

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1922.

THE GREAT FIRE.

Today is the forty-fifth anniversary of the great fire in St. John, which those who remember it will recollect destroyed about two-fifths of the property in the city and caused a loss of nearly \$30,000,000. While at the time it was regarded as a serious calamity, as it most assuredly was for the immediate sufferers, it at least made way for the carrying out of many much needed improvements. As a consequence we now have several fine streets, flanked with handsome, solidly-built buildings, which are not surpassed by any other city in the Dominion. It is probable, of course, that these fine streets and handsome buildings would have come anyway, but their coming would have been very gradual, and the city would not have enjoyed the increased convenience and consequent prosperity that has fallen to its lot during the last forty years.

A walk around many sections of the city will show that there are ample opportunities still remaining for just such another catastrophe as took place forty-five years ago. Our fire fighting appliances may be as modern and up-to-date as it is possible to get, but even they would be of little avail if the fire found once got a real hold of some parts of the city. In the present congested condition of the housing situation, and owing to the great lack there is of sufficient accommodation, many tenements are perforce in use that should be removed. Some fine day they will be removed, but not in a manner most convenient to the occupants. It is time that wooden structures were forbidden erection in any part of the city, because under any conditions they must be more or less of a menace.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

One of the most important industrial organizations in Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, opens its annual convention at St. Andrew's this morning. This is the first time since 1913 that this convention has been held in the Maritime Provinces; and while there are reasons which might have made it perhaps more appropriate that a convention of manufacturing interests should meet in an industrial centre, the lack of sufficient hotel accommodation in any other town in the province makes such a happening impossible. However, at St. Andrew's, business and pleasure can be combined, possibly to the advantage of both.

The scope of the Association's activities is naturally very wide, and takes in practically every branch of industry. The reports of the various sections are highly interesting and instructive, and contain a vast amount of information. There will be published as they are presented. Not the least interesting report should be that which deals with the visit of the association to the West Indies last winter, with the object of obtaining first-hand information as to the possibilities for trade expansion in the islands. Our manufacturers are vitally interested in new market possibilities, more particularly since those of the United States have become practically closed to them.

The annual address of the President of the Association is always looked forward to with pleasure as a valuable summary of trade conditions. It ranks pretty much in the same category as the annual reports of the presidents of some of the larger banks, though the latter while treating of general business conditions deal more particularly perhaps with the financial side of matters, a very important side no doubt, but one of less concern to industrial organizations than matters more nearly treating of trade conditions. In view of the fact that the President this year is one of St. John's most prominent business men, Mr. W. S. Fisher, the Presidential address this year will be read with more than usual interest and pleasure by Maritime readers.

THE IRISH CONSTITUTION.

From such indications as are available so far, it looks as though the Irish Constitution has been approved by a majority of the voters, although the full returns of the voting will not be available until tonight. It may be doubted, however, whether the Republican sympathizers under DeValera will accept the verdict of the majority, and unite with them in making the new form of Government a success.

A careful consideration of the terms of the Constitution must convince an impartial critic that while they may not be absolutely perfect in every way, they at least are an honest and by no means an unimproved

attempt to provide a workable scheme of Government which should meet with general approval. If the Irish Free State does not flourish as those who have planned its inception hope for, it will not be for lack of well thought out fundamentals. Aside from the provision for an oath of allegiance to the Crown by members of Parliament, there is little in the draft which might not find a place in the constitution of an independent republic. Executive authority is vested in the King, but, as in the case of Canada, this authority is attenuated into a symbol of imperial unity. To aid and advise the representatives of the Crown there is provision for a cabinet or executive council of twelve ministers, and the arrangements in regard to this part of the working machinery are of an altogether uncommon type.

Of these twelve ministers, four are to represent the Chamber of Deputies or Lower House. The President of the Council is to be first chosen by the Chamber, and he will in turn nominate the other three members. The remaining eight members must be eligible to the Chamber but not members of it, and are to be nominated by a committee of the Chamber, and should represent the State rather than parties. These eight are to head the executive department, and are not obliged to resign upon a vote of want of confidence as are the four chosen from the Chamber, who hold office without portfolio and are alone responsible for external affairs. This arrangement has an obvious advantage over the prevailing system under which the whole Cabinet goes out and baggage upon a vote of want of confidence. In England such a division between the inner Cabinet and the heads of departments grew up during the war, though the political truce prevented the raising of the question of resignation. The proposed Irish constitution is calculated to give entire freedom for a change of ministers at the will of the Chamber, with the minimum of disturbance to the conduct of affairs.

Altogether the Constitution as drafted seems to be as democratic as it well could be consistent with due regard for efficiency and stability of Government. Ireland's problems cannot, of course, be solved by a paper constitution, no matter how well it may be drafted; but a good constitution at least favors a good start.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Another very important organization, the N. B. Women's Institute also opens its annual convention today. This is an organization that has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception ten years ago, and its activities now extend into almost every parish in the province. The work which it undertakes is not perhaps so spectacular as that of many other organizations, but it is of far more importance and benefit to the community. The home, after all, is the cradle and centre of civilization, and the successful home-maker is doing more for the good of the race than any other agency.

Some very capable and very interesting speakers are due to address the convention, and the programme prepared covers a wide range of subjects; some perhaps not of any particular bearing on women's occupations, but otherwise of interest and importance. With a good attendance of members, the convention should prove both pleasurable and profitable.

"THE AUDACITY OF THE HOHENZOLLERN."

Wilhelm, Count Hohenzollern, ex-Emperor of Germany has written a book, the publishing rights of which have been secured by a syndicate of United States newspapers at considerable cost. The man who was to have been hanged for his crimes and many said hanging was too good for him. At another time he was not only to be hanged, but it was suggested that before hanging he should be carted through the Allied countries in a cage for the public to peep at.

Instead, as the London Free Press points out, after a master of four short years, the author of ten million deaths of men on the field of battle and of untold millions of women and children everywhere, with misery on misery compounded the world over, is to receive his author's "right" in a book the contents of which are at this time attractively advertised as:

"An intensely personal vivid detailed narrative, all in the first person, holding the attention from start to finish with just one climax after another, a magnificent serial."

"The audacity of the Hohenzollern," says the Free Press, "is comparable only with the mendacity of the times."

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WHAT OTHERS SAY

Lying Contest in Sight
(Windsor Tribune.)
Another of Mr. Motherwell's chicanes has come home to roost. It appears that when he was a candidate he said he would use his best endeavors to have Mr. Carvell removed from the chairmanship of the Railway Commission, and would move a resolution in the House of Commons if he were elected.

There need not be very much doubt about the popularity of this pledge in Regine, and very likely it won Mr. Motherwell some votes. Mr. Motherwell is now a cabinet minister, and has done nothing to redeem this pledge, nothing at all events, that his constituents know anything about. Some pointed inquiries were made in the House of Commons as to why he had done or had not done in reference to this pledge.

The explanation given by Mr. Motherwell was peculiarly characteristic and also characteristically peculiar. He said when he made the statement about Mr. Carvell he was a private citizen, but he was now a cabinet minister, and the position carried responsibilities.

When he made the statement he was a private citizen, but he was a private citizen appealing for public position on the strength of this and various other statements that he made. Surely Mr. Motherwell does not mean to infer that such a position implies no responsibility that cannot be afterwards shirked and evaded, and when the position in his eyes justifying the repudiation, is the direct consequence he was seeking for votes. This would not public office in open and unshining disregard of private honor, and make of an election campaign, straight lying contest between the candidates.

Mr. Motherwell has a strange view of duties and responsibilities of representative position. There is one thing about him. He does not pay any tribute to virtue by hypocrisy. But if things go on as they are doing, he will, no longer, have a peculiar assortment of very awkward looking towel perched in his barnyard.

A Real Grievance

(London Free Press.)
Hon. Archibald Leitch, as Speaker of the House, was perfectly correct in ruling out of order the subamendment to the Fielding budget moved by Hon. T. A. Cresser. His only duty as Speaker is to interpret the rules and regulations of Parliament as established by precedent, and all precedent in the Canadian Parliament was to the effect that only one amendment can be moved to a budget resolution.

However, the Progressives have a real grievance, and the Parliamentary procedure should be changed to meet the changing conditions. There are now three parties in the House, and whether people like it or not the situation has to be recognized, and the House must permit a third party to state its position on such an important matter as the budget is ridiculous. Parliament is its own master, and if precedent is against a rule, it can be changed. A new precedent must be established. All precedent must have a starting point.

"An Important Party"

The consuming zeal for a definite programme, the expressed determination to gain reforms at Ottawa, that militant, apostolic fervor that marked the Progressive campaign for election, all have faded into an apparent docile acceptance of impotence. In so far as Cresser has led the party it has moved weakly or not at all.

Sounds Like The Truth

(New York Globe.)
James M. Beck is reported in London despatches to have told the Oxford Union "that the American was unanimous in the opinion that Wilson should not have gone to Paris," and that "we think that the European states would have made a quicker and better peace if he had stayed home."

Nothing Like Principle

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)
Lindsay Crawford, who is described as the president of the Self-Determination for Ireland League of Canada, wants the Governor-General to convey to the British Government the feeling of indignation which has been aroused over the failure to protect the Catholic minority in Belfast. Lindsay is hard to please. He insists upon the right of the Irish people to govern themselves without any interference from the British Government; yet when the Irish people begin to exercise the right of self-government by "repealing" each other, he wants his indignation formally reported to the British Government for not interfering. There seems to be no doubt, however, about his indignation.

Home-Brew Banned

(Hamilton Herald.)
By a stroke of his pen Hon. W. S. Fielding has extended the scope of prohibition in this country and brought chagrin and resentment into thousands of Canadian homes.

Up to the present the rigors of prohibition of the liquor traffic in seven of the nine provinces of Canada have been somewhat mitigated by the fact that the brewing of beer in homes, for domestic use only, has been allowed under special permits. Now that privilege is withdrawn. Thus one more queer anomaly is added to our anomalous system of prohibitory laws. Ontario housewives are at liberty to make wine for family use, but they are forbidden to brew a mild malt beverage having an alcoholic content of four per cent!

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Mr. Jones next store couldn't go out and play tennis with pop this afternoon so pop took me out to give her another lesson, me going with them partly to watch them but mostly to run after the tennis balls on account of the way me hits them, with this afternoon she hit them even more that way than usual, and after a while pop started to look as if he was sorry he wasn't playing with Mr. Jones and all of a sudden me hit one so high it went all the way over some trees out of site, pop saying, "Hurry up, Benny, keep your eye on it, those balls are expensive."

Me running around in back of the trees and some kid was standing there holding the ball with a expression as if he was wishing nobody wouldn't come for it, me saying, "Hey, did you just find that?"

Yes, lets have a catch, the kid said, and I said, I got to go back with it, they need it, and he said, Aw, wait the matter, I found it for you, didn't I, come on, have a catch.

Well, all right, a short one, I said. Me feeling like a catch anyway, and we started to have one, the kid being a middle size kid with freckles and a pretty good of a catcher, and I forgot I was only going to have a short catch and started to have a long one, and after a while who came around the trees but pop, me quick saying, I was just coming, pop, in another minute I'd be in there.

I thaw you needed some help to find the ball, but now that me found I mite as well join in the catch, pop said.

With he did, and we me and him went back me was reading her magazine on a bench, pop saying, "Don't you think its getting too dark to play any more?"

Well, maybe it is, me said. It took a long while to find that ball, she said, pop not saying whether it did or not, and we all went home to supper, being stake under onlons.



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THE LAUGH LINE

Travel Stimulants
A prize has been offered for a slogan that will stimulate travel. In the meantime, the Eighteenth Amendment seems to be doing pretty well—Life.

The Car Ahead
"John, you've promised and promised to get me a runabout." "I will, my dear, one of those days." "Humph! Your present is always in the future."—Boston Transcript.

A Relic
She—"What is this dark hair doing on your coat?"
He—"That is the suit I wore last year. I expect the hair has been on it ever since you were a brunette, dearest."—Judge.

A Pair of Suspenders
He—"Why not give me your reply now? It is not fair to keep me in suspense."
She—"But think of the time you have kept me in suspense."—Boston Transcript.

A Limited Enlightenment
"I speak it's a lucky thing," said Uncle Eben, "that the world doesn't have to depend entirely for its enlightenment on what Congress does found out in 'vestigations.'"—Washington Star.

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A Chance to Boost
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"I consider it desirable," replied Senator Sorghum, "to offer the suggestion so that my friends can show how difficult it would be for the nation to get on without me."—Washington Star.

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