

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1922.

OUR "SPENDTHRIFT" GOVT.

The esteemed Telegraph professes to see in our remark that "Evidently after an expenditure of \$2,000,000 in developing hydro-electric power at Musquash, there is no prospect of this power being supplied either in the volume or at as low a rate as the Power Company can supply it at present," a desire either to injure the Foster administration or to advance the interests of the Power Company. Our contemporary is wrong in both guesses. Nothing that we could say could do the Foster administration any more injury than it is doing itself, through some of its courses of procedure, and we are therefore content to let well enough alone; and as for the Power Company, we have no more interest in its affairs than we have in those of The Telegraph. Moreover, so far as our observation goes, the Power Company is quite able to look after itself without any assistance from any newspaper.

The Telegraph states that "The Musquash development will supply a great deal more current than the Power Company can supply at present." The Telegraph knows very well—or should know very well—that this is not so. The Musquash development can supply a continuous 24 hours current of 3500 h. p. only, whereas the Power Company can supply upwards of 6000 h. p. The Musquash development could supply as much as 10,000 h. p. but only for a few hours at a time; but for a continuous output, it was stated by Mr. E. S. Sanderson, the New York expert, in the presence of Dr. E. A. Smith, who did not deny the statement, that 2,500 h. p. is the limit, whereas the Power Company can, if necessary, keep their peak load of 6,000 h. p. continuously.

The Telegraph proceeds to accuse us of indulging in "wild talk, wholly unsupported by facts, about the Government's spendthrift policies." Is it so wild, and is it so unsupported by facts? Of course we appreciate the difficulties of our contemporary's position and it has our sympathy, for it must indeed be a thankless and ungenial task to have to bolster up and apologize for any and every shortcoming of which the Government is guilty. If our contemporary wants any facts, which it says we are short on, the Comptroller-General's report will give them in plenty. Down to the end of 1916, the late Government with less than half the revenue the Foster Government has had the use of, paid the public services were in any way started. In fact the Foster party in opposition declared that the then Government was unnecessarily wasteful and extravagant. Yet with more than twice the revenue to spend now the Foster Government, not only spends every cent of it, but goes deeper into debt with each succeeding year. Why is it necessary for them to spend every cent they receive, and more? Why don't they practice some of the economy they preached so much about, and cut down some of their expenses. Even if they only cut down their expenses 75 p. c. they would still have 75 p. c. more to spend than their predecessors had. Granted, that the cost of administration has been more of late years than in 1916, if they had no greater revenue than there was in that year, there would be every reason and excuse for getting into debt, but their revenue has doubled. Why, instead of spending it all, not try to save a little? If every business man connected his affairs as the Government does those of the province, instead of leaving an estate behind him, he would leave nothing but debts for his family to deal with.

Perhaps The Telegraph would like to explain how, why and for what reason the Government bought the Queen Hotel, Fredericton, a few months ago, and why they are now trying to sell it again. The public would like to know. Mr. McCaffrey is undoubtedly a staunch supporter of the Foster regime, but he is not a needy one, and it is not at all likely that the Government took his hotel off his hands from compassionate motives. Was it because the Government simply cannot help spending money?

It is not so much in connection with their Hydro policy that the Government should be called "spendthrift," but it is the same throughout the entire place. With the enormously increased revenues of late years to spend, if they were not spendthrifts they would not have to be on the everlasting search for new sources of income.

How sweet when the cold wave is past, and a warm spell is with us once more; and we wonder the while it isn't last, if the next will be worse than before.

THE END IS NOT YET.

According to the cable report, the Daily Freeman by the small majority of seven decided to ratify the pact agreed upon by representatives of that body and the British Government, the actual voting being sixty-four for and fifty-seven against.

Those who were looking for the acceptance of this pact to bring to an end the condition of unrest which has prevailed in Ireland for so many years, are apparently to be disappointed in their hopes. Mr. De Valera says "The fight is to go on. The republic of Ireland still exists. Its sovereign parliament still exists. The resolution recommending the approval of a 'certain treaty is not ratification of that treaty and it is not a loyal act.' That will not be effected until the 'Irish people have established the republic which they set up by their own will, as far as human brains and human hearts can achieve it, the self-determination of the Irish people will be forged, and by the men and women of Ireland in this generation. They are not going to give up now."

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

Hon. Robert Rogers, whose friends consider that his public and party service deserved better treatment than was accorded him, does not intend to allow his life-long principles to be submerged, nor his party to be broken up. He advises an early convention of Conservatives of the real old stock to set their house in order. "Manifestly," he says, "the first thing to do is for the party to resume its former name, viz., the Conservative Party, and to adopt a new constitution, and last but not least, organize." This is good, timely advice, the observance of which is, probably, essential to the perpetuation of the historic party which laid the foundation of Confederation and erected the main pillars of the superstructure.

On this matter, the Montreal Gazette says: "We have already expressed the opinion that the party which appealed last month to the electors as the National Liberal and Conservative party ought to be re-baptized. The cognomen is unwieldy, and in respect of significance might as well have been enlarged to National Liberal and Conservative and Progressive party. The late Government owed its defeat in some measure to the defection of men of Conservative tradition, and compensation for which loss there was little or no strength drawn from Liberals who had lent support to the Union Government to carry on the war. In the view of the Toronto Globe "perhaps the real cause of the present low estate of the Conservative party was the defection that the temporary combination formed for a particular purpose could be made permanent, and the Liberal party shortened," and this deduction will not be seriously challenged.

The Conservative party should not rest its recuperation on the ruin of its opponents. Its vitality should be derived from sound policy, complete organization, and vigorous propaganda. It will not go far astray if it reverts to the motto of the principle of its founders, such as:

British connection.
Absolute self-government.
Protection to domestic industry.
Private ownership and operation of public utilities under Government regulation.

An energetic immigration policy.
Maintenance of provincial rights.
Protection of minorities.
Respect for rights of property.
These planks constitute a policy upon which an effective appeal can be made to the people, an appeal that sooner or later must win support. The development of self-government began under Conservative administrations, and has been steadily enlarged by Conservative leaders. The British North America Act ratifies in the preamble, "Whereas the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have expressed their decision to be federally united into one Dominion under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with a constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom." That basis of confederation holds good, and while the autonomy and authority of the British Dominion has broadened in the last half-century, Canadians give as strong allegiance to a common Sovereign as ever in the past. It would be untrue to say that this allegiance is the possession of any one political party in Canada, but it is the primary tenet of Conservative creed.

Fiscal protection has been the policy of the Conservative party for upwards of forty-five years, and still remains so. It is a policy in which the people have faith, and has had its highest tribute and best vindication in the fact that it was enforced during fifteen years of Liberal rule, and not seriously challenged by that party in the recent campaign.

Public ownership is a rock upon which Conservatives may split, and can scarcely be said to be settled policy of any of the parties. It may be good radical policy, may appeal to the ignorant and selfish, but it is not and never has been good Conservative doctrine. The Canadian Pacific Railway would have been delayed in completion probably ten years, possibly even longer, under Government ownership, and a long memory is not required to appreciate the serious consequences of such a circumstance. The Conservative party took the Canadian Pacific out of public ownership, and placed it in private ownership, one of the wisest steps that party has ever made. Public ownership has equalled at the moment, but its strength is waning, and courageous leadership in the opposite direction, backed by experience of other countries, and the convincing logic of events, will bring a revulsion of public opinion ere many years have passed. A policy that is fundamentally wrong cannot be morally or materially right.

Safeguard of the rights of minority is a principle of Conservatism. These rights may not have been abridged by either party, and cannot be considered as endangered, but there should be no hesitation in avowing determination to uphold both the letter and the spirit of the Constitutional Act in this regard. Provincial rights are equally to be upheld, as well as rights of property, some designated, vested interests, and cynically denounced by radicals. A Conservative party should be a party determined to preserve the prospect and reward of acquisition through industry and thrift.

Back to its old basis, proclaiming its old principles, a regenerated Conservative party will become a vital force in the public affairs of Canada. Office is not necessarily the ultima thule of parties. Sane and sound legislation may often be shaped in the shades of opposition. But to put principles and policy in practice, the party must have organization, energy, persistent propaganda, and close touch with the people.

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IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

A Suggestion For The Benefit of the Maritime Provs.

Dear Mr. Editor.—This is offered as a suggestion that might benefit the Maritime Provinces. Today the Maritime Provinces do not count for what they should in our Dominion. The reasons for this principally are in our own hands; we have lost confidence in ourselves; that our importance to the rest of Canada is not appreciated; that the national spirit, the Canadian spirit, has not been sufficiently developed; and finally, that we have not advanced.

A practical way of overcoming these apparent drawbacks would be for the Maritime Board of Trade to call a meeting, and at that meeting have chosen representative men on both sides of politics, who would undertake to conduct a tour of inspection to the rest of Canada to lay before the rest of the people of Canada the importance for them not to forget that the Maritime Provinces are a part of the Dominion, and that the neglect of the Maritime Provinces' interests and affairs will only result in irreparable detriment to Canada as a whole.

For instance, this body might be composed of one representative from four Boards of Trade in each of the three provinces, a number of members of Parliament, either Provincial or Federal, two from each side of politics, six senators, two from each Province, and ten leading business men. Along with these would go newspaper men and two Canadian Press reports.

Arrangements could be made to meet the Boards of Trade, say at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Edmonton and Vancouver. There is no doubt that the Canadian Clubs in these centres would hold meetings to hear our views. We could have some very able speakers: Hon. W. S. Fielding, Senator Black, Hon. A. K. McLean and Hon. F. R. McCreedy would handle financial subjects; Hon. J. B. M. Baxter could speak on our legal status under Confederation; Mr. Hance Logan on Trade with the rest of Canada; Hon. C. W. Robinson on Forestry; Dr. E. A. Smith on Hydro Electric; Mr. George B. Jones on the Lumber Industry; Mr. F. J. Veniot on the need of racial concord, etc., etc.

The main object would be to ask the representatives of the other Provinces not to forget that Canada is Canada, from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, and that when any question comes up in Parliament affecting the Maritime Provinces, that the House will not empty, and that they will give their earnest consideration to it, partly due to the lack of knowledge and initiative of our own representatives and greatly to the fact that the rest of Canada was not interested. Mr. Mackenzie King said it was of so little importance that it should be put through on the jump. It is a national question from the very reason that any trade that may be developed there can only reach during the winter months the whole of Canada through the Maritime Provinces' ports and channels, unless we are willing to give the advantage to American ports and railways.

Another question is that of the railway. The solution of the railway problem must be one that will benefit the whole of Canada, and a policy that will be detrimental to the Maritime Provinces will never be a national one. The laws of the land prevent, or try to prevent, murderous mania from throwing bombs or disease germs around indiscriminately, or from poisoning a public water supply. But there seems at present no preventive for the maniac malice of this man who, through his papers, can work more public evil than an army of anarchists.

Imagination can foresee no greater disaster to this world than a war between the two great English-speaking nations, yet, through the most powerful instrument of publicity ever gathered under the control of one human individual, this degenerate, with his brain carried by hatred for all things British, is deliberately endeavoring to bring about such a war.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was sitting on Mary Watkins' front steps talking to her, and so was Puds Simkins, and I was making her last and Puds was saying, "Puds, what you think, Mary, I dreamed about you last night, I dreamed you was an angel." Puds how perfectly lovely, said Mary Watkins. "Me thinking, Heck, darn him. And I said, Well I wouldn't want anybody to dream I was an angel. If you ever saw angels in pictures you know how they go around, don't you? I said, Meaning with nothing on but wings, and Mary Watkins said, Puds Simkins, I'm going into the house. Which she started to do, and Puds said, Mary, wait a minute, hey, hey, hey, I didn't dream you looked like the rest of the angels, I dreamed you was all dressed up in a long fur coat and everything. That's different, that's all right, said Mary Watkins setting down again, and I said, Well then how did he know you was an angel if you wasn't dressed like an angel? Yes, how could you tell I was an angel? said Mary Watkins starting to get up again. On account of your bewitching face, I knew right away nobody but an angel could have such a bewitching face, you couldn't fool me, said Puds. O Puds was a nice dream, said Mary Watkins staying down. Me thinking, Aw heck, darn that guy. And Mary Watkins kept on looking at Puds as if she thought he was about twice as wonderful as me, and pretty soon I got up and went home disheartened.

THE LAUGH LINE

The difference between a success and an ordinary man is usually this: The ordinary man is satisfied to be a second-rate—Detroit Free Press.

Unobscured Man. Mr. X—You are extravagant. You spend money for unnecessary clothes. Mr. X—Abundant! Unnecessary clothes are not in style.—Boston Transcript.

Doubtful Ending. "Has your story a happy ending?" "Well, that depends on the viewpoint."

"What do you mean?" "Some might call it a happy ending and some might not. The lovers got married in the last chapter."—Detroit Free Press.

Wise Charley. Charley Chaplin has decided to stick to comedy. He knows which side of his pie has the tartar on.—Los Angeles Express.

Boost. It's up to me. And up to you. To boost for Nineteen Twenty-Two.

SAVE YOUR EYES. If your vision is impaired—if your eyes won't stand the strain of hard, constant work—you owe it to yourself to make up the deficiency by wearing glasses.

Every heart newspaper marked this Christmas season by the publication, signed by Hearst himself, of a front-page article so venomous with hate against Great Britain, and so poisonous in the mad suspicion which breeds war that it seems the work of a maniac.

Occasionally the article praises France for refusal to agree with other powers on the submarine question. Actually, it is a malicious attack upon Great Britain, and a vicious effort to destroy the disarming decision of the Washington conference by an insulting denial of Great Britain's good faith and a direct charge that British control of the seas is a menace to the world.

When a City is Disfigured. (Kansas City Star.) When any part of a city is disfigured by hill boards or when any residential neighborhood is ruined by the unnecessary intrusion of business the whole city suffers. People don't enjoy passing up or through property in going to their homes. It weakens the incentive for a family to own its home if there is danger that the property must be hurt at any time by the erection of a business house next door. A city cannot permit itself to be disfigured in spots. It cannot acquiesce in a policy of ugly neighborly hide and there. If it does it subjects itself to unnecessary handicaps. It retards its growth. A city is a unit. Damage to one part is damage to the city.

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SAVE YOUR EYES

Enjoy These Long Winter Evenings

A comfortable chair by the fire and a good story to read make a winter's night really delightful.

There are so many good books and magazines, and it is so easy to get glasses that make the printing clear and black, that you miss lots of rich pleasure if you do not read.

Let us fit you with a pair of reading glasses—restful to the eyes and comfortable on your face. They will add much in every way to the satisfaction you get out of life.

Miss Roberta Grimmer left on Monday for Boston to resume her studies at Simmons College.

Miss Alva Granville's friends learn with regret that she is confined to her home with grip.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hodge and Miss Jessie Hodge, who were holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Davidson, have returned to their home in Fredericton.

Right Rev. Monsignor J.