

# The Standard



Published by The Standard Limited, 52 Prince William Street, St. John, Canada.

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## SUBSCRIPTION.

Morning Edition, By Carrier, per year, \$5.00  
Mail, 5.00  
Weekly Edition, By Mail, per year 1.00  
Weekly Edition to United States 1.50  
Single Copies Two Cents.

## TELEPHONE CALLS.

Business Office ..... Main, 1723  
Editorial and News ..... Main 1746

SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 30, 1909.

## OFFICIAL WORSHIP.

So far back as historical records go, the man in authority and the dispenser of patronage has had plenty to worship and praise him even though they were few by mind which turns a commonplace, or disreputable man into a superior creature as soon as he gets an office, never finds merit in a public man in opposition, and without patronage. No public man in Canada had in his day of power much more flattery bestowed upon him than the late Hon. Mr. Blair. There came a day when the whole procession of idolaters turned from him to Mr. Emmerson, who suddenly became endowed with resplendent powers of statesmanship. One April day he in turn lost office, and all his transcendent ability dropped from him like a robe. Then emerged Mr. Graham, previously a man of no particular consequence, and the inspiration of genius descended on him simultaneously with his appointment to office. So we have seen such men as Mr. Templeman and Mr. Murphy, the first never of sufficient importance to obtain an election in his own town, the other a man who had passed middle life without any person suspecting him of any claim to recognition as a public man, placed in the Dominion cabinet, and immediately the faithful find them men of light and leading. A few years ago the Northwest was left without representation, and as material was scarce, Sir Wilfrid fell upon Mr. Oliver on the back benches, and made him a minister. Thereupon Mr. Oliver became a great authority on public matters, and he who never influenced a vote in the House of Commons, was acknowledged as a moulder of political thought.

Now take the converse proposition. A man in office is a giant, because he is in office. The same man, or a better one, out of office is a pigmy. For example, here is the St. John Sun, beginning with half complimentary remarks about Mr. Borden, (who has a position as leader) followed by some disparaging criticism, (since Mr. Borden is not in office) goes on to say:—

"Yet the present Conservative leader is a veritable 'giant' compared with those that would form his Government if he were soon returned to power. A quartette or so of front bench Conservatives, comparing themselves among themselves and judging themselves by themselves, have lately indulged in dreams of leadership. Among Lilliputians, Tom Thumb would regard himself as a giant, but hardly so in a kingdom of men."

Thus Mr. Foster is a Lilliputian compared with Mr. Paterson, and Mr. Ames is a pigmy beside Mr. Fisher. Mr. Brodeur towers above Mr. Monk, and Mr. Osler sinks below Mr. Aylesworth. Dr. Roche is not to be mentioned with Mr. Oliver, nor Mr. Burrell with Mr. Templeman. But strip the ministers of their offices and turn them together into the crowd and the estimate would be quite different. If office can turn into eminent statesmen some of the exceedingly dull fellows whom Sir Wilfrid has gathered about him, there is no man in the most modest rank of the Conservative party who may not hope to find himself dignified, and even glorified, if he should attain to an official position.

We have had this sort of disparagement of other oppositions. Worshipers of Mr. Ross, when he was premier of Ontario, scoffed at the idea of Mr. Whitney forming an administration out of the material available, at all to be compared with the existing ministry of all the talents. Mr. Whitney took office and formed a government which has proved to be at least as strong and capable as any in the history of the province, and which is in capacity and character, infinitely superior to that of Mr. Ross. Even the opponents of this administration are obliged to give it credit for courage, honesty, capacity and success. Meanwhile ex-premier Ross in the Senate is rather unfairly regarded by his own friends as a well-meaning, eloquent, voluble, political nonentity. All of his late colleagues in the Ontario Government who could get federal appointments have obtained them, retreating from provincial politics, or dropped by their party as useless lumber.

When Mr. Greenway was premier of Manitoba, his worshippers were in the habit of ridiculing the possibility of an administration of the other party. Such an administration was formed, and for ten years the province has been governed without the help of the Greenway combination. It was rather pathetic in later years to see Mr. Greenway going about the House of Commons a lonely figure, a man whom in his own part "there were few to love, and very few to praise." As for his colleagues of those old boasting days, it now requires an excellent Liberal memory to recall their names.

New Brunswick history furnishes a similar example. It is not so long since the supporters of Mr. Farris, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Jones and the rest were inquiring where Mr. Hazen could find colleagues equal to these eminent statesmen. But the group mentioned with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Labllois have disappeared. The Government goes on, and we do not seem to hear any suggestion that the people are demanding return of the former ministers. Out of office they do not seem to command the rapt attention of the multitude. Yet they have the same commanding intellect that they possessed two years ago.

So it shall be when the Laurier administration passes away, and other ministers fill the place of those who now inspire notes of admiration from their own organs. When they drop their offices and find their proper level, none will be more ready to admit their limitations than those who now challenge the Conservatives to produce their equals. The Conservative party has managed in the past to find men for federal cabinets. It is now found equal to the task in three provinces, while in a fourth it has furnished a leader and most of the heads of departments. No sign is visible that Sir

Wilfrid has been endowed with power from on high to select for his cabinet and retain there all the available talent and statesmanship that the country has to spare for federal government. Therefore we may venture to believe that if the score or so of rulers now camped on Parliament Hill should suddenly and simultaneously migrate, complete anarchy would not follow.

## LIFE SAVING STATIONS.

We have received the report of the Department of Marine for the year 1908-09. It contains among other interesting information a striking statement concerning the "life saving service of Canada." The report is by the Officer Commanding the Marine Service of Canada, and sets forth that there are at the present time in Canada 34 life saving stations. Of these three are in New Brunswick. One of these is at Seal Cove. It was established in 1898. The coxswain is T. Benson, who has a salary of \$75 per annum. He has a crew of seven men, each of whom is paid \$2 per day and extra when saving life." The station has a Beebe-McLellan surf boat, self-bailing, 25 feet long, built at Shelburne, cost \$200. She has the full regulation equipment, and iron rails were laid in 1901. The officer commanding explains what the equipment is:—

"At every life-saving station there is at least a lifeboat and a crew of seven men including the coxswain, under whose immediate care all manoeuvres and operations of the crew are performed. There is also a boat house. During recent years many of the stations have been supplied with new and up-to-date lifeboats costing from \$225 to \$775 each and one \$10,900. Boat houses are built of different sizes according to the number of boats and other equipment to be accommodated and cost from \$600 up. Besides being always on the alert to add to the efficiency of this service in other respects, care is taken by the department to see that the boat houses and boats of the various stations are kept painted, and that all other equipment and apparatus are also properly looked after, so that the best results may be obtained. A coxswain appointed by the department is in charge of each life saving station and its equipment, and is responsible to the department for the proper care of the same. \* \* \* The coxswain must also understand how to properly treat the apparently drowned. It is the duty of the coxswain to be always on the lookout to assist persons in danger of drowning. As a rule a coxswain is allowed \$75 per annum for taking care of the station, and \$2 for each drill. He is also allowed such extra pay when engaged at a wreck as the Marine Department considers proper. The lifeboat crew is selected by the coxswain from able-bodied and experienced boatmen residing near the station, so that they will be available when required. As the efficiency of a life saving station depends largely upon the good training and discipline of the crew, each crew is required to drill regularly during the season of navigation in rough water as well as smooth. The number of drills to be performed by a life crew is four—each season, and each drill must occupy at least five hours. Lifeboat crews, as a rule, are paid at the rate of \$2 per man for each drill, and extra when performing service at a wreck."

The auditor's report dealing with marine expenditure is not yet at hand. But turning to 1907-8, we find the total expenditure of the Grand Manan life station \$88.45, being \$75 for Coxswain Benson, and \$13.45 for repairing boat and material. There is no payment to other men and no allowance for drill. Going back a year farther we can find no payment to either coxswain or crew and no expenditure at this station. In the two previous years there were payments to the coxswain and six men at the regulation rates for fourteen drills each year.

When the Hestia was wrecked it appeared that there was no life saving crew at Seal Cove, except the coxswain. Also it was stated that while the lifeboat was specially purchased for this service, Mr. Benson left her at home and took a boat of his own as more suitable. These facts are an interesting comment on the official statement printed above.

## HON. CHARLES BURPEE.

Hon. Charles Burpee, whose death is announced at the ripe age of 92, was one of the old guard of New Brunswick Liberalism. Five times successively elected to represent Sunbury in the House of Commons, his continuous service in Parliament extended over twenty years. He was a strong party man never wavering in his support to his leaders and to the principles of Liberalism as he interpreted them. It was his fate to lose his seat before his party reached power, and he had good reason to expect that his long and faithful public and party services would be recognized by appointment to the Senate. As a matter of fact he was made a senator but with an undertaking on his part to give up the seat when it should be required from him. He was not allowed to wait long, and his place was filled in working out another political engagement. Mr. Burpee received from the Laurier administration a temporary appointment in connection with the Paris exhibition, which engaged his attention for a few weeks. For the last twenty years he has been in private life. When in public life, Mr. Burpee was regarded as a well informed man on public matters, especially those relating to the province. He was faithful to the best interest of his party, and to those of the country as he understood them.

## AN INTERESTING STUDY.

It was great to be a mariner in the early Tudor days, when a ship sailing forth might find a new world before they came home. These days can come no more, but perhaps the nearest thing to them is the era of the archeologist, who if he may not discover a new world, has opportunity to resurrect an old one. The address of Professor Huxarth gives an illustration of such an achievement. He brings the results of explorations by himself and others, revealing the Hittites as one of the two great nations of the world in their day, and gives them still greater claim to the notice of the modern world as a dominant influence toward the civilization of Greece.

## PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE.

In 1903, when the Government was driving the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway bill through Parliament it was represented that the portion from Quebec to Moncton would cost \$10,000,000. The length was to be less than 400 miles and the cost \$25,000 per mile. Yesterday the latest estimate was given to Parliament, showing the prospective cost of this portion of the Transcontinental to be \$26,985,000. Yet the proposed four-tenths per cent. grade has been abandoned, and a "pusher" grade established.

This is the day for the division in the House of Lords on the budget. The impression is that the peers will make the plunge. Doubtless it is a scandal that a few hundred of these hereditary legislators, who never appear except on such occasions, will be on hand to vote. But even if all the careless Lords remained away the result of the vote would be the same.

Mr. Carvell and the rest of the blockers' brigade are defiant, but their leaders are beginning to see that there is trouble in this business. Sir Wilfrid was obliged to temporize to prevent an embarrassing division of the House on the subject of burling inquiries.

THE HEAT FEELS GOOD.  
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"I went to see Thaw on Thanksgiving," she said yesterday at her home, No. 31 West Thirty-third street, "at his request after he had written three or four pathetic notes. Thaw was waiting for me in the general reception room and we shook hands. Then he said:—

"You'll have to give up your flat and move to a cheaper place. My trustees are going to send a sheriff for the furniture."

"Do you mean to tell me," I asked, "that you're not even going to leave me that junk?"

"That's right," he answered. "There'll be a truck backed up in a day or two. I'm a bankrupt and my trustees want the furniture for the benefit of my creditors."

"Look here," I replied, "what kind of an Indian giver are you anyway? Most of that furniture I bought myself and the part you gave me isn't worth the price of carrying it downstairs."

"For the next fifteen minutes we were conversational goats, leaping from crag to crag, without getting to anything definite. Then I put it right up to him that I was supposed to get \$10 a week and that I hadn't seen the color of any of his money since last June. I wanted to know how about that."

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off the palm as the local sportsman of was out four days

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the Lion, the cruise laid