

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1913.

## HON. W. H. TUCK.

In the death of Hon. W. H. Tuck, formerly Chief Justice of New Brunswick, this Province loses an eminent jurist who, for many years, occupied the highest position in his profession. As a Judge the late Mr. Tuck had the courage of his convictions. It has been well said of the ex-Chief Justice that on the Bench he was noted for his quickness of apprehension and clearness of expression and for his shrewd common sense, combined with knowledge of the law.

In his earlier days Mr. Tuck was prominent for his strong advocacy of Confederation. He was closely associated with the late Sir Leonard Tilley and the late Hon. P. Mitchell, whom he numbered among his warmest friends. He had an abiding belief in the great future in store for the Dominion, for this Province and this city, where he first saw the light, eighty-two years ago, in the old town of Portland. During his long career Mr. Tuck was continually active in support of local movements for the benefit of the citizens. Many will recall the valuable assistance he rendered in 1877 following the great fire.

The late Judge leaves a widow, resident in St. John, two sons, Mr. Frank H. Tuck, of British Columbia, and Mr. Charles F. Tuck, of Winnipeg, and two daughters, Mrs. C. Percy Robinson, of Toronto, and Mrs. Freeman-Lake, of this city. To them the heartfelt sympathy of this community will go out in their bereavement.

## "SINNING AGAINST THE LIGHT."

Of all the objections that have been brought forward to the naval proposal of Mr. Borden that raised by some of the Liberals that Canadian autonomy is threatened and that in some mysterious way Canadian nationality is losing dignity is about the most childish. That anyone of real intelligence, knowing anything of the history of this country and of our connection with the great Empire, should be at all seriously moved by it seems absurd, yet the argument in the hands of such demagogues as make up a certain element of Liberalism at Ottawa is a dangerous one.

This was one of the phases of the naval question to which Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, directed his attention in a speech made at Ottawa yesterday that will rank as one of the best efforts of the whole Naval Debate. Mr. White argued seriously against this idea that Liberals have been preaching, and if there is any more heard of it in Parliament it will be a case of "sinning against the light."

The contention made by Messrs. Pugsley, Carvell and a few others is that if Canada gives Great Britain a contribution of three Dreadnoughts, then, in some mysterious way, there will be power gone forth from this country; we will have sacrificed some of the freedom that our fathers won for us; we will be returning to days long past when a bureaucracy took the place of free citizenship. All this, as has been stated, Liberals predict will come from a gift of ships to Great Britain.

But, as the Finance Minister showed, New Zealand has given a ship to the British navy, has given it just as Canada proposes to make her gift; and he challenged the Opposition to show how in the merest jot or tittle the Island Dominion, far over seas, had in any way lost any of its autonomy, any of its power of self government or been, in the least degree, humiliated. Was it not, he very properly asked, an act performed by New Zealand that had challenged the admiration not alone of the Empire but of the world? "One of the golden deeds of Empire."

But the Finance Minister did not need to go that far away for an example. He found one at home in Canada, for when the South African war came this Dominion sent soldiers to fight the battles of the Empire. There was no autonomy lost then. There would be no more a loss of autonomy today by sending ships.

It is admittedly a poor cause that has to base its existence upon arguments as shallow as those which have raised this autonomy myth. It was a back-bencher of Parliament who declared that the Opposition would be wise to substitute the word "Duty" for "Autonomy," once in a while, and he spoke truly. It is time to have done with this talk, a form of argument that betrays its dangerous side when in the recent blockade those who prided most of autonomy were those who went on and quoted "the Declaration of Independence," referred to the Boston Tea Party and Lexington and found in the American revolution their historic parallel.

We are a free people and we will not be less a free people when, with our own votes and with the authority of our own Parliament, we send these splendid fighting ships to help to maintain the power of our common Empire.

## BRITISH PRESS SPEAKS OUT.

Leading journals in the United Kingdom, in commenting upon the situation at Ottawa, no longer hesitate to criticize the course being pursued by the Liberal Opposition. The London Times, which still maintains its long established position representing the best thought of the Mother Country, recently devoted a page to the reproduction of the case for the Canadian Government and the Opposition on the Naval question as set out in the speeches of Mr. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier respectively.

In a carefully reasoned editorial in this leading journal discussing the Liberal arguments. As to the existence of any "emergency," it says, "there is no question from the British point of view that if the three ships are not provided by Great Britain, since they are most indubitably required in the general interests of Imperial security."

As to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's plea that Canada is being committed to a permanent system of "tribute," any such method, it declares pointedly, was long ago "not merely dead, but damned."

The problem is "How to apply the just principle of local naval development without the waste and comparative inefficiency which small divided fleets would inevitably entail." And the Times justly believes that Canadian Ministers will honestly and resolutely face that problem in consultation with the King's Ministers of the rest of the Empire when by their present proposals they have removed what they deem to be the reproach of accepting an Imperial security which they do nothing to help to maintain.

The Irish Times is equally emphatic and rebukes the Opposition for the unfounded and disgraceful attacks upon the Admiralty. It says:

"All naval authorities are agreed that the safety of the Empire, as a whole, finally depends on the general supremacy of the British Fleet, with unity of control and unity of action. If Canadian Liberals, who have never had anything to do with naval strategy, choose to think differently, that is their own affair. But they have no right to hurl wild accusations at the head of the Admiralty, simply because the department, at the request of their own Government, furnishes them with information which, from their party point of view, they find unpalatable."

In a criticism of the course the Oppositionists at Ottawa have been pursuing, the London Daily Express declares that the Liberals are riding hard for a fall similar to that which left them defeated and discredited in the last General Election. "Canada," it says, "needs men on the land too much to spare them for the sea. If we do not get these ships we will do without them and continue to bear the burden of the Empire's defence. But we do not believe that such an issue would be at all consonant with the enlightened patriotism of Canadians. The Liberals, under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, have already ridden to one smashing fall on the issue of American Reciprocity versus Imperial Unity. They seem to be riding hard for another."

## TO LIFT THE CUP.

"I withdraw all stipulations as to the size of the yacht defending the America's Cup, and I look forward to a good race with my 75 footers in 1914."

In these words Sir Thomas Lipton finally removes all objections raised by the New York Yacht Club. His statement recalls the verdict of the New York yachtsman when the recent negotiations were broken off. "Sir Thomas Lipton, his designer, Mr. Charles Nicholson, and others," he said, "probably know what they are about."

To which may be added the last word from the British challenger: "They will now either have to race or give me the cup."

## CURRENT COMMENT

### THE GOVERNMENT RIGHT.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Some of the underwriters at Lloyd's discussing the rates of insurance to St. Lawrence route ports, have repeated the suggestion that the Government of Canada should either pay part of the premiums or compensate owners for losses that may be incurred. The idea has been advanced before this in Canada, but governments have been slow to accept it; and they have been right. The improvement of ports and channels, the provision of lights and other aids to navigation are public works which the country may properly pay for. The insuring of ships and merchandise and the provision of free warehousing facilities, which has also been asked for, are in quite another category. The Government will be doing its full duty in this connection by making the costs and waterways as good as science can suggest.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

#### ROBERT CAVELIER DE LA SALLE.

Among the hardy and ambitious Frenchmen who played so large a part in the early exploration of the western wilderness, few possessed greater ambition, resourcefulness and daring than Robert Cavelier de La Salle. It was 231 years ago today that La Salle performed the crowning act of his career when, on the shores near where the waters of the Mississippi mingle with the Gulf, he gave the name of Louisiana to the entire valley of the great river, and erected a column and cross with this inscription: "Louis, the great King of France and of Navarre, reigns this ninth of April, 1682." Thus the borders of New France were extended from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico.

La Salle was about thirty-two years of age when, in 1667, he left his native France and embarked for Canada. He established a fur trading station which he named La Chine, and from there explored Lake Ontario, established posts on the upper waters of the St. Lawrence, and was instructed by Governor Frontenac with the care of the fort where the city of Kingston now stands.

On his return to France in 1675 he was made a noble and given a large domain around Fort Frontenac and the trading monopoly with the Five Nations. He thus became the proprietor of a rich region, but Joliet's arrival at Quebec with news of the Mississippi discoveries led him to abandon wealth and comfort for adventure. He started out on a series of journeys that ended in his assassination by one of his own countrymen.

#### THE HUMAN PROCESSION

CHARLES P. STEINMETZ.

Charles Proteus Steinmetz, "the little Napoleon of electricity," is not even of Napoleonic stature, for he is only small-bay size, despite the fact that today marks the 48th birthday of this man, the least that of his tall, his Lilliputian body is topped by a head that contains more wisdom on the subject of electricity than any other head, with the possible exception of that belonging and appertaining to Thomas A. Edison. And there are a lot of electrical experts who have heatedly argued the relative rank of Edison and Steinmetz.

That Mr. Steinmetz is not so well known as Edison is due to the fact that he has never patented in his name any of the more than hundred epochal inventions that stand to his credit. Employed by a great electrical corporation at an annual salary of \$75,000, he works quietly and is all but unknown except among his admiring fellow professionals. Mr. Steinmetz was born in Breslau, Germany, April 9, 1865, and might yet have been the Kaiser's general manager of the patent department of the fatherland sought to stamp out socialism by oppressive measures. As a student at the University of Breslau, Mr. Steinmetz edited a Socialist paper, and aroused the wrath of the powers that ruled. He escaped to Switzerland, and then made his way to America to win fortune, and more fame than he seeks or desires, in the yet virgin field of electrical science.

#### THE PASSING DAY.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

It was only 31 years ago today, on April 9, 1882, that Gabriel Charles Dante Rossetti, poet and painter, was called to his last rest, and yet—so fleeting is fame—he now lies in a neglected grave. A modest memorial has been erected over the site where the poet sleeps at Birchington, near Margate, but it is all but obscured by bushes and trees. The memorial, in the form of a rustic cross, bears this inscription:

"Here sleeps Gabriel Charles Dante Rossetti, honored under the name of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, among painters as a painter, and among poets as a poet. Born in London of parentage mainly Italian, 12th May, 1828. Died at Birchington 9th April, 1882." The stone slab on the grave bears representations of the winged bull of Nineveh, St. Luke the artist, and of the meeting of Dante and Beatrice. It was Rossetti who gave to most of us our first knowledge of Little, of the Arabian scriptures, of whom he wrote:

Not a half of her head was human,  
But she was made like a soft, sweet woman.

Little may be called the first militant suffragette, for she exerted her husband, when he refused to give her a vote in household affairs, and would not return to her lord under any circumstances.

#### FIRST THINGS

THE FIRST FREE LIBRARY.

The first free library in the world, supported by popular taxation, was established by a vote at the town meeting at Peterborough, N. H., eighty years ago today. There were many public libraries then in existence on both sides of the Atlantic, but they had been established and were supported by private individuals or associations. The Peterborough institution was without precedent as a purely municipal enterprise supported by public funds.

The library began with only a few volumes, but was gradually increased until a few years ago it had 12,000 books on its shelves. The first public library privately supported, of which there is any mention in history, was that founded at Athens by Ptolemy Soter about 275 B. C. The second of any note was that founded by Ptolemy Philadelphus, 284 B. C., and which had 40,000 valuable manuscripts when it was destroyed by the Romans in 47 B. C. The Bodleian library at Oxford, 1559, was among the first of British libraries. Dr. Daniel Williams' public library in London was opened in 1729.

## OPHELIA'S SLATE



## THE POET'S CORNER

### THE SONGSTERS.

Up springs the lark.  
Shrill-voiced and loud, the messenger  
of morn.  
Ere yet the shadows fly, he mounted  
sings  
Amid the dawning clouds, and from  
their haunts  
Calls up the tuneful nations. Every  
copse  
Deep tangled, tree irregular, o'er the  
heads  
Of the coy choristers that lodge with-  
in.  
Are prodigal of harmony. The thrush  
And woodlark, o'er the kind-contend-  
ing throng  
Superior heard, run through the sweet-  
est length  
Or notes; when listening Philomela  
deigne  
To let them joy, and purposes, in  
thought  
Elate, to make her night excel their  
day.  
The blackbird whistles from the thorny  
bush;  
The mellow bullfinch answers from the  
grove;  
Nor are the linnets, o'er the flowering  
furze  
Poured out profusely, silent; joined to  
these,  
Innumerable songsters, in the fresh-  
ening shade  
Of new-sprung leaves, their modula-  
tions mix  
Mellifluous. The jay, the rook, the daw,  
And each harsh pipe, discordant heard  
alone.  
Aid the full concert: while the stock-  
dove breathes  
A melancholy murmur through the  
whole,  
'Tis love creates their melody, and  
This waste of music is the voice of  
love;  
That even to birds and beasts the  
tender arts  
Of pleasing attaches.  
—John Thomson ("The Seasons":  
Spring.)

### THE SYMPHONY.

(Beethoven, No. 3.)  
I listened to the symphony and saw  
A curtain hanging in a dusky room,  
Woven in some remote and mighty  
loom.  
Wrought lovingly with patience and  
awe,  
And as I gazed there came a gentle  
wind  
From shadowy lands where shining  
lilies grow  
And drowse in warm forgetfulness, and  
lo!  
It stirred the curtain, and all undiv-  
ided,  
As it expanded slowly fold on fold,  
Gleamed threads of purple, argent, am-  
ber, gold,  
And there were faint and sudden glim-  
merings  
Of half-suspected, half-unguessed at  
things.  
Then shade on shade it lightened in  
the room—  
The fabric glowed in all its splendid  
loom.  
—Maurice Morris in N. Y. Sun.

### To Attend Horse Show.

J. B. Daggett, secretary for agricul-  
ture, is on his way to Amherst to at-  
tend the horse show. Horsemen from  
St. John, Moncton, Chatham, Freder-  
icton, Salisbury and other places will  
have horses on exhibit there.

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