

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1911.

## SOLVING THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

A hopeful and encouraging sign of the times is the interest which is now being shown in many ways and in many quarters in the agricultural and industrial development of New Brunswick. Enterprise and co-operation in securing new industries appeal more directly to the centres of population. The importance of a greater influx of immigration—to people the country and give an impetus to the development of the natural resources of the Province—must be felt by every section of the community. In an increase of population lies the solution of many problems which confront New Brunswick, not the least of which is the loss of Federal representation.

In the past New Brunswick, in common with the Maritime Provinces, has not received from the Dominion Government that share of attention in regard to immigration which was lavishly given to the West. There is no disputing that fact. It is admitted. It is only necessary to quote from a speech made by Mr. Oliver, the late Minister of the Interior, during the present session, to demonstrate that the policy pursued was solely to build up the West. Speaking of the development of the Western country, Mr. Oliver took great credit to himself and his Government that they had been "able to change the country that had lain in grass during the centuries." He had evidently no faith in the Maritime Provinces. "It was," he told the House, "with the development of an active immigration policy, applied if you like especially to Western Canada, that Canada found herself, that Canada began to grow, that Canada began to take the place she now occupies." The Maritime Provinces, according to this doctrine, were to be left to take care of themselves. Their growth was not a matter of supreme importance. We believe the people of the Maritime Provinces, of all shades of political opinion, recognize that in this regard injustice has been done and will give hearty co-operation to any movement which makes for improvement in existing conditions.

A movement to this end has now been inaugurated by the Dominion Government in the appointment of Mr. Arthur Hawkes as a special immigration commissioner to enquire into the conditions in each Province and submit a report on the whole immigration question. The policy of the Government, as clearly stated by Mr. Rogers, the Minister of the Interior, is to build up the West as well as Western Canada. Referring to Mr. Hawkes' appointment in reply to Mr. Oliver, he left no doubt on that point. He said: "In respect to the statement made by my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) that his immigration policy was directed entirely in the interests of Western Canada, I may say that the immigration policy of the present Government will differ somewhat in that respect from the policy followed by the hon. gentlemen opposite during their term of office; our policy will be one calculated to assist and promote immigration in all parts of this Dominion of Canada, irrespective of Western Canada or Eastern Canada."

Mr. Hawkes took up his appointment four weeks ago and has already travelled from Ottawa to Victoria, B. C., gathering en route impressions and first hand information relative to immigration. He has held conferences with various Provincial Cabinets during the past month and met numerous farmers' delegations. This week Mr. Hawkes makes his first visit as immigration commissioner to the Maritime Provinces. On Tuesday a conference in St. John, at which representatives of the Government of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island will be present, has been arranged. Provincial officials connected with the agricultural and immigration departments will also attend. The whole situation as it affects the Maritime Provinces will be discussed. The hearty co-operation which every Provincial Government in Canada has given to this movement to consolidate and improve the immigration policy of the Dominion, will go far to ensure the best results.

An opportunity will also be given Mr. Hawkes to meet the members of the Board of Trade. The commercial and industrial firms in St. John have much to gain by an increase in immigration. Their views will be of value. The general interest which has been aroused indicates that they are fully alive to the importance of the problem which confronts New Brunswick.

Mr. Hawkes is as high an authority on immigration matters as any man in Canada. An Englishman by birth, he has spent many years in the North West and more recently occupied the position of publicity agent to the Canadian Northern Railway. About a year ago he established the "British News of Canada," in which he maintained an active propaganda for the movement of British people, desiring to improve their fortunes, from England to Canada. His appointment has met with universal approval. The Montreal Herald, the leading Liberal newspaper in the Province of Quebec, pays him the following marked tribute: "Taking into consideration Mr. Hawkes' special knowledge, his training and his keen interest in the subject of immigration, it would have been hard for Mr. Rogers to find a man better qualified for the work which the new commissioner is being asked to perform." With a practical system of co-operation between the Federal and Provincial Governments, which will be one of the main features of Mr. Hawkes' report, we may look forward with confidence to a steady and increased flow of immigration to New Brunswick in the future and a general improvement of agricultural conditions in the Maritime Provinces.

## NAVAL POLICIES.

The decision of the Government to abandon the naval policy of the late Administration has been very favorably received by the British press. While there is some speculation as to the future policy that will be pursued, the expediency of giving full and careful consideration to the subject is generally recognized. The attitude of the British press towards the naval policy of the Laurier Government was one of polite acquiescence. Regarding it as the scheme which was endorsed by public opinion in Canada, they did not criticize it, but strove to make the best of it. But it was clear from the first that they did not regard it with enthusiasm. The attitude of the Imperial naval authorities was the same. The Laurier scheme was not the one they had suggested when their advice was sought; it was not even the second alternative scheme; it was the third. Naturally they now hope for something better from the Borden Government.

The underlying difference between the policy of the Laurier Government and the policy which was advocated by Mr. Borden is thus set forth by the London Times: "The Laurier Cabinet, after consultation with the Admiralty at the naval conference of August, 1905, drew up a plan for a squadron of small protected cruisers, destroyers, etc., to be controlled by Canada alone—an arm-

ment," as Sir Wilfrid described it, "to defend, if necessary, the rights of Canada and to be of assistance to the old Mother Country if ever it is required," though he added, ten days later, that the Canadian navy would not go to war unless the Parliament of Canada chose to send it. Almost at the same moment, Mr. Borden was demanding that the Canadian unit should be made "powerful and effective," and declaring, "If the Empire fights, we must fight." In those two phrases lay hid the germ of the Borden, as distinguished from the Laurier, naval policy. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, mainly concerned with maintaining local control, was content with a squadron that could be useful only for minor operations along the Canadian coast and power, grew mainly by month more discontented with the petty ships on which the then Government proposed to spend the country's money. When the Australian Parliament, which had at one time favored a local squadron for coastal defence only, began to consider seriously the developments of the "unit" agreed on in 1909 (which even then was to be a much more powerful squadron than the Canadian unit) into something approaching a first-class battle fleet, the inadequacy of the Laurier scheme must have become overwhelmingly apparent."

## THE HOME RULE ISSUE.

A recent announcement by the Asquith Ministry that a Home Rule for Ireland bill would be introduced with a view to its enactment in the lifetime of the present Parliament and the prompt reply of Mr. Bonar Law, Leader of the Opposition, that the Conservative party intended to fight the Home Rule proposal to the last gasp, are indications of the renewal of a lively discussion on this question in the Old Country.

The declaration of Mr. Bonar Law, as the Vancouver News-Advertiser in discussing the situation points out, means that the House of Lords will reject the measure to the point allowed by the Lords' veto bill. The right of the Peers to reject a measure three times, and to hold it up for two years is recognized. One year of the life of the British Parliament has expired. Under the new understanding five years may be regarded as its extreme lifetime. We may allow one year for the Government to prepare the measure and fight its way through the Commons. It seems to follow that if Mr. Asquith expects to pass the Home Rule measure without an appeal to the country on the question, he will not lose much time in beginning.

It is not likely that the Government can avoid an election on this issue. Opposition to Home Rule has not been in the least weakened among the Protestant population of Ulster. Not many months ago one of the largest meetings ever held in Ireland declared that the attempt to place Ireland under a local Parliament would be resisted by every force available. It was made plain as words could speak it that there would be armed revolution in Ulster in case Mr. Asquith's programme were carried through. This suggestion of lawlessness is singular, coming from a former Attorney General, but it is serious.

Such armed revolt is not to be anticipated, but it is evident that a strong appeal will be made from Ulster to the rest of the nation, and that it may have its effect on some English Liberals. The first Home Rule bill drove many Liberals from their party. The second Gladstone measure kept them out and confirmed their position as Unionists. A third will make some impression on the present parliamentary followers of Mr. Asquith, and a still greater impression on the Liberal electorate. Meanwhile the by-elections show unmistakable signs of reaction in favor of the Conservatives, so that it is more than likely that two or three years hence the Asquith Ministry will need every Liberal, Nationalist and Labor vote in Parliament to carry a controversial measure through the House of Commons.

## Current Comment

(Victoria Colonist.)

Collier's claims to be a "national" weekly, and yet it has the effrontery to say that the Bay of Fundy claim is the claim of clams. It is this should come under the eye of the gentle Kioothman, who packs her basketful of the delicious bivalve from door to door in these cities by the Western sea, she will please restrain her anger for Collier's conception of clams is derived from comparison of the Bay of Fundy product with the pollywogs of Lake Ontario.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Judge Charbonneau, who is hearing argument in the Hebert case, is reported as having said that he had discovered that the "Ne Temere" decree had civil effects, and was not purely canon law. If a few more discoveries of this nature can be made by the bench, counsel for Mrs. Hebert will have achieved a most gratifying triumph. Canada must not have laws which permit civil effect to the promulgations of any church.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The most recent single tax victory has been won at Johannesburg, South Africa. A proposition to raise all local taxes from land values has carried at a city election just held. Johannesburg thus assumes in South Africa a position similar to that of Vancouver, in Canada, as leader in the taxation of land values. Other cities in that part of the world can not long refrain from following suit.

(Vancouver Province.)

Sir Wilfrid's navy would have been a useless expense to the country, it would have been a lasting burden upon the public treasury, and in the event of war between Great Britain and another power it could never have been of the slightest service either in our own waters or in foreign seas. As Mr. Monk says, there was no display in disapproving of such a scheme.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

A sizable amount of solicitude is being displayed by the Opposition press because Mr. Borden, after being in power all of these months, does not settle state affairs off-hand. Our Crit friends need not worry. The wise man ponders carefully momentous matters. The nation's business cannot be disposed of with the same facility as that of a corner grocery.

(Calgary Herald.)

The year 1911 is selected by a great physicist as the time when the earth will cease to turn on its axis in contradiction to this view Professor Russell fixes the date as October, 1914. There is room for an argument between these dates.

(Vancouver Province.)

When the Yukon territory is attached to British Columbia, the voters' list in the North Pole division will be revised and the name of Dr. Cook struck off as an absentee.

(Toronto Globe.)

The Marys of the British Empire gave Queen Mary \$88,500. That's what she gets for not calling herself Marie when she came back from college.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Ottawa has got such a shock to its system by watching the Laurier Government at close range that it is doubtful if it will ever again elect a Liberal.

(London Free Press.)

The Christmas shopper finds that the task postponed loses some of its forbidding aspect.

## ASKS INFORMATION OF PONEY EXPRESS

To the Editor of The Standard.  
Sir:—About 1848 there was a pony express, between Victoria and Victoria Beach for forwarding the Ketchikan news landed at Halifax by the early mail steamers. From Victoria Beach the dispatches were conveyed across the bay to St. John, which was the terminus of the first telegraph line, and from there the news was wired to New York.

The pony express was carried on for two years and the writer is endeavoring to gather all the information possible about that service. There were relay stations every 12 miles between Halifax and Victoria Beach and there must be a number of old readers of your paper who could furnish interesting local details respecting the experience of the dispatch riders. When carrying dispatches they travelled day and night and drove fast horses selected for the purpose. As the steamer did not arrive at Halifax with regularity, the keepers of the relay stations had to be on the alert and the readiness at any hour the dispatch riders came along.

I will be obliged if you will give space to this letter in the hope that it will reach the notice of persons who may be able to give the writer some information on the above subject. I will be greatly indebted to you if you will be good enough to communicate with me regarding same and would especially appreciate hearing from them as soon as possible in order to incorporate all the information in a paper for the January meeting of the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

Wishing you the compliments of the season and thanking you in advance,  
Yours very truly,  
JOHN W. REGAN,  
P. O. Box 25, Halifax.

## AMUSEMENTS.

Santa Claus, Princess Elizabeth and New Films at Nickel.

Santa Claus would have been saved hundreds of visits had he visited the Nickel Saturday afternoon where children from all sections of the city, and some came in from the suburbs, assembled to see the pretty little Christmas music-play in which the dear old saint of the season plays the leading part. It was certainly an animated scene in the big theatre. This sketch with St. Nick, Happy Holligan, Glommy Gus, Jimmy and the baby, also Jimmy's pal, will be put on again today at 3:15 and 4:15 and right up to next Saturday afternoon. Saturday will be changed daily and it is probable some more of the funny paper characters will be introduced before the week is out. There have been numerous requests to put on the Christmas play at night, but the Nickel management fears this is impracticable, unless it be at the latter part of new bill of motion pictures, including the week. Today there will be a fine Biograph's domestic drama "Shadows of the Past" and a lesson "The Cure of John Douglas." Mr. Bessette has a new song, Princess Elizabeth, the child dancing, and a French toe dancing, in which she excels. She will have a new singing number also.

## Miss Harding Gets Piano.

Through the columns of The Standard, the Townshend Piano Co. of German street, during the past two weeks have conducted a bidding contest by which a \$550 Emala piano was offered to the highest bidder. This contest closed at noon on Saturday, and soon thereafter the bids were opened by the judges previously selected. It was found that the highest bid had been sent in by Miss Mary Harding, of Main street, the amount of her offer being \$250. The piano was delivered at Miss Harding's home on Saturday afternoon. The bids ranged as low as \$50, there being several of \$225.

## ANOTHER INHALE

HANK HAD FED THE HORSES AND PUT THEM AWAY FOR THE NIGHT. HE MADE STRAIGHT FOR THE KITCHEN TO GET HIS CAKES WHEN HE WAS GREETED WITH, 'IF A DEPARTMENT STORE HAD A BARGAIN SALE WOULD A BARBER SHOP?'

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