

The St. John Standard.

PUBLISHED BY:
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 Freeman & Co., London, Eng.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 City Delivery, \$6.00 per year
 By Mail in Canada, 1.00 per year
 Semi-Weekly home, 1.50 per year
 Semi-Weekly to U. S., 2.50 per year
 (Agent Measurement)

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1920.

THAT RECOUNT.

It is much to be regretted that a newspaper of the standing of The Globe should be unable to intelligently discuss any controversial matter without showing such an amount of bitterness as it does. Because Mr. Baxter, as he was perfectly justified in doing, took objection to certain informalities in the application for a recount, he is held up by The Globe to every opprobrium for, as it alleges, attempting to deprive Mr. Bentley of the seat in St. John County, the seat which the sheriff declared to be lost by eight votes. We would point out to our contemporaries that the application was made in perfect, and no opportunity was afforded Mr. Baxter to show cause against it. The Globe's statement that "Mr. Baxter's course, if it does not express 'certain knowledge' that he is not the 'rightful owner,' clearly indicates 'doubt of his ability to establish that 'right by a count of the ballots,' is about the silliest and most childish contention that was ever put forward. The votes have been counted once and added up several times and the result has been declared to be that Mr. Baxter's total is eight more than Mr. Bentley's. We would draw attention to the fact that the application for the recount only questioned the validity of one vote, which, if substantiated, would still leave Mr. Baxter seven ahead.

Judge Armstrong will probably appreciate The Globe's method of expressing his views. "At least he says he agrees," meaning, we presume, that while legally he feels that Mr. Baxter is in the wrong, politically he prefers to say he is right. The quotation can carry no other interpretation.

The Globe's keen regard for broad principles, as against technicalities, is of somewhat recent growth, and is, we fear, merely aroused for the occasion. We would remind our contemporaries of the incident in Queens-Sunbury in 1911, when Col. H. H. McLean was declared elected over Mr. Wilnot by eleven votes. An application for a recount was made to the Judge of the Queens County Court, Judge Wilson, at his office in Fredericton, and a recount was ordered. Before the recount was had, objection was taken that the order was made outside the jurisdiction of the County Court of Queens, although made by the Judge of that Court, and Judge Wilson had to admit that the objection was well taken, and the recount had to be abandoned. Yet The Globe had no fault to find then, although the objection was more technical than that made in the present instance by Mr. Baxter.

"If Mr. Bentley did receive more 'votes' than did Mr. Baxter, the seat is 'morally his.' It is more, it is legally his. But the count of the votes as declared by the returning officer shows that he did not, so that ends it. And Mr. Baxter is entirely justified in endeavoring by all legitimate methods to prevent the returning officer's return being set aside, by the first responsible that comes along and attempts to get it done.

CONCERNING PRICES.

In the opinion of some of the city merchants, those people who have been looking for a reduction in prices are not at all likely to see their anticipations realized just at present. In fact the assertion is made that in some lines prices may even go higher than they are, on account of the present rate of wages, cost of transportation, etc. If this statement is correct, it is difficult to account for the price reduction sales that are now being advertised. If there is no prospect of a general fall in prices, why the hurry to get rid of stock on a probable rising market?

It is said that manufacturers of many commodities are stocked up to the limit, and are compelled to curtail their output. Wholesalers are in the same plight. Retailers are curtailing orders, because the public is not buying to the extent it did. Money is getting scarcer, and people are less inclined to pay the prices demanded during the past year or two. Something is bound to give way. No one, of course, anticipates a sudden slump; but with the tendency there is among the buying public to more economical purchasing, prices must come down if trade is to be kept up. The sales and luxury taxes, too, are having quite an effect upon the purchasing feeling of the people, which will need to be stimulated in some way or other unless prices fall.

Prices cannot be kept up artificially, because the public will not stand for it. The recent revelations regarding sugar have not been without their effect; and if there is a tendency, as appears to be the case, for prices to fall in the United States, similar conditions will inevitably obtain here.

RESISTING THE "REDS."

The call by President Moore, of the Trades and Labor Congress, and his conservative associates, for active defence by Trades Unionism in Canada is based on evidence that the Moscow "reds" are attempting a fresh to disrupt Trades Unionism, and discredit leaders who insist on a sane co-operation with the other elements of a community. Part of the declaration of the Third Internationale—the Moscow Revolutionary organization—on this subject is:

"The newly formed general staff of revolutionary trade unionism representing eight million members calls upon the trade unions throughout the world to repudiate those leaders who voice the criminal policy of collaboration with the bourgeoisie, moreover to enlist themselves under the banner of class war to the bitter end for the emancipation of mankind.

"The International Council of Trades Unions proclaims war, not peace, on the bourgeoisie of all countries; that is the substance of our agitation. Our programme is the overthrow of the bourgeoisie force, the bringing into effect of the dictatorship of the proletariat, of irrepressible class struggle both nationally and internationally, and to form an immovable alliance with the communist international.

"Be it known that we regard those leaders of trade unionism as our class enemies who are of opinion that negotiations and compromises will solve the social problems, who seriously think that capitalists will hand over the means of production on the achievement of working class majority in Parliament; who think that trade unions can remain 'neutral' at a time of collapse of the old social order and at a time when the destiny of the world is being determined; and who preach social reconciliation at a time of rapid class warfare."

The Mail and Empire professes to see signs that the "red" movement within the ranks of Canadian Labor is subsiding. The unequivocal attitude of leaders like President Moore is having effect. The One Big Union is dying. If Canadian Trade Unionists have steady, and think of the welfare of the community at large, as well as of themselves, they will gain more in the end, and help the nation also to surmount its post-war difficulties.

GOVERNOR COX'S HEROICS.

"It pleases him and don't hurt us." That is how reasonable Britishers, with a sense of humor and proportion, regard Governor Cox's heroics about the freedom of Ireland. When Mr. Cox dilates on his distant view of America guaranteeing Ireland's freedom after independence has been achieved, under the provisions of the League of Nations, we remember that Mr. Cox is Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States. We also remind ourselves that America, as yet, has precious little to do with the League of Nations. When Mr. Cox protests that Ireland has a perfect right to fight, we remember that the election campaign, Irish-American vote and all, is in full swing in America.

After all, we are very well used to these conventional gambits, and we understand the rules of the game. Governor Cox improves on a well-worn trampoline by trying to put salt on the lion's tail. It is not a sensitive part of the lion's anatomy. Besides, election fancies and Presidential facts are separate pairs of shoes.

AFRAID OF FACTS.

Even the most courageous men, says the London Express, are sometimes afraid of facts. A man who has willfully faced Mills bombs and shrapnel is cowed by the fact of his importance in another sphere of life.

Man's hardest task is to be master of himself. Only by defying circumstance can he realize his own individuality; only by laughing at the fates is he able to give himself a full chance.

Any man can succeed if the fates are with him, if he is endowed with special gifts. But there is little honor or pleasure in such success.

The man to be envied is he who boldly faces adverse circumstance and meets it to his own purposes. The hero is the man who takes the thing that is and makes it, despite itself, what it might have been.

The Provincial Government is said to be considering the question of placing the wholesale dispensing of liquor in the province in the hands of a commission, but no definite decision has as yet been reached. We can quite understand that there are many features to be considered before the step is decided on. Funds must be

raised from some source or other, and it would be folly to kill the geese that lay the golden eggs.

The Telegram says that since election day the opposition press has published much misleading matter, etc. It had described Premier Foster as "weak" and "overshadowed by Mr. Veniot," as The Telegram described him on Saturday, it would not have been misleading at any rate.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Child at the Wheel.
 (Chicago News.)
 France is afraid of the man on horseback. Over here we fear the eighteen-year-old child in the big automobile.

A Convenient Guide.
 (Philadelphia News-Courier.)
 Wilbur is one of the greatest molders of public opinion in this country. In order to make up their minds about a question, millions of Americans need only to know how Wilbur stands for it. Having found out which side he is on, they know that the other side is right.

Books Are Slow.
 (New York Correspondent.)
 New York book stores are going through the worst fall season in history. It is said that sales have dropped off tremendously. It may be the movies, the increased price of books or a lack of good fall literature or a combination of the three. Second-hand book-sellers are also doing a poor business.

No Need for Money.
 (New York Correspondent.)
 A magazine office received a curt note from one of its leading contributors, a sort of social frill, as he put it, saying that he had no more money until next year. "I don't know what to do with it," the writer is away off in the wilds where he has built his house and is living in primitive fashion. One might imagine how he goes on an orgy of spending when he reaches New York. But primitive habits are hard to break. The last time he was in town he gave a dinner for four at the Waldorf and tipped the waiter a dime.

The Modern View.
 (Perth, Australia, News.)
 There may be persons even now who regard a university as a superfluous luxury, a sort of social frill, as a source of "unproductive expenditure," and who would like to see the university grant diverted into road and bridge making, railway construction and public works channels. Such short-sighted individuals fail utterly to grasp the most pregnant truth that has been forced upon the intelligence of the whole civilized world in the last half century—namely, that national effectiveness and success are dependent upon education. Furthermore, the higher education is carried, the higher and more powerful becomes the national force and character.

Tired of Public Life.
 (Sydney Post.)
 Mr. Mackenzie King, Opposition Leader, has completed his political tour of British Columbia, and is now addressing public meetings in Alberta. How he will fare in Alberta remains to be seen. How he fared in British Columbia may be inferred from the fact that there is to be no supporter of his nominated in the Yale-Caribou by-election, shortly to be held. The contest is between a Government supporter and a Farmer-Labor candidate. Yale-Caribou will be the eighth constituency in which the Mackenzie King party has failed to name a candidate in a federal by-election this year. Such a record of defeats by a political party is unprecedented. And yet Mr. King continues to affirm that he is desirous of a fourth year's election. The inference must be that he is tired of public life.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE PUDDLE.

Eden Philpotts, in Scribners.
 I cursed the puddle when I found
 Unseeing I had walked therein,
 Forgetting the uneven ground,
 Because my eyes
 Were on the skies,
 To glean their glory and to win
 The sunset's trembling ecstasies.

And then I marked the puddle's face,
 When still and quiet grown again,
 Was but concerned, as I to trace
 The wonder spread
 Above his head,
 And mark and mirror and contain
 The gold and purple, rose and red.

We seek our goals; we climb our way
 With hearts inspired with radiant thought,
 And hate the lackless wight who stays
 The upward stream
 Of vision's beam;
 Nor guess that we have roughly
 Grieved him.

A like hiatus in his dream.

THE LAUGH LINE

Uncertain Yet.
 Poor Italy could not tell whether
 The war bird her white or red.

Light Literature.
 The Angler—I've bought a fly book
 For each of us.
 The Novice—Do you suppose we'll
 have time to read them?

Swishin' Greed.
 "Everything's going to the dogs!"
 We cried, provoked to spleen,
 And Gump, who hates the profiteers,
 Said: "To the dogs you mean."

Sisterly Love.
 "For goodness sake, Minnie, whose
 socks are you darning?"
 "They belong to Willie Sharp. When
 I refused him I said I'd be a sister
 to him and he took me at my word."

Quite.
 Bing—What? You and your wife
 never quarrel?
 Bing—Well, we haven't quarrelled
 for three weeks.
 Bing—How's that?
 Bing—We're not on speaking terms.

A Speedy Return.
 Pete Horback claims that the old
 joke is the one about the Irishman

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Pop was smoking and thinking with his feet up and I was wishing I didn't have to do my homework, and I sed, Pop?

Who, me? I sed pop.
 Meaning was did I want, and I sed, Is there such a thing as nothing, pop?

Speaking as a man who just paid the 3rd installment of his income tax, I say there is, sed pop.

Well you can't see nothing, can you, pop? I sed.
 No, you can't see it but you can feel it, when you grow up and try to get a strange cashier to cash a check for you the way I did yesterday you'll know what I mean, sed pop.

Yes sir, how can nothing be anything? I sed.
 With pop scratched his bald spot, saying, Well, that's a hard question, I admit, and the answer would be equally hard so I'm afraid you wouldn't understand it, but mathematically speaking, nothing is usually something, so to speak.

Well for instance, if there was nothing in this room how could there be anything here? I sed.

There would be nothing here and nothing is something, sed pop.

But is it anything? I sed.
 You better go to bed, sed pop, and I sed, G, pop, can I go without doing my homework?

No, sed pop.
 Which I didn't.

who was handling dynamite in a quarry. He let a stick drop, and the whole box went up, taking Mike with it. The quarry boss came around later and said to another Irishman: "Where's Mike?" "He's gone," replied Pat. "When will he be back?" asked the boss. "Well," replied Pat, "if he comes back as fast as he went, he'll be back yesterday."

A Man of Ability.
 Tomson—Johnson has no ability of any kind.
 Jackson—No ability? Nonsense. Why, he can ask you for a loan in such a way that you thank your lucky stars for the opportunity to accommodate him.

"Jinks," said the manager of the bank, "there'll be a vacancy at the head office shortly, and I'm thinking of nominating your twin brother for the job." "My twin brother?" exclaimed Jinks.

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