

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1920.

END OF THE DEBATE.

Government supporters and their press organs are naturally making the most of the fact that Messrs. Pock and Smith voted against the stumpage amendment. There is nothing so very remarkable that they should do so; they are both interested in the lumber business, and while they will no doubt admit that the Provincial Treasury needs some additional revenue, they would at the same time prefer that it should be derived from some other source than one to which they would have to contribute. It may perhaps be a somewhat narrow view to take, but it is not an unnatural one.

It is very much more to the point that Mr. Magee, who may be said to be the author and instigator of the amendment—for he it was who first drew attention to the matter—should not have voted for it. Just one week ago he declared that the lumber operators were too lightly taxed and that they could well afford to pay a good deal more, and yet when the opportunity came for him to show just how sincere he was in his views, he went right back on himself, and voted against that which he had before advocated. Mr. C. W. Robinson, too, he who some time ago advocated a 5% rate, when it came to put his assertions to a practical test, fell down also. So much for consistency. Well may it be called a joke.

It cannot be said that Mr. Veniot's speech added much to the value of the debate. He began by saying that he had not intended to take part in it, and no useful purpose appears to have been served when he changed his mind. He very kindly told the House that he took all the blame for the large expenditure in his Department, a quite unnecessary statement, for no one would ever want to put it past him. "As head of the Department he had devoted almost his whole time to travelling about." He omitted to add "at \$7 per day and car expenses."

In seeking to make it appear that an article which appeared in these columns on Monday last was intended to cheapen the Farmers' movement, Mr. Veniot went very much astray. This journal is not opposed to any farmers' organization. It concedes the right to every branch of industry to organize for its own protection. But it does object to any attempt on the part of the farmers of one section of Canada attempting to dictate to their fellows in another part what shall be the course for them to adopt when the circumstances under which each set works are so different. This journal is going to stand up for the rights of the farmers of this Province to the end, but it is not going to support such a programme as the Western Farmers are trying to foist on their Maritime brethren.

It was but natural that Mr. Smith, who followed the Minister of Public Works, should refer to the vacancy in Carleton County, and to the bid made by the leader of the Government to the Farmers' party regarding it. Premier Foster, in his speech on Tuesday, stated that so far as he could see the policies of the present Government and that of the Farmers' Party were on the same basis. The Premier no doubt felt that if an arrangement could be made under which a farmer candidate could be returned unopposed for Carleton he would add another to his meagre majority. But the farmers would not bite, so Carleton is still suffering the loss of a member. Mr. Smith seems to have dealt pretty trenchantly with the various matters which had cropped up in the course of the debate, and to have satisfactorily replied to the criticisms of his immediate predecessor.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

The bill in the United States Senate that would provide a premium on gold mined in that country is of interest to Canadian producers of gold. The bill provides that an excise tax of 50 cents per pennyweight be placed on gold sold for commercial purposes, and that the revenue thus raised be applied in a payment of \$10 an ounce premium on new gold mined.

If Congress passes that bill, the price of gold for commercial purposes will be, as the Wall and Empire points out, approximately \$20 an ounce. The buyer of wedding rings, gold watches, gold for dental purposes, etc., will pay approximately 50 per cent. more, and the public, in turn, will pay for it. Yet the collection of a gold tax from the consumer, and payment of it to the producer, would not alter the mint value of gold, or its use as a standard of monetary value. For regular mint purposes, the standard value would still obtain. The tax would apply only on gold used in the arts, or by the public generally.

The gold production of Ontario last year was approximately \$12,500,000. In almost any case, it will be larger this year, if there is no labor trouble in the North, a premium of 50 per cent. in gold would enable the mining companies not only to satisfy demands of the miners for higher wages, but also to extend their operations, and give employment to thousands more.

men. At present, the only hope for profitable operations of lower grade mines is in a drop in costs, which seems to be remote. The consumption of gold for the arts is larger than the present much diminished production, and there is vital need of some stimulus to gold-mining.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

The text of the Government's new Home Rule Bill has been issued, and, as anticipated, it provides for the cutting out of the six Ulster counties that have consistently returned Unionists—Antrim, Armagh, Fermanagh, Down, Londonderry and Tyrone; also of the parliamentary boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry.

For the purposes of the Act, it is explained, Northern Ireland shall consist of those counties and boroughs, and "Southern Ireland shall consist of so much of Ireland as is not comprised within the said parliamentary counties and boroughs." The bill provides for a Southern and a Northern Parliament. A Council of Ireland is to be established consisting of a President, 20 members of the Southern, and 20 of the Northern House of Commons, chosen by the respective Houses.

The object of the Council is to bring about "harmonious action between the Parliaments and Governments of Southern and Northern Ireland," and to promote "mutual intercourse and uniformity in relation to all matters affecting the whole of Ireland." The two Parliaments may establish, by identical Acts, in lieu of the Council, one Parliament for the whole of Ireland. The measure, therefore, holds out the possibility that Ireland may in the future desire to be united, and smooths the path to ultimate unity.

There were those—and they are supporters of the Government, too—who said that the House would not be in session very long before the proceedings would get tied up as a result of the inexperience and want of knowledge on the part of the officials. It has not taken long to prove the accuracy of this forecast. For the first time in the history of the House, members saw the spectacle of the clerks standing around the Chamber with pencil and paper in hand taking down the names on a division, just as would be done in a parish meeting. Neither, it appears, were the division bells rung to call the members in, with the result that some members were not there when the question was put, though they were allowed to vote just the same. Shades of the late George Dibble! If there is anything in Sir Oliver Lodge's theories, what must have happened when he looked down and saw what was going on? The particular kind of fit which he would have thrown would have been impossible of classification, for it would not have been in any class known to medical science so far. He would also have scarcely approved of the latest method of introducing bills. Well may Mr. Speaker ask for the indulgence of the House.

It is difficult to understand any reason for the decision of the House of Commons to exclude the press correspondents from the corridors of the Chamber when the House is in session. It impedes the work of the newspaper men, and the public will suffer for lack of information they should otherwise have. Let the press in turn boycott the House for a week and that resolution will be quickly repealed. Without the publicity of the press the House of Commons would be a corpse.

"Let's quit demagoguing about Great Britain," said Senator Kenyon, Republican, Iowa. "I wonder what we would think today if some one was going through the British Empire—Russia, for a free Philippines, or a free Hawaii, or a free Virgin Islands. For my part, I don't care about any Irish vote that is to be gained at the expense of continually maligning a great nation like Great Britain."

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A FORGOTTEN STUDY.
(Kingston Whig).
It is so for the teaching children manners, in the opinion of Dr. J. L. Hughes, of Toronto. Well, as far as we can see, nobody is doing very much of it.

RUINED BY PROHIBITION.
(Chicago Post).
The Keeley Institute is for sale—another proof that prohibition is ruining our industries.

CRACK AT MACKENZIE KING.
(Hogtown Post).
The Union Government is said by the veracious Ottawa dispatches to be looking for a strong man to lead it in the election campaign. Upon reading which about eighty per cent. of Liberals in Canada will heave a "woe too" sigh.

DAYLIGHT SAVING.
(Kingston Whig).
Many Canadian cities have adopted the daylight saving plan, which, however it may affect the country districts, is a distinct blessing to city dwellers. It assures them the advantages of an extra hour of sunlight and fresh air. In this connection it is to

be remembered that the only hope for profitable operations of lower grade mines is in a drop in costs, which seems to be remote. The consumption of gold for the arts is larger than the present much diminished production, and there is vital need of some stimulus to gold-mining.

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WHY THE HARBOR OF ST. JOHN SHOULD BE FULLY DEVELOPED

It is One of Canada's Greatest National Assets, Indispensable as a Channel for the Building of the Trade of the Country.

For more than twenty years the people of St. John have been seeking from Ottawa assistance in harbor development as a local undertaking. They have not demanded the creation of a winter port as a national institution with as great energy as should have characterized this presentation of the case. We have been greatly concerned about the ultimate benefit to this city, whereas, as pointed out by Hon. Mr. Melchior, our contention should have been the good of Canada. If benefit is to accrue to St. John through the development of the harbor for the proper handling of national traffic, such benefit should be accepted as a matter of course. But our own local well-being is not the object to be attained by such development, any more than was the prosperity of the Province of New Brunswick the object of those earlier statements who made Confederation possible. They, perhaps, with broader vision than the men of today, foresaw the erection of a confederacy which could not be completed unless all parties worked together for the common good. And it was the willingness of New Brunswick's public men of the sixties to co-operate in the movement towards Confederation, it was the consent of New Brunswick to become a part of Confederation, which made the Dominion of Canada possible.

Canadian Trade Must Come Through St. John.

Without the Province of New Brunswick Canada could not exist. Without the port of St. John, Canadian trade could not be handled. The work of the men and women of St. John is to make the Province of New Brunswick a link in the chain of the United States in such a manner that it forms the only outlet to the sea for the commerce of more than three thousand miles of country to the westward. More than five years ago a group of men in this and the other Maritime provinces agreed to become part of the Confederation. Had New Brunswick refused to do so, no confederacy would have been possible. The commerce of Ontario, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon would have been lost to the Dominion. We are now a part of the Confederation, and we must not forget that the Province of New Brunswick is a link in the chain of the United States in such a manner that it forms the only outlet to the sea for the commerce of more than three thousand miles of country to the westward. More than five years ago a group of men in this and the other Maritime provinces agreed to become part of the Confederation. Had New Brunswick refused to do so, no confederacy would have been possible. The commerce of Ontario, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon would have been lost to the Dominion. We are now a part of the Confederation, and we must not forget that the Province of New Brunswick is a link in the chain of the United States in such a manner that it forms the only outlet to the sea for the commerce of more than three thousand miles of country to the westward.

Therefore Must Be Built Up.

We do not contemplate saying to the rest of Canada that it will not be permitted to handle its traffic through our province that it may not use the port of St. John, nor enjoy access to the port of Halifax for that portion of the year during which the St. Lawrence river is a mass of ice. But the mere fact that we have the wharf in this all important matter of transportation should be sufficiently recognized by the Dominion generally to induce that Dominion to take the utmost care of its own interests in this province. New Brunswick is the misplaced keystone in the arch of Confederation, without which the whole structure must collapse. And unless this condition is recognized by the country as a whole and steps taken to guarantee that this all-important national port is developed in accordance with the demands of the nation's business, then that business must inevitably suffer. If St. John should happen to benefit by increased traffic, well and good; we will endeavor to enjoy such prosperity, but we are not demanding harbor expansion from this selfish standpoint. It is our duty to impress upon the rest of the Dominion the necessity of taking over this harbor on a reasonable basis, and of providing facilities which this country must have if it is to successfully compete in the world's markets. Development of St. John has no local color whatever; it is a national undertaking, and should be so regarded.

interesting to note that Great Britain is passing a statute law making the system permanent.

THE LAUGH LINE

She Guessed.
"Robson, do you know why you are like a donkey?" the jester queried.
"Like a donkey?" echoed Robson, opening his eyes wide. "I don't."
"Because your better half is stubborn as a donkey!"
The jester pleased Robson immensely, for he at once saw the opportunity for a glorious dig at his wife. So when he got home he said:
"Dear, do you know why I am like a donkey?"
He waited a moment, expecting his wife to give it up. But she didn't. She looked at him somewhat pityingly as she answered:
"I suppose it's because you were born so."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday I started to ask pop for a dime for the movies, and pop, sed, took hear, young fello, how would you like to pro tice a little economy?
I ain't got anything to practice it with, I sed.
I was jest coming to that, sed pop, do you thing if I gave you 25 cents you could spend it over candy and the movies and everything else for the ballents of the week without bothering me agen?
G, yes, sir, 25 cents, yes sir, I sed.
With he gave it to me, saying, Are you sure you know the meaning of economy? and I sed, Yes sir, and pop sed, Wats it mean? and I sed, it means not spending everything in one one place as soon as you get it.
Well, you seem to have a shadowy idee of the meaning, sed pop. And tonite after suppr he sed to me, Well, young fello, hows the budgit coming along, how much of that 25 cents have you got left?
Sir? 3 cents, I sed.
Yee gods, sed pop, is that wat you call economy? and I sed, Well, I loaned some of it, so of couse I'll get that back.
I dont know about the of couse part of it, how much did you lend? sed pop.
A cent, I sed.
O, sed pop, with a unsatisfied ipression, and I sed, Well, I lost a lot of it, I lost 7 cents, if I hadent of lost 7 cents, G, jest think, I'd have a dime left.
Wat can you expect wen you go erround with holes in your pockets? sed pop, and I sed, No sir, I lost them putting them in chewing gum slots that wouldent work.
Yee gods, sed pop, and I sed, Do you want to heer wat happened to the rest, pop?
Id drather not, I dont think my hart is as strong as it used to be, sed pop.
So I didn't tell him.

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Daily Fashion Hint

Prepared Especially For This Newspaper



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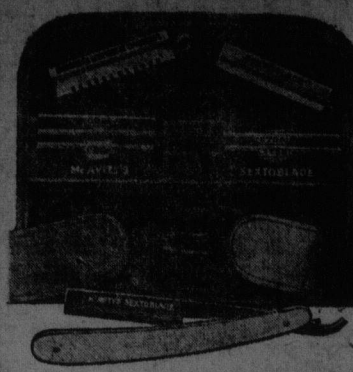
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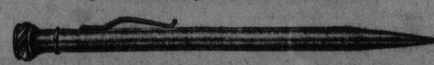
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