

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1912.

## CONDITIONS IN FREE TRADE ENGLAND.

Under the title "Free Trade England," the Globe, discussing recent trade statistics of Great Britain, arrives at the conclusion that tariff reform is making its headway in the Old Country and states that despite the recent serious industrial disturbance business is showing remarkable gains. After quoting the satisfactory increase in imports and exports for the first three months of the year the Globe continues:

"It is stated that employment is very good. The cotton trade, a very important industry, is booming. Exports generally are increasing. Shipbuilding is active. At the end of March there were in course of construction 545 vessels of 1,686,808 tons, an increase of 212,000 tons over the same period last year, and the largest ever recorded. Time for a change has not arrived in England."

While the picture which this statement presents would leave the impression that there is nothing seriously amiss in "Free Trade England," that industries are flourishing and that steady employment, good wages and prosperity reign supreme there is one feature of the situation which should not escape notice—the steady increase in the emigration of the British people to protected countries.

Trade returns afford a very imperfect indication of the true condition of the country, seeing that large figures of imports and exports may and do exist side by side with the most appalling poverty and distress. It was only recently, and coincident with the booming trade returns for the year 1911, that Mr. Lloyd George declared at Cardiff "There are millions of men and women and children in this, the richest country in the world, who, through no fault of their own, go through life sordid in poverty, wretchedness and despair." In the light of this admission by a Free Trade Chancellor of the Exchequer is it any wonder that last year saw a record of emigration from England's shores?

The common people in Great Britain, as elsewhere, are not much concerned with the buoyancy of trade returns, but they take a deep and abiding interest in the question of employment, wages and the cost of living. The official figures relating to the work done by British Labor Exchanges show that in the nine months from January to September of last year the number of applicants for a job and who got no job was 73,572. Mr. Chiozza Money, M.P., in a recent article entitled "The Recent Fall in Real Wages," says very truly that "the progress of a nation must chiefly be measured by the standard of life of the wage-earning classes." He shows that during the last fifteen years the wages of the British workman, as measured by their purchasing power, have fallen, and proves from official figures that while the money wages in certain trades have risen by about 12 per cent, food prices have increased by 18 per cent, so that real wages have decreased by 6 per cent. The wages of laborers, railway employees and casual workers have remained at practically a dead level, so that the decrease in the purchasing power of wages among these classes is much greater. Mr. Tennant, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade, informed the British House of Commons only the other day that no less than 40 per cent of the 7,300,000 persons in employment, of whom the Government had statistics, were so poorly paid that to bring their wages up to a minimum of 30 shillings a week would mean an annual charge of £38,000,000. It is an indisputable fact that there are in Great Britain over two million families, representing ten million souls, whose income does not amount to \$5 a week. In considering the conditions in "Free Trade England" today these facts and figures are very pertinent to the question.

Such important factors in a nation's life as low wages, lack of employment and the increased cost of living, can not fail to make themselves felt. The evidence is forthcoming in the official returns of emigration, which year by year establish a new record. For the last three years the balance outward in round numbers has been as follows:

	To Foreign Countries.	To British Possessions.	Total.
1909	58,000	82,000	140,000
1910	75,000	139,000	214,000
1911	51,000	211,000	262,000

These figures, which mean that nearly 1,000 people emigrate from the Old Country every day excluding Sundays, are a sufficient commentary on the statements of Free Trade advocates who maintain that there is no lack of industrial employment and that the trade returns are a true indication of the prosperity of the country. Such a state of things cannot be ignored. When a comparison is made with the statistics relating to wages, the cost of living and to emigration, in Germany, in the United States and other tariff countries there is no escape from the conclusion that the conditions in the Old Country today present a strong argument in favor of Protection.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE HOME RULE BILL.

The Irish Home Rule Bill did not pass the first reading without some criticism from its friends. The principal objections to the measure were provided by Mr. T. M. Healey and Mr. Wm. O'Brien, who both complained that the Asquith measure did not go far enough, and that the chances it afforded to Ireland of becoming a nation were remote.

The Asquith Government clearly had to proceed with a good deal of caution in framing the bill. Not only had the Nationalists to be placated but the effect of the measure on English constituencies had to be considered. One of the provisions, which limits the jurisdiction of the Irish Parliament, may be taken as a case in point. It is unusual in that it is distinctly an innovation in British constitutional law. This is the proposal to leave it to the courts, or to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to decide whether a given act passed by the new Irish Parliament is within its powers. Mr. Asquith explained in his speech introducing the bill that such judicial oversight of Irish legislation was felt to be a desirable and even necessary safeguard.

In addition to the list of subjects about which the Irish Parliament is specifically forbidden to pass laws, there is given a right of appeal as to the "validity" of any laws that may be enacted. This appeal lies, first, to the Irish Court of Appeal, and thence, if the matter be highly important, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Moreover, it is provided in the Home Rule Bill itself that any legislation in Ireland which is "repugnant" to the terms of the bill, "shall be null and void."

It will readily be seen that this opens a new field in English jurisprudence. The doctrine of the omnipotence of Parliament has never been questioned by Eng-

lish judges. It is true that Colonial legislation has sometimes been disallowed by the Privy Council, but this has not been in the regular course of judicial appeal and constitutional decision, such as is now proposed for Ireland.

## IN THE KLONDIKE.

Conditions in the Klondike gold region have undergone a great change since the days of the early mining activities in that region. Perhaps no adequate description of the change has been given in fewer words than by Justice Craig of the Yukon district, who spoke before the Empire Club of Toronto at a luncheon the other day. The speaker pointed out that Klondike camp had produced more in proportion of area than any other placer camp—eighty-five feet having produced a million dollars; that in one year was produced \$22,000,000 on which royalty was paid, but to this should be added another \$10,000,000 on which royalty was never paid.

These figures are interesting mainly in a statistical way, but the casually interesting points of Justice Craig's discourse had to do with the difference between Klondike mining of today and Klondike mining of years ago. Formerly, he is quoted as saying, unless mining claims produced thirty dollars per yard, they were not worked; now they are worked if they show seventy-five cents per yard. This tremendous change is attributed, not to any exhaustion of the supply of gold, but rather to the transition from the wasteful methods of the early mining to the more economical and businesslike methods of the present.

The statement attributed to Justice Craig that, whereas the city of Dawson in 1900 had a population of 30,000, it now has but 2,500, seems almost incredible, even when supplemented by the statement that whole streets of houses are now standing empty; but the fact that two large gold companies have taken in hand nearly all the claims, a large number of which formerly belonged to individuals who, with their associates, were on the scene and attracting other prospectors, may easily account for much.

Certainly the Klondike gold fields have come to be regarded as a matter of course, whereas formerly they created excitement which amounted almost to a furor. Meanwhile, year after year is demonstrating the endurance of the supply of the precious metal in that region.

## DEVELOPING A NEW INDUSTRY.

The London Free Press calls attention to the fact that the markets of Toronto, London and half a dozen other Canadian cities are being supplied to no small extent this year by the early grown vegetables of the southwestern counties of Ontario. The erection of large greenhouses has been the outward evidence during the last few years of an increasing and profitable business, but the stride taken within the last few months is remarkable and is explained by the fact that the growers have been assured of their market.

The fruit men of Essex County, Ontario, made no secret of their antipathy to the Reciprocity Agreement, knowing full well that the opening of the Canadian market to the products of the South, grown with cheap negro labor, would soon kill off their business. The defeat of the Agreement placed them on an assured footing, and the growth of the business since has demonstrated that they made a wise choice.

There is a practical suggestion for the New Brunswick farmer in this extension of the early vegetable business. There is an ever increasing demand for early vegetables, for fresh vegetables through many months of the year as possible. It will only be a few years, if the present demand increases, until the average home will be calling for what not so long ago would have been considered the delicacy of the rich man's table. The market to be supplied is a big one, and it has been secured to the Canadian growers by the action of the Canadian people.

## Current Comment

(Buffalo Express.)  
A woman rises at say, 5 o'clock—somewhat early, because she is to go at her housekeeping in earnest. She rolls up two heavy rugs to be taken away and cleaned. She takes down all the first-floor pictures and then gets her husband's breakfast. After breakfast she takes out all the cupboard and china closet drawers, washes all the windows, takes down the stove-pipe and cleans it, takes the stove doors off dusts the tops of drawers and mouldings, takes down and airs all the beds, washes the wood-work and veneers the places from which the polish has been worn, takes everything out of the clothes closets, goes over the closets with wet cloths, distributes moth balls in the pockets of clothing and goes through the man's desk and throws away what she finds that she thinks is useless. Then she makes herself presentable and gets husband's supper, and he brings a friend home to spend the evening.

(New York World.)  
We chew gum in America on account of nervousness and the dryness of our atmosphere, says a London medical journal. We also chew it because we like to have something going on in our heads that doesn't tire our minds. Also because in company it saves making conversation; also because we don't get exercise enough in other ways; also it lends a free and easy grace and innocence to the face; also because we must bite on something, after the fashion of the olden world. The world is full of sunshine, of laughter, cheers and grins, and the umpire feels just lovely when the home team wins.

(Calgary Herald.)  
One cause of the high cost of living is ascribed by butchers testifying before the U. S. food investigation to the demand for fancy cuts. "Nobody wants the rough outs, and the class that used to enjoy corned beef, pot roasts and so on now wants porterhouse." It was noticed a few years ago that when a temporary demand for the cheaper grades of meat set in the price was immediately marked up. If everybody asked for pot roasts they would be dear enough.

(Medicine Hat News.)  
The festive little house fly is already with us again. Do you know where he came from? We'll tell you. From that winter accumulation of garbage in the back yard. Flies are hatching there now. Cleanup day can not come too soon.

(Ottawa Journal.)  
According to the life boat accommodation on the Atlantic liners, every hundred passengers are expected to include sixty people who could swim, in case of a need, two or three hundred miles.

(Victoria Colonist.)  
Some ingenious fellow has been figuring out that parliamentary oratory costs the people of this suffering country about 2½ cents per word. It comes high, but we must have it.

(Toronto News.)  
"Women all like a strong shoulder upon which to lean." This is Laura Jane Libbey's opinion. Man's preference for leaning purposes is a telegraph pole.

(Detroit Free Press.)  
A medical work 7,000 years old is said to describe appendicitis and its treatment. And the surgeons charge for it as though it were new stuff.

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## Most Anything

### THE DOPER.

Bill Jones was always sickly,  
On the floor,  
His liver was all spotted,  
And his head  
Had a ringing and a buzzing  
Night and day  
Which assured him he would soon  
Be laid away.

So he doped himself with lotions  
Every hour,  
And the patent juices drenched him  
Like a shower.  
Every day the mail-man brought him  
To his door.  
A bottle filled with stuff  
Not tried before.

There were bottles on the shelf and  
Every day he drank one up and  
Called for more.  
He kept pouring liquid shockers  
Down his throat.  
Till he had more stuff in him  
Than a goat.

And one day Bill died and doctors  
Took a knife  
And sliced him up to satisfy  
The doctor.  
They stabbed him and they jabbed him  
With a fork.  
And they found that his whole carcass  
Was a cork.

The Old Cowman Speaks.  
I ain't a very religious man, though  
My life on the open range  
Has given me a streak of reverence  
—if I hadn't it sure'd be strange.  
But it seems to me I'd lift my hat  
And make some sort of prayer  
If I felt the breath of the first  
chinkook sweep over the prairie  
there.

There ain't a hint of a tricklin' stream  
in any coulee or draw.  
The sting is in the northern winds  
that lash your face till it's raw.  
The time is past for the first chinkook  
—spring's message is overdue—  
And the cold breath of the first  
chinkook where the snowy shades  
are blue.

The cowman ain't the complainin' kind  
—though from me it might be vain—  
And kickin' because the cards fall  
wrong ain't ever been in his line.  
But I could rustle a maverick prayer  
—though from me it might be vain—  
If I felt the breath of the first  
chinkook steal over the ice-bound  
plain.

Och, it's fun to be the umpire when  
the home team wins. You do not  
feel pop bottles bouncing off your  
aching shins. The routers do not jeer  
at you and try to get your goat; no  
hen fruit stains are tattooed like  
a rainbow on your coat. You can ride  
down in the street car and the boys  
will smile at you, and none has  
a fancy that your eyes are better blue.  
Oh, the world is full of sunshine, of  
laughter, cheers and grins, and the  
umpire feels just lovely when the  
home team wins.

People of the rural districts come  
to town to order pumpkin pie in a  
restaurant.  
There's talk of removing the mint  
from San Francisco. But they'll  
never remove it from the Julep.

Coal gas was first used for lighting  
just 100 years ago this month.

**DREAMSTICKS**  
LENA SAN THE STRANGER  
LOOK FIRST AT HIS WATCH  
AND THEN AT THE TOWN  
CLOCK, WHEN SUDDENLY HE  
TURNED AROUND AND CAME  
UP TO HER WITH THIS  
QUESTION: IF A NEW PICKED  
UP TACKS ON A BARN FLOOR,  
COULD SHE LAY A CARPET?  
HOW DARE YOU? OFFICER, OFFICER!

## HOTEL ARRIVALS.

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er, Tyomouth Creek; A. J. Paterson,  
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Moncton; A. E. Harman, Port Fairfield,  
N. B.; W. L. Dean, Amherst; J. H. Mc  
Kinnon, Truro; Jas. Steele, G. M. Thi  
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drews; W. J. Kempthorne, Toronto; E.  
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Vancouver; O. Reedy, R. Benson, Ban  
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Myles, New Mills; L. C. Haley, Wind  
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Own Paper, an English magazine, that  
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terature for countless thousands of  
English-speaking youths all over the  
world, there is an interesting article  
on Canadian railways, in which men  
tion is made of the Intercolonial Rail  
way's Ocean Limited Express. A half  
tone illustration shows this famous  
train speeding across the shores of  
Bedford Basin, and there is a descrip  
tion of its fine equipment, the scenery  
on the route, and a fitting comment  
on the average speed maintained, with  
the information, interesting to British  
readers, that the Intercolonial Rail  
way is owned by the people of Cana  
da, and operated by the government.  
The article is made additionally inter  
esting and instructive by the compar  
isons made between British and Can  
adian railways and the differences  
that exist in traffic conditions.

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