

The Standard



Published by The Standard Limited, 52 Prince William Street, St. John, Canada.

TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office Main 1722
Editorial and News Main 1746

SUBSCRIPTION.
Morning Edition, By Carrier, per year, \$5.00
Morning Edition, By Mail, per year, 3.00
Weekly Edition, By Mail, per year, 1.00
Weekly Edition to United States 1.52
Single Copies Two Cents.

Chicago Representative:
Henry DeClerque, 701-702 Schiller Building,
New York Office:
L. Kiehn, Manager, 1 West 34th Street.

SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 5, 1910

THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF IT.

The defeat which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has sustained in Drummond-Arthabaska, at the hands of insurgents of his own party, grows in significance the more the circumstances surrounding this election are considered. The scene of the fight was of his own choosing. By appointing Mr. Louis Lavergne to the senate, he created a vacancy in his own county. The constituency was one in which his personal influence would be supreme. No more favorable battle ground could have been selected in Quebec to meet and annihilate the insurgents who had dared to challenge his supremacy. Sir Wilfrid personally attended the convention and selected Mr. Perrault as his standard bearer.

During the campaign which followed, the county swarmed with Liberal members of parliament and political friends of the premier. Among them were Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Hon. Jacques Bureau, Ernest Roy, M. P.; Adelard Landot, M. P.; Ernest Lapointe, M. P.; Mederic Martin, M. P.; Arthur Eremont, M. P.; Adolphe Mayrand, M. P.; Charles Gauvreau, M. P.; D. A. Laforte, M. P.; Senator Lavergne, Senator Mitchell and Mr. Lucien Cannon.

The Liberal machine was much in evidence, and every possible means was used to prevent a defeat which would be a crushing blow to the government. It was clearly recognized that if the Laurier candidate was beaten in Arthabaska it would be the death knell of Laurierism. One speaker went so far as to declare that the defeat of the Liberal candidate would be practically murdering Sir Wilfrid as he would not be able to survive the blow.

In spite of all these strenuous efforts and a flood of hysterical oratory, the Laurier candidate was discarded by the electors by a substantial majority. The true significance of the election lies in the fact that the solid hold which Sir Wilfrid had on Quebec has been broken. His majority in the House of Commons at the last session was 47, and he held 54 out of the 65 Quebec seats. Without the united support of his own province, neither he nor his government can survive.

By his own choosing this election turned on the question of Loyalty to Laurier. The people of Drummond-Arthabaska have told him unmistakably that his personal influence no longer counts. They have given his party's hackneyed appeal a new and decisive answer, and he who runs may read it: "Laurier has finished his work."

VALUING REAL ESTATE.

The Board of Trade is showing some activity with a view to bringing the attention of the citizens to the inequalities in the present system of taxation. It is hoped to arouse public interest in the subject and create a popular demand for an improved assessment act. St. John is slow in moving along lines of civic reform, and the opposition to the changes suggested in the last assessment act are not an encouraging sign.

In view of the admitted inequalities in assessment of properties some interest attaches to what is known as the Somers system for valuing real estate. This system is being used in the city of Cleveland. It was devised by Mr. W. A. Somers, formerly city engineer of St. Paul, Minnesota, and is the result of a number of years of careful study of the subject. Generally speaking the system consists in the selection of a decimal unit of land, say, one foot of frontage and one hundred feet of depth, and the effect of locality on this unit is carefully studied out and then applied to lots of all shapes and sizes.

By obtaining the values of unit feet, as they are called, the application of the value to various sizes of lots, different shapes and localities with reference to corners and alleys, is performed mathematically by means of a table of values, which has been devised after very extensive investigation. Lots that have various depths have a certain percentage of value as compared with the unit value. Where two streets intersect, the values in both rise as the intersection is approached, this upward tendency being called "corner influence." It has been found to extend not further than one hundred feet from the corner of both streets, and then in a rapidly falling curve from the corner.

The corner influence is plotted out by dividing the zone of influence into 100 squares of 10 feet each, and diagramming all the lots at a given corner upon these hundred squares. Of course the value of these squares decreases rapidly from the central point of the zone, but by adding up the number of squares on the property of a given owner, a general idea of the radiating value of corner influence is obtained. Each combination of two unit values, as, for instance, the normal frontage value and the corner influence, necessitates its own table. The inventor of the system has several hundred tables covering every phase of size, shape, and location, in valuing land. These taken in conjunction with a financial value per unit foot obtained by a system of comparison between lots, streets and districts, result in a practically mathematically correct equalization of assessment.

In valuing buildings the Somers system divides all buildings into four classes in accordance with their use, and each of these classes is sub-divided into divisions in accordance with their construction. It is a comparatively easy matter to measure each building to be valued and ascertain by investigation the cost of material and labor, deducting therefrom a correct amount for age, condition and lack of utility, if any.

The system of taxation in this city is complicated and marked degree. Many conflicting interests are

involved, and it would require something like a revolution to effect a change. It might, however, be worth while to inquire further into the workings of the Somers system as a subject for discussion at the public meetings which the Board of Trade propose to hold.

A NEW GERMICIDE.

Prof. H. C. Carel, of the University of Minnesota, for many years head of the department of medical chemistry and toxicology and chemist to the Minnesota State Board of Health, has discovered a chemical, which, it is claimed, will revolutionize warfare upon the germ life that has been the enemy of the human system, and bring success in cases where, because of the lack of a proper agent with which to wage the warfare, the physician and surgeon have heretofore been baffled. Before giving out the result of his research, Prof. Carel has had exhaustive tests made by several of the leading state and university bacteriologists, and their reports having more than borne out his own, he comes before the world of medical science with his discovery, which he has fancifully styled Benetol (Benetum Naphtholum), in spite of the desire of many of his friends that he give the chemical his own name.

To the public mind, it is enough to know, says the Vancouver World, that the new chemical, if it is all that is claimed for it, is eight times as strong as carbolic acid, and yet is not a poison. That is to say that by this discovery, physicians will be enabled to attack the deadly germs where they are lodged and living, within human beings, exactly as they have been attacking them externally. Never before, have the guardians of the public health been able to give doses of any of the disinfectants in sufficient strength to kill germs. It is now claimed that for the first time, science has a weapon with which to attack the germs that have hitherto been entrenched within the human frame.

"I dislike discussing the success of my work until it has been proved beyond a doubt by medical science," said Professor Carel, speaking of the new chemical. "As for my own faith in it, I can only say that I am so confident, that I am willing to submit myself to cholera infection, to prove that it can be successfully treated with my discovery. I firmly believe, that if Benetol had been known, and in use in Russia, the last terrible epidemic would have been arrested. It may be difficult for the lay mind to realize the great benefits of a powerful germicide which can be taken internally. In plain language, it means that internal infection can be arrested just as effectively by its use, as external infection has been in the past by the old agents."

As a further illustration in another way, suppose a soldier, parched with thirst after a battle, came upon a pool of stagnant water, in which the deadly typhus germ was present in millions. He might dip his cap full of that germ poison, and by adding one drop of this new chemical, the water would become harmless, and would instantly change from a germ poison to a beneficial medicated drink."

It is probable that the medical journals will very shortly be full of discussions regarding the practicability of the use of the new chemical in thousands of different ways. First tests, it is claimed, will probably be made upon animals for new uses. The first result of the discovery, however, will be to displace in time, the use of carbolic acid, which is so generally used for self destruction. It is even possible that, now that a more powerful substitute that is harmless has been found, the sale of carbolic acid may in time be prohibited by law, and the use of lysol and peroxide be practically done away with. Moreover, Benetol can be produced so cheaply that it can be used among the very poor, as well as by the rich.

In view of the result of the Drummond-Arthabaska election, the comment of the Telegraph which had previously been dilating on "the prestige of the greatest prime minister Canada ever had," would have been of particular interest. It was somewhat of a shock to discover yesterday that the editorial mind had suddenly become a complete blank on this attractive subject, and had wandered into a discussion of the intricate problem, "Why not raise more sheep?"

Current Comment

(Ottawa Journal.)

Wellman has received many a public setback, but the cruelest slam of his career was the bobbing up of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the one-time would-be polar discoverer, who, with a fellow feeling that Wellman may not appreciate, telegraphed his congratulations to that "Columbus of the Upper Atlantic." And with a brazen effrontery, or an innocence beyond all experience—which, it seems, is difficult to distinguish—Dr. Cook remarks that the attempt to navigate the Atlantic air lines is "after all" of more value to mankind than even—polar discoveries! In most of the world's other puzzles as to whether the gentleman is a double-jointed, angle-iron, sun-kinking idiot, or merely a shrewd and unrepentant knave. And the present incident will not help much towards a solution of this human problem.

(Vancouver Province.)

The oyster of this continent is, beyond doubt, the finest oyster in the world. It is not so many years ago that the Atlantic coast oyster was the best that was produced; but of late years the beds in the Pacific coast, stocked from the choicest of the Atlantic brand, have produced a variety unequalled in the world, and there is little doubt that in the future, with the growth of the industry here, the Pacific coast will easily lead in the market.

(Victoria, B. C., Times.)

We believe that an effort should be made to impress upon parents the seriousness of the situation, the risks which their children run and the penalties, which the children, not the parents, may have to pay. No person has a right to be a parent who does not take enough interest in the children to know where they are all the time, and to see to it that they are not running the streets and attending places of questionable repute.

(Montreal Gazette.)

It is proposed in the West to form a corporation with a nominal capital to construct a railway to Hudson Bay by means of bonuses and borrowed money. Then if things do not go well the owners of the property will lose nothing. The Quebec Bridge Company politicians' ideas of finance are spreading.

(Ottawa Journal.)

"What's all this talk about Bourassa?" asked a warm western supporter of the Liberal cause. "Bourassa was politically dead years ago." That's the trouble about a good many of these political funerals; the corpse refuses to stay buried.

(Galt Reporter.)

There is to be a "revetment wall" built at Burlington Beach. This means a wall where you can sit up on it, and get wet, and den come down off it and get wet.

(Dallas News.)

You can tell that women have no sense of humor by the way they look at their hats without laughing.

MOTHERS WHO HAVE DAUGHTERS

Find Help in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Winchester, Ind. — "Four doctors told me that they could never make me regular, and that I would eventually have dropsy. I would bloat, and suffer from bearing-down pains, cramps and chills, and I could not sleep nights. My mother wrote to Mrs. Pinkham for advice, and I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. After taking one and one-half bottles of the Compound, I am all right again, and I recommend it to every suffering woman." — Mrs. MARY DEAL, Winchester, Ind.

Hundreds of such letters from girls and mothers expressing their gratitude for what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has accomplished for them have been received by The Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Company, Lynn, Mass.

Girls who are troubled with painful or irregular periods, backache, headache, dragging-down sensations, fainting spells or indigestion, should take immediate action to ward off the serious consequences and be restored to health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Thousands have been restored to health by its use.

If you would like special advice about your case write a confidential letter to Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. Her advice is free, and always helpful.

BOARD OF HEALTH RETURNS.

T. M. Burns, secretary of the Board of Health, has made up his tables for the fiscal year ending October 31st, and these show that there were 776 deaths in the twelve months. This is six less than in the previous year. The reports show that of the 776 who died during the year there were 401 males and 375 females. Of these 627 were Canadian born and 149 foreign, while the nativity of three was not disclosed. The report indicates that 408 were married, 367 single and one not known. Tuberculosis, as usual, claimed about 107 of the total number of deaths, indicating that as yet the work of the Tuberculosis Association is not having an appreciable effect on the death rate. The number of deaths the previous year was 118. Heart disease is a close competitor with tuberculosis in the race to see which can kill the most.

Some of the principal causes of death were:—
Tuberculosis 107
Heart disease 87
Scenic debility 79
Pneumonia 75
Infantile diarrhoea 45
Diseases of infancy 43
By violence 41
Bright's disease 32
Congestion 32
Broncho-pneumonia 21
Hepatitis 14
Comach diseases 10
Hysteria 10
Acute nephritis 8
General paralysis 17
Infantile convulsions 9
Acute bronchitis 10
Chronic bronchitis 10
Diseases of nervous system 6
Typhoid 6
Whooping cough 8
Septicemic infection 7
Diabetes 7

Contagious Diseases.
The reports of contagious diseases, which are for both the city and county, show there were 330 cases and 14 deaths in the year. The number of cases and deaths from each complaint were:—

Diphtheria 98
Scarlet fever 71
Typhoid fever 59
Measles 101
Smallpox 1

The Board of Health has been very active during the past couple of years in demanding that modern sanitary closets be installed to take the place of old-fashioned appliances. The measure of success they are meeting is shown by the fact that during the year 335 old buildings were provided with modern devices, and 44 new buildings. The total number of fixtures installed during the year was 1,320. Slowly but surely these new sanitary devices are being installed. A few years ago there were upwards of 3,000 buildings without them. Today the number is less than 1,000, and the present year is expected to see more of them equipped.

STILL SINGING THEIR PRAISES

Dodd's Kidney Pills Doing Great Work in Saskatchewan

Mrs. Emel Carlson tells how quickly and completely they cured her Kidney Trouble. Colonsay, Sask., Nov. 4.—(Special.)—No remedy has done as much for the wheat growers of Saskatchewan as Dodd's Kidney Pills. They occupy a place in the family medicine chest on nearly every farm, and every day brings fresh evidence of the great work they are doing. One of the latest to sing their praises in this neighborhood is Mrs. Emel Carlson. Here is what she is telling her many friends:—

"For about two years I was sorely troubled with Kidney Disease brought on by a strain. My heart bothered me. My sleep was broken and unrefreshing and I was always tired and nervous. The least exertion would cause me to perspire freely, and my perspiration had an unpleasant odor. "Three boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me. They are certainly the best medicine I ever used."

If you have any of Mrs. Carlson's symptoms your kidneys are wrong. Make them right with Dodd's Kidney Pills.

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Many people think that if they can see without, there is no necessity for wearing glasses. Do you think so?

Many people suffer with headache which glasses properly fitted would cure. Do you?

Some people KNOW that glasses are sometimes necessary even when the vision is good; and that it is best to wear glasses just as soon as there are symptoms of eye strain. Do you know this?

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