

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1912.

THE FERRY TOLLS.

There must be something rotten in the State of Denmark when a Common Council arbitrarily and illegally places an additional tax on the community. This is the situation which has developed in connection with the ferry tolls. Last Saturday, without any notice to the residents of Carleton, a motion was rushed through the Council to raise the rates and some of the East side aldermen were shaking hands with themselves on having accomplished a mighty smart piece of business. At one blow they had practically wiped out the annual deficit. If Carleton kicked, who cared?

And Carleton did kick with both feet and to some purpose. It is now definitely understood that the procedure of the Council was illegal. The by-law of March, 1911, fixing the rates still stands. The opponents of any increase who have looked into the matter have satisfied themselves that the by-law can only be changed by some regular procedure. It is also recalled that after some trouble at the time of the union a working agreement was come to that the city should contribute a sum not exceeding \$10,000 a year to the up-keep of the ferry. This fact has been apparently lost sight of by some members of the Council. Carleton breathes more freely.

It is usually the wiser course to let sleeping dogs lie. The question of ferry tolls seems to come in this category. No one has been raising a protest against the annual deficit, which is less this year than last, with promise of still further reduction. Carleton is part of the city of St. John, pays its share of the taxes and should not be unduly penalized by reason of geographical barriers. To the West Side the city owes the Winter Port, the best advertisement we possess. To raise the rate on men resident on the East Side who work on the steamers is an additional imposition.

There were some whispers of congratulation when this Council was elected that no gentlemen learned in the law were included among its members. Congratulations, judging by the blunder made in connection with the tolls, were premature. These mistakes are expensive and decidedly unpopular. But there is a touch of grim humor in the situation notwithstanding. Taxpayers have been told that the tax rate being fixed by law at a maximum of \$1.98, they were now in a position to know exactly where they stood. In the light of this supposed safeguard against extravagance the scheme to get rid of the old ferry deficit by direct taxation was a brilliant piece of high finance; no increase in the tax rate and \$8,000 more in hand to spend for general purposes. This is demonstrated that there are more ways than one of killing a cat; but in this case, as sometimes happens, the cat came back. St. John is big enough and prosperous enough to go on its way without raising a storm over ferry tolls. The wisest course open to the Council is to arrange to meet the deficit and continue to give Carleton a square deal.

THE SOLICITUDE OF THE TIMES.

The Times is much concerned because no political "hero" is posing in the limelight and declaiming to the people of this city these days that he and he alone is the benefactor of St. John, the one man among men who has brought about the development of Courtenay Bay. The Times thinks Mr. Hazen should appear in this role and give prompt assurance that the development work will proceed without delay.

The wonder which the Times evinces is quite natural. As Mr. Pugsley's organ it was the medium through which the late Minister of Public Works indulged his propensity for cheap advertising to his heart's content. Scarcely a day passed but what the wonderful, almost miraculous things Mr. Pugsley was about to accomplish for St. John were emblazoned on the front pages of the newspapers which fed out of his hand. It was hero worship ad nauseam, and if the truth were told the people of St. John got very tired of it. And now the Times, with its own hero lying prone in the dust, is naturally amazed beyond measure because Mr. Hazen is missing the opportunity of a lifetime to advertise himself as the benefactor of his constituency. Obsessed with the belief in cheap notoriety, the Times, as an adept at this sort of thing, expects to see Mr. Hazen, proudly waving aloft a signed contract, stand forth before the people of St. John and exclaim "Alone I did it," amid thunders of applause. If only Mr. Pugsley were in Mr. Hazen's shoes, what gallons of red ink would have been expended ere now to tell his worth! What a chance to make political capital is being missed! It makes the Times almost weep to think of it.

When Mr. Pugsley's organ has had a little more experience of the Conservative Government at Ottawa it will understand that Ministers in the present Cabinet have something better to do than to be constantly looking for free advertising and making announcements for the benefit of hungry speculators. If the Times has any nervous friends who have options on land in the neighborhood of Courtenay Bay it might reassure them that there is no cause for alarm. If the Times is not satisfied with the fact that \$1,000,000 is in the estimates for the development of St. John harbor, and with the information which the Mayor obtained in Ottawa "that the work in Courtenay Bay would be started next season," it is hard to please. Among level headed citizens who have sized up the situation there is neither anxiety nor discontent. They know that the development of Courtenay Bay is assured.

THE MERGER INDUSTRY.

The mergers which took place in the Canadian business world in 1911 were important, but there was less activity in this direction than in either of the two previous years. During last year twenty important mergers, amalgamations and absorptions of stock companies and other businesses took place. The capital of these corporations as they now stand is \$112,131,250, including bonds and both kinds of stocks. The Financial Post, from which these facts are obtained, distinguishes between mergers and absorptions. It is a merger when two or more companies join and issue new securities in the name of the joint institution. An absorption means the purchase by one company of the stock of others. In this sense there were eleven mergers and nine absorptions last year.

The eleven companies formed by merger were before the union thirty-one corporations or firms. These have now \$63,994,200 of capital; before the merger it was much less. In order of magnitude these mergers were: The Sherwin-Williams Paint Company, present capital \$9,450,000, formed of two concerns; the Canada Steel Foundries, capital \$8,050,000, formed of two concerns; the Northern Ontario Light and Power Co., \$7,455,000, formed of two concerns; the Ames-Holden-McCreedy Company, \$7,000,000, formed of two concerns; the American Sales Book

Company, \$6,146,000, formed by three concerns; the Standard Chemicals, \$5,713,000, formed of four concerns; the International Milling, \$5,006,400, formed of two concerns; the Canada Bread Company, \$5,000,000, formed of five concerns; Matthews-Lalag, Ltd., \$4,700,000, formed of two concerns; the Steel and Radiator \$2,223,200, formed of three concerns; and the Belding, Paul, Corticelli, \$2,350,000, formed of three concerns. The two largest absorptions were the Canadian Light and Power, \$10,000,000, formed from three companies, the Toronto Empire Light, \$18,000,000, and the Richelieu and Ontario Company, which take over three other concerns, adding \$4,935,000 to its capital.

If this seems to be an active year's operations it may be compared with 1910, when combines were created having a capital of \$135,000,000, and the \$135,000,000 of the year before. These included the \$98,000,000 cement merger, the \$35,000,000 Dominion Steel and Coal amalgamation, the Canada Steel Company with the same capital, and Amalgamated Asbestos, \$25,000,000. The absorptions of 1912 begin with the Commerce-Eastern Townships Bank, with a joint capital of \$15,000,000.

CONFLAGRATIONS IN JAPAN.

Japan has paid a flattering tribute to the United States in the opinion of the Boston Transcript, in the extent to which she has developed her new civilization in accordance with American models. But in one respect at least she would have done better to look for her inspiration in European cities rather than in those of the United States. Her building methods have been as bad, or even worse. Her conflagrations in residential districts are more comprehensive than those which occur in cities south of the border. The series of fires, or conflagrations, which recently destroyed over five thousand houses and rendered thirty thousand persons homeless in the city of Osaka, is not a surprising visitation considering the conditions that invited it. Osaka and other Japanese cities are as accustomed to such things as the Chinese provinces are to floods.

Osaka has a population of over a million and a quarter. Its dwellings are built of bamboo, or other flimsy material, and are as inflammable as a Dorchester "three-decker." Moreover they are in such close alignment that when one catches fire others are pretty sure to go. It is only two years ago last July that about twelve thousand houses and other buildings were destroyed in that city. Of course, the losses do not mount into the millions as rapidly as would be the case in American cities from an equal number of units involved but the suffering caused among the people thus deprived of their homes is hardly much less.

In the matter of building construction and fire prevention the Japanese have shown an almost inexplicable streak of conservatism. In almost everything else, material and economic, they have broken sharply away from former methods and traditions, but social habit still attaches them to old methods of association. A few years ago an enterprising American company of steam fire engine manufacturers saw visions of big money in the island empire. Its conditions seemed to invite just the kind of relief that the company was prepared to give and it sent its agents among the cities of Japan to break ground for the consignments which it was sure would follow.

But they were coldly received by the Government officials and no hospitality was given to their propositions. These officials did give a reason, however. "If we should use your machines," they said, "and put out fires as soon as they started, what would our carpenters do?" Perhaps the Osaka carpenters have finished the jobs cut out for them by the sweeping conflagration of 1909 and are ready for new contracts.

Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The Anti-Saloon League in the United States is one of the strongest temperance organizations in the world. It is now endeavoring to have Congress make it illegal for liquor to be shipped from a "wet" into a "dry" State. Until this reform has been accomplished the movement toward State local option will be seriously handicapped. Abraham Lincoln predicted that the day would come when the liquor question would become a national issue, and there are those now living who will not be old before that day arrives.

(Montreal Herald.)

We regret to hear that the employees of factories in the Province of Quebec decline to wash before they go home because they are afraid they might catch cold. But the manufacturers had better continue to provide the means for them to do so. These ancient ideas are passing away in this Province, and some day they are going to disappear with a rush.

(Toronto News.)

The French-Canadians have fought for the Empire and are ready to fight for it again, because they know that it defends all that they hold most dear. When Mr. Borden has consulted the Admiralty and formulated a real defence policy in place of the wasteful and useless Laurier programme, they will support it with their votes and with their money.

(Hamilton Herald.)

A few persons used the public toboggan slide in Toronto on a Sunday. The Toronto Ministerial Association made public protest against this violation of the Lord's Day. On the following Sunday (last Sunday) twelve thousand persons were out having fun on the slides. Great are the uses of advertising.

(New York World.)

This is the silly season of American politics—the winter before a national campaign. Nothing is too trivial, nothing is too ridiculous, nothing is too insane to be used for or against any man whose name happens to be mentioned in connection with the nomination.

(Canada, London, Eng.)

Apples from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and British Columbia are on view at the offices of Canada's Grand Trunk Railway system, 17-19, Cockspur street, London, and show the productiveness of the soil in Canada, and the part played by the Grand Trunk system in bringing the Dominion into closer touch with the people at home.

(Ottawa Journal.)

France, after paying rent for 200 years on the building occupied by the French ambassador in Rome, has purchased it. France is like many individuals who pay away in rent frequently enough to buy two or three houses before they reach the decision to become their own landlord.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

China can't be such a heathen nation as we are led to believe when they give a deposed Emperor \$6,500,000 a year instead of cutting his head off.

(New York World.)

The report that Great Britain is to grow sugar forecasts the coming of a time when she will also grow a protective tariff or a bounty system.

(Bangor News.)

Did it ever occur to you that some of the people who brag about being descendants of the kings have descended a long, long way?

WANTS CORNWALL TO CALL AT ST. JOHN

To the Editor of The Standard:
Sir,—I notice by late naval papers that H. M. S. Cornwall, training ship for Naval Cadets, is to make another cruise and after visiting Bermuda and the West Indies, will arrive at Halifax 8th May, remaining till the 22nd; no mention is made of St. John, although on her last cruise she was scheduled to arrive here in October, but this was cancelled on account of her going ashore when assisting H. M. C. S. Niobe. I think it is due to this city that the Cornwall should come here, and I hope that Hon. Mr. Hazen, M. P., will take this up with the Admiralty, and arrange that this vessel remains here some days, giving the future admirals of the Royal Navy an opportunity of learning something of St. John. Yours truly, JACK TAR, St. John, N. B., Jan. 18th, 1912.

VICTORIA MUSEUM SHOWS EVIDENCES OF POOR JUDGMENT

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—Investigation of the new Victoria museum erected here at a cost of over \$2,000,000, reveals a number of glaring errors, besides the fact that the crack indicating that the main tower is falling away from the building is again in evidence. This now reaches a width of 5 inches on the top floor.
One room, 70 feet by 70 feet and 22 feet high is inaccessible for office purposes, as it can only be entered by two small doors about 20 inches wide and a spiral staircase of 12 steps. There is no heating apparatus in the room. No furniture can be taken into it. The main floor is bulging up in the centre three inches owing to the sagging of the main walls and the upward pressure of concrete sub-basement walls. The building is heated by hot water instead of by steam and is frigid in winter.

WOMEN UNIONISTS FIGHTING HOME RULE PROPOSAL

Belfast, Jan. 18.—Fifty thousand women members of the Ulster unionist associations have issued today a fiery manifesto to their sisters in Great Britain to aid them in defeating the Home Rule bill.
Belfast, Jan. 18.—The Duchess of Abercorn presided at the meeting of the council of the Ulster Unionist Associations which adopted the appeal to the women of Great Britain. In the course of a speech she said: "We will not have home rule and if we are thrown out of our heritage we shall stand by our men folk resisting to the uttermost the domination of a rebel parliament in Dublin."
The manifesto declares the Unionist determination to hold Ulster for the Empire and asserts that home rule "will reduce the whole country to the rags and poverty which are found in Ireland only in those districts where the rule of the Nationalist leagues is supreme."

ANNUAL MEETING OF LEINSTER ST. CHURCH.

The annual meeting of the Leinster Street Baptist church was held on Wednesday evening. Reports from the officers of the church showed all departments to be in a flourishing condition. The officers elected for the year were as follows:

H. D. Everett, treasurer; A. A. Wilson, K. C. clerk; A. W. Sullis, financial secretary; A. E. Everett, treasurer of denominational funds; J. J. Gillespie, treasurer of pew rents; A. W. Sullis, A. R. Everett, Fred Holman, A. W. Burns, Gordon Plummer, George Waterbury, finance committee; A. V. DeWolfe, Kenneth Wilson, auditors; Isaac Erb, E. O. McQuoid, George Waterbury, K. Wilson, John Parker, F. Holman, K. Gillespie, R. Jones and A. A. Wilson, K. C. ushers; R. Mitchell, A. D. Barbour, Mrs. F. Jones, Miss Edith Allen, Miss Nellie Waterbury, Mrs. E. H. Milson and James Sullivan, choir committee; A. A. Wilson, K. C. W. Cameron, A. D. Barbour, Capt. Burns, W. V. Barbour, A. W. Sullis, H. D. Everett, Isaac Erb, and F. C. Jones, trustees. The members of the Board of Deacons are: Thomas C. Kay, J. E. Vincent, honorary; H. S. Cosman, J. B. Kierstead, for three years; J. J. Davis, John Bennett, for two years; Geo. Mitchell, J. Gillespie, D. E. Vaughan, for one year.

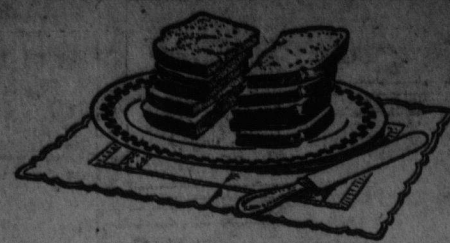
PRESENTATION TO W. D. CARTER, K. C.

Richibucto, Jan. 15.—The supper which it has become customary for the newly elected warden of the municipality to give to his fellow councillors and county officials, was this year made the occasion for the presentation of an address and the purse to W. D. Carter, K. C., the retiring auditor of the county. The supper was held at the LeBlanc Hotel on Wednesday evening.

Councillor Morton, an ex-warden of the municipality, acted as toast master, and his brief speeches in proposing the different toasts were a pleasing feature of the programme.

KING COLE TEA

You'll like the flavor



Eat More Bread

Few people eat enough of what is rightly called "the staff of life"

FOOD authorities declare that wheat is the KING of all foods. It is the best food for growing children, the best for old age, the best for every age of life. It is best chiefly because it contains most of the life-building nitrogen combined with the proper degree of starch.

Of all the forms in which wheat may be eaten, bread stands at the top. There is no food yet created that can take the place of good bread—"the staff of life."

The better the flour you use, the better, more wholesome, bread you'll make. And better bread means the use of PURITY FLOUR.

The bread will be better, higher-class, because PURITY FLOUR consists exclusively of the high-grade portions of the best Western hard wheat. There are no low-grade portions of the hard wheat berries, nor no soft wheat flour, in it. It is all high-grade—a strong, vigorous flour. The loaves will be more nutritious, because they contain the high-quality nitrogen, gluten, starch and phosphates—the blood-enriching,

body-building and life-sustaining elements of the world's strongest wheat. Think of the added enjoyment of eating bread you know is so chock-full of wholesomeness. Think of the good it will do your children, your husband and yourself. Think of the wisdom of eating lots and lots of it, for it is a fact known to the medical profession, that few people eat enough of "the staff of life."

Of course PURITY FLOUR will cost you slightly more than ordinary flour. It's worth the difference. And it will make "more bread and better bread" for you than you can obtain from the same weight of ordinary flour.

And the pastry PURITY FLOUR makes! It's more delicious too, if you take the precaution to add more shortening than is required with ordinary flour. The extra strength of PURITY FLOUR requires the addition of more shortening for best pastry-results.

Think of the PURITY trade-mark when you buy flour.

Add PURITY FLOUR to your grocery list right now.

PURITY FLOUR

"More bread and better bread"



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For twenty years we have been handling "bulky" timekeepers. We know their tricks. We have learned all their nasty little ways. We know, too, just how to handle them. Let us look over that watch you can't depend upon any more. If it's worn out we'll tell you so. If it isn't, we'll make it right—or your money back.

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The Christie Woodworking Company, Ltd.

(Two Factories.) 245 1/2 City Road Erin Street

Real Estate Signs

ST. JOHN SIGN CO. 143 1-2 Prince St., St. John, N.B. Phone, Main 576.



Last year we thanked the public for the best year we had ever had. This year we give most hearty thanks for a very much better one. Our new term will begin Tuesday, January 2nd. Send for Catalogue.

S. KERR, Principal.

Interesting Matches.

For the curlers there should be some interesting matches on the local rink next week. The St. Stephen curlers have sent word that they will be here during the week for matches with some of the St. John rinks. It is not definitely decided yet which, or how many of the local clubs they will meet.

WATCHES

The most critical judge of beauty of design as applied to the handicraft of watch production, will of a surety be more than satisfied with The Artistic Merchandise that we are showing in this branch of the Jeweller's art. For this season's trade. GOLD WATCHES, GOLD FILLED WATCHES, also watches cased in Silver, Gun Metal and Nickel. LADIES' AND MISSES' BRACELET-WATCHES of various styles and prices. The prices throughout the whole wide range of our watch stock are Quality for Quality, the lowest obtainable. FERGUSON & PAGE, Diamond Importers and Jewelers, 41 KING STREET.

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