

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1912.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

Several of the Bills introduced by private members of Parliament, this session, are of general public interest and are designed to place upon the statute book legislation which will appeal strongly to the community at large. An amendment to the Criminal Code, inflicting a heavy penalty on an alien who takes part in Canadian elections, either by voting or otherwise, has been introduced by Mr. Currie of North Simcoe. If the bill passes it will have a salutary effect in putting a stop to the scandals which have marked recent elections in the Western Provinces where voters have been secured wholesale, although the voters were not British subjects.

The first clause of this amendment provides as follows:

"Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to a fine of not less than one thousand dollars and, in addition thereto to imprisonment for a term not less than six months, and in default of payment of such fine to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year who, not being a natural born British subject or not having been naturalized as a British subject in Canada: (a) votes or attempts to vote in any election for any public office under the Dominion or Provincial law; or, (b) who interferes with or intimidates any person entitled to vote at such election; or (c) takes part in any such election by canvassing, driving voters to the poll or taking part in a public meeting; or, (d) writes, issues or circulates any document pertaining to such election."

In explaining the purpose of the amendment Mr. Currie said it was a matter on which he could speak from personal experience. In the last general election in his riding citizens of the United States took a prominent part, not only interfering with the election but appearing on the public platform and appealing to the electors to defeat him. Mr. Currie remarked that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was on the same platform when these speeches were made. He thought it was about time to put a stop to that sort of thing. As the election law makes no provision for this interference it can be reached by an amendment to the Criminal Code. Mr. Currie also referred to the election laws in the Western Provinces and to the importance of a safeguard so that only British subjects could vote.

Mr. Bradbury, of Selkirk, has introduced two bills which were before Parliament last session but were not proceeded with owing to pressure of business. The first is to prohibit the depositing of sewage in navigable streams and inflicts a heavy penalty for any violation of its provisions by any corporation, municipality or private individual. The second bill makes it an indictable offence to deface any flag of the British Empire. Mr. Bradbury takes strong exception to hotels printing their names across the British flag and to its use outside auction rooms announcing the sale of goods. A severe penalty is also provided for any indignities offered to the flag.

The introduction of an amendment to the Bank Act by Mr. Aikens, of Brandon, authorizing a bank to lend money to a purchaser or dealer in agricultural products on the security of the products, led to an important announcement by Mr. White, the Finance Minister. He states that this matter and also the question of lending money on live stock has been under the consideration of the Government and both would be embodied in the revised Bank Act which will be brought down this session.

Mr. White's statement forebodes concessions which will be appreciated by farmers especially in the West. The amendments which the Government will introduce are not yet announced but any method that will give facilities to the farmer to obtain money for his produce immediately after threshing, and thus meet his liabilities, will be of enormous benefit to the farming community. The Bank Act provides that a bank may lend to a manufacturer on the security of his goods, but does not authorize an advance to the producer of grain. Yet, as Mr. Aikens pointed out, grain is, perhaps, the best security that can be given because it is readily convertible into money.

## PRACTICAL IMPERIALISM.

"Practical Imperialism" is the fitting title of the first article in the current number of the Nineteenth Century and After, contributed by the Duke of Westminster. It presents with clearness the needs and forces which action tends to bring about the unification of the Empire. It advocates the Chamberlain idea of intra-imperial preference as a practical Imperial policy; and it outlines the purposes of the Imperial fund in the raising of which the Duke took the initiative, a fund of which a large part is already subscribed, and which the Duke hopes to see raised to a sum which will require seven figures to express in pounds sterling.

In his view Imperialism is merely the latest incarnation of British democratic nationalism. "British Imperialism," he says with perfect truth, "is not, as its opponents assert, an empty, vainglorious and aggressive policy 'advised by jingoes,' by the aristocracy, the leisured, and the army. It is a thorough democratic policy." He reminds his readers that the British Empire is a sea empire, and that, should the British Navy be defeated, it would be unnecessary for the enemy to follow up his success by invading the United Kingdom, inasmuch as, deprived of sea-transportation, she could be starved into surrender. "It is, therefore, clear," to the Duke, "that Motherland and Colonies require for their protection a fleet strong enough to meet any possible combination of powers." He notes with approval that the Dominions realize the gravity of the situation and are coming to the Mother Country's aid with splendid generosity. Organization, however, is needed. He says:

"But we cannot safely rely for the defence of the Empire on the present loose arrangements between Great Britain and the Dominions. The Empire requires for its security an Imperial army and an Imperial fleet, paid for out of an Imperial exchequer, and controlled and directed by an Imperial Government. The defence of the Empire must be organized. But only the unification of the Empire will make possible the creation of an adequate organization. That has been recognized by the leading colonial statesmen. Therefore they have urged us to call them to our councils."

Looking at the matter in this light, the Duke advises that a great effort be made to establish the truly Imperial policy advocated by Mr. Chamberlain, a policy which "promises to triumph at the next general election." The

Duke considers it unfortunate that this policy has been allowed to become one of party difference. He holds that the Empire should stand above party. He appeals to Liberals to reconsider their attitude on this important question, reminding them that the great authority of Adam Smith, whom Liberals and free traders so frequently quote, is on the side of Imperial federation.

Guided by the considerations set forth in his article, a few men have resolved, the Duke says, to make a special effort for the promotion of practical Imperialism. Hence the fund referred to was opened. In course of time, the Duke adds, that fund will become a great Imperial foundation. It will support every Imperial movement and endeavor worthy of support throughout the Empire, and in the beginning its resources will be devoted to the promotion of the Chamberlain policy. The originators of motion of the fund will make the unification of the Empire a party question only if Liberal Imperialists refuse to co-operate.

The foregoing review is taken from the Toronto Mail and Empire. In commenting on the Duke's article the Mail expresses the well founded opinion that it will appeal "not only to the supporters of the Chamberlain policy, but to all who have eyes open in regard thereto, and to not a few who have allowed their free trade bias 'to blind them to the Imperial issues at stake.'"

## THE ASSESSMENT LAW.

Some of those who favored civil government by commission are now advocating a change in the system of taxation. The assessment law under which taxation is levied in St. John dates from 1882, and while there have been almost as many amendments as there are sections, the principle of the act remains the same. It is not a good assessment law, but was certainly a marked improvement on the law it repealed. During the past fifteen years there have been several attempts made to introduce modern ideas into the law, but so far unsuccessfully. It is now suggested that single tax be adopted as a remedy for existing evils.

Those who advocate single tax deal in generalities chiefly, and fail to produce convincing arguments that would justify its adoption in a community like St. John. There is now, and has been for years past, an idea prevalent in the community that real estate does not bear its full proportion of the rates. In most communities as large as St. John, real estate not only pays the same rate as other property but pays as well local improvement taxes for direct benefits, such as sewerage, street paving, opening up of streets, and the like. The only one of these special rates borne by real estate here is the latter, and there has been but one levy under this act since the improvements following the fire of 1877. While real estate certainly pays a lower percentage of taxation in St. John than in the majority of cities, the taxes paid by those dealing in real estate are not as low as they appear. The higher percentage paid in the law, and as the rates levied on tax applying to all incomes is not just or right and should be abolished without further delay. Under the working out of the assessment law in St. John the small wage earner has paid a higher rate of taxation than others, as does also the wage earner whose exact income is readily ascertained. Nothing is more difficult to ascertain than the exact earnings of a professional man such as a lawyer or a doctor. This is one of the difficulties that a board of assessors has to face on levying the rates. It is also extremely difficult to get at the value of the boardings of those assessed on personal property.

But bad and unfair as the law is in many of its workings, it is not half as unfair or half as unjust as the adoption of single tax at a single levy. The first eyes change made in the law, and ought to be changed without further delay, should be gradual. Property, both land and buildings, might be taxed on their rental value, and incomes under \$1,000 exempted from anything, a poll tax of say half a dollar for each hundred earned, this tax to be collected through the employer and to be a first lien on the earnings of the ratepayer. Such a tax would yield about one-third of the total amount at present under the present law, as not much more than 50 per cent. are either collectable, or have even been collected, since the first year after the law came in force. On new expenditures for street pavements, sewers, and the like, a street frontage tax could be levied on abutting properties which would more than equal the loss on income. Merchants and manufacturers should be dealt with on the basis of their turn over and not on the rental paid. It should be a guide to the value of the business to its owner.

There are many theories respecting taxation, but mostly based on the idea that the proper person to pay the taxes is the other fellow. The fact is that a certain amount of money is to be earned annually, and the basic idea of all assessment laws should be to raise this money with as little inconvenience as possible. There is a general idea everywhere prevailing that real estate, which is always in plain view, should bear the chief burden of taxation, but so ought the trade of the community as well. No assessment law has as yet been devised that will do justice to all. The question is to get a law that will do justice to the greatest number and harm as few as possible. In the meantime the question is one that should be thoroughly discussed and any change thoroughly considered.

The total collections of the St. John Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, as reported at the annual meeting of the society, yesterday, amounted to \$1,090.57, and the expenditure \$801.63. There was an increase in the bank balance of \$278.94, the total amount at credit being \$732.92, or almost as much as was expended last year. While the expenditure is small a large amount of work was done and greater interest was developed in the work of the society. The membership apparently increased and the association enters upon another year with enlarged opportunities, though the funds available are in no way sufficient for what should be done.

Sir Richard Cartwright's Reminiscences, the first volume of which has been issued, is not being very well received by the press of Ontario. Sir Richard was strong in his likes and dislikes, particularly the latter, and in writing his Reminiscences, if press comment is to be relied upon, he has dealt more with his dislikes than with the others. Indeed, Sir Richard seems to have loved only himself and to have sometimes doubted that.

## Current Comment

Give Wilson Fair Play.  
(Wall Street Journal.)  
The country is prospering, and the prosperity will continue until such time as we achieve the periodic intoxication of success. For the present, conditions are sound enough to be independent even of tariff revision. That such revision is coming, none but the wilfully blind can ignore. The country asks for it in tones which even the tariff-petted manufacturers and farmers can hear. Wall Street, as usual, will be the first to adjust itself to the new condition. The best and safest step in that direction is to give the new President fair play.

Miss Liberty Departs.  
(Philadelphia Record.)  
Miss Liberty's portrait on the face of the new nickel coinage will be replaced by a buffalo's head; the obverse will show an unconventional Indian. The case might have been worse. We might have been inflicted with a bull moose and Steel Trust "tiger" in the wallet, as perpetual reminders of a popular political aberration.

## Men's Winter Boots

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

A LAD POSSESSED.

Dec. 1st. Mark 9:14-29.

The lesson presents an interesting picture which should have a place in every home where parents are found. In the background is one of the foothills of Mount Hermon—the Mount of Transfiguration. A middle aged man with lines of care on every feature of his face bending over a poor young lad on the ground in a fit form the centre of a large concourse of people. Among them may be seen St. Andrew, St. Philip, St. Bartholomew, St. Thomas, St. Matthew, St. James the Less, St. Thaddeus, St. Simon, St. (?) Judas, confronting a number of unfriendly Scribes surrounded by the ever curious multitude.

The story briefly told is as follows: The father had prayed to the saints for his son who was beyond his control, who, in fact had

Gone all to the Devil.

or as Mark says, was "possessed."

The lad was a wreck in body, mind, and soul—an epileptic, insane, unclean, deaf and dumb.

To the saints had been committed power over evil spirits, but they stood helpless and humiliated, before the learned theocracy of Jerusalem whose sarcasm added to their embarrassment.

When the first time nor the last that a devil-possessed boy proved too tough a proposition for the saints.

What was the remedy?

They were not long left in suspense for the Master appears suddenly with Peter, James and John and asks, "What is the matter?"

Then the father pours forth his tale of woe concluding with the words, "I have brought him unto you, for you should cast it out but they were not able."

Then the father strikes at the very heart of their failure, when he said: "O faithless generation."

He took in the whole congregation as he said:

Unbelievers, Make believers, Half believers, Believers.

"Bring him to me," he said.

"And they brought him unto Him and when he saw Him straightway the spirit tore him and he fell on the ground and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, 'How long is it since this came upon him?'"

And he said, "From a child, and oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire and into the water to destroy him. If Thou canst do anything have compassion on us and help us."

A life a skilful athlete Jesus

Caught the "If" Flying

and hurried it back to the place to which it belonged, "If Thou canst believe all things are possible to him that believeth."

And the afflicted parent was led to see that the IF did not lie with Christ but with himself "he cried" and said to the Lord, "I believe."

"And Jesus rebuked the foul spirit and said, 'I charge thee to come out of him and to enter no more into him.' And he was as one dead so that many thought he was dead, but Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up. And his disciples asked Him privately, 'Why could we not cast him out?'"

And He said unto them, "This kind is not out but by prayer and fasting."

The case is not without parallel in our own day. Satan's possession is not confined to any one age nor community. That demons do now possess the bodies, and minds, and souls of men is too evident to need demonstration. Paul speaks of "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

We see the spirit now kindling within the children of disobedience, the spirit of hell which grows over them with a power too strong for resistance. We see him attracting the children of disobedience to habits which lead inevitably to wreck and ruin of body, mind and soul, as the moth is attracted to the lamp round which it flutters until it is finally destroyed.

Until Christ has "made us free from the law of sin and death" we are all more or less "possessed." There is within every child of Adam a supernatural power whose ceaseless endeavor is to cast us down, to throw us hard upon the fire which he kindles within us here and now.

The poor young man of the lesson forebodes many others who have "got beyond control," and whose spirits will one day rise up in judgment against the parents who bore them.

Why?

Because when the Lord laid upon them the obligation of bringing them to Him that He might

"Take the piece of clay And gently form it day by day, And mould it with His power and art, The young child's soft and yielding heart."

They deferred and deferred the matter—till years had gone

And 'twas a man they looked upon. Who still the early impress wore, But they could change him never more.

It is in the early years that the greatest impetus is given to the future life. The criminal neglect of parents is undoubtedly responsible for the sad condition of things existing in many families today.

What influence has God given us over our children? It is irretrievable until by our own injudicious conduct we fritter it away.

What does it mean when a boy gets "beyond control"? It means that a father's or mother's influence has gradually been lost until their boy has thrown it off entirely, hence the terrible revelations of youthful depravity.

Some one has said,

"Hold on to Your Boy by Any Hook or Handle until he has passed the barbarous stage though it seem an eternity."

Keep in with him. If your influence is gone, get it back at any cost. Confess to him your past unfaithfulness in your dealings with him. Tell him how sorry it would be if he were lost through any fault of yours. Confess to God your failure to train him for the future.

Yes PRAY—don't stop praying—pray persistently, insistently—with an intensity which will indicate to God that you are ready for the answer. Lay hold of the promise, "I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children."

The saints may be cold, unapproach-

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## FUNERALS.

The funeral of Mrs. Eliza Bruce took place yesterday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock from her late residence, 276 Duke Street, to Trinity Church, where burial services were conducted by Rev. R. A. Armstrong. Interment took place in the Church of England Burying Ground.

From his late residence, 169 Waterloo Street, the funeral of Mr. John F. Thomas took place yesterday afternoon. Burial services were conducted by Rev. W. W. Brewer, and interment took place in Fernhill.

IT'S A WISE CHILD.

Fond Mamma—"Now, Charlie, don't you admire my new dress?"

Charlie—"Yes, mamma, it's beautiful."

Mamma—"And, Charlie, all the silk is provided for us by a poor worm."

Charlie—"Do you mean Dad?"

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he talking about Christmas

but this is going to be an

Christmas and gifts are

that the good old Santa

earlier he got the better

be, didn't you better take

and start early too? Our

ager and better than any

in this town. We have gifts

body, children of any age

ded can get their wanted

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