

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1913.

THAT GRIT "RALLY"

According to the Times, the Liberals are to hold a consolation party in this city early next month, when they will be entertained by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Hon. William Pugsley and Mr. Frank B. Carvell. The Times does not take its readers into its confidence to the extent of intimating that these eminent statesmen will talk about and, possibly, they do not know themselves. There is much they could truthfully say if they would, but it is not likely that the faithful, who gather to listen and console, will receive enlightenment on several questions of interest, and upon which the orators of the evening are well qualified to talk.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, apparently, is somewhat perturbed regarding the cost of living, and this should furnish a cue to Mr. Mackenzie King. Mr. King was Minister of Labor in the Laurier government and, in that capacity, had opportunity to secure much information regarding the cost of living as it affects the Canadian workmen. If he desires to do so Mr. Mackenzie King can tell the working men of St. John why he refused to act upon the report dealing with living costs which was prepared by the statistician of his department as far back as 1908 and handed to Mr. King as head of the department. The minister ignored the document and it was not until after the Borden government came into power that any practical effort was made to utilize the information gathered at that time.

Mr. Carvell, of Carleton county, will be another speaker, and as the question of railways is now attracting considerable attention in this province, Mr. Carvell might do, what the Times says Mr. Hazen did not do—throw some light on the Valley Railway, particularly his attitude toward it. He might relate just what justification he had for following the lead of Mr. Pugsley in placing all the obstructions possible in the way of the construction of the road. When it is remembered that Mr. Carvell and Premier Fleming once had a sociable little debate on Valley Railway matters, it will at once be apparent to Liberals that the member for Carleton, (by eleven majority), should have a fund of really interesting information, if he cares to draw upon it.

Mr. Carvell will probably express his great admiration for the port of St. John, and while he is on this subject, he might tell the audience why he did not side with Hon. A. G. Blair in the protest against the routing of the Transcontinental Railway away from St. John and toward Halifax. It is presumed that he will come armed with this information, but, if he should not do so prepare himself, a course of reading of the back files of the Telegraph or Times should be of interest to him.

And then, there is Mr. Pugsley, who will be expected to spread the oil of his presence upon the gathering. Mr. Pugsley was once Minister of Public Works and from his experience in that department should be able to supply much information on wharf building. An expert opinion from him on the value of sawdust as a factor in wharf construction should add materially to the available knowledge on this interesting subject. There are many other things upon which Mr. Pugsley could dilate at almost any length, but it is questionable if he will. Altogether it is doubtful if the Liberals could have selected three or more interesting topics. It is expected to be a great occasion.

THE POTATO EMBARGO.

The president of the New Brunswick Potato Shippers' Association, which organization, probably to a greater extent than any other in the province, has been affected by the United States potato embargo, was in St. John yesterday, and in an interview, published in another column of this newspaper, took strong exception to statements made in the Telegraph regarding the conditions in New Brunswick. Yesterday morning the Telegraph quoted Mr. F. B. Carvell as authority for the statement that because of the embargo one million barrels of potatoes were going to waste in Carleton and York Counties, and that the Government should step in and relieve the situation.

As Mr. Carvell represents a potato growing county, we prefer to believe he has been misquoted by the Telegraph, and that the glaring headlines placed on his statement were actually by a desire to make political capital, rather than to truly represent the facts. If he was correctly quoted, and the Telegraph's headlines and article justified, then, in the light of the statement of the president of the Potato Shippers' Association that the information furnished to the Telegraph was not correct and calculated to have an injurious effect upon the potato business, it would appear that Mr. Carvell's potato-growing constituents have single cause for much serious

heart-to-heart conversation with that gentleman when he returns to Carleton County.

The Potato Shippers' Association, naturally, keeps closely in touch with the situation in the potato market. If there is any such waste as the Telegraph or Mr. Carvell says, it is a logical assumption that they know it. If, as the Telegraph states, there are four million bushels of potatoes in Carleton and Victoria Counties for which it is difficult to find a market, the potato shippers should be apprised of that fact; yet, the president of their association says the information is not correct, and that the shippers, by resolution, at a regular meeting of their organization, expressed great indignation at the publication of a false report.

Even if the Telegraph and Mr. Carvell were misinformed regarding the condition of the potato market in Carleton County, it does not appear that the Times attempted to verify the statements which, apparently, afforded a chance for political capital and, accordingly, were eagerly seized upon as material for an editorial boost for the rejected reciprocity pact. The only construction which can be placed upon the attitude of both the Telegraph and Times is that those papers will go to any ends to play the game of partisan politics, even if in so doing it is necessary for them to injure a very important industry.

Today is nomination day in York and indications point to the selection of Hon. H. F. McLeod without opposition. Liberals have had a taste of York county's quality on previous occasions and are hardly likely to attempt false against a popular supporter of an honest business government.

The decision of the Dominion government to hasten the facilities at West St. John may not receive the approval of Liberal partisans, but all other citizens with the interests of St. John at heart will agree that the action is the correct one.

Hundreds of children in the city Sunday schools were made happy last night in their annual Christmas treats. Statistics of last Sunday's attendance at classes would probably show a record almost comparable with the picnic season.

The discovery by a United States physician that the injection of certain dyes will convert white mice into green and red ones will be hailed with delight by bibulous gentlemen as a sure sign that they really did see 'em.

Through the action of Hon. J. D. Hazen, a North End industry will receive a much needed stimulus. That is one advantage of having a real representative at Ottawa.

It is almost time to get out the resolutions of January 1st, 1913, and dust them off in preparation for use again tomorrow.

New York crooks recently stole a tug boat, several barges and freight cars. They could hardly be referred to as light fingered gentry.

The year which closes today has been a good one for New Brunswick, but unless all signs fail, 1914 will make an even better record.

CURRENT COMMENT

Tu Quoque.

"America's treatment of Mrs. Pankhurst was surely preferable to England's," remarks the New York Tribune—and a more insane remark has seldom been made. England's treatment of Mrs. Pankhurst is similar to what America's treatment of Carrie Nation used to be—that is to say, both women were put in jail for committing crimes of violence. Only Mrs. Nation's offences were far less heinous than Mrs. Pankhurst's, and the former never thought of the hunger strike—Hamilton Herald.

A Lesson For Grits.

The majority of Mr. Alexander Morrison in the Macdonald parliamentary election of Saturday is now given as 923. This is 139 more than was given in the contest of 1912. The total vote was unusually large, indicating that the result was a fair impression of the electoral mind. Mr. Morrison's political enemies assailed him to their own loss.—Montreal Gazette.

The Obstructive Feather.

An English society row was caused by two feathers in a lady's hat, and some of these days those stick-out behind ones are going to cause a street riot.—London Advertiser.

Aid to Genius.

Our idea is that there ought to be at least three children in every family, so that if one of them should be a genius the other two could support him.—Galveston News.

FIRST ATTEMPT AT INDOOR FLYING

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—In what is believed to be the first biplane flight ever attempted underneath a roof, Lincoln Beachey circled successfully the interior of the Palace of Machinery at the exposition grounds today, but made a poor landing and smashed his biplane. Beachey was not injured.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Jacques Cartier, the great French navigator and explorer of Canada, was born at St. Malo 419 years ago today, Dec. 31, 1494. Under the auspices of Francis I. he was intrusted with the command of an expedition to explore the western hemisphere. He was in his fortieth year when he sailed from St. Malo with two ships of sixty tons each and a crew of 120 men. Reaching the east coast of Newfoundland, he proceeded north and took possession of the Labrador coast. He then turned south, and came eventually to the bay of Gaspé, where he had friendly relations with the savages. He inspired such confidence that one of the chiefs permitted two of his sons to go with him to France, on condition that he would bring them back the following year. Later he doubled the east coast of Anticosti and sailed up a branch of the St. Lawrence, without being aware of the existence of that river. On returning to France he was commissioned "captain of an expedition" and was supplied with three ships for another voyage. This time he sailed up the St. Lawrence, giving that name to the river, visiting an Indian village on the site of Montreal. When he went back to France he took with him Donaciana and nine other chiefs whom he had converted to Christianity. Cartier's third journey to Canada was productive of only military disaster. He was returned to France to spend the remainder of his life in quietude and peace.

TH HUMAN PROCESSION

EMILE LOUBET 75 TODAY.

If you would reach an active, happy and hearty old age, walk from five to fifteen miles every day. This is the advice of M. Emile Loubet, former president of the French Republic, who will celebrate his seventy-fifth birthday today. Incidentally, the same advice is given and practiced by the only other living ex-president of France, "Papa" Armand Fallières, who was seventy-two last month. Loubet and M. Fallières often do their walking together, and a jolly and happy pair of pedestrians they make. In addition to long walks, M. Loubet says that old people should interest themselves in some movement for the benefit of others, preferably welfare work for young people. And M. Loubet and M. Fallières as well, practice this doctrine. M. Loubet has constituted himself the protector of the health of all the children and young people of France, while plump "Papa" Fallières, radical in politics, agnostic in religion and materialist in philosophy, but as a tender-hearted man as ever lived, has constituted himself a public cupid, and provides "dotes" for young women who might otherwise be deprived of husbands. "Papa" Fallières married when quite young, and he has often asserted that his wife made him president. He is a staunch advocate of early marriages, and as the self-confident official matchmaker of France he has brought about hundreds of weddings.

In his great work for the protection of the health of the youngsters, M. Loubet launched a society which has waged unceasing warfare on dirt, flies, ignorance, bad air, impure milk, and the adulteration of food. In Paris he has an anti-tuberculosis dispensary, raising the fund by a national subscription of two cents a person. Good food and plenty of it and the open air are the keys to the lives of thousands of Parisian children. "Father" Loubet has started a whole new science, called periculture, or child culture, and has brought practically all the workmen's organizations of France in the movement. As a result while "race suicide" is prevalent in France, the mortality rate amongst babies has been vastly reduced. France has fewer babies than any other country, in accordance with population, but in France far more of them live to maturity. In 1907 the infant mortality was 150,000; in 1912 it was only 74,000, or less than half. "It isn't a question of how many babies are born, but of how many are saved. In decreasing infant mortality, France leads the world." And M. Loubet might have added, except that he is a modest man, that he was largely responsible for this condition. Credit is also due to Dr. Alphonse Hergeot, founder of the Baby's Shield Society, who spent a large private fortune in advancing his life-work—spent every cent of it, and was sorry he didn't have more.

M. Loubet is a small, slender, somewhat undersized man. He carries a walking stick in his morning pedestrian trip across Paris—carries it usually protruding from one coat pocket or the other. He also wears a smile, somewhat Voltairean and ironic, yet kindly; his face is a trifle drawn, but most free from wrinkles. He wears a top hat, and his buttonhole the ribbon of the Legion of Honor.

FIRST THINGS

HARVESTERS.

The first modern American reaper was patented in the United States eighty years ago today, Dec. 31, 1833, and was the invention of Obed Hussey. Hussey's reaper was a simple machine a year before, in 1832. About the same time a somewhat similar machine was invented by Abraham Randall, but the Hussey machine was the most practical, and was widely imitated.

The ancients had crude reaping machines, and the first of such contrivances recorded in history was used 1,800 years ago, taking the shape of knives set into the end of a cart and pushed along by oxen. The first modern reaper was invented in 1826 by the Rev. Patrick Bell, of Scotland. Hussey, in his reaper, used the Bell reaper, and Cyrus McCormick's first machine, patented in 1834, was an improvement on the Bell type, rather than an original invention. Hussey's machine speedily won favor among the grain growers, and in 1839 he established a factory in Baltimore for the manufacture on a large scale. The McCormick Development Co. later developed the industry, until now a large portion of the harvesting machinery used throughout the world is manufactured in America.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID



Certainly Sober.
"Then you can recommend him as sober?"
"Sober! Why, he won't even laugh at a joke."

His Dying Words.

"I've been caught napping at last," said the moth that the man discovered in his heavy ulster.

A Shrewd Plan.

"How did you manage to find out how old Kate is?"
"I asked her what she thought was a woman's most interesting age."

Staying With Them.

"Some of your constituents are disagreeing with you," said the trusted lieutenant.
"Well, keep 'em on them," replied Senator Sorghum; "when enough disagree with me to constitute a reliable majority, I'm going to turn around and agree with them."—Washington Star.

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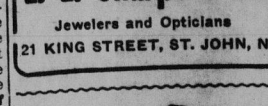
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Not a Family Tree.
The Botanical Old Gentleman (in public gardens)—Can you tell me, does this belong to the Arbutus family?
The Custodian—No, sir, it belongs to the corporation.—London Sketch.

Easy to Find.
"And did you ever seek the man?" we asked the Office.
"Once or twice," replied the Office. "But I found him waiting outside my door."—Cincinnati Inquirer.

Near.
"He is one of those near-vegetarian."
"What is a near-vegetarian?"
"He never eats meat except when he is invited out."—Houston Post.

All Sorts.
It is now thought that the man who "struck Billy Patterson" was some hard-up friend.
Newspaper heading: "Ship Stagnates Into Port." Whereas a man is more apt to stagger when the port is in him.

A young woman recently disappeared from home and has not since been found, although her nose turned up.
From a story by Josephine Deakam Bacon: "We're to all of us agree with him," which is splitting the infinitive with a thick hatchet.

Culture in the West.—The Ohio State Journal remarks that if Mr. Rabindranath Tagore had never written anything but that delightful story, "Rab and His Friends," he would have deserved the Nobel prize.

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