The St. John Standard

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ST JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1922.

"BUSINESS MAN'S GOVERNMENT."

The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Globe is writing to his paper a day or two ago referred to Mr. Mackenzie King in the following words: "It is pointed out that he is sincerely desirous of giving Canada "a business man's administration." This is precisely what Mr. Foster said he was so anxious to give to New Brunswick when he appealed to the people for their support in 1917; in fact it seems to be a stock phrase with Liberal leaders all over the country whenever they are seeking the suffrages of the people. The United Farmers of Ontario put forward the same plea when they asked to be placed in power at Toronto. And what is the result?

Well, in New Brunswick five years of "business man's administration" has resulted in an enormous increase in the bonded debt of the Province, deficits increasing every year in arithmetical progression until the outlook is getting alarming, new sources of revenue being frantically sought for, with no earthly prospect of any being found such as will produce any substantial sums, and the Government apparently being utterly unable to appreciate the need for a more careful and economical method of carrying on public business.

Conditions in Ontario appear to be practically the same as in New Brunswick, if one is to judge from the comment in the press of that Province. The sole care of the Drury Government, like that of the Foster Government, seems to be how to unearth new avenues for expenditure. Ontario has many problems which New Brunswick has not—and does not want—but the principles of government which obtain in both Provinces seems to be the same. "Take no thought for the morrow; sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." The trouble is that a day of reckoning has to be faced sooner or later, and the fear is that the last state of both these Provinces is likely to be worse than the first.

"A business man's government." If a business man carried on his affairs in anything approaching the principle, that the Governments of New Brunswick and Ontario are carried on, he would be in the Bankruptcy Court within a year. No man can go on overspending his income and plastering mortgages on his capital assets to cover his deficiencies, for long. The end is bound to come sooner or later.

If Mr. King intends to give Canada "a business man's administration" as that term appears to be understood by Messrs. Foster and Drury, so much the worse for Canada. Not only Canada as a whole, but the majority of the Provinces individually, are solely in need of government along real business lines; the lines that successful corporations and big mercantile houses conduct their affairs on. It will no doubt be in Mr. King's power to give Canada a real business like system of administration, but he will have to mould his tactics on different lines from those adopted in some of the Provinces—New Brunswick for one—if he desires to make a success of it.

THE GRAND TRUNK MERGER.

It is scarcely fair, and it certainly is not correct, to say that Mr. Meighen scrapped the all-Canadian route policy of Laurier and Borden, when he made the arrangement for the absorption of the Grand Trunk. This latter road was practically "wished" on him as the outcome of the Laurier policy regarding the Grand Trunk, and he was forced to accept one of two alternatives, either take over the road, or forever lose all the money the Canadian Government had loaned to it. By taking it over and incorporating it with the Canadian National Railways, it would be made possible for the National Railway managers to control the traffic over it, which they could not do so long as it was a privately owned road.

Three fourths of the Province of Ontario is served by the Grand Trunk and with officials of that road taking care that all traffic arising in their districts should be routed over their own lines wherever possible, there would be nothing whatever to prevent shipments being made to Portland, in fact, it would be the natural thing for them to do. But by taking over the Grand Trunk and absorbing it into the Canadian National system, the Board of Management of this system would be in a position to direct the routing of all traffic as might best suit conditions. Given this power, traffic which has hitherto gone to Portland could have been diverted to Maritime Province ports. This was Mr. Meighen's policy.

According to one of the members of the King Cabinet, the new Government policy will be "to endeavor to rehabilitate the National Railway by co-ordinating the different systems, avoiding duplications where possible, amalgamating to some extent, but partially only, the management of the C.N.R. and G.T.R. lines, and endeavoring thus to reduce gradually the burden of deficits." It is rather difficult to say just what this means; it may be adapted to several different policies.

However with Mr. Crerar, the Parliamentary leader of the Progressive party, demanding that the Grand Trunk be merged into the National system without delay, and such strong Liberal papers as the Toronto Globe and Toronto Star insisting upon the same course, it is difficult to see how the King Government can do other than acquiesce, and that quickly. No doubt that section of the Government party which is averse to national ownership will endeavor to hinder the consummation of the merger scheme, but it is doubtful if the country at large will stand for this sort of thing. As long as the Grand Trunk is competing with the National lines, the latter cannot succeed; put them both under one ownership, as the Meighen policy proposed, and it becomes possible to allocate the traffic fairly among them. Then the National system will pay its way.

BRIAND MAY COME BACK.

A speedy return of M. Briand to power in France is forecasted by some of the foreign correspondents in Cannes. According to these writers the Premier did not resign in a pet or in disgust, nor with any intention of retiring permanently from French politics. He had cause enough for disgust and resentment for he had been harassed by the French newspapers and the petty politicians of the Chamber of Deputies. But, had he asked it he could readily have obtained a vote of confidence from the deputies. That granted, he still would have had to contend with the abusive press, his enemies among the deputies, and certain members of his Cabinet who are not in sympthy with him.

He resigned without a vote being given on the action taken by the Cannes Conference, including the Anglo-French pact, for which France was the petitioning party; and that still remains to be passed upon. France would hardly dare to reject it, and even M. Poincare, who has been charged with the task of forming a new government, has stated that he favors it, although upon what he denominates "terms of absolute equality."

With the pact as yet unacted upon but with the Chamber ready to approve it, and with a doubt existing as to whether Poincare's ministry is likely to be a permanent one, M. Briand, still retaining the confidence of a majority of the deputies is in a position to return to the head of the Government when the right time arrives.

It is reassuring to know that this is so, for M. Poincare is looked upon in some quarters with a certain amount of suspicion. Being a militarist of the reactionary type, fears are expressed that the future of the naval agreement reached in Washington would be questionable with him as the permanent head of the French Government.

Victory Loan Bonds falling due in November 1923, and thus having nearly 12 years to run, carrying five and one-half per cent. interest and being tax free, are quoted at 101.50. Yet bond buyers are apparently willing to pay 102.207 for 5½ p. c. taxable New Brunswick bonds. What's the answer? True, the advent of a Liberal Government with Mr. Mackenzie King at the head of it, is not calculated to inspire confidence in investors in Dominion securities, but the situation in New Brunswick from the standpoint of responsibility of government, is even worse than it is at Ottawa.

The Toronto Star has received a twelve poem which it declares is unequalled in the poetry of any other country. Certainly for expressiveness and meaning the poem would be hard to beat. It is as follows:

The said this morning when he first got up,
"'Tis a bitter cold morning for a short-haired pup."

The pictures here conjured up is so vivid and familiar that all will admit the vividness and force of the lines.

Mail and Empire:—Quebec is making a profit of $4,000,000 a year from the Government sale of liquor. The Government is using the sum to retire debentures, and expects to free the Province of debt in twenty years. If that policy is carried out, Quebec is going to be in a financial class by itself, for the other Provinces are deep in schemes for bolstering their already high debts.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Position of France.
(Manger Commercial.)

Now that the first surprise of the resignation of Briand has passed Europe is engaged in speculating upon the reasons for the resignation. There is not general acceptance of the belief that, tired of opposition to the course believed best for France, Briand has simply laid down his burden and handed the responsibility to his opponents. There is some belief that, experienced in ways of legislation and politics, Briand formed the opinion that his policies were doomed to defeat, perhaps because of the opposition of President Millerand. If this is the fact then the resignation will have a great effect upon the Allied dealings with Germany, for the chief incentive of the attack upon Briand was his decision to modify the demands of France regarding German reparations.

Briand reached the conclusion, held by the leading representatives of other nations, that Germany if compelled to pay the reparation money due in January, as fixed at London last March, would certainly default her February payment. Briand finally agreed with Lloyd George to allow more latitude to Germany, but it was not at the expense of France for England agreed to loan France the most of the money that the former nation would receive from Germany. In return France was to take measures in military and naval limitation that would lessen the threat of future wars in Europe.

The French opponents of the policies of Briand have long argued that he was too lenient to Germany. They wished to again occupy the Ruhr basin last spring and advocate drastic measures in dealing with German. Poincare selected to form the new cabinet has been an outspoken advocate of stern measures with Germany and hence there is much doubt if the new French administration will carry out the arrangements made between Lloyd George and Briand. That there is question of this is shown by the hasty adjournment of the conference at Cannes, which had but made a beginning of the work planned. The participation of France in the economic conference at Genoa is also subject to doubt. It is a most unfortunate situation and one whose influence may be felt at Washington, where there are many conference decisions yet to be made and which decisions are subject to the action of the home governments.

Friday the Thirteenth.
(Quebec Chronicle.)

Yesterday was Friday the thirteenth, a day on which it behooves the superstitious mortal to walk warily. Those who get through the day without misadventure may escape ill luck next October, when another Friday occurs on the thirteenth. The superstition that the thirteenth is unlucky is said to be one of the oldest which has come down to this day, even ante-dating the idea that St. Swithen is a weather prophet, and probably it would not persist unless from time to time events tended to confirm it.

It is obvious that since there are only seven days in the week a lot of misfortunes must occur on Friday. Similarly, since there are never more than thirty-one days in a month it would be curious if in the course of centuries a great number of tragedies and world-shaking events did not occur upon some given date. If the thirteenth is not more unlucky than other days it must be that the superstition grew up as a result of some calculations of the ancient astrologers, who always held that some magical power inhered in certain numbers.

There are various explanations of how the number thirteen acquired its somewhat sinister significance, but the most reasonable ascribes to it an origin with the Children of Israel. There were twelve tribes of them, but they recognized thirteen lunar months. In time, however, the lunar calendar was dropped in favor of the solar calendar with its twelve months. In other words the thirteenth month disappeared, which was sufficient to cause the Israelites to believe that the number carried with it some misfortune.

Once the idea was acquired we may be sure that the supporters of it were on the watch to no trouble associated with the number and they would not look in vain. They would not be so alert to note disaster associated with other numbers and gradually the evil reputation of the number thirteen would become established. Another explanation is that the superstition comes from Norse mythology, according to which Baldur, the sun god, had to die because there were thirteen gods in the circle of Valhalla.

Some who believe that the ominous significance of the number is of modern origin can point to the fact that there were those who regarded it as fortunate. Among them was Pope Gregory the Great, who every morning gave a breakfast to twelve unfortunates. One morning Christ appeared to make the thirteenth and bless the number. Louis VIII. of France did not consider the number unfortunate, but on the contrary, tried to identify himself with it as much as possible. He called himself Luys de Bourbon and his wife Anne d'Autriche because there were thirteen letters in each. Throughout his career he chose the thirteenth of the month as the day on which to launch any important enterprise and he died rejoicing in the knowledge that he would not pass away on the thirteenth.

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Benny's Note Book
BY LEE PAPE

My cussin stayed at my house last nite, and we was laying in bed waiting to go to sleep and I sed, Heck, I wish we dident hafe to go to skool tomorrow.

Its no fun going to sleep jest so you can wake up and go to skool, sed Artie.

It would be more fun to jest stay asleep, I sed, and Artie sed, Hay, I tell you lets wait, lets hide each others hats tomorrow morning and then we can say we cant find our hat and it wont be any lie, and maybe by the time we find them maybe it will be too late to go to skool.

Sounding like a grate idear, and this morning the first thing I did wen I woke up was run down stairs in my pidjammers and hide Arties hat, and then Artie went down in his pidjammers and hid mine, and then we got dressed, me not knowing ware my hat was and Artie not knowing ware his was, but me knowing ware his was and him knowing ware mine was, and after brekfast I sed, Well, beere ware we hafe to go to skool, darn it.

Benny, sutch tawk, you awt to be glad youre getting an education, sed ma, and I sed, I dont mind getting a education, going to skool is all I object to and Artie sed, Well, Im going to get my hat. And he went out in the hall saying, Wares my hat, I cant find my hat. And I started to look for mine saying, Neither can I, hay ma, did you see my hat anywares?

Your hat is on the hat rack ware it belongs, your father found it under the vesterbule mat wen he went out this morning, he tred on something and looked underneath and it was your new hat, and youll heer from him on the subjeck wen he gets home, too, sed ma.

Me thinking, Heck, good nite. And I sed, Well then I mite as well wait til Artie finds his.

You go rite to skool and let Artie find his own hat, theres no use of you both being late, sed ma, and I sed, Well, I think I can find it for him. Wich I did, finding it behind the parlor clock jest ware I put it, and we went to skool having a fearse argument all the way about wich was the dummest place to hide a hat, under the vesterbule mat or behind the parlor clock.

A BIT OF VERSE

TIME'S FOOL.

Sixty minutes an hour, to twenty-four hours a day,
To fourscore years and ten, it will sum no other way;
I've toiled my span of years to pile the glittering gold,
And now I hear Time's voice: "Oh, fool! You are growing old!"
Old, and your wealth is vain, but an idle thing its sheen
To light your sunset years with the things that might have been.
The tender hands of Love were outstretched to clasp your own,
But Love was not your God, so you went your way alone.
Buy and barter and sell, you worshipped the God of Gold;
But wealth's an idle thing when a man is growing old.
Have you a single friend? Nay, all your money in vain
To buy the gifts of God or to bring Love back again.
Have you not joy in life? At least, you can spend your wealth,
Aye, spend your every coin, you never can buy back health.
You turned away your head from the light of God's own truth,
And spurned the priceless gifts he offered you in your youth;
Forgot the tireless clock, that ticked seconds away,
Till now the hour is struck that heralds the end of day.
Happiness, light and love are only given at morn;
You would not take them then, and it night comes on forlorn,
Pray to your Golden God, to dazzle with idle sheen,
The wistful eyes that long for things that might have been."

Toronto. —Charles M. Hale.

THE LAUGH LINE

Fine.

Man (indignantly)—When I bought this dog you said he was fine for rats. Why, he won't touch them.

Dog dealer—Well, ain't that fine for the rats?—Edinburgh Scotsman.

He Alone Was Conventional.

Texas Paper—The groom in his conventional black suit was looking quite handsome and the bride, attired in her pure white lingeries, was indeed a lovely and attractive picture.

Good Advice.

Kennie—What's father singing for, mother?

Mother—He's singing the baby to sleep.

Kennie—Well, mum, if I was the baby I'd pretend to be asleep.—Answers.

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"Why, the building alone is insured for more than that!"

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"Well, that's up to you," was the auctioneer's retort.—Dry Goods Economist.

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Any one who has suffered from boils can sympathize with poor old Job.

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Burdock Blood Bitters

and the blood will be cleansed of all its impurities, and then every boil will disappear.

Mr. Roy McSwain, High Bank, P. E. I., writes:—"I was troubled with boils for some time, and had as many as fifteen on my neck at once. After taking one bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters they commenced to get better, and after I had taken two bottles I was relieved of them and felt much better. I think B. B. B. is a grand blood medicine, and can recommend it highly."

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Motorman Charged With Excessive Speed

Case Heard in Magistrate's Court Yesterday — Felony Charge Against Four Young Men.

In the police court yesterday morning, Howard Peck, charged with exceeding the speed limit in an electric car on January 13, pleaded not guilty. After the evidence of four witnesses for the prosecution and two for the defence had been taken, the case was postponed for one week.

The first witness, James McKinnon, testified that, on the date in question he was on a sled coming down Main street near the head of Long Wharf and that, as he was turning out to pass a sled loading snow, the street car, driven by the defendant, struck his sled causing damage to the running and causing the driver of the team to be thrown out and injured. He said that no warning had been sounded by the driver of the car. Charles Rowe said that he was also on the sled when the collision occurred and that he did not hear a bell.

Edwin Hamilton, who was also on the sled at the time, said that he had observed the street car before it struck the team, and that it was travelling at the rate of about twenty-five miles an hour.

John Ellis said that he had sold the team on Main street and a little later he saw the car driven by the defendant going at such a rate of speed that his attention was called to it. He heard no bell being sounded.

John McCluskey testified that he was in the street car at the time of the accident occurred and that the car was proceeding at the rate of twenty or fifteen miles an hour, and that the driver sounded the bell.

The defendant said that he saw the sled in front of him when he was going down Main street and that he sounded his warning as the sled turned out into the car tracks. He applied his emergency brake but the back of the vehicle slewed and he could not stop in time to avoid the collision. He was proceeding about four or five miles an hour when he struck the team.

The four young men, who were committed for trial on Monday on a charge of stealing a horse and sled from John Kelly, were arraigned yesterday morning, on a charge of acting with intent to commit a felony while in the property of the C.N.R. about a week ago. The evidence of the C.N.R. constables Morrissey and Baird was taken, and the case was postponed until Friday at 2.30 o'clock. K. J. MacRae and L. A. Conlon appeared in the interests of the defendants.

Pedro Mayetso pleaded guilty to a charge of vagrancy and was remanded. One man, charged with being drunk, was remanded.

MANY CHILDREN SICK.
HOW TO TREAT THEM

The kiddies will get their feet wet, catch cold, get croup and give the mothers lots of trouble. With the first cough or sneeze, rub the little one's chest with Nerviline, rub it plentifully, it can't harm. Then make a gargle with Nerviline and water and have the child gargle for five minutes. Just at bed time, give the child ten drops of Nerviline in hot sweetened water. The result is fine and next morning child is better. Nerviline is a great protection in the home. Large 35c. bottles at all dealers.

A Timid Dilly.

Mother—"Do you feel timid about asking Jack for money, dear?"

Daughter (a quite new bride)—"No, mother, but he seems very timid about giving it to me."

Upon the solicitation of a large number of citizens and in order to afford the people generally an opportunity to witness the Canadian Championship Skating Races, at Lily Lake, Rockwood Park, I would request all citizens to observe the afternoon of Thursday next, the nineteenth instant, as a PUBLIC HOLIDAY, and to close their places of business on that day at 12 o'clock noon.

In the event of the race being postponed on account of the weather I would request that the half holiday be observed on such day as is subsequently for the final sports.

I would also request all citizens to make a good display of flags and bunting during the two days of the races.

Dated the 17th day of January, A. D., 1922.

E. A. SCHOFIELD,
Mayor

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Sour Stomach