

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, NOV. 29, 1906.

IT IS NOT A REFERENDUM.

It appears to be settled that the Lords will reject the Lloyd-George budget, or rather suspend it until the people pronounce upon the question. More argument is due but the peers have already been counted and the whips know approximately what the majority will be. Mr. Asquith and his colleagues will make violent protest, and the House of Commons will resolve by a two-thirds majority that the Lords have no right to meddle with the budget. Mr. Balfour will thereupon take the still more democratic position that a budget change of such importance should be referred to the people, who are a higher authority than either Lords or Commons. This will be voted, but the reference to the people must come to pass.

This appeal is spoken of as a "referendum" but there is no sign that the question will be submitted in any other than the usual way, as a vote of confidence in the Government. Both parties will lead up the issue with other questions than the merits of the budget. Conservatives will ask the people to vote not only against the budget but in favor of tariff reform or Imperial preference. Liberals will ask them to vote for the budget and against the meddling of the peers in such matters. Both parties will mix with the issue the administrative record of the Asquith ministry, the school question, home rule, and other traditional issues.

Should the Government win the budget will stand, and the Liberals will be expected to offer legislation limiting the power of the Lords. Should the Conservatives win the budget will go, and the new government will be under obligations to introduce the Chamberlain tariff programme. So instead of a referendum on the one question of a budget there will be an issue on four important matters—Shall the budget stand? Shall Britain have a preference tariff? Shall the House of Lords be deprived of some of its power? Is the Asquith administration entitled to the confidence of the people?

The situation is still further complicated by a habit the British people have of dismissing administrations at the first chance. With the exception of the election before the last, when the Conservative administration was given a second term during the South African war, the electors of the United Kingdom have not in some fifty years voted confidence in any ministry. This habit offers encouragement to the Lords, and naturally makes the ministry reluctant to stake the budget on the hazard of a general election. Tradition calls for the defeat of the Government in any case, but the author of the budget does not like to see that measure condemned as a mere matter of political routine.

TELEPHONE RATES.

The New Brunswick Telephone Company seems to be under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission, which has authority to hear any complaint of excessive charges. This board has or can get full information as to the cost of telephones in other cities and districts corresponding to this city and province.

There is no point in making general protest against an increase of rates. Let the matter be examined carefully to see whether the proposed prices are higher than the usual market rate, or higher than is necessary under good management to earn a fair profit on the proper cost of the company's works and plant. The company states that it is prepared to have such examination made by the Board of Trade or other responsible body. The good faith of this proposition may easily be tested. No one likes to have to pay more for any service than it has cost him in the past. We do not like to have our rates raised. We object to an increase in the tax rate, or to an addition to the tariff. We may submit to such increased charges as seem necessary, though we do not always do it cheerfully. In this case the citizens are not compelled to submit. There are remedies available. We are not prevented from establishing a public telephone system or a public lighting system if we think that we can make them pay interest on the cost while providing a cheaper service. St. John is paying about twice as much as Ottawa for electric light, because Ottawa has a municipal plant. We can control the St. John telephone situation in the same way if we choose, and the province, following the Manitoba example, can do the same with the rural systems. It is no use to say that customers need not sign the contracts at the old rates. The telephone has become a necessity. It is a public utility and must be so treated. When rates are increased the companies should be ready to show in detail why the change is necessary. This obligation is practically admitted by the directors of the New Brunswick Telephone Company, who declare that they are ready for a fair investigation. The inference is that they are willing to abide by the result.

SELF GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.

Cuba is now beginning to endure the agonies of self-government. Since the war ended the island has been largely under United States tutelage. But this is now nominally withdrawn and the nation is supposed to be governing itself. The result is that President Gomez, who is yet in an early stage of his administration, has a leading opponent.

This is a testing time. There are Latin American republics where an opponent of the President is likely to be regarded as an enemy of the state. Elections are regularly held in South America, but it is understood in some states that the party in power must get the most votes. It is not necessary to stuff ballot boxes to procure this result. The operation is reversed. Opposition voters are discouraged from balloting against the Government which is in control of the army and of

the police. When we hear of a change of government in Venezuela, we know that the new aspirant has raised an army or seduced the national troops, and has obtained physical control. The majority vote follows, but before that stage arrives the retiring president has joined his stores of treasure in some European place of refuge. We look for better things from Cuba. That state has paid a high price for the opportunity to develop free institutions. It is a rich country, and is not without capable public men. But it is a task that must test the wisdom and patriotism of the best Cubans to bring such institutions into operation and to continue them among a people who have had so little opportunity to know what responsible government means.

GOVERNOR AND JUDGES.

From the debris of a once hopeful Liberal party in British Columbia, the Government at Ottawa will dig up material for a lieutenant governor, and a whole bench of judges. The governor is Mr. Wade, who has done many kinds of party work, and was brought by Sir Wilfrid Laurier from the Yukon to take a hand in the destruction of the McBride Government. Mr. Wade qualified for his future position by pouring out unlimited funds of the ministers who are now to be his advisors, and by achieving defeat in Vancouver. Mr. Macdonald, who is to be chief justice, was not a candidate in this campaign, but he is represented as having taken an active part in the campaign. The remainder of the prospective supreme court of British Columbia is to be constituted from politicians who went into the contest with the proper amount of fury, and came out distinguished by proof that the people, whose judges they will be, have no confidence in them.

GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES.

It is doubtless true that the lecturers appointed by Sir Richard Cartwright's department to explain the Government annuities system have small audiences. Standard correspondents have reported that Mr. Brown's meetings in this province are small and the Government return shows that very few of these annuities have yet been taken in New Brunswick. This probably is not the fault of the lecturer, and is not the fault of the system. The Government annuities plan does not profess to be an old age pension act or anything like it. But it furnishes annuities at cost, the Government paying all the expenses of management, eliminating all profits, and allowing at least as good interest as a company could pay. It gives absolute safety, and is admirably adapted to men and women with earnings from which they can afford to lay by a little to provide a certain income in old age. The Standard would like to see a much larger number taking advantage of this opportunity.

PROFESSOR HOGARTH.

Professor Hogarth, who is to lecture this evening for the Archeological Society, has probably uncovered as many buried cities, towns, temples, palaces, and other ancient works and abodes as any other man. He will present here an illustrated record of some small part of his recent works. Such explorations are gradually carrying back the stories of the nation beyond records not long ago accepted as final and authoritative. They are able to quote the language and give some intimate domestic details of the public and domestic life of primitive kings, compared with whom the Pharaohs and the monarchs whom Abraham fought were people of yesterday. Archeologists may not all be historians, but they are providing historians with a vast and interesting stock of raw material.

PROBABLY TOO LATE.

Congressman Mann who was chairman of the special committee on pulp and paper, in preparing the Payne Tariff bill, is not at all satisfied with the situation produced by the Senate amendments. He is introducing a bill postponing for a year the operation of the United States maximum tariff, and another for free paper and free pulp on condition that Canada permits the export of pulpwood. Mr. Mann has reason. But it would have been much easier to accomplish this last session than it will be now. Provincial legislation against the export of crown land pulp will not be got out of the way easily by any action of congress. The attempt of Mr. Mann to turn the mill wheel with the water that has passed will provide plenty of discouragement.

Sir Alexander Ure has discovered a new danger. He thinks that if the British people reject the budget, Britain may lose her colonies, because they will have no respect for the nation which permits the Lords to dictate the situation. This panic seems to be groundless. The people of Canada will certainly not withdraw from the Empire because the British people reject a budget that they do not like. If Canada should on pain of secession insist on the British people voting for what they believed to be a bad measure, the Dominion would be a good deal more arbitrary than the Lords. After all it should be remembered that the people of Great Britain have not yet had opportunity to express their view on a question which probably interests them a great deal more than the powers and privileges of the peers.

If Mr. Wade of Vancouver has a promise from Ottawa of the position of Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia he has placed himself in an awkward position by some of his reflections on his future advisors. A few days before the election Mr. Wade accused Attorney General Bowser of making false statements, adding that preparation was an old trick of Mr. Bowser. "The more I know him the less confidence I place in his word," said Mr. Wade. Lieutenant Governor Wade will not be able to forget that he made these statements in Vancouver when the electors proceeded to place Mr. Bowser at the head of the poll and Mr. Wade uncomfortably near the foot. He will owe his authority to a government thousands of miles away, while his advisor has the endorsement of his fellow townsmen.

After two or three changes in the presidency of Acadia the governing body of that institution has sought and found a president among the alumni of that university. Mr. Cutten is a graduate of only some twelve years' standing, and brings to his task all the enthusiasm and vigor of youth. The University of New Brunswick not long ago called one of her own comparatively recent graduates to the position of Chancellor, and it was found to be no mistake.

When election time comes Lord Rosebery and Lord Balfour of Burleigh, will have a new difficulty. They have denounced the budget, and expressed the opinion that it will be extremely unpopular. Therefore when the Government appeals to the country on the budget they are in duty bound to vote against it. But they will have voted for the measure in the House of Lords.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier might as well have created the Supreme Court bench in British Columbia. None of the campaign probationers for the judgeships has held or won a seat, and they have involved themselves in an awkward embarrassment.

Senator King proves to be right. He said that the Liberals had a "lighting chance" in British Columbia. He meant that they had a chance to fight.

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IN THE COURTS

SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS.

\$650 Damages Awarded.
In the Supreme Court chambers on Saturday, Mr. Justice McKeown in the matter of the petition of J. Frederick Baxter under the Workmen's Compensation for Injuries Act, and amended acts, vs. the Minas Basin Steamship Company, delivered judgment in favor of the plaintiff, and awarded him \$650 damages for the loss of his index finger of the right hand, sustained while placing a propeller on the S. S. Brunswick, the defendant's steamer, April 24th last. The amount is to be paid in weekly payments of \$6.50. The case was heard on October 4th last, and Mr. A. A. Wilson, K. C., appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. W. H. Harrison for the defendant. The act provides that there shall be no appeal.

CIRCUIT COURT.

Jones vs. Burgess.
The case of Jones et al vs. Burgess & Sons, Ltd., was called on in the Circuit Court on Saturday morning before Mr. Justice McLeod and a jury. When the court resumed at 10 o'clock Mr. Mullin mentioned his argument opposing the Attorney General's motion for non suit. Mr. Mullin was stopped by the court and the motion dismissed. This closed the plaintiff's case, and the counsel general announced that the defendants would offer no evidence. The court then adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock when the case goes to the jury.

CLARK vs. CLARK.

The case of Clark Louise Clark vs. Charles R. Clark, executor of the last will and testament of George Clark, caulked, deceased, will likely be tried this afternoon or tomorrow morning in the Circuit Court on a jury. The plaintiff sues for money payable for work and labor, nursing, care and attendance performed by her for Geo. Clark during his lifetime. She also sues for money lent to him and for board, food and other necessities provided for him. She claims in all one thousand dollars. The defendant says that he has fully administered all the personal estate and effects of the deceased and also claims that there are a number of debts of a prior class to that of plaintiff's unsatisfied. The case will likely occur one day. Mr. Geo. H. V. Belyea will appear for the plaintiff and Mr. J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., for the defendant.

COUNTY COURT CHAMBERS.

Application For Discharge.
In the County Court chambers on Saturday morning before Judge Forbes, Carl Bertelsen applied to be discharged from jail, where he was confined at the civil suit of Joseph Semple on an execution issued out of Mr. R. G. Murray approved for the applicant and Mr. G. E. Logan for Semple. After some evidence was taken the application was granted on condition that Bertelsen assign his interest in a certain property to Semple.

Driscoll Appeal Dismissed.
The matter of the appeal of the case of Timothy Driscoll, found guilty by Judge Ritchie of selling beer unlawfully in his premises, Mill street, and fined \$50, came up for hearing and was dismissed. His honor said that he had carefully examined all the evidence and he supported the decision given by the police magistrate. The defendant said that he had sold beer after 5 o'clock and, although there was a large number of people in the store after 8 o'clock, no groceries were sold. The place was called a "beer shop," even by the defendant. His honor said that he could not reduce the fine imposed in one case, \$20, which was the minimum, he could and would reduce that in the other case of \$30 to \$20, the minimum, and the matter of costs would be dismissed.

TEN OF STEAMERS COMPLEMENT ARE SAFE

Astoria, Ore., Nov. 27.—A lifeboat containing Captain Snyder, one passenger and nine of the crew of the steamer Argo, who put off from the vessel when the craft was about to founder off Tillamook Bay Friday night, reached the Columbia River Lighted today. The eleven occupants were taken aboard the lightskip and will be brought to Astoria as soon as the present wind storm abates sufficiently to permit a transfer being made to some other craft. The news of the safety of the missing boat, which had practically been given up for lost, was brought here by the tug Wallula, which arrived late today.

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AT THE HOTELS
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On and after SUNDAY, Oct. 3, 1909, trains will run daily, Sunday excepted, as follows:—
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Lv. West St. John 4:45 a. m.
Arr. St. Stephen 12:30 p. m.
Lv. St. Stephen 1:45 p. m.
Lv. West St. John 4:30 p. m.
H. H. McLEAN, President.
Atlantic Standard Time.

OLD MAN GETS STIFF SENTENCE
Special to The Standard.
Montreal, Nov. 28.—In the court of Kings Bench on Saturday Judge Tremblay sentenced David Rasplinsky to fifteen years in the penitentiary for abusing little girls. As Rasplinsky is sixty-five years of age the chances are that he will die in confinement.

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FUNERALS
Mrs. Mary Geary.
The funeral of Mrs. Mary Geary was held from her late residence, 58 Harrison street on Saturday morning at 8:30. The body was taken to St. Peter's church, where Rev. L. J. Holland celebrated Requiem Mass. Interment was made in the old Catholic cemetery.

Mr. William Sharkey.
The funeral of Mr. William Sharkey who died in Montreal from paralysis last week, was held yesterday afternoon from the residence of his brother, Mr. Peter C. Sharkey, 32 Paddock street. The body was taken to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception where services were held by Rev. A. W. Meahan. Interment took place in the new Catholic cemetery.

Mrs. Margaret Beckwith.
The funeral of Mrs. Margaret Beckwith, who died suddenly on Friday evening, was held yesterday afternoon from her late residence, Courtenay street. Services were conducted at the house and grave by Ven. Archdeacon W. O. Raymond. Interment took place at Fernhill.

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Tenders for Boiler
Sealed tenders will be received at the office of the Commissioner of the City of Saint John addressed to H. E. Ward, from 10 to 12 o'clock noon of Monday, the 29th day of November instant, for the building of a new boiler for No. 5 Steam Fire Engine according to specifications to be seen at the office of the Director of Public Safety, City Hall, Dated Saint John, N. B., 29th November, 1906.
ROBERT WISLEY,
Director, Department of Public Safety, ADAM P. MACINTYRE, Comptroller.

SHORT ROUTE BETWEEN HALIFAX AND MONTREAL
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CANADIAN PACIFIC MONTREAL AND VANCOUVER
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Steamer Maggie Miller leaves Millidgeville for Somerville, Kennebecasis Island and Baywater daily except Sunday, at 9 a. m., and 3 and 5 p. m. Returning from Baywater at 7 and 10 a. m., 4:15 p. m. Returning at 10:15 a. m. and 5 p. m.
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At Chubb's Corner.
Fifty shares of the St. John Company stock were offered on Saturday morning at Corner, but were withdrawn. The price was \$30.00 per share.
Seventeen applicants used last week by the Board of Five marriages were registered were fifteen births, nine being ST. ANDREWS.

St. Andrews, Nov. 27.—A regular meeting of the Canara Club of Greenock on the season, took place on Tuesday evening, at the Manse, with Mrs. A. W. Mahan and Mrs. G. as hostesses. A very large number were in attendance showing the popularity of the club. The under consideration was Mr. Mahan's Annie of Avonlea. Mr. Mahan opened the discussion with an introductory talk, giving line of the author's career and her rapidity with which she had sprung into prominence. K. Gifford then favored the club with a very clever and instructive Sequels. This was followed most interesting sketch of Mrs. Mahan's life by Mrs. C. B. Miss Margaret Kerr read a paper dealing with Anne of Avonlea showing the beauty and humor of the musical portion of the grammar was prepared with music and carried out with talented Miss Milne is to be congratulated.