

# The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 7th, 1910

## SINGLE TAX IN THE STATES.

The Manufacturers' Association of Seattle appointed a committee on taxation, and the committee recently issued a report which makes interesting reading in this city of complicated assessments. The report opens with the statement that "within the last two or three years it has been the custom in this country to increase the personal property assessments of manufacturing and other industrial establishments," and proceeds with the statement that while the work in this direction "may have slightly increased our tax receipts, it has driven industrial institutions from Seattle, kept new ones from coming, and set some of those now established here to thinking of moving to more favorable locations. The net result has been an injury to the city ten times as great as the increased taxes coming to the county treasury."

The report points to the fact that "in many progressive countries and communities it has been abolished." In Baltimore, it proceeds, "the machinery used in manufacturing plants is exempt," and the Baltimore Sun comments on the result as follows:—"The exemption of manufacturing plants has been one of the greatest sources of prosperity to Baltimore, and the impetus thus given to the establishment and extension of manufacturing industries in our city has far exceeded in value the taxes which have been abated. In some lines Baltimore now ranks among the leading manufacturing centres of the country, and this is mainly the result of the growth in the last fifteen or sixteen years. Employment has been furnished to thousands of our citizens, and it would be difficult to estimate the addition either to the number of inhabitants or to the amount of taxable basis directly due to the development of our manufactures."

The report quotes the Advisory Commission on Taxation and Finance of the City of New York, which said in a report:—"The personal property tax is a farce. It falls inequitably upon the comparatively few who are caught. The burden it imposes upon production is out of all proportion to the revenue it produces. Year after year state and local assessing boards have announced it as impracticable in its workings and unjust in its results. These recommendations have for the most part passed unheeded or have led to ineffectual attempts to bolster up the law. It is time the situation was faced squarely, and the tax in its present form abolished."

After further quotations, the report proceeds:—"Inasmuch as radical changes in methods of taxation have been inaugurated in Canada, we desire to call your attention to what is being done by our neighbors and competitors across the British line. To any one who investigates carefully and intelligently, it is evident that Canadian communities, by changing antiquated methods of taxation, are offering inducements that divert commerce from Seattle to Vancouver, and draw farmers to Alberta instead of Eastern Washington. To satisfy ourselves we turned our attention to the building records of Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and Vancouver. We have compared the records of the building inspectors' offices of these cities for the first seven months of 1909 and 1910, and the figures are certainly startling. In Spokane there was a decrease of sixteen per cent. over last year; in Tacoma a decrease of twenty-four per cent.; and in Seattle a decrease of twenty per cent.; while in Vancouver there was an increase of eighty-six per cent."

The committee recommend "that the Association use its influence for the adoption of a constitutional amendment which will exempt from taxation all personal property except franchises of public service corporations and buildings and equity in land listed as personal property."

## A DISSATISFIED ORGAN.

The Sackville Tribune is dissatisfied with the work Mr. Robinson is doing as leader of the provincial opposition. It thinks he should show himself offener in the constituencies, hold more meetings and get candidates in the field.

This is easier said than done, remarks the Monitor Times. Mr. Robinson is not a magician and probably realizes that instead of making gains in the next election he can, if he remains in his present position, scarcely hope to hold his present following. Indeed, but for the interest Mr. Pugsley may have in the next provincial contest, presuming that it takes place before the Laurier government is defeated, it is doubtful if there would be candidates in opposition to Mr. Hazen in half the constituencies in this province.

Mr. Robinson, no doubt, would like to be relieved of the hopeless and thankless task that is before him as leader of the provincial opposition. He must realize that in the event of a contest he would be called upon, perhaps through no direct fault of his own, to explain some things that are impossible of a reasonably convincing explanation. He would be unable to explain, though Mr. Pugsley might, what became of the \$130,000 of Central Railway money that the Commissioners found to be unaccounted for. He would be unable to explain why Mr. Pugsley was allowed to use for his own purposes, for a number of years, several thousands of dollars of provincial money, which was not returned to the treasury until some days after Mr. Robinson's government was defeated in March, 1908. He would be unable to explain satisfactorily why the provincial revenue from Crown lands is \$160,000 or \$180,000 larger than it was in his last year, though the lumber business is no more prosperous now than formerly. And he would be unable to convince the people that there was any good reason for the condition in which the roads and bridges were left at the end of twenty-five years

of Blair-Emmerson-Tweedle-Pugsley-Robinson administration. Mr. Robinson may not be directly responsible for all the sins of his predecessors, but he sat in the House for a number of years as their supporter and raised no voice against them. He probably means well enough, but after condoning their acts by supporting them and succeeding them in the Premiership when they had run their course, he cannot evade the responsibility.

## LAURIER'S INTERFERENCE RESENTED.

Canadian subscriptions to the Irish parliamentary fund continue to excite much controversy in Great Britain. Mr. Arnold White, one of England's twelve foremost publicists, whose front page article signed "Vanco," is a leading feature in the Referee, says:—"When we are told Sir Wilfrid Laurier has given dollars to O'Connor it is fair to inquire what Sir Wilfrid's interference with our domestic politics is supposed to prove? Why does he not mind his own business? If the English Prime Minister were to interfere in Canadian racial politics he would be scolded with a blaze of angry protest. Lord Sackville, our ambassador, was hooted out of Washington for writing a private letter, not for publication."

"Why should we English be interfered with in our struggle with subsidized disloyalty by a leader of French-Canadians? This is life or death to England and Canada does not contribute a farthing to the civil list of the King. Canada leaves to the people of England the privilege of paying ninety-one per cent. of the cost of the Empire. Let Laurier remember the fate of those who in quarrels interpose. We know our business better than to abandon Ulster. If parliament passes the bill and home rule is granted, then comes a socialist programme for England on top of a civil war in Ireland."

## PASSING HENCE.

The Ladies' Home Journal has abolished death—at least from its columns. It prefaces its resolution to do this by the question, "Can we not get away from the universal use of the words 'dead' and 'death,' and even the harsher sounding words, 'die,' 'dying,' and 'died?'" Aside from the harshness and cruelty of the words themselves, the objection is taken that they no longer express our belief. "We are all fast reaching the belief," it is said, "that we do not die; that we are not dead. We pass from one stage to another and so why should we not say what we believe of ourselves and of those dear to us; that we simply pass away?"

Many people will think that it is a mere matter of words, but the Journal is of opinion that any usage, and contributing element, no matter how seemingly small, that will help in the slightest degree to remove the old-fashioned gruesomeness that has so long been associated with the completion of our work here and the beginning of our work in another stage, is worth adoption. At any rate, the Journal has adopted the rule for itself, and hereafter the words objected to are to be proscribed—to become obsolete—so far as the Journal is concerned.

It is satisfactory to note the fair minded attitude of the Chatham Commercial, a Liberal Journal, in a recent reference to the Hazen Government and the condition of the country roads. Commenting on a partisan attack by the St. Andrew's Beacon the Commercial says:—"If the road conditions in Charlotte county really are as our contemporary represents, we would suggest that the people who suffer thereby should get after the Highway Board as the responsible authority. This board is elected by the public to look after the roads and if it fails in its duty, the remedy is in the public's own hands. The Beacon's object of course is to try to throw the blame for the bad roads on to the Hazen Highway Act, a very senseless and stupid line of conduct, having regard to the fact that from practically every other quarter of the province come reports that seldom, if ever, have the roads been in better condition than they are in at the present time. It is not suggested that they are by any means perfect, but there is a vast improvement in them since the present Highway Act came into operation. In those places where the roads are bad, it is entirely the fault of the local authorities who deliberately refuse to use the opportunity they have at their command to make them better."

## Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Hon. George E. Foster is himself again and the occupants of the Ministerial benches are writhing under his criticisms. Mr. Foster has had the experience that other opponents of spurious Liberalism have gone through. Years ago, the so-called Liberals tried to make out that Sir Francis Hincks was a thief. They followed this up by pretending to believe that Sir John Macdonald had robbed the country through the secret service fund. More recently they assailed Sir Charles Tupper, who they said had stolen a coal mine from the Nova Scotia Government. Every man in public life who fights wrongs such as those perpetrated at Ottawa risks his personal reputation for his country. But he has the consolation of knowing that his fellow-countrymen will not judge him by the perverted standard of his enemies.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

There are three vacancies in the senate, from Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island respectively. It will be interesting to watch whether the government at this juncture will have the courage to pursue the usual policy of lifting some of their good little supporters in the House of Commons to seats in the Upper Chamber. The contests to fill vacancies in such a contingency would give a further line upon public opinion in its relation to the present government. It will be recalled that the elevation of Mr. Louis Laverge, M. P., to the senate opened up Drummond-Arthabaska and caused that recent regrettable incident.

(New York Press.)

It takes a man who is loaded up with work to shoulder more and pack it with ease. It's an old idea with men of large experience that if you want a thing done promptly and well you should give the job to the busiest man you know. Things are piling upon him so fast that if he doesn't shovel, shovel all the time, they will bury him.

(Edmonton Journal.)

Canada saved two British vessels from the scrap heap by purchasing them as the nucleus of a tin pot navy, and now Laurier and his associates are having an awful time trying to persuade the free and independent that this action strengthened Britain's naval power.

(Montreal Star.)

The court at Washington, D. C., has decided that a man can make a noise, by gramophone or otherwise, all night, in his own home. Yes, but may a man legally make a noise like a vacuum cleaner, when he is eating soup in a restaurant?

## The Standard's Old Reporter

### THE YOUNG LIBS. SMOKER.

After the remarks by Hiram Hornbeam free cigars not made in factories friendly to labor, were passed around, and when the smoke became so thick that the rostrum was invisible to the audience, and hence quite safe:—

Then Robinson came gliding on in a depressing way. And meek and mild as a little child He said his little say.

"I'm rather lost," he said and crossed His arms upon his breast; And faith, he seemed as if he deemed His was a futile quest.

But bye-and-bye with a heavy sigh He found himself a bit. And sought to show in tones of woe He was a gritty Giff.

"Of Laurier you must, I say, Be gloriously proud; A pillar of light he is by night, By day a shining cloud.

"Of Pugsley too, I know that you Are worshippers no less; A Moses new he leads us to The Land of Promises.

"O'er your rocky land he raised his hand, And soon like waters gushing, Prosperity so fair and free Around your town was rushing.

"O'er the muddy pond he waved his wand, And, lo, before your eyes, The water rolls from Courtenay shoals, And mighty wonders rise.

"Much booty ye will doubtless see Drift to your harbor gate, While William steers for the bucan- eers, Scuttling the ship of state.

"And then in me, I know you see, A prophet stern with naught to learn, Your star, your hope, your pride.

"Though I was passed elections last, A lemon bill, my friends I'll make amend, And lead you back to power.

"Up, up and boost! We'll win the roost, Where the Tories sit and shake; And ducks and drakes for your dear sake.

"Of the revenues I'll make, Each henchman stout I have no doubt Will have to help himself. But oh, for me and two or three, There'll be a pile of pelf.

"The roads I built in shame and guilt, Whoreby I suffered sore, Shall all be paved with blocks of gold As smooth as yonder floor.

"Stump speakers good then won't saw wood, About some old tree stumps; And the Hazen crew will get their due Down in the doleful dumps.

"O'er the public debt no man need fret, We'll carry it along, And when it's weight becomes too great— Well, Tories are quite strong.

"But friends I'm tired of being fired, Out in the cold and rain, So please be kind and let me mind Your business once again."

The speaker stopped while tear drops dropped, Adown his solemn face, Till the dreadful roar of a hearty snore Rang through the meeting place.

The thick smoke cleared—the speaker glared— The shock with horrid fears— For all around in sleep profound The young Libs sprawled in their chair.

## TAFT GIVES JOB TO DEMOCRAT



FREDERICK W. LEHMANN.

St. Louis, Dec. 5.—President Taft and his cabinet have decided on Frederick W. Lehmann for the post of solicitor general and it is said Lehmann has signified his willingness to accept the place. He is an able lawyer, an independent Democrat in politics and a prominent member of the American Bar Association. Once upon a time he was attorney for the Wabash railroad, but gave up that work to practice law in partnership with his son.

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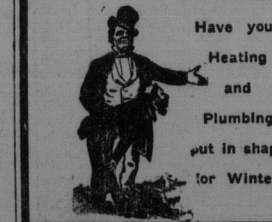
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