

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1921.

## PRINCIPLE FIRST

Our versatile contemporaries The Telegraph and its little sub-sister The Times seem to regard it as passing strange that we should venture to adversely criticize any action of the Meighen Administration. Of course it is easy to appreciate the fact that there are many things in Heaven and earth that are not understandable in the limited philosophy of our contemporaries. They belong to a class of newspapers which may be called the "follow my leader" journals, a class that is headed by the Toronto Globe. On rare occasions when the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in power, they would give expression to opinions on political matters, which opinions held until he happened to say something different. As soon as he had expressed a view that was at variance with what they had said, they promptly looked for a soft place to fall, and from that moment discarded their own previously expressed opinions and adopted his, whether right of wrong. In other words, because Sir Wilfrid said something, therefore it must be right, and they would promptly cough up their own views and swallow his. Well, The Standard is not built along these lines. It has its own opinions, and is not afraid to give expression to them. If other people do not like them we readily concede their right to differ.

The Standard has always been, and will continue to be, a staunch supporter of the recognized principles of the Conservative party, and will support any government which frames its policies on these principles. The published platform of the Meighen Administration conforms to this requirement, and as long as it adheres to that platform, it will receive every support we can give it. But the appointment of Mr. MacDonald to the Senate is an outside matter and is in fact in contravention of the law of the land; and for this reason, among others, we cannot possibly approve of it. There can be no objection to Mr. MacDonald personally, either as a citizen or as a business man; but if the Government was so desperately anxious to have him in the Senate, why did it not give him the position as a Nova Scotian, instead of Mr. Stanfield, and not foster him on New Brunswick, to the exclusion of our own men? We repeat that his appointment as a representative from this province is a political job of the most flagrant character, and absolutely without the shadow of justification.

Premier Meighen insists that as long as he has the support of a majority of the House, he is entitled to remain in office. With this we entirely agree. All talk about having no mandate is simply so much nonsense. He is entirely within his rights in remaining in office as long as he commands the necessary support in the House; but whether it is good politics to do so, is another thing altogether. Personally we doubt if it is. In our view if the Premier were to carry, and get out, leaving Mr. Mackenzie King and his friends to face the music, and the task of providing the revenue for the coming year. They claim that the Government's fiscal policy is all wrong; then let them find one for themselves, and let the country see how far they will go. We venture to say that before many months had passed public affairs would be in such a chaotic mess, that there would be a veritable demand from one coast to the other for Mr. Meighen's return; and when he came back, he would be there to stay.

## ECONOMY ON PARLIAMENT HILL

The pressure of economic conditions has developed an insistent demand for the stoppage of every form of avoidable waste. This is not an idle nor unnecessary request. Waste is at all times a sinful thing; but it assumes almost criminal significance when indulged during a period of business depression and considerable unemployment. Retrenchment is a more or less optional virtue in times of abounding prosperity. It is absolutely necessary in times of general stringency. And a good place to start economy is right at the fountain head of national expenditures.

Talk is popularly supposed to be cheap, but the Ottawa Journal says it is one of the costliest things in the world on Parliament Hill. There is ample room for the saving of a very large sum of money, which might be put to some useful purpose or cut off the annual tax bill, right in the House of Commons. While the conversation of our vaunted democracy may require that every representative holding a seat in Parliament should have the right to free and unlimited speech, that priceless privilege would not be compromised in the slightest degree if all really unnecessary talking were cut off.

Parliament is not at all times a deliberative body to which arguments are presented for the purpose of influencing the judgment of those who are being addressed. It is often—much too often—a mere political forum, in which speeches are made for purely partisan purposes. At such times the dignity and essential character of Parliament are submerged. The waste comes in at that point. It is swollen by imperfect planning with respect to the handling of the business of the House. Various calculations have been made to show the cost of each session, and they have differed widely; but it is probably true that it amounts up at the rate of a thousand dollars for each hour of actual sitting. That is a serious matter as representing the cost of legislation. It grows in gravity when it is remembered that legislation itself does not take up more than about ten per cent of the time of the House.

Various remedies have been proposed. The one which has been most seriously discussed relates to the abolition of Hansard. It is argued that members would not mistake Parliament for the hustings if their speeches were not embalmed in the official debates. It is assumed that not a word of public interest or importance would be missed by the visitor and trained reporters of the Press Gallery. The Votes and Proceedings would record all that appertained to the business of the House. There is a growing feeling, both on the inside and the outside, that something of this nature might well be done in order to check the waste entailed by the present system.

Another measure with numerous advocates is the institution of a committee, representing both sides of the House, which would analyze bills before they came up for general discussion and in a broad way plan each day's work. The Supply Bill in particular entails much talk which it is held could be avoided if such a plan were given effect. All bills treated in that way would reduce controversial clauses to a minimum. In other words the stigma which just now rests on our Parliament, of being degraded at long spells to the rank of a mere debating school, might easily be removed by the elimination of many needlessly long and purely political speeches. At the same time the dignity and practical usefulness of the House of Commons would be enhanced. And incidentally a very large sum of money would be saved every Session.

It is very evident that Premier Norris of Manitoba intends to stand no fooling in the way of carrying on public business in that province. He will call for a showdown at once, should the opposition for the sake of obstruction or with a desire to embarrass the Government create an impossible situation. Like Premier Foster in this province, Premier Norris finds his party without a majority in the House, and he realizes that he can only carry on on sufferance. Our own worthy Premier, however, has yet to learn just where he stands, and whether or not he will be able to win the farmer and independent elements in this Legislature over to his side.

The Lloyd George Government elected its candidate in Carnarvonshire on Friday, where there was a disagreement in the party ranks to help the Opposition. The uncertainty as to what would follow the defeat of the Government may be one of the factors helping the Government. The combination of Laborites, aided by the Liberals and sympathizing with the Sinn Féiners is a spectacle that, as regards making votes, may work two ways.

Mr. A. R. Meagher asserts that as long as the Railway Brotherhoods approve of Mr. MacDonald's appointment to the Senate nothing else matters. We are well aware that the railway men cut quite a big swath in some respects, particularly in the matter of wages, but we imagine that it will be none to most people to find that they control appointments to the Senate.

Trade reports are to the effect that business is improving practically throughout Canada. As generally speaking, business in Canada was but slightly depressed, improvement should soon restore the ordinary wholesome activity, for the good of all concerned.

Mr. Lindsay Crawford characterizes the Daughters of the Empire, Orange-men and Sons of England, as "troublemakers of Canadian peace." These organizations will of course now promptly dissolve.

GERMANS TO MOURN.  
Berlin, Feb. 22.—A national day of mourning for Germany's war dead has been fixed for March 6. All work will cease on this date and religious and memorial services will be general.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Capital and Labor.  
The money the other fellow has in Capital. Getting it away from him is Labor. —Columbus, K. C. Record.

The Parliamentary Tensure.  
If the Hon. Arthur Meighen holds the reins of power long enough to cause the new redistribution bill passed on the census taken this year, and finally implements the obligation to secure an equitable representation by population, and the appeals to the country, he will pursue a wise course of statesmanship, and one hard to successfully challenge. —Brandon Expositor (L.B.)

Transportation Troubles.  
Seattle's municipal street railway is declared by financial experts to be on a paying basis with the fares fixed at 15 cents; but one of the ratepayers does not believe it, and has applied to the courts to have a receiver appointed. The announced deficit of the system for the past year was considerably over a million dollars. There seems to be just about one transportation system on this continent that is paying any dividends whatever, and that one, needless to say is in Canada. —Victoria Colonist.

## Old Manners Change.

A generation ago, when the dinner dishes were washed and put away (only it was "supper" then), dad ranged alongside the big table with his pipe lit and the morning paper to read, and opposite with the mending (for man never had time to read except on Sunday afternoon), the boys and girls filled the corners with their home work, and the little ones played on the floor, dreading when the clock struck eight. Now, when the clock records that hour, all hands are at the neighboring picture house. That is progress of the world. —Portland Oregonian.

## Let Sleeping Dogs Lie.

American people have thought that the old vexing question of protecting ourselves against Canada's wheat was settled finally when, after the failure of Mr. Taff's plan of reciprocity, the exigencies of war persuaded the Canadian to remove their tariff. There is now a free flow of wheat over the entire continent, to the immense advantage of those engaged in shipping it to Europe, as well as to the great body of consumers on this side of the border—apparently, too, with no ill-effects to the growers in either country. Congress may well hesitate about reopening a controversy that the Canadians and ourselves were heartily sick of long ago. —Providence Journal.

## The Roarin' Game.

The arrival in this country of the Canadian curriers revives in at least the corridors of the House the joys of the "roarin' game." That game is given to curling, of course, because of the music—undoubtedly music-of the stones as they are driven or creep up the rink, perfecting the narrowest of poets, to play havoc among lying winners, and send them flying among a swirling, excited group round the ice. But "roarin'" describes also the players (though there is an etiquette in their clamor), for this is a sport, as Christopher North declared, that can rouse almost all the passions of the heart, and give all else in this world to oblivion. —London Morning Post.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## IRELAND THE UNKNOWN.

William Watson, in the London Times.  
Thou whom ten thousand searchlights leave obscure;  
The white foam's sister, as the white foam pure;  
The dark, secret's daughter, guarding long and late  
That far-doescented holiness, ancient hate.

I cannot say: "In all things that concerned thee and thy hopes I never swerved or turned.  
Or held with stumbling mind a wavering creed."  
But this, at least, I can declare indeed:  
Through days with tempest packed,  
With thunder pelted,  
My dream of an Ireland reconciled;  
Not mocked and thwarted, conquering some vain goal.

That only baulks the hunger of the soul;  
Not still uncheered and in fierce mood estranged,  
Whom bonds have the more direly wrenched apart;  
But after that solitude of heart,  
And all the dissonance of the loveless past,  
An Ireland willing to be loved at last;  
An Ireland healed with a more sober elixir balm  
That the old deep hurts have known,  
And in blest calm  
Risen from a hundred shatterings,  
Great and new,  
O, that the dream might even now come true!

## THE LAUGH LINE

When you encounter a man who tells you the world is growing worse give him a sorrowful look and pass on.

It is the coward who flings upon those above him. It is the coward who is insolent whenever he dares to be so.

Quite So!  
Business men attribute my success to the fact that I was always first at the office. For seventeen years I caught the 6.15 into town.

Interviewer—Ah, I see. It's all due to your early training. —Boston Transcript.

Known to Fame.  
"Speaking of fame," said the Observer of Events and Things, "I believe it was Cinderella who first put her foot in it." —Yonkers Statesman.

Changed His Mind.  
Jack—Then you didn't ask for her hand?  
Tom—No; when I went to interview her father he was busy with the furnace. He called out to me to come down and after watching his struggles for half an hour and hearing what he said about coal, I decided not to get married. —Boston Transcript.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

He and Puds Hinkins was walking home from school in the rain wishing it was snow, and all of a sudden Puds sed, O G. look, somebody's one rubber stuck in the mud.

Which it was, being a errie big disc-rubber, and I pulled it out of the mud saying, Hey, I tell you let's wait. Puds, let's wait here and see if anybody comes back looking for it, maybe they'll give us a dime or something for finding it.

And we started to wait there holding the rubber and looking at people going past to see if any of them had a expression as if they were looking for their other rubber, which after a while one did, being a big fat man with feet to match, and just when I was going to make a polite speech about it he saw me holding the rubber and quick grabbed it, saying, Give me that, I was looking for that.

And he started out on his other foot without mentioning a reward, and Puds sed, Is that your rubber mister? Whose do you think it is? sed the fat man keeping on putting it on.

I thart it was yours, sed Puds, and I sed, So did I. Which just then the fat man got it all the ways on, and I sed, We don't expect any reward for it, mister.

These rite, virtue is its own reward, sed the fat man. But if anybody tried to give us a reward we would probably take it, sed Puds.

Well nobodys going to try to give you one as far as I know of, sed the fat man. Meaning he wasn't, anyway. Which he didn't, and me and Puds followed him a little ways to hide his rubber in case it got stuck in the mud again, only it didn't.

## Children Cry for Fletcher's

## CASTORIA

Fletcher's Castoria is strictly a remedy for Infants and Children. Foods are specially prepared for babies. A baby's medicine is even more essential for Baby. Remedies primarily prepared for grown-ups are not interchangeable. It was the need of a remedy for the common ailments of Infants and Children that brought Castoria before the public after years of research, and no claim has been made for it that its use for over 30 years has not proven.

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## Mother Burned Her Daughter In Bed

Tortured the Girl Because She Refused to Marry as She Wished.

Paris, Feb. 22.—One of the most hideous crimes that has come to the attention of the French police in recent years is that of a widow near Bordeaux, who fatally injured her eighteen-year-old daughter because she refused to marry as her mother directed her to.

## French Chefs After Cold Storage Eggs

Government Getting After Profiteers Who Sold Stale Hen Fruit for Fresh.

(Copyright, 1921, by Public Ledger.)  
Paris, Feb. 22.—French chefs have decided that the cold storage eggs "laid yesterday" will not do. Profiteers in some trades often get by in France, but when food handlers dare to violate the customs with a bad egg they court disaster.

## Specials—Salt Fish

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## Girls! Girls!! Clear Your Skin With Cuticura

Just started proceedings against five Marveilles commission merchants charged with hoarding 200,000 Algerian and Moroccan eggs, the summer's crop bought at 350 francs a thousand, and selling them in Paris as fresh at an average of 670 francs.

Because the cold storage plants of the American Expeditionary Forces proved the globe trotting virtues of the American egg, during the war French cooks argue that it does not prove that a North African egg can cross the Mediterranean, then sojourn in a warehouse and visit Paris in winter without getting soured.

## FOR SALE Scotch Sewer Pipe

We are open for bids on 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 inch Scotch Terra Cotta Sewer Pipe and branches, as we are going out of this line of business.

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