

## The St. John Standard

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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 carefully every 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 of 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. P. 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 on the other hand 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 of 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 expulsion 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 pay a country editor's weaknesses 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 so. It will cost 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 and while under the new accounting scheme it is possible to put through an entry on the books showing that this much remains to the credit of the Farm Settlement Board, the fact is, nevertheless, stands that the money is gone and all remaining is a paper asset. The Standard repeats 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 before very long.

## BAN LIFTED.

Telegraphic advices to local paper dealers state that the ban has now been lifted from waxed paper broad 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 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 us in cold than the Federal Administration ever did. Somebody ought to have thought of this plan before: it would have prevented a lot of blundering.

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 congress. 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 congress. Someone, probably Mr. Lloyd George, pointed out that a fifth

"great power" was a member of the anti-German partnership, and that to admit 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 or Pins.

(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 so "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 pincher 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 pincherfish.

## Wasting Public Money.

(Canton Times). The waste of the people's money is insignificant, however, when considered in relation to 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 form, is delayed because of a question of how many volumes of petition, counter-recommendations, and other useless forms that have to be gone through. Unless the self-conceit and snobbish officials are out of the way, the progress of the country will be continued to be impeded. After the progress of the military and naval affairs, 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 issues of the day will be on a discussion it cannot be too clearly understood, both in America and in this country, that the interchange of views is always connected with the personal attitude of the President but with the principles involved. The President is received on this side of the Atlantic both as a highly 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 reputation will be enhanced. Nor should it be forgotten that it has been the chief object of Germany to create dissension between the two great nations, and 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  
Hearts were.  
Once lived, for which they died;  
I longed to go to England,  
I longed to live in England,  
I longed to share her sorrowing pride.  
They lived so strong for England,  
They died so bravely for England,  
They're dying every day—  
The haunting music of their songs  
Their brave hearts will tell.  
Because they gave for England,  
Because they fought for England,  
Because they died for England,  
And died oh, none so well!  
—Juliet Whitten in Scribner's.

The Land of the Living.  
There be lands of the dead far over  
The sea,  
Lands that are shadowed with woe,  
Dead lands that we hear of far over  
The sea.  
Where cold winds of pestilence blow,  
I look all about me and hold up my  
head,  
My spirit is glad with thanksgiving,  
We're far, far away from the Land of  
the Dead,  
For we live in the Land of the  
Living.

O come let us sing a new song to the  
Lord,  
In a pasture field covered with snow,  
The Winter of God is a glorious sword  
That shields our great Eden from  
woe.  
We have wheat, we have meat, we  
have bread and a bowl of misgiv-  
ing.  
We're far, far away from the Land of  
the Living.  
For we live in the Land of the  
Living.

A BIT OF FUN  
It is the struggle to keep up appear-  
ance, 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 draw socks.

The Sting.  
The Editor—Why don't you want  
to umpire that game? Afraid of get-  
ting killed?  
The Reporter—No, I'm not afraid  
of death. But I don't want my obit-  
uary printed on the sporting page.  
Always Dictates It.  
Booth Tarkington 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 2. Some people call you for meals, and some ring a dinner bell and some ring a supper bell and then half to catch you anyhow. The reason people 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 cream.

Lunch is dinner with 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 person is, is by how awfully they say, Aint dinner redy yet?

Breakfast starts with dessert, such as a orange, and dinner and supper ends with it, such as pie if you're lucky. Some children eat a slice of bread and butter atter their dinner, jest to prove they aint full yet, even if nobody sed they was.

Course of his examination these ques-  
tions were put to the man:  
"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 nebber 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 a pawnshop."—Birmingham  
Age-Herald.

Worked Both Ways.  
"Well, sed the doctor, 'I hope you  
profited by my 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?"  
The Soldier—"Im 'im smell powder?  
Not much! 'Es a blinkin' 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—Yesir, but perhaps you  
was one of those fat head kinds that  
ain't worth a raise—Boston Trans-  
cript.

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 talk  
about me that I know of."

Wouldn't Refuse.  
Mother—Now, Freddie, at the party,  
when asked if you'd like to go, 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  
Times.

To Be Safe.  
The prime minister was reading the  
rough draft of her new contract.  
When she came to the paragraph  
providing that she should have trans-  
ported for herself, maid, dog and  
cat, she bent her head, she drew  
a line through the signor's name.  
"Just put that husband," she ordered.

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

## HARTLAND

Hartland, Jan. 20.—Mrs. W. R. Ross, of Mars Hill, spent a few days here last week as the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Charles B. Colwell.

Miss Treva 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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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 morning the police estimates for the present year were submitted by Commissioner Thornton. The proposed assessment for 1919 is \$26,236.91, 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 \$28,921.00, or an increase over last year's appropriation of \$22,762.63. The commissioner stated he had reduced the amount by \$16,125.75, and among the items cut 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 .....	2,000.00	2,000.00
1 inspector .....	1,800.00	1,800.00
1 detect. serge. ....	1,800.00	1,800.00
3 detectives .....	3,000.00	4,500.00
6 sergeants .....	6,570.00	9,340.00
10 constables .....	1,000.00	1,320.00
1 sergeant .....	1,000.00	1,000.00
41 constables .....	38,750.00	49,200.00
1 matron .....	800.00	800.00
1 B. & W. Insp't'r ..	800.00	1,050.00
Mrs. O'Leary .....	81.25	81.25

1 magistrate .....	\$50,158.37	\$73,781.25
1 police clerk .....	3,000.00	3,000.00
1 city const. clerk ..	1,700.00	1,800.00
1 city const. clerk ..	1,000.00	1,100.00
Pro. Com. salary .....	1,000.00	1,000.00
Pro. clerk's salary ..	550.00	600.00
Pro. Jr. clerk's salary	400.00	450.00
2 janitors .....	1,300.00	1,920.00
Annuit. W. W. Clark .....	800.00	800.00

Uniforms, 56 at \$50.00 .....	2,800.00	2,800.00
Oreanda, 56 at \$50.00 .....	2,800.00	2,800.00
Caps, 56 at \$5.00 .....	2,800.00	2,800.00
Med. attendance .....	100.00	100.00
Fuel .....	3,000.00	2,000.00
Light .....	275.00	350.00
Books and print .....	200.00	200.00
And sundries, two chauffeurs .....	2,000.00	2,000.00
Police patrol, one chauffeur .....	1,020.00	1,020.00
Motor police pat. .....	700.00	700.00
Reps. to apparatus .....	200.00	250.00
Reps. and paint .....	300.00	300.00
Tent of phones .....	250.00	250.00
Water rates .....	70.00	70.00
Interest .....	100.00	100.00
Keen's 1 horse .....	250.00	250.00
Perry passed .....	75.00	75.00
Pro. office rent .....	300.00	250.00
Contingencies .....	1,000.00	1,320.00
Equipping men .....	300.00	300.00

Less police revenue estimated .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Cost assessment and collecting, 2 1/2 per cent. ....	1,300.27	2,346.77
1919 assessment .....	\$75,483.74	\$96,295.00
1918 assessment .....	54,473.73	75,483.73

Increase .....

The estimates were received and held 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 for the city on account of an accident her, due to a fall on a slippery sidewalk in the West End in which she sustained a wrist, was referred to the Commissioner of Public Works.

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