

### The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 53 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B. Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor. THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY Henry de Clerqu... Louis Kiehan... Freeman & Co.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MON DAY, AUGUST 11, 1919

#### HARBOR COMMISSION.

The message which the Board of Trade has received from the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries on the matter of harbor transfer, is fine as far as it goes. But it does not go far enough. In fact it does not go at all. On its face this telegram is a reply to an urgent enquiry sent by someone interested in the proposed transfer, who desires to overcome by means of official assurance, the opposition now apparent among our people. But the officer who sends this stereotyped and ambiguous promise is not one to whose power rests the ability to carry out what his words indicate. The Deputy is an employee who directs the detail of the department over which he presides as second in command. His business is to do what he is told by the responsible minister. And what that minister or his colleagues may do in any particular is not usually subject to the advice of subordinates. The officer in question may be well-meaning, and possibly he is entirely right in his statement that the interests of St. John will be safeguarded under government control of the harbor. The trouble is that this gentleman does not know whether they will or no, and indeed the reverse may be the case when those responsible for the preparation of the bill now on the statute books was being prepared. When the Minister in charge was so indifferent to St. John's rights as to cut off quarter of a million from the price which his own officers said was a fair price, it is doubtful indeed if his Deputy is authorized to say that for the future the interests of this port will be fully protected.

The Standard is not opposed to Harbor Commission. This paper is, on the contrary, heartily in favor of it under fair conditions. Let the government repay to St. John the amount we have expended, together with the capitalized value of those sources of revenue, such as the fisheries, which will be included in the transfer. Let the government set forth in its bill that charges on business passing through this port shall not be higher than those of any other Canadian ports. Let the government say that existing facilities will be brought up to date and that additional accommodation will be provided to meet the demands of increasing business. Let it be added that all revenues shall be payable to and collected by the government through its commissioners, but that the amounts expended on capital and the deficit in operation—if any should be met—shall be charged against the country as a whole and not against this port as is only fair and proper. Then the actions of St. John, who have made this city what it is today largely by their own efforts, will feel satisfied to let go their greatest asset with the realization that the burden which has become too heavy for them will hereafter be borne by others more capable. But do not let us be lulled into unconsciousness by means of a message from a deputy whose responsible minister might have signed that telegram, but did not.

#### STILL IN THE FUTURE.

The Westfield-Gagetown section of the Valley Railway was to have been completed and handed over to the government, as represented by the Canadian National Railways, on August first. The Standard is informed that it was not completed, and that it is not ready for operation, but no movement has been made by the C. N. R. toward the establishment of a regular service on that road. It is stated that it was not the intention of the management of the government lines to inaugurate such service until August fifteenth at the earliest, which means only a few days longer. But, according to gossip, there are other reasons for this delay, involving negligence on the part of the Canadian National Railways in the matter of completing arrangements with the connecting line. The Valley Railway must enter St. John over the Canadian Pacific tracks from Westfield, where connection has been made. It is understood from the commencement of operations, and those who have been responsible for the construction of the Valley Road to Westfield have known all along that it was their duty to arrange an agreement with the Canadian Pacific for running rights. In place of negotiating such an agreement, as might have been done at any time during the past year or two, it is understood that the prospective management of the Valley Road until the last day or two have taken no action whatever, and now with the completed line on their hands are unable to introduce passenger and freight service until that agreement is reached. Naturally such an affair as a matter for discussion between the parties interested, it cannot be put through in a few minutes, for it involves intimate relations between two important organizations covering a term of years. In consequence of this neglect, residents along the river will now be compelled to wait a still longer time pending the conclusion of negotiations which may or may not be in progress.

#### OUR BIG WEEK.

This is the week. On Thursday and Friday St. John will have its biggest days of the year, the former devoted to our New Brunswick soldiers, the latter to the Prince of Wales. We have been quiet for five years, with scarcely a moment of festival that was not clouded by the dread of disheartening news. That time has gone by, the war is over, and while problems still confront every country, we in Canada are more fortunately placed than most and are in a position to let ourselves go for once and celebrate as we never did before. This is the time for decorating, for making our streets and homes a blaze of color which will put all other efforts in the shade. It is the time for enthusiasm, for bubbling good nature, for clear, sheer happiness which will make our guests feel at ease and realize that when St. John sets out to do anything it is well done. The success or otherwise of our big celebration does not now depend upon the work of committees. They have been busy and by their efforts have made possible the task in store for others. Whether our visitors are worthily entertained or not is a matter of individual effort, but in a reception such as this the enthusiasm of the masses is what counts. Here are fifty thousand of us, and every man, woman and child in the crowd responsible for making the five or ten thousand visitors enjoy themselves. The programme is all that could be desired, there will be fun for everybody, but in the enjoyment of every day that has been arranged all should remember that the first duty is to our guests, that this reception is a tribute to the men who went overseas, and at the reputation of St. John for putting up a good time is at stake.

#### AMATEUR SPORT.

It is doubtful if there is in all Canada another city the size of St. John which is without a properly organized association for the promotion of amateur athletics. And very few cities of any importance whatever are lacking in grounds whereon athletic gatherings may be held. Today we have not even a baseball field, we have no running track, we have no place equipped for the carrying out of a programme of sports, nor for the accommodation of spectators. St. John is lacking, too, in a central body by means of which athletic competition may be promoted in every detail. We need a central body, one which will be in a position to arrange a one-day programme as an item in the coming reception. It is not correct to say that St. John will not support amateur sport, nor that there is any lack of material in this community. We have athletes capable of taking their places with credit in almost any gathering, and among our people there is a sincere appreciation of clean sport, whether amateur or professional, which is only waiting opportunity for expression. From time to time individual organizations of minor importance have endeavored with more or less success to interest residents of particular sections in athletic affairs, but these attempts have failed of final success because of the fact that they have not been representative of the entire city. A central, controlling organization might very readily be formed, for we have a sufficiency of smaller units capable of intelligent participation, and it is obvious that were a well-directed effort made to provide suitable grounds the movement would be favorably received by the citizens generally.

#### WHAT THEY SAY

**Hasty Conclusions.** Toronto Globe: The President of the Toronto Metal Trades Council wires Ottawa that the arrest of the Winnipeg strike leaders is inexcusable and criminal. Whether it is or is not criminal will not be known until the evidence is produced.

**Law Still Counts.** Hamilton Herald: "Labor does not recognize sedition," remarks President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades Congress. But the law does, which is very much to the purpose.

**The Leopard's Spots.** London Morning Post: We cannot contract out of our nature, nor can we escape either death or destruction merely because it is "unthinkable," Germany, under whatever world system, will still be Germany—and the danger is that our statesmen, who are sadly ignorant both of history and human nature, should be tempted to believe that by some miracle all history may be reversed, and the Prussian lie down with the Frenchman.

**A 92-Cent Dollar.** Toronto Times: A Canadian ten-cent piece is worth only 92 cents in American money. This is almost double the discount lately insisted upon by American takers of Canadian money.

The adverse exchange rate of 5 per cent, suggests a determination on the part of at least some American bankers or merchants to put the screws on this country. The United States is in a position to exact this discount large-

ly because Canada made enormously greater war sacrifices in proportion to its strength than did the American Republic.

The war caused the Dominion to run into debt with the Republic and that debt is increased every month that Canadians buy more from the United States than the Americans buy from them. Patriotic Canadians should take this fact into consideration when they do their shopping. Every time a man or woman in this country buys an American-made, instead of a Canadian-made article, he helps to increase the adverse trade balance and to make Canadian money of less value across the international border.

**Carvell's "Good Things."** Hamilton Times, Liberal: The Hon. Mr. Carvell has succeeded in making a good thing out of politics. Before the war his hold on political life was very precarious. He had little hope of again being returned in his constituency as a Liberal. The war and the Union government put him on his feet again, and now he has secured a big salary job with a ten-year tenure, which will place him on easy street for the rest of his life. Mr. Carvell is a strong opponent of public ownership.

#### A BIT OF VERSE

**VICTRIX.**  
(By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.)  
How was she with England?  
Her faith was true to her pledged word;  
Her strong hand closed on her blunted sword;  
Her heart rose high to the foe man's hate;  
She walked with God on the hills of Fate;  
And all was well with England.  
How was it then with England?  
Her soul was wrung with loss and pain;  
Her face was grey with her heart's blood drain,  
But her falcon eyes were hard and bright;  
Austere and cold as an ice-cave's light;  
And all was well with England.  
How was it then with England?  
With drooping sword and bended head  
She turned apart and mourned her death;  
Sad sky above, sad earth beneath,  
She walked with God in the Vale of Death;  
Ah, how the day for England.

#### A BIT OF FUN

**One Better.**  
"Listen, Harold! The sand can go without water. Isn't that wonderful?"  
Harold (sceptical) — "Not very. You ought to hear Charlie Brown tell one!"

**Web Feet.**  
"I heard him call you 'Duckie!'"  
announced the small brother.  
"Well, what of it?" demanded his sister, defiantly.  
"Oh, nothing much," answered the small brother. "I was thinking maybe it's because of the way you walk, but it ain't very nice of him."

**Had to Do It.**  
Five-year-old Jimmie was telling about some medicine he had taken when recovering from the flu.  
"Yes," he said, "I took some compulsion of cod-liver oil, and—"  
"You mean emulsion, don't you—not compulsion?" said the visitor.  
"Well," rejoined Jimmie, "there was a good deal of compulsion about it."

**A Bad Habit.**  
"Titus, you were talking in your sleep last night, and you frequently spoke in terms of endearment to a certain Euphemia. Who is Euphemia?"  
"Why, my dear, that was my—my sister's name."  
"Titus!" your sister's name was Jane."  
"Yes, dear; but we called her Euphemia for short!"

**Felt a Call.**  
Jones—"If you were going in for music which instrument would you choose?"  
Williams—"Well, I've always thought I would like to be a soloist on a cash register."

**Lowered Percentage.**  
Donald—"D'ye ken Mac Fell in the river on 'Dy'e name last night."  
Willie—"Ye dinna mean ta say he was drowned?"  
Donald—"Not drowned, but badly."

**A Bombshell.**  
Brown was entertaining Smith, and was showing him his household treasures.  
"That," said he, pointing to a large painting over the fireplace, "is a portrait of my wife's first husband."  
"Why," said Smith, "you never told me that your wife had been married before!" He examined the picture closely, then said, "Well, I should say he looks like a real dough-head sort of idiot, any way."  
"Thank you," said Brown. "That is a portrait of myself at the age of twenty-five."

#### THE EDITOR'S MAIL

**WHY NOT BE FAIR?**  
Editor of The Standard:  
Sir—May I write a few lines in reply to a letter signed Robt. S. Crisp in your issue of 6th Inst? I will pass over the paragraph

### Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.  
Me and pop was in the setting room yesterday after supper pop smoking his meersman pipe and looking at it after about every 3 puffs to see if it was you darrest 7 months and darnin' holes out of socks and I wasn't doing anything and I sed to ma Ma, how meny socks do you think you could darn if you darned for 7 months and didn't even stop for meals?  
How in the world do I know?—stick a question, sed me, and pop sed, Now, mother, is there any way to satisfy the boys thirst for nollidge?—children can learn only by asking questions and the least we can do is to answer them to the best of our ability.  
Which just then I sed to pop, Pop, how is it Indians are red?  
There's one answer that you ma sed to pop, and pop sed, Sorten, wy shouldst 17—Indians are red, Benny because the pigment in their skin is red, just as the pigment in your skin is white.  
And he kept on smoking and looking at his pipe to see if the color was changing yet, with it wasn't, and I sed, How is it nobody hasn't got green pigment, pop?  
There's a good one, answer that one sed ma, and pop sed, Most assaurintly 17 answer it—wat is it, Benny?—O yes green pigment. Wy, there is no such thing as the easiest way to answer that.  
That's not looking him wy there isn't, sed me, and pop sed, If you would like to answer the boys questions I will cheerfully hand him over to you, and ma sed, Hee hee, and I sed to pop, W! If there was any green pigment, pop, wat would you call the green people?  
There's a very nice one, answer that, sed ma, and pop sed, Benny, dont I hear the boys wissing for you outside?  
No sir, I sed. With he properly dizen, and pop sed, Well go out and see, and I sed, I sed with you so you can stay a wile.  
With I sed

### ABE MARTIN

Some folks don't only manage to keep before the public, but also before the camera. It seems like next to a bull terrier nothing holds on like a feller with a damp hand.  
Like other intemperate temperance faddists he selects the lowest and most worldly members of the "wet" party, compares them with the most virtuous and worthy of the party he advocates. ("ministers of congregations," etc.) and asks us to judge the merits of the question in dispute by an appeal to our "intelligence" on this, the only evidence he produces. Is this fair? Is it even honest? What would Mr. Robert S. Crisp think of the rumrunner or rumdrinker who selected the "ministers of congregations" who have so frequently been found guilty of murder, dishonesty and base crimes against children and young people, and compared them, to the disadvantage of this profession, with the multitude of respectable citizens against whom even he can make no charge except that they do not agree with him on the question?  
Now for the other point.—He brings forward only two "parties" from the lengthy question before mentioned, which is really too intemperate for notice.  
He writes, "If the Temperance party today was assisting the rumrunner we would have no outcry from that party." I believe the rumrunner will agree heartily with that remark; but let's claim for that the same would apply to every man who works for a living no matter what his calling. What about the doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. What about the minister who so readily as he to make an outcry when his emoluments are in danger? No one blames him. Why blame the rumrunner?  
I am a rumrunner, nor am I a "drinker." I have touched neither rum, whiskey or malt liquors for the past five years, but I like an argument. I also like fair play and honesty.  
While Mr. Robert S. Crisp's letter is professionally a reply to a previous letter published in your columns, by an "ordinary British workman," it is noteworthy that he ignores the many strong arguments adduced by this worker, and does not make the slightest attempt to answer any one of them.  
This is not discussion. It is merely an exhibition of prejudice.  
He claims for the Temperance Party that "we are not thoughtless, inexperienced men needing elementary instruction" may be true. It is sufficiently clear that a great many of its members are experienced enough to know how to avoid real argument and instead use such clap trap as will appeal to the sentiments and secure votes of those unable to think clearly for themselves, and those who are really in need of elementary instruction.  
Yours truly,  
F. A. HARVEY.

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### WEDDING

Moore-Osbourn  
Penobscot, Aug. 8—much local interest took home of Mr. and Mrs. born on Wednesday afternoon when their eldest son, the Christiana, became Stewart Edward Moore Settlement, lately returned seas where he has been the 20th N. B. Battalion who was dressed in uniform of navy blue serge, entering room on the arm of the strains of Love's march played by Prof. O. town and stood beneath ported plants, sweet perfume. The ceremony formed by Rev. Geo. B. Susex. After the ceremony supper was served to about