

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1914.

CANADA'S UNEMPLOYED.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking in debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, made use of the words: "There are today in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver not fewer than 100,000 men asking for work," he spoke without knowledge of the facts, for it does not comport with the idea of the dignity of the office he holds that he should knowingly give utterance to statements so far from correct. The Grit newspapers, however, grasped his estimate as a text for innumerable homilies dealing with the sad condition to which Canada has fallen, and for which, of course, the Borden Government is responsible.

As a matter of fact Sir Wilfrid magnified the number of unemployed just about four times in his effort to make a case against the Government. The Montreal Star has taken the matter up and publishes figures collected by its correspondents from persons who know conditions in the Canadian cities and they fail to show any such situation as Sir Wilfrid describes. In the cities mentioned by the Liberal leader the Star's showing is as follows:

Montreal, 5,000 unemployed, many foreigners; Toronto, 4,649 unemployed, of which eighty per cent. are foreigners; Winnipeg, about 2,000 unemployed, about a normal condition; Regina, 300; Calgary, 2,000; Edmonton, 1,000; Vancouver, 2,500, which the mayor of Vancouver is quoted as saying should be 1,000. This gives a total in the seven cities named of 17,449, of which nearly 10,000 are in Montreal and Toronto.

The Star also publishes figures and statements from other important cities in Canada as follows: Sydney, 100 unemployed, conditions unusually good; Halifax, 1,500, less than usual; St. John, 200, less than usual; Quebec, 3,800, of which 3,000 are on strike; Ottawa, 1,000, more than last winter; Saskatoon, 300, no serious problem. This gives a total of 24,349 for twelve cities in Canada, or just about one quarter of the number claimed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

In reaching its conclusion the Star obtained its information from the mayor or president of the Board of Trade in each town or, failing them, from social workers. For instance, in this city Mayor Frink is quoted to the effect that there has not been "a single application at City Hall for relief in any shape or form this winter." The president of the Board of Trade says "there does not seem to be any unusual lack of work." Adjutant Cummings of the Salvation Army Metropolitan observed: "I would say that there would be more than 200 men out of work at present, but this is not unusual at this time of the year." The secretary of the Associated Charities said "their record showed the usual number of unemployed at present, but not more than last year which was considered a good year for the working men." As none of the authorities quoted are interested in refuting the statements of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it may be taken for granted that their estimate of conditions comes very near to the mark.

The statement has been made that the withdrawal of the Empress steamers would supply work to Halifax at the expense of St. John, yet the returns compiled by the Star indicate the number of idle men in the sister city is seven and one half times that of St. John and that half of these are unskilled laborers. In both Halifax and St. John the number is said to be less than usual. In the light of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's quite positive statement the information supplied by the Star is particularly interesting as it shows that, despite the outcries of the opposition alarmists, conditions in Canada are very largely normal.

CONVICTED AND SILENT.

Cornered where it must either remain silent or admit that it has been guilty of publishing false statements regarding the action of Board of Trade officials, Hon. J. D. Hazen, the Marine Department and The Standard, the Times prefers to rest under the brand of a self convicted liar applied to it by this newspaper. The attitude of the Times is not unexpected neither does it differ, to any extent, from its conduct on previous occasions. As long as the Pugsley organ can pour, uncontradicted, its untrue ravings upon the Minister of Marine, the Conservative party, or any other person or party that dares to differ from it, it just so long does it continue in its blatant, self-assertive course. When the truth of its statements is questioned it attempts to bully. When charged with falsity it whines and whimpers about "regard for the truth, and decency of discussion." When the charges are proven to the hilt it either remains silent, or attempts to explain its misstatements under the

flimsy excuse that they were published through "inadvertence." The Standard agrees that when newspapers engage on controversial subjects certain decencies of discussion should be observed and preserved, but the present difficulty cannot be ticketed as belonging to that class. It is a simple question of the truth and a lie.

The Times, on January 21st, charged The Standard with misrepresenting the Board of Trade and, at the same time, stated that ten days before that date a representative of the Board of Trade requested the Marine Department to furnish certain information regarding the safety of the Bay of Fundy, and that when The Standard accused the Board of Trade of inaction in refusing the slanders on the Bay, this newspaper knew the Board had done all it could do. At the same time the Times implied that the responsibility for the delay must rest upon the Department of Marine, which Hon. J. D. Hazen administers.

If the Times had not been actuated by a desire to attack the Minister of Marine, it would not have referred to the Marine Department at all. If it did not wish to make the Marine Department responsible for what The Standard claimed was the inaction of the Board of Trade, it would not have stated that ten days or more had elapsed since the Board had applied for information to use in the case, and it would not have implied that the inaction was due to the Department's failure to supply the information more quickly. And lastly, if it did not hope to fasten the blame for the whole matter upon Hon. Mr. Hazen, it would not have headed its editorial "Where is Mr. Hazen?"

Every statement made by the Times in regard to this newspaper misrepresenting the Board of Trade is false. Every implication made by the Times that the delay was due to inaction of the Marine Department, over which Mr. Hazen presides, is equally false. The Standard conclusively proved the Times a liar by reference to the Times' files, which showed that if the Times did not lie, the Board of Trade must have applied on January 11th for information to refute slanders arising from an accident occurring on January 13th. The absurdity of such a contention is at once apparent.

Now that the Times has been convicted of misrepresentation it pursues its usual course, attempting, first, to secure sympathy in pleading the "decencies of discussion," and follows this by trying to ignore the proofs of its falsity. The decencies of discussion do not apply to a newspaper the only idea of which is to poison the mind of the people against the Canadian government, and every member of it, and which in its desire to do this will not stop at absolute falsification. Where has the Times observed the decencies of discussion in its references to Hon. Mr. Hazen?

When the Times attempted to lie regarding the result in the Chateauguay by-election, and the lie was nailed by The Standard, the Pugsley organ was silent until a reiterated demand was made for the correction of its misstatement, and then it tried to tell its readers that it was published through an "inadvertence." Would the Times make the admission of "inadvertence" if the original falsehood had been permitted to pass unnoticed? We hardly think so. In the present case The Standard has accused the Times of deliberately lying, and that accusation stands until the Times again conjures up an "inadvertence." The Standard has no desire to ignore what the Times regards as the "decencies of discussion," but the Times' frequent publication of untruths in regard to the government, the Ministers of the Crown, and the whole Conservative party, has reached such a notorious stage that it is necessary to depart from the conventions usually associated with dignified journalism and call a spade a spade and a falser by "a shorter and uglier name."

Hon. Mr. Hazen received his first request from the Board of Trade for information regarding the percentage of accidents in the Bay of Fundy, on Saturday last at the earliest. Yesterday the secretary of the board received his reply promising to get and forward the information asked for. No newspaper with regard "for the truth and the decencies of discussion" can find fault with that example of prompt attention to the request from St. John.

The Commissioner of Public Safety has turned in a most creditable report from the administration of the City Market. A better showing than the one of the year just closed has never been made.

On the first division of the session at Ottawa last night the government had a majority of forty-four. This does not look as if the process of decay in the Grit papers talk about is making very rapid progress.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

James De Mille, the Canadian novelist, whose "Dodge Club" gave him an interesting reputation, died in Halifax thirty-four years ago today. He was born in St. John, New Brunswick, in 1837, and was educated at Brown College. From 1860 to 1865 he was professor of Greek and Latin at Acadia College. In 1865 he assumed the post of professor of history and rhetoric at Dalhousie College, in Halifax, and this connection continued to his death on Jan. 28, 1880. He was shortly after he joined the faculty of Dalhousie that he published "Dodge Club," a delightful satire on the experiences of American tourists in Italy and France. All of his novels were interesting to a high degree, and marked by an excellent literary style, but his "Dodge Club" alone takes rank as a classic work of its kind. Next in order of merit, perhaps, is "A Castle in Spain," a whimsical and humorous extravaganza. Others of De Mille's novels which still enjoy popularity include "The Arkansas Ranger," "A Comedy of Terrors," "Andy O'Hara," "The Bays of Grand Pre School," "Lost in the Fog," "The Lady of the Lake," "The Cryogram," and "The Living Link." It is greatly to be regretted that De Mille's fancy wandered so far afield, his novels being so little that was distinctly Canadian.

January 28 is the birthday of James Craig Watson, famous astronomer, at Fingal, Ont., 1838, of Alexander Macdonald, the great Liberal Prime Minister, in Scotland, 1822; and of Samuel A. Cook, American congressman and manufacturer, in Ontario, 1849. Craig Watson, born in Fingal, Ontario, in 1838, was the son of a farmer. He studied in London, England, on this date in 1868, was lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia from 1847 to 1854, and governor general of Canada from 1854 to 1861, his administration being marked by the choice of Ottawa as the capital by the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1860, and by several other important events.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

SAYS ADAM NOT FIRST MAN

Hoboken, New Jersey, was the birthplace fifty-eight years ago today of the Rev. Dr. Reuben Archer Torrey, one of the most forceful and eloquent of the world's evangelists. During his career as a preacher of the gospel Dr. Torrey has addressed vast audiences in nearly all the principal cities of the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and India. A disciple of the late Dwight L. Moody he brought to his work all the religious fervor of that great evangelist, and, in addition, the intellectual training received at Yale and the universities of Germany. He was ordained to the Congregational ministry in 1873, and for several years was superintendent of city missions in Minneapolis, and afterward superintendent of the Moody ministry in London. He is the author of many books on religious subjects, and in one of the latest volumes from his pen he advances a theory in regard to a pre-Adamite man.

THE PASSING DAY

A CUBAN CELEBRATION.

The Queen of the Antilles will don the finest gown in her wardrobe today in honor of Jose Marti, the Cuban "apostle of freedom," who gave up his life in the cause of Cuba Libre. Marti Day now has a double significance, for it was on Jan. 28, 1895, that the American provisional government came to an end, and the new Cuban government was installed.

While the first Cuban republic, organized under the presidency of Tommaso Estrada, lasted only a few months, the fact that the party in power has been driven from the island by Uncle Sam, was an ignominious failure, the second attempt at self-government seems to have been crowned with a large measure of success. The real test came when a presidential election was held to choose a successor to Jose Miguel Gomez, and the fact that the party in power was defeated, and Gen. Mario Menocal, a Conservative, was chosen president, afforded sufficient proof of the fairness and honesty of the battle of ballots.

Another indication that the Cuban republic has come to stay, and that the people of the island have attained capacity for self-government, is to be found in the fact that the feature sporting event of today's celebration will be a baseball game, rather than a bull fight or a cocking main. The brutal pastimes which were popular during the Spanish regime are now of the past, and the plazas de toros and the cockpits have been replaced by the baseball diamond, the golf links and the boxing ring.

FIRST THINGS

GAS STREET LIGHTS.

The first street to be lighted by gas was Pall Mall, in London, where the system was first used 107 years ago tonight. A few experimental gas lights had been previously used in Golden Lane. This year marks the centenary of the general adoption of gas lights in London streets. The first attempt to introduce the use of gas in America was at Baltimore, in 1816. The project was unsuccessful, but in 1822 it was introduced into Boston and in the following year the New York Gas Light Company was incorporated.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID.



Wags It.

Wife—"Yes, in a battle of tongues a woman can always hold her own." Husband—"Perhaps she can; but she never does."

Expressing Himself.

An indignant letter dictated by a clever old gentleman, ran thus: "Sir, my typist, being a lady, cannot take down what I think of you. I, being a gentleman, cannot express it; but you, being neither, can readily divine it."

Rough on Reggie.

Reggie—They say it takes nine tailors to make a man, don't you know? Miss Keen—You should patronize eight more, Reggie.

The Classified Egg.

"When I arose to speak," related a martyred statesman, "someone hurled a base, cowardly egg at me, and it struck me in the chest." "And what kind of an egg might that be?" asked a young man. "A base, cowardly egg," explained the statesman, "is one that hits you and then runs."

Mystery Cleared Up.

She walked in and banged a hunk of yellow substance on the counter. "This," she announced sarcastically, "is the soap that does the washing." "Is the soap that makes washin' a pleasure; it's the soap that—" "That ain't soap, ma'am," interrupted the grocer, as he took the substance in his hand and examined it. "You're right, it's not soap, it's a pound of cheese and half a pound of soap. That's the cheese."

"The cheese!" exclaimed the woman. "Then that accounts for the other thing. Why, I lay awake the whole night wondering what made the Welsh rabbit we had taste so queer."

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Bill—"Do you get good board where you eat now?" Tom—"Good board? Why, I eat off the arm of a chair every meal."

Rapid Worker.

"My friend Chamberlain turns out four novels a year." "A literary celebrity, eh?" "Say rather, a literary celebrity."

Noticed This?

You'll find the same old twisted ways wherever mankind frolics; We hand the dead ones all the bouquets And hand the living ones knocks.

The Difference.

Madge—"Don't you think a girl should marry an economical man?" Dolly—"I suppose so; but it's awful being engaged to one."

Pity the Editor!

"What's the matter?" inquired the foreman as he entered the sanctum for copy, and noted the editor's swollen forehead, puffed red eye and tattered, dusty coat. "Did you fall down stairs?"

"Well, only that," replied the editor, pointing with his finger to a paragraph in the paper before him. "It's in our account of the Crapley-Smith wedding. It ought to read 'Miss Smith's dimpled, shining face formed a pleasing contrast to Mr. Crapley's strong, bold physiognomy.' But see how it was printed."

What is Coming?

Whitney Warren, at the recent New York horse show, nodded toward a young man in tight morning coat and rakishly tilted top hat, and said: "That young millionaire has all ready had three wives. Yet he is received, yet he is even lionized, everywhere. What is the world coming to?"

What is the world coming to?

Warren pursued, "As I look about me at the tolerant, the too tolerant society of today, I think of the horse thief. 'Yours is a very serious crime, my man,' a judge said sternly to a horse thief. 'Fifty years ago it was a hanging matter.' 'Well, your honor,' said the horse thief calmly, 'fifty years hence it mayn't be a crime at all.'"

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