

## The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1911.

## OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of New Brunswick opened yesterday. While the legislative programme suggested in the Speech from the Throne is quite extensive, there is nothing in it to prolong the session beyond the usual period. The Opposition are very windy, but there are several reasons why they will not wish to do the usual stunt of talking. They have rung the changes on Mr. Hazen's broken pledges for so long that everybody has become weary and even the oratorical Mr. Copp can no longer keep even a Westmorland County audience awake when he reaches the broken pledges section of his speech.

There has been a mighty change in things provincial in the last three years. When Mr. Hazen first met the House as Premier he was now in harness though not by any means inexperienced in the Legislature and with the Provincial Secretary appeared in the somewhat unique role as a critic of the Government itself. Since then Mr. Hazen has made many new laws to improve the government of the province which have been tried long enough to furnish proof of the wisdom of the changes made.

In contrast of the Government expenditure for the past six years is altogether in line with Mr. Hazen. He has increased the income of the province so that he has been enabled to spend on other agriculture, public works and education. The Government the province has had, under the late Mr. Hazen, was constantly adding to the larger grants to cover their over-expenditures on current revenue.

Mr. Hazen has been able to do this in the past few weeks regarding the extra revenue. But there have been at these increased expenditures the territorial revenue the same honest administration he could have of the province and Mr. Hazen and not have been quite as much in debt of fully half a million of handed down to his successors to pay.

Two other important measures are referred to in the speech—the report of the survey of the Valley Railway and a resolution regarding provincial representation in the Dominion Parliament as it affects the province of New Brunswick.

There have been many days wasted in the Legislature discussing the Valley Railway project because of lack of detailed information on the subject. The report referred to gives this information to the House and the thanks of the community at large are due to Mr. Hazen for the first real progress in procuring a railway through the fertile valley of the St. John. With the report before them members of the House will be in a position to deal intelligently with this great question when it comes up for discussion. With this and other matters of equal weight to come up the session of the Legislature will be an important if not a lengthy one.

## A CANADIAN "CHAMP CLARK."

Readers of The Standard are familiar with the "Annexation" utterances of Mr. Beauchamp Clark, the leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives at Washington, and the wild panic which ensued. Mr. Clark, more frank than President Taft, threw discretion to the winds, and declared that the United States were "now ready to annex Canada" and that this desire lay really at the root of the Democrats' willingness to vote for the Reciprocity bill. In this he was seconded by numerous like utterances from other Democrats, and a general outburst of statements in the press of the United States, all indicative of like feeling and purpose.

The President and his cabinet at once became alarmed. They had striven to conceal the cloven hoof of Annexation beneath the more pleasing drapery of Commercial Union, and the far-sighted statesmanship appeal. They feared the effect upon Canadians of Mr. Clark's blunt avowal, and the jubilant acclaim given to it by the press. Frenzied efforts were at once put forth to minimize the possible damage and allay the suspicion aroused in the Canadian mind. It was semi-officially announced that Mr. Clark was a joker, and had uttered the fearful words in one of his funny moods. President Taft repudiated the sentiment in an official utterance, and the word "caution" was sent all along the line. Secretary Knox went to Chicago and publicly proclaimed the autonomy of Canada. Agricultural Secretary Wilson's annexation letter to the Grangers was cut and carved so as to leave out the objectionable parts, and even J. J. Hill was admonished to repress his distinctly anti-preferential alarms. In all this the wisdom of the Reciprocity pushers in the United States was shown, and their action proved them alive to the gravity of the situation.

A ridiculously similar situation has developed in the House of Commons at Ottawa. During the recent debate Dr. Clark of Red Deer took the floor on behalf of the Government. Dr. Clark is an entertaining talker, and is prized by the Grits as an antidote to Mr. Foster, from whose attacks they perennially suffer and to which they are particularly sensitive. Now Dr. Clark is a red

hot Free Trader, and avows himself as an enthusiastic disciple of Cobden. To him Protection is of the Devil and he shows it no quarter. He hates Tariff Reform as does Lloyd George, whom he especially worships. To him free imports spell prosperity and bustling protectionists and manufacturers in a chafed spot.

Just at this particular moment when the Government are anxious to pose as protectionists, in all but natural products, and allay the fears of Canadian industries that this Reciprocity Agreement is but an entering wedge for the removal of all protection against United States competition, Dr. Clark was a somewhat risky choice for the Government to set up as a mouthpiece. Just now when the Government are cabling England to assure the British people that they need have no fears as to the maintenance of British Preference, Dr. Clark, who classes Tariff Reform, as a partner of Protection, and wholly evil, was a strange selection for the position of Government defender. Radical convictions and an unbridled tongue might be fruitful of damaging consequences.

The Government, however, with the same spirit of superlative thoughtlessness as characterized their embassy to Washington, forgot possible dangers in their urgent desire for defence against the attacks of the Opposition. So Dr. Clark was put up amidst great applause and handclapping by the supporters of the Government. And Dr. Clark under the stimulus of the occasion threw prudence to the winds and started in for the scalps of his old enemies, Protection and British Preference. Not Sir Richard in his palmist days of vitriolic denunciation was ever more strong in his language, though, truth to tell, he was always easily more classic. What but Free Trade had made Britain great, and what had made her great was equally potent today, and would make any country that adopted it mighty among the nations. What are the manufacturers crying out about? If Dr. Clark had his way they would have something worth while crying for.

labor, well, "unless the laborers can be deluded into supporting Protection, the thing is doomed past redemption." Mr. Foster had complained that the Free Trade had dishied Imperial Preference; well if the scheme of the Chamberlains had been carried out, it would have given Free Trade, and freedom to trade where they please.

For two hours Dr. Clark, with all his adherents, and extolled this first instance of an amazed House. In the Government's protest, amusing spectacle of the and galleries gazed upon the Cabinet Ministers vigorously thumping the desks and uproariously clapping their hands at the onslaught on Protection and When Dr. Clark, all gory with the blood of mannequins, and protectionists and their pestilent abettors, facturers, and Mr. Fielding ostentatiously marched up Sir W. B. Macpherson, and shook his head and sated to the end with frenzied delight.

And to think of it are these men fools or demagogues? If they expect to appeal to the electorate as representatives of the industries of Canada and friends of Imperial Preference, they must be fools to place their confidence in the hands of a radical Free Trader who for hours lashed and walloped them for their support of Protection. If they are simply hypocrites whose mask for fifteen years has been Protection, and who now rejoice when Dr. Clark tears it in strips from their faces they are not very thrifty deceivers. Anyway, the "Champ Clark" of Canada has performed a very useful service in opening the eyes of loyal and true Canadians to the hollow pretence these men have been practising, and the real dangers hitherto concealed but now frankly disclosed in this "entering wedge." Our "Champ Clark" deserves our gratitude.

## AMERICAN ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

Ten billion passengers are carried in a year on the electric railways of the United States. There are 35,000 miles of electric railway track (single), 75,000 cars, and the capitalization of the companies is four billion dollars. Their annual income is 440 millions. They have 250,000 salaried employees. The companies holding membership in the American Electric Railway Association—which is a professional and technical body of practical, operating railroad officials—own 26,425 miles of the above-mentioned track, 66,400 cars, and have a capitalization of two billion six hundred and ninety-three million dollars. They carry seven billion passengers yearly, almost five times the population of the earth.

These gigantic figures and their significance were recently discussed at a banquet given to the American Electric Railway Association by the Electric Railway Manufacturers' Association, an affiliated body, in New York. It was shown, too, that within the next ten years the existing traffic will, in all probability be doubled. Moreover, the steam roads which, like the Pennsylvania, New York Central, and New York New Haven and Hartford Railroads, have already electrified divisions of their main lines, as well as the steam roads entering Chicago, will, a decade hence, have carried electrification over a mileage which at the present time would seem incredible.

Steam roads having electrical divisions are admitted to membership in the association. Only 25 years ago not a mile of electric track existed anywhere, not a dollar was invested in the business. Electric traction is the largest, and perhaps the most wonderful of the new industries. Mr. Arthur W. Brady, of Anderson, Indiana, president of the American Electric Railway Association, said in his speech at the New York meeting that perhaps the most interesting and most important subject discussed at the conference had been the relations and proper understanding between the railways and the people.

The Telegraph is greatly concerned over the removal of the rails of the Albert Southern Railway. As the subsidy to this railroad was paid during the administration of Mr. Blair, perhaps the Telegraph would inform the public under what act of the Legislature the subsidy was paid. Mr. Robinson is also displaying a very deep interest in this railway. Perhaps he has the information.

## Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)  
Mr. Carnegie writes to Senator Beveridge with regard to the Reciprocity scheme that "he has never known a subject so universally favored in and around New York." And no wonder. New York hopes to share with Boston and Portland in the command of the Atlantic business of Canada.

(Hamilton Spectator.)  
The decision of the Sons of England organization to undertake a general protest throughout Canada, among Englishmen against the Reciprocity deal may be offensive to Sir Wilfrid and his finance minister, but it is closely in line with public feeling and desire, which after all is more important.

(Boston Globe.)  
If we ever thought of annexing Canada, it wouldn't be in winter weather.

## Commission Government Is Without Party Politics

There is no party politics in the campaign in favor of Commission government. The Executive of the Citizens' Committee is made up of the following supporters of both political parties, whose names are a guarantee that partisanship is entirely eliminated in the contest for good government in St. John.

W. H. Thorne.  
M. E. Agar.  
H. Colby Smith.  
Dr. W. F. Robinson.  
Frank H. Fernald.  
James A. McEwen.  
W. D. McEwen.  
Col. A. J. Armstrong.

W. H. Barnaby.  
A. O. Skinner.  
T. H. Estabrooks.  
H. B. Schofield.  
H. P. Robinson.  
Walter W. Allingham.  
Timothy Collins.

Adv.

## AMUSEMENTS

## Nickel's Week-End Show

Miss Florence Lawrence, who is credited with making the Biograph Company famous, will reappear at the Nickel today for the first time in a long time, possibly over a year and a half. She will be featured in a Lubin's exceedingly funny comedy "Stung, Or His Bogus Uncle." An Edison story of pathetic and at times comic interest is "Milk, the Little Messenger Boy Miser," a sweet tale indeed, filled with boyism and fine New York scenes. The strongly dramatic feature of the bill is "The Curse of the Red Man," an incident in the life of an Apache brave, who is sent to the great school a Sherey man, but who falls a prey to strong drink. This is a powerful presentation of the evils of liquor. Miss Humphrey will sing her last song of the engagement and Miss Nevin has a pretty illustrated ballad. To matinee for Saturday will doubtless be largely attended as the bill is designed to suit the tastes of the boys and girls.

On Monday the Nickel will introduce Kathleen Furlong-Schmidt, who really needs no formal introduction to a St. John audience. This talented young lady will sing the brightest bits from the ruling favorites in light opera and her repertoire is a long and pleasing one. During her residence in this, her home city, the Nickel's next favorite was a most fetching concert performer, both in points of vocal performance and charming personality.

## Assignment.

Andrew I. Megarity, who has conducted a grocery store at 283 City Road, has discontinued the business and made an assignment of the benefit of his creditors to John A. Sinclair, of Macfarlane, Sinclair and Macfarlane. The balance of his stock and fixtures was disposed of at public sale on Wednesday, and the proceeds will go to the creditors. The liabilities are about \$15,000, and the assets from \$700 to \$800. A meeting of the creditors will be held on the afternoon of Thursday at 9th, in the offices of MacRae, Sinclair and Macfarlane.

## The Stanley's Progress.

A Johnston, deputy minister of marine and fisheries, passed through St. John at noon yesterday en route to the district on business connected with the department. He announced that it was possible that the government steamer Stanley, which is now trying to open up communication with the Magdalen Islands, may be recalled by wireless in a couple of days if she does not make better progress. During the past few days she has drifted back with the ice instead of advancing, and is now about opposite St. Paul's Island. On board the Stanley is Capt. Wm. Chapman whose wife died under tragic circumstances here Saturday.

## Congregational Church.

Rev. H. S. Mahood, of Paris, Ont., will arrive in St. John on Friday for the purpose of taking charge of services at the Congregational church for the next fortnight, and it is possible that his visit may lead to a call being extended to him by the Congregational Church. Since the departure of Rev. S. W. Anthony, the church has been without a pastor and Mr. Mahood comes highly recommended by the Congregational Union of Canada. The annual meeting of the Congregational Sunday school was held on Wednesday evening in the school room of the church. The secretary-treasurer reported that \$45 had been raised for school purposes and \$27 for missions, etc., and that the average attendance showed an improvement over the last year. Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: C. E. MacMichael, superintendent; C. G. Flewelling, secretary-treasurer; and E. A. Coupe, librarian.

## KING DEPENDS ON PRAYERS OF CHURCH

London, Mar. 2.—Expressing confidence that the prayers of the church will aid him in conducting the affairs of state, King George replied to the convocation address of the Archbishop of Canterbury today. He said: "It will always be my endeavor, with God's help, to maintain and consolidate the foundations of public and private virtue which you labor to preserve and on which the welfare of my people rests. The knowledge that the prayers are offered unceasingly by the church in my behalf, strengthens me and increases my trust that the Almighty will bestow blessings in the most precious measure on the solemn hour of my coronation and throughout whatever length of years He may be pleased to grant me."

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