

## The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 83 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.  
 THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY:  
 Henry de Clerque ..... Mallers Bldg., Chicago  
 Louis Klebahn ..... 1 West 34th St., New York  
 Freeman & Co. .... 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1920

## COMMISSION GOVERNMENT OUTGROWN.

Time and circumstances have clipped the wings of the arguments by which St. John in a spasm of uplift was induced to try the experiment of commission form of government. That nobody now defends commission form of government may be unfortunate, but the citizens may perhaps afford to be charitable and to assume that the men who have tried to operate the system have themselves been the victims of time and circumstances. There is still the consolation that the not over-astute politicians who met in an office of Prince William street and prepared the way for the commission movement did not succeed in their ulterior motive, and the political complexion of the city has not in the interim suffered greatly, though it may have become a trifle freckled.

The argument-in-chief of the promoters of this Yankee invention was that a business man could not be expected to devote any of his valuable time and attention to the affairs of his city without being well paid for his labors. This notion was not unnatural, for in the cities it came from the men who gave their time to civic affairs had long been in the habit of plundering their city, but it was not indigenous to St. John, for whatever else may have been said of the old aldermen they were not accused of being adepts in the gentle art of graft. But the notion that was the natural offspring of conditions in American cities which had tried the heroic remedy of commission form of government prevailed with the majority of the citizens of St. John, and it was seriously argued that a salary of \$3,000 would attract a succession of able business men into the service of the city. St. John in those days had modest notions of salaries, rents and taxes. But whatever force there was in that argument at the time has been overthrown by the development of conditions which even the wondrous commission form of government would work in the land did not contemplate. Today \$3,000 is not a salary calculated to have any great attraction for an enterprising business man.

So it is evidently proper to overhaul the situation in which we find ourselves. If we are satisfied with the commission form of government we ought to carry the great idea on which it is based to its logical conclusion, and increase the salaries of the commissioners at least 100 per cent., or at any rate in accordance with the increase in the city assessment. If not satisfied with the commission experiment, we might consider whether it is not worth while to hark back to the old British idea, the idea that the greater the stake a man has in the community, the greater the obligation that rests upon him to give good service to the community. Though we saw fit to throw that idea overboard for a time there is nothing illogical about it, for if a man has big interests in a community the progress of the community contributes to his prosperity, and an enlightened selfishness should impel him to take an active interest in the affairs of his community. At the same time such men cannot be expected to devote all their time and attention to public affairs.

Unfortunately if we accept the British ideal, which is also a tradition, commission government becomes a stumbling block. For under it the man elected to City Hall are supposed to have no other occupation. There is a shrewd suspicion that all the commissioners who have appeared at City Hall have not wholly neglected their private affairs while serving the city. But the Commission Act expressly stipulates that the commissioners shall not serve two masters, and at the present time when there is such a hullabaloo on Canterbury street about the necessity of a hard and fast interpretation of a Commission Act, it would not do for any man to offer himself for election as a commissioner if he had some notion of keeping a weather eye on his business while serving at City Hall. This aspect of the situation deserves consideration. If the city is to return to the British idea of government and secure for its service the kind of men it wants, something should be done about this stipulation respecting the abandonment of private business. Evidently the commission form of government will continue with us another year, and men elected as city commissioners should not be allowed or expected to violate the city charter, even though some of its provisions have become ridiculous. If the whole system cannot be changed it would be a simple matter to have an act put through the Legislature this session abrogating the section requiring city commissioners to devote all their time and attention to city affairs.

## THE GREAT PROFITEERS.

There is a loud, loud wail all over Canada because Uncle Sam is squeezing the Canadian dollars. Uncle Sam

is the profiteer in exchange par excellence; he calls the tune and the nation dance and pay the piper.

So in Canada there is much railing against Uncle Sam, and a lot of brave statements and inspired leaders, financial and otherwise, are telling us to purchase in Canada everything we need; though most of us don't need to be told not to buy high-priced automobiles from the United States. But there is a great deal of complacency in this country with respect to Canada's profiteering in exchange. Canada is squeezing the British pound, the French franc, the Italian lire, etc., with considerable energy. Our anger with Uncle Sam is a bit incongruous, while we blithely gouge the Mother Country—perhaps to show our gratitude to her for the huge disbursements in this country during the war, which helped to fill our galaxy of profiteers with so many new millionaires. Save for Mr. Macaulay, of the Sun Life, hardly a voice of importance has been raised in Canada to deplore the fact that this country is profiteering in exchange at the expense of the over-burdened Mother Country or devastated France.

Canada may be chained to the chariot wheels of American finance, and be unable to help herself. And so long as business is business it is no doubt proper enough to take advantage of our favored position in regard to European exchange. But business is business is the road Rome followed to destruction. And the business is business policy brought Germany tumbling down from her proud estate. Great Britain, France, Italy, bought things absolutely essential to their existence during the war from the United States, and also from Canada. They bought on credit on longer terms than is customary, it is true, but the price fixed was a profitable one to the sellers. Now the money trust has possession of the bills, and it is evidently not above sharp practice. The American money trust now wants about £15 for every £10 worth of goods Great Britain bought in the States during the war, and 20 odd francs for every 10 francs' worth of goods France bought in the States. The American manufacturer, farmer, worker will receive little of the difference.

Secretary Daniels stated the other day that the tragedy of the situation was that while the United States had failed Europe, the people of Europe believed that the people of the United States were ready and willing to do their duty to the distressed world. In one sense the American people are not to blame because the American money trust is taking its pound of flesh. They have little international understanding. American manufacturers and merchants have paid little attention to exchange, because before the war fluctuations were infrequent and small. And for the American manufacturer a \$3.50 rate on the sovereign is a great disadvantage; it means loss of markets, cancellation of orders or their reduction to a minimum. The American money trust may benefit by this exploitation of Europe, but not the American people.

However, Uncle Sam is not the only sinner. Canada exploits Britain. Britain exploits France and Italy, and they in turn exploit Germany. If the burden could be shouldered on Germany, there would be poetic justice in the situation. But this domination of finance over industry and commerce, and the vicious profiteering to which it has given rise, is having a disastrous effect on the international trade of all countries.

If the money trusts were permitted to utterly destroy the international confidence upon which world trade rests, they will bring down the whole fabric of credit and public confidence in which all business moves and has its being; and the existing civilization will give place to Bolshevism. Money has ceased to be the measure of values; it has become the master of values. The new imperialism of money must be fought.

The best interests of all the nations demand a speedy stabilization of exchange, and the political power must be evoked to effect this. The London Express suggests as a remedy that the Finance Ministers of the debtor nations should get together and issue an intimation to the American money trust in the following sense:

"Having bought from Uncle Sam supplies necessary to enable us to save the world for freedom and democracy at a price very satisfactory to Uncle Sam's producers, we do not propose to be now held up by a money trust and compelled to pay greatly increased prices for the same things. We are for the moment exhausted with fighting the world's battles, Uncle Sam's included; but we are prepared to work and pay the debts incurred in making the world safe for democracy. We will pay a fair, fixed price for the goods we have bought, but we will not pay tribute to the money trust."

Such an ultimatum might bring the money trust to its senses, especially as the producers face the loss of European markets. But if the same ultimatum is issued to Canada, what then?

The fact that all the denominations which have taken part in the Forward Movement have passed their Dominion objectives may lead those cynics who have been saying that the Christian churches were a failure to revise their judgment. The churches have at any rate discovered that team work and advertising pays. Once upon a time it was an accepted maxim that competition was the life of trade, and a lot of other things, including the churches, which were often more concerned to emphasize their differences than to dwell upon their points of agreement, which were many. But times change, and now co-operation seems to be the order of the day.

A little while ago The Times was in ecstacy over the discovery that Mr. Barnhill, a director of the C. N. R., had put St. John on the map. Now The Times is in a weird state of excitement because it apparently believes that Mr. Barnhill and the other directors of the C. N. R. have forgotten that St. John is on the map, or have no notion that they need better terminal facilities here. What a wobbly world it must be from the vantage point of Canterbury street! And these he days of prohibition, too, or at any rate of the kind enforced by the economical Foster Government.

The Telegraph says we want nationalization as they have it in Halifax. In its last issue the Weekly Bulletin, published by the Canadian Department of Commerce, gives a list of sailings from the principal ports of Canada, east and west, covering a certain period. This shows twenty-two sailings from St. John, as compared with four or five from Halifax. If that is the kind of nationalization we want, it may be doubted whether the longshoremen will be enthusiastic for it, or anybody else in St. John.

The Government was accused by some Liberals of being too liberal to the Grand Trunk shareholders, but apparently said shareholders have other views on the matter, though their expression of the same is probably a bit extravagant. If the Government had let matters slide, the Grand Trunk would have gone into bankruptcy; the shareholders would have had greater cause of complaint, and some sections of the country would have been without a railway service.

St. John harbor has been in politics so long that if it was removed from the general influence of the hot air currents with which it has generally been surrounded it might take all our traffic. St. Croix might take all our traffic. And anyway it would be and if the port was nationalized and some supporters of Union Government were appointed administrators.

The Globe says that real estate in St. John must bear a large share of taxation in the future. What does the Globe think of the categorical imperative of Kant? Can it be that in this case it considers that must is synonymous with ought to?

## WHAT THEY SAY

The World's Way.  
 (New York Guest)  
 The well-known—though little understood—human race is an amusing animal. The price of food goes up

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins was wawking along Broad St. last Sunday jost wawking along, and all of a sudden Puds sed, G. goah, there she is, and look who she's wawking with, Jimminy crickits, wata you know about that.

Meaning the pritty new grrl that lives next door to Mary Watkins wawking rit in front of us and who was she wawking with but Pudres sissy outsin Persey.

O boy, now we can get interdoosed to her, I sed. And we started to wawk fast to catch up to them, Puds saying, G wizz, wata you know about that poor simp? and me saying, Holey smoaks, this lare dood. Both meering Persey and we cawt up to them and started to wawk aloa, side of Persey as if we didnt see enybody wawking with him, allreddy. Puds saying, Hello, Persey, wata you going, enywayes apeshill?

No, sed Persey.  
 Hello, Persey, you didnt know we was in back of you, did you? I sed.

No, sed Persey. Sounding as if he didnt care weather we was or not, and we kepp on wawking alongside of him waiting for him to interdoose us to the pritty new grrl, wch he didnt, and after a wile I gave him a small poke in the ribs with my elbo to remind him.

Hay, wata you doing, out that out, sed Persey.  
 And he kepp on wawking without interdoocing us and pritty soon Puds reetched around me and pushed him in the same ribs with his fist.

Hay, wata you think this is, a benefit?—wata you think yours doing? sed Persey. Being much fresher than he would of dasted to be if the pritty new grrl hadent of him with him, her jest keeping on wawking on the other side of him with a proud ixpression as if she thawt she was the only one on Broad St., and after a wile I sed Aw come on, Puds wata the use wawking with this poor simp of a dood, peple mite see us and think we are with him.

Sure, wad do we want to wawk with this poor dood of a simp for, sed Puds.

Both still meening Persey, and we quick wawked faster and got ahead of them and kepp ahead of them.

## Can You Afford to Pay Rent?

Why grind away for the other fellow's benefit when your present rental money, or even a little more, could be going towards paying for YOUR house.

## Build and Own Your Home

YOU CAN DO IT, on terms. And we'll help you with house plans, and supply you with EVERYTHING. IN WOOD AND GLASS for your new—your own—home.

'Phone Main 3000.

MURRAY &amp; GREGORY, LTD.

## A BIT OF FUN

Mr. Saphedee—"Do you think men have descended from monkeys?"  
 Miss Caustique—"Not very far."

Some Town.

"You advertise this as the best hotel in town," said the man who had stayed overnight.  
 "It certainly is," replied the clerk.  
 "Well, that may be a good boost for the hotel, but it's a terrible knock for the town."

## PRECAUTIONARY TACTICS.

It was the week before Little Willie's birthday, and he was on his knees at his bedside petitioning Providence for presents in a very loud voice.

"Please send me," he shouted, "a bicycle, a tool-chest, a—"

"What are you praying so loud for?" his younger brother interrupted. "God ain't deaf."

"I know he ain't," said Willie, looking toward the next room, "but grand-ma is."

## HALF A CENTURY

Great changes take place in 50 years. Few remain of those in business when the College was established in 1867.

We are thankful to an appreciative public for continued growth and are now in our 53rd year, going stronger than ever before.

Send for New Rate Card.

 S. KERR, Principals



## The Big Value in FLOUR

IN THE HOMES of the people, far and near, "REGAL FLOUR" is known for its high and uniform quality; it is known as the most important factor in bread baking success.

THE ST. LAWRENCE FLOUR MILLS CO., LIMITED  
 MONTREAL



## Ironclad ALARM CLOCKS



Solidly built with Cast Iron Case and Nickel Plated Steel back.  
 Knockproof and Dustproof.  
 Concealed Alarm. Three-in. Dial.  
 Price \$3.00  
 The America Alarm . . \$1.90

GET IT AT

'Phone M 2640 **McAVITY'S** 11-17 King St.

## Rings

Most women are fond of pretty rings; and the newer designs and craftsmanship, which mark our latest importations, are very popular with discriminating purchasers.

Solitaire Diamonds, Diamond Clusters, also combinations of Diamonds with Pearls, Rubies, Emeralds, Sapphires and other precious stones, in delightful profusion, bring special interest to our finger ring department.

If you've any particular design in mind—which we do not happen to have—we will be pleased to make it up for you. In any case, we'll be glad of a visit from you.

**FERGUSON & PAGE**  
 41 King Street

## Now Landing!

Shafts, Spokes, Rims and Hubs; Tire Steel Bar Iron; Horse Shoes; Paints, Oils, Turpentine and Varnish. Carriage and Auto Specialties.

**M. E. AGAR** 51-53 Union St.  
 'Phone Main 818 St. John, N. B.

## Lace Leather

CLIPPER HOOKS and MACHINES  
 CRESCENT PLATES and RIVETS

Genuine English Oak Tanned

LEATHER BELTING Manufactured by

**D. K. McLAREN, Limited**

'PHONE MAIN 1121—P. O. BOX 702  
 90 GERMAIN STREET—ST. JOHN, N. B.

## Without Milk Raise More Calves



at less cost and greater profit on

**BLATCHFORD'S CALF MEAL**  
 —WHOLESALE BY—

**C. H. PETERS' SONS, LTD., St. John, N. B.**

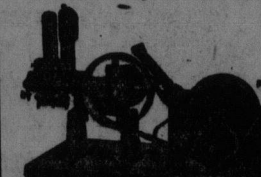


## NEPONSET Wall Board

For WALLS and CEILING  
 And a Hundred other Uses

—SOLD BY—  
**HALEY BROS. LTD.**

## Water Systems for Country Homes



Our "HYDRO" Water Systems provide water for Bath Room and Kitchen as City Water Works do in towns.

Consider the advantages of water pressure in house and stable as in city houses.

Send For Circular and Prices.

**P. CAMPBELL & CO., 73 Prince William St.**

NOW IN SEASON  
 Scallops, Oysters and Clams.  
**SMITH'S FISH MARKET**  
 25 Sydney Street  
 'Phone M 1704.

FINE CARD PLATE WORK  
 DIE STAMPING  
 STENCIL CUTTING, etc.  
**FLEWWELLING PRESS**  
 MARKET SQUARE

Dollar D  
 Bargains  
 Thursday  
 19th Feb

In addition to bargains offered will allow a Discount off all regular goods \$1.00 off all regular goods and over.

See our window gowns on Dollar Day the Date, Thursday, 19th Feb.

Foot Fitters **McRO**

**BUILD IN SELF DEFENSE**

With rentals record breaking, better homes that save floors that make easy.

Will you pay your own or for For Lumber 'P

The Chris working 186 Eri

County Lo Housi

We are preparing applications for loan in course of ere played by private County of St. J forms may be ha P. O. Box 688, Sweeney, Secreta Prince William St ALI

ESTABLISHED OPTICAL. Unexcelled in We grind our tist you a service PROMPT AND Send your nex D. BOY 111 Charl

Painless Only Boston De Head Office 527 Main Street 'Phone 653 DR. J. D. MAH Oper 9 a. m.

Eyes Our Most Valu The care of th our first thought, sight exist ever Home, the Schoo the Factory, etc. When glasses ar comfort and safe Yours for K. W. EPST Optometrists Open Evenings

**SANTA CAPSULES MIDY**