

# The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1911.

## THE WORKING MAN AND COMMISSION.

Early in the campaign to establish Commission government in St. John an effort was made through some of the labor organizations of the city to ascertain what would be the qualification necessary for commissioners. The whole situation was entirely new to the advocates of the movement. They had no platform and no charter applicable to local conditions, but it was finally decided, after considerable delay, that in order to satisfy the working man and the small taxpayer an answer must be given to this question, and at a public meeting in the North End the announcement was made that the Executive of the Citizens' Committee had decided that under a Commission the property qualification would be abolished.

Having, previously to this announcement, appointed a committee to draw up a charter, it was natural to suppose that before the plebiscite was taken the people would have submitted to them all the details of government by Commission as particularly affecting this city—not the least important of which was this question of qualification. But no charter has been produced, neither is there any more definite knowledge of the changes which will take place under Commission rule than there was three months ago. By the arrangement made at Fredericton, under which a Commission charter is to be drawn up by a committee, not yet named, after the opinions of all classes in the community have been heard, no man or body of men today connected with the movement is in a position to guarantee anything.

The question of the qualification of commissioners and all other vital questions which will affect the citizens are to remain undecided until after the vote is taken. Referring to this unsatisfactory situation which has arisen, the St. John correspondent of the Eastern Labor News points out that it would be good policy to vote against the commission at the approaching election, and give the commissioners a chance to educate the public and their own speakers. "At present," he says, "nobody seems to know what they want, and nearly half of the ratepayers won't get a chance to vote, and the labor men have no guarantee of any kind that they are not getting a pig in a poke."

Tonching more particularly on the question of the qualification for commissioners, this writer continues:—"One member of the citizens' Executive told the Trades Council that he had seen a copy of the new charter in which the property qualification was eliminated. "Yet at the meeting last Friday J. A. Belyea, chairman of the charter committee, said that they had done nothing and that after the plebiscite was taken the charter committee intended to call in representatives of the land-owning, business and other classes to act with them in an advisory capacity in the preparation of a charter which he thought would take the best part of a year. That means that the preparation of the charter is to be taken out of the hands of the present Citizens' Committee, and that even if it did give some definite assurance to abolish the property qualification his pledge would not be of much value. It is true representatives of labor may be asked to give their views, but they are not likely to have any influence on such a body."

"It will do no harm," he concludes, "to wait until we see the charter. Then we will be able to know whether we are voting for something in the interest of the workers. Then we will be able to tell whether the worker is likely to secure any relief from the system of taxation which now bears so heavily upon him. Then we will know whether the ratepayers will have a chance to vote for the commissioners, or when the Union Label will be recognized and other reforms made possible."

"It is idle to say 'Oh, the workers can elect representatives to the Commission and work out these things.' They have a better chance to elect aldermen, and they can get back at them every year. You can't elect a first class labor representative to the Commission with 6,000 workers without votes, though you may elect a dummy whom the business men are satisfied they can turn round their fingers."

While these opinions are given strictly from the labor standpoint, they will coincide in the main with those of any man who thoughtfully reviews the situation as it affects every ratepayer. Among the points which Rev. W. H. Sampson submitted to the Telegraph with a request for enlightenment from "anyone who knows," was this question of representation. "What," asked Mr. Sampson, "is the qualification necessary for the office?" And the Commission organ, driven to make some reply, was forced to admit that it did not know, because nobody knows, and advised Mr. Sampson to assist "in threshing out these matters AFTER the people of St. John have declared on April 18 that they desire the Commission form of government."

Mr. Sampson's opinion of this movement to stampede the citizens into voting for a Commission without supplying them with any charter or any details may be summed up in his own words in one sentence:—"WE DON'T WANT A PIG IN A POKE, AND IT IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO SAY THAT ALL THESE POINTS WILL BE ADJUSTED AFTER THE PLEBISCITE IS TAKEN; WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE VOTING FOR BEFOREHAND." No intelligent citizen, realizing the vital issues at stake, could think otherwise.

## REPRESENTATION AT OTTAWA.

The resolution moved by Premier Hazen and seconded by Mr. Robinson, Leader of the Opposition, regarding the representation of the Province of New Brunswick and the Maritime Provinces generally in the Dominion Parliament, brings to public notice a really important question. This Province entered Confederation with very high hopes regarding its future. It was expected that the Province would increase in prosperity and population in a much greater ratio than it had done in the past.

The hopes of the Fathers of Confederation were not as fully realized as they expected. A few years after the four original provinces were united into the Dominion of Canada the Northwest Territory was added and its development actively entered upon. The growth of the West has been greater than that of the East, and as the population increases there the representation of the East save in Quebec, diminishes. Brit-

ish Columbia, Manitoba and the new provinces recently added are protected by a minimum representation clause. Prince Edward Island was thought to be in the same position, but the courts have decided otherwise, and the time is not far distant when a strict interpretation of the act will deprive the Island Province of representation altogether.

Since Confederation the boundaries of Quebec and Ontario have been greatly enlarged. This is not possible in the Maritime Provinces; such being the case it is clearly the duty of the people of all shades of political opinion to unite and make an effort to prevent a further reduction of our representation at Ottawa. It is not desirable that the membership of the House of Commons should become unwieldy, but the Maritime Provinces have interests to protect which are materially different from those of the inland provinces though closely allied to them. They are the gateways of the foreign commerce of the country, and the seat of the great fishing industry. These interests alone require that there should be no further reduction in the representation at Ottawa.

Mr. Hazen's announcement that he is not without hope that a satisfactory solution of the difficulty may be reached so far as the Maritime Provinces are concerned, will be read with satisfaction everywhere. From what he said in the House it is to be inferred that the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec recognize that our position differs from that of Western Canada, and if this is the correct view it should not be difficult to amend the British North America Act to prevent further inroads in our representation at Ottawa. The legal side of the question appears to have been decided against us and we are in the hands of Parliament which has the power to request an amendment to the British North America Act that would restore our representation to what it was, or at least prevent further reduction.

## SOME COGENT REASONS.

The reasons why it would be unwise for Parliament to ratify the Reciprocity Agreement so hastily entered into by Messrs. Fielding and Paterson may be summed up as follows:—

All men agree that we are enjoying unprecedented prosperity as we are, with almost absolute certainty of a continuance thereof:

Abundant harvests and high prices amply reward the tiller of the soil, whose income increases much more rapidly than his outgo:

The manufacturer thrives with large orders and satisfactory profits:

Artisans and laborers are fully employed at good wages:

Commerce is rapidly expanding and accounts are promptly paid; transportation facilities are increasing to meet the growing demand therefor; Interprovincial trade is active and strengthening the bonds of commercial friendship and National unity:

TRADE WITH THE MOTHERLAND IS GROWING AND ADDING TO THE VITALITY OF THE EMPIRE:

We govern ourselves and enjoy all the rights and privileges of British institutions without the cost of monarchy:

For the upbuilding of its various parts it is desirable to establish a system of preferential trade within the Empire WHICH THIS AGREEMENT WOULD RETARD OR PREVENT.

This was the concise summary given by Mr. T. W. Crothers of West Elgin in his recent speech in the House of Commons against the pact. All moderate men will agree with him that the effect of the adoption of this agreement upon these various conditions is absolutely uncertain—that it might be averse to many if not to all of them. Probably one-half at least of our most capable experienced and patriotic citizens of all classes regardless of race, creed or political affiliations sincerely believe that many, if not all of these laudable aspirations and happy conditions would be thwarted and injuriously affected were the agreement enforced.

Its adoption would tend, as Mr. Crothers well pointed out, to the separation of our provinces rather than to their unity, would mean a practical surrender of our fiscal independence, and would be followed by an irresistible demand for the free admission of all manufactured goods with its inevitable accompaniments, political as well as commercial union.

It has been openly boasted by the Government that the Reciprocity Agreement will not only benefit the farmers of Canada but the fishermen, particularly those of the Maritime Provinces, as well. So far as the first is concerned practical farmers like Glen Campbell have condemned it from a Western point of view, and Messrs. Thornton and Broder from the standpoint of the Ontario agriculturist.

Speaking on behalf of the fishermen of Nova Scotia Mr. Clarence Jameson, of Digby, declares from his place in Parliament that after fully considering the pact he is hostile towards it as it is not in the best interests of the toilers of the sea. Mr. Jameson was emphatic in his opposition to the agreement from the fishermen's standpoint. He showed that the Government were paying the United States three prices for their market—first by continuing the licensing system in force, second by giving practically free licences to the Canadian States fishermen; third, by giving them the United States market for their fish. This threefold payment to the Americans for their market makes more difficult the obtaining of bait by Canadian fishermen, robs them of their own market, and hampers them in securing the market of the United States and will drive them to United States vessels.

Mr. Jameson pointed out that the lobster fishermen in the Bay of Fundy and three miles off our coasts are open to United States fishermen and during the close season, when Canadian fishermen cannot legally take them, American fishermen can catch lobsters off the coast and sell them in their own market.

Another reason why Mr. Jameson opposed the agreement was that while our fishermen only got the United States market—and that does not seem under the circumstances to be much of a privilege—the fishermen of the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Japan are given the Canadian market. Also Canadian fishermen are not guaranteed such favorable treatment in United States ports as American fishermen will have in Canadian ports.

The more this Fielding-Taft pact is looked into in the cold light of business facts and experience, the more extraordinary does this sudden rushing of the Laurier Government into the arms of Uncle Sam appear. There was no need whatever of jumping into this quagmire. Canada was prosperous, her development along her own individual lines was proceeding apace, and yet with one stroke of the pen Fielding, the "Little Canadian," has upset the apple-cart of National progress and unity.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Sir Joseph Ward, prime minister of New Zealand is desirous of arranging a closer trade relation with Canada. Notwithstanding the fact that New Zealand is on the opposite side of the globe, there will probably be found in each country, native articles whose sale to the other will prove profitable. And the fact that both countries fly the same flag and sing the same National Anthem should help some.

(Pittsburg Gazette-Times.)

Chancellor Day says he believes in letting women do as they please. According to Who's Who, the chancellor has been married thirty-eight years.

## ELECTION CARDS

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As a NEW MAN, and a  
BUSINESS MAN

I ask for your vote for  
Alderman for Lorne Ward  
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FRANK H. ELLIOTT

VOTE FOR

Allen A. McIntyre,  
M. A.

Candidate for Alderman

Lansdowne Ward

To the Citizens of  
St. John

At the solicitation of a large  
number of citizens I offer myself  
as a Candidate for

SYDNEY WARD

Very truly yours,  
STEPHEN B. BUSTIN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY  
OF ST. JOHN.

I will again be a candidate for  
ALDERMAN FOR PRINCE WARD,  
and as I will be unable to see you all  
personally, I take this opportunity to  
solicit your votes and support.

Yours truly,  
JAMES SPROUL.

To the Electors of the City of  
St. John

At the request of a large number of  
the electors from all sections of the  
city, I will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR PRINCE WARD

at the election to be held next Tuesday,  
and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,  
J. W. KIERSTEAD.

To the Electors of  
St. John

I desire to inform you that I am  
again a candidate for election as

ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

and solicit your support and vote.

Respectfully yours,  
R. W. WIGMORE.

To the Electors of the City of  
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

At the request of a large number of  
the electors I will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR KINGS WARD

at the election to be held on Tuesday,  
April 18th and respectfully solicit  
your support.

Yours truly,  
CHARLES T. JONES.

To the Electors of the City of  
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

Complying with the request of a  
large number of the electors, I will be  
a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR LANSDOWNE  
WARD,

at the election to be held on Tuesday,  
April 18th and respectfully solicit  
your support.

Yours truly,  
A. O. H. WILSON.

To the Electors of the City of  
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

At the request of many electors I  
will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN AT LARGE

at the election to be held on Tuesday,  
next, April 18th, and respectfully so-  
licit your support.

Yours truly,  
GEO. W. COLWELL.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY  
OF ST. JOHN.

Ladies and Gentlemen—At the re-  
quest of a large number of the elec-  
tors, I will again be a candidate for  
Ald. for Duke's Ward at the election  
to be held on Tuesday next, April  
18th. For the last six years I have  
been chairman of the Safety Board  
and during all that time the estimates  
have not been overdrawn. Respect-  
fully soliciting your support.

I remain yours truly,  
J. W. VANWART.

+++++  
To the Electors of the City,  
of St. John.

G. HERBERT GREEN  
Dukes Ward,  
For Economical Government.

+++++

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