

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 22 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.
THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY:
Henry de Clerque Malters Bldg., Chicago
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Freeman & Co. 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1920.

MR. VENIOT'S SPEECH.

About the only things that call for comment in Mr. Veniot's somewhat lengthy speech are the inaccuracies and the misrepresentations it contains. In his references to the Bill promoted by the Borden Government in 1912 for the construction of permanent roads, which he said had not been proceeded with, the hon. Minister told only half the story. Why did he not tell it all and run up to the fact that the Bill was killed by order of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who refused to let the Borden Government get the credit of so useful and acceptable measure. Every solitary Liberal in the Commons voted against the Bill, and the Senate, which at that time was preponderately Liberal, was told to do the same—and did it. That is the way the Liberal party treats progressive legislation when it has the opportunity and power.

Then, again, Mr. Veniot was absolutely wrong when he said that "the dog tax was an issue raised in York County by the hon. member (Mr. Hunter) and his colleagues against the Minister of Agriculture." The question was raised by some of the councillors at the behest of many country folks, who do not see any use in collecting and piling up a dog tax when there are already ample funds standing idle out of which to pay any claims for sheep destroyed. And the Minister of Agriculture foolishly went to the meeting of the Council and said he was willing that the tax should be dropped, as long as there continued to be funds enough without it to meet all sheep claims. He hadn't foreseen enough to see that the moment the tax is taken off, the number of mongrel curs will be as great as ever—was before the tax was put on. Nowadays a man does not let any mongrel curs run around his place, because he knows he will have to pay a dollar apiece for them, so he destroys them. Take the tax off, and he won't bother, and conditions will soon be as bad as ever they were before the tax went on. It is really most moving to see a public man of some of these councillors can get when they picture the hardship it is to compel a man to pay \$1 for the privilege of being allowed to keep "one faithful little dawg."

Mr. Veniot further said that the St. John Standard had said that "the present Premier probably would be sorry that the new form of bookkeeping made it impossible for him to conceal deficits as the old Government had done." The Standard said nothing whatever of the kind. It was the Premier who alleged that the old Government used to conceal deficits, and what The Standard said was that if that was so, how he must regret having discarded a system of bookkeeping under which that sort of thing could be possible. When it comes to concealing deficits, it is only necessary to go back to the years before 1908, when the practice was in its heyday, and the Government of which Mr. Veniot was so ardent a supporter was so adept at putting it into effect.

Again, Mr. Veniot complains that when the present Government came into office they found that much work had been done and not paid for. Does not that happen with every change of Government? An administration only remains in charge three or four weeks after being defeated at the polls, and it is impossible to clean up every thing, particularly when money may have to be borrowed temporarily to discharge obligations. When Mr. Veniot and his party go out of power at the next election, the same conditions will be found existing, only they will be worse, and more of it.

Mr. Veniot expresses his pleasure at the favorable comments on his work that have been expressed by newspapers supporting the Opposition. Does he expect these papers to say there has been no improvement in the condition of the roads? It is "undoubtedly a fact that a considerable amount of good work has been done on the roads, which are therefore improved thereby. With hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on buying and laying gravel and rock, what else could be expected but some improvement in conditions?

In conclusion, Mr. Veniot said he intended to go on spending money. This is one of the few really correct statements he made in the whole speech.

WASTE MATERIALS.

Some practical advice on the subject of spring house clean-up comes from less an authority than the United States Secretary of Commerce. This gentleman points out that the world has not yet reached the stage where it can indulge in waste without paying for it. With this in mind every housekeeper should beware of the extravagance that lies in the custom of burning or throwing away vast quantities of so-called waste materials.

"The lessons learned during the war should not be forgotten. The reclamation of waste is a problem which is not only fitted for our times, but for times of peace as well. It is a problem of such importance that it is essential that some means of effecting

the high cost of living should be found. Do not waste waste, but turn it back into the channels of commerce."

Every now and then someone arises to give us figures to show that within a comparatively short time we shall have no more pulp wood available for paper making. Yet there is enough waste paper in the world today, if it were systematically turned back into the channels of commerce, to keep us going indefinitely, even at our present rate of extravagance in the matter of printing. The same is true of rubber and metals of many kinds. It is estimated that every year millions of dollars' worth of such materials are burned or thrown away to rust or rot. It is likewise estimated that 90 per cent. of these materials could be reclaimed and converted to useful purposes. With the lessons of the war fresh upon us the present would appear to be an excellent time to inaugurate an individual waste saving campaign. It would pay the individual and it would have a beneficial effect on high prices, caused as these are in part by under production.

FREE TRADE CONSEQUENCES.

Just about the time the Independent Labor Party convention in London was passing a resolution in favor of abolition of customs duties on necessities, the Labor Leader, of Toronto, was publishing the following: "In discussing 'Wages and Tariffs,' Dr. P. W. Tassie, of Columbia University, talks of Protection in an article published in the Atlantic Monthly, in which he seems to be far from sure that Free Trade is the consistent and universal boon which he considered it when he was appointed chairman of the United States Tariff Commission by President Wilson. Speaking of the effect of introducing Free Trade in the United States, he says: "None the less, the change would be absolutely large. There would be shut-downs, attempts to meet the situation by lowering wages, strikes, slow transfer of laborers to other regions and other industries, business failures, empty mills and villages, a trying readjustment of prices, and probably of the general scale of money wages, hard times and uncertain employment."

"Again he says: 'So great are the difficulties of an abrupt shift from one industrial policy on another—the real ones, not the imaginary ones of universal collapse and perpetual ruin—that no country, it can safely be predicted, will ever adopt such a ruthless procedure. If a change takes place, it will be by slow and gradual steps; and the first steps will be for a short start in a new direction, not at the moment of such consequence. Meanwhile, the bulk of the established industries will be safeguarded. And within the range of the industries thus protected, it will remain true that wages can be kept high only as long as the protection is maintained.'"

The Hon. George W. Fowler seems to think that his position as a member of the Senate renders him superior to the laws of his country, which he is supposed to help to make. As a lawyer himself, he should know better. There is no law in this country which declares even Senators immune from being sued—though they may not be arrested during session—on a civil suit; and if they do not choose to appear when the case is called on, they cannot very well complain if judgment should go against them. There is altogether too much of the "Oh, any old time will do" principle apparent in the conduct of legal proceedings in this Province, and it does not tend to increase the respect which the public should have for legal procedure.

Mr. Pedlow, M. P., wants a provision inserted in the new Franchise Bill allowing voting to be carried out by mail, and instances the Argentine, where that sort of thing is in force. We don't need to bother about what they do in the Argentine. There was a bill put through the Legislature a few years ago that shall be nameless, to compile which the draughtsman went to the laws of Texas and Oklahoma and many other heatless places to find provisions to suit those who employed him. One sample of this sort of thing is enough.

While the consumption of liquor in the United Kingdom was 60 per cent. greater in 1919 than in the previous year, it was 35 per cent. less than in 1913, the last year of peace. During the war millions of men were in the army, subject to control and also out of the country. At the present rate of progress, next year should see the pre-war drinking record equalled, if not surpassed, unless the prohibitionists succeed in making a greater practical impression than they have to date.

In Birmingham, Ala., the efforts of the Overall Club to reduce the price of clothing have caused a demand for overalls which has sent their price from \$4 to \$6. The citizens of the Alabama town who wear these gar-

ments of necessity and not from choice, are not enthusiastic about enrolling in the Overall Club.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

WIDENING THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE.

(Vancouver World.) A franchise bill before the Ontario legislature recognizes an important principle not hitherto given general acceptance. It admits the principle of partnership in a family in respect to household or household municipal franchise rights.

Where a head of a family, either father or mother, owns property or is a tenant of property, all the other members of the family of legal age, whether sons or daughters, will be given the right to vote.

Previously in Ontario the franchise was extended to farmers' sons of age and living at home. This law will now be repealed and the more extended one substituted. According to the government spokesman who introduced the bill recently the government takes the view that the wife or daughter of a farmer living at home has an equal interest in the community with the father or son and, therefore, should have the franchise on the same terms.

It is proposed that the urban franchise should be granted on similar terms. Where the property is held in the name of the wife, the husband will have the right to vote.

Power Behind Government. (Victoria Times.) At the instance of a big corporation the Dominion Government has twice nullified provincial law regarding the rights of settlers in the Island railway belt and as the legislation has been re-enacted in the local House, we may look for a further application of the federal veto under the same corporate pressure.

Solution For H. C. L. (New York Sun.)

Governor Smith put his finger on the solution of the living cost problem when he proposed to settle a wage dispute with more pay for the workers provided they would increase their output and the employers would check their waste sufficiently to save the public from paying the increased wages in higher prices. Apply that sound rule to all industries and the advancing cost of living would stop dead short in its tracks. Let the economic principle work to its logical conclusion and the dollar and old dollar of wages more than earned, and the inordinate prices which have been mounting incessantly would turn sharply downward.

An Ambassador's Age.

(London.) Sir Auckland Geddes is by no means—as suggested in a London paper—the most youthful ambassador ever sent to represent this country abroad. Lord Granville was only thirty when he went to Petrograd as ambassador in 1804, and the appointment, despite his youth, was amply justified. The Russian ambassador in London prophesied that Granville would prove a failure. "Un ambassadeur jeune," he said, "ne fera jamais rien en Russie. C'est le vice du pays." But though Granville, during his whole career, is said to have lost over £200,000 at gambling, he returned from his mission during his two years at Petrograd.

The Joke on the Proletariat. Credit must be given Trotsky as an organizer. He is now applying to industry the same stern methods by which he whipped his armies into shape. With the aid of a new executive department of the Soviet, the Chief Committee for General Compulsory Labor, he is concentrating the male population, organizing it on military lines into a labor army, and actually making the lazy Russians work at high speed for twelve hours a day. The discipline is said to be precisely the same as in his army; in other words, the firing squad is the magnet of his labor engine. What a joke it all is on the proletariat, that thought it was going to work how, when, and as little as it pleased.

What He Swept.

A Spring Conversation. Hazel (to Myrtle)—And I say to Mazie, "You'll never get suited in a spring hat, Mazie," I says, "as long as you will keep slickin' your hair up out of sight. Why don't you do it down over your ears like all the other girls," I says "and show some originality!"

A BIT OF VERSE

SPRING.

Now Winter's winds are banished from the sky,
Gay laughs the blushing face of flowery Spring;
Now lays the land her dusky raiment by,
And dons her grass-green vest, for signal why
Young plants may choose themselves appareling.

Now, drinking tender dew of generous morn,
The meadows break into their summer smile,
The rose unfolds her leaves; and glad, the while,
In far-off hills the shepherd winds his horn,
And his white breeds the goatherd's heart beguile.

Now sail the seafarers over billowing seas
While carefree Zephyr fills the canvas fair.
—Melancton (tr. from the Greek by W. M. Hardinge.)

This Frees Your Skin From Hair or Fuzz

(Toilet Tip.)

The method here suggested for the removal of superfluous hair is quick and certain and unless the growth is extremely stubborn, a single application does the work. Make a stiff paste with some powdered talc and water; apply this to the hairy surface and after about 2 minutes rub it off, wash the skin and the hairs are gone. To avoid disappointment, be sure your druggist sells you talc.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I had a peeco of wood and I wanted to make it equal to a peeco of oblong, and I asked pop loan me his pen nife 7 times in vain, and I asked him the 8th time and he loaned it to me on account of properly being wore out saying No the fortieth times.

Being a 2 blade pen nife with one big blade and one little one, and I opened the big one and started to cut the peeco of wood, being a much harder peeco than what it looked from the outside, and all of a sudden wat did the blade do but brake rite in half, half sticking in the wood and half staying on the pen nife wate it belonged.

G wize, gosh, I thawt. And I quick closed wat was left of the big blade and opened the little one, and pritty soon I sed to pop. This little bladee a pritty good of a blade, ain't it, pop?

It's not neerly as good as the big one, sed pop keeping on smooking and reeding the spouting page.

Yes sir, pop, its better, I sed.
How dare you contedrick me in that manner, I say the big blade is the only good blade in the nife, sed pop.

Well maybe it used to be, pop, I sed.

Used to be your eye, it is rite now, hang it, sed pop, and I sed, Well G. gosh, pop, how can it be wen its break in half?

Wat sed pop loud as anything, and I sed, Yes, sir, this woods as hard as anything, do you think if I got the other half out it could be glued on agen, pop?

Come over heer, sed pop. Wich I did, and pop took his slipper off and put it on me, but not on my foot and not easy.

Sweetness and Light.

There has been a difference of opinion in the preacher's family in which six-year-old Elizabeth thought she got the worst of it. So at prayertime she was unhappy and resentful toward the world in general and her own ministerial family in particular. But she knelt at her mother's knee as usual and went through her usual evening petitions. Finally she prayed: "Oh, Lord, make all the bad people good."


Then as an afterthought she added: "And, God, if you can, please make all the good people nice."

Smith—"Is that chap, Brown, a relation of yours?"
Brown—"Only a distant relative."
Smith—"Very distant?"
Brown—"Well, rather. He's the oldest of fifteen children, and I'm the youngest."

Trying to Get Even.

"Your husband now spends all his evenings at home."

"Yes. He wants to get as much use out of the flat as possible before the landlord raises the rent again."



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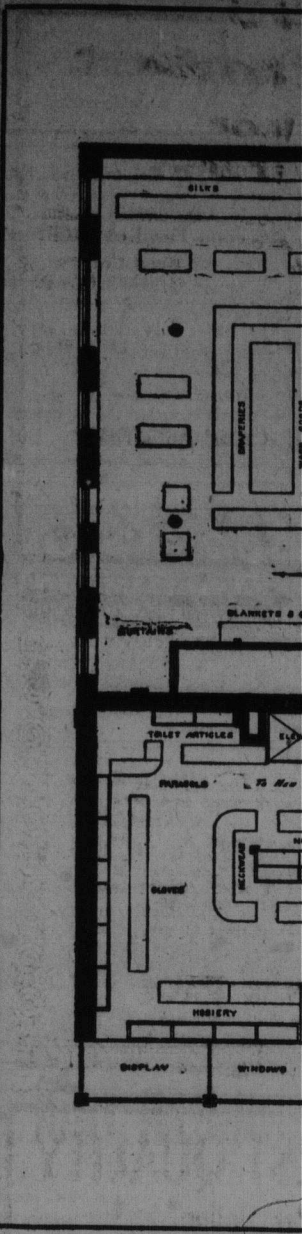
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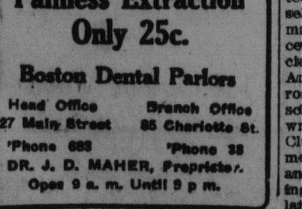
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