

The St. John Standard

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MR. CURRIE'S CASE.

Mr. William Currie, Speaker of the House of Assembly, has been heard from at last. He has published in the St. John Globe a two column letter in the hope of rehabilitating himself in public esteem. In the course of his rather diffuse letter he states that Commissioner Friel acquitted him on the charge of stampage to be paid by the Continental Lumber Company because a reduced amount of stampage, he knew that it was not the full amount of stampage, and thereby depriving the Province of the benefit of this revenue. He fails to state that the Commissioner held that this portion of the charge was so connected with a conversation alleged to have taken place with scaler Murchie that it really formed with the other a single charge. Mr. Friel further held that not being a separate charge he could not hold Mr. Currie guilty upon that count. The Commissioner then proceeded to point out the improbability of Mr. Currie's conduct, and held that it was absolutely inconsistent with his duty to the public as a member of the House of Assembly and with his position as speaker of that body.

Mr. Currie further alleges, as he stated before the Commissioner, that he had pressed upon the government the adoption of a new system of lumber scaling. It appeared from the evidence that the system which he advocated was the payment of stampage upon the mill cut, and it also appears from the record of the enquiry that many of the witnesses contended that the mill cut was always much less than the measurements of the logs by the New Brunswick log scale. In other words, Mr. Currie was so anxious to change the system for the benefit of the Province that he advocated the substitution of a scale of measurement by which the Province would receive less revenue in the future than it had in the past. Can hypocrisy go much further?

It is now nearly twelve weeks since the findings of Commissioner Friel were made public. Mr. Currie has been criticized even by some of his own party organs. Prominent men in his county declare that he is not entitled to the suffrages of the people and that he will not receive his party nomination. What action, if any, Premier Foster has taken in the matter has not been made public.

During the administration of Hon. George J. Clarke, when the findings of a Royal Commission were adverse to one of his supporters, the then opposition press continuously referred to it during the session of the legislature, calling for the resignation of that member. Hon. Mr. Clarke did not act hastily perhaps, but he acted firmly, and the member in question was forced to drop out of public life. Twelve weeks, however, is much longer than any ordinary session of the legislature. Premier Foster has had twelve weeks in which to obtain the resignation of Mr. Currie, and if he could not get rid of his unwelcome supporter, he has had that length of time in which to declare his own attitude regarding him to the public. Yet apparently nothing has been done.

Much time and considerable money has been expended on the potato inquiry in the hope of making political capital against the opponents of the government. The Foster Government is apparently more anxious to find cause of offence in the ranks of its political opponents than it is to purge its own party of a man who has already been condemned by the findings of a royal commission. The public will judge whether Premier Foster and his colleagues are actuated by a sincere desire to reform the public life of the Province or whether their real intention is to obtain political advantage by the sheltering of a supporter or the prosecution of a political opponent.

THE V. A. D.'s.

The Voluntary Aid Detachment, popularly known as the V.A.D., close today their work in connection with the epidemic of influenza. This occasion should not be allowed to pass without some expression of appreciation of the self-sacrifice displayed by these workers in a very trying time. When, because of conditions brought about by the prevailing disease, an urgent demand for assistance arose, these workers did not hesitate for a minute, but plunged into all activities which would tend to relieve distress and comfort those who were suffering. They established a diet kitchen, in which numbers of workers spent their days and nights preparing suitable food for invalids. They arranged a system of solicitation whereby contributions of food were received, together with cash donations for the purpose of securing such other articles as might be required. They enlisted the co-operation of friends with motor cars and of the Boy Scouts, by whom these articles of diet were distributed in all parts of the city to families requiring such aid. They enlisted the services of all members of the order who could devote their time to nursing and also secured additional recruits for this branch of the work, so

that scarcely ever was there a call received for a nurse which failed to meet with prompt and willing response.

The V. A. D. members have played a great part in the fight against the influenza epidemic, and for their unselfish efforts they are entitled to the sincere gratitude of the whole community.

PATRONAGE.

Hon. F. B. McCurdy in resigning his position as Parliamentary Secretary of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Department—and it is no wonder that anyone would give up a job with a name like that—is said to have been dissatisfied with the inaction of those responsible for certain movements of government departments. But it is estimated from Montreal that Mr. McCurdy's real reason was his dissatisfaction with the present method of handling patronage. Possibly there is truth in both these explanations. Other members of parliament elsewhere, so far as The Standard has been able to ascertain, are dissatisfied with the present patronage plan although, in order to maintain peace and quietness, they are not saying much about it. The feeling very generally prevails among those members that they know the conditions in their own communities much better than do the representatives of the Civil Service Commission, who are not so closely in touch with these conditions, and that their advice with respect to the filling of vacancies in government service is worthy of consideration. It is felt by many of these Unionist members that they who have been found capable of "regretting their partisan prejudices and untiring in one solidly established government for the good of the country, should also be quite capable of forgetting their partisan prejudices in recommending men and women to various positions in the gift of the government. If they are worthy of confidence in the larger sphere they should be worthy of consultation in this matter of lesser importance. But as it is now they are, apart from the parliamentary session itself, not much more than figureheads, and are in the great majority of cases utterly ignored by the Civil Service Commissioners, who, common sense would lead one to suppose, might be glad to enjoy the knowledge which these representatives possess.

CAMPBELLTON'S FINANCES.

Some years ago when Campbellton was obliterated by fire, the Provincial Government undertook to guarantee its outstanding bonds. The assets of the municipality were eliminated and bond holders were naturally a little dubious about their security. But the government of that time very generously offered assistance to the devastated community and backed the bonds, at the same time collecting from Campbellton the interest and sinking fund necessary for their redemption. Very recently Campbellton had more than twelve thousand dollars in reserve as a sinking fund at Fredericton, and during the recent Victoria Loan Drive Campbellton made an appeal to Premier Foster to invest ten thousand of that amount in Victory Bonds. Victory Bonds pay five and one-half per cent. interest, and the Province of New Brunswick, through the wonderful financial genius of Premier Foster, is now paying six per cent. on its late issues. But Campbellton has been advised by Premier Foster that the town will continue to draw interest at the rate of three and one-half per cent. on this balance to its credit, this notwithstanding the definite assurances made by the administration that backed the bonds that interest at the rate of five per cent. and more would be paid on this fund if the Province were paying that much or more on its own issue. Thus, Campbellton people who sustained a great loss some years ago and who have since been struggling to get out, will be receiving three and one-half per cent. from the Province, while those able to purchase bonds of New Brunswick away below par through the Foster method of financing, are getting six per cent. on par value.

Because of representations made at Ottawa, the federal government promised to look into the whole matter of the Valley Railway. The inspection trip planned for next week is the first step in this.

WHAT THEY SAY

Makes It Quite Clear.
Philadelphia North American: The ex-Kaiser's assertion that his escape into Holland was not a flight, clear it all up nicely as a strategic retreat.

She Has Good Reason, Too.
New York Sun: Australia appears to believe that in the matter of self-determination of nations a rich, powerful, progressive and radical commonwealth lying south of the equator ought to have something to say about the nearby islands it occupies.

Cry of Kamerad Again.
Buffalo News: The National Council of French Women has emphatically

denied the plea of the women of Germany to interfere for a modification of the armistice conditions. The Germans are reminded by the women of France that when they were asked to protest against the violation of Belgium and to denounce the sinking of the Lusitania, they replied, "We are one with our people."

Much Rubbish Removed.
Westminster Gazette: A little shopkeeper made a rather illuminating remark to me yesterday on the subject of "rubbish." She said, as she stropped under the counter for a piece of presentable wrapping paper, "At all events the world's a good deal clearer for this war." In its way it was rather a pleasant thought within its own limitations—that of the war as a great spring-cleaning of the world. What accumulations of what was once accounted rubbish have been pressed into use! What pile of rubbish from shops and factories and private houses have been turned over and made to serve some need! No doubt there will be new waste from the munitions and equipment of war, but at least we shall start fair, and many have learned a lesson in resourcefulness.

Guaranteed for Peace.
Cleveland Plain Dealer: The surrender of the German warships is but one of the many guarantees of a resumption of peace by Germany. The surrender of Metz is but one of many safeguards against a new running amuck of a nation whose loyalty of scotism has not yet been wholly cured by the acid medicine of defeat. Yet these two facts, the surrender of the German sea power and the resumption of peace by Germany, are the two most important facts of the war. They are the two facts which Germany could not resume the war with any prospect save that of speedy disaster. Some of the most monstrous crimes of Germany's crimes were committed on the sea; not by the "raids" that have come out of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven and Heligoland but by the underhand and lawless deeds have established an unsurpassable abomination of relentlessness and inhumanity. On the sea has now been depicted the most convincing record of Germany's collapse. It is the beginning of punishment and the end of iniquity.

The Power of Kingship.
London Globe: Today the House of Savoy is stronger in Italy than it has been at any time since Aspromonte. Among ourselves there is the same reinforcement of true kingship. Most of us realize that without monarchy our Empire would fall to pieces, and that it is the golden rule of the Crown which holds together this vast confederacy. But clearer perception of that fact is not the only cause which has been at work. From the time that King Edward ascended the throne the position of the Crown has become more and more secure, because the people have realized that the aim of the Sovereign has not been to impose his will upon them or to make them the instruments of his glory, but to carry out their will and to seek in their welfare the glory of his reign.

Labor After the War.
The Railway Age: Those industrial concerns which still treat labor as a commodity to be bought at the cheapest possible price and to be treated accordingly are likely to find themselves saddled with the inefficient who are crowded by the return of the soldiers. Those concerns which have already taken steps to place the laborer in a position of a human being with ambitions and aspirations like other human beings and have held forth an incentive for the employee to work intelligently to increase profits should be able to have a choice of the man whose outlook has been so greatly broadened by their experiences with the colors.

The Safety of the Seas.
Boston Transcript: The British navy has its triumph today, and the whole free world will rejoice in it. This triumph carries with it no threats against the future freedom of the seas. It implies neither the supreme defence and protection of that freedom, for it is the British navy that has made the seas free not only in peace but in war, for men of good will. This time the British navy has won its triumph without one really great naval fight. Its victory has been achieved by the mere exhibition of its invincibility.

A BIT OF VERSE

The Spirits of the Lake.
There's a sunset on the waters,
The mountains darkening south,
There's glory up and down the lake
From Oxford back to Owl,
And as the twilight falls
A stillness holds the air,
As if the boys who loved the lake
In spirit hovered there.

Sometimes in early morning,
When mists are all around,
Comes ghostly on the listening ear
A paddle's dripping sound;
Or in the full moon's radiance,
Or when the white caps swell,
It seems the soldier spirits seek
The lake they loved so well.

When Memphisrag dances
Alight in noon-day's blaze
Across her sun-split waters fit
The lads of former days,
Or from the cool green woodlands,
Which grow along the shore and
Their voices haunt from tree to tree
The lake they know no more.

There's a glory in the sunset,
There's a glory in the wind,
And when the gale rides fierce,
Their spirits sweep behind;
Their glory is upon us
And we, were we but wise,
Could better catch the brightness
They bring from Paradise.

—Eather Wilson Kerry.

Comrades.
Last night I dreamed the Cross of God
Stood rooted deep in Flanders soil,
And wide its open arms were spread
Over the fields of living dead,
Mile upon mile the crosses rose
Sheltering sleep's supreme repose;
And as I looked they seemed to be
Merged into conquering Calvary;
O Jesus—more than Savior now;
Brother, soldier, captain, Thou—
Each of Thy comrades of the cross
Treasures the gift that man calls love.
Oh, what an Easter has concealed
Beneath the flowers on Flanders Field,
Lonely Garry in Footy.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

I was starting to get ready to go to school this morning, being almost grumpy near late already, and all of a sudden I couldn't find my cap, calling, Ma, hey ma, did you see my cap anywhere?
For goodness sake, I never knew it to fall, and Ma. Meaning Im always losing it. And she came out in the hall and started to look around, saying, Haven't you any idea at all what you did with it?
I had a kind of a idea it was under the lid of the hat rack, but it ain't I sed. And we both kept on looking for it, Ma saying, Why in the world don't you have one place to put it and then put it there?
That's what I do, Ma, only I keep changing the place, I sed. And Ma and her kipp on looking, Ma saying, I threw it put it in the hat rack, because that's where I almost always generally put it. And I looked there again without finding it, saying, Maybe I left it around at Arlie's house last night, do you think I did, Ma?
How should I know, don't you know weather you came home without a cap or not? sed Ma, and I sed, I don't remember, I think my head did feel kind of chilly coming home.
You're a grate boy, you are, sed Ma. Not meaning it for a compliment, and we kept on looking, Ma looking mostly in the same place, and Ma looking in all different places, saying I never saw your best for making things disappear, I believe I'll look in that hat rack myself.
Which she did, the first thing she pulled out being my cap, saying, Well, was this?
That's it, I sed. And I quick put it on and started out the front door, Ma saying, I declare, I don't know what you'd do if you didn't have Ma.
Which neither do I.

A BIT OF FUN

A Masked Battery.

Early one Monday a smartly dressed woman entered the his draper's. "I am sending home the coats you let me have on approval Saturday," she told the manager blandly. "I find that none of them really fit me."
Then, with a gracious smile, she walked out of the place. But she didn't smile so blandly that night when she received a little parcel and a letter, which read:
"Madam—We are returning the pair of gloves and hump book which you inadvertently left in the pocket of one of our coats which didn't fit."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Answered Promptly.
During a concert tour of the late Theodore Thomas and his celebrated orchestra one of the musicians died, and the following telegram was dispatched to his parents:
"John Blank died suddenly today. Advise by wire as to disposition."
In a few hours the answer was received:
"We are heart-broken. His disposition was a loving one."—Everybody's Magazine.

Agreeable Surprise.
The traffic officer raised his hand and the motorist pulled up abruptly. "Just a minute!" he said. "Ugh! Could I sell you a ticket to the policeman's home?"
There was a long pause. And then, "Well I should say you could," chirped the motorist. "I thought I was pinched!"—Judge.

A Good Match.
"Banks and his wife certainly match each other."
"In what way?"
"In that way," said a dinner without burning something and he can't sit down to it without roasting her."—Baltimore American.

Asking Too Much.
Guest (coldly)—Walter, here's a collar button I found in my soup. Will you kindly return it to the owners?
Walter—I'd rather not, sir. You see, I have a wife and two small children, and our temperamental chef has been searching high and low for that button for the last hour.

Sandy's Small Profit.
"Speaking of profiteering," said the tall man, "bring to my mind the story of the Scotch shopkeeper, Sandy Macfee, who, while talking to the manager of a London emporium, said: 'Ye'll pardon my askin' ye, sir, but what profits can ye mak' in Lannon?'"
"On some articles, 5 per cent., on others 10 per cent., and on some 20 per cent."
"Twenty per cent! Mon, it's awful!"
"But don't you?" asked the Londoner.
"Nae sic luck," exclaimed Sandy. "I can only mak' 1 per cent. I just buy a thing for a shillin' and I sell it for twa."

A Correction.
A soldier writes home from the front as follows:
"When a boche finds himself in a tight place he warbles out: 'Kamerad, I've got a wife and three children.'"
"Then one of our boys sings out:
"Kamerad, I've got a wife and three children.'"
"Then one of our boys sings out:
"Kamerad, I've got a wife and three children.'"

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