

# The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 27, 1910.

## MR. PUGSLEY'S "IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT."

According to the Telegraph, Mr. Pugsley made the "important announcement" on his arrival in the city that the Transcontinental Railway in New Brunswick will "be open for traffic by May 1, 1911." As usual, it is necessary to materially qualify this statement.

The first 165 miles of the roadbed, from Moncton to Plaster Rock, are now practically completed, and in May next year, in order to convey material to the different sections of the line for the construction of stations, freight sheds and other buildings, and also to keep the roadbed in working order, a train will be run between the two points mentioned. It is a practice common to all railways that when a section of "green road" has been completed, it shall be kept open and inspected by the occasional running of trains. The roadbed from Plaster Rock to the boundary, a distance of 90 miles, will not be available for traffic until much later in the season, and the date when through trains will be running to and from the West is still entirely problematical.

The announcement made in the news columns of the Telegraph does not even limit the section of the line over which the train will run, and it might be supposed from reading the interview with Mr. Pugsley that the entire road through the province would be completed and open for traffic. Mr. Pugsley's organ has been singularly unfortunate in its prophecies regarding the opening up of the G. T. P. in New Brunswick, and, although we fail to discover how the ultimate completion of the road can reflect any credit on Mr. Pugsley, who is not even remotely connected with its construction, his organ still pursues its devious and misleading course.

As the Globe pointedly remarks:—"Some people who may remember to have seen statements to the effect that some portion of the Transcontinental Railway—'between Quebec and Moncton—would be running before the expiry of the present year, must have read with regret statements published on Friday to the effect that the matter now stands over until 1st May."

Among the items in the news and editorial columns of the Telegraph and the Times there is always one feature which may be looked for whenever Mr. Pugsley comes to town. It matters little whether the Minister of Public Works has any information of importance to impart or not, it becomes the bounden duty of his organs to make laudatory references to the author and finisher of their faith, and extol him as the one man capable of leading this benighted province out of darkness into light, and of transforming St. John into a city of the blest. The present occasion has been no exception, and while we have become used to these extravagant raptures on the part of the Telegraph and the Times, and recognize that they must justify their existence, we are bound to confess that this fulsome adulation of Mr. Pugsley in season and out of season is a trifle wearisome.

## THE CANADIAN MILITARY FORCES.

The latest issue of the Standard of Empire contains a practical and instructive analysis of the report of General Sir John French on the Canadian forces from the pen of Mr. Frederic W. Walker. Besides being a journalist of the first rank, Mr. Walker has taken part in numerous campaigns as a war correspondent, having been at the front with Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener, and Lord Methuen, and Generals Sir W. Gatacre, Mahon, Sir A. Hunter, Sir C. Douglas, Sir A. Paet, Sir Redvers Buller and others. His impartial summary and comment on the report will be read with interest. He says:—

"The full text of the report upon the Canadian military forces by General Sir John French, Inspector-General of the Forces, at Whitehall, contains an abundance of criticism, which shows that the excellent measures adopted by Canada, and especially by Sir F. W. Borden and Sir Percy Lake, have not gone far enough. General French says:—

"The men's work in the field is good.  
"Attitude of regimental officers towards the men is not good.  
"The numbers on the staff are inadequate.  
"Training methods are obsolete.  
"Young men educated at Government expense should serve.  
"Parade smartness is of secondary importance.  
"To remedy these things, he would have:—  
"Higher pay for officers.  
"Cavalry trained as mounted rifles.  
"City corps should go to camp.  
"Three-year term volunteers should be insisted on.  
"Kingston College should be enlarged.  
"Sir John naturally deals first with the military corner-stone—organization. Canada has no definite scheme for field force units. There is too much infantry and heavy artillery and not enough field artillery, engineers, or transport. This is a strong point, for the divisions in war would break down through lack of certain services. It is obvious to those who read the report through that the British Army divisional system, with its studied proportions of arms, should be adopted, as in other Dominions. The war plan of a field force is also faulty, he says, as the units which are to act together are not brought together in training. The plan of concentration has proved of immense value in Britain and in India, and Canada should take advantage of a proved system and go up the scale.  
"Sir John advises the establishment of a railway

council, with all the managers serving on it. This again I know has answered well elsewhere, and would be an immense help on mobilization. At home the managers of the London and South-Western, Great Western, South-Eastern and Chatham, Great Northern (Ireland), Glasgow and South-Western, London and North-Western, Great Eastern, and some leading railway engineers form three-fifths of the council.

"Sir John had evidently met with some views rather detrimental to the development of a General Staff, as something 'with a policy leading to harmful activities.' Nothing could be so absurd, and this dislike of regimental officers to staff development as a special corps is not well founded, since all staff officers would return to regimental duty regularly and systematically. There must be a directing brain for the big modern battle fronts, and the General Staff is the diffusion of that brain across a wide area in a well-understood plan of action. The whole of the Empire is engaged in forming an Imperial General Staff, and Canada must move forward with the others, or she will be left behind. She has commenced well, but she is not moving fast enough. The officers' pay, of course, must be raised, and in this respect we are no better off at home, where the rates are absurd, and cause good men to go into other pursuits, where the rank-and-file rewards are commensurate with the labor given.

"Sir John says that the training needs modernizing. This was true of the British Army when it went to South Africa, unable to shoot, and untrained in the higher command work. That has been righted, and the British force is now very sound in its field work, although still lacking in musketry merit. From what I have seen of Canadian troops in peace and war, I am certain that they are the best material in the world. I believe Sir John French thinks so, too, and they need only organization, and new training methods to bring out the quality which already bubbles through all the drawbacks and makes itself evident.

"Sir John makes no reference to the Ross rifle, but hints that the automatic must soon supersede all others. Here one is inclined to remark that a real automatic rifle is not yet in existence, and the question of the ammunition supply alone will keep its adoption back some years after the problem of making a real automatic has been solved.

"Sir John French's unrivalled knowledge has been most ably used for the benefit of Canada, and the general opinion, gathered from all parts of the Empire, and especially from Canada, is that the Dominion cannot help but profit by a great report. Canada has a huge frontier to defend, and she must defend it with brain as well as muscle. Organize to that end, and for all other purposes the Army of the great Dominion will be equal to the demands made upon it, come they from the Pacific or the Narrow Seas."

## THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

The annual report of the Merchants' Bank of Canada reveals the fact that this institution is in a very prosperous condition. The year's business has been especially good and as a result the net profits amount to \$1,057,000, being the first time in the history of the bank that the net earnings have exceeded the million dollar mark.

Other evidences of the bank's prosperity are shown by the fact that the dividend was increased during the year from 8 to 9 per cent., its deposits have grown from \$49,000,000 in 1909 to over \$54,000,000 during the year, its assets from \$66,800,000 to \$71,600,000, and the bank's reserves from \$4,602,000 to \$4,999,000. In fact, there has been growth and increases in every department, showing that the bank is popular with the business community, and enjoys a very large measure of the confidence of the depositing and investing public.

During the year it added a number of branches, and by its liberal loaning and general policy has done much to develop the resources of the country. The report is one which calls for congratulations to the directors and general manager of the institution. With its \$71,000,000 assets and earnings of over \$1,000,000, the Merchants' Bank stamps itself as one of the largest of Canada's financial institutions.

## NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE PROPOSALS.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the proposals Australia will lay before the Imperial Conference. New Zealand is also well prepared with material for discussion. Sir Joseph Ward recently submitted to the Parliament of the Colony eight resolutions which he proposed to bring before the Council of the Empire. They are as follows:—

- The setting up of an Imperial Council.
- Reconstruction of the Colonial Office.
- Extension of the powers of High Commissioners.
- Universal penny postage.
- Development of telegraphic communication within the Empire.
- An All-Red mail route between England and Australia, via Canada.
- Imperial Court of Appeal.
- Wider legislative powers for the Overseas Dominions with regard to shipping.

When will Sir Wilfrid Laurier be heard from? What are the propositions to be submitted by the Dominion Government? If any resolutions are to be presented will they first be laid before Parliament in New Zealand fashion?

## Current Comment

(Chicago Inter-Ocean.)

Two New York youths saw a pretty girl in a restaurant. One of them remarked that her lips were made to kiss, and asked the girl "How much for one kiss?" She fixed the price at \$5, and each of the young men paid it and received a kiss. Everybody thought it funny until the girl started to go with the money. Then the youths had her arrested. In court the judge started to lecture the girl, but she wouldn't have it so. She demanded her ten dollars, arguing that a bargain was a bargain, whether in kisses or merchandise. The court had to agree with the girl, though he plaintively remarked that the case was new in law. Reserving opinion as to the girl, it may be said that the young men never deserve another kiss on any terms.

(Bangor News.)

American brides entering Germany are to be compelled to pay duty on their wedding outfits. The counts and barons they take over should not cost much if the duty on them is levied ad valorem.

(Stratford Herald.)

A man has been found who thinks Canada ought to study reduction of naval armament. In other words Canada's great navy should be reduced—to the scrap heap.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Hon. Mr. Brodeur again arises to remark that the report of his resignation is greatly exaggerated.

(Toronto News.)

It is curious the farmers did not know that the Laurier Government had abolished protection.

## UNHAPPY TOWN OF ROOSEVELT

### Horsewhipping of Contributing Editor Brings Little Hamlet in the Limekiln—Used to be Carteret.

The happiest child in all Roosevelt, N. J., is a girl who was born Nov. 7. Under the circumstances she was named Mary Ann instead of Theodore on which her parents had set their hearts. The child has never caused her parents the slightest uneasiness except on the day she was christened when she nearly laughed herself to death.

Elsewhere in Roosevelt one sees only gloom in place of the universal cheer which prevailed in the town five years ago, when it bore the name of Carteret. Brother is arrayed against brother in Roosevelt now, the butchers all hate one another, the grocers are happy only when sending some other grocer to jail; when a store keeper meets candy store keeper there come a tug of war in Roosevelt streets, and let an editor pass and his hat is on, one runs given and as quickly refused, an invitation to the nearest alley.

The man who at a village meeting five years ago stood up and suggested that the secretary be instructed to cast one ballot changing the village name from Carteret to Roosevelt, doesn't live in the village any more. Early on the morning of Nov. 9 he shaved off his mustache, cashed a cheque at the bank and vanished like a mist. He was dropped from his club that night, and the only person now interested in him is the postmaster who would like to know where to send his mail.

Political Bee in His Bonnet. And now to the concrete instance of the editor, butcher, grocer as the case may be. In the public eye of Roosevelt at present no one stands forth so sharply as Dr. J. Reason, a medical practitioner, who improves his hours of ease by writing for the Roosevelt News. The political bee stings insistently in Dr. Reason's bonnet and in the last campaign he made a sincere run for the office of mayor, his name heading the Republican ticket. All the world remembers what happened the Republican ticket last November.

A cry of the brightest wits in Roosevelt serenaded Dr. Reason's house on the night in question, the voice of a certain Mrs. Gleckner leading the singing. Subsequently in the Roosevelt News appeared a paragraph distasteful to Mrs. Gleckner, and a few days later as Dr. Reason alighted from a train Mrs. Gleckner stepped out of the carriage and curbed a whip about the back of Dr. Reason's neck.

"I was not responsible for the objectionable paragraph," said Dr. Reason yesterday. "I'm not a regular editor, but I'm only a contributing editor. Why should any one want to lick a contributing editor?" And now butchers. While absorbed in his art at the butchering counter of Brown Brothers' department store on Saturday night Max Kwakw a butcher, was arrested for something not germane to butchery and brought before J. Levinson, Recorder of Roosevelt, who in private life is a butcher too.

Bail by several business men was refused on the ground that they were not property owners. At last a property owner came to the rescue. Karwek was liberated, then as quickly rearrested, jailed again and bailed again. He was set wholly free on Monday for lack of a complaint.

Grocers, let it pass with the following from the Roosevelt Weekly, to which Dr. Reason does not contribute:—

"So long as citizens scarp in the genuine give and take spirit they do their community good. If, though, he's the right kind of a town scarp he will hob up serenely when licked, shake hands with the party who did the licking and put his shoulder to the wheel and push for the good of the town. A verdict of not guilty was handed by a jury sitting with Judge Beckman in the slander case of Samuel Kaufman against Isidor Brown in the district court on Friday. The two principals are Roosevelt grocers."

Livernymen. "Recorder Levinson had a strange case to deal with on Friday, when John Such, of Yew street, was brought before him and fined \$14.50. Stephen Deak, the livernymen the complainant. It appeared that on Thursday Mr. Deak went to his stable and found Such, who had something in his hand. Mr. Deak struck out and was cut by whatever Such had. A struggle ensued which resulted in Such being held until Marshal Donovan came and locked him up."

The professions of "G" and "M" are not disclosed, but all Roosevelt is awaiting the next development. Says the News:—

"G" is carefully watching "M" to return the compliment of spilling a pail of ice water over him while he was asleep Sunday."

And in his next paragraph the Journal asks of "Maggie":—"Aren't you ashamed of yourself, Maggie? The idea of you dishing out soup with a coal shovel."

Dr. Reason admits a share of responsibility in the following in the News:—"Place yourself in the same position with the butcher. Forced to put in a night in the borough lockup. Is this thing to continue? Oh, that's a horse of a different color. If so, then, sooner or later, good honest people will stop and think before moving into Roosevelt, and their answer will be to stay away. So the logic of this is, either vote a straight democratic ticket or throw a good bluff that you intend to, for it is as hard to get justice in Roosevelt as for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

And in conclusion, consider the advertisement of D. Linsky, appearing impartially in the News and Weekly:—"House to let, in Fifth street; all improvements; inquire D. LINSKY." And then tell the citizens of Roosevelt that there is nothing in a name.

TEUTONIC TO GO ON CANADIAN ROUTE. Montreal, Dec. 24.—It is announced that next summer, in recognition of the growing importance of the trans-Atlantic passenger business by the St. Lawrence route, the White Star S.S. Company will withdraw the Teutonic

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from the New York route to Montreal. This will be the largest, and best boat yet placed on the route by this company. This will be followed later by the S. S. Majestic.

Herdng Negroes. Baltimore, Md.—Henceforth no white person may move into a block in Baltimore where the majority of the residents of that block are negroes, nor may a negro move into a block where the majority of the residents are white. This is the mandate laid down in the so-called E. H. West Race Segregation Ordinance which has been signed by Mayor Mahool. It is expected that the act will be taken to the courts to test its constitutionality.

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