them the best wages I can afford, I do not work them all day and half the night, I give them good room and the best board I can, and I show them, wherever possible, that I am interested in them beyond the bare return they give me in labor for the money I pay to them."

Following out the ideas of this farmer it would seem that the difficulty has solved itself but, unfortunately his is but one case, and we fear, not a representative one. In many cases the western farmer treats his hired help as a class by themselves and, consequently, the help cannot be expected to have consideration for him beyond the carrying out of the duties they are supposed to perform. Consequently farmers holding such views find difficulty in keeping their men.

If Canada is to develop to the limit of her possibilities as an agricultural country, it would be well for agriculturalists to give some slight attention to the matter of getting help and keeping them. In some sections of Ontario and in the States farm workmen have banded together for mutual protection and they have a system of classifying the farmers of their neighborhood according to the treatment meted out to the employees. At its inception the plan did not look as if it could be successful, but reports appearing in some of the weekly papers indicate that in a very considerable area the problem has been at least partially solved.

New Brunswick has not experienced much difficulty in the past on this score but with the rapid development of the agricultural industry and the constant effort to make the supply of farm products meet the growing demand, the matter of farm help assumes an importance approaching the condition in the west where last year, there was a much greater demand than supply. New Brunswick's young men have been lured to the western cities and wheat fields and while the tide of immigration this way is showing good results still it is more than likely the summer will see a shortage of farm hands in this province. It would be the course of wisdom for farmers now to bring their best attention to bear on this matter and endeavor to work out a solution for it before it becomes a real problem.

Four murderers paid the extreme penalty for capital crime in the State of New York yesterday. The killing of Hermann Rosenthal was one of the first things to focus attention upon conditions in the police department in the largest city on the continent, and as a result of revelations in the resultant trial, much was done toward purifying that body. Unwittingly and unwillingly the gunmen who satisfied the law yesterday played no small part in bringing about a much needed reform in Gotham.

In the elections today citizens have the right to vote for three Commissioners for the ensuing term. There is the greatest necessity that the best men shall be chosen with efficiency and integrity as their sole qualifications. The next two years will be of epoch making importance in the history of St. John, and too much care cannot be exercised in the selection of the men who will administer civic affairs during that period.

As the result of the increased assistance to the steel industry outlined in the Finance Minister's budget, speech there will be important and speedy expansion in that branch of industry. Another evidence that the tariff changes were framed with the view to the rapid development of Canada as a great manufacturing nation.

Dr. Oeler Refuted. (Mail and Empire.)

Mistaken or not, patriotic and disinterested or not, the men who are to the forefront in the Irish crisis today are big men, and might well compare with the giants of the past. Asquith, Carson, Balfour, Redmond, Churchill and George fail to bear out the notion that when a man gets past forty his best work has been done, and that he is gradually becoming a mere shadow of himself.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Seventy-six years ago today mass meetings of protest were held in several Canadian cities to condemn the government for carrying out the sentence of execution passed on the rebel leaders, Samuel Leitch and Peter Matthews. The men had been executed two days before, in the yard of the Toronto jail, in the presence of a number of other rebels who had been taken prisoners. Until the last moment the friends and relatives of the condemned men believed that the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Arthur, would relent and grant a reprieve, but their hope was futile. The news of the execution spread slowly over the country, there was a wave of indignation in which many of the most loyal citizens shared. It had been a member of the assembly from Simcoe county and was highly esteemed, and Matthews also had many friends, even among those who did not agree with his radical political policies. Men of all parties signed petitions to the governor, asking that justice be tempered with mercy, but Sir George Arthur did not believe in "attempting to quell rebellious with rosewater."

THE PASSING DAY

THREE GREAT TRAGEDIES

Today is the anniversary of three of the most terrible tragedies in history—a black-letter day in the calendar of humanity.

Two years ago the giant steamship Titanic, on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic, crashed into an iceberg off the Grand Bank of Newfoundland and went down, carrying with it 1,503 souls.

Forty-nine years ago tonight a shot rang out in a Washington theatre and Abraham Lincoln was lost to a nation at a time when he was most needed. Half a century ago today Archduke Maximilian of Austria and his bride, Carlotta, embarked on an Austrian frigate to begin that great adventure which was to end with the crumbling of their Mexican empire, the execution of the Emperor, and a lifetime of madness for his devoted wife.

Many a time humanity has heard "the billows roar above a sunken ship," but never with such horror as was aroused by the sinking of the Titanic. Many a great and wise statesman and ruler has been assassinated, but few such tragedies have inspired such general regret as the death of Lincoln. Many an adventurer has come to grief, but Maximilian's dream of conquest was more imposing and spectacular than most, and his fall farther.

The Titanic is now a hulk on the floor of the sea. The grim outline of its skeleton, and of those other grisly skeletons, are softened by deep sea growths. As the centuries pass, scientists surmise, the Titanic will be reduced to a fossilized state. Later still the big hulk will split, and the fossilized remains will be cast ashore on the islands of the West Indies, to become the objects of speculation and conjecture by the scientists of the future.

As a result of the wreck of the Titanic, inventors have been stimulated in their efforts to perfect devices for making ocean navigation safer. Prof. Howard T. Barnes of McGill University, Montreal, and several others have been working hard to perfect a device for detecting the proximity of icebergs. The International Conference on the Safety of Ships at St. John, held recently in London, adopted recommendations that may go far toward accomplishing the purpose for which the conference was called.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

ROYAL BIRTHDAYS.

Two members of the royal family of Great Britain were born on the fourteenth of April. Princess Beatrice Mary Victoria Pedra, youngest daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince of Wales, was born in April 14, 1857, and Prince Alexander of Teck, brother of Queen Mary, will pass his fortieth birthday today.

Princess Beatrice, the "baby" of Queen Victoria's large family and in her childhood the petted object of adoration of her older brothers and sisters, was twenty-eight when she became the bride of Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg. She had three sons and one daughter, the latter, Victoria Eugenie, being now Queen of Spain. The daughter of one Queen Victoria became the mother of another. Prince Henry died in 1896. H. S. H. Prillman Alfred George of Teck is the third son of the late Duke of Teck and the late Princess Mary Adelaide, and the brother of Queen Mary. He married ten years ago Princess Alice Mary, daughter of Leopold, Duke of Albany, Queen Victoria's youngest son. His mother was a daughter of the first Duke of Cambridge, a first cousin in the paternal line of Queen Victoria.

FIRST THINGS

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

The first abolitionist or anti-slavery society in America was organized in Philadelphia 139 years ago today, the membership being composed principally of Quakers. Thomas Paine, author of "The Age of Reason," "The Rights of Man," "Common Sense," and other revolutionary works, was one of the earliest leaders of the anti-slavery propaganda. After the revolution the campaign against slavery was resumed, but it did not reach an acute stage until after the second war with Great Britain. In the meantime the United States, following the example set by England, had abolished the slave trade. A national anti-slavery society was founded in Philadelphia in 1832. Seven years later the abolitionists divided on the question of the formation of a political party, and the two wings remained active on separate lines until the civil war between North and South settled the question at a tremendous cost of life and treasure. Before the final triumph, however, abolition had its martyrs in Elijah Lovejoy and John Brown, while many of its leaders were mobbed and subjected to various indignities.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Pop and me was wading always this afternoon and we saw Mr. Wilkins kumung up the street weeding Winfield, being the man of Mr. Wilkins baby, and pop sed, Konfownd it, heer kums this poor fish agen. Hello Pops, sed Mr. Wilkins, yure the verry persin I wuntid to see, I got a good wun to tell you, a perfect scream.

Wat was Wintershire bin doing now, sed pop.

Winfield, Winfield, you always get his naim rong, sed Mr. Wilkins.

I ipologise, sed pop, I nevriv was good at geogrify.

Youll nevriv gess wat he was up to this morning, sed Mr. Wilkins, I aware thares not anuthir kid in this world like this wun.

Hevriv is meruthil, sed pop.

Wat, sed Mr. Wilkins.

Go awn, Im laseening, sed pop.

It was a regular sekus, sed Mr. Wilkins, we found him this morning delibrity taring the leaves out of a book and throwing them out the window into the yard, delibrity taring them out wun by wun and throwing them into the yard, and wat do you think he was it for.

I dont no, sed pop, unless he was giving an immertayshin of Anthony Comstock assawling the latest society novel.

Serlity not, sed Mr. Wilkins, he was pretending to feed the berds, wat do you no about that, pretending to feed the berds, he awfrim seen his mother feed them from the window and blest if thats wat he wasnt trying to do.

Well wat do you think of that, sed pop, and dux yure wife reely throw books to the berds.

Of course not, sed Mr. Wilkins, she throws bred crumbs, but Winfield didnt have any bred crumbs so the littel raskil jest throo the first things he cood get his hands awn, wich happined to be the leaves out of yure book.

Wats that, my book, sed pop, you dont meen that volume of shoart stors I lent you last weak.

Yes, thats the wun, sed Mr. Wilkins zhats wat I startid to tell you, I cawt hih, tho, befor he had torn moar than wun or 2 stors out of it, and the littil villin tear out the verry stors I hadnt red, to, wat do you no about that, feeding the berds, dont that take the cake, feeding the berds, ha ha ha. And he startid to weel Winfield agen, and pop kepp staring atfir him with wun hand up to his hed, saying, Ware ignerents is bliss, tis a waist of time to nock him down and jump awn him.

His Chances.

According to a nurse in one of the big hospitals, a visiting surgeon recently caused a robust patient almost to collapse by joking with him after an operation.

"What are my chances for recovery?" asked the patient.

"Splendid," said the surgeon.

"What do you mean by splendid?"

"Why, you have one chance in twenty for recovery."

"That is not very encouraging. I can't see how my chances are as splendid as you say."

"Well, I'll explain," said the surgeon. "In this particular operation it is generally conceded that there is one chance in twenty for the patient to recover. The last nineteen patients have operated upon for your complaint, did so, you are the one out of the twenty who ought to recover."

The Real Thing.

"And has this famous doctor cured your friend of the hallucination that she was sick?"

"Oh, completely. She's really sick now."

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Headaches From Eye Strain

Few people realize how large is the proportion of headache directly due to strained eyes.

When you have a headache don't drug yourself to deaden the pain, but have the cause of the headache ascertained.

You can't remedy eye strain by going into a store and buying a pair of glasses as you would a pair of shoes.

It is first necessary to have a thorough examination to determine the nature of your eye trouble.

Come in and we will prescribe the correct lenses.

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We are showing the range of styles in these famous shoes, in Dull Calf, Tan Calf, Vici Kid and Patent Calf.

The lasts in vogue this season are: "Pimlico," "Sam Slick," "Humdinger," "English," and "Freedom;" change and variety enough to suit every foot.

You may have them in Seamless Laced, Blucher Laced, Seamless and Blucher Oxfords.

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YOUR TASTE WILL BE AT ONCE CAPTIVATED

Sealed Lead Packets Only—Never in Bulk.

Your Grocer has it—If not—

or will get it for you. Write 'Salada', Montreal.

Other Grades of "Salada" are

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Pound, and all of Matchless

Value for prices charged.

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Just opened up another new lot of these choice clocks in Chaste designs never before shown.

Also some "GLOW WORM" watches, and Watch Bracelets. The latest useful novelty. You can tell the time by them in the DARK as easily as in the daylight.

Very useful for Travellers or for Nurses.

Also "Glow Worm" Alarm Watches, in folding leather cases—and "Glow Worm" Alarm Clocks. Come and see them.

Office Seeker—Is there anything else in the job you speak of besides the salary?

Political Boss—There's a little work on the side.

Office Seeker—Ah! I knew there was some string to it!

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