

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1911.

A VICTORY FOR HONEST ADMINISTRATION.

The parish elections in this county, which were held yesterday, resulted in an emphatic rebuke to those politicians who, for some years, have been attempting to discredit the Provincial Government through the operation of the Highway Act. Particularly in the parishes of Lancaster and Simonds the highway boards, instead of expending their funds in an honest endeavor to make roads, have been carrying on a petty system of patronage and intrigue, which has produced very little result in the making of highways, but was expected to give the local men the support of a solid vote. The people have shown very plainly that they understood and condemned the game.

In Lancaster the Councilors responsible for this system retired but gave active support to a combination which was intended to replace them and continue their methods. In Simonds a majority of the old Councilors determined to remain in the field. The result was the same. Both Liberals and Conservatives, Local Government supporters and opponents went to the polls and registered an emphatic verdict against the discreditable tactics which, under the old regime, had been temporarily successful.

In Lancaster Messrs. Bryant and Golding, who stood for an honest enforcement of the law, were returned at the head of the poll. Their colleague will be ex-Varden Lohr, who has not been a member of the Council for some years, and who, The Standard hopes, will not follow the example of his predecessors. In Simonds Councillor Douvan and his colleagues were soundly beaten. This parish was incomparably the worst in point of administration. St. Martins too, made a complete change, condemning similar methods which had been employed.

In all these parishes there have been notable complaints about the action of both assessors and revisors. The law has been flagrantly violated in the interest of the little clique which sought to rule. Their reign is at an end and the people of all shades of politics will now get honest administration. The man who is entitled to vote will be put on the roll, and the man who pays his share of the local taxation may be assured that his money will be spent to make roads. By this means the Councilors elected yesterday will find themselves at the close of their term of office stronger by far than ever were those whose energies were directed into mistaken channels.

FRUIT GROWING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

From the experience of the past two years it is now evident that one important branch of agriculture has long been greatly neglected in this Province. The success attending fruit growing in the valley of the Annapolis and in other nearby sections of Nova Scotia should have impelled the Government of the Province to greater effort in the direction of horticulture long ago. It is true that spasmodic efforts were made to interest the farmers, not only in apple growing, but in other branches of horticulture in past years. Some good unquestionably resulted from these occasional efforts and in one or two sections of the Province orchards of considerable size were planted. In several instances with profitable results to the owners, but generally speaking the apple crop of New Brunswick was not important to the Province, nor a source of any considerable gain to the farmers. In fact there were but few farms in the Province, comparatively speaking, that had any orchards at all, and many of these were so neglected that they did not produce enough for home consumption.

A few years ago a Provincial Horticultural Society was formed and the Government of the day undertook the planting and care of a number of illustration orchards in all the counties for the purpose of instructing the farmers in the several localities in the care and management of fruit trees. Some of these orchards were successful, but in the majority of instances they proved failures, largely because only a portion of the plan under which they were set out was put in operation. The change of government injected new life into the Agricultural Department and one of the results was the appointment of an expert horticulturist, to travel over the country and give instruction to farmers regarding the care of orchards. Mr. Turney, the gentleman selected for this position, has proved himself thoroughly practical and the results of the past two years leave no doubt that a continuance of the policy laid down by the Provincial Government will be productive of great gain to those farmers who devote a portion of their time to horticulture.

The exhibition of last year held in the City of St. John was an eye opener to the people who visited it as to the possibility of New Brunswick as a fruit growing Province. Another exhibition of a similar character is to be held in this city at the close of the present month, and it is quite safe to assume that there are still greater surprises in store for those who attend it than those of last year's show. During the past season Mr. Turney has given a good portion of his time to the improvement of the old orchards of the Province. He has visited many localities and told the farmers how they could improve the quality of the apples produced on old trees. The results of the experiments of the past season will be apparent in many of the exhibits that will be made here this month. By judicious pruning, better cultivation and many other methods known to horticulturists, the apples of the old orchards have been increased in size and improved in quality.

It has also been demonstrated that good fruit can be produced in many sections besides the St. John River valley, which has hitherto been looked upon as the best possible location for successful apple culture. This is not said to detract from the St. John valley in any way but merely to show that horticulture can be carried on successfully in many localities where its success was formerly considered doubtful if not altogether impossible.

At the present time the city of St. John receives the major part of its apple supply from Nova Scotia, but this position is not likely to prevail for any lengthy period, as the newly awakened interest in horticulture has already permitted in the setting out of many new orchards which before long will produce enough apples to fully supply the local market and leave some for export. Horticulturists need have no fear of over production for many years to come. In addition to this, New Brunswick apples from their superior color are sure to command attention in any market where they are offered for sale. There is no doubt that success awaits any agriculturist who takes up this branch and pursues it intelligently.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

Various causes have been assigned by authorities on affairs in China to account for the present revolution. The revolt is said in one quarter to be entirely anti-dynastic, the sudden outbreak of the long pent up hatred of the Manchu rulers. Another authority attributes the uprising to the agitation of the Constitutional League, whose members insist that the time has come for establishing a real national Legislature instead of the shadowy Assembly it is now. A third reason places the blame on the Pekin Government's policy of nationalizing the railroads, which it is claimed has provoked alike the capitalists, who are threatened with confiscation disguised as a purchase, and the reformers who see in the attempt simply a change of base for grafting. While these authorities differ radically one from another, yet, in the aggregate, each may be right. Several currents of discontent may have suddenly met and mingled in one great volume that threatens to sweep away the existing regime.

Revolts have been common in China in the past, though since the suppression of the "Boxer" movement they have not been as frequent. Foreign arms suppressed that rising, and the recollection of the fact and the burden of the indemnity have discouraged any attempt of the reactionaries to turn back the hands of Chinese progress. But the present revolution radically differs in two most important respects from the Boxer rising, and indeed from any other revolt readily to be recalled. In the first place it is not reactionary but progressive, and therefore not anti-foreign, and secondly, it seems everywhere and is conducted by men of intelligence, not by blundering fanatics who strike wild blows.

Evidently those in command have plans that are intelligible. Political-military strategy governed the progress with which Han-Kow was seized as a base and point of concentration. The old-time Chinese insurgent with his hand of followers went wandering about hitting Imperialists where he found them. The leaders of the present revolution have taken military possession of Han-Kow because it is the great distributing point of Central China, because it is the hub whence radiate lines of communication and transportation to all corners of the Empire. Han-Kow and its suburbs, practically three cities in one, have a population estimated at 1,500,000. It is far up the great Yangtze river, but is a port of the first order at whose wharves berth ocean steamers from all ports of the world. The foreign settlement is large, and has been scrupulously respected by the revolutionists, who are anxious above all things to avoid international complications. The native banks of Han-Kow are full of treasure and the local Chinese business firms stand high.

Pekin is six hundred miles to the northward of Han-Kow, but is not removed from its influence by distance. Han-Kow occupies a commanding place in the commercial history of China. Peking itself seems to be sorely troubled. The Imperial Government has sought the aid of Yuan Shi-Kai, the strong and popular man who organized the model army and was deposed from office when he had finished that task. But if he accepts it will be only on the understanding that the dynasty pledges itself to grant the reforms most urgently demanded by the revolutionists. Unless foreign intervention places a different complexion on the situation the agitation promises to be long and bitter.

WEDDING FEE FRAUDS.

Vocational education is receiving so much favor in the United States that it might be suggested to divinity schools to include in their courses instruction about distinguishing good from bad money. Knowledge on this point would have been of value to a dozen or more preachers who, according to the *Fredericton News*, have each exchanged a good ten-dollar bill for a bad twenty-dollar one in making change for a wedding fee.

"I wish I could afford to give you the whole of this, but I can afford to pay you only half," says, in substance, the groom who has just been married in the pastor's study, producing the twenty. The clergyman, happy to get ten dollars and not handling enough twenty-dollar notes to be an expert concerning them, finds the change. Where he finds it may be a matter of wonder to those who know the average minister's salary, but speculation on that point is unnecessary in view of the plain fact that in several cases he has found and parted with it, to his sorrow.

Considered seriously, of course, this swindle is contemptible. Like other ingenious tricks of the dishonest, it probably was profitable until it was exposed, since each operation of it gave a man and woman—who ought now to feel much married—a net profit of ten dollars minus the small cost of a marriage license. Now that the scheme has been made public, doubtless the ministers will be on their guard. The groom who asks change in paying the wedding fee will be requested to wait until the minister has consulted someone more familiar with twenty-dollar bills or to hand over the exact amount.

It is generally understood that Premier Fleming in constructing his Cabinet tendered Mr. Jones of Kings County a seat at the Executive Council, but that gentleman, while fully sensible of the compliment bestowed upon him, was unable to accept because of his large and varied interests in the county he represents which now take up so much of his time. Since his return in 1908 Mr. Jones has proved himself a most useful member of the House and an excellent representative.

Current Comment

(Manitoba Free Press, Lib.)

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that Mr. Borden in forming his Government has recognized the political possibilities of the West by giving it increased representation in the Cabinet. There will be three Western Ministers with portfolios and one without in the Borden Administration. The *Free Press* regrets that the Laurier Government did not secure for itself the credit of being the first to admit the right of the West to enlarged Cabinet representation. When it took office the West had but one Cabinet Minister; the number was increased to two ten years ago; but the further necessary increases were not granted.

(New York Post.)

The main characteristic of the baseball "story" is an extraordinary development of slang. All over the country, reporters speak of baseball players who perish between the second and third cushions, like *besdomons*, or of third-basers who reach down among their buns for a hot one. But only the young reporter will be guilty of such childishly transparent language. The veteran's vocabulary is rich in metaphors several times removed and a greatest joy of the "fan" is presumably in stripping the truth of its seven veils.

(Brantford Courier.)

Judging from the comments of some U. S. papers, when the Canadian election returns were received, Uncle Sam must have said something which rhymed with his name.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

Hon. George E. Foster will have the opportunity as Minister of Trade and Commerce, of realizing his dream of reciprocity between the various dominions of the Empire.

TAFT'S WHITE HOUSE TABLE MADE FROM ENGLISH SHIP

Washington, D. C., Oct. 17.—In President Taft's private office at the White House is a table made from the timbers of an old English ship, the *Resolute*. It was presented to President Taft by the British Government in 1907, and since that time it has not only held an honored place among the furniture of the White House, but has been used by each successive President.

Attached to the table is a plate bearing the following inscription: "The *Resolute* formed part of the expedition sent in search of Sir John Franklin in 1852, was abandoned in latitude 74 degrees 41 minutes north and 161 degrees 11 minutes west, May 14, 1854. She was discovered and extricated September 10, 1855, in latitude 67 north by Captain Buchanan of the United States whaler *George Kenny*. The ship was purchased, fitted out and sent as a gift to Her Majesty Queen Victoria by the President and people of the United States as a token of good will and friendship."

This table was made from her timbers when she was broken up, and is presented by the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland to the President of the United States as a memorial of the courtesy and loving kindness which dictated the offer of the gift of the *Resolute*.

The table was presented to President Hayes November 29, 1880, and forms the last chapter in a story of more than twenty-five years duration. But the description, although of a comparatively descriptive nature, falls far short of telling the history of the table, and gives but a scant idea of the suffering attendant upon the ship's desertion in Arctic seas, and the ceremony and rejoicing upon its return to England.

The story begins with the sending out of four vessels including the *Resolute* by the British government in 1852, to search for Sir John Franklin, the explorer, and his party. The *Resolute* was commanded by Capt. Kellett, and during the winter of 1852-53 was held fast in the pack at Melville Island, in the autumn while on a sledge ride, one of the crew was killed by a bear. Another ship also fast in the ice. A rescue party was despatched from the *Resolute*. The following winter the *Resolute* was also forced to winter in the pack, and the following year, fearing a similar occurrence, Sir Edward Belcher ordered that the ship be abandoned. The officers and crew were taken to England on the North Star, while the *Resolute* was believed to be inextricably embedded in the ice.

It was the following year, 1855 that Capt. Bunting, of New London, Conn., in command of the whaler *George*, while on a voyage destined the *Resolute*, about 20 miles from Cape Mercy, in Davis Strait and about 3200 miles from her original location, when abandoned, Capt. Bunting took possession of her and dividing his crew put 10 men aboard the *Resolute* and returned to the United States with her.

The British government when notified of the rescue waived all claims to recovery and repossess her in favor of those by whom she had been found.

The vessel was taken to New London and in June, 1856, Senator Foster, of Connecticut, offered a resolution in the United States senate inquiring into the expediency of issuing an American register to the *Resolute*. This was dropped, however, at the suggestion of Senator Mason, of Virginia, who stated that he intended to offer resolutions for the restoration of the vessel to England. This he did in the same month, proposing that \$40,000 be appropriated for the purchase of the ship from her agents, and that the ship from her present owners and repairing her. This resolution was passed, and the vessel was sent to the house, but congress adjourned without taking action.

At the extra session called that year by President Pierce, Representative Cushman called up the resolution in the House and said that English papers were complimentary to America for her liberality, and that he hoped there would be no objection, and moved that the resolution be put upon its passage. The resolution passed and was signed by the President the same day.

The *Resolute* called from New York and after a bad voyage reached Spithead on the 12th of December, with the United States and British ensigns flying at her peak. Congratulations were sent Commander Hartstene by Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour, and the next morning he proceeded to Portsmouth in a government steamer. At noon on the 13th a royal salute was fired from the Victoria, the flagship, from the frigates and from the frigate Shannon at Spithead.

Commander Hartstene and the officers of the *Resolute* were welcomed every courtesy possible as soon as they touched England. Accommodations were provided for Commander Hartstene and his officers at the best hotel, and orders were given for a bountiful supply of provisions to be sent aboard the *Resolute*, while in London invitations were showered upon Commander Hartstene.

Queen Victoria expressed a wish to visit the *Resolute* and requested that the vessel be towed to Cowes near her private place. Commander Hartstene immediately complied with her request and the *Resolute* was towed there by a government steamer escorted by two other steamers and the frigate Retribution.

On the morning of December 16, 1856 Queen Victoria, accompanied by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and several members of the royal household, visited the *Resolute*. Commander Hartstene was presented to Her Majesty by Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour. Commander Hartstene then presented the *Resolute* to Queen Victoria.

This visit was perpetuated in an oil painting executed by W. Simpson in England soon after the event, and entitled "England and America." An engraving taken from the original is in the possession of A. Mudd of Washington, who gathered the data relative to the history of the *Resolute*.

The *Resolute* was towed up to the harbor of Portsmouth the next day, escorted by the frigate Retribution, and on arriving at her anchorage was received by another royal salute and with great acclamation on the part of the people gathered to witness the event. It was not until December 30, that the *Resolute* was finally delivered to the British government. When given the command of the *Resolute*, Commander Hartstene was ordered by the then Secretary of the Navy, following the discharge of his duty, to return to his officers and men, exercising all prudence and economy. That, however, proved unnecessary, and Commander Hartstene returned to this country aboard one of the British steam frigates.

The *Resolute* remained in the British Navy several years, and when she was broken up, Queen Victoria had the deck made and presented to President Hayes.

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