

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited 52 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1919.

CITY TAXATION.

The Assessor's Office in City Hall is besieged these days by persons seeking information touching the application of the new Assessment Act. There are two or three questions almost invariably asked. No resident of the City of St. John, subject to taxation here, is required to make any report on the value of real estate owned by him. That portion of the work rests entirely with the assessors, who have made their own valuation of the actual property. No resident of St. John is required to make any report whatever on the furniture or personal effects in his home. Household furniture, clothing, etc., are entirely exempt from taxation and may be disregarded.

Every person subject to assessment in any form whatever, must, in making report to the Assessor's Office, fill in a carefully filled item on the blank statement issued, whether the amounts so reported are subject to taxation or not. In the income report must be included not only salary, commissions, etc., received in the ordinary course of business, but particular investments, whether these investments are tax exempt or not. It should be clearly understood that in no case is invested capital subject to taxation in this way. The holder of any amount of Victory Bonds, St. John Debentures, or stock or bonds in any St. John corporation must report, giving full particulars. The income from Victory Bonds, etc., will be added to the salary or other income for purposes of taxation. But the income from investments in local corporations will not be added because of the fact that these local corporations are themselves subject to taxation on their invested capital, and shareholders, of course, pay through that avenue.

It is not the desire of the assessors to force detailed statements from such persons as are generally known to be in receipt of small incomes, although, of course, the obligation of forwarding such statements rests with those taxpayers. The intention of the act is to secure the fullest information from those, the amount of whose income has not been readily obtainable, and who are believed to be in receipt of considerable amounts.

There has been something of an increase in real estate values for the present year, due to the fact that C. F. R. properties have been added, as well as properties owned by fraternal organizations, etc. On the other hand there will be many exemptions on income accounts which will make a big hole in the total valuation for assessment purposes, and there will be a serious reduction in civic income through the exemption of household personal property. The abolition of the poll tax means another drop of thirty odd thousand dollars, while against these items there stand only the increased incomes which the assessors expect to reach. It is not believed that the readjustment of personal property with respect to business stocks will make much difference either way, as values are considered to have been reasonably fair in the past. Because of this state of affairs and the increased estimates in various civic and municipal departments, it is regarded as practically certain that a much higher rate of assessment will apply during the present year, although it is anticipated that the burden of taxation will be more fairly distributed and that those best able to pay will be required to do so.

THE VIEWS OF A FRIEND.

The Observer, a staunch Liberal newspaper, published at Hartland, Victoria County, by Fred H. Stevens, is disappointed in the Foster administration. In the last issue of the Observer, the front page is largely occupied with a pronouncement of that paper's political policy, which is too good to overlook. Mr. Stevens writes:

"The purpose of the Victoria Observer is to serve in every way the very best interests of the county irrespective of party or creed. Without putting itself out to be so, and without sacrificing any other interests, the Observer is a Liberal newspaper. It believes in the general principles of Liberalism. Still it advocates Union Government before it was known if our own member would also advocate it. So far as the politics of the province is concerned the Observer is entirely a free lance. The Observer was a strong advocate for a change of government and the exclusion from power of the timber-grafters, the potato profiteers, and the railroad exploiters. But it is not fully satisfied that the people in charge are above following after the devices of their antecedents when the chance becomes really good.

"Premier Foster has frankly told the editor that he didn't know who he was and never heard tell of him. Mr. Tweeddale has not paid his subscription to the Observer in 30 years. Naturally we're an editor's party to play a country editor's weakness and follies, and we don't care a hang for these 'big fellows'. In fact, we cannot consider them very 'big'—as yet. The people of Victoria never heard tell of Premier Foster until he

came to them begging a chance to 'sit.' "This outlines the position and attitude of the Victoria Observer, but its sympathy is with the local government. It has the chance to make good, which may come perhaps, only once in a lifetime. We want it to make good; and to this end we want to be more of a help than a hindrance to it. But it must go straight and do things. We hope that while Premier Foster is learning who and what the Observer is the people of Victoria will, through the Observer, learn who and what he is and where he came from. "In every possible way the Observer can serve Victoria County. It desires to do it. It will cost us many hundreds of dollars to maintain this special industry and we will appreciate honest patronage. If we lack it, no one will ever find us on our knees imploring for it."

THE MONEY HAS GONE.

The Telegraph hurries forward with an explanation that the \$33,144.00 excess receipts over expenditures in the Farm Settlement Board fund is held by the Foster Government in trust. This is what should have been done with that balance, but who is prepared to believe The Telegraph's statement when the expenditures shown in the annual statement include that amount, and when no statement whatever is made touching the assets held in trust in this manner? That \$33,144.00 has gone into the pot just like the rest of the balances, while under the new accounting scheme it is possible to put through an entry on the books showing that "as much remains to the credit of the Farm Settlement Board as the fact nevertheless stands that the money is gone and all remaining is a paper asset. The Standard repeats that the financial statement printed on Jan. 21 specifically indicates in the revenue a total collection of \$41,375.78, and on this special account an expenditure of only \$8,231.88. The difference has undoubtedly been spent for there is no balance in the financial statement to cover this amount, and it indicates that it is still held in trust.

BANK MERGERS.

Some of the people in Ottawa are objecting to the proposed merging of the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Bank of Ottawa. This is a natural feeling. They do not wish their city to lose the identity of its own local banking proposition. In addition to this, they may feel that the consolidation of banks tends to promote weaknesses in our financial system. On this particular point, opinion is strongly divided. In New Brunswick, a few years ago, there was a widely felt regret in the absorption of the Bank of New Brunswick by the Bank of Nova Scotia. We were anxious to retain, as a distinct institution, the bank bearing the name of our own province, and for which many entertained a sentimental regard. But the outcome of that amalgamation has been beneficial to St. John, at any rate, in that it has given this city the benefit of the increased financial strength of the Bank of Nova Scotia. This institution, which is one of the most progressive in Canada, has certainly forged ahead and taken a leading place in the advancement of the country.

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS.

Premier Foster informs The Standard that departmental work is going along reasonably well just now, and the annual reports he hopes will be ready so that the session of the Legislature may commence on practically the same date as last year. Commissioner McQueen, who is preparing his report on the Potato Investigation, has been ill since the hearing ended, but is now considerably improved and will have his report ready very long.

BAN LIFTED.

Telegraphic advices to local paper dealers state that the ban has now been lifted from waxed paper bread wrappers, and if use of these wrappers is now permitted by any baker. This final objection to the use of wrappers having been removed, it is to be hoped that St. John bakers will take advantage of the opportunity and get back to sanitary methods.

WHAT THEY SAY

The Real Conservation Agent, (Philadelphia Press). The weather man is doing more to keep in cool now than the Federal Administration ever did. Somebody ought to have thought of this plan before; it would have prevented a lot of blunders.

The Fifth Partner. (Cleveland Plain Dealer). It has wisely been decided to admit Japan to full participation in the preliminary conferences which are to pave the way for the Versailles conference. France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States were prepared to make the arrangements and to map out the line of procedure at the formal conference. Someone probably Mr. Lloyd George, pointed out that a fifth

"great power" was a member of the anti-German partnership, and that to omit Japan from the conference might be interpreted as an affront. Surely no affront was intended, and rather than run the risk of giving offence Japan has been asked to participate, notwithstanding the fact that the matters under discussion are mostly of remotest interest to the Japanese representatives.

Bones of Pines.

(Hartford Courant). There are various kinds of protection exercised by governments for the people. A new one has developed in the State of Maine. The law forbids any one who did not himself catch it, to sell a pickerel. The fish are not allowed in market and even the man who caught them must have done that "legally." It is well known to people, who, for fear of starving have eaten pickerel, that their bodies are made up of 90 per cent. sharp bones and 10 per cent. flesh. When it comes to a choice between trying the family pinches and eating a pickerel, most people prefer the pickerel, but it is evident that the legislators of Maine do not mean to expose their constituents to the perils of the diet when it can be avoided. There is no law in Maine against selling pinches.

Wasting Public Money.

(Canton Times). The waste of the people's money is insignificant, however, when considered in relation to the waste of the people's time. While much valuable time is being wasted because of official red-tape in the transaction of public business, still more is caused by the self-importance of the officials high and low. Much of the business, which could be easily disposed of by simply the saying of a word by the official concerned or the filling out of a printed blank or the answer of a question, now requires volumes of petition, counter-recommendations, and other useless forms that have to be gone through. Unless the self-conceited and ambitious officials are out of the way, the progress of the country will be continued to be impeded. After the downfall of the military autocrats, which time would certainly come, attention should be given to the thrashing of the professional officials.

Principles, not Personalities.

(London Morning Post). Debate on these vast and complicated matters is not to be held in any discussion it cannot be too clearly understood, both in America and in this country, that the interchange of views is not concerned with the personal attitude of the President but with the principles involved. The President is received on this side of the Atlantic as a distinguished scholar and statesman and as the representative of the great Western Republic; he is esteemed and respected in both capacities and in the Council whose business it is to solve the problems with which he has so courageously dealt we feel sure that his reports will be sanctioned. Nor should it be forgotten that it has been the chief object of Germany to create dissension between the two great maritime nations to which she owes her defeat at sea.

A BIT OF VERSE

For England. I longed to go to England, And walk across the downs, I longed to go to England, To the little English towns, Where all the brave young English boys had their hearts set on. Once lived, for which they died; I longed to go to England, I longed to live in England, I longed to share their pride, And share her sorrowing pride. They lived so strong for England, They died so bravely and gay, They died so young for England— They're dying every day— The haunting music of their songs Their hearts have never left, Because they gave for England, Because they fought for England, Because they died for England, And died for both our lands. —Juliet Whitton in Scribner's.

HARTLAND

Hartland, Jan. 20.—Mrs. W. R. Ross, of Moss Hill, was a guest a few days here last week as the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Charles B. Colwell. Miss Treasa W. Alton, after an extended visit with relatives and friends in Hartland and Moncton, returned on Wednesday to her class in music at Perth and Amherst. Herbert Rogers, who last term was

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A BIT OF FUN

It is the struggle to keep up appearances that keeps some persons down. Worry gives the undertaker more business than hard work ever did. It takes a cheerful face to make good in a photograph. Some women swear like men while others will not even darn socks.

The Sting.

The Editor—Why don't you want to umpire that game? Afraid of getting killed? The Reporter—No, I'm not afraid of death, but I don't want my obituary printed on the sporting page. Always Dictates It. Booth's Tarlington tells of an old negro who appeared as a witness before one of our committees. In the

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE. MEELS.

There is 3 principal meals, breakfast, dinner and supper, making the day pass much quicker than if there was only one or two. Some people call you for meals, and some ring a dinner bell and some ring a dinner bell even for breakfast and supper is because there ain't any breakfast and supper bell. This proves that as long as people find out there's a meal ready, that's the main thing. Most people don't tawk much at breakfast for 2 reasons, first, because they jest got up ad haven't anything to tawk about yet, and 2nd, because they don't feel like tawking. The principal rule at breakfast is not to use all the rest of the green. Lunch is dinner wen there ain't much of it. Some people call supper dinner, thinking it sounds more important, but the result is the same. A good way to tell how hungry a parson is, is by how awfien they say, Aint dinner redy yet? Breakfast starts with dizzert, such as a oringide, and dinner and supper ends with it, such as pie if you're lucky. Some children eat a slice of bread and butter atfir their dizzert, jest to prove they aint full yet, even if nobody sed they was.

My examination these questions were put to me:

"What is your name?" "Calhoun Clay, sah." "Can you sign your name?" "Sah!" "I ask if you can write your name." "Well, no sah. Ah nobber writes my name. Ah dictates it, sah."—Atlantic Chronicle.

Bequeathed Elsewhere.

"My ancestors were all people with brains. "Too bad you were disinherited."

Second Hand.

"Has any other girl ever worn this ring?" "I suspect so, my dearest." "Wretch! You said I was the only girl you ever loved." "And so you are, but I bought this ring in pawnshop!"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Worked Both Ways.

"Well," said the doctor, "I hope you profited by advice." "Yes, doctor," replied the patient, "but not so much as you did."—London Answers.

A Woman Hater.

The Maid (discussing new farm help)—"Has he ever smelt powder, do you know?" "Not much! 'Im 'im smelkin' o' man later!"

Plain Talk.

Employer—What! You want a raise? Why, when I was an office boy, I had to work five years before I got one. Office Boy—Yes, but perhaps you was one of those fat head kinds that ain't worth a raise.—Boston Transcript.

Inconsistent.

Doctor—Well, now remember what I said. Just take your wife and start on a vacation. Patient—But, doctor, you spoke of rest.—Exchange.

Reciprocal Reticence.

"I never hear you talk about your ancestors, Brown." "Why should I? They never talked about me that I know of."

Wouldn't Refuse.

Mother—Now, Freddie, at the party, when asked if you'll have something, you must say, "Yes, thank you, and if you don't want it, you—" Freddie—Don't bother, ma; I don't expect to refuse anything.—London Titbits.

To Be Safe.

The prima donna was reading the rough draft of her new contract. When she came to the paragraph providing that she should have transportation for herself, maid, dog and Stic. Garbent, her husband, she drew a line through the signor's name. "Just put that husband," she ordered.

Yes, madam.

"Yes, madam," assented the manager. "But why, if I may ask?" The diva blushed and coyly tucked her head. "I may wish to make a change," she answered.

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COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Thornton Yesterday Presented Police Estimates — Asks for \$20,811 More Than Last Year. Other Business Transacted.

At the regular meeting of the Common Council yesterday evening the police estimates for the present year were submitted by Commissioner Thornton. The proposed assessment for 1919 is \$26,235.01, an increase over the previous year of \$20,811.27. It was shown the increase was due chiefly to the new police force selected by the council in December, 1918, and totalling \$28,210.00, or an increase over last year's appropriation of \$2,762.63. The commissioner stated he had reduced the amount by \$16,175, and among the items cut off he named \$2,500, which had been allotted as an emergency fund for extra policemen. The estimates fix the initial salary for chief of police at \$2,000, and that of a proposed detective sergeant at \$1,800.

Police appropriations for 1919 were submitted by the head of the safety department, as follows: 1918. 1919. 1 chief of police \$2,000.00 \$2,000.00 1 police clerk 1,200.00 1,300.00 1 detective sergeant 1,800.00 1,800.00 3 detectives 3,000.00 4,500.00 6 sergeants 6,570.00 9,340.00 1 desk sergeant 1,000.00 1,200.00 1 sergeant 1,033.58 1,033.58 41 constables 38,750.00 49,200.00 1 matron 800.00 840.00 1 B. & W. Inspector 800.00 1,050.00 Mrs. O'Leary 821.25 821.25

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Uniforms, 56 at \$50.00 2,800.00 2,800.00 O'Leary, 56 at \$50 2,800.00 2,800.00 Caps, 56 at \$5 2,800.00 2,800.00 Med. attendance 100.00 100.00 Fuel 300.00 350.00 Light 275.00 350.00 Hooks and print 200.00 200.00 Amulance, two chauffeurs 2,000.00 2,400.00 Police patrol, one chauffeur 1,000.00 1,020.00 Motor police pat. 700.00 700.00 Reprs. to apparatus 200.00 250.00 Reprs. and paint. 75.00 75.00 Rent of phones 230.00 230.00 Water rates 70.00 70.00 Interest 100.00 100.00 Keen of 1 horse 250.00 250.00 Ferry pass 75.00 75.00 Pro. office rent 300.00 350.00 Contingencies 1,000.00 1,325.00 Equipping men 300.00 300.00 \$70,123.37 \$94,936.25 Less police revenue estimated 6,000.00 6,000.00 \$64,123.37 \$88,936.25 Cost assessment and collecting 2 1/2 per cent. 1,380.37 2,346.47 \$75,483.74 \$96,282.00 1919 assessment 896,235.00 1918 assessment 75,483.74 Increase 820,751.26 The estimates were received and laid on the table.

The commissioner announced that he would name the new chief of police at the next meeting of the council. The report of the committee of the whole as already published was adopted.

A communication from Mrs. Mari West St. John, asking for \$100 from the city on account of an accident her, due to a fall on a slippery sidewalk in the West End in which it was claimed a writ was referred to the Commissioner of Public Works.

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