

## The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 31, 1911.  
INEPTITUDE AND INEFFICIENCY.

One of the most striking instances of what Mr. Borden termed "the ineptitude and inefficiency" of the Laurier Government, and the total disregard of business principles, was brought to the attention of Parliament by Mr. Richard Blain, the member for Peel recently, when he moved a vote of censure on the action of the Department of Public Works in renting certain buildings in Ottawa at prices which gave the owners annually from 15 to 18 per cent. on the cost of their property.

Mr. Blain instanced the case of the old Y. M. C. A. building which was on the market for eighteen months, and was eventually sold for \$47,500. The purchaser added a couple of stories and spent some \$32,000 on it, so that the total investment in the property was \$80,000. The building is rented to house the Department of Labor, and an annual net rental of \$14,484 is paid for it.

The Government is continually boasting of its surpluses. It is a fair question to ask Mr. Pugsley why he did not take \$80,000 out of a treasury which Mr. Fielding says is so well stocked with surpluses, buy this building outright, and thus do away with the necessity of paying eighteen per cent. But no. That would have been much too business-like a course for the Government and especially for Mr. Pugsley to pursue. Waste of public money must continue to go merrily on, and it is a significant thing that the supporters of the administration in Parliament, when confronted with indisputable facts and figures as to this condition of affairs in the renting of buildings at exorbitant prices from political friends, calmly by their votes support the hands of Mr. Pugsley in this carnival of extravagance.

It is not an inspiring thought that Liberal members are so blinded by partisan feeling that they will defend by their votes, transactions which as ordinary business men in their own every day dealings they would not consider for a moment. The Liberal party today has been so long identified with rake-off and graft that it does not hesitate to support a policy permitting the same to run riot.

## "THE DECLARATION OF LONDON."

The objections of British shipping interests to the ratification by the Imperial Parliament of "The Declaration of London," the agreement governing the taking of prizes in naval warfare adopted in a conference of the chief naval powers two years ago, are being strongly pressed, and the fight has now been taken up by Lloyd's. Officials at Lloyd's assert that if the declaration is accepted, the war risks on British shipping will be so high—at least fifty guineas per cent—that the owners will be unable to send their vessels to sea.

A special committee was appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce to discuss the "Declaration of London." Its report, recently issued, is distinctly condemnatory. The most important article in the "Declaration of London" deals with "conditional contraband," which includes all foodstuffs. Such contraband is liable to confiscation. This clause, according to the committee, jeopardizes the supply of foodstuffs in time of war, and the effect would be famine, or, what is the same thing, famine prices, as neutral carriers would be unwilling to run the risk of conveying food to Great Britain. Shipments to neutral Continental ports, on the other hand, would involve no risk at all.

The report adds:—The irony of this danger to Great Britain is enhanced by the fact that such neutral Continental ports \* \* \* may actually be supply ports relied on by the enemy; and that \* \* \* the enemy would even be permitted through such ports to import food for his armed forces, openly and exempt from capture.

The committee point out that the "Declaration of London" appears to have been framed without sufficient regard to the fundamental difference between the situation of Great Britain (an island without neutral ports to fall back upon), which has to import most of its food supplies by sea, and that of Continental countries (connected with various neutral ports), which are largely self-supporting.

After discussing the questions of the destruction of neutral prizes, and of the conversion of merchant vessels into commerce destroyers, the committee conclude as follows:—"Your committee have considered the question mainly from the commercial and national standpoint, and they have, almost unanimously, come to the conclusion to recommend that the 'Declaration of London' should not be ratified in its present form, or be made effective by the passing of the Naval Prize Bill now before Parliament.

Accompanying their report the committee submit the following, among other reasons, as the basis of their recommendation:—

(a) That the effect of the Declaration is to alter the Law of Nations as hitherto maintained in a manner entirely unprecedented, and to expose to capture or to liberate destruction food supplies borne to any part of Great Britain in neutral vessels.

(b) That the absence of any provision in the Declaration for preventing the conversion of merchant vessels into commerce destroyers on the high seas constitutes a valid reason for praying his Majesty's Government to decline to ratify the Declaration, or to proceed with the Naval Prize Bill.

(c) That the admission of the principle of destruction of neutral prizes would be in the highest degree prejudicial to the interests of this country."

The committee, which included Lord Desborough, Lord Brunsell, and Mr. T. Gibson-Bowles, consisted in the main of leading representatives of British mercantile,

shipping, and insurance interests. Their recommendations that the agreement should not be ratified in its present form, in view of the fact that it is their interests which are primarily affected, may be expected to carry great weight.

## WOMAN AND INTELLECT.

The recent vote of twenty-nine members of the Paris Academy of Sciences for Mme. Curie, against thirty votes for her male rival, M. Brault, indicates almost a practical certainty that her election as a member of that illustrious body is only a matter of time. The near approach to a majority in her favor is the more impressive from the fact that those who voted for her election did so in the face of the advisory decision adverse to the admission of a woman which had been rendered by the Institute of France, but which was not binding on the separate Academies composing the Institute.

Both the near approach made by Mme. Curie to membership in the Academy of Sciences, and her actual failure to attain it, may serve to teach the same lesson in regard to the much-mooted question of the capacity of women for the highest forms of intellectual achievement. It is impossible to judge of the potentialities of women as compared with men by what has actually been recorded of achieved results, so long as those incentives which are the greatest spur to human effort are present in the case of men and absent in the case of women. Women are handicapped by the lack of a thousand forms of incentive and opportunity; and if the rare woman who nevertheless scores a splendid success is denied the usual form of recognition, we cannot but be struck with the contrast, all along the line, between the conditions surrounding women and those surrounding men.

The rareness of high distinction in women as compared with men would call for no explanation if people merely exercised a little imagination. It is true that educational opportunities have now, for some years, been liberally opened to women, but these constitute but a small part of the elements in the case. The whole of those decisive forces that determine the career of a man, that keep him spurred to effort, that sustain him, both morally and materially, in the pursuit of his aim, are absent in the case of the overwhelming majority of women. Encouragement, comradeship, the hope of a happy and successful life, the fear of failure—all these constant and pervasive forces, quite as much as love of the work itself, form the spring of the young man's action; not in the case of one woman in a hundred is the like true.

People are willing to allow for this in a sort of way, but they have not enough imagination to make anything like adequate allowance. And as for the absence of any example of the absolutely greatest achievement, it ought only to be necessary to point out that this condition has not yet produced either a Shakespeare or a Newton, although the number of male inhabitants to whose literary and scientific aspirations there has been no obstacle, has been incomparably greater than that of all the women since the world began of whom this can be said.

## THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE.

The annual report of the business for the year 1910, of the North American Life Assurance Company, presented at the thirtieth annual meeting in Toronto last week, is indicative of the strong position this company holds among Canadian insurance companies. The cash income from premiums, interest, etc., shows the satisfactory increase of \$147,134.91. The amount paid on Policyholders' Account was \$877,792.31, of which sum \$142,764.06 was for surplus or dividends. Considering that the sum of \$6,000 only was paid to Guarantors, the preponderance of the Policyholders' interest is apparent. The large amount of \$480,707.85, including surplus and guaranteed reserve, was paid to holders of Deferred Dividend policies.

The assets of the company increased by \$898,308.42 during the year, and now amount to \$11,388,773.32. They continue to be, as heretofore, invested in the best class of securities available, principally in Mortgage Loans and Bonds. After making ample provision for all liabilities and further strengthening the reserves, the net surplus on policyholder's account was increased to \$1,174,768.68. The policies issued during the year, together with those revived, amounted to the sum of \$5,106,047, being an increase over the previous year. The total business in force amounts to \$43,391,236.

The business of the company continues to be conducted on a conservative and economical basis. Its record is one of consistent and increasing prosperity which should recommend it to purchasers of life insurance as a most desirable medium for their investments. The management for this province is in the experienced hands of Mr. C. Stewart Everett with headquarters in this city.

## Current Comment

(Winnipeg Telegram.)

Why should not the dominions exchange governors-general? A distinguished Canadian as governor-general of Australia, and a distinguished Australian as governor-general of Canada, and so on, might seem at first glance a somewhat startling innovation. But there is nothing inherently impossible about it, and it might have a highly educative and combinative effect in the development of the Empire.

(Stratford Beacon.)

Rev. Manly Benson of St. Catharines, formerly of Stratford, regrets that sermons are not published in full in the daily press. Would people read them if they were? It is very doubtful. The Beacon's experience in regard to publishing sermons is that very few people read them, except those who have already heard them and a few who were prevented from hearing them.

(Buffalo News.)

A fine way to avoid domestic trouble when you see it brewing, is to put on your lid and walk 10 points NW of your Southern exposure, retrace 24 points SE, then tack 99 points due west to the new-store or neighborhood loading place, smoke three cigars, find from hearsay how badly other men's wives treat 'em and then go home and kiss the lady.

(Guelph Mercury.)

Since Confederation shareholders in Canadian banks have lost forty million dollars in bank failures. Every failure has been due to the shortcomings in the head office of the bank. In nearly every case an independent inspection or audit—an inspection or audit by an outsider—would have stopped the trouble in time.

(Vancouver Province.)

The effort being made to resurrect a combat between Messrs. Jeffries and Johnson is received with incredulous indifference. The gladiators may be able to come back, but the spectators who witnessed their last encounter will certainly not make the attempt.

(Chicago News.)

There is a man who lost his wife in Chicago within two hours after getting her. That, however, is somewhat faster than usual.

## The Standard's Old Reporter

"St. John is not as sophisticated as it thinks it is," remarked Uncle Hiram, as he considered an argument with a prominent business man on the commission question.

"The Telegraph's observations are almost as naive as those of the esteemed Times, and if St. John could be more childish—then I was only born yesterday. Seventeen men can't do a certain thing; therefore five can. That's the weighty argument of the Telegraph. St. John can do what any city has done; let us, therefore, adopt the commission and save our souls alive." Thus says the thunderer of Canterbury street.

"Now the point is that to the Telegraph five is a mystical number, as my friend Ned Lantulum remarked the other day when metaphorically speaking he shook his five fingers under Pugsley's nose and wanted to know about that five cents a yard.

As for the thunderer it never occurs to its ingenious mind that if St. John can do what other cities have done, it ought to do as well under the present system of government as Glasgow has done—and that if it wants the best form of government it should adopt the system which has produced the best results elsewhere—that is the Glasgow system of electing one-third of the council each year.

"All this pother about the form of civic government, without any effort to rouse the spirit of the citizenship strikes me as rather peculiar. No wonder my friend the alderman says the commission is a political stalking horse—all shams and all."

"Then you don't believe in the commission?" says I. "Not until the people learn to read the Times and find out that good government means running the city according to the ideas of the backwoods. At present it doesn't look as if many people read that paper. You talk to anybody about the commission and it's 9 to 1 he looks surprised and says:—

"What's that, the mayor has been talking of putting the harbor in commission again, has he?"

## OPINION ON RECIPROCITY

Pacific States Will Control Western Canadian Market—Produce Merchants in Consternation.

## IN THE NIAGARA PENINSULA.

Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 28.—E. D. Smith of Winona, said today that if the proposed changes went into force the whole fruit trade of the western provinces would be controlled by Oregon and California growers. He pointed out that the Southern fruit ripened much more rapidly than that of Canada and that the American growers would be in a position to flood the Canadian market, practically ruining the trade of Niagara peninsula. The same thing applied to new potatoes and early vegetables. Mr. Smith estimated that the value of land in the Niagara peninsula would be reduced from \$500 and \$1,000 to \$100 per acre if the trade treaty went into force. The local growers had been working for years to secure better freight and express rates so that they might be able to supply the West and Maritime Provinces with fruits and just when a satisfactory agreement was in sight the treaty was to be wiped off and the business ruined.

HIGHER PRICES FOR PRODUCE. Montreal, Jan. 28.—Business men here express the opinion that one of the most serious consequences of the treaty would be to make British Canadian system impossible and in this way injurious to British connection. In fact, it was felt to be the thin edge of the wedge, for practical union with the United States. The proposal if put into law, it was agreed, would also be a bad thing for the consumer, who would have to pay the higher prices ruling on the American markets for eggs, cheese, poultry, butter, etc.

## PULP AND PAPER MARKET

Montreal, Jan. 28.—The paper manufacturers are, according to one official of one of the largest companies of one of the United States, unalterably opposed to the placing of paper and pulp on the free list. He declared that were the proposed arrangements in regard to paper and pulp ratified by parliament it would mean the destruction of the United States market as far as the Canadian manufacturers were concerned, and probably the ruin of Canadian companies from Canadian markets. "The United States would," he declared, "under the proposed arrangements be able to bring their pulpwood from Canada, turn it into paper at a smaller cost than it could be done in Canada and send it back to compete at a lower price with the Canadian manufactured article. Further, I do not see what right the federal government has to legislate in connection with the pulpwood and paper question. It is purely a provincial matter."

## MAY INJURE BUTTER MARKETS.

Montreal, Jan. 28.—The Produce Merchants' Association held a meeting in the board of trade today, and were put in a state of consternation, as they called it, by the fact that news had been received by Mr. Ayer, stating in answer to a telegram to Ottawa that Irish, New Zealand, Australian and in fact, other butter, could be brought into Canada to compete with Canadian butter on an equal footing. At the present time, New Zealand and the British Isles may send butter to Canada under the preferential tariff of three cents per pound; the United States and Australia pay four.

"This will put Canada's farmers and butter makers into competition with all the world," said J. A. Gunn, president of the Produce Merchants' Association, at the conclusion of the meeting, "and the whole field affected by the proposed reciprocity arrangements is so vast that we were not able to do anything in the time at our disposal. The produce dealer will always get along but it is the farmers' interests we are now trying to steady. We absolutely will not know where we stand as things are at present, for the whole announcement was so surprising that it has taken the members

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of our association off their feet practically. The idea of butter coming into Canada free from all those countries, puts the farmer in an awkward position and at the same time, these butter producing countries cannot get into the United States without paying the duties marked up against them."

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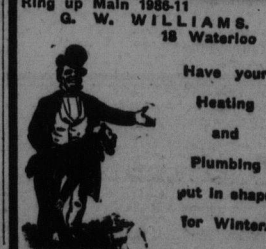
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m., Wednesday.

Belyea—At Wickh  
Jan. 26th, Capt.  
the 83rd year of  
wife and one da  
two brothers.

Kain—At his late  
Holt Row, on  
Knock Kain, sec  
John Kain, leavi  
two brothers.

Funeral on Tuesda  
at 2.30, service at  
Read—At her resi  
street, Moncton,  
Mary Helen, belo  
Read, leaving tw  
sister.

Funeral from the  
sister, Mrs. E.  
Queen street, W.  
p. m.

Members of Tru  
11, are requested  
Gilbert street, at 1  
to attend the fune  
brother Pass, Coun

SAMUEL F.

Members of the R  
P. A. P. B.'s are in

D. Bo

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OPTICS EX

Hours: 8.30 a.m.

9.30 p. m.