

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

A CAREER OF FAILURE.

The people of New Brunswick will recall the campaign of vilification, slander and abuse which was waged against the present Opposition party in the recent provincial elections. Charges of the most reckless character were made, facts were misrepresented and everything conceivable was done to discredit the members and supporters of the late administration. The eminent jurist of the new government held up his hands in holy horror at the shocking conditions they alleged existed under the late regime. They openly declared that investigation would disclose such conditions as would operate to drive several members of the late administration from public life.

The first session of the provincial house closed on Friday, and notwithstanding the wild vapors of the Carterites the Opposition party is still intact. In fact not one member of the late administration was even damaged. The most searching investigations carried on by the government and its auditors have failed to reveal one transaction in the innumerable matters of public business under the late government that reflects in the slightest on any of its members. And the fact that no irregularities were discovered is proof positive that they did not exist, as the electors will be unanimous in the opinion that the investigations were most thorough.

The most the government can make out of the investigations which have been carried on is that a different mode of bookkeeping of the accounts of the province would be desirable. That the auditors would advise changes is only natural, as no two firms can be found who can agree on any one system, each claiming that their own methods are the best to follow. But it is evident that there are no outstanding liabilities of the province, and that the late administration after discharging all accounts, were able to show a tidy surplus on ordinary account. As to carrying out the auditors' recommendations the new government themselves cannot agree and it was thought wiser to stand the matter over until next session.

The one significant thing, however, is the absence of even a suggestion that one dollar of the public money was stolen or misappropriated under the late administration, which fact after the canvasses that were employed by the present government and the press supporting them, is a complete vindication of Hon. Mr. Murray and his colleagues. This state of affairs is in marked contrast to the chaotic conditions revealed in 1908, when the report of the independent auditors was made public. The people of New Brunswick will remember the many cases of members of the government keeping the provincial moneys in their own private bank accounts, and using funds from the public chest for their own accommodation and at their own will.

Also in marked contrast to the Hazen Government is the weakness of the present administration, which was clearly manifest every day during the session. For their failure to present a programme of constructive legislation, the government gave the poor excuse that they did not have sufficient time to make preparation. But when the Hazen Government met the house in 1908 they had their legislative programme already prepared and they carried it through in much less time, yet not a single member of that administration had any previous cabinet experience. Mr. Foster had the advantage of the assistance of Hon. C. W. Robinson, a former premier. Without Mr. Robinson's assistance the people are wondering what the government would have done. They point out the frequent displays of legislation being brought down not only before the government supporters were consulted, but even without members of the executive themselves being familiar with it, legislation which had to be withdrawn and brought up later when the conflicting views of the administration and its supporters had been harmonized.

The government seemed to be possessed with the idea that it was necessary to have a large number of measures introduced without stopping to consider their character or their preparation, with the result that many undigested measures were brought down in the dying days of the session.

The country under the present government was treated with the spectacle of a leader who could not lead, but who had to rely on other members of the administration to present practically every measure of importance that came before the house.

It was stated that the provincial secretary-treasurer was prevented from taking an active part in the proceedings of the Assembly by reason of the state of his health, which was rather a fortunate thing for the administration, as no one can imagine that gentleman presenting any statement of finance which would be received otherwise than as a jest.

The government supporters themselves have expressed the view that if the administration is to go on, it will be necessary to make changes in the personnel of the government. Even the redoubtable Mr. Veniot took good care to shew off and not meet his predecessor in debate. As minister of lands and mines, Mr. Smith has confined his explanation of legislation he introduced to type-written memoranda which had been prepared for him in the department and beyond which he dared not venture for fear he would be lost in a sea of incompetency.

The general expression from the galleries has been that of wonder why really able men like Mr. Magee and Mr. King were not entrusted with a share of the administration of the business of the country, and that a man of Mr. Sweeney's parliamentary experience was not at least entrusted with the position of Speaker, so that the voice of the prompter might not be heard in the land. It was evident to all that the weight of ability and legislative experience was entirely with the Opposition, to whose assistance, not only the government but the country is indebted for putting many of the measures presented into workable shape. The general verdict is that the "one business man's administration" has started on a career of failure.

THE HARRIS MURDER.

Chief of Police Simpson is quoted in the Globe of Saturday as stating "the police department will take no action in the case of Robert Harris until the finding of the jury is made known." As Mr. Simpson enjoys the reputation—so far not challenged—of being always on the job, this report of his remarks must be erroneous. It is inconceivable that an officer in his position, charged with the enforcement of the law, should permit the agencies at his command to remain idle until a purely formal enquiry has taken place. The verdict of the jury in this case can be only a crystallization of facts now generally known, a summing up of what everybody has learned. And any delay on the part of the police at such a time may render far more difficult the task of fixing the crime on those responsible for its commission. It is to be hoped, and The Standard believes it true, that the police are busy, if not, they ought to be, and not one moment should be lost in bringing to justice the man or men who murdered Robert Harris.

There is an ugly suspicion—so far as is now known, without any foundation in fact—that members of a striking union or their sympathizers know something of this affair. Now is the time for organized labor to prove its real worth to the community. So long as suspicion rests upon any organized union, so long will all organized labor suffer in public esteem. Let the members of the plumbers' union take hold of this affair, and prove that they, individually and collectively, have no connection with the crime. If, and if only, it is found that sympathizers with that body have erred, then let the labor men repudiate such conduct and do their utmost toward bringing the criminals to justice. Let other unions urge this policy, especially those bodies which have formally expressed their sympathy with the striking plumbers. For so long as this suspicion continues, just so long will organized labor suffer in public esteem. And the reputation enjoyed by all unions in St. John is too valuable an asset to be allowed to suffer because of an act perpetrated no doubt by some irresponsible individual.

Somebody killed Robert Harris. St. John wants to know without any waste of time, who that person is.

LITTLE KNIGHT OF THE BLACK PLUME WARMS UP.

For some little space of time recent, by the good folks of Moncton and other places have been enjoying a restful calm, but it was only one of those lulls which presage dirty weather. The evident reason was that the editor of the Transcript went to On-

caro and took all his big thunder with him.

But Mr. Hawke has returned to the battle once more and is busy churning up the atmosphere of "The Bear" with fearful attacks on all things Tory and the Conservative newspapers of the province in particular. He has almost persuaded himself to be a rabid anti-conscriptor. Indeed, we believe if the Moncton Times is correct, he wrote of revolution or some old thing several months ago.

In a terrifying discharge from one of his heavy guns, we find: "With the thermometer soaring upwards, it would be well for some people in the Dominion of Canada, at the present moment, to keep cool. This advice is especially commended to Liberals."

For once Editor Hawke is eternally right, but then he should not let this advice go wholly away from the corner of Main and Westmorland streets.

WESLEY MACDONALD'S BRAVERY WON THE D. C. M.

Gunner Herbert Morrell of Newcastle in Letter to Mother Tells How MacDonald Took Desperate Chance and Won Honors.

Newcastle, June 22.—Mrs. Walter Morrell has received the following letter from her son Gunner Herbert Morrell in which he tells how Gunner Wesley MacDonald a Newcastle boy was the D. C. M.

Gunner MacDonald is a son of Pte. James MacDonald of the wireless garrison.

France, May 27, 1917

Dear Mother, I haven't had a letter from you for a couple of weeks, but there will probably be some mail in to night. Some times I get a letter several months old, but nevertheless I am always glad to get it. I was up to see Fred a few nights ago. He is still at the "advanced" dump.

Horrie has been attached to our Battery and was transferred a few days ago as a wheeler. We are having it pretty easy now as far as work is concerned. All our equipment is polished and cleaned so it isn't very hard to keep it so. I was quite surprised the other night to meet Frank Cress Wallace Smallwood, and George McInerney, and last night a bunch of the boys from the 6th draft were over to see us. They came to France a few days ago. I suppose Donald has been recommended for the D. C. M. He saved several thousand rounds of ammunition (18 pounder and 4.5 Howitzer shells) from a dump which had caught fire from one of Fritz's fire shells. He carried out the burning box full of shells and stopped the fire from spreading. He certainly took a big chance on being blown to atoms.

There was a concert last night over in a big tent erected for the purpose. It was splendid, and was quite a change for us too. It was just getting dark when Fritz came over. Our machine went after him and after a hard "saw" got him. It was very interesting to watch them. We have started a base ball league and the first game will be pulled off Thursday here we are put in a team, but we may be away from a team, but before long. We are having such nice weather and are having such a good time. We will be rather hard to go to work again. As I have nothing more in the way of news to write I will close for this time. Love to all from Herb.

INSPECTOR WILSON TALKS

When seen by a Standard reporter Inspector Wilson talked of the amendments of the act for the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquor had been passed and had now become a law in New Brunswick. He pointed out three sections (Sections 38, 180, 181) as being of prime importance, and he stated that all those connected with the temperance beer traffic should study the last two sections very closely.

Section 38 reads as follows: No person shall upon any vehicle of transportation or at any public place of resort, or upon any sign or bill board, or in any newspaper, periodical or other publication, printed or published in this province, or upon any circular, poster or price lists, or otherwise advertise the manufacture, sale or furnishing of liquor, or the person from whom or place where, or the price of which, or the method by which liquor may be obtained, and no person shall sell or distribute any such liquor. No person, whether such person be a proprietor, agent, sign or bill board containing such advertisement to be or remain upon his premises, provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the publishing of the name and place of business of licensees under this act.

Sections 180 and 181 of the amended act are of particular interest to those engaged in the sale of temperance beers and read as follows:

Sec. 180.—Upon application to the Chief Inspector by any person the Chief Inspector may upon payment of such fee as may be fixed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council issue a license to such person for the sale of such drinkable liquids as are non-intoxicating, that is, having less percentage of alcohol than two per centum of proof spirits such as hop beer, root beer, and similar liquids or beverages that contain alcohol, and are classed under sub-section (A) of section 2 hereof as non-intoxicating, such license to be known as a beer license, and shall be in force until the first day of May next succeeding the issue thereof.

Sec. 181.—A beer license shall be construed to mean a license for selling, bartering or trafficking by retail

Little Benny's Note Book.

I was sucking on a orange, and Puds Binkins came up, saying, Hey, Benny, lets go in partnership, you can have half of everything I have good to eat, and you give me half of everything you have good to eat.

Wait? I said taking a big suck out of the orange. And Puds said it all over again, and I said, Well, Ill go in with you after I finish this orange. Its not fair to come up and want to go in partnership while im eating a orange.

And I finished the orange all but the skin, saying, Now everything I get after this is half yours and everything you get is half mine, is that a go?

Ames, sed Puds. And he went home for supper, and after supper I was setting on my front steps waiting for something to happen, and Puds came up, saying, Are you still in partnership, Benny?

Sure we are, I sed.

All rite, that suits me all rite, because you always have more candy and things than wat I have, I bet youd half to give me twice as much as wat Ill half to give you, sed Puds.

Which I thart about it a wile, and then I sed, Well, if you want to go out of partnership, Ill go out with you, lets go out, is it a go?

Ames, sed Puds. And he reached in his pocket and took out a big apple and started to eat it.

Aw, G, I sed. And I sat there watching him eat it, and after a wile I sed, Save us the core, Puds?

Wen I eat a apple there aint even any seeds left, much less a core, sed Puds.

And he finished it, and there wasent.

In such drinkable liquids as are classed by this act as non-intoxicating, but such license shall authorize the sale or keeping for sale of any beverages which are in fact intoxicating, malt or spirituous. But no license shall be required for the sale of soda-waters or other beverages containing no alcohol.

Under sub-section (A) of this section it states that if any person sells he shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 for the first offence and for the second offence not less than \$50 or more than \$200.

New Glasgow, N. S., June 22.—A horrible fatality occurred yesterday whereby a young and useful life was snuffed out in the twinkling of an eye.

Wilbur Jones, 24 years of age went to work as usual this morning as steam roller operator for Messrs. Page & Lusk. The roller was being used by the town yesterday and was left near the town hall over night. Jones mounted the machine and started on the intention of conveying it to the Trenton Road to resume work. He pulled the throttle and the roller started. The machine had almost reached the corner of George and Archimedes streets when Jones lost control. The roller then started to come down the hill and Jones, failing speed as it went alone. The roller crashed into an electric light pole at that corner breaking it completely off. Jones was thrown in the path of the moving machine, part of the hind roller passing over the lower part of his body, killing him instantly.

FUNERALS.

The funeral of Ronald J. Coll was held Saturday morning from the residence of his grandmother, Mrs. Delaney, 50 Douglas Avenue, and was largely attended. The boy's classmates from St. Malachi's Hall walked before the hearse. The pallbearers were Schoolmates Louis Coman, Frank Lawson, Edward Bohan, Walter Kinella, Gerald Buckley and Maurice Lestin. Rev. Peter Costello, C. S. S. R. celebrated the requiem mass, and interment in the new Catholic cemetery.

The Foresighted Man and His Glasses

The difference between failure and success is often only a hair's breadth—being prepared for things that are likely to happen. The foresighted man always has an extra pair of glasses. He knows he may break a lens any hour of the day. He is most particular to have the extra pair with him when he leaves town on business or pleasure. He knows that then he can't phone to Sharpe's and get the new lens in an hour or two as he can when in St. John. Order your reserve glasses at Sharpe's today.

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