

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1913.

MR. McNICOLL'S LETTER

Mr. D. McNicoll, vice-president and general manager of the C. P. R., who arrived in St. John yesterday on a trip of inspection of the new elevator and West Side facilities, comes at an opportune time. There are several matters touching the Canadian Pacific Railway's relation to the future of this port upon which definite information should be secured at the earliest possible moment. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy has been quoted as authority for the statement that all the C. P. R. steamers will come here direct next winter. Mr. McNicoll should have something to communicate as to that.

If reports are correct, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy stated to the people of Halifax, more than a year ago, that the Empress steamers would not come to St. John this winter. If he was familiar with the arrangements for the winter service of the Empresses, more than a year before that schedule went into effect, Mr. McNicoll, whose position on the C. P. R. is every whit as responsible as that of Sir Thomas, should know by this time what the C. P. R. will do a year hence. The plans of a great business organization such as that in which Mr. McNicoll holds office are not made in an hour or a day and it is safe to say that the C. P. R. vice-president at least has in his mind a fairly accurate idea of what next year may bring forth. In justice to St. John this idea, or so much of it as may fairly be given to the public, should be communicated.

Mr. McNicoll is quoted in an evening paper as saying that the new wharves at West St. John cannot be extended outward without "spoiling the harbor." Presumably his statement is fathered by the C. P. R. desire to get exclusive control of the West Side facilities. At present there is a neutral strip, 400 feet in width, in connection with the new wharves and the purpose in providing it was to permit any and all railways to have access to the berths. Such a provision was an eminently wise one and, whatever is decided upon in the way of extending the piers, nothing should be done that will at all interfere with it. It may be that one hundred or two hundred feet can be taken for extension purposes and sufficient room still left for other railways. If so all will be well.

In connection with this and other matters affecting harbor development it will be remembered that Mr. Swain, an expert engineer, is soon to come here to examine and report upon our facilities. While there can be no idea in advance as to what his report will be, it is not improbable that he may take the same view as Hon. Robert Rogers, who intimated that it would be unwise to develop the port in the interests of any one railway.

In the St. John of the future, unquestionably destined to be the Eastern gateway of all the great trans-Canadian railways and the Canadian winter, and possibly summer, freight port, it will be, even more than at present, necessary to allot our harbor front accommodation to the transportation companies in proportion to the traffic they give us. What the C. P. R. will get next winter should depend upon the quantity of business they intend to do here. If there is not sufficient accommodation for their steamers now, we should know how much more they expect next year and how they propose to utilize it. This information, to a very considerable extent, should be supplied by Mr. McNicoll. Would it not be a good idea for representatives of the city, or Board of Trade, to take advantage of his presence at this most opportune time, and find out, as nearly as possible, just what his company propose to do? Sir Thomas Shaughnessy has already gone on record. Mr. McNicoll should be equally frank.

THE NEW WEST INDIAN SERVICE.

The arrival in port on Tuesday, of the steamer Cobquid of the Royal Mail Steamship Company, marks the inauguration of the improved steamship service between Canada and the West Indies and, incidentally, shows that the Borden Government have implemented another of the pledges made to the electors of Canada.

To Hon. George E. Foster belongs the chief credit for the inception of the new steamship service which, it is hoped, will do much toward bringing Canada and the West Indies closer together for mutual trade.

The new service has its genesis in the signing of the agreement with the West Indies for a preferential interchange of trade. In connection with the agreement it was understood that arrangements should at once be made for cheaper cable communication with Canada and, at the same time, a more adequate steamship service, without which the trade agreement would be of little or no value. It is good news that both have been arranged for and that Canadian exporters will now be

able to take full advantage of the new tariff rates.

The Royal Mail Steamship Company, under whose contract the Cobquid comes here, is one of the oldest and at the same time most thoroughly modern steamship companies in the world. For many years it has been engaged in the West Indian and South American trade and, in that time, has built up a connection that should prove of valuable assistance to Canadian shippers, as it will be in a position to quote through rates of freight for Canadian goods to other ports than those of the West Indian Islands included in the preferential agreement.

The contract under which the steamers come here is for a five years service from St. John and Halifax to the colonies included in the trade agreement. This service is to be performed by four vessels, of which the Cobquid is the pioneer. They are to be in every respect modern and well equipped for both freight and passengers, capable of carrying 5,000 tons and maintaining an average speed at sea of between 11 and 12 knots. A particularly beneficial feature for the carriage of perishable cargo is that it will be transported between St. John and Halifax without increasing the shipping cost, as the rate between the two cities will be absorbed by the company.

The whole arrangement, taken in conjunction with the reduced cable rates, and the preferential trade agreement, shows that the commercial business of Canada is in good hands. New avenues of profitable trade are constantly being sought by the Borden Government which, unlike the Laurier attempts, will not be prejudicial to any Canadian interests. The judgment of the people of Canada in defeating reciprocity and placing a business Government in control of affairs is being daily justified.

A SHAMEFUL RECORD.

A shameful record for waste, extravagance and general inefficiency, if not actual craft, has been made by the Laurier Government in connection with the administration of the Quebec arsenal. Investigations have been held by the present Government and while not yet completed, enough has been brought to light to show that under Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia in the Laurier Government, the Quebec arsenal was largely regarded in the light of a huge, if expensive, joke.

Yesterday morning The Standard published an Ottawa despatch in which, among other things, it was shown that the merry men who, under Sir Frederick Borden's rule, drew salaries for services supposed to have been rendered in connection with the arsenal, apparently spent more time in drawing their money than in earning it. Laxity and inefficiency in every department was the record.

When Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes took charge of the Department of Militia and Defence he, having spent a life time in the militia, knew thoroughly the requirements, and it required but a very brief period of investigation to convince him that it was literally honeycombed with inefficiency and graft. The Quebec arsenal had not justified its existence and he speedily caused the Barlow Commission to be appointed to investigate conditions. This commission submitted a report of its findings which, stripped of all technicalities, shows:

Complete ruin of millions of rounds of ammunition through the employment of incorrect gauges after sworn testimony had been given by Liberal servants that the gauges in use were the standards approved by the British war office and authorized for use in Woolwich.

The use of inferior material in the manufacture of cartridge boxes, as a result of which 1,400,000 boxes had to be melted down as unfit to issue to the troops.

Incorrect methods of manufacturing shells—not one of those turned out at the shell factory being fit for use—and entailing a financial loss of \$100,000 in this department alone.

Steel and brass parts for ammunition wrongly made and useless—since condemned.

Plant and machinery allowed to run down and deteriorate through lack of proper attention.

No attempt at stock taking for thirteen years and a discrepancy of \$15,000 in the stores account.

Truly this is a pretty state of affairs, but it has existed under the Laurier-Foster-Sir Fred Borden regime for years. It plainly illustrates to the people of Canada just how good a thing it was for the country and for the safety of the lives of Canada's volunteer soldiers that the late administration was divested of power.

And the Quebec arsenal is but one of the instances of the rank negligence and utter incompetency shown in all departments of the public service. The Laurier Government died a violent death on Sept. 21st, 1911, but the country has not yet been purged of the maledictions of the past. One of these is the Quebec arsenal.

DIARY OF EVENTS

THE PASSING DAY

MEXICO'S REVOLUTION.

Three years ago tonight, Nov. 20, 1910, a shot was fired that was heard all over Mexico. It was the signal for the raising of the curtain on a tragedy that has startled and horrified the civilized world. Ever since that night Mexico has been the stage on which has been enacted a continuous performance of revolutions, with only now and then a brief respite for a shift of scenery and a change of cast. One actor after another has held the limelight, strutting the boards for a brief period of glory, and then vanishing from the scene. In this gigantic spectacle there has been no element of comedy, such as is popularly supposed to be the case with Latin-American revolutions. It has all been grim, deadly, ferocious. It has been war to the sword, and the sword to the hilt, with no quarter asked or given.

When the curtain went up, on that night three years ago, the stage setting showed the house of Aguirre, Serdan, in the city of Puebla, capital of the state of the same name, not far from the capital of the republic. Aguirre Serdan had plotted revolution. He was a patriot, and he loved liberty more than life. He had seen Mexico in "prosperous and civilized" Mexico of which we read so much in the press at that period—become the prey of a small group of men, cruel and unscrupulous. Porfirio Diaz, of the strong will and the iron hand, was a despot, but a despot who still had some conception of the meaning of the words justice and liberty. But Diaz was growing old. The iron hand could no longer maintain its grip, the strong will was faltering. Cunning men took advantage of the opportunity, and, preying on the weakness of age, divided Mexico among themselves. In Mexico, a man's home was no longer his castle. No woman was safe from violation. If she caught the fickle fancy of one in authority, the plunderer held vast tracts of the most fertile land of the republic, and the common people became their serfs. The prisons were filled to overflowing with men whose only crime was devotion to liberty.

So Aguirre Serdan, like many another, plotted against the government. The authorities, through one of their multitude of spies, learned of Serdan's defection, and the soldiers and police swooped down upon the house of the rebel. Serdan and his wife, Maria, Serdan's wife, Maria, and her three sisters, were within. The rebels realized that they were marked for death, and determined to fight to the last. Several of the officers of the law fell dead, and others were wounded. In the attack, before Serdan and his male companion were slain, Maria Serdan and her sisters seized rifles and revolvers, and continued the fight. Over the corpses of husband and brother they poured volleys after volleys into the attacking party. At length the door was battered down, and the first feminine revolutionists of the world were revealed.

The affair at Puebla was called a "riot" by the government, and attracted little or no attention outside of Mexico. In that country it was a diabolical call to arms, and soon armed bodies of rebels were marching over the land. For a time the outside world, ignorant of the depth and breadth of the uprising, confidently believed that the iron hand of Diaz would clutch the rebels and crush them. History has a different tale to tell. Soon it was "Ext. Diaz," and Madero strode upon the stage, while the orchestra, played at the audience's bidding. But soon the populace grew sullen and silent. A shot rang out, the curtain fell, and rose again to show Huerta, smiling, triumphant, standing in the place where Madero had been.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

SIR WILFRID LAURIER 72 TODAY.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the "silver-tongued" leader of Canadian Liberalism, will today mark his thirtieth anniversary of his first step toward confederation of the Provinces in which Wilfrid Laurier was destined for the role of political leader. When Sir Wilfrid was born Canada was just beginning the struggle for responsible government. The era of railroad building had not yet set in. The West was a rich granary supporting populous cities, was the habitation of the Indian and the buffalo, considered worthless for any purpose except hunting and trapping. The discovery of gold in British Columbia, which sent the California Argonauts rushing northward, was still in the future. Canada slept, and scarcely dreamed of her glorious opportunities.

The future Premier and Liberal leader was educated at McGill University and studied law with the late Hon. R. Laframme, Q. C. Soon after he was called to the bar he began his public career as a member of the Quebec Provincial Assembly. Three years later the young French-Canadian was elected to the Federal Assembly, where he soon became known as "Silver-tongued Laurier." He became a truly national figure in 1877, when he was given the portfolio of Minister of Public Revenue in the Mackenzie government. In the general elections of 1878, when the Mackenzie ministry fell and Sir John Macdonald was returned to power, Laurier was defeated. He was immediately afterwards elected for Quebec East. In 1891, on the retirement of Mr. Blake, he assumed the Liberal leadership in Canada. He was successful at the polls, and Mr. Laurier became the first French Canadian Prime Minister of Canada. He continued as Premier until his party was defeated, on the reciprocity issue, in 1911.

November 20 is also the birthday of Hon. Francis H. Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, 1894; and of Dr. Thomas Stephen Cullen, an American surgeon, at Bridgewater, Ont. (son of Rev. Thomas Cullen), 1868.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

His View.
 "Is marriage a failure?"
 "I wouldn't say that. But there are pleasanter ways of getting into bankruptcy."

Help.
 "Tragic, wasn't it?"
 "What?"
 "Helen was engaged to that aeronaut and they had a falling out."

Difference of Proposition.
 "I suppose your club members meet so that you can talk to one another?"
 "No," replied Miss Cayenne; "not to; about."

How He Knew.
 Hardepupe—Mrs. Boardman, I think nature intended you to be a bird.
 Mrs. Boardman—How's that?
 Hardepupe—I've never seen you without a bill.

Its Kind.
 "A candle is the most paradoxical of things."
 "In the city of Puebla, capital of the state of the same name, not far from the capital of the republic, Aguirre Serdan had plotted revolution. He was a patriot, and he loved liberty more than life. He had seen Mexico in "prosperous and civilized" Mexico of which we read so much in the press at that period—become the prey of a small group of men, cruel and unscrupulous. Porfirio Diaz, of the strong will and the iron hand, was a despot, but a despot who still had some conception of the meaning of the words justice and liberty. But Diaz was growing old. The iron hand could no longer maintain its grip, the strong will was faltering. Cunning men took advantage of the opportunity, and, preying on the weakness of age, divided Mexico among themselves. In Mexico, a man's home was no longer his castle. No woman was safe from violation. If she caught the fickle fancy of one in authority, the plunderer held vast tracts of the most fertile land of the republic, and the common people became their serfs. The prisons were filled to overflowing with men whose only crime was devotion to liberty."

Impossibility.
 "No man can serve two masters," observed the good person who was visiting the penitentiary.
 "I know it," replied Convict 1213. "I'm here for larceny."

Dry.
 Guzzler—"My life was a desert until I met you."
 Miss Caustique—"Ah! at last I have an explanation of your marvellous thirst."

Seeking A Check.
 "Show me something in the way of a small check," commanded Slopoy.
 "One minute," interposed the waiter. "Suppose you show me something of the same sort first."

Luck.
 "Did you enjoy the banquet last night?"
 "Yes. The man who was to have taken the flashlight picture got mixed up in an accident and was unable to be present."

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Its Effect.
 "Jim's engagement has had a queer effect on him."
 "In what way?"
 "First, it was broken off; then he was broken up, and now he is broken down."

Got Away With It.
 I suppose you were presented at court while you were in London, she inquired.
 Yes, replied he, I was presented twice; but was acquitted both times.

Did It Taste Any Different?
 "Waiter!"
 "Yes, sir."
 "What is this?"
 "O, I'm sorry, sir. That's one of the manager's phonograph discs. Sorry it got mixed up with your plate of pancakes, sir. It's a mistake, sir."

Unusual.
 "Yours is a very unusual case," said the doctor.
 "That's so, doctor? Will I recover?"
 "Oh, yes."
 "Then what is unusual about it?"
 "I don't seem able to find the slightest excuse to operate."

Last Word.
 "Who has the last word in your house?"
 "Henrietta," replied Mr. Meekton.
 "She states clearly and emphatically what she thinks. And that's it."

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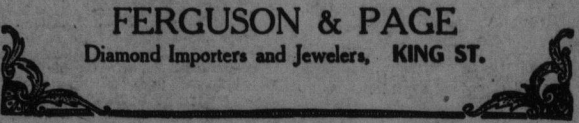


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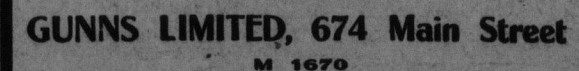
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TO REDUCE DRINK HABIT

Bill Introduced to Down Number of Bar One for Every Two Hundred Inhabitants.

Paris, Nov. 19.—The Chamber Deputies will begin tomorrow the session of the bill, already passed by the Senate, to limit the number of saloons and other establishments where the sale of distilled spirits is permitted.

The bill fixes the number of bars at one for every two hundred of inhabitants, while this figure is reached no bars may be opened.

Deputy Jules Siegfried, a Communist Senator and ex-Minister of Commerce in a report on the bill, declared that the consumption of alcohol has been appalling strides in the last half century and now averages 5.3 quarts pure spirit per head of the population which is equal to 12.2 quarts of liquor of commerce. There is one in France for every 82 inhabitants compared with one in 360 in the United States, one in 490 in England, one in 5,000 in Sweden, and one in 9,000 in Norway.

The effect of the bill will be greatly to reduce the number of bars in France from 480,000 to 200,000.

HUNTERS THOUGHT LOST ARE FOUND

Feared they were Wrecked in Storm on Lake Michigan—Ran Boat on Beach and Escaped.

Chicago, Nov. 19.—Six duck hunters who it was feared had lost their lives in Lake Michigan, after life and limb had been in danger for three days, found refuge north of Glenview where they ran their motor boat to the beach to escape the heavy storm. They escaped because they knew night when one of their number phoned to his wife.

ONCE WEALTHY, NOW REDUCED TO POVERTY

New York, Nov. 19.—Harry B. Hines, member of the now defunct once powerful stock exchange of H. B. Hollins & Company, testifies before a United States commission today at a hearing in the matter of the firm's bankruptcy that he had \$150 in the bank and no other resources. In September last, he said, when the firm was reorganizing he put \$300,000 in the business, which was lost in four months, he said there was dissension among firm members.

PERSONAL.

Montreal Star—Mrs. N. K. McNeil has returned to Ottawa, and is living with her mother, Mrs. W. S. McNeil. Mrs. and the Misses Fielding, who had been in Montreal, have just returned to Montreal to reside.

Mrs. Alfred Porter, who was expected home on Tuesday, has been detained in Montreal in consequence of the illness of her son Cecil, who is the victim of an attack of diphtheria which necessitated his removal to hospital.

It is now said C. H. Eason, who came manager of the Bank of Scotia in Toronto.

R. H. Blenckner, C. P. R. Superintendent, who is stationed in Montreal in the summer and in the winter, arrived in the city yesterday morning.

BUYS WESTERN COAL PRODUCE

H. J. Logan, ex-M. P. Amherst, returned from the west. Mr. Logan and George B. Purdie, M. P., are general managers of the Macdonald, Railway and Power Company, with associates from London, have purchased a large coal property near Edmonton, Alberta.

Aunt Sally's Advice to Beauty Seekers

Red Nose. The nose is a more delicate organ than most people imagine. It should be touched as little as possible. For undue redness the treatment recommended in following paragraphs will be found effective. Apply with rubbing.

Muddy Skin. The sanest, safest method of giving a clear, transparent appearance to complexion is to apply ordinary colloid wax every night for two to three weeks. This wax, obtained at any drug store (one ounce is sufficient), actually takes off a bad complexion by gently and gradually sorbing the thin veil of surface. The new skin then in evidence is fresh and velvety in tone.

The wax is applied like cold cream and washed off mornings.

Wrinkles. A harmless lotion as follows has been found very effective in cases of wrinkles and creases: Powdered azoxolite, 1 oz. dissolved in witch hazel, ½ pt. Put face this daily for awhile.

man's Realm.