

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1913.

## ST. JOHN AND THE G. T. P.

Through the medium of a sectional map and a display of big type, the Telegraph attempted to convey to its readers the impression that if the line of railway from Napadogan to Fredericton is not speedily constructed the Grand Trunk Pacific traffic will be taken past the port of St. John and to the port of Halifax. What a pity the Telegraph has so poor a memory or, possibly, what folly that it refuses to look upon any question except through the glass of partisanship. Yesterday the Telegraph said editorially:

"The closing of the St. Lawrence next year will find St. John without any direct connection with the G. T. P. except by way of Moncton. But when G. T. P. freight reaches Napadogan on the Transcontinental—a point about fifty miles from Fredericton—it will be within 125 miles of St. John; and it will still be miles from Halifax. With an advantage of 179 miles in its favor it may be hurriedly assumed that St. John must get the freight. Unfortunately there is no railway from Napadogan to Fredericton. This necessary link, to enable the G. T. P. to come into St. John, the Valley Railway, has not even been surveyed. We have as yet no assurance that it will be built. Moreover, the Gagetown-St. John section of the Valley Railway is still in the air.

"On the other hand, the railway from Napadogan to Halifax is already in operation. The Transcontinental from Napadogan to Moncton, and the I.C.R. from Moncton to Halifax. From Moncton, it is true, the freight can be hauled to St. John, but it never will be if the G.T.P. gets the freight. The I.C.R. to haul export freight past Napadogan is to haul it away from its natural port; once it comes to a point within 125 miles of St. John, every consideration of business would urge it straight to this port—if the Napadogan-Fredericton spur were built and the Gagetown-St. John section completed."

Before considering the circumstances and events that led to the routing of the G. T. P. to Moncton and the hauling of export freight past the point where "every consideration of business would urge it straight to this port" let us consider the Telegraph's previous attitude to the same question.

On October 28, 1910, when the Laurier Government, the men responsible for routing the G. T. P. away from St. John, were still in power, the Telegraph published several columns of matter extolling the route. They also had a map, a larger and more ornate map than that of yesterday, and an editorial. Not a word then of the necessity of a line from Napadogan to Fredericton, for such a plan did not then agree with the course mapped out for the Pugsley organ which, on that date, announced:

"There is needed, of course, a direct line from Chipman to St. John as a short cut for traffic seeking tide-water but, until that is built, the I. C. R. from Moncton to St. John, over which the new railway has running rights, will be utilized. In any case St. John is the nearest winter Atlantic port for the business of the new railway."

If the Laurier Government had done its duty there would have been no cause for worry regarding the G. T. P., and St. John, or for reason for any short line, for this port would have been the eastern terminus of the Transcontinental. The Telegraph now suggests that the present Government should undo the wrong which Messrs. Pugsley, Carvell, et al, deliberately perpetrated against us. When the proposed route of the Transcontinental was discussed in the House of Commons in 1903, the report shows that the Conservative members to a man fought to bring the road down the St. John Valley so that St. John might get the benefit of the traffic. Liberal members opposed it and the Liberals won. Consequently the G. T. P. went to Moncton. A grievous wrong has been done to St. John. The Laurier Government did it, and the Telegraph was party to the crime.

Even now, with the construction of the link from Napadogan to Fredericton, the G. T. P. traffic cannot reach St. John except over the Valley Railway. That railway will stand as a credit to Hon. Mr. Hazen, Hon. J. K. Fleming and their colleagues in the legislature. It will be of great value to this port, and yet who opposed it more strenuously than did Mr. Pugsley, the representative of St. John in the Dominion Parliament? The Fredericton Gleaner nicely describes Mr. Pugsley and his newspaper in the discovery of yesterday, it says:

"Who did more to hinder the construction of this road than Mr. Pugsley, St. John's representative in the Dominion Parliament? Both in and out of office every obstacle that his ingenuity could suggest, he threw in the way, ably backed up by other Liberal members from the province, and it was not until the Borden Government came into office that construction of the road became possible. No journal has been more persistent than the Tele-

graph in its attempts to belittle and condemn the efforts of Mr. Hazen and his colleagues to get the Valley road built; and no journal could have given more consistent support to Mr. Pugsley in his efforts to balk construction, than it did. Now it has awakened in a fright. We have read a good deal lately in the columns of the Telegraph about discrimination on the part of the present Dominion Government against the port of St. John. If our contemporary has a scintilla of consistency about it, such a word should never be used again by it in connection with the Government and its dealings with St. John, after the publication of the story of the Laurier Government's treatment of the port."

Again the Telegraph stands utterly condemned, not only of gross inconsistency and unfairness, but of tacitly approving the greatest blow ever struck at this city and port.

## SIR WILFRID'S LATEST

Realizing that his senseless opposition to the question of Canadian national aid to Britain will not impress the people of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier now takes the field with a policy of cheaper food. Such a policy sounds well, but there is a good question if Sir Wilfrid, astute as he is, can provide means of meeting the difficulty.

There can be no question that Canadians in common with the rest of the world, are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the growing cost of living, but it is very doubtful that the Liberal leader, even if sincere, can find any way to legislate against the evil.

Such an attitude as that he has now adopted would have been much more effective if he had taken it up while in power. It is a well known fact that Sir Wilfrid, when premier, did not father any campaign against the high cost of living. The Liberal canvass that reciprocity would have helped to reduce the cost of the necessities of life has been proven fallacious.

President Wilson of the United States, in an effort toward cheaper living, made certain reductions in the United States tariff. What was the result? It costs just as much to live now in any part of the American union as it did before the new tariff bill became law.

The Detroit Free Press deals with this matter, and the attitude of Canadian Liberals toward it in a well considered and reasonable editorial, in which it says:

"Our friends across in Canada, the Liberal party portion of them, at least, are diligently calling attention to the elevated cost of living in their country and are demanding reduction in their own tariff like that given us in the United States. They seem to think they are proposing a remedy. Have they not inquired into the effect our own tariff has had in lowering prices?"

"The food stuffs that are costing more in Canada because of the new American markets are not a cent cheaper than they were over here. What gain do our neighbors expect from following our course? To lower the Canadian tariff would not bring any food of supplies into the Dominion; or, if it should, they would not bring down the prevailing level of cost. If American producers could not get as much by exporting as by selling at home there would be no exports. If they could get more by exporting, they would get it. That is what the Canadian producers are doing to us."

"The whole beautiful theory of free trade is being revised because of the American experiment in tariff lowering, and our Canadian friends are talking a dead language when they speak about the lowering of prices by lowering duties. It isn't as easy to solve the cost of living problem as we were taught to think."

The cost of living has now reached a point where it becomes a very real problem. The experience of the United States has shown, as instanced by the Free Press, that it can hardly be solved by tariff reduction. One of Premier Borden's pledges was that our tariff would be considered by a commission to be appointed, and upon whose report the nature of the action taken would depend.

The Premier's record is such as to leave no doubt that this pledge will be kept. What then, is the necessity for Sir Wilfrid to "horn in" at this juncture unless it is his intention to use the cost of living question as a pretext for the introduction of politics? The Liberal leader's sudden advocacy of reduced cost of living might prove more effective were it not for the fact that his record is against him. Independent Canadians are inclined to look askance at his new suggestion because, during the whole of his political career, there has been a wide variance between his words and his actions, his promises and his performances. Ever ready with eloquent and high sounding declarations upon political issues, seldom did his professions and his conduct correspond. In short, he has been an out and out opportunist, willing on the instant to embrace any doctrine that might help to keep him in power. He cast his reciprocity dice and lost. Apparently he is now preparing to gamble again, but with a new game.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

## HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Louis de Buade, Count de Frontenac, the great soldier and statesman who restored the fallen fortunes of France in America, died in Quebec 215 years ago today, Nov. 28, 1698. With his death the French power in Canada began to decline. Frontenac was born in France about 1620, and at seventeen became a colonel, while at twenty-nine he was a veteran, with the rank of lieutenant-general, covered with glory and decorations and scars. After his victorious European career he was chosen to lead the troops sent for the relief of Canada, and in 1672 he was made governor. In 1678 he built Fort Frontenac, on the present site of Kingston. After a notable controversy with Bishop Laval, Frontenac was recalled in 1682, but seven years later he was reappointed, and ruled Canada with an iron hand until his death. He repulsed Phipps at Quebec, and sailed several other victories before his war-like zeal and unceasing activity exhausted him.

## FIRST THINGS

## WASHINGTON IRVING.

The first American author to win general recognition, of his genius in Great Britain was Washington Irving, who died, in his seventy-seventh year, at "Sunnyside," N. Y., fifty-four years ago today. The immortal humorist, historian and essayist was born in New York, the son of a native of Scotland. He was educated for the law, but his tastes were all in the direction of literature, and his legal career was a brief and almost briefcase one. At eighteen he wrote "Letters of Jonathan Oldstyle," which were published in the New York Morning Chronicle, a newspaper owned by his elder brother, Dr. Peter Irving. He was only twenty-five when he wrote the celebrated "History of New York," by Diedrick Knickerbocker. From 1815 until 1832 Irving resided in England, where his genius was fully recognized. Later he returned to Europe as United States minister to Spain, and spent several years in Madrid.

## THE PASSING DAY

The blood-spattered pages of early American history recount many terrible tales of murderous massacres perpetrated by ferocious redskins on the paleface pioneers who had taken up the white man's burden in far wilder places. There are at least two sides to every question, however, and there had been occasions when the white man's vengeance took the form of cruel and wanton butchery. Such an occasion was the "battle" between the Creeks and the whites, when Creek women and children, as well as braves, were slaughtered by their white foes.

In the fall of 1812, the Creeks of Alabama and Georgia, incited by Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet, were on the war-path. Defeated in several engagements, they fought on, and many unfortunate white settlers were slain. From the survivors went up a cry for help, and it was answered by General John Floyd, who placed himself at the head of 950 Georgia militia and 400 friendly Indians. Guided by the Creeks, they fought on, and many unfortunate white settlers were slain. From the survivors went up a cry for help, and it was answered by General John Floyd, who placed himself at the head of 950 Georgia militia and 400 friendly Indians. Guided by the Creeks, they fought on, and many unfortunate white settlers were slain. From the survivors went up a cry for help, and it was answered by General John Floyd, who placed himself at the head of 950 Georgia militia and 400 friendly Indians. Guided by the Creeks, they fought on, and many unfortunate white settlers were slain. 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