

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1913.

## BUYER AND SELLER.

Is there a tendency in the direction of carelessness, or possibly, dishonesty, on the part of a proportion of St. John retail merchants, and especially grocers and meat and fish dealers? The Standard has received complaints of this nature from several sources and, recently, instituted a quiet enquiry. In one case meats and fish purchased from different stores were weighed after being taken from the stores and found to be from eight to eleven ounces short of the weight paid for. When an explanation was asked the dealers declared the weight had been hastily computed and the overcharge was an error. The money paid in excess of the correct sum was refunded. These two cases are not isolated, but are quoted merely as illustrative of a number that came to the notice of The Standard.

Some weeks ago this newspaper advised its readers to patronize local dealers as far as possible, instead of sending hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the province to the Upper Canadian mail order houses. Following the publication of the articles we received many letters alike approving and condemning the position we took. In the majority of the condemnatory letters the ground was taken that the writers were unable to secure as good values for their money in the St. John stores as in the mail order houses, and that while they agreed in the doctrine "buy your goods at home," they were forced by reasons of economy to purchase in Toronto or Montreal. One writer, a lady, went a step further. She claimed to have purchased goods in a St. John store and her purchases were not delivered to her. Application at the store brought no satisfaction, so she turned her trade elsewhere.

The Standard believes in the principle of supporting home industry as far as possible. Local merchants should get the local trade, but these merchants in turn owe a duty to their patrons. At the present cost of living the men or women who make purchases are entitled to everything they pay for. There are instances where they have not received it. We do not believe retail dealers are dishonest; probably the complaints mentioned were due to carelessness. There has been, however, considerable complaint that the condition referred to exists in some cases and The Standard would hardly be doing its duty to its readers if attention was not directed to the matter. In some lines of food, such as bread, etc., there is penalty for short weight. All scales and measures used in grocery and other stores are supposed to be tested. Our best information is that they are tested. Whether a general by-law imposing a penalty where short weight or measure is given in any article would work an improvement is possibly open to question, but as merchants of St. John should be encouraged to develop the business in every way possible, there should also be some provision whereby customers may be certain that in every case they receive exactly what they purchase and pay for.

## "AN INTOLERABLE THING."

The Montreal Herald has a dispute on with The Montreal Star and, in the course of the discussion, between the two papers, the Montreal Herald, the proprietor of The Star had attempted to secure control of The Telegraph, the Liberal paper in Montreal whose views are opposed to the views of the Star. In support of its contention that the attempt, if made, was not one that would commend itself to honest men, the Herald obtained the views of a number of Liberals, and among them one own Dr. Pugsley, who is quoted as follows:

Hon. Dr. Pugsley, ex-Minister of Public Works, said the idea of one man attempting to control the press on both sides of politics appeared to him an intolerable thing.

I think it would be a great source of danger to any city to obtain control of papers whose real opinions did not represent his own, and the public were thereby deceived. I think the public are very greatly interested in the situation.

I was in Toronto yesterday and heard these views expressed by several prominent men.

In Montreal one gentleman expressed the view for publication that it would be a crime against the public.

I think, Dr. Pugsley said, that expression is quite applicable to the situation.

Dr. Pugsley's remarks regarding the press on both sides of politics should be read with particular interest in St. John. He has been on both sides of politics himself and should, therefore, be an authority. As for the press, he should also speak with knowledge, as The Telegraph and The Times, the papers supporting him, have also been on both sides. Not both at once, it is true, but then that is merely a matter of circumstance. Doubtless, if they and Dr. Pugsley continue in the same they will be able

to execute even more political acrobatics. They have already shown ability in this line, all that is required now is another opportunity.

## MEXICAN METHODS.

The latest news from Mexico shows that the millennium of democracy has not yet arrived, nor is there any tangible sign of its arrival, despite the convulsions and change in that country during the last few years. The methods adopted are almost unbelievable to one accustomed to just and orderly procedure.

A short time ago, says the Ottawa Citizen, Senator Dominguez made a speech in which he severely criticized President Huerta, and declared that under his regime no real advancement had been made. Shortly afterwards the intrepid Senator "disappeared" from view. Naturally, his contemporaries desired to know the reason for his disappearance, recalling the fact that Madero had also "disappeared" in much the same way. The deputies presented a resolution of protest and inquiry, whereupon the chamber was surrounded by troops, and the inquisitive deputies were dragged off to jail.

This action is characteristic of the present Mexican administration. Yet this same government, using methods that are at variance with all ideas of right and democracy, has been formally recognized by the British government. It may well be said to the credit of President Wilson, of the United States, that he has refused to make similar recognition. The contrast of action is not a pleasant one.

"The Standard says: 'A search for a safe Liberal seat in New Brunswick is a task which is calculated to test even the admitted resourcefulness of the gentleman of the interview.' Would The Standard be willing to open the constituency of the city of St. John, let us say?"—The Times.

If the Times really desires to open the constituency of the city of St. John, he has to suggest that Dr. Pugsley be asked about it, as it is his constituency. That gentleman, when in charge of the biggest spending department in the Laurier Government, and backed by all the prestige attached to that position, fought an election in the city of St. John and had a majority of 65 votes. We hardly think he is prepared to take any chances on that 65, but we have no objection to the Times asking him about it.

Prince Arthur of Connaught and the Duchess of Pife were married yesterday, and the despatches tell us that the wedding presents were of great beauty, rarity and value. A wedding within the circle of royalty differs in many respects from the corresponding function in the humbler ranks of life. Just the same we venture the opinion that Mrs. Prince Arthur will feel just as much put out as her humbler sisters if, on counting her brides gifts, she finds she has been "tagged" with eleven or twelve clocks and 'steen glass bowls.

It was the best of good news flashed from Grand Manan yesterday afternoon to the effect that the four West End men, who had braved the fury of a Bay of Fundy storm, were safe and would soon be restored to their families. Their experience in that all-night battle with wind and wave must have been a terrible one, but it is doubtful if they suffered to a greater degree than their loved ones at home riven by the awful agony of suspense. The survivors and their relatives are subjects for the most sincere congratulation today.

## How Did He Manage It?

(Montreal Herald.)

A youthful British nobleman who has been in this country for a year says he has been in every city from Halifax to Vancouver and has paid only two railway fares. He is going to write a book about Canada. One of the most interesting chapters will be devoted to that in which he describes his method of avoiding the conductor.

## The Height of Ingratitude.

Even Bourassa turns upon Sir Wilfrid to say that the result in Chateaugay marks the complete loss of Sir Wilfrid's influence upon the people of Quebec. And this, after Sir Wilfrid served the Bourassa cause by having his Senate majority throw the Borden Naval Bill out!

## Unhappy Ottawa.

(Toronto Globe.)

Prince Arthur of Connaught's bride is laying in a stock of thirty day dresses and twenty-five evening gowns. Ottawa society has to live up to that there will be many an unhappy man in Ottawa next season.

## When They Will Learn.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

Toronto students have, once more, been writing themselves down as asses, with over-ripe eggs as auxiliaries. But they will have become sufficiently tame with a wife and half a dozen children to be provided for.

## The Cost of Living.

(Detroit Free Press.)

If beef ever does go to \$1 a pound, hash will become more of a mystery than ever.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

A dramatic tale of lost treasure is connected with the wreck of the ship Primrose, which went down in the Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, on this date in the year 1892. According to the story, the Primrose was fairly loaded with a vast store of gold, precious jewels and other treasure, which had been accumulated by M. Duplex, the Governor of Mauritius, during a long career as a privateer, preying upon English commerce. Having equipped vast riches, by methods little short of piratical, M. Duplex decided to resign his post, and devote the remainder of his life to spending his money. He feared to send his fortune directly to France, where it might be seized and turned into the treasury of his king, so he placed it on board the Primrose and despatched that vessel to Quebec. It was his purpose to go to France and give an account of his stewardship, and then proceed to Canada, where he could claim his fortune and, after a time, return to Paris, posing as one who had accumulated wealth by honest endeavor. In the course of time the Primrose sailed into Gaspe Bay, where her commander was informed that Quebec had been taken by the English a month before. The Primrose was despatched to Newfoundland but when nearing the coast a terrible storm came up and the ship was driven on the reefs of the Bay of Islands. Thus was the avaricious Duplex deprived of the spoils of years of piracy.

October 16 is the birthday of Frederick Leith, born at Leith, Scotland, in 1817. He was a member of the House of Commons, and served as Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor General of Canada, from 1891 to 1893, in 1895; and of J. P. Flaherty, a lawyer, educator and anatomist, at Toronto, 1859.

## FIRST THINGS

### FIRST PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The first general demand for a Pacific railway was voiced in an interstate convention held in St. Louis sixty-four years ago today, when the project of a national railway across the continent was unanimously endorsed. The scheme was suggested three years earlier by Asa Whitney, but attracted little attention until Senator Thomas H. Benton introduced a bill into the United States Congress providing for preliminary steps in such an undertaking. In 1850 ground was broken for the Pacific railroad by the mayor of St. Louis, but it was not until 1853 that four expeditions were dispatched to survey as many proposed routes. The cost of the survey was \$1,000,000, but nothing was done until 1862, when Congress, in the midst of civil war, provided for subsidies to build the line. It was just half a century ago that actual construction commenced. There were two companies, the Union Pacific, working westward, and the Central Pacific, proceeding eastward from California. The road was completed in 1869.

## THE HUMAN PROCESSION

Lord Osborne de Vere Beaulieu, the half-brother and heir presumptive of the eleven Duke of St. Albans, was born 39 years ago today. His mother was the second wife of the tenth Duke, Lord Beaulieu, who is a captain in a lancer regiment, is a descendant of Nell Gwynne. The first Duke of St. Albans married the eldest daughter of Aubrey de Vere, the last Earl of Oxford, celebrated as "the daughter of a hundred acres."

When Lord Beaulieu is in London he is given a weekly retinue of the bells of St. Martin in the Fields, in memory of Nell Gwynne. Under the terms of an ancient legacy, this ceremony takes place every Friday evening, and the ringer of the bells receives in payment a leg of mutton. Nell Gwynne, the maternal ancestor of eleven Dukes, was born in a cellar in the coal yards of Drury Lane. In her youth she was an orange vendor, and later became a singer, wandering from place to place to entertain the guests. At 15 she went on the stage, and her rare beauty, together with her ability as a singer and dancer, made her the toast of the town. Dryden thought highly of her talents, but always gave her light, humorous parts. Her nature was gay, frivolous and yielding, and a tragic or serious role, Popsy tells us, she acted "most basely."

Charles II. became infatuated with her, and upon becoming the King's favorite she was given an establishment of her own and admitted to the best society of London. She was generous, an open-hearted and a generous friend. The money she received from the royal exchequer went to aid struggling actors and actresses. At 35 she was married to a Protestant, and she was very pious in spite of her unconventional code of ethics. Charles remained in love with her to the time of his death, and at his last words were: "Let not poor Nell starve."

The fascinating Nell's son, the first Duke of St. Albans, was made master falconer and registrar to the court of chancery by his father, and William III. appointed him a lord of the bed chamber.

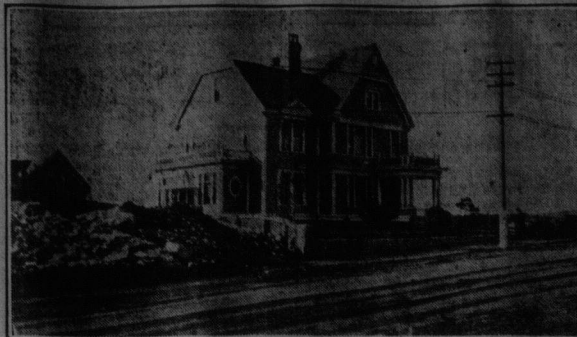
Capt. Walter Selby Buckmaster, who is regarded by polo experts as the most scientific exponent of the game, was born in London forty-one years ago today. He has played on more winning teams than any other polo player. He started playing over twenty years ago, while a student at Cambridge.

## IMPERATOR'S BOILERS UNFIT FOR SERVICE.

Hamburg, Oct. 15.—The Hamburg-American Line today admits in spite of earlier denials that the boiler of the Emperor has proved unsatisfactory and that complete rebuilding is necessary in order to reduce the excessive coal consumption and to increase the speed of the vessel.

The builders by their contract were required to compensate the company for the compulsory retirement of the vessel from service and will have to pay approximately \$1,500 for every day she is laid off.

## IN AND AROUND ST. JOHN



Residence of J. Fraser Gregory, Douglas Avenue, one of the finest of the many handsome homes on "the Avenue."—By The Standard's staff photographer.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN

### Other Side of Shield.

Wife (complaining)—The Wilfrid's house is much larger than our's. Husband—Yes, my dear, and so is their mortgage.

### A Lover of Peace.

Briggs—You must have a lot of trouble keeping your wife dressed up in the height of style? Griggs—Yes. But it's nothing to the trouble I'd have if I didn't.

### The Right Place to Calm Down.

Editor—What's the trouble out there? Office Boy—A lady out in the hall has hysterics.

Editor—Have her escorted into the composing room at once.

### Too True.

Studying our human nature. This, 'mong other things, we learn. That the things that don't concern us give us off the most concern.

### A Shopping Tour.

Mrs. Travels (just home)—These furs I got in Paris, this beautiful watch in Geneva, and these lovely laces in Hamburg. Mrs. Holmes—Goodness! You seem to have treated Europe as just one big department store.

### A Double Supply.

"Since Jimson got the better of Smith, there's no standing him." "That's so. When he took the conceit out of Smith, he added it to his own apparently."

### A Hero.

Betty—I shall not wed until I can marry a hero. Alice—Well, my dear, just show any man who proposes to you a schedule of your yearly expenses and if he doesn't back out, he's one.

### Explained.

An Englishman visiting this country was remarking upon several cities which had somewhat surprised him while in New York. "Most remarkable," he said. "Your aged New York women are so straight and upstanding! I have not seen even a bent-over old woman!" "Easily explained," returned his American friend. "When women here come too old to be offered seats in the subway and surface cars they get straightened out hanging onto the straps."

### A Difference.

Ruff—"Hello, Fluff. I hear you married a woman with an independent fortune." Fluff (disconsolately)—"No; I married a fortune with an independent woman."—Judeo.

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## 1913-14

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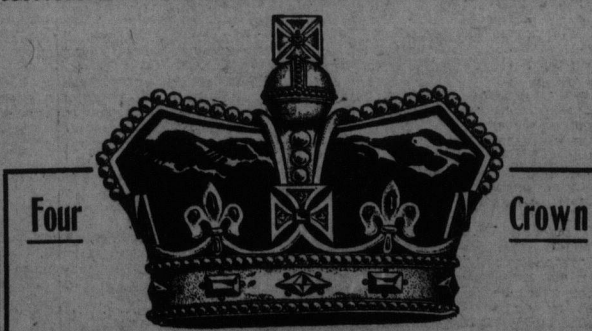
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## UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Eighth Annual Conference  
Addresses—President  
legates, Tells of Work  
the Unions Have Done

Continued From Page One.

Moncton, N. B., Oct. 15.—The address written by W. D. Lighthall, of Montreal, honorary secretary of the Canadian Municipalities, was read by Alderman Osborne, of Fredericton. The address dealt with what the Provincial Unions of Municipalities have accomplished. It was as follows:

"In any consideration of this subject it should be remembered that the Provincial Unions of Municipalities do not stand alone but are parts of a widespread army, covering in citizenship more than half of the population of the Dominion—in the operations of which their existence is one of the chief factors, even if they did do work within their respective spheres, and in which through the Parent Union, they are constantly having an influence not only on the whole of Canada, but also on each other's progress. Let me therefore commence by outlining the history of that connection.

The Union of Canadian Municipalities was established in 1901 as a necessary protective movement. It is difficult to understand at the present day how helpless a municipality then was. The charter-shark who infected Parliament and the legislatures, unscrupulous purloiners of public rights and property by means of crooked statutes, and their henchmen who dishonored the legal profession for gain—regarded all municipalities, even the strongest, as easy prey, and treated the struggles of the people with hilarious contempt. They were well organized, while the municipalities were like scattered sheep on a hillside, and were devoured one by one at pleasure. As civic franchises became more and more valuable, large fortunes attended the business of creating charters, and these were among other devices, based upon the fraudulent obtaining of monopolistic powers to charge the public high rates for necessary electric and street railway and other services. My language may seem strong but I always felt that out and out language is a deterrent of dishonesty.

In 1901 the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company obtained a most unfair charter, against the protests of the public of Montreal and Westmount. This was the immediate incident which brought about the founding of the Union of Canadian Municipalities. Municipalities in the neighborhood of Montreal were first thought of, and dismissed as insufficient. A provincial union was called into question in the Province of Quebec, for local reasons. There was an Ontario Municipal Association, but it did not even attempt to make a stand on such matters, and did do little of anything that it was practically unknown for any purpose. It was totally unknown outside of Ontario.

The City of Toronto was suffering from encroachments of the Bell Telephone Company, which entered all the streets at its own sweet pleasure. Hence Mayor Oliver Howland, when appealed to by me, as then mayor of Westmount, readily joined in the enterprise, agreeing that a strong Dominion organization was necessary. Stiff fights with the monopolies and charter sharks' and once followed, and soon it was found by them that no municipality, however weak, could now be attacked with impunity. Many legal enactments were gradually secured, maintaining municipal control of streets and franchises, and the present system of watching legislation and protecting municipal rights was evolved, with the sympathy of all honorable legislators and the press.

Better Protection.

The Union had, however, many other matters to study besides protection, and of course the needs of large municipalities differed from those of the smaller, while those of some parts of Canada differed from those of other parts. Moreover distance and expense prevented the smaller municipalities from sending delegates to the conventions of the union. Hence arose a natural partial cleavage between the rural and urban communities, and between those of the different provinces. After trying to meet the wants of both the rural and urban classes in joint meetings, to meet the situation, the project of provincial unions as branches of the parent union was devised.

The first to be established was the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, founded by Mayor J. W. Fleming, of Brandon, in 1903. It was very successful from the first, and has continued a model of its kind. At, or soon after its first convention, held at Winnipeg, it had a membership covering half the municipalities of the province. Many useful suggestions, the product of debate by practical municipal men, therefore now reached the statute book.

## Another Achievement.

A third great achievement of the Manitoba union was the obtaining, largely through the efforts of the Honorable Colin Campbell, attorney-general of the province, of the first government system of telephones in the Dominion of Canada. This also was the outcome of a proposal which arose in the Parent Union, during the bitter struggles of those years with the Bell Telephone Company. It was seen that that company would naturally use its virtual monopoly of the entire population, where there was money in the business, and that the small places and the farming population would not practically be telephoned.

Mr. Campbell therefore journeyed all the way to Montreal to confer with me, as secretary of the union, on the institution he was about to bring into being, and which at our instance the Union of Manitoba had vigorously pressed. The provincial telephone system at once realized the expectations of its originators, and today the isolation of the farmer, the farmer's family, and the small community, is banished throughout the western half of our country.

The Manitoba Union was quickly imitated in Alberta and Saskatchewan