

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1913.

## LIBERALS HOPELESSLY DIVIDED.

The Liberal party gave another exhibition of the division within its ranks yesterday afternoon, in the House of Commons, when Dr. Michael Clark, the well known Liberal from the West, took direct issue, as did two of his colleagues, with the criticisms levelled against the Government by Mr. A. K. MacLean of Halifax, in discussing the remission of duties for the Algoma Steel Co. It was a sorry sight for the Leader of the Opposition as he sat in his place and saw one of his stalwarts drub the junior member for Halifax and Mr. Carroll of Cape Breton.

No longer can Sir Wilfrid Laurier use the party whip as of yore. The pack can bark and whelp for food but there is none and he cannot satisfy them, and even Messrs. Pugsley and Carroll can try to assume the leadership of the party in the absence of Sir Wilfrid, a thing unheard of in the fifteen years of power. How the nights are fallen!

A remission of duties was made to the extent of fifty per cent, in the duty on 75,000 tons of steel rails imported by the Algoma Steel Co. for the use of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Pacific Railway Companies, last year, in a period of stringency in the West. Mr. MacLean objected to this transaction on the ground that if made at all the rebate should have been made direct to the consumers rather than to the Steel Company, which was already benefiting by the protective tariff.

Mr. White, the Finance Minister, defended the action as having been rendered necessary, in the interests of railway construction, to help both the farmers and the settlers in the West. He clearly brought out the fact that not a cent was made by the Algoma Steel Company on the deal and that this fact was established by an official of the Finance Department.

Notwithstanding that Sir Wilfrid Laurier objected to the remission of the duty, the man from Deer was not afraid. On economic questions he always speaks clearly and forcibly. There is no "cant" about Dr. Michael Clark. Men may disagree with him but they do not despise him. He is no time server and it is a well known fact that Premier Borden has a strong admiration for the doctor, who is now a Canadian farmer, and who learnt his politics in the Gladstonian school of Liberalism and not in that represented by men of the Pugsley and Carroll type.

Dr. Clark's words are worthy of notice. "The Government has taken the only sane view of the matter," he said. "The remission was effected for the ultimate good of the consumer. As a Western consumer I am grateful to the Ministry for their action and I hope they will continue."

Here are words for all Liberals to consider. They show that there is some hope left in one wing of the Liberal party. There are yet some men big enough whose views leap beyond the narrow confines of mere place and power. Dr. Michael Clark is a shining example for Mr. F. B. Carroll to follow and Mr. Pugsley would find in him much to emulate. We would not then have the spectacle of the representatives for New Brunswick described from one end of the country to the other as men incapable of sympathy or justice, or as men who are making attempts to lead a party when they cannot control their own tempers.

The discussion on the remission of the duties brought out the deplorable economics of Mr. Carroll, who represents Cape Breton. Here is a gem of reasoning: "If this sort of thing is allowed to go on then the duty can in the future be ignored by the railway companies who can give short notice orders."

Mr. Carroll argues that if the railway companies want 50,000 tons of steel rails they can order 20,000 tons at one time and then give a short notice order for the remaining 30,000 from a Canadian company, which would be compelled to import them and, as in the present case, make a cost of one dollar per ton more to the railway companies than they had received from the Canadian Steel Company. The railway companies, according to Mr. Carroll, would give an emergency order just for the fun of being compelled to pay \$30,000 extra.

It was clearly proven in the House yesterday that the Borden Government were actuated by the desire to do something for the people in the far West, who are compelled to depend upon quick railway building for the development of their country.

It was a small piece of party politics for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. MacLean to read base motives into this action. They might have suc-

ceeded in prejudicing some minds, but just as Randolph Churchill forgot Mr. Goschen once so did Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. MacLean forget Dr. Michael Clark yesterday.

## CANADA'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Preparations are already well advanced for the Canadian expedition to the Far North, which is expected to leave Esquimaux during the latter part of May or the first week in June. V. S. Stefansson, the explorer, who will lead the expedition under the auspices of the Canadian Government, is on a visit to Great Britain and is expected to return this month. During Mr. Stefansson's absence the Karluk, the vessel selected for the expedition, has been brought from San Francisco to Esquimaux in charge of her skipper, Captain Pedersen, in order to outfit her for her three years' cruise.

Additional interest attaches to the expedition on account of the praise-worthy decision of the Dominion Government to send several well qualified officials from Ottawa who will represent the interests of various government departments, which may be connected with the results of the expedition. A scientific outfit is now being collected by Dr. Stefansson and Dr. R. M. Anderson, the second in command. The instruments purchased will include all equipment that may be needed for observation work in the undiscovered territory in the North.

The Karluk, the vessel on whose stability the success of the expedition will largely depend is a trim auxiliary craft of 322 gross and 247 net tons register. She was built to the order of the Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco, and has been engaged in the whaling trade in Alaska waters. Her hull, which is said to be as sound as when she was built, is constructed of selected pine, which is in turn sheathed with iron bark. She was purchased by Dr. Stefansson on the advice of Captain Pedersen, who inspected three vessels at San Francisco last January before deciding that the Karluk was the vessel most adapted for the rough usage she will be subjected to when cruising among the ice-floes in the Arctic. Stefansson engaged Captain Pedersen for a period of four years, and pending the arrival of the explorer from Europe, he is taking his instruction from Dr. R. M. Anderson, who, as has been stated, is second in command of the expedition.

The first call on the voyage North will be made at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, for coal. The Karluk will then be headed for Point Barrow, the most northerly point in Alaska. Mr. Stefansson plans to reach Banks Land about August 15, providing the ice has broken up sufficiently to allow the vessel to proceed. The first of three expeditions will be landed on Banks Land, and as soon as winter headquarters have been established, the Karluk will return to Esquimaux, arriving about October 20.

The Karluk will lay up at Esquimaux for the winter, and after loading up with supplies, will again leave for Dr. Stefansson's base. The return trip will be repeated the following year unless the explorer changes his plans. The expedition expects to return to civilization in 1916. Canadians throughout the Dominion will wish these intrepid explorers—men of their own nationality—good luck and God-speed.

## THE ROYAL TRADE COMMISSION.

A cable message from Sydney, N. S. W., announces that the Dominions Royal Commission on Trade of which Hon. George E. Foster, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, is a member, is now in session at Brisbane. The Australian portion of the Royal Commission's business begins at that point. The necessary arrangements were made by Sir Edward Vincent, the chairman.

One important matter before the Commission relates to the all-British cable connection and much valuable evidence, it is stated, has been collected. This proposal involves the laying of a cable across the Atlantic to connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway land lines at Montreal, and thence with the Pacific cable lines at Bamfield.

Referring to the proposal, as outlined, the "New Zealand Herald" expresses the opinion that a loan might be issued for this purpose by Canada, Australia and New Zealand, chargeable to their respective revenues, and guaranteed by the whole Empire.

## A Small Clique.

Ex-Minister Pugsley's insufferable arrogance and mendacity were once more shown in his brilliant assurance in the House that the people were eager for an election. Where did he gain his alleged knowledge? If there is one thing more than another the people do not want it is to be thrown, within a brief year and a half, into the turmoil and expense of a contest, merely to gratify the spleen of a small clique of disgruntled and discredited politicians.

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## THE PASSING DAY.

### GHEENT'S INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

Historic Ghent, in Belgium, where in 1314 the United States and Great Britain entered into a treaty that ushered in a century of peace, inaugurates today an international celebration with a thousand and one attractions worth crossing half the globe to see. (The language is that of the official press agent.) The programme in festivities will continue to November. A "universal and international exposition" is the main attraction, and it does not compare with the great world's fairs of Paris, Chicago, St. Louis and other cities, it is quite a magnificent affair. Probably thousands of Englishmen and Americans will visit the city this year, attracted not only by the exposition, but by its historic associations with a century of Anglo-Saxon peace.

The Ghent is a city of some 175,000 people, and has become quite an important industrial centre. For centuries Ghent was a centre of military power, and was the scene of revolutionary conspiracies, but now the thunder of the cannon is silenced, and the hum of industry and commerce alone is heard. Ghent occupies a beautiful site at the confluence of four rivers, about forty miles from Brussels, and is practically a seaport because of the canal connecting the city with Antwerp and deep water. The rivers and canals divide Ghent into what are virtually over a score of islands, connected by some two hundred bridges, giving the city somewhat the appearance and characteristics of Venice.

The Anglo-American peace treaty was signed in the old convent of the Chartreuse, and the room where the peace commissioners deliberated has been restored to its original condition, for the benefit of English and American pilgrims.

The signing of the important document was followed by a banquet in the throne room of the Ghent City Hall, and a feature of the Ghent programme will be the serving to Americans and English notably a dinner exactly like the original, in so far as it can be made so. This room contains the throne on which Joseph II. was crowned.

## OPERATIC ANNIVERSARIES.

In State history today marks two important anniversaries. Thirty-three years ago today, in London, the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance," was publicly performed the first time.

Thirty-six years ago today the first American performance of "Die Walkure" was given at the Academy of Music in New York.

## THE HUMAN PROCESSION

### MRS. FLORA STEEL.

Flora Annie Steel, the popular English novelist, who has lately come into prominence as one of the leaders of the "spiritualist" handsome she will celebrate her sixty-sixth birthday today. The author of "The Flower of Forgiveness," "The Hosts of the Lord," and other widely-read books, was the daughter of a sheriff's clerk and a Jamaica woman, and has spent a large part of her life in India, where she served as an inspectress of schools and much of the material for her novels. She was past forty when she wrote her first story.

The Spiritual Militancy League for Women's Character, Rights and Liberties, of which Mrs. Steel is one of the founders, is a new organization of women who hope to win the ballot by "concentrating attention on the spiritual and vital issues involved in the women's movement." They hope to win over the clergy to their cause and so to influence the great body of church-going women who have remained aloof from the movement. By their activities Mrs. Steel and her co-workers hope to distract attention from the tactics pursued by the "material militants."

## THE U. S. SECRETARY OF LABOR.

William Bauchop Wilson, Secretary of Labor, in President Wilson's cabinet, is a native of Elmira, Scotland, where he was born fifty-one years ago today, April 2, 1862. The holder of the newest portfolio—for the creation of the department of labor was one of Mr. Taft's last official acts—came to America at eight, went to work in the Pennsylvania coal mines at nine, married at twenty-one, and is now the father of nine charming children.

He still retains his card in the United Mine Workers of America, of which he was secretary and treasurer before he was elected to Congress in 1907. In creating the department of labor, no provision was made for salary, and Mr. Wilson will not get any envelope until Congress meets this month and makes an appropriation.

## FIRST THINGS

### IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The first step toward the abolition of imprisonment for debt in England was taken sixty-nine years ago today, when Fleet Prison, immortalized by Dickens and other writers, was abolished. For over two centuries this had been a debtors' prison. It was burned during the Gordon riots in 1780, but was rebuilt. The site is now occupied by a railway station.

The debtors, constantly growing fewer in number, were lodged in Queen's Street Prison until 1861, when imprisonment for debt, except when fraudulently contracted, was finally abolished. In eighteen months they had paid 1825, over 100,000 English people were jailed for debt. In 1840 there were only 1,732 imprisoned debtors in England and Wales.

While imprisonment for debt had been abolished, imprisonment for contempt of court by reason of failure to pay debts is still continued in both England and the United States.

## HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

### NOTEWORTHY BIRTHDAYS.

Today is the anniversary of the birth, in 1859, of Archbishop Francis-Xavier Poirer, who was consecrated as Apostolic Delegate in 1910. Hon. Francis Alexander Anglin, Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, was born in St. John, N. B., forty-eight years ago. He is a son of Hon. T. W. Anglin, for some time Speaker of the House of Commons in the assembly.

# IN LIGHTER VEIN

## Sibilant Silliness.

Sweet Sarah Sawyer's sister Susan sat singing sweetly, Sibilant Samson Seward's son Sam strolled, smoking sorrowfully seeking Sweet Susan. Suddenly spying and Susan sitting singing, Sam slouched slowly stealing sunflowers, scaring sweet Sarah. Susan, starting, screamed. Seek some state sandwiches! Sam seized several sunflowers, sighing, "So sibilant." Sweet Sarah scowled slowly. Seeing Sam so sick, she said: "Sister Susan, sprinkle some sibilant salts." She sprinkled some salts, singing sweet songs. "Sam survived," spoke Susan. She sobbed sibilantly. "Sam," said Susan, "stop sobbing." She stopped, shivered, sneezed suddenly—so suddenly, but from now on "Sweet Sam, sing some sad school songs." Sam sang successfully.—Utica Herald.

## A Good Idea.

Mike came to the doctor about nine o'clock with the information that their month-old baby would not sleep a wink. The doctor gave Mike sleep ing powders for the baby. The next day he met Mike on the street. "Well, how did the powders work?" asked the doctor. "Them powders, Doc," answered Mike, "sure did the trick." "Made the baby sleep did they?" "No, that they didn't, Doc. We gave the darling a dose just as you told me, it wouldn't sleep at all, at all; so we just took a dose of them powders ourselves, we did, and went right off to sleep and never heard the darling cry one bit any more."

## A Tale that is Told.

A surveying party was at work correcting the boundary between North Carolina and Virginia. At one point there was a change of several rods, and the line which previously ran north of a little cabin occupied by a colored woman now ran south of the cabin. "What's yo' all doin'?" asked the colored woman. "We were moving you, auntie," said the boss surveyor. "You did live in North Carolina, but from now on your cabin will be in Virginia." "Well, I don't shu' am glad o' that," said the woman, "but I can't better in Virginia."

## Reminder.

"When George W. Perkins goes in for helping the workers, and when Andrew Carnegie goes in for reducing the tariff, I think of my old friend Lobb." The speaker was Samuel Gompers. He continued: "Lobb was entertaining me in his library one evening. He said: 'Sam, my boy, never lend your books.' Then, waving his hand to indicate a particular handsome shelf, he added, 'Do you see those volumes? Well, every one of them was lent to me.'"

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## Burns in Poetry.

The head of a family, who thought to save some of the hard-earned dollars by trying out simple home remedies when one of his household became ill, came in a few nights ago with a book under his arm, which he handed to his wife, remarking: "Here is a work on burns. I found it at an auction this afternoon. As one of the children is almost sure to get burned on the Fourth, I thought it would be a good investment. Look it over carefully and be prepared in case of an accident." The wife opened the volume dutifully and then exclaimed: "How odd! Its poetry.—Portland Argonaut."

## Not That Kind.

"What is it wound up on that cart?" asked the old lady visiting the fire house. "Firemen's hose," was the answer. "Excuse me," she said indignantly, "you can't tell me that any firemen or anyone else ever had legs to fit those things."—Chicago Journal.

## More Popular.

"What shall I say if Mr. Binkton asks me to marry him?" asked the young woman. "Don't bother about studying what you will say," replied Miss Cayenne. "Rehearse an effort to look surprised."—Washington Star.

## Cold Hearted.

First Coster (outside picture dealer's window)—Who was this 'ero Nero, Bill? Wasn't he a chap that was always cold? Second Coster—No; that was Zero; anuwer bloke altogether.—Tit-Bits.

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