The St. John Standard

ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1922.

DAYLIGHT SAVING—SO-CALLED.

On Sunday morning next, the City of St. John will commence its annual attempt to conserve daylight. The scheme does not commend itself to a very large section of citizens, for it has more disadvantages than otherwise. We notice that several other cities in Canada which adopted the so-called Daylight Time a week or two ago, are already tired of it and are petitioning their governing bodies to rescind the order bringing it into effect. Country people don't like it, and will not conform to it, even though failure to do so incommodes city dwellers. It upsets the time of departure of trains, for no one is ever sure what time a particular train will leave, when some are running on Eastern time, some on Atlantic time, and some on Daylight time, and still others on any old time.

We notice from the American press reports, that on Monday last Washington began an experiment in voluntary daylight saving that has more to commend it than the system we employ here. Instead of changing the hands of the clock, an order signed by the President was issued directing that the employees of the executive departments do to work an hour earlier in the morning and cease an hour earlier. Most of the commercial establishments of the city changed their business schedules to conform with the Government plan.

There is some element of honesty and common sense about this plan. Telling ourselves an untruth about the time of day, knowing it to be untrue, in order to induce ourselves to get up an hour earlier in the morning, at the best is a clumsy expedient. We have been doing that way for several years, for the reason that we thought it the only way possible to conserve an extra hour of daylight. But we don't know that we couldn't simply agree to get up and go to work an hour earlier in the day, because we never have tried it. It is quite possible that just such an agreement could be made. Merchants are able to agree about general closing hours and it is not wholly impossible that shops and factories would do the same if the proposition were put up to them.

If such a general agreement could be made, the whole vexed problem would be straightened out. We would know when to go to our trains, we'd know what time it was in the next town, and there would be an end of the interminable question as to what kind of time is meant when an hour is mentioned. The ruffled feathers of our rural neighbors would also be smoothed thereby. One of the most difficult things about the daylight saving plan is that almost everyone in the country is so angry about it, and not without cause, it must be admitted. But if a man in the city wanted to arise earlier in the Summer than he is accustomed to in the Winter no one would have cause to be vexed, so long as the early riser lets the hands of his watch alone.

However, so long as civic affairs are permitted to be regulated by a small group which makes up in self assertiveness what it lacks in real representative character, the ordinary citizen must put up with what he can get.

ONE POSSIBLE RESULT OF FEMALE FRANCHISE.

The political field in Canada is already occupied by three duly recognized parties, the Conservatives, the Liberals and the Farmers, with a Labor party hovering round in the offing. One result of conferring the franchise on women may in the question be no distant date of a Woman's party—and then what? Men will always vote according to party affiliation, but if the women, who are practically of equal voting strength with men, should put up candidates of their own sex in each constituency and vote solidly for them, the constitution of the House of Commons would undergo a very striking change—as would also many other phases of government.

Women's Clubs are beginning to crop up all over the country, and sooner or later political questions will find a place in their discussions. And when the members of these clubs make up their minds as to what they want, the natural outcome will be that, like the Farmer group, they will want to send women to Parliament to get their wants carried out, and with a voting power equal to that of the masculine element of the electorate, they will be able to send them.

This at least is the condition of affairs that confronts the political life of the United States, and we have very little doubt that sooner or later it will spread over Canada too. American women, it is said, are just beginning to wake up to the fact that they possess equal voting rights with men, and are governing themselves accordingly...

Modern Adventure
(London Daily Mail.)

The world may not be so exciting a place as it was to the Elizabethan adventurers, but it still contains many blank spots. If there are no longer empires to found, there are secrets to be unravelled. And in proportion as scientific knowledge has advanced, so has the significance of new discoveries become greater. Anybody who can give us new and authentic facts about the world is performing a public service which may always turn out to be of definite value to humanity.

Much Money
(Los Angeles Times.)

In connection with the printing of the new 100,000,000 ruble notes by the Russian Soviet the statement is made that in the last five years Russia has issued paper money to the extent of eighteen trillions of rubles. If this were good money it would represent more than all the coinage of all the world since the creation. As it is it has only the backing of a gold reserve said to have more than $15,000,000 of the real stuff. The Soviet money as it stands is not even a good grade of wall paper.

Canada's Pledged Work
(Providence Journal.)

The Dominion of Canada has had no difficulty in attracting Americans with securities paying five per cent. The Canadians have a reputation for keeping their agreements in letter and spirit. Germany and Russia are not in the Canada class, though once ranking among nations of the highest solvency. Who can have faith in the sincerity of Lenin and Trotsky, or the responsibility of the Soviet Government? As for Germany, the spirit that has repudiated pledges as "scraps of paper" is not calculated to inspire confidence.

Drawbacks of Democracy
(The Englishman, Calcutta.)

One of the most cruel facts about a democratic system of Government is that it deprives practical men and men of action of power and places it in the hands of literary persons and gentlemen with fluent tongues. Where votes have to be won from ignorant masses, people whose time has been devoted to arriving with the instant needs of the day or who are engaged in solving administrative and executive problems involving a great expenditure of energy find themselves out-argued and nonplussed by the others who have nothing more to consider than the means of awaking emotion in an unthinking mob.

Look for Better Times
(Johannesburg Star.)

All the conditions favorable to progress are to be found in South Africa. What is required is a good start on an adequate scale. A substantial Government loan would give the Union that start and probably set private enterprise moving more vigorously as well. And when we get the machinery running again there should be no difficulty in keeping it going. Sitting down and waiting for better times will not help South Africa. What we have got to do is to start out and look for better times. Will the Government give the country a lead? South Africa's credit stands high and any money the Government needs could be put to utilitarian purposes, its distinctive character and object would very soon be lost. If we might be permitted to make the suggestion, a plain shaft of New Brunswick granite, 60 to 75 feet high, on a suitable base, with appropriate metal tablets affixed, would be as satisfactory as anything. However, whatever kind of memorial is decided on, the committee—or rather the nucleus of a committee—which was appointed to proceed with the matter, should be accorded every assistance that it is possible to give to it.

We notice that the City Council has decided to assemble the paving of Prince William Street by day work. If the Commissioner in charge of the work employs the same industrious gang of workers in this instance as was employed some time ago when that portion of the street from the City Hall southwards was done, it is going to be a very expensive game. Once during the course of that work it needed the services of six men to cant a piece of 9 x 3 plank, barely four feet long, in two. Two men held each end of this gigantic piece of timber on the saw horse, and two men plied the cross-cut saw, and what with talking and resting between whiles, the job took nearly four minutes to carry out. Any ten year old boy with a hacksaw would have done it in 15 seconds.

Love Triumphant
(London Observer.)

The high cost of courtship, it seems has had its effect on the manner and nature of love-making. The modern swain, affrighted by the expense of dancing too long at an attendance on the object of his desire, hurries up matters and begs for a wedding day at the earliest possible moment. Many a married man would say that this is the last way to effect economy, but that is merely a cynical digression. What is more to the point is the suggestion that these hurried modern courtships lack that romantic and tender atmosphere which surrounded the loves of our elders. Despite all this, human motives, love, remains changeless, whatever the age or the clime.

THE LAUGH LINE

A Great Schemer.
Napham—"My wife has a great scheme to save coal."
Gibson—"What's that?"
"Spend the winter in Italy."

At This Time of the Year.
"There's no place like home."
"I don't know. The club seems more restful when the paperhangers are in the house."

Careless Feet.
Mother—"Darling, you are never quite a moment. Why do you race indoors and out and up and down stairs so?"
Five-year-old—"I just don't know."

Following the precedent set a few years ago, when the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon the then Premier, the Hon. James K. Fleming, the University of New Brunswick is today about to gather the Hon. Walter E. Foster into the ranks of distinguished men whom it has delighted to honor in this way. At least it must be admitted that Mr. Foster has done quite as much to deserve the honor as most other recipients of it.

The Lloyd George Government will not resign as a consequence of the adverse vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening. While it is true, as has been pointed out, that incidents...

Tuesday's vote have upset Government in the past, there does not seem, on the face of things, to be any reason why the Government should go out in this instance. Evidently Mr. Lloyd George does not regard his work as done at present, and he intends to stay and finish it. Moreover, it is doubtful if England has another man quite as capable as he is to finish it, if he did lay it down. Mr. Asquith could not, and Lord Balfour probably would not.