

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY MAY 31, 1921.

## SATURDAY'S ELECTIONS

Newspapers opposed to the Meighen Government are exhibiting a good deal of unholy glee because the majority for the Government candidate in York-Sunbury on Saturday fell so far short of that received by Col. McLeod in 1917. No one is going to be deceived by such a foolish attitude. The circumstances are wholly different. That was a war-time election, and the thousands upon thousands of women who were very richly and properly given votes on account of their men, and who were serving overseas, all show in the weight of their support in favor of the candidate of the Government which was pledged to carry on the country's war efforts to a successful finish. The effect of these women's support was nullified on Saturday, for all the stakers' women now have votes also, and they naturally threw the weight of their votes against the Government which brought on conscription, and took the young men who had been hiding behind their petticoats, whether they would or not.

Moreover in view of the fact that Mr. Hanson's opponent had the support of both Liberals and Farmers, he ought to have won handsomely. In the Provincial Election in October last, the leading Government (Liberal) candidate received 3118 votes and the leading Farmer (Mr. Skaire) 1851, making a total of 4969. The leading man on the successful Conservative Opposition ticket received only 3900, or 1000 less. On the basis of these figures, Mr. Hanson had no right to win at all, yet he did win by nearly 1,000 votes. The combination that sought to defeat him.

But it is a poor rule that won't work both ways. Let us try this principle of reduced majority to Yamaska, where the Liberal candidate in 1917 had a majority over his opponent of 2684. On Saturday this majority was cut down to 1830, a drop of 854. Yet we don't see the Opposition press paying any attention to the fact of regarding it as a sign that their cause is waning.

The political issues of the day cut no figure in the Yamaska fight. The whole campaign there was on the ground that Premier Meighen heads an administration that put into force the Conscription Act, and the minds of the French-Canadian people were turned against the Ministry in consequence. Mr. Meighen has been pictured as an enemy of Quebec, an enemy of its language, its religion and its ideals, and Quebec feels itself insulted accordingly and must be avenged. The fact that the Government candidate made the excellent showing that he did, must be considered highly satisfactory and encouraging.

As far as expecting to win is concerned, it was waste of time and waste of effort for the Government to run a candidate in Yamaska at all. Quebec never forgives nor forgets; and no candidate of the Government which passed the Conscription Bill will ever stand the ghost of a chance among the French-speaking people of this country. They are scared even to this day that as long as this Government remains in power their young men are liable to be called up at any time to fight England's battles and they will never vote otherwise than for the anti-conscription party.

In York-Sunbury, however, the issues were ordinary questions of the day. The fantastic programme of the Farmers' party proved too much for a majority of the electorate to swallow, and it now transpires that anxious as many Liberals were to see the Government candidate defeated, they could not hide from themselves that whatever was the country may be suffering from in their view, it would be out of the trying pen into the fire if the Farmers' party ever got in charge. So they abstained from voting at all.

If the opposition and its press organ can get any comfort out of Saturday's elections, they are heartily welcome to it.

## WAGES AND LIVING COST.

A cut of twelve per cent. in wages of job pressmen, press assistants and paper handlers, employed by the book and job printers trades in New York city was recently announced by a committee on arbitration approved by both employers and employees. The cut is based upon the decline in living costs. It was pointed out by the committee that the reduction is not an actual wage cut since the reduced wages, it is claimed, will buy the same amount of food and clothing now as the old wages bought a year ago. In a considerable number of places in the United States, in various industries, wage cuts have been accepted by the workers upon chiefly the argument that the cost of living has come down somewhat of recent months. This is a great many industries.

wages were increased in 1919 and 1920 on the argument of the high cost of living. If the wages in such industries were fair prior to 1918 or 1919, and were increased in proportion to the increase in cost of living, the argument now would be unavailing that the wages of the high cost of living is decreasing, some of the high wages which were given in order to meet high cost of living, should come down. Usually in Canada this contention is countered by the labor unions with the claim that the old scale of wages, prior to recent fat years, was too low. Unions in the United States seem to be less assertive about this, and perhaps our Canadian unions are not showing as fair a spirit in the matter as the rest of the people are entitled to.

Cost of labor constitutes directly or indirectly 80 or 90 per cent. of all cost of production. Direct wages in any industry may not show any such percentage; "materials" are always set down as a large part of production cost—but then, all materials are themselves largely the product of wages. It is impossible therefore for industry or business of any kind to flourish if wages in general are standing at an unduly high rate. And there is not necessarily any unkindness or injustice in pointing out to workers that high wages may possibly be doing them no good while doing everybody else harm, for high wages with high prices for everything may be no better for the worker himself than low wages with lower prices for everything he has to buy.

It is known that in Canada today, a great many million dollars' worth of building is being held in abeyance owing to the present high cost of building, due to high wages. The delay in such construction means a vast loss to the working world, in wages, and a great increase in cost of living to the whole community owing to high prices. The high railway wages are making the whole people through increased rates for freight and passenger fares. The same argument can be pressed through nearly all industry at present. Sometimes it is claimed on behalf of the unions that too large profits are being made by somebody and that such profits should be curtailed in some way by the community and used to relieve the present situation. But the published balance sheets of a large number of the most important business concerns in Canada during the past few months have shown almost invariably losses rather than profits for the past year, beginning with the loss of \$80,000,000 last year on the National Railways.

The people of the country are less interested in what the Liberals did in the past than what they are likely to do in the future. After their defeat in 1911, they showed little inclination to return to their Free Trade teachings. Free Trade has almost ceased to exist in Canada. It was the growth of the Farmers' movement and the rise of the Liberals in Opposition to the Tariff resolution in 1917, the McMaster resolution a year later, and finally the low tariff plank in the National Liberal platform adopted by the Ottawa Convention in the summer of 1919. About 1920, however, the Liberals commenced to back water. The Tariff resolution offered in the 1920 session of the Dominion Parliament affirmed only about half of the Free Trade plank of the Liberal platform of 1919. In 1919, the Liberals, speaking through Hon. W. S. Fielding, offered a wily-washy resolution on the Budget which demanded practically no tariff reduction, and entirely side-stopped the Liberal platform.

With all due respect to Mr. W. F. Hatheway, there does not seem to be very much point in his contention that a one-man car cannot safely be operated with 60 or 80 passengers on the hilly stretches of this city. A motor-man is just as much a motor-man on a one-man car as on any other; he will only be doing one thing at a time. The conductor on a two-man car has nothing whatever to do with the operating work; and the motor-man on a one-man car will only be called on to do conductor's work when the car is not in motion. When it is in motion, the motor-man will be just as much in control as if there were a conductor at the other end of it.

The Canadian Society of Authors, says the Ottawa Citizen, should make an effort to publish some of the other works of fiction by that noted St. John, N. B. writer, Mr. J. W. V. [Name obscured]

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

**And Who Should Stand Loss.**  
 The trouble with France is that she wants to know who won the war, anyway.—Dallas News.

**Joint Attractions.**  
 Speeches of "Col." Armand Lavergne, plus the fact that the biggest "schooner" of beer in North America can be bought there for five cents, should make Quebec the Mecca for New York's Sin Fathers this summer.—Toronto Telegram.

**Interesting Suggestion.**  
 If, as reported, the Dry government will seize and confiscate all the liquor in private cellars and compensate the owners, there will be a fine chance to turn an honest penny by bottling a lot of fake booze. Maybe the officers will not be connoisseurs.—Hamilton Herald.

**Help The Law.**  
 Mr. Frank Fulton, 38 Springmount avenue, Toronto, is the man whose name was instrumental in securing the capture of Brown and McFadden, convicted of the murder of Druggist Sabine. Mr. Fulton's suspicions having been aroused, he took the number of the automobile in which the men made their getaway and immediately communicated it to the police, which resulted in the capture of the murderer by Constable Pogue soon afterwards. The assistance which this private citizen rendered to the police on this occasion was of supreme importance to the community. Through his vigilance, coupled with the prompt and effective action of the police, two dangerous criminals were brought to speedy justice, and the crime of murder with violence, which was beginning to assume the most terrifying proportions, received a setback from which it has not since recovered.

The name of this observant citizen deserves to be held in high honor by the people of this province, and his action should serve as an example to all who have not since recovered. The name of this observant citizen deserves to be held in high honor by the people of this province, and his action should serve as an example to all who have not since recovered. The name of this observant citizen deserves to be held in high honor by the people of this province, and his action should serve as an example to all who have not since recovered.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### THE CITIZENS OF NO MAN'S LAND.

Why is it that, although we settle down to our lives,  
 And live the lives we lived,  
 A strange unrest,  
 A something haunts us as we work  
 A restlessness too vague to be  
 Exposed?

Is it that we who, out there, walked  
 With death  
 And know the fellowship of Fear  
 And Pain,  
 Are citizens for aye of No Man's  
 Land,  
 And never shall be as we were  
 Again?

To those of us who played the Game  
 Out there,  
 And saw brave men, who failed to  
 Win, lose all  
 Where Fate was dealer, Life and  
 Death the stake,  
 Shall other games forevermore  
 Seem small?

'Tis true that home is dear, that love  
 Is sweet,  
 And pleasant are our friends to be  
 In our  
 Yet something lacks, to us from No  
 Man's Land—  
 Is it that no one here can speak  
 Our tongue?

We can not tell them what befell us  
 There,  
 For we did not know they could not  
 Understand,  
 So each sits quiet, by his own hearth  
 Fire,  
 And sees therein the sights of No  
 Man's Land!

We have a secret way to judge of  
 Men,  
 It is a way we learned to judge out  
 There,  
 But what, or how we learned it, none  
 Will tell—  
 It is a secret that we can not  
 Share!

See this rich fool, here, bring his new  
 Gold  
 While walters tawn and bow and  
 watch his hand!  
 Here he is king, but we look on and  
 smile—  
 Gold could not buy your way in No  
 Man's Land!

## Benny's Note Book

**BY LEE PAPE**

I was in ma's room this afternoon crawling under her bed to give a imitation of a boat going through the Panama Canal, and was did I find under there but a dime, thinking, Gosh, holey G, a dime.

And I started to try to remember if I had ever lost a dime besides the one I lost out in the street one time, only I could not remember any, thinking, G, I wonder if it could possibly be the one I lost out in the street. Not seeming hardly probable, and I thart, Well anyway am on the one gets under the bed and how could anybody loose it under the bed without getting under there first?

And I crawled out, saying to ma, Hay ma, have you bin under the bed lately?

Well for goodness sake is that the best question you can think of? sed ma. Meaning she hadnt bin, and I sed, Well have you noticed pop under there?

I notice that you dont seem to be in your rite sentances, sed ma.

Well do you think it would be possible for me to lose a dime one place and find it someplace else, for instants under your bed? I sed.

Hand it over, sed ma.

Mam? I sed.

Hand it over, it dropped out of my bag yesterday and I couldnt imagine were it rolled to, sed ma.

Wat was the date on it? I sed.

Hand it over, sed ma.

Wich I did.

**Try This.**  
 Mrs. Styles—I see by this paper that a woman in a Western town has hit upon a novel plan of obtaining a separation from her husband without going to the expense of court proceedings.

Mr. Styles—"That's interesting. What has she done?"

Mrs. Styles—"Why, she sent her husband out to match a piece of dress goods and told him not to return until he had matched it. He's still out."

**The Wise Fool.**  
 "Longfellow said that in this world a man must be either anvil or hammer," observed the Sage.

"Huh!" commented the Fool. "He they are merely bellows."

They are merely bellows.

**Especially These Days.**  
 Mrs. Chapman Catt, the eminent suffragist, said at a dinner in Washington.

"Women in business are more honest than men. For instance, they can't be bribed."

"No?" said a senator.

"No," said Mrs. Chapman Catt. "But men now—well, every man has his price."

"And hasn't every woman?" the senator retorted, "hasn't every woman the price of her virtue?"

Mr. Styles—"That's interesting. What has she done?"

**VOTE AGAINST SETTLEMENT**  
 New York, May 30.—Striking marine engineers of local No. 33 of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, voted yesterday to reject the proposition of Secretary of Labor Davis to settle the marine strike.

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 Red and Green Hexagon Slab Shingles—\$10.50 cash with order.  
 Crown Mica Roofing, extra heavy—\$4.46 a roll.  
 Crown Mica Roofing, heavy—\$3.95 a roll.  
 Crown Mica Roofing, medium—\$3.45 a roll.  
 Asphalt and Tarral Feet, Dry and Coated Sheathing Papers.

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**Coal Contracts**  
 The Commissioner of Harbour recommended the acceptance of tenders submitted to his department as follows:—  
 Anthracite coal to be delivered to the West Side of the Colwell at \$16.40 per ton; soft coal, the same, at \$8.25; anthracite delivered on the East Side, the same, at \$16.00 per ton.

**Afternoon Session of Common Council**  
 Paying of Brussels St. Awarding of Coal Contract Discussed by City Fathers

The paying of Brussels of the amount recommended of cost of the different departments of the city, formed the chief item of discussion at a meeting of the common council held in the council chamber at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. The matter of Brussels contracts was held for further discussion.

The report of the committee on the whole was read and presented for adoption section by section. The first section presented the report that whereas the amount had passed an Act of the council over the city's rights, and whereas in the harbor of St. John for the sum of \$12,000,000, a Board of Commissioners be appointed to have control of the harbor, a resolution for or against the harbor commission was taken on Monday, August 23, 1920.

Com. Thornton's Amendment

Commissioner Thornton recommended that the report be sent back to the committee, thought there might be some discussion on the part of the council.

His amendment called for considerable discussion. The matter that there would be plenty of work on harbor commission, the public were asked to vote on it.

Commissioner Bullock recommended himself in favor of the report, which would clearly set before the public both sides of the question. Commissioner Thornton would like to know if the voting in favor of the resolution, not at the same time voting against the commission, because the people had voted on the no recourse was left with the Commissioner. Commissioner Thornton stated that the people were definitely settled at the polls, the meaning the resolution upon the mayor to supply the information which would determine whether they would vote measure or not. A vote was taken. Commissioner Thornton's amendment was lost and the report adopted.

**Other Sections**  
 Resolutions 2, 3, and 4 were adopted without comment. Resolution two, was that the flag of the 6 inch main on the street by a 10 inch one be provided with the water and sewer department at an estimated \$6,800.

Resolution three, that three residents of Charles street retaining will be referred to the Commission of Public Works to report thereon, that an agreement from the N. B. Power Co. to electric sign on one of their buildings be referred to the Commission of Public Works and the City Council to report.

A communication was read from the Department of Justice, Ottawa, regarding the receipt of a copy of the City of St. John in record as proving amendments to the Optimum Drug Act, amended in a resolution by the City of Vancouver.

**Smoke Nuisance**  
 A communication from the Merchants' Association concerning the smoke nuisance caused by the Royal Hotel, was referred to Commissioner Thornton at his request. He stated he thought he could take some action in the matter.

Commissioner Bullock read a communication from Charles E. Frink offering to re-sell to the property at Green Head purchased from the city by his father in a total cost of \$42,500. Mr. Frink stated that if the city would consider the proposal he would be glad to let it have the land at a considerable discount.

Commissioner Bullock stated that he had been stating there were lime and clay deposits on the land which would make it an excellent site for a cement plant, but he did not think the city should consider the offer favorably at the present time. He recommended that the city should be sent to Mr. Frink.

Commissioner Frink said there were deposits on the land as described, the Commissioner recommended the City of St. John would be justified in making a thorough geological survey, of the high cost of cement.

Commissioner Thornton was of opinion that Mr. Frink's offer should have been offered the land on such a basis, had he been considered valuable. Commissioner Bullock's motion was carried.

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