

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1912.

SOME NEGLECT.

One of the first acts of the Veniot-Foster combination on coming into power was to cancel the contract for the reconstruction of the bridge at Ferry Point. Ample opportunity has been given the Minister of Public Works since that time to look into the question of this much-needed bridge, but Mr. Veniot explains that there is no money for such work. There seems to be ample funds to provide a comfortable living for numerous lawyers, commissioners, etc., engaged in fishing expeditions, which expeditions have so far failed to produce any material result.

However, to come back to the point, from November thirtieth to December fourth no mails reached Ferry Point, Kingston, Lower Kingston, Reed's Point, Clifton, Long Reach, Bayswater or Land's End. All mail matter destined for that district has to be sent to Hampton by train from St. John, from there to Ferry Point by an additional mail carrier, and from Ferry Point by the different contractors on the various routes. This condition is due to the fact that there has been in the Kennebecasis River no ice strong enough to carry a team, in spite of the fact that the Veniot-Foster organ informs its readers that the ferries are unable to operate on account of the ice. The condition prevailing from November thirtieth to December fourth, when neither letters nor papers were received by the people living in that portion of the Province, cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory. No blame for this can be attached to the Post Office Department, as the staff have done their best to provide service from day to day. The blame lies wholly with the present local government which cancelled the contract for the new bridge, which contract had been awarded by the Murray administration. Had that contract been carried out, the bridge would now be in existence and farmers, and especially those who are compelled to make frequent trips to St. John markets, would be enjoying a reasonable degree of convenience. At the present time they are compelled to drive twenty miles, via Hampton, to get opposite Ferry Point, and from there to the City, another sixteen miles. Farmers living in the vicinity of Long Reach, Whitehead, and Chapel Grove, who come to the St. John market, have a long enough drive from their respective homes to Ferry Point without having to go the additional twenty miles by way of Hampton.

One result of this state of affairs is that Mr. Foster and his manager, Mr. Veniot have earned for themselves the animosity of everyone living in the district affected. And that this unfair treatment will be strongly resented at the earliest opportunity is evidenced by expressions of opinion of many farmers in this portion of the Province.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

W. P. Motherwell has resigned his portfolio in the Martin government in Saskatchewan, giving as his reason for so doing his dissatisfaction with the manner in which that Province has been treated by the Federal Union Government. He was one of those Premier Martin should declare his opposition to Union Government, and when Mr. Martin declined to do so, Mr. Motherwell got out. This is the statement he makes, but the real reason goes further back than that. It is proverbial that the most rabid prohibitionist is the reformed drunkard, and it is no doubt equally true that the bitterest partisan is the transformed coalitionist. So in order to understand Mr. Motherwell's present position it is necessary to look back a few years.

In the care-free days of the middle nineties, when the benign personality of Nicholas Flood, Deputy Premier of the Province, hovered about the second floor of the Leader office in Regina, Walter Scott held down the editorial desk on the ground floor and endeavored to make both ends meet on a struggling prairie paper. At that time there were no parties in the Territorial Government. The conduct of affairs was in the hands of Fred W. G. Haultain, who was Premier and Provincial Treasurer, while practically all the rest of the administration was looked after by James H. Ross, popularly known as Jim. Associated with these two were Doctor Brett, G. H. V. Bulyea, and one or two others who attended to the affairs of the territories according to their own ideas. They were not members of one political party, but formed the only coalition government the West had ever known, and their council chamber, apart from the stuffy little office in the Territorial Buildings in which they occasionally met, was the sitting room of Jim Ross' house in Regina. There these leaders held their regular conferences, and there Walter Scott worshipped at the shrine, imbibing principles of doubtful politics which were to be of use to him in later years. In course of time the Northwest Territories became provinces, and the demon of partitioning entered the souls of these leaders. The result was a split, and Premier Haultain became an opponent of Conservative, while Mr. Ross and

Mr. Scott took the other side. In the succeeding years Doctor Brett, who now conducts a private sanatorium in Banff, held the position of Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta. Mr. Haultain, now Sir Frederick, is Chief Justice of Saskatchewan. Mr. Ross was for a time commissioner of the Yukon, but returned to Regina when his health gave out, and is today Senator James H. Ross, of Montreal and Ottawa. Meanwhile Mr. Scott has stuck to his party politics and Mr. Motherwell stuck with him, following as best he could the various minor changes in the Saskatchewan government. He was commissioner of agriculture in the first Scott ministry, when Hon. J. A. Calder was Provincial Treasurer, and he did not like Mr. Calder very much even at that time.

The fourth member of that cabinet, Hon. J. H. Lamont, is now a member of the Supreme Court. So by sticking to party politics and putting his own prejudices before the interests of the country, Mr. Motherwell remained rather unimportant member of the Saskatchewan administration, while his former leader, Mr. Scott, is editing a paper in Medicine Hat. Thus there are none of the original Saskatchewan cabinet in any position of importance politically, and naturally enough Mr. Scott and Mr. Motherwell are feeling sore over the way in which their colleagues have advanced and outdistanced them by the exercise of those better impulses which they themselves apparently lacked. This bitterness with which Mr. Scott and Mr. Motherwell assailed their former associates in the territorial administration has been continued ever since the organization of the Province of Saskatchewan and they are the two who in the west are finding fault with every action of Union Government, and are doing their best to create dissension among the ranks of Union supporters in those provinces.

THE INVALID SOLDIERS.

Suppose for a moment that a hospital ship with some hundreds of suffering men had landed at St. John on Saturday or on Sunday, what would have been done with these passengers? In cold, raw weather such as we have had for the past few days, exposure of invalid soldiers would have been a most serious affair.

The Standard heartily agrees with those who contend that in selecting the port of landing the comfort of the men themselves is the first consideration. It does not agree with those who say it is the only consideration. During the past twenty years the people of St. John have sacrificed themselves to build up a port and a reputation for that port, and there is no reason under heaven why they should today sacrifice the port and the reputation we have achieved for the purpose of protecting incompetent military officials who should have seen to it before now that the proper accommodation for invalid soldiers was provided where required. St. John's reputation as Canada's winter port is a very great asset, and it must not be adversely affected. We cannot handle invalid soldiers, and the present clamor for hospital ships to be brought here is only another sentimental spasm which frequently affects a few people in our community who hold the idea that everything in the way of shipping ought to be brought to St. John.

We do not want the invalid soldiers—we cannot handle invalid soldiers—but we do want proper passenger accommodation, whether for invalids or others, and the sooner this is provided, the better pleased we all will be.

THE GLOBE—AND OTHER THINGS.

The Globe on Saturday, in commenting on the evidence by Hon. J. A. Murray in the potato investigation, published several statements which are without foundation in fact and which the Globe knows to be untrue. One of the most glaring of these is "The money came out of a campaign fund. That campaign fund came directly out of the public treasury." This is untrue, and, to repeat, the Globe knows it is untrue. The campaign fund to which Mr. Murray referred was a campaign fund raised by certain supporters of the present opposition party. That money did not come out of the public treasury, but came largely from profits of certain contractors on the Valley Railway. It appears to be the opinion of the Globe and a few other journals, that contractors in these days have no right to profits on their work. So long as a contractor manages to lose on any job he undertakes, he is put down as an honest man in the view of that paper. But if he stands to make a percentage on his investment and on the risk he takes, he is, according to the same authority, a grafter, dipping his hands into the public treasury, and helping himself to as much as he can carry away. The sixty-one odd thousand dollars to which reference has been made, was composed of prospective profits from a certain contract, in the Valley Railway in 1905, Commissioner Stevens, whose findings have been endorsed by the Globe, declared positively that every cent that was supposed to have gone

into the Valley Railway has gone into that railway; that the work has been done satisfactorily, and that the prices paid have been fair and reasonable. This in itself is sufficient proof. If any proof were needed, that the money given to Mr. Tennant as a contractor in the contracting company was not the property of the province, but was, as has been repeatedly stated, a share of the prospective profits. The disposition of these funds after leaving Mr. Tennant's hands has been made clear. If certain representatives of the party then in power wished to divert from their funds a portion of their money to make good a loss sustained on a government undertaking, that was their own lookout. The loss on the potato deal, as Mr. Murray has said, may have been to some extent due to lack of business ability on the part of one or two who were employed in handling that business, but it was very largely due to circumstances which could not be foreseen. The Globe states that Mr. Murray has sought to minimize the whole affair. Mr. Murray has done nothing of the kind. Mr. Murray has told the straightforward truth about everything connected with the potato transaction, just as other witnesses politically associated with Mr. Murray have told the truth. All have admitted that the potato deal was unfortunate but that it was absolutely no blame attached to anyone, in so far as attempts at dishonesty are concerned.

WHAT THEY SAY

Toronto's Bohemian Papers. Ottawa Journal—Bohemian literature is being circulated in Toronto, but then some papers in that city have been preaching about the same stuff for years and nobody cared.

A Sex Problem. Los Angeles Times—Seems tough for a warrior to come back from France and fight a woman to get his job back. But lots of them will have to do it. The girls who have made good and like it will not want to let go. There are a number of little problems in this readjustment business.

Time to Speak Out. Berlin Vorwärts—We have been told that Germany had no knowledge of Austria's ultimatum to Serbia. It was a lie. Berlin is said to have told Vienna to go slow. It was a lie. Or the contrary, Berlin invited Vienna, in the course of its proclamation (of war) William II. declared: "In the midst of peace we are attacked by the enemy." A base, impudent, bottomless, shameless lie.

The Old Order Changeth—Not. Toronto News—We believe that the present social and political conditions are a most serious affair. The old order changeth, but the new order is not yet established. There is nothing to put in their place, Russia has discovered the road to unrestricted robbery, outrage and murder. Society civilized people can read their warning in the red flame of terrorism. But the rewards for labor must be greatly increased, and the business of government must be held up to unbridled capitalism in leash. That is to say, the exploitation of labor to its disadvantage cannot continue.

The Iron Hand. Kansas City Star—To deal gently with Germany at this time would mean to encourage piracy in the future. Only by dealing in a way to bring home to the world the enormity of Germany's crime can justice be done. Only in this way can the price America has paid be justified. As to the future, it is up to us to make this the last war, at least to reduce the danger of war to the lowest point.

A BIT OF VERSE

AFTERMATH. Unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me.

The hand of God is hidden
The lips of God are still;
Freely His creature chooses
To cherish or to kill;
And you laugh as the altar crashes
And the wine of the cup is spilt,
And you shout that your sword shall
But when this night is ended,
But when new days begin,
Bitterly shall your children
Pay for their father's sin.

The wrath of many nations
Shall drive you to your place,
Man's soul is risen against you,
Man's judgment you shall face—
When the blood has dried in the valley,
And the game comes down from the hill,
And the armies melt in the vineyards
And the harvest goes to the mill,
Then, when the women spin,
Bitterly shall your children
Pay for their father's sin.

The gates of life shall open,
The feast of love be spread,
Joy shall come in with music,
Bringing earth's wine and bread;
And the nations shall draw together
And the peoples shall be as one,
But you shall come in unwelcomed
And you shall sit down by none.
Slowly man's heart shall open
His doors to let you in!
Bitterly shall your children
Pay for their father's sin.

The eyes of all shall mark you,
Lips as you pass be dumb,
Into the path you follow
No other guest shall come;
You shall sit at the feast unfriended,
You shall go from the house unstarred,
You shall be on earth a stranger
Till the debt that you owe is paid
Hardly to man's forgiveness
Shall Religion's slayer win
Bitterly shall your children
Curse for their father's sin.
—Harold Begbie in the Observer.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave News.
Last Saturday afternoon Fats Stinkles held an exhibition of the result of his war garden, the result being one funny shape onion, Fats saying he didn't hardly even expect that much for the first year.
Sports. Ed Hunt resembled Lew Davis in front of Benny Feltman's house last Wednesday, Benny Feltman being umpire and giving the decision to Lew Davis, Ed Hunt claiming it was a foul and saying there was one spot in the middle of his back that didn't touch the ground.
Sam Cross beat Leroy Shoest. In a race to the telegraph pole and back last Thursday, going in the house before the race started and rubbing butter on his legs to make him run, but he wasn't allowed out Thursday after his mother looked in the ice box and saw what was left of the butter.

Pome by Skinny Martin
NAMING THE CAT

My family was naming the cat one day.
All trying to show their originality.
But they like as well spent their time usually,
Because we still call the cat Kitty.
Do your clocks stop going? Our agent will call around on a bicycle once a day and remind you to wind them for 10 cents a week.
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A BIT OF FUN

When soldiers meet in a spirited attack in a cafe, re-reat is the usual order.

Don't think that the man who is always on the run wins the most of life's races.

Good for Trade.
"That headache cure I bought here yesterday gave me indigestion."
"Ah! Now let me sell you some dyspepsia tablets."

"What's in a name?" The old turkey gobble will taste good no matter what he is called.

Bounded Quiser to Her.
"Here's the book for you," declared a young husband.
"What's the name of it?"
"Bread-making in a nutshell."
"How absurd!" said the young wife.
"As if anyone could make bread in a nutshell."

Just a Protest.
"This morning I overheard you calling me a bonehead."

"And this afternoon you called me a pinhead."

"Possibly."

"I say, old chap, aren't you mixing your metaphors a bit?"

The Only Way.
"How have you managed to keep your cook so long in these days of big pay everywhere?"

"Oh, I just took a simple way. I gave her a mortgage on the house."

Sweet Innocent.
Newedd—Did you hear a short of flour, Helen? The pie crust doesn't half cover the pie.

Mrs. Newedd—I know, dear; your mother told me that you like your pie crusts very short.

A Hebrew Joker.
Two Jews were on a journey in a hot summer day.

"Have you anything with you, Matthias?" asked one.

"Yes, a bottle of wine. What have you, Moses?"

"A dry tongue."

"God! We'll divide our provisions."

Matthias produced his wine and it was divided. Then he asked his fellow-traveler to bring out his provisions.

"I!" said Moses.

"Why, yes, the dry tongue you said you had."

"I haven't got one now," was the cool reply.

The Inspired Composer.
The doctor felt the patient's pulse and declared that there was no hope.

Indoor Sports.
The last dreamy walk had come to the end, goes the story in Gargyle.

For a moment he held her close in his arm and whispered into the little ear that nestled on the lapel of his coat.

"I could dance to heaven with you," he said.

"Oh, it was the most wonderful time of my life," she whispered back.

Quick change of scenery. Fraternity house. He to roommate: "Dear, it's funny how they all fall for the same line."

Sorority house. She to roommate: "Four fish. Funny he never gets wise."

A Bad Excuse.
In the good old days of long ago a kin said to his sister: "Fool, give

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