

# The St. John Standard

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### THINK IT OVER.

In view of the bill to come before the Legislature, which empowers to compel the N. B. Power Company to operate portions of its services at a loss, or in default to permit the City to do so, and then sell the Company's property to recoup the loss made, we have thought it well to obtain some figures regarding the cost of operation of the Street Railway and the Gas plant, which may shed some light on the present situation.

For the twelve months ending February 28th, 1922, the Power Company lost \$56,081.85 in the operation of its gas service after paying taxes, but without paying any interest on its bonds, or dividends on its stocks.

The Council must have had this condition in mind when it prepared the bill authorizing the City to take over any portion of the Company's undertaking which the Company could not profitably continue in consequence of the City entering into light and power competition with it. These facts must have been before the Telegraph and Times when they said that the street railway and the gas services should not be considered in deciding whether or not the City should go into power distribution in competition with the Company.

If the City enters into competition with the Power Company, the result will be another line of poles on the streets; and certainly until the City or the Government provides a steam stand-by, this line of poles will not be very largely used because no thinking citizen is likely to trust his premises to the uncertainties of hydro electric lighting. The City itself would surely not be so badly advised in the public interest as to allow its street lighting to be served in this way. Even with adequate water power, the hydro service is very uncertain—witness Toronto without lights or street railway service last week for three or four days. The same was true in other Ontario towns; and there of course the Niagara furnishes adequate water power at all times.

But what is going to happen with the Musquash in case of an accident? Twice already one of the storage dams on the Musquash has broken down, and it is reported that another has given indications of weakness. What would happen if one or more of the dams go out in a spring freshet? That would mean a very heavy loss to the taxpayers, because the Government demands its payment and the City would have to pay interest on the bonds issued to pay for the distribution system, irrespective of whether there was any revenue.

No one will deny that the Company's rates could be much reduced were it not for the street railway and gas. No one has ever denied that, and since the report of Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Kirby and Mr. Phillips it is not possible for any person to deny it. The only question is whether or not the City wishes to have the street railway and gas services kept up in part by the profits from an economically administered electric light and power service, or by taxes on the citizens generally. These services have to be kept up. The bill to come before the Legislature is intended to provide that they shall be. They are essential to the public interest. The only alternative to the present method is by increasing the rates for street railway and gas, or by civic operation. In the one case the users of street railway and gas will pay more; in the other case the general body of taxpayers. At the present time it is the electric light and power user.

The Public Utilities Act gives full and ample opportunity to have these rates adjusted in any way that can be shown to be in the public interest, and this would not need the enormous and unthinkable expenditure of probably a million and a half in the duplication of the present pole lines in the City. It is the City's own wealth that it can afford to spend such a large amount of money without any return, when it can get the same advantage, if it is an advantage, by application to the Board of Public Utility Commissioners? The only people who would profit by this expenditure are the contractors, and the Upper Canadian manufacturers who would supply the equipment.

Messrs. Vaughan, Kirby and Phillips have demonstrated beyond doubt that there could be no advantage to the citizens of Saint John.

In 1920 the Legislature authorized the Government to raise such sums as were necessary for the development of electric power, not exceeding one million dollars. In 1921 it was found that the Musquash development would not bring as much as the estimate

and the authorization was increased to two million dollars. Now, in 1922, the Government has introduced a Bill increasing the amount to \$2,500,000. Why does it not make it an even three million at once? What is \$300,000 to the Foster Government?

### IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

Among those arriving in Canada on the Montclair yesterday was a party of English agriculturists, comprising twenty families, and some odd young men, one hundred and eleven in all. All these new comers were in good financial circumstances, having with them amounts varying from \$4,500 to \$18,000. They were a "hand-picked" lot, and left last night in search of new homes on C. P. R. lands in Western Canada. Canada can do with many thousands more of the class of settler, but unfortunately the immigration regulations operate very severely against many desirable British settlers. Not everyone is in a position to bring very much money with him; almost the entire assets of many a desirable would be new comer consist of good health, robust strength, and some ambition. The \$250 cash requirement for instance keeps out many of this class, while Continental Europeans, such as Polish Jews, Ukrainians, Austrians and other undesired classes get through by having friends in Canada advance these \$250 to show the immigration officials. British people are not given to tricks like that to obtain admittance to one of the Dominions.

Col. J. S. Dennis, chief of the Colonization Department of the C. P. R. claims that the immigration regulation that admits to Canada only those who have a through ticket from their country of origin, shuts out many very desirable settlers. This regulation was framed to keep out Hindus and Sikhs from India, but apparently it operates against British people who are in the United States. Scandinavians or other people of northern stock who want to come to Canada from another foreign land, it might be possible for Canada to get a large number of valuable settlers from among the Northern Europeans who have been in the United States for several years, but would be glad to change to Canada. Their period of education in the United States would make them much more assimilable in Canada than emigrants fresh from Europe. There is no doubt whatever that the need is constantly growing for a change in our immigration policy to encourage the incoming of a good class of settlers.

Canada's immigration regulations are losing her a large number of very desirable citizens who are going to Australia to make their homes, but who would come to Canada if they could be taken in on the same terms as Australia is willing to receive them. The Australian authorities are laying themselves out to attract new comers to their country; Canada is doing the very reverse.

### THE IRISH AGREEMENT.

New hope for Ireland is given by the three-cornered agreement signed Thursday in London by representatives of the British Government and the two Irish Governments. It does not directly touch the conflict between the Provisional Government and the Republican forces that have been trying to get control of the army, but peace on the Ulster frontier would do much to promote peace throughout Ireland. The agreement does not in itself settle the vexed questions which have caused the recent outbreak of violence, but it provides for their settlement in an orderly and peaceful fashion. It declares an immediate peace and pledges the two Irish Governments to co-operate in every way for the restoration of peaceful conditions. Certain grievances, specially in Belfast, are redressed by mutual concessions, and the British Government does its part by promising relief for the economic conditions in Belfast which have aggravated the political situation there.

The question of the boundary of Ulster is too complicated to be disposed of in a preliminary agreement of this character, but provision is made for further meetings to ascertain (a) whether unity in Ireland can be secured, and (b) failing this, whether the boundary can be agreed upon otherwise than by resort to the Boundary Lines Commission provided for in the treaty. These and other points indicate that both sides have made concessions, and that Ulster in particular has abandoned the stiff attitude of refusing even to discuss matters which made negotiation formerly seem so hopeless. Peace is the vital thing; if fighting can be prevented, Ireland may get out of the present state of anarchy.

### OUR CONTEMPORARIES ARE ONLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE GOVERNMENT'S LOAD DIVERTED TO THE CITY, AND THINK BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT GIVE ANY CONSIDERATION TO THE MATTER BEFORE IT SAUK NEARLY THREE MILLION DOLLARS OF MONEY IN THE MUSQUASH DEVELOPMENT, THE CITY CAN SPEND A MILLION AND A HALF OR THEREABOUTS WITH EQUAL DISREGARD OF CONSEQUENCES.

The Globe's Gallery Man thinks it would be a mistake to turn the City's bill down on a technicality. It is quite justifiable to defeat a nefarious proposal by every means available. We presume the Gallery Man would object to a fact being convicted because he was indicted for burglary when the charge should have been house-breaking?

### WHAT OTHERS SAY

#### Women in Life and Fiction.

Considering the centumty heaped on them, the wonder grows that any self-respecting woman are left, any mothers who efface themselves for their children without grudging, any single women who give up love for the sake of dependent relatives, any wives who prefer saving their husbands' money to their own pleasure. That there are proves that the good heart of humanity is stronger than fashion, and the poetical heroine's habit of making a mass of things for herself and every one else is mercifully confined to fiction.

#### Sound at Heart.

For the sake of our actors and actresses in particular there is cause for rejoicing that plays of some literary quality are again drawing money in London. There is a great deal of ability on the London stage today, but it would speedily die of despair if cheap sensationalism and vulgarity were the only stuff it was allowed to tackle. The London theatre, in a word, it waking up, and the remarkable dramatic activity of the Universities, to which our columns frequently bear witness, will help to feed the happy fame.

#### The Four Power Treaty Ratified.

Whatever significance and force the treaty may have, it is best to have it ratified in order that the more valuable results of the arms conference may be made secure. The Democratic Senators by voting in opposition could have defeated it, but those Democrats who voted in favor of it were wisely inspired to rescue the achievement of a Republican administration. The complete wreck of the four-power combination in the Pacific, as planned in Washington, would probably have forced the scrapping of the other treaties and the situation as a whole would have been left much worse than it would have been had the Arms Conference not been held.

#### Appealing the Turks.

Undoubtedly the Turks will be appeased by these concessions and they may graciously consent to cease fighting. But it will be only one more chapter in the long history of their expediency and sharp practice which has marked modern Europe's dealings with the Ottoman. It is not a chapter of which the present generation can be proud, and it is undoubtedly a chapter which will be a source of suffering and confusion. Eventually, perhaps, there may arise a group of statesmen competent to solve the Turkish problem without wirepulling, political hagglings and recommitment, and to write the final chapter of the book of horror.

#### Still on the Pedestal.

Owing to the house shortage at Gostingen some university students have taken up their residence on top of the tower of the Church of St. John. "What are your impressions of life on top of a tower?" was the question put to them in the course of a letter recently sent them. "We have not got the least intention of supplying an English newspaper with interesting news about Germany" was the reply he received. "We have quite the fondest conception of the work we ought to do for the reconstruction of the Fatherland." Though they have stopped singing their morning hymn of hate, it is evident that in the Fatherland they have not yet learnt to love us.

### THE GLOBE'S GALLERY MAN THINKS IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO TURN THE CITY'S BILL DOWN ON A TECHNICALITY.

It is quite justifiable to defeat a nefarious proposal by every means available. We presume the Gallery Man would object to a fact being convicted because he was indicted for burglary when the charge should have been house-breaking?

### THE UNATTAINABLE.

I like a philosophic work  
 And with much pleasure I turn to it,  
 I'm fond of Spencer, Hume and Burke;  
 I take up Plato and go through it;  
 Kant, Schopenhauer and Carlyle,  
 Montaigne and Pater—all enthralled me;  
 Bryere and Emerson beguile,  
 The sermons that at times befall me.

Yet though for weighty stuff I look  
 And find the reading easy sailing,  
 Today a friend sent me a book  
 So deep that I gave way to walling.  
 May fate confound the sorry folk  
 Who find all his comforts gone,  
 For sending me these pages on  
 "The Rules and Principles of Poker!"

### THE LAUGH LINE

**Their Anniversary.**  
 Mrs. Nixdore-I noticed your house all lighted up last night.  
 Mr. Hiram O'rum—Yes, our cook just completed a week's service with us and we were giving her a party in honor of the occasion.—Houston Post.

**Trouble Enough.**  
 "What seems to be the trouble between the Joneses?"  
 "Oh, everything was lovely until Jones had three or four one night and went home and told his wife she was the third most beautiful woman in the world."

**Helpful Thought For Today.**  
 What you must do at first through force of character you will later be able to do through force of habit.—Boston Transcript.

**Perhaps.**  
 One thing about the modern girl that causes her elderly critics to be resentful is her youth.—Baltimore Sun.

**Never Changes.**  
 An old gentleman boarded the tram and luckily finding a seat, sat down next to a friend.  
 He nodded pleasantly, paid his fare, and then said genially:  
 "Well, what do you think of the weather?"  
 "Oh, horrible," said his friend.  
 "And how's your wife today?" said the old gentleman.  
 "Oh, about the same!" was the reply.

**The Annual Nightmare.**  
 After making out the income tax most of us look the accidents coming back from happeing.

**His Rating.**  
 Alice—George is my ideal man.  
 Virginia—I didn't know he had that fine a car.—New York Sun.

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### Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

My cousin Artie was around yesterday and he and him was up in the store room playing chess, first doing grade barback riding on the old rocking chair with some of the stuffing coming out and still more coming out after we got throo, and then being grate Japanese tumbler on the old feather bed, and then doing grate feats of strength by seeing with one hand lift up the big great pile of old books that was lying around on the floor.

Being wat we was still doing, he holding up a pile and Artie holding up a pile with strong man expressions wen ma called up stairs, Benny, are you in the store room?

Mam? Wy? I sed.

Did you heer me ask you a question? sed ma.

Yes mam, I sed. Meaning I was, and ma sed. Well I want you to do something for me, there are a lot of old books scattered around in there and I want you to pick them up in neat piles and put them in one corner.

Aw G, ma, we're playing, I sed.

Well play your being usefil, sed ma.

Well how about tomorro, ma? I sed.

Immedidly, with no icosessor procrastinations, sed ma.

With me and Artie started to do agenset our will, piging the books up and carrying them over in one corner and feeling as if we was doing a farsee lot of work, me saying, Aw heek, just as we was having a good time, and Artie saying, Good nice, thate the way it allways happens.

Proving as soon as you haft to do a thing it takes all the fun out of it.

of women voters. We do not believe that the average man or woman in this country wishes for such a state of affairs. This is not to say that they do not wish for woman suffrage, or, indeed, that woman suffrage has not proved successful. Woman suffrage meant the admission of women to political power. This Bill, owing to the accident that there is a large surplus female population, means the supremacy of political power in the hands of women. The question whether women do or do not combine to vote as a sex does not arise. The point is that 600 voters may, out of every 1,000 would be women. To condemn such a result is not to insult women's intelligence so much as to point out that it does not harmonize with the exigencies of practical life.

The Unattainable.  
 I like a philosophic work  
 And with much pleasure I turn to it,  
 I'm fond of Spencer, Hume and Burke;  
 I take up Plato and go through it;  
 Kant, Schopenhauer and Carlyle,  
 Montaigne and Pater—all enthralled me;  
 Bryere and Emerson beguile,  
 The sermons that at times befall me.

Yet though for weighty stuff I look  
 And find the reading easy sailing,  
 Today a friend sent me a book  
 So deep that I gave way to walling.  
 May fate confound the sorry folk  
 Who find all his comforts gone,  
 For sending me these pages on  
 "The Rules and Principles of Poker!"

If spring starts in early the happy householder may remark to the striking coal miner: "If you know of a better 'ole go to it."

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**FRANCE SEES HOPE BECAUSE OF**

Little Risk of Improvisations  
 Boulogne Ag

Paris, April 3.—(Special Correspondence.)—It was clear from the moment that the meeting at Boulogne was tentatively arranged that a change for the better was taking place in the atmosphere of Franco-British relations. Raymond Poincare gave ample proof of his good will when he agreed to supplement by such a conversation the exchange of notes and less formal communications, by means of which the discussion in regard to Genoa had been carried on up to that point.

The simplicity and gravity which were to mark the interview met with general approval both in Paris and London as this seemed to indicate that differences were few and that the two premiers' intentions with regard to Genoa closely approximated. The idea that this was to be a purely business talk and that with patience, good will and mutual accommodation general agreement could be reached was equally welcome to both peoples. On both sides of the Channel there was also a deep desire for a permanent improvement in the relations on terms which would be compatible with the world-wide objects of the great victors in the world war.

Boulogne a Success.

One of the main problems for the two countries was undoubtedly how to bring about a better understanding without hurting national susceptibilities. M. Poincare and Mr. Lloyd George have again proved their greatness and diplomatic resourcefulness, their great intellectual abilities and discernment in developing and improving the precious legacy of the past. Boulogne marked the end of a perilous period of sterile criticism and pin-pricking remarks.

The meeting at Boulogne was brief, sober, businesslike, and the result had justified expectations. The camp follows and other ostentatious accommodations of greatness were absent, but the business done was so fruitful that the two statesmen apparently have not found it necessary to convene another meeting before the Genoa conference in order to find out whether what they did say and decide at the last meeting. What especially pleases the French is that the principal points of understanding have been put down in black and white so that no further difficulty should arise between the two countries as regards the conference in respect to which they will henceforth adopt an attitude of closest unity.

Both premiers have been able to express the joint conviction that no political difficulties will stand in the way to two nations "working together in a full mutual confidence for the economic reconstruction of Europe and the consolidation of peace."

The Boulogne programme was precise and limited, and the questions to be considered had been carefully prepared. In this way the risk of improvisations was avoided. Today's genuine satisfaction in Paris results from the knowledge that France will not be exposed to unexpected and dangerous

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