

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1921

## INDIFFERENCE OR DISHONESTY?

Individual experience is the sure foundation on which may be based any opinion of the business integrity of an individual or organization. And on such basis The Standard has tried and has found wanting those in the employ of the Federal Government, who control the business affairs of this country. Our experience may or may not be a criterion of the whole administration, but it is sufficient to create, in our case at least, a decided impression that the business principles of those now in charge are neither honest nor honorable. Possibly the circumstances leading to such a conclusion are due entirely to the apparent attitude of indifference in the executive offices. This, however, is difficult to believe, in view of the fact that the circumstances have been made known in detail to at least three present ministers of the Crown, and that, so far as The Standard has been able to learn, not one of these has taken any definite action toward the application of the first principles of fair play. Apparently these ministers and their subordinates are content to violate their own written contracts, to defraud a business house of payments due on such contracts, to take shelter behind obsolete legislation which can apparently be disregarded for the financial gain of the government, and by rote and departmental delay to prevent the transfer to the Courts of matters in dispute.

The Standard today charges the Borden-McLennan administration through its subordinates with violation of written contracts, with unfair and dishonest retention of money due for services performed, and it charges the Secretary of State and the Minister of Railways with failure to perform the duties of their respective offices in bringing to a settlement matters which have repeatedly been referred to them for attention. It asserts, too, that the Premier himself, and the Minister of Customs have been negligent in the same matter, and are, from the experience of The Standard, responsible, though in a lesser degree, for the dishonesty, or dishonorable neglect of their subordinates.

If, as is suspected by many, the departmental offices at Ottawa are filled with employees who spend their time in attempting to discredit the present Government, the matter is easy of solution. This, however, is difficult of belief in view of all the circumstances. And it is increasingly hard to understand—by this paper at least—how such a Government can lay claim to popular support, when its own routine business affairs are marked by such a lack of ordinary honesty or integrity.

If the Premier or any members of his cabinet are desirous of further information or evidence along this line, The Standard will be pleased to furnish it. This paper, it may be said, is wholly in accord with the principles of the party now in control at Ottawa; it recognizes the personal worth of many of those composing that administration, and it is a matter of regret that the foregoing criticism of its business methods is demanded.

## A MATTER OF REGULAR EDUCATION

The recent appeal for funds to carry on the Free Kindergarten, and the demands on the City Council for a grant for carrying on Vocational Classes suggests that if there is any real need for these institutions—and we scarcely imagine that any one will be foolish enough to deny that there is a real and genuine need for both of them—then they should become part and parcel of the ordinary school curriculum. At Frederickton out of the score or so children who obtained certificates in Grade I at the Christmas closing, seventeen of these had attended a private kindergarten in that city. Better evidence of the value of kindergarten preparation than this could scarcely be found. There is absolutely no reason whatever why the kindergarten in this city should be conducted on the same lines as a charity is. If it is wanted—and it is wanted—it should be provided in the regular way, and not have to exist on the results of a begging campaign.

millinery and so forth at the same time. Until women's and children's clothing is cut out with the aid of a T square and pair of compasses, it does not seem to be much practical benefit teaching girls needle, except they want to be school teachers. Neither supposing that the distance round the waist of a pair of bloomers is equal to twice the distance round each of the knees, will Algebra help a girl to figure out how long the side seam should be. The education of the average girl in the High Schools of this province seems to be aimed at giving her instruction in as many things as will be useless to her in after life as possible, and leaving her ignorant of most things that she can put to practical use. If a girl wishes to become a blue-stocking she should have an opportunity of achieving this aim; but that is no reason why all girls should be educated along those lines.

Let us have Kindergartens and Vocational Classes, by all means, but let them be as part of the ordinary school course.

**THE VICTORY IN SOUTH AFRICA**  
 The whole Empire will breathe easier as a result of the victory of General Smuts in South Africa. It was an election of vital importance. If Smuts had been defeated and General Horne's Nationalist party had endeavored to establish a republic, civil war would have inevitably followed. Now the secession question will be settled for many years, if not for all time.

That a great Boer general, supported by the majority of the Boer farmers, should have led the loyalist movement for South Africa to remain as a part of the Empire is a striking tribute to the statesmanship and to the fairness of Britain.

Much of the credit for the success of General Smuts must go to the Unionist party, headed by Sir Thomas Smuts, which for patriotic reasons sunk its identity and merged with the South African party when the secession issue became serious. General Smuts forced the fighting, taking the position that South Africa could achieve within the League of British Nations as complete an independence as that to which General Horne aspired. He said in reply to his opponents:

"It is independence the Nationalists mean, as they allege, an independence which is friendly to and in friendly association with the British Empire and not an independence hostile to the Empire. Then I say, in all sincerity and conviction, that such an independence we can have in fullest measure without secession from the Empire."

The victory in South Africa ought to have some influence upon the Irish situation. If the Boers of South Africa, who waged a bitter war with Great Britain two decades ago, are today prepared to remain a part of the Empire, why should Ireland ask independence?

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Canada and her immigrants. Despite the success expressed by some Canadians, last their problem of unemployment should be accentuated if the British Government seeks relief by directing its own unemployed across the water. It is apparent that the Dominion has ample room. The authorities require, however, that newcomers shall agree to distribute themselves so as to be quickly assimilative. That wise policy means that Canada will welcome homesteaders and agricultural workers chiefly.—*Providence Journal.*

**Newspaper Particularity.**  
 If we have to foreclose on Great Britain to get that money, Canada has resources that to many are considered quite lavishing.—*Detroit News.*

**A Tough Job.**  
 The chaplains of both branches of our national Congress have resigned, and we wonder if they've decided it's no use.—*Columbia State Journal.*

**Perfection.**  
 So intense has been the craze for fur in recent years that the Biological Survey has issued a departmental circular warning us all that, at the present rate of destroying our fur-bearing animals, many of the more valuable species will soon be extinct. If these unfortunate creatures are to perish by the thousands, the fur trade, at the most of them, then the sooner extermination comes, the better.—*Our Dumb Animals.*

**The General-Election Issue.**  
 Arthur Meighen has fallen heir to an inheritance of other people's sins. That inheritance cannot be changed from a liability into an asset by Arthur Meighen's surrender to the demand for an immediate general election.

Immediate general election must mean that the country would have to spend \$1,000,000 on the election of a Parliament even more non-representative than the present House of Commons.

A general election in 1921 would have to be followed by a general election in 1922. Or the increased population enumerated by the census of 1921 and enfranchised by the Redistribution Act of 1922 would have to wait for Parliamentary representation until 1926.—*Toronto Telegram.*

## A BIT OF VERSE

### CHRIST THE DRIVER.

Midway in life, and bound for no end during city,  
 I met a Driver, leading on a motley throng;  
 I never saw so grace-sweet face, such eyes of pity,  
 Such a motley flock of clean and stained, of weak and strong.

Stopped by wonderment, I viewed the motley caste  
 Who followed hard the Driver up a narrow track;  
 In myriads they went—ten thousand thousand passed,  
 And only one deserted me—and only she looked back.

I knew not then the Driver's name, nor where his fold;  
 I only saw the unforgettable white face  
 Of her who looked on me; and I could not withhold  
 My feet that straitly sought beside her there a place.

"Oh, tell me, Sister, tell me who she is he that leads  
 This human caste, in motley kind beyond belief;  
 And whether wend the saints with recumbent in deeds—  
 The Priest beside the harlot, the Prince beside the thief?"

And she: "We follow Christ the Loving Master-Driver,  
 Strong Shepherd of all sound of men that seek release  
 From sin; and he shall keep us safe, till Time is over,  
 And fold us in the City of Perpetual Peace!"

—J. L. Logan.

## THE LAUGH LINE

**Dangerous Height.**  
 Baby's Mother—What do you think of the new nursemaid, George?  
 This Father—She looks capable, my dear; but she is so terribly tall. Think what a distance poor baby will have to fall when she drops him!

**A Harsh Critic.**  
 The gentleman dining at the table nearest to the orchestra got up from his chair and approached the orchestra leader.  
 "Do you ever play by request?" he asked.  
 "Certainly, sir," replied the delighted musician.  
 "Then," said the diner, "I wonder if you and your men would be so good as to play a game of dominoes until I've finished my lunch."

**This Practical World.**  
 He (warmly)—The mere fact of my being united to you, darling, will give me the strength to make twice as much money as I am making now.  
 She (faltering)—Do you think—that will be enough?

**For Practical Purposes.**  
 "Bobby, I see your music teacher coming. Have you washed your face and hands?"  
 "Yes!"  
 "And your ears?"  
 "Well, ma, I washed the one that will be next to her."—*Boston Transcript.*

**Simpler Method.**  
 "I do hope you'll be able to come to the mother's welfare meeting on Wednesday. We've persuaded a famous chef to come and give us a lecture on 'The Dignity of Cookery.' It should be most helpful."  
 "Not to me, mum. I still give mine to the pigs when it gets that far."—*Punch.*

**The Dividing Line.**  
 "Is that Smith's wife or mother?"  
 "Can't tell yet."  
 "Can't tell yet?"  
 "Yes, only soon her child. It may be his daughter."

## Benny's Note Book

**THE PARK AVE. NEWS.**  
 Sports. A boxing exhibition for fun started to take place in Benny's back yard between Benny and Skinny Martin last Saturday, but after the first part of the fight round Benny Martin stopped and wouldn't start again on account of saying he was more in fun than was Benny. Among those present trying to get the exhibition started again was Benny's father, Arlie Alexander, Leroy Shooster and Ed Wernick.

**Biting Notes.** Old Hunt is hiding a new dog house for his son, but it would probably be more ornamental than useful, on account of every time he tries to make Benny sleep in a dog house he barks all night instead of sleeping, probably considering it a regular house is good enough for other people but good enough for him.

**Stately.** Miss Loretta Mince is learning to sing by taking singing lessons, only judging by the sounds she hasn't learned much so far.

**POEM BY SKINNY MARTIN.**  
 Unsuspected Measures.  
 I like breakfast,  
 I like lunch,  
 And I like supper too,  
 But the meal that I enjoy the best  
 Is the meal between any other.  
 Penicils sharpened while you wait, a for a cent. Points gar-  
 anteed. Or new Dandy Point pencil sharpener rented out by  
 the day week or month. Any child can work it without danger.  
 See Low, Davis.

## MURDER IS CHARGED TO FORTUNE TELLING

Boston, Feb. 16.—Francisco Bonello, was arrested last night, charged with the murder of Antonio Carbonello.

Bonello is said to have gone into Carbonello's home about 7:45 o'clock last night while Carbonello was sitting up-  
 per and to have told Carbonello that he had been to a fortune teller yesterday, and that the latter had predicted that Carbonello would die in his arms.

Before Carbonello had a chance to make reply, it is charged, Bonello drew a revolver and fired two shots, the first going wild, the second taking effect in Carbonello's neck.

## HIGH SCHOOL BURNED.

Windsor, Ont., Feb. 16.—As a result of a disastrous fire which broke out last night, presumably from an overheated furnace, the high school at Windsor, a six roomed structure, valued at \$50,000, is in ruins. The building was erected in 1885 and a \$5,000 addition was built last year. It was covered by insurance to the extent of \$18,000. The school had a registration of six hundred pupils.

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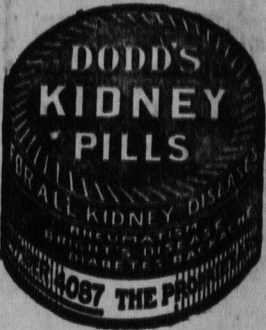
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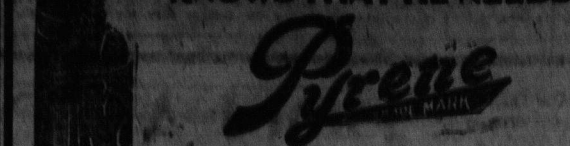
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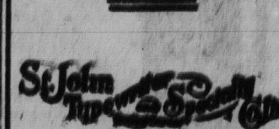
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