

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1921.

CALL TO THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Periodically for months past we have been urging upon the Conservative party in this city and province, to begin the work of organizing its working forces in readiness for the general election that must come in the not distant future. As far as we have been able to judge our exhortations in this regard have been of as much effect as a voice crying in the wilderness. Nothing appears to have been done, and as likely as not, nothing will be done until the writ is issued, and there will be the usual hurry and scurry to get into working order, with the natural result that when polling day comes, the working forces are about twenty-five per cent. deficient.

The Standard does not pretend to have any particular influence with the Conservative party. Senator Thorne has, and while the party has paid no heed whatever to the suggestions we have made from time to time, it will probably heed what he has to say. In another column will be found a resume of the Senator's ideas upon the present political situation, which it would be just as well for the party to take note of and act upon. His advice is to get busy with as little delay as possible. His suggestion that a general convention of the party in the province be called at an early date to consider the whole situation is, to say the least, a very wise one, and if the party leaders are not wholly lost to all sense of responsibility, they will take steps to act upon it. Conservative candidates in this province are not going to be elected by acclamation, and it would be as well for their supporters not to forget this fact.

THE MARITIME PROVINCES

The position in which the Maritime Provinces find themselves in regard to the remainder of Canada is providing serious food for thought among the people who reside in them. Apparently in the view of the authorities at Ottawa, Canada begins at Quebec and ends at the Rockies. But when anything is wanted for the betterment of that part of Canada, the Maritimes have to provide their quota of the cost. Take the railway situation for instance. That portion of the Government system which runs through these provinces pays—or very nearly pays—its way. At least 15,000 miles of railway has been built during the past few years in Ontario and the Western provinces, which is being operated for the benefit solely of those provinces, at a loss of a million dollars every week. This is no fault of the Maritimes, yet they have to shoulder their proportion of the burden, notwithstanding that they get no advantage whatever from these roads.

These roads are not even used to provide trade in the country. There is nothing being done to stimulate a home market for Canadian produce and goods. Every effort is directed towards finding markets outside the country. This is well enough in its way, but why not endeavor to encourage inter-provincial trade? If there is any trade to be done, as far as possible it is to be done and go across the border, rather than from one province to the other. Very little trade passes between the Maritime provinces and the remainder of the country, and nothing is being done to improve conditions. How is it to be expected that the provinces can progress as they ought to, if they are deliberately handicapped by succeeding governments?

SELF-DETERMINATION

A correspondent in The New York Times pertinently asks the National Council of the Friends of Irish Freedom, which is demanding that Great Britain and France surrender their American islands and territory as part payment of war indebtedness, how they make this request jibe with the principle of self-determination. He points out:

"In accordance with this principle, which the Friends of Irish Freedom have always professed to uphold, would France and Great Britain surrender the territories in question and the inhabitants thereof without consulting them and at the demand of another government as compensation for whole or in part of a debt contracted by the French and British Governments acting in the name of the native people?"

It is hard to understand how so many American papers could have taken the proposal seriously. Great Britain could not and would not think of such a scheme without the consent of those concerned. As a matter of fact there is a movement on foot at the present time to form a federation of the islands and to establish a responsible government forming a new self-governing Dominion.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Editor St. John Standard,
 St. John, N. B.

Dear Sir:—Recognizing the injustice that has been done New Brunswick in the appointment of an Ambassador, Nova Scotia man as a New Brunswick Senator, I would suggest, in order that good feeling may continue to prevail between the two provinces, that The Standard present the name of some party as well qualified to fill the position as our own "Timmy" McDonald, to succeed the late lamented Hon. A. B. Crosby, before our friend "Mac" I am not even waiting the burial of the deceased before putting my suggestion on file.

Yours, A Former New Brunswicker, now
 Yours, A NOVA SCOTIAN,
 Amherst, N. S. Mar. 11th, 1921.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Self-Determination.
 Ten counties in Idaho threaten to secede and establish a separate state. By this application of the "self-determination" theory about every resident in the state would be an officeholder.—Vancouver Province.

Hotel Profits.
 It is interesting to learn, in face of the predictions that prohibition of the open bar would spell the ruin of hotels everywhere in the province, that the King Edward hotel in Toronto has during the past year earned 35 per cent. on its capital, these figures being arrived at after providing for all costs of operation, taxes, salaries, maintenance, and all expenses except depreciation, reserves and any sum that may become payable under the income tax. The sum applicable to dividends represents 14 per cent. on the investment.—Ottawa Citizen.

Entitled to Special Help.
 There may be some reason in saying that a veteran who has full use of all his limbs and faculties, just as he had before he went overseas, should resume the status of an ordinary citizen, but armless or legless veterans are permanently handicapped. Their disability entitles them to special help.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

A BIT OF VERSE

A SONG OF HOME.

Here is my kingdom—here within these walls;
 Such narrow walls, and yet they bound me wide—north, south and east and west—
 The highest mountain top and farthest sea.

A little kingdom, bounded by four walls,
 And yet within its narrow space I see
 The tender eyes of him my heart calls king,
 A little child who waits beside my knee.

A lowly kingdom, yet 'tis set about
 With moat and wall and guarded by those strong walls the warder, love, keeps watch
 Over my little kingdom of content.

What matters, then, the burden of the day?
 Dear heart, what matters anything to me
 If I can touch your hands at eventide
 And hold a little child upon my knee?

—Florence J. Hadley.

Boycott Head Is A Strange Hindu

Peculiarities of Gandhi Who Leads Activity Against British in India.

London, March 13.—Mohandas Karmachand Gandhi, who holds such sway over a certain section of the Indian people and who has been heading the anti-government boycotts in an attempt to force home-rule in India, is 51 years of age with graying hair, unflinching, truthful eyes and slim eloquent hands, says a correspondent of the Daily Mail.

The writer continues: "His voice is low-pitched and monotonous, yet pleasing, whether in Gujarati or English."

"He is married and has four sons. Gandhi lives in Ahmedabad, the big mill center, where he has founded a settlement for the culture of truth in poverty and for handweaving, and primitive agriculture."

Not a Priest.

"Gandhi is not, as is commonly supposed, a Brahmin of the priestly caste. He belongs to a Kshatriya, or trading caste, family resident in Kathiawar. He descends from politicians. His political mind comes from his father, who was a Dewan, or chief minister, of the state of Porbander for 25 years."

"Gandhi's genius lies in making lost causes live. To his disarming sweetness of a saint he adds all the arts of the advocate. In South Africa, he marched even General Smuts, they sparred for years over Indian claims without quarrelling."

Diet Experimenters.

"If Gandhi has a hobby, it is experimenting in diet. Eighteen months ago he had reduced his daily food to

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Us fellows was going to start up a game of something, and we went around to look for Puda Simkins and he was sitting on his front steps with his hand up to his face and a sad expression on it, saying, O boy maybe I ain't got a heck of a car, ake, O boy.

With us fellows started to say things to make him feel better, Sam Cross saying, You aw; to be glad it ain't in both ears, Puda, it must be feared in both ears.

His fears in one, sed Puda.

Aw O, Puda, think of something cheerful and forget it, jest suppose you had a broken leg in 3 places, think how much more worse that would be, I sed.

Nothing could be any more worse, wats the use of thinking, sed Puda.

It will all be the same in a million years, Puda, theres no use worrying, sed Sid Hunt.

I don't expect to be here in a million years, sed Puda.

Well cheer up, Puda, you can only die once so it mile as well be now, sed Skinny Martin.

Id like to see you cheer up with a tooth ache, you long legged proen, sed Puda. Being a heck of a way to insult somebody trying to make him feel better, and Skinny sed, Whose a long legged proen, jest for that I got a good mind jest to leave you suffer.

And us other fellows sed, Gosh Puda, its a wonder you wouldn't use a little gratitude wen people try to sympathize with you, heck Puda, if thats the way yours going to talk you deserve to have a tooth ache and its a wonder you didnt get one long ago, G Puda, gosh, holy smokes, Puda.

And we went and started a game of Cops and Robbers and left him there to sympathize with himself if he wanted to.

four ingredients, wheat, vegetables, a little oil, and fruit, and he became very ill. He now takes goat's milk and salt, but not cows' milk or butter.

"He never sees a debtor, never gives evidence against an enemy, always travels third-class, the some of discomfort in India, and always goes barefoot. He can sleep when he likes and he dispenses with sleep for long periods at will."

"India's humble masses, saturated with ancient Hindu philosophy, have long imagined a saviour who should unite earthly practice to divine precept. The key to Gandhi and Gandhiism is wrapped in his self-revealing sentence: 'Most religious men I have met are politicians in disguise; I, however, who wear the guise of a politician, am at heart a religious man.'"

Wireless From South America To Paris

Buenos Aires, March 13.—Wireless communication between Buenos Aires and Paris is a promise of the not distant future. The Government has granted a concession to the General Wireless Telegraph Company of Paris to construct on the Argentine coast a powerful radio-telegraph and radio-telephone station to communicate with France and other European countries. The company, it is stated, expects to establish telephone connection with Paris by a system of continuous waves of 800 kilowatt power and over.

O. B. U. EDITOR DEAD
 Winnipeg, March 13.—John Houston, editor of the One Big Union Bulletin died yesterday in St. Boniface Hospital after an illness of over three months. He was 64 years of age.

Mrs. Grace Lang
 The death of Mrs. Grace Lang, widow of Frederick Lang, occurred early Saturday morning at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Frederick White, 25 Barker street. Mrs. Lang was a lifelong resident of the north end. Besides her daughter, she leaves to mourn two brothers, James and Owen Rogan, both of this city. The funeral will be held this morning at eight o'clock from her daughter's residence.



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