

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1912.

A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

The intimation that the Dominion Government contemplates the establishment of a Federal Department of Health has been received with enthusiastic commendation and it has been pointed out that it may find a great variety of opportunities for doing good for the people of Canada. The pollution of rivers in this clean, new country is a public scandal; and infant mortality is a form of "race suicide," with which the community can effectively deal. These may easily come under the purview of Mr. Burrell's new department. But all other ills sink into comparative insignificance when contrasted with the devastations of tuberculosis. That is the heavy artillery of death. That, says the Montreal Star, is the battery which must be silenced if our race is to get a fair chance in the great competition of humanity.

More of our people die of tuberculosis than of all other contagious diseases taken together. Thousands who do not die, are crippled in the battle of life by its debilitating attacks. It is a universal disease, confined to no Province and to be fought effectively by nothing less than a Dominion organization. The war against it is as much a national business as quarantine; and the national resources ought to be directed without delay to this end.

When Hon. Mr. Burrell establishes his Department of health, the first task should be to organize the war against the White Plague. Thousands of devoted volunteers are already in the field. It is most creditable to our people that they have done so much to provide centres of help for the suffering and the menaced by reason of this arch-enemy; but the work is utterly beyond the power of private philanthropy.

When we seal up our houses for six months' winter in this northern clime, we provide artificial incubating "plants" for the germs of this disease. When we put on double windows—especially that super-duper window with only a slit in the sash for ventilation—we fortify the strongholds of the enemy. As weeks go by, the disease gathers strength and violence; and the wonder is—not that so many fall victims but that so many escape. We even super-heat and under-ventilate our offices and shops, and so provide new theatres of infection. If we did not also go in for winter sports, and show a love for the nipping air the harvest of death would be far greater.

The new Department of Health ought to take up a thorough campaign of education. It ought to preach the cult of the Open Window, until the sealed variety would be as much a source of family shame as an ill-kept house or a dirty window pane. It ought to teach the truth that winter is not to be feared for its cold but for its house-heat; and that an hour in the winter sunshine is worth more than all the drugs on the chemist's shelf.

ONTARIO'S HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION.

The advantages that are accruing to Ontario by the operations of the Hydro-electric Commission have attracted much attention recently to that progressive Province. The root idea is to safeguard the enormous national asset which exists in the water powers of Ontario for conversion into light, heat and motive power, and the policy being followed is to secure this by combining Government control with private ownership, the commission buying power in bulk from private companies and acting as distributor to towns and cities requiring these facilities at cost price.

The rural districts surrounding these local centres also participate at a slightly increased cost in these advantages which add enormously to the attraction and comfort of life on the farms in Ontario. The economy and saving effected by this policy can be judged from the fact that the cost of producing electric energy in Ontario is exactly one-fifth of the cost of steam-generated power, with the further advantages of a constant supply and no fluctuation in price. The service does not bring in any revenue to the Government, and the policy does not involve sectional advantages, but is one that is directed to secure a universal provincial system of lighting and power.

As to tangible results, it is stated that the prices for light and power in Ottawa have been halved. In London the charge of 9 cents per kilowatt hour is now 4½ cents. Even Hamilton, the "power city," benefits, and each one of the cities named, notwithstanding the reduced charges, enjoys today a large annual surplus from this source alone. It is estimated by Mr. Adam Beck that within a year the Hydro-electric Commission's installation will mean for the principal cities of Ontario a saving of \$2,000,000, and in five years they will have saved enough to pay for the whole project.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING.

Australia has gone far enough on her defence scheme, which was formed upon the basis of Lord Kitchener's recommendations, to know how it is going to work. The Commonwealth Defence Act went into force July 1, and since then the labor of registration, medical examination and equipment has been in progress and training has begun.

The provisions of the act impose upon all male inhabitants who are British subjects and not specially exempted a compulsory military or naval training. From the age of twelve to fourteen boys are liable for service in the junior cadets, from fourteen to eighteen in the senior cadets, and from the latter age to twenty-six in the citizen forces; while the liability ceases at the completion of the twenty-sixth year the men are expected to keep up in their shooting through membership in rifle clubs. The actual period of training is short, not more than sixteen days a year for the youngest soldiers and an annual camp service of eight days a year for the bulk of the force. Under this plan it is estimated that the peace establishment of the army will be \$0,000, which can be raised to a war strength of 127,000.

According to the reports 100,000 senior cadets are now drilling in the various states, the musters at drills are satisfactory and the young soldiers with few exceptions are showing a keen interest in their military duties. The hearty support of the movement by the people seems to be especially gratifying to the Government.

A RELIC OF THE SEA.

A cablegram from Wellington has reported that a life-boat of the Yarrab, covered with barnacles, has been found on the west coast of New Zealand. Two years and five months have passed since this great liner, of 10,000 tons, was last seen off the coast of South Africa; and from that day to this, apart from stories of drifting wreckage and bodies, which were very doubtful, no trace of the lost ship has been vouchsafed. Undoubtedly she went to the

bottom in a storm which raged while she was between Durban and Capetown.

And now this tiny relic turns up more than 7,000 nautical miles from the probable scene of the disaster, having drifted, as calculation shows, at an average of seven or eight miles a day. It throws no light, of course, upon the circumstances of the disaster, which inquiry by the British Board of Trade was unable to illuminate.

The sea keeps many such mysteries. A London writer in referring to the incident recalls the fact that many years ago another great liner vanished totally from human knowledge somewhere on the Atlantic, leaving for all time the question unanswerable whether it was to an iceberg or to a dynamite outbreak that she owed her doom. Not till the sea gives up its dead can such mysteries be solved. They increase the awe we must always feel of that ocean which man's skill and courage can never wholly subdue to his service.

LIFE DURATION IN FRANCE.

Statistics showing that the average length of human life in France has increased by 20 per cent, in the last twenty-five years would be more impressive if this fact were less closely related to another, which is far from gratifying from the French point of view. At the beginning of the last century the average duration of life in France barely exceeded the age of 30; in 1880 it had risen to 40, and now it varies between 47 and 48. The progress of science, which has lowered the rate of mortality from epidemics and contagious diseases, and the development of hygienic principles among all classes of society, are largely credited with this result.

Another very considerable factor, however, is the steady diminution of the birth rate. Up to the age of two years, infant mortality is very high. Of 1,000 infants, from 200 to 300 die in the first years of childhood, and this mortality naturally has the effect of diminishing the average rate of life; but as the birth rate in France has been decreasing for some time, there are fewer and fewer infants to die, and the average rate of human longevity continues to increase in proportion to the decline of the birth rate. Under the circumstances, the increase in average duration of life in France is hardly a thing to warrant a boast.

LAND VALUES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The London Economist has capitalized the profits revealed by the British returns from the income tax. On this basis it calculates the growth of several sorts of property in Great Britain and Ireland from 1885 to 1909. Land has decreased from \$8,229,251,500 to \$6,326,450,000 and farmers' capital from \$2,530,580,000 to \$1,693,542,000. But houses have gained in value from \$9,377,745,500 to \$15,981,586,000; industries and business from \$8,000,000,000 to over \$15,000,000,000 and foreign investments from \$6,338,183,000 to \$11,248,678,000. The total capital of the British people grew during the quarter century from \$48,845,069,500 to \$68,062,869,000.

The decrease in the value of land and the increase in that of houses reveal that England constantly becomes less and less of an agricultural country and that the movement of population runs heavily toward the cities. The Economist finds it difficult to believe that the farmers had so little capital in 1909 as it itself calculates, and also believes that possibly the foreign investments of the British are larger than shown. It concludes with the estimate of the nation's income this year as not falling far short of \$7,923,000,000.

The Home Reunion Movement, which has proved a success in Manitoba and bids fair to be an important aid to immigration in New Brunswick, is well established in Australia, where, since last March, 1500 persons have been nominated for assisted passages. The estimated expenditure on immigration for the current financial year, including contributions by the nominators and immigrants is \$202,000, and this the chief secretary, the Hon. F. S. Wallis, speaking in the Legislative Council recently stated might be regarded as a profitable investment. A country can have no better advertisement as to the attractions it has to offer for immigrants than when those already settled in it are prepared to assist their relatives and others to join them in the new land.

Current Comment

(Charlotte, Ky., Chronicle.)

The groom is a successful physician of Henrietta, a young gentleman of splendid worth and brilliant promise, for he is endowed by birth and training with all these noble impulses in winsome traits that adorn true manhood. The bride is a lady of wondrous fascination and remarkable attractiveness, for with manners as enchanting as the wand of a siren and a disposition as sweet as the odors of flowers and spirits as joyous as the carollings of birds and mind as brilliant as those glittering tresses that adorn the brow of winter, and with heart as pure as dewdrops, trembling in a coronet of violets, she will make the home of her husband a paradise of enchantment like the lovely home of her girlhood, where the heaven-toned harp of marriage, with its chords of love, and devotion and fond endearments sent forth the sweetest strains of felicity that ever thrilled the senses with the rhythmic pulsings of ecstatic rapture.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Governor Foss of Massachusetts thinks that Boston is the natural outlet for the goods of the Canadian West. Governor Foss evidently has not been studying Canadian history of late. Canada in the past year rejected a great, and what might have been a commercially profitable alliance with the United States, and also overturned a Canadian Government of fifteen years' standing, merely to make certain that Boston, and similarly situated American cities, would not be the outlet for the Canadian West. Governor Foss is behind the times—Canadian times at least.

(Vancouver Sunset.)

A cook with a repertoire of only a dozen dishes is as bad as a musician with only a dozen tunes. Most Canadians live on not more than a dozen dishes repeated with a monotony which he could not think of bearing in anything else. The average Canadian is not a gourmet. He still eats the glebe-like things his mother used to cook. He eats too much lean meats, not enough fish, few vegetables and little fruit. He gets too little acid and not enough fat.

(Regina Province.)

The Ottawa Free Press (Liberal) says that "the Laurier Government made a blunder in refusing investigations asked for by the Conservatives and the Liberal party now recognize the mistake." The Liberal party recognizes the mistake, when it cannot prevent the investigation. The Liberal party, when in power, feared investigation, and prevented it. The party was too weak to discard the grafters.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

An indignant Liberal wants to know why certain trade commissioners of Canada have been retired by the Borden Government. It would be more to the point if he would ask Sir Richard Cartwright why they were appointed.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

It is said that Theodore Roosevelt cannot escape nomination for president. This is cruel news. We can clearly foresee what a sanguinary and gallant struggle Teddy will make before he is roned, downed, shanked and buried and branded as a candidate.

RICHESON CONFESSES TO MURDER OF MISS LINNELL

Continued from page one.
Miss Inez Hanscomb, friend of Avis Linnell, lived with her at Y. W. C. A. Notified Pastor Richeson of Linnell girl's death by telephone. She declares that Richeson asked her: "Did she say anything before she died?" Material witness for prosecution.

Miss Julia Patterson, superintendent of the Y. W. C. A. where Avis Linnell boarded, it was in a bathroom here that Avis Linnell met her tragic fate. Immediately took charge of the situation. Had Doctor Mary Hobard, of Boylston street, summoned.
Miss Lucille Ziegler, friend, and roommate of Miss Linnell. Attended conservatory of music with her.
Mrs. William J. McLean, sister of Miss Linnell, and in close confidential relations with her. It was her husband that first suspected that a crime had been committed and stirred the police to action.

EDMUNDSTON PAYS TRIBUTE TO MAYOR

Continued from page one.
That the commercial men particularly had watched with delight the growth of Edmundston was the tone of a neat but brief speech by R. L. Phillips. He appreciated the foresight which the men of the town exercised in installing light and water to induce new industries. That step went far towards making the town what it should be.

Great Progress.
In referring to the strides the town has made, Max D. Cormier in French, carried his hearers back to the customs of old. He then pointed out the excellent geographical situation of the town, and stated that while it had been somewhat behind towns of similar size, it now ranked ahead of the ordinary. In speaking of the prospects he declared that Edmundston was entitled to a post office, in a public building with customs and immigration quarters in connection. It is now in a private house.

Mr. Cormier's remark in regard to the post office brought the information from Mr. Mitchell that the latter had had promises for the construction of a federal building from Hon. Mr. Pugsley. While it was not yet built, Mr. Mitchell expressed confidence in the assurance of Hon. P. D. Monk, minister of public works that the promises would be carried out by the present government.

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MONCTON HAS A SAD SHOOTING ACCIDENT-- BOY LOSES HIS LIFE

Special to The Standard.
Moncton, Jan. 7.—The pro hockey situation is getting interesting. Moncton has signed Fred Doherty of Toronto, who played with Galt last year, and the Halifax Crescents will be strengthened when they appear here for Tuesday evening's game by the addition of Doran, captain of the Moncton's last year.

Joseph Emery Leblanc, aged 16, son of Solomon Leblanc, who keeps a boarding house on Main street, was the victim of a terrible shooting accident about 7 o'clock this evening. He was in the kitchen alone at the time, with a 32 self cocking revolver in his trouser's pocket, when in some way the revolver was discharged, the bullet tearing a terrible hole in young Leblanc's abdomen.

Occupants of the house heard the shot and found the lad in a state of collapse, apparently attempting to go upstairs. Doctors were hastily summoned, but little could be done and death ensued in about half an hour. Just how the accident occurred is not known. Young Leblanc had only recently come into possession of the revolver, a short time ago having taken it as security for a loan to a friend.

Henderson and Hunt's Annual After-Stock Taking Sale Commences on Thursday Morning, at 8 o'clock.

News of more than passing interest is Henderson and Hunt's announcement of their annual after stock taking sale of clothing and furnishings. Each year at this time this firm commences a great clothing sale that affords unlimited opportunities to buyers. For further particulars read large ad. on Page 7. If you care about saving money attend this sale. Thursday is the first day.

EMPEROR REALIZES HE IS NOT A SECOND FREDERICK WILLIAM

Berlin, Jan. 6.—The interview with the Earl of Lonsdale concerning the German Emperor, published in the London Daily News, divides interest with the elections. The German newspapers carry long despatches, quoting Lord Lonsdale, but what comment has been elicited so far is unfavorable, with the recent Anglo-German difficulties fresh in mind.

The Post says that Lonsdale's references to the Emperor's greatness as a general, or his genius for flattery were in the worst taste. The Emperor added the paper, long since realized that he is no Frederick the Great, nor another Frederick William, the great elector, and has announced that if war came, although assuming nominal command of the army he would refrain to the utmost from interfering with the professional leaders.

The references of Lord Lonsdale to His Majesty's Anglo-Philism, says the Post, are insulting, in view of this summer's events.

SCHOONER BOUND FOR THIS PORT IS DISABLED BY ICE

Vineyard Haven, Mass., Jan. 7.—Coated with ice from stem to stern so as to be practically helpless and leaking badly, two British schooners were towed into this port today. One was the schooner Elma, for Bridgeport, and the other the schooner Lucille, New York for St. John, both were lumber laden.

The Elma came into port from off Chatham in tow of the wrecking tug Raymond J. Anderson and the Lucille was brought in by the revenue cutter Acushnet, which found her hard and fast aground on Bass River Jetty, near Hyanis and floated her today.

FOUR BODIES FOUND IN BOARDING HOUSE-- DIED FROM POISON

Philadelphia, Jan. 7.—Mystery surrounds the death of four persons, whose bodies fully clothed, were discovered today in a second story back room of the boarding house of Mrs. Bridget Flanagan, No. 1323 north Twenty-Fourth street.

Mrs. Flanagan, one of the victims, was 38 years of age. Her daughter, Annie Flanagan, aged 10 years, and Joseph Flanagan, aged 15 months, an adopted child, died with her. The fourth body was that of Miss C. Murray, aged 18 years, a boarder in the house, who recently came to this country from Ireland.

The police officials and coroner, who are investigating the case, are unable to determine whether the deaths were caused by coal gas, or whether the poison had been administered in milk, all four had partaken. The latter theory is supported by the finding of some crystals in an empty milk pitcher. These crystals have not yet been analyzed.

COL. HUGHES VISITS QUEBEC FOR PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

Quebec, Jan. 6.—Lieut. Col. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, is in town and is a guest at the Chateau Frontenac. The minister is here on a visit of inspection and will be entertained at a banquet at the Garrison Club on Tuesday evening. To-night he will attend the curlers' dinner at the falls.

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LONDON STARS PAY TRIBUTE TO GENIUS OF CHARLES DICKENS

London, Jan. 7.—The actors and actresses of London this evening paid a tribute to the genius of Charles Dickens, when at the Coliseum theatre they gave a great performance of the great novelist's works in aid of a fund which is being raised for his grandchildren. The presentation was made up chiefly of Dickens' plays and tableaux portraying familiar scenes and incidents from the books of Dickens.

Practically all those who took part were stars.

DRIVERLESS CAR JUMPS RAILS AND KILLS CONDUCTOR

New York, Jan. 7.—Fred Plougher, conductor of a Gravesend Ave trolley car, was killed and five other persons seriously hurt when the car was derailed and crashed into a telegraph pole early today. The motorman, James Hughes, benumbed with cold, was thrown from his post while the car was taking a curve at high speed and the car went without a driver for four blocks before it jumped the tracks.

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