

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1921.

THE PILFERING ON WEST SIDE

The decidedly casual attitude adopted by the City Council on the question of adequate police protection at the docks must be a matter for considerable surprise to all those citizens who are well acquainted with the facts of the case. It appears to be fully recognized that pilfering from the sheds is going on on a considerable scale, and that little or no effort is being put forth by the city authorities to put a stop to it. Such a condition of affairs does not tend to enhance the reputation of the port, nor to encourage shipping lines to make use of it. Why our city fathers should adopt this laissez faire attitude with regard to one section of the city property when they would not do so with regard to other sections, is not easy to understand. If there were reason to believe that a burglary was intended in one of the King Street business houses on a particular night, it is safe to say that the police would be on the look out. But when it is known and admitted that pilfering is going on openly and in broad daylight over on the West Side, no notice seems to be taken.

It is said, we understand, that it is up to the shipowners and their agents to look after their own cargoes. This would be a very sound argument to use provided these owners and agents had sole control of the warehouses and sheds in which the cargoes are stored. But they have not; they merely have the right to use them for the time being; the warehouses are the property of the city which lets the shipowners have the use of them on payment of wharfage fees. The city authorities claim that these warehouses are public thoroughfares from which the public cannot be excluded. Then why withhold the police patrol which is maintained on all other thoroughfares? Shipowners and shipping agents who pay for the use of these warehouses have just the same right to expect that their goods will be protected from theft as have the merchants along King Street; each class alike contributes to the city's revenue, out of which the cost of police maintenance is paid. It is idle to tell these shipowners and agents to put their own watchmen on. Such watchmen are of little use unless they are clothed with all the powers of a uniformed policeman. Even the C. P. R. policemen have no power to arrest a man except on C. P. R. property.

The situation as at present existing is too serious to be allowed to continue. It is getting the port a very bad name and it is not as though there were no remedy for it, because there is a remedy, and a very simple one at that. The suggestion has been made, we understand, that three or four of the city police should be detailed for continuous duty in the warehouses and sheds on the West Side for the remainder of the present winter-port season. This will only be for two months or so, and the cost of maintaining this service would not be anything very serious. It could then be seen whether or no the pilfering that is taking place is a result of want of proper police supervision. If it ceases to any considerable extent there will be evidence of what is needed in the future; if it goes on still the same it will show that it is not police protection that is wanted, and the remedy must be looked for in some other direction.

SENATOR McDONALD'S APPOINTMENT

The Standard has not had one word to say—nor has it yet—in question of Mr. McDonald's personal fitness for a seat in the Senate. He is a good type of citizen, honest, upright in his dealings, and is a successful business man. Our objection to him is based on the fact that on his own written admission he is a resident of Nova Scotia, and there is not the slightest reason for appointing a Nova Scotian to the Senate as a representative of New Brunswick when we have several better men than Mr. McDonald within our own borders. The fact remains that he owes his appointment to the Senate to a splendidly organized campaign which has taken place among the railway workers, under the direction of Mr. A. R. Mosher of the C. B. & N. E., on the understanding that by the appointment the Meligon Government would benefit by the support of a large number of the labor unions. How this could be, seems difficult to understand, in view of the fact that the great majority of labor unions in the

province had never even heard of Mr. McDonald.

Members of the Meligon Cabinet are now freely admitting an error of judgment and they realize that it has caused the Administration a very serious loss of prestige. Any minister or any government which makes a mistake, and on being shown the true situation admits that mistake, is free to be forgiven by the great majority of our people, for all men and all governments are liable to error. But a minister or government which makes a mistake, and despite the production of overwhelming evidence persists in openly justifying itself, suffers as a result. The Standard, as we have said, has no quarrel with Mr. McDonald, firmly believing him a sound and capable business man, although perhaps more ambitious than his qualifications seem to warrant. It has no quarrel either with the Meligon Government, except that in the present instance it has been guilty of a serious error of judgment—and that it doesn't pay its bills. Neither has it any quarrel with Mr. Wigmore, apart from the fact that he has foolishly attempted to justify what he has privately admitted to be a serious mistake.

CONCERNING MENDACITY

The Amherst Daily News in its issue of Tuesday lets fly a wild dart against The Standard on account of the appointment of Mr. J. A. McDonald of Amherst, N. S., to the Senate as a representative of New Brunswick. Except for one remark, The News' article is not worth notice. That remark is as follows:—

"With mendacity or ignorance, the former we believe, the Standard refers to Amherst as being the native town of Senator McDonald, Sheldrake, Westmorland County, New Brunswick, has this honor. We say this for the benefit of the editor of the Standard. All others, presuming to discuss the question, are, we believe, 'familiar with the facts.'"

When it comes to mendacity, we desire to tell The News that we would not attempt to compete with it on any terms; we would hand over the kettle to it without an instant's hesitation, because we realize that, on its own showing, we could never hope to have any chance with it. We did not say that Amherst was Mr. McDonald's native town. We said it was his home town. And we based this assertion on a declaration made by Mr. McDonald, over his own signature, that he was a resident of Amherst, N. S. This is sufficiently authentic proof for us, and we would imagine that it would be sufficient for most other people too. We can only express our surprise that The News should so grossly misquote us, in view of the fact that a reference to our columns will show the mendacity of the alleged quotation at once.

A NOTED AMERICAN

Champ Clark is dead, and by the same token, America has lost one of her most picturesque personalities. For many years he has been one of the most outstanding figures in the political life of the Republic, and has had much to do with shaping its policies. He was best known in Canada through his famous speech advocating annexation of Canada by the United States delivered during the discussion of reciprocity proposals in 1911. He declared that nine tenths of the people of the United States favored the annexation of Canada. His declaration that the reciprocity treaty would make Canada "an adjunct of the United States" was largely instrumental in defeating the proposal sponsored by the Laurier Government in the Dominion elections of 1911.

The late Mr. Clark was born in Anderson, Ky., on March 7, 1856. After working as farm hand, clerk and country editor he took up the

study of law and in 1878 he moved to Missouri and began practicing there. After holding several state offices, he was sent to the United States Congress in 1892 and after serving one term he was defeated for re-election. Two years later, however, he was again returned and had served continuously ever since. He was chosen Speaker when the Democrats gained control of the House during the last year of President Taft's administration.

In 1913 he led on 27 ballots for the Democratic nomination for president. A sensational attack made upon him by Wm. Jennings Bryan from the floor of the Convention Hall, charging him with being affiliated with leaders representing "the interests" eventually led to the nomination of Wilson. The failure of his candidacy never ceased to be the disappointment of Mr. Clark's life, and he never forgave Bryan.

THE LATE ALEXANDER MACAULAY

Yesterday saw the grave close over yet another of St. John's well known business men, when all that was mortal of Mr. Alexander Macaulay was laid to rest. For nearly fifty years he had been one of the leading figures in the commercial life of this city, during which time he earned the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens to a marked degree. His social standing and never failing courtesy made for him a whole host of friends, whose regret at his death will be sincere and lasting. In the furtherance of everything that had to do with the welfare and advancement of the city he was always ready to lend a helping hand; and his interest in all matters for the betterment of the less fortunate members of society was always of the keenest. Unfortunately of late years his activities had to be curbed somewhat on account of failing health, and he was compelled to withdraw to a large extent from active participation in public affairs, in which however his interest was as keen as ever. He was a type of citizen of which any city might justly be proud, and which it can ill afford to lose.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Good Chorus Girl.
 Secretary of State Lyons, of New York, has compiled statistics of crime which go to show that one popular and valuable contributor to the gaiety of nations has been grossly maltreated. In a list of 2,773 women convicted of crime in the State of New York last year, only one was a chorus girl. Yet there were eighteen stenographers on the list, four teachers, seventy-nine cooks (we did not know there were that many left) and eighty-nine waitresses. The popular picture of the chorus girl is that of the red-lipped vamp with her toes on the table and wineglasses in her hand, to brazen "gold diggers" with no name to lose, pilfered by the moralist, careless of all but the spotlight and the plaudits, the roses and raptures along the great white way. But as a matter of fact, she is usually a girl who hates the stage-door Johnny as she hates snakes, bats or mice. She would like a husband and a home as much as any other girl who earns her own living. She has the same affection for her mother and the members of her family that other girls feel who divide their earnings with those partly or wholly dependent.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Herd Impulses and Credulity.
 Weighted with the years that have brought the philosophic mind, the President Emeritus of Harvard University deprecates the "herd impulses" and the "credulity" of the American people. Dr. Eliot believes that one serious task of education is to "release individuality." Observers of the current trend will incline to believe that he is right. There seems to be little danger in these days of the prevalence of what are called "anti-social" tendencies by the Uniflora. On the contrary we are more and more giving our intelligence and our conscience into the hands of the community. That "herd impulses" lead to "credulity" is easily conceivable. Nor are the American people singular in believing almost anything if it is repeated often enough. "Plain living and high thinking are no more," said Wordsworth many years ago. The connection of the two may not be as inevitable as he implied. But it is at least arguable that we are too much occupied with "fashions" to think straight. It is easier to have our thinking done for us.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Not Always the Railway's Fault.
 Of the 6,975 killed on the railways in 1919, only 1,693 were railroad workers. Who were the others? Some, of course, were passengers, and still on half of our national system, or 126,021 miles of railroad, a greater mileage than in all Western Europe, including the British Isles, whose safe operation is often enquired to a single passenger lost his life. Of the 5,282 killed other than railroad employees the great majority were trespassers on rights of way and persons who met death at crossings and other exposed places in systems of tracks. Within the limits fixed by the conditions of the past, the railroads themselves have applied safety-first principles with unimpaired success, but the time has come when the public must co-operate for the removal of former limits and for expansion of the movement. Separation of grades at crossings, physical safeguards at other points of peril, can make possible new records in lifesaving even former cheering records.—St. Louis Globe-Despatch.

THE LAUGH LINE

Sim Flanders has been taking a newspaper, but his time is now out and he has decided to drop it and read the news over somebody else's shoulder for the rest of the year.

Poke Blakeley today asked Dock Hocks what time it was. Dock pulled out his watch, cranked it a few times and told him exactly what time it was.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.
 Weather. Papers blowing every which way.
 Sports. Last Saturday Skinny Martin challenged Puds Skinkins to five him six rounds with boxing gloves on, Puds answering by saying he will accept the challenge if he can bring himself down to Skinkins weight on account of him not wanting to have any unfair advantage and he don't know if he can lose 40 pounds by next Saturday but he will be glad to try.
 Intriguing Facks About Intriguing People. Sam Cross don't believe in lies and never tells one unless it's absolutely necessary and even then he don't exaggerate any more than he has to.
 POME BY SKINNY MARTIN.
 A Free Country.
 A ship sailed proudly out to sea
 Saying, "Hurray, look at everybody looking at me!"
 And a match stick went down the gutter that day
 Saying, "G, I'm attracting attention, hurray, hurray."
 Slasieley. Miss Mary Watkins introduced her funny looking cousin to different members of slasieley last Thursday without saying it was her cousin on account of being too modest to admit she had such a funny looking girl for a cousin. Among those who got introduced was Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Leroy Shooter, Mr. Sid Hunt and Mr. Charles (Puds) Skinkins.
 Skool Notes. Sid Hunt and Puds Skinkins both didn't pass the tramination in history last Monday and they both made the same mistakes and they both sat next to each other during the examination.

although several bystanders said it was different. It was at first believed he was coming instead of going as he had his hat on hind-part before.

Rag Barlow and his dogs, Watch and Ring, tried a rabbit under the post office this morning, and in lifting up one corner of the building they upset a conversation going on inside.

The Hog Ford preacher last Sunday asked all who had not done something they oughtn't to during the week, to stand up. The preacher was the only one that stood and he was already up when he asked the question.

Sidney Hooks left this morning for



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