

The St. John Standard

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NOTICE

Effective immediately, The Standard office will operate on Daylight time. The business office opens at eight o'clock (Standard time) and closes at five o'clock. Advertisers will please govern themselves accordingly.

ST. JOHN AND OTHERS.

The Municipalities Committee rejected the bill dealing with wharfage rates in St. John, although in that committee, apart from the City members, there was only one representative who had ever heard from his constituents any comment whatever on St. John harbor affairs. He came from Moncton. The Municipalities Committee declared against clauses in other St. John bills already considered, in spite of representations of our own members who pointed out that the matters dealt with in those bills were of interest only to this City. St. John maintains at its own expense innumerable services from which the Province as a whole enjoys revenue, which revenue should be apportioned in a fair manner. Yet every effort this city makes to obtain reasonable treatment fails. For some reason or other—and it is a hopeless task to endeavor to ascertain that reason—the people of other parts of New Brunswick take every opportunity to injure the interests of St. John. Moncton has never a good word to say for us; Fredericton detests this municipality; the people of the North Shore would rather go hungry and have their food brought in from elsewhere than pay for the privilege of having their food brought in from elsewhere. With such a feeling so openly and so frequently expressed, it is unfortunately true that the sentiment towards St. John entertained by members of the Legislature—not those of the Government party alone, but some in the Opposition as well—is reflected in their attitude towards legislation introduced in the interests of St. John. Years ago Premier Treadwell condensed this feeling into a few words when he rather wisely intimated that the City of St. John thought itself the whole thing, but the rest of the Province would take the trouble to show it just where it stood. Possibly we in the commercial capital are blind, but no one here knows any good reason why such a feeling should exist throughout New Brunswick, although everyone knows that it does exist. In every movement for the public good, St. John takes the lead, not selfishly or for the credit of doing things, but willingly and often at great expense to its people. When it comes to raising money for charitable or national purposes, although its per capita wealth as a matter of fact is not as great as that of many other communities in New Brunswick, St. John always surpasses any other municipality or county in its effort. Privately, and as a whole, the people who are in St. John have at all times displayed towards other communities a spirit of fair-mindedness and generosity, and have frequently been disappointed when in endeavoring to secure reasonable treatment for themselves, their requests have been rejected.

It is anticipated that the Carrier bill will come up in the Legislature at once. Other St. John bills which have been more or less unfairly treated in the Committee will also be brought to the attention of the House. In the Carrier proposition, a principle is involved in which the whole of New Brunswick is interested. If the exploitation of public utilities for private gain is to be encouraged, then it becomes the duty of the Legislature to adopt that Carrier bill as it stands. If, on the other hand, private patrons of public services are to be accorded any reasonably fair treatment, while investors in such companies are to be protected, although prevented from enjoying unduly served profits, surely it is equally the duty of the Legislature to veto certain provisions contained in the Carrier Bill.

One thing is clear, and to this the representatives of St. John who go to Fredericton this week must open their eyes. There are scattered through New Brunswick a great many small investors who hold securities of the New Brunswick Power Company and who naturally anticipate some return on their investment. The opinions of those investors in different communities have beyond doubt been placed before their local representatives. Those opinions of friends and neighbors will carry more weight than will cut and dried statements of fair play and justice by interested delegates from St. John. It may also readily be believed that the New Brunswick Power Company, which, in previous phases of its existence, displayed an attitude for utilizing every means at its command for forwarding its own interests, has not altogether lost that faculty, and that lobbying either in the House or elsewhere has been under way for some time. Our arguments have not as yet

been formally presented to members of the Legislature. That it is to be done today. But it is a safe guess that a great many of those members have been kept reasonably well advised by constituents and others in respect to the claims of the New Brunswick Power Company for such concessions as the Carrier Bill embodies.

POOR MR. MURRAY.

Having censured members of the Opposition on the ground that they deceived the public in respect to the financial results of the patriotic pot to transaction, it might be expected that the Venio-Foster Government in its newly acquired zeal for political purity, would attempt an explanation of its own deception of the people in the matter of the thirty thousand dollar surplus, which, by some chance, became a deficit of one hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars. The Provincial Secretary, who did not consider it worth his while to refer to this deception in his budget speech, was moved to tell the House the other evening that the financial statement issued December thirty-first had misled the people, but claimed that the Government had not been actuated by a deliberate intention to deceive, and was therefore more to be pitied for its innocence than blamed for its sin. And he forthwith introduced a bill to abolish the practice of issuing a financial statement before the end of the year in order that the Government would not have to run the risk of again being caught in deception. But Mr. Murray, whose absent-minded subtlety can only be compared with the political innocence of Peter Venio, had not reckoned—as was entirely natural—on the premier having a mind of his own. The one thing that even Mr. Foster was able to see was that the proposed bill could only have the effect of putting the Government on the horns of a dilemma. Either the adoption of that bill would confirm the impression that the Government had deceived the people and was anxious to conceal advertising in future, or it would be an advertisement that the Government was so incompetent that it could not be trusted to display sufficient business ability to determine even the approximate financial position of the province six days after the close of the fiscal year. This Premier was not particularly pleased by the laudable effort of his lieutenant to get his government out of a hole by digging another hole for him to fall into. Mr. Foster enormously enjoys his reputation as a business man. He prides himself on his ability to give the province a business Government if he lives long enough to overcome Mr. Venio's extravagance, and naturally he did not agree to any acknowledgment of the Government's incapacity as his provincial secretary's stand would imply. So Mr. Foster decided upon taking time to consider which would be the better "ole," and reprimanded poor Mr. Murray for his misguided solicitude. He peremptorily shelved the amendment to the audit act. And for the present at least Mr. Murray will have to go on signing cheques with a printing press, although he may escape the liability of endeavoring to fool the province next December.

THAT MOTOR TRUCK.

Commissioner Fisher's alleged explanation of his proposed purchase of a motor truck secured in direct violation of civic by-laws, which provide that such purchases shall be by tender, is merely a mass of meaningless words calculated to further deceive the public. With the major portion of the present concern, but when Mr. Fisher declares that "it is not true, as published in The Standard, that the commissioner has refused to give information to tenders," the editorial in The Standard is mostly based on incorrect information—there this paper has something to say. In the first place The Standard did not state that Mr. Fisher had refused to give information to tenders. His allegation to this effect is a deliberate attempt to cloud the issue and is a false presentation of what The Standard did say, a presentation which the commissioner knew was false when he made it. The Standard said and repeats that the commissioner refused to make public the information which he claims to have. And Mr. Fisher will not care deny this, for he has made it made in public. Again his declaration that the editorial in this paper was mostly based on incorrect information, is a falsehood. Every word published in The Standard was the truth and Mr. Fisher knows it to be the truth. Why on earth can he not come out like a man and say why he turned down local motor dealers in favor of an outsider whose company has not a single truck in operation in St. John nor in the province of New Brunswick so far as is known, who cut his prices in order to get the order which is not in a position to furnish service or parts as can be done by other dealers here, who never previously spent a cent in this city in his life while local men hand out thousands every week, and whose truck, as good as any so far as The Standard knows is certainly no better than the scores of others sold by local dealers,

which have been found entirely satisfactory for civic, provincial, and private purposes in the past. On behalf of the Motor Trade Association, formal protest is being made to Mayor Hayes against the method adopted in this matter, and no doubt Mr. Fisher will, before long, be given opportunity to further explain what he is now attempting to conceal.

THE CASE OF HELEN LOBB.

In the case of Helen Lobb, who was sentenced to one year's imprisonment by Magistrate Allingham in November last, the Governor-General on advice of the Minister of Justice, has ordered that the young woman be immediately granted her freedom and permitted to return to her home. The sheriff of St. John has been so notified and the prisoner accordingly released. This action was taken as a result of representations made by The Standard to the Department of Justice, that the girl was improperly sentenced on insufficient evidence, on Magistrate Allingham's own admission to this effect. Magistrate Allingham has announced his intention of first settling with the Department of Justice, and then going after The Standard. We will be pleased indeed to hear from him.

WHAT THEY SAY

Encouraging Whiskers.
New York Herald: Subtle Bolshevik propaganda is seen in barbers' demands for shorter hours and more pay, foreshadowing rise in prices and lessening of shaves and haircuts.

Without Hansard?
Brantford Expositor: The country got along so well without Hansard during the time of the strike of the Government pressmen that most people have become reconciled to doing away with this unnecessary expense altogether.

Must Be a Genius.
Toronto Globe: If the Begbie interview was invented, Begbie is a genius. His record of the ex-Kaiser's utterances sounded so like the Kaiser as to be photographic.

Envious of Ottawa.
Toronto Globe: While Ottawa is given power to raise revenue by levying land and exempting buildings, Toronto cannot go ahead with the housing scheme for workmen because so much of the land within the city is held out of use for unearned increase in value.

The Chief Factor.
Hamilton Times: Newspaper advertising is declared to have been the chief factor in raising \$40,000,000 for the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The church's publicity director said:

"There is no agency which can be made quite so effective as the daily newspapers in enlisting the interest of those who do not go to church. It already has an entrance into the homes of the people, it is not looked upon with suspicion; it appears every day; the matter it contains is discussed by everyone, and worth while advertisements paid for by the churches, preaching religions will be read by many millions, who would never, in the first instance, go to a church to hear it discussed."

Women Voted "Wet."
Hamilton Herald: In Chicago the result of the voting on the license question was very impressive. Nearly 400,000 men and women voted against prohibition, and less than 150,000 voted for it. Of the 150,000 women voted "wet" and less than 77,000 voted "dry." Commenting upon these figures, the Chicago Tribune says: "We do not believe they indicate an endorsement of the evils of the liquor trade. We do believe that the women in large part are honest and repugnant to government from the top when questions of personal habit are involved. Of the two evils, the evil of government repression of personal habit, when that habit is not and has not been in the consciousness or experience of the people in itself criminal, was declared, in the opinion of Chicago, a greater evil than any which have arisen from the use of alcohol."

A BIT OF VERSE

"WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE."
Westminster Gazette.
The guns are silent now,
Silent the men that sleep;
But would ye silence the live word
That is the heart of the people?
"At what price are ye bought?"
Back to the Forge again,
The hammer and the anvil;
Whether ye work by hand or brain,
Give answer from your heart.
"At what price are ye bought?"
"Freely our Youth we gave,
Our Hopes, our Loves, our Life,
Freedom and lasting Peace to win,
To cleanse the world from strife.
At that price are ye bought."

"Though dimly seen the goal,
We bargained not for price;
Trusting, in faith we gave it made
The greater sacrifice.
At that price are ye bought."
"Though hard and rough your road,
A harder yet we trod;
Repay our trust, redeem our price,
Strive for one Brotherhood,
Else vainly are ye bought."

A BIT OF FUN

An Advantage.
I like the moving picture show,
The pictures never speak,
And when the villain chokes a girl
We never hear her shriek.
An Agonizing Thought.
Miss Gabbiegh: I thought I never should live to tell the tale.
Miss Keen: For you that must have been suffering indeed.
He Was It.
A shy young hostess, in an effort to be genial, led aside the compar-

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

ROOFS.
Roofs are put buildings are put under. The difference between a roof and a cellar is the rest of the house.
People don't appreciate how useful their roof is till a cyclone or something blows it off, and then they open their umbrellas in the house and say, My goodness, we've had the roof all these years and never realized it.

Roofs are used principally to keep out the water and keep up the appearance. No one ever notices a house with a roof on, but as soon as they see one without a roof they make all sorts of remarks about it. Proving you are never missed till you are gone.
No matter how high up you go in a house, you can always go higher till you come to the roof, the advantage being that no one ever wants to go any higher than that anyway. The highest roofs are on the highest houses, but no matter how high your roof is, the view is no better unless the other roofs around are lower.

Some people live all their life without ever going up on their roof, some because they are afraid it might make them dizzy, and others because they haven't the ambition. People that fall off roofs hardly ever get over it.
Roofs are generally painted red, probably to make them look like the others.

tive stranger, whose name, somehow, eluded her.

"Oh, air—I've paired you off with that lady in the corner. Will you take her to dinner? My husband, naughty man, says she's a bit of an old tramp—but she's got lots of money and one of his clever friends has just married her for it, so we must be very kind to her."
"I am sorry, madam," stammered the outraged guest, "but I am the clever friend in question."

"Memories, Memories."
"I see they are making shingles out of cement now."
"Then I recall my wish to be a boy again."

Bears Attar of Roses.
Barr—What is the most expensive perfume you have?
Karr—Gasoline.

Peggy—The doctor told me I had no more than a cold.
Glory—Did you ask him about your pianist troubles?

A Cautious Compliment.
"How do you like my new hat, dear?"
"Is it all paid for?" asked her husband.
"Yes."
"By George, it's the best thing I ever saw you wear."

In Many Cases.
Theatre Owner—"I haven't seen you in my theatre for months. Don't you like pictures any more?"
Patron—"The pictures are all right, but I get tired of hearing the same music every night"—Film Fun.

Not the Same Thing.
"Aren't you paying too much rent for this studio, old man?"
"No; but I'll admit that the rent is too high."

Word of Caution.
"Mother, I am going to be an actress."
"You are?"
"Yes, I am going to do the sock and buskin."

Speculation.
I can't afford to buy the beets.
But the Lord, I can afford.
The price they ask for seeds.
If in my garden I can raise
The pictured footstuffs which
The pages show I ought to grow,
Next summer I'll be rich.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

FAIR PLAY ASKED.
To the Editor St. John Standard.
Dear Sir,—Will you kindly permit me through the columns of your paper to make a few suggestions in regards to the soldiers' civil re-establishment.
First. Men who enlisted in the early part of the war, and who were following some trade at that time, and who were not able to complete same are now returning from active service, some with categories and others A1. The category men are being given vocational training while the A1 men are being left to continue civil life the best they can.
Second. Men who were drafted under the M. S. A., and who went as far as England are given a category on some ailment, such as fallen arches or sickness, etc., and who are, or will receive, the vocational training.
In the opinion of a great many returned soldiers this seems hardly a square deal, that these men, who are being discharged A1, some of whom have been wounded two and three times, and have carried the fair name of Canada through the biggest engagements of the world's history, are now being passed by as by-gones heroes.

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TWO TRUCKERS INJURED.
A Walbank of 14 Prince Street, and J. Malley, of 28 Germain Street west, two C. P. R. truckers, were injured yesterday while at work at No. 13 shed. Mr. Walbank had his leg crushed and chin cut, and Mr. Malley his chest hurt. They were treated at the Emergency Hospital and then sent to their homes.

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Come in and see our fine watches.

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Jewelers and Opticians.
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A FLOORING THAT IS NEW HERE

9-16 flooring has a good sale in other places in Canada. It has many good features to commend it. It comes in 1-4 face the width that makes the nicest floor. It can be laid over old floors where thicker stock is not practical. The price is lower—\$90.00.
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THE POLICE COURT.

Two drunks appeared in the police court yesterday and were each fined eight dollars. Four or five bottles of lemon extract were found in their possession. An interesting liquor case will be alared at the opening of the court this morning, when two women and three men will face the charges of being drunk and with having liquor in their possession. The woman, who resides in the house on Sheffield street where the drunks were arrested was also gathered in by inspectors McAinch and Mann. Two bottles partly filled with whisky were found on the premises.

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