The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THHURSDAY, MAY 27 1920.

THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Whether or not Dr. W. F. Roberts will be opposed in the by-election set for June 14th, is a matter to be decided during the next few days by the leaders of the Opposition Party in this constituency. Unquestionably if the Opposition decide to place in the field a strong man, Dr. Roberts can very readily be defeated, and such an eventuality would be of benefit not only to this province, but to Dr. Roberts personally.

The Minister of Health has for years been the victim of an idea, which he has pursued with energy and with a certain measure of success. Whether this idea is of value to the community is another matter and on this point there are strong differences of opinion. Some incline to the view that Dr. Roberts' efforts towards the improvement of health regulations are deserving of acknowledgement, while the majority of electors of the Province, judging from publicly expressed opinion in practically every parish, are decidedly opposed to what they regard as a personal fad. It is questionable whether any community has really profited by the regulations which the Minister of Health has attempted to set up. It is unquestionable that every community has been saddled with a very heavy expenditure far out of proportion to whatever insignificant measure of good may have been obtained.

Dr. Roberts entered the Legislature for the purpose of inflicting his views upon the public and so determined was he in this respect that when organization of the Health Department under his control hung in the balance he was content to accept the position as head of that department without salary and with the express understanding that he would remain without salary. Quite naturally, in the pursuit of his far-fetched ideas, he has devoted a considerable portion of his time to the administration of public health and to some extent has been compelled to neglect his private practice. There could be only one result—the need at the present time for an official salary to compensate for the sacrifice he has made, wisely or unwisely, in public services. It would be far more to Dr. Roberts' personal advantage were he defeated in the coming contest, and there are many who feel that it would be equally to the advantage of the province.

While the actual amount of money expended in the keeping up of the Public Health Department — some $26,000 odd—may not in itself be very large in comparison with the expense of the other departments, it is altogether too much for the amount of good accomplished. This, however, is a comparatively small matter; it is the cost to the municipalities that is causing so much complaint. The cost of administering the Act has gone up in the various counties from three times to ten times as much as the cost used to be before the Act came into operation, and this money comes directly out of the pockets of the taxpayers. It is little wonder, therefore, that the Act is not popular, for with all the extra expense conditions are not very much better than they were before. To send Dr. Roberts back to Fredericton again will only encourage him to embark on some fresh extravagance, something that is entirely unnecessary at the present time. Better to leave him quietly at home.

THE TORONTO GLOBE AND THE BUDGET.

Of all the comments on the budget the most amusing are those of the Toronto Globe. It discerns a wonderful movement in the country in favor of the amendment of Mr. Fielding, whom it lauds as Canada's greatest Finance Minister; denounces the budget generally as bad, and concludes that Big Business is as a "favorite child in the affection of the Government."

Now, as the Ottawa Journal says, there is little difference between the fiscal ideas of Sir Henry Drayton and Mr. Fielding. If they differ at all it is in their conception of how protection should be applied. Sir Henry, a protectionist, abolishes 7 1-2 per cent. of duty on a number of articles, but says that further revision should not be made without thorough inquiry. Mr. Fielding, a protectionist, also favors an inquiry, but thinks that meanwhile there should be additional reductions. That is all. If further evidence be required of Mr. Fielding's fiscal views, then let the Globe read his speech in Hansard. In that speech it will find that he denounced Free Trade and deified Protection; that he even went so far from Cobdenism as to heap praise upon bounties and to say a good word for mergers; and that from the beginning to the end of his speech there was not one word that might prove distasteful to what the Globe unctiously terms "Big Business."

No one expected Mr. Fielding to say anything else. He was Finance Minister for fifteen years, and in all of that time his regard for Big Business was quite clear. He found the tariff on boots and shoes (to give but one illustration out of hundreds) at 25 per cent., and he increased it to 30 per cent. He lavished bounties upon steel companies; he never imposed a red cent of direct taxation upon Big Business or upon anybody else; and he was always ready to dig down into the treasury to aid magnates and promoters of railways, as long as these railways did not come through New Brunswick. In the old days he had talked bravely about Free Trade, but, upon the testimony of so great a Liberal as Prof. Skelton, he succeeded, after a lot of camouflaged thinkering with the tariff, in leaving the National Policy intact. How can the Globe, during all these years of high protection, during which, as already said, bounties and bonuses and subsidies were dispensed with a lavish hand, remained silent, now come forward and put forward Mr. Fielding as the enemy of "Big Business"? How can it so warp its intelligence and make terms with its conscience, particularly in view of the fact that it offers him as the substitute for a Government which has taxed Big Business more than all the governments since Confederation put together, and which has been the pioneer of direct taxation in this country?

THE FOREST FIRES.

The news that serious fires have broken out and are now burning vigorously in different parts of the province is certainly disquieting, and that the situation is regarded with some concern by the Department of Lands and Mines is evidenced by the fact that the Minister has been compelled to issue a notice forbidding any further burning of brush or other matter in the vicinity of woods. Other fires are reported to have been started as the result of sparks from locomotives, and it is not unlikely that some of them are due to the carelessness of campers and fishing parties. Just at this present time when farmers are so busy with their seeding operations, it would be unfortunate if any great amount of rain were to fall, but it is feared that unless some rain does come, it will be difficult to get the fires in the woods under control. Everything at present is so dry and easily inflammable that once a fire gets a good hold it is a matter of some difficulty to overcome it. Parties going into the woods should see to it that they exercise the very greatest care as to where they throw their used matches, cigar and cigarette ends, etc., as well as light fires.

CANADA'S AUTOMOBILE BILL.

According to the Mail and Empire there are approximately 250,000 motor cars in Canada. Allowing an average of $10 a month for gasoline, oil, tires and repairs—a very modest estimate which includes the laying up of most cars for four months—there is an operating cost of $2,500,000 a month. As the average value of the cars is about $1,000, and depreciation figures at about twenty per cent., the total depreciation is about $50,000,000. That is, the operating cost and depreciation of the cars in Canada is about $80,000,000 a year. For a population of nine million people this is a heavy outlay. While it may be true that a large number of the automobiles are used in business, promoting trade and supplementing our railway transportation, or are otherwise engaged in earning operations, it cannot be denied that too many are used for purposes of extravagant pleasure only.

It was entirely unnecessary for Sir Auckland Geddes to go out of his way to explain to his audience at the Pilgrims' dinner at New York the other evening, that England had no intention of attempting to corner the oil supply of the world. What England's course in this direction is, is a matter for herself and no one else; and if by any lawful means she can obtain control of large oil areas which will be useful to the empire in years to come, she would be very foolish to neglect any means of doing so. The country that can control the oil supplies of the future is going to be the country that will have all others at a big disadvantage. If Canada had kept her nickel supplies for the sole use of the British Empire, instead of sending the greater part of the output across the line for it to find its way to Germany, the latter country would have cut a rather different figure throughout the war than she did.

Some advice which is being given by newspapers in other parts of the country to their readers may very usefully be repeated here. We ourselves have given it more than once already, and we can only trust that it is being heeded. It is that all back gardens and vacant plots of land be planted with winter vegetables forthwith. That these vegetables, potatoes particularly, will be very dear again next winter is pretty well conceded by all those who have any knowledge of the trade. Seven to ten dollars a barrel is a good deal more than the average man cares to pay for potatoes, but that is the price the man who does not grow his own may expect to have to pay. Those, therefore, who are wise will take time by the forelock and endeavor to get hold of a small piece of ground for themselves or arrange with someone else to share a piece, and see to it that they get their winter vegetables at first cost.

The Peterboro Review, established in 1853, has been absorbed by the Peterboro Examiner owing to "the high cost and scarcity of newsprint, abnormal increase in cost of production and supplies generally." The list of newspaper casualties grows apace and with the further big increase in the price of newsprint coming next month, the end is not yet. Those remaining in the field are compelled to raise subscription and advertising rates.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Value of a Name.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The Attorney General of the United States is to be known henceforth as Mitchell Palmer, lopping off the superfluous Alexander with which he started his career. An example was set by President Wilson, formerly known as T. Woodrow Wilson, and also by Grover Cleveland, christened Stephen Grover Cleveland. We wonder, too, if Joseph R. Kipling would ever have been as popular as Rudyard?

Labor Learning.

(Toronto Globe.)

The Coalition Government in Britain has won a string of by-elections. Apparently many of the "salariat" who were disposed to vote Labor are being frightened away from it by the extremists. This will explain the movement in the Labor party to purge it of the Bolshevist element.

(Toronto Globe.)

And now General Ian Hamilton has written a book to prove that everybody was mistaken but himself. Haig and Beatty are the only conspicuous war figures that have not exchanged swords for pens. Their deeds speak for them.

An Eye for Business.

(Kitchener Telegraph.)

Once Great Britain prided herself upon being "Mistress of the Seas."

That was before the days of gasoline.

Now John Bull wants to be King of Oil.

Sir E. Mackay Edgar says Great Britain has obtained control of all oil fields outside of the United States and predicts that the time is coming soon when Americans will propel their automobiles and airplanes with the aid of British "gas."

Edgar argues that being king of oil will prove even more profitable than playing the title role of mistress of the seas. But, at this distance, according to a U. S. exchange, it would appear that Britain was killing two birds with one stone by thus cornering the world's oil supply. Probably the ship of tomorrow, commercial or naval, must have oil or stay tied to the pier. The nation that has the fuel oil will not only drive your automobiles, but your ships as well.

Great Britain may be up against an unprecedented exchange situation, but she still, apparently, has an eye for business.

A Different Matter.

(Vancouver Provincial.)

It is not likely that Australia is afflicted over the proposed appointment of a Canadian representative to Washington, who may act for the British ambassador in the latter's absence. Australia has a continent to herself, and there is no neighboring foreign state with which she has large and intimate commercial relations. If there is a foreign capital in the world where Australia wishes to be represented the way is evidently open. But the Commonwealth will not wish to set up a ministry of any kind at Washington unless there is something for the officer to do. If Canada shall appoint a delegate to Washington that will be done because he is expected to be of some service.

THE LAUGH LINE

A lot of men have ideals, but they want them always to be convenient ones.

Nothing pleases the neighbors more than to discover the mistakes of one of the best regulated families.

Long, Long Ago.

Staylate—Didn't I hear the clock strike 10?

Miss Knox (yawning)—You've got a good memory, all right.—Boston Transcript.

His Reverence (whose caddie has sneezed at the moment of putting)—"You—you—you naughty caddie!"

What a Missing Letter Does.

Those white enameled letters will drop off the glass and then we get some queer effects in signs:

Dies di ing room.

Might be a new kind of undertaker's establishment—go there and die all nice and convenient.

Two Ways.

Mrs. Swellman—I am having my children taught how to enter a room properly.

Mr. Smart—By a deportment teacher or a burglar.—Boston Transcript.

Not At First, Anyway.

Everything was in readiness. The groom, best man and the minister were gathered in the vestry. The organist started to play and the parson moved toward the door.

"Wait a minute, sir," said the nervous groom. "Is it the right or left hand the ring goes on?"

"The left," hurriedly replied the minister.

"And, sir, another minute," said the trembling one.

"Is it—at—it kisstomary to cuss the bride?"

Ill Timed Patience.

"Is your boy Josh patient and persevering?"

"In some respects," replied Farmer Corntossel. "He stands in line for an hour, if necessary to buy a ticket to a picture show."—Washington Star.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yestidday ma started to look all erround as if she was hunting for sumthing, saying to herself, My goodnise, a persin never knowes ware anything is in this house frum one minnit to the next, I never saw sutch a place for things getting lost, one minnit you see it and the next you don't, I declare if I ever found a thing ware I put it I'd think sumthing was rong.

Wats you looking for, ma? I sed.

My woolen shawl, do you know ware it is? sed ma.

Do you meen the brown one? I sed.

Yes, sed ma.

The one with the fringes? I sed.

Yes, I've only got one brown one, ware is it? sed ma.

Do you meen the one Ant Sue gave you for Kriasmas? I sed.

Yes, yes, for mersey sake, yes, you ask more questions than a duzzen lawyers, ware is it if you know ware it is? sed ma.

I don't know ware it is ma, I jest wunted to find out wich one you was looking for, I sed.

Well of all the foolish people in the world, you must be the werst, I could of found it wile I was standing heer ansering your silly questions, sed ma.

Well gosh, G, ma, I sed, sippose I had of knew ware it was how would I of knew weather it was the one you was looking for or not unless I knew wich one it was? Wats foolish about that?

All of it, sed ma. And she kepp on looking for her shawll and I went out to see if there was anything doing.

LABOR DEMANDS THAT REAL BEER

Be Obtainable, and That the Government Should Take Some Steps to See That it be Supplied.

Brantford, May 25.—That the workingman still wants his beer with an alcoholic strength to make it palatable was the decision of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario at its 18th annual convention here today, by a vote of 62 to 42. The resolution adopted included the following: "Be it resolved that this convention go on record as favoring and asking that the Government take such measures as will permit the purchase of the aforesaid beer in an open public manner, thereby doing away to a large extent with the existing order of bootleggers, kitchen barrooms and other forms of subterfuge now practiced in order to obtain vilest concoction of so-called liquor now said to be obtainable at war profiteers' prices."

CONTRACTS LET FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Fredericton, May 26.—Hon. P. J. Veniot this evening announced awards of contracts for highway construction as follows:

Queenstown to Otnabogh, Queens County, five miles, J. Willard McMulkin, Upper Gagetown.

Grand Falls section, Victoria County, four and a half miles, W. Everett McCloskey, Grand Falls.

Pokiok section, York County, six and a half miles, Concrete Builders, Limited, Fredericton.

Meductic to Woodstock, Carleton County, twelve and a half miles, Concrete Builders Limited, Fredericton.

In each case the lowest tender was accepted.

The type of construction is gravel and rock. Small concrete bridges are included in the contracts, also a certain amount of rock blasting.

Stewart McFarlane, son of Mr. and Mrs. William McFarlane, of Nashwaaksis, has been chosen Valedictorian at the Provincial Normal School while Miss Rovene Downey is class prophet for Class A1 and Miss Stella Skidd for Class A2.

Daily Fashion Hint

Prepared Especially For This Newspaper

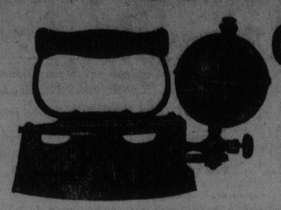
A SURE SIGN OF SUMMER.

Vacationists who get away early are selecting their bathing costumes for the new season and the latest models are indescribably pretty. This one, in dark blue serge, has a long blouse held in with black taffeta ribbon. Bands of the ribbon outline the lower edge of the blouse and the V-shaped neck. The bloomers are also of serge. Medium size requires 3 yards 54-inch material.

Pictorial Review Bathing Costume No. 8878. Size s,34 to 44 inches bust. Price, 25 cents.

Pictorial Review Patterns are sold in St. John by F. W. Daniel & Co., Ltd.

The "COMFORT" GASOLINE IRON



Makes Ironing a Pleasure

This famous Self-Heating Iron has TWO POINTS—a pointed heel and a pointed toe.

There you have the secret of the "COMFORT'S" wonderful popularity and success.

Every housewife who has ever used a sad iron knows how great a convenience is this feature of the "COMFORT."

Price $6.00

'Phone M 2540 McAVITY'S 11-17 King St.

And when Ye Plight the Troth—

be mindful that the Ring—which marks the step so vital in the life of womankind—be of finest gold, with gem of purity beyond reproach.

ENGAGEMENT RINGS

in Solitaire and Cluster Diamond effects, also set with Pearls, Rubies, Emeralds and other precious stones, are special features of our up-to-date display.

We're always glad to show them to you. Call at your convenience.

FERGUSON & PAGE

1 Carload To Arrive

B. C. RED CEDAR SHINGLES

Price ex Car $7.00

Same thickness as local sawn shingles and 6 in. to 8 in. clear butt and better.

HALEY BROS., LTD. - St. John, N. B.

YOUR ORDERS FOR

English Balata Belting

WILL BE PROMPTLY SHIPPED

WE HAVE SOME REMNANTS

EXTRA DISCOUNT

D. K. McLAREN LIMITED Manufacturers

MAIN 1121 90 GERMAIN STREET. ST. JOHN, N. B. BOX 702.

Elastica House Paints

For Interior or Exterior Use

Painters' Sundries, High Class Varnishes

M. E. AGAR 51-53 Union St. St. John, N. B.

'Phone Main 818

Stationary Gas Engines

From Half-Horse up. Strictly first class, having latest improvements with or without magneto, suitable for farm use, pumping or general purposes. You do not buy an engine every day—get the best for reliable service and satisfaction. Prices right.

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MARINE AND STATIONARY ENGINEERS

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'Phone Main 4211.

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Look ahead, and prepare now, to KEEP OUT THE WEATHER AND KEEP DOWN COAL BILLS, by using

RUBBEROID ASPHALT SATURATED FELT

between your walls and under your floors. It keeps out cold better than anything else of the kind.

For Prices and all information, 'Phone M 3000.

MURRAY & GREGORY, Ltd.

No Summer Vacation

this year, as some of our students cannot afford to lose the time.

Our classes have been considerably crowded, but changes now occurring give a chance for new students who may enter at any time.

Send for Rate Card.

The St. John Business College

S. KERR, Principal

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At Home and Visiting Cards.

FLEWWELLING PRESS,

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2 Cws. Oats For Seed

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A bracelet watch from Sharpe's is the finest gift a girl graduate can receive.

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L. L. SHARPE & SON

Jewelers and Opticians

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MAKE YOUR BUILDINGS SAFE

One of the advantages of Crown Mica Roofing is that it is spark proof. No flying embers will set it on fire and if the sides of buildings are covered there is little danger from nearby risks.

$3.25, $3.75 and $4.25 a roll.

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The Christie Woodworking Co., Ltd.

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Your Valuable Furs

Your Valuable Winter Clothing

is assured

Absolute Protection by our storage system.

Scientific, thorough

Cleansing

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Insuring.

Receipts and guarantees furnished.

Economical Estimates

are being furnished daily for repairs, remodelling, and special orders in Furs.

D. Magee's Sons, Ltd.

Master Furriers Since 1859 in St. John.

STYLE as Illustrated

Shown in

Black Calf Leather

$9.50, $10, $12, $14

Brown Calf Leather

$12.50, $15, $17, $18.50

This type of shoe is particularly the young man's style and fits just as good as it looks.

Foot Fitters McROBBIE 50 King Street

ST. JOHN

No Bug is snug in any Rug,
No Flea is safe in Sheeting;
If worried with these, just kill with ease,
The whole——lot with KEATING.
Sold in Cartons only at all dealers.

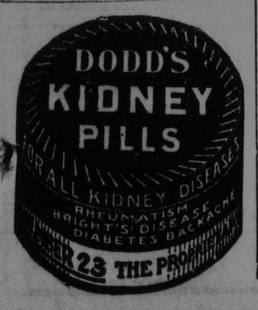
Didn't End There.

"What is this man charged with?"

"He's a camera fiend of the worst kind, yer worship."

"But he shouldn't have been arrested simply because he has a mania for taking pictures."

"It isn't that, yer worship; he takes the cameras."

That's the Problem.

The landlord having raised the rent, how can't the tenant raist it?—Buffalo Times.