

## The Standard



Published by The Standard Limited, 27 Prince William Street, St. John, Canada.

TELEPHONE CALLS:  
Business Office ..... Main 1722  
Editorial and News ..... Main 1746

SUBSCRIPTIONS:  
Morning Edition, By Carrier, per year, \$5.00  
Morning Edition, By Mail, per year, .... 3.00  
Weekly Edition, By Mail, per year, .... 1.00  
Weekly Edition to United States ..... 1.52  
Single Copies Two Cents.

Chicago Representative:  
Henry DeClerque, 701-703 Schiller Building,  
New York Office:  
L. Klobahn, Manager, 1 West 34th Street.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, 1910.

## AUSTRALIA'S CONFERENCE PROPOSALS.

The Australian Government is well to the fore with a list of resolutions which will be offered at the Imperial Conference next summer. Full details of the proposals are yet lacking, but the information already to hand indicates that the subjects which the Commonwealth will submit for discussion are of general interest.

The proposals include suggestions for uniform company laws throughout the Empire; uniform trade marks and patent legislation; a declaration in favor of mutual naturalization, subject to the local immigration law, and a declaration in favor of a State-owned Atlantic cable between Canada and Great Britain, in order to secure control of an All-Red cable route.

There are also two proposals described as follows:—  
"The rejection of Articles 48 to 54 of the Declaration of London and the omission of foodstuffs from Article 24."

"The reaffirmation of the 1907 Immigration Resolution, and also the co-operation of the Imperial Government with the Dominions in assisting suitable emigrants, and the nomination of representatives of the Dominions on the Emigrants' Information Committee."

With regard to the mutual naturalization proposal, that is to say, a proposal for legislation making a naturalized citizen of any portion of the Empire a citizen of the whole Empire, that matter was brought before a previous Imperial Conference by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and was among the unfinished business when the Conference rose.

The resolution in regard to emigration from Great Britain adopted by the Imperial Conference of 1907, which is the one referred to above, is as follows:—  
"That it is desirable to encourage British emigrants to proceed to British Colonies rather than foreign countries; that the Imperial Government be requested to co-operate with any Colonies desiring immigrants in assisting suitable persons to emigrate."

As to the Declaration of London, Article 48 of that agreement, concluded in February of last year among the naval powers, lays it down that a neutral vessel which has been captured in war-time may not be destroyed by the captor, but must be taken into port for the determination of all questions concerning the validity of the capture. Articles 49 to 53 deal with the exceptions to this rule, i.e., when its observance would involve danger to the safety of the captor or to the success of the operations in which she is engaged; and Article 54 gives the captor the right to take or destroy any goods liable to condemnation found on board a vessel not herself liable to condemnation, provided the circumstances are such as would, under Article 49, justify the destruction of a vessel herself liable to condemnation.

The powers represented at the conference which was held upon the invitation of the British Government, and resulted in the Declaration of London, were Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Austria, Japan, Spain, Russia, Italy, and Holland. The British delegates admitted foodstuffs to the list of articles which, under certain conditions, may be contraband, that is, liable to seizure in war-time. The list is set forth in Article 24 of the Declaration.

## CONCERNING POLITICAL HOSPITALITY.

The people of Canada have been frequently reminded, says the Vancouver News-Advertiser, of the hospitality of British electorates, in accepting Canadians and other colonials as their candidates. This commendation is well deserved. Canada has contributed to British public life such representatives as Mr. Blake, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Macmaster, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. DeWitt, Dr. Macnamara and several others. There is also a long list of Australian and New Zealand native-born who have been prominent in the British Parliament. The native races of India have also found the door of the House of Commons open to them. Many naturalized natives of foreign countries have seats in that chamber. This does not seem exclusive.

But why should the liberality of the British electorate be mentioned as in contrast to the spirit of the Canadian people? Canada does not confine her legislative trust to her native-born, else would she never have had Sir John A. Macdonald, Alexander Mackenzie or Sir Mackenzie Bowell for premiers, or George Brown as a leader before Confederation. Nor is this liberality an extinct grace. In the present House of Commons there are at least eight immigrants from England and Scotland, most of whom grew up and were educated in the Mother Country. This list may not be complete:—

A. C. Boyce, member for West Algoma, born in England, and moved to Canada when a young man.

R. S. Lake, member for Qu'Appelle, born in England, educated there and was a member of the British civil service.

Ralph Smith, member for Nanaimo, born in England, educated there, married, was engaged in many public activities before he came to Canada at the age of 34; was elected to the legislature six years after his arrival in Canada.

John Tolmie, member for North Bruce, born and educated in Scotland.

W. R. Smyth, member for West Algoma, born in Scotland.

William Theobald, member for North Lanark, born in England, came to Canada with his parents at the age of ten years.

Dr. Michael Clark, member for Red Deer, born and

educated in England, was in medical practice and also concerned in public activities in the Mother Country; came to Canada at the age of forty-one years and was elected to the House of Commons six years later.

Martin Burrell, member for Yale-Cariboo, born and educated in England, lived there to the age of twenty-seven years.

Besides those of British birth, there is in parliament at least one immigrant from the United States. W. W. Rutan, member for Prince Albert, was born in Minnesota. He came to Canada at the age of thirty-two years and was elected some years later.

The list of senators who are not Canadian born is longer. Senators Bostock and Bostock came from England, the former as a lad, the latter as a member of the English Bar. Mr. Bostock was elected to the House of Commons when he had been three years in this country. Senators Coffey, Kirchoffer, McMullen and Sullivan were born in Ireland. Scotland sent us Senators Douglas, Gibson, Jaffrey, Macdonald and Mackay, of whom two have been members of the Commons.

## TOO MANY MOUTHS TO FILL.

One of the most distinguished of the statisticians in the service of the United States Government—Mr. William S. Rosser—has undertaken to furnish from his study of the statistics of that nation's growth an answer to the question, "What is the matter with us?" so often asked by those who are daily confronted by the serious problems arising from the advancing cost of the necessities of life.

His explanation, in brief, as it may be summarized from the pages of his article in the current issue of the Atlantic Monthly, is merely that the producing members of the population of the United States have not increased in anything like the same ratio as the consuming non-producers. In other words, there is less food to go around proportionately than in the early days of the nation, and a far greater number of mouths to feed.

In the last two decades about 25,000,000 were added to the population in the United States; there were that many more persons to be supported. But in the face of that additional drain upon the agricultural resources of the country there was an actual diminution in the supplies. Between 1890 and 1900 the population increased 20.7 per cent., but the number of neat cattle decreased over nine per cent. The supply not only failed to keep pace with the increase of population, but declined.

So also the figures show that the American citizen has increased more rapidly than the American pig. In 1850 there were 1301 hogs to each 1000 persons, but in 1900 the number was only 337 to each 1000 persons. So also with sheep, there were in 1900 only 325 sheep to each 1000 persons in the United States, against 924 to each 1000 persons in 1850.

The effect of this unequal distribution of population has been not only to intensify the competition for the products of agriculture, and hence advance the cost of living, but to augment the power of the corporation by increasing the number of wage earners. It has decreased an independent class which owes allegiance to no one, and it has increased the number of those who are dependent upon employers.

## THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

Writers multiply, and of the making of books there is no end, but Dickens remains pre-eminent as the kindly interpreter of the Christmas spirit.

"There are many things from which I might have derived good by which I have not profited, I dare say," says Scrooge's nephew in answer to Scrooge's taunt, "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be 'apart from that'—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another 'race of creatures bound on other journeys.' There—fore, uncle," he concludes, "though I have never put 'a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that 'it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, 'God bless it!'"

If we all keep this festive season in the spirit of Scrooge's nephew there will be a wider and truer meaning in the familiar phrase "A Happy Christmas."

## Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The Western farmers asked that, in order to get wheat free into the United States, Canada should admit free of duty a variety of United States products. But why should we take any action at all in the matter? If the Minneapolis millers want our wheat free, let Congress abolish the duty, and the thing is done. The idea that we should pay in order to enable the United States to take off a duty that is objected to by citizens of that country seems to be somewhat extraordinary.

(New York Herald.)

A defaulting bank clerk charged with theft says a woman tempted him. In spite of the advances that have been made in almost every field of human endeavor there doesn't seem to have been much improvement in the excuse department since the year One.

(Pittsburgh Dispatch.)

The important correction is made that the British suffragettes did not knock Mr. Augustine Birrell down and kick him. They only knocked his hat off and kicked it about the sidewalk. This establishes the right of the suffragettes to be classed as perfect ladies.

(Montreal Herald.)

What happened to the Farmers' Bank is another reminder, which ought not to be lost on bankers any more than on the people, that a bank consists of a little of its proprietors' money and a great deal of public confidence.

(London Free Press.)

Count De Lesseps, having determined to get married, is saying good-bye to the flying game. The count will henceforth aviate on the wings of love—in which there are sudden drops, also.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

Hon. Clifford Sifton speaks of men who were once his political friends. It looks as if the big conservation job he had tackled is really making a man of Cliff. Sif.

(Detroit Free Press.)

And when you come right down to it, the little ten-cent gift usually carries more genuine love with it than the twelve-dollar article.

(Boston Transcript.)

Great Britain stands pat now, but whether it will stand Patrick is what the home rulers are going to find out.



**ASEPTO SOAP POWDER**  
sweetens the home  
ASK YOUR GROCER

The Standard's  
Old Reporter

"I see the St. John 'Thunderer' is turning its blunder buss upon the city council," said Uncle Hiram, as he leaned up against one of the telephone poles which Ald. Potts says should be put under ground, and Ald. McGoldrick says are already under ground 10 feet or more of them.

"What for?" says I.

"The Thunderer has been converted."

"That's what for?" says I.

"By Dr. Torrey," says I.

"Not 'ouch,'" says Hiram, "the Thunderer never had any need of being converted from the kind of sins Dr. Torrey was worrying about. What mean is that it has suddenly developed a surprising amount of faith in democracy."

"Who's he?" says I.

"Tis you and me, and Pugsley and the C.P.R., everybody but the city fathers and the mayor. Yes, sir, the Thunderer is a great advocate of democracy today. But I never know it to get into a very alarming state of agitation over the fact that the democracy has been barred out of City Hall by a \$2,000 property qualification for aldermen. Nor has it been at all worried, because over 50 per cent. of the citizens usually don't get a chance to vote, because they don't have money to pay up their taxes after the strenuous winter port season, though they don't get let off from paying their taxes because they don't have the right to vote. Has the Thunderer hurled any thunderbolts at the spirit of George III.? Has it thrown any fits because a large part of the citizens would be justified in starting a civic 'tea-party,' and railing the cry of no taxation without representation? Has it fought the battles of democracy in the past?"

"Search me," says I. "But I'll tell you the Thunderer is ready to fight for that Democrat to the hilt up to Ottawa."

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