

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1920

### IMMIGRATION.

Commissioner Lamb, of the Salvation Army, says there are great numbers of people in the Mother Country who are anxious to emigrate. He complains that the Canadian officials in England are discouraging emigration to Canada at present, and that as a consequence those who wish to go abroad are turning their attention to Australia. An opinion expressed by Mr. Lamb deserves consideration; no says that agricultural laborers in England are not now disposed to come to Canada, as, with the breaking up of the great estates, they hope to go in for farming at home. For years it has been the policy of the Canadian Government to encourage the immigration of people willing to go on the land, but no particular inducements have been held out to industrial workers to come here. That being so, there is no particular reason to reverse the policy simply because Commissioner Lamb thinks that the attitude of Canadian officials in England is developing some unkind feelings among those who wish to escape from the Old Country. There are in our cities this winter quite a number of returned soldiers out of employment, and until they are provided for there is no good reason to encourage immigration which would increase the competition for jobs in this country.

The British Government would doubtless be glad to assist a movement to get rid of the half a million or so men who are now out of employment there. One thing that is making the British worker dangerous is the spectacle of hundreds of thousands of his fellows out of work and his fear of falling into the same predicament; his anger is aroused against a system of society which cannot find employment for all its workers except during a great war.

Commissioner Lamb says that there are tens of thousands of young girls in Britain anxious to migrate to Canada. It is suggested that they should be brought over to solve the domestic service problem, but probably a good deal of discrimination would have to be exercised to obtain that result.

### FOREST FIRES.

If Hon. M. Smith succeeds in organizing a forestry service which will put a stop to forest fires there will be justification for his big increases in expenditures. Last year the destruction caused by forest fires in this Province amounted to \$139,700, according to officials of the forestry department, or about \$2,000 more than was spent on the whole forestry service.

Thirty-nine neglected settlers' clearing fires caused a damage of \$54,363, or 39 per cent. of the total damage for the entire province. The neglected camp fires of fishermen, hunters, campers and picnic parties caused a damage of \$46,391, or one-third of the total.

Another \$14,250 of damage was caused by the careless use of fire by industrial operators, such as portable mills, open burners, roasting plants, etc.

Incendiary forest fires totalled seven, with damage aggregating \$12,770; and 17 fires of unknown origin, with estimated damage \$7,640.

There were 306 railway fires, but most of them were of no material importance. The total damage caused by these fires was but \$4,340, or only three per cent. of the total for the Province. Of this amount, \$4,230 of the damage was caused by fires along the Canadian Government Railway, which are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners. Lines in the Province under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission caused only \$110 of damage by forest fires during the year.

### A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

London, Ontario, claims to be the third city in Canada in point of wealth and population. "Canadian Municipal Statistics" for 1919-20 gives the population of London as 58,421, and of St. John as 56,000. The same publication gives the area of London as 6,302 acres, and of St. John as 12,440 acres. London now claims a population of 59,140, and St. John of 56,000. The following comparative figures relating to last year are of interest:

	London.	St. John.
Total assessment .....	\$44,121,915	\$46,010,510
Taxable land .....	17,017,027	
Taxable buildings .....	22,739,800	
Exemption .....	20,686,436	
Income assessment .....	7,500,000	
Tax rate .....	2.59	2.62
London's business assessment was \$3,849,117; St. John's assessment on personal estate, mostly stock-in-trade, was \$7,241,550.		
Last year London's general tax rate was 20.65 mills and the school tax 11.35 mills. Its local improvement debt was \$630,863. Its revenue		

### WHAT THEY SAY

Exactly.  
 (Atlanta Constitution.)  
 What do the statisticians mean by

the "peak of high prices"—something upon which to impale the long-suffering "ultimate consumer"?

### Legal Fiction.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)  
 A New York Judge has ruled that a dollar is still worth 100 cents in the eyes of the law. Now you know what is meant by a "legal fiction."

### A Pessimist.

(Houston Post.)  
 The combined debt of the world is now \$200,000,000,000. And when the world shall have finally paid this debt, grasshoppers will be wearing furs and frogs will be professors of Greek in the leading universities.

### No Chance.

(Columbia Dispatch.)  
 Probably no married man, no matter how well trained his hand and brain, is quick enough to take his knife and scrape up a small quantity of red raspberry jam, adulterated with rhubarb from the luncheon cloth without getting caught.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Editor Daily Standard,  
 St. John, N. B.

February 16, 1920.  
 Dear Sir,—Reference the article which appeared in the Daily Telegraph on Saturday, last, eulogizing the chief superintendent of education for the banning of the latest edition of Myers' History from the schools of the province.

The ground taken in this article seems to be that in the withdrawing of this book from the curriculum the authorities have fulfilled their duty and have removed all stigma of neglect from themselves. But the fact remains that the book was introduced into our schools for the study of our students just at the age when facts once learned are most apt to be assimilated. Moreover, the book was not ordered to be removed until a storm of protest had been raised by the parents, and I am informed in many instances by the students themselves.

Now, how did the book get into the schools? There are only two ways in which this could have happened. Either it was introduced after having been read and authorized by the board; or else they did not read it. In the latter case they are quite as culpable as in the first. In the first case only a very regrettable error of judgment could be charged against them; in the second, the body who are supposed to oversee every textbook that goes into our schools have been so lamentably remiss in their duty that a history abounding in distortions of the true facts and gross historical inaccuracies has been put into the hands of those who in a very few years will be called upon to see that Canada occupies and retains her proper place in the family of nations.

If the board did not know what was in the book they have failed in this most important duty that was entrusted to them. If they are to be justified in this instance, who knows what books may eventually find their way into the hands of our students. It is up to the Board of Education to know what is in the books that go into our schools, and they must be made to realize that the Telegraph speaks of a committee who are appointed for this purpose. Some of us would like to know where, in view of the wording of the Schools Act this committee derives its authority. Aside from that, surely at this time when history is being made every day these people could not have been so shortsighted as to believe that an American history would remain many months without an account of the war.

The statements that objection was raised because the book did not contain an appropriate reference to the deeds of the Canadians is an error. Objection is made to the fact that an

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Leroy Shooter were getting on each side of the fire plug this afternoon and Sid Hunt turned around the corner with his fox terrier Teddy, which if you ever see one of them turn around the corner you are pretty near sure to see the other one, and I sed, I bet he's going to tell us about some new trick he just tawt Teddy, wats you want to bet?

G, I tell you lets wats do, lets kid him about Teddys tricks, and make him mad, sed Leroy.

Wich we started to do wen he came up, Leroy Shooter saying, Hello Sid, have you tawt eddy any new tricks, can he stand on the end of his tale and wiggle his eers yet?

Wich Teddy started to jump up on Leroy and make sniffs with his nose Leroy saying, wats he doing, Sid, is that a new trick, is he giving a imitation of a train coming into a station?

Teddy jest keeping on making sniffs at him, and I sed, Have you tawt him to play a mouth organ yet, Sid?

Aw, I know wats a matter with you fellows, youre jellies, thats wats a matter with you fellows, sed Sid.

Jellies, haw, haw, have you tawt him how to beet eggs with his tale and dance a jig at the same time? sed Leroy Shooter.

Jellies, haw, haw, have you tawt him how to speak Spanish yet, Sid? I sed.

He knows how to do mind reeding all rite, come heer, Teddy, sed Sid. Wich Teddy ran over to him and Sid sed, Reed sumbodyz mind, Teddy. And he put his face down to Teddys face, saying, Wats that Teddy, wats that, I cant hardly heer you—he says Leroy Shooter has sumthing to eat in his pocket.

He's crazy, sed Leroy. But me and Sid quick grabbed him and scotched him and wats was in his coat pocket but a half of a pretzil, and Leroy looked sorry he ever sed anything about Teddys tricks but he had to give us each a hunk anyways to prevent himself from looking stinky.

Proving wat Teddy was making sniffs about.

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