

The St. John Standard

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LIBERAL LEADERSHIP.

The Standard learns that under the title of the "Liberal Leadership" the Montreal Gazette, the leading financial organ of the East, said the following yesterday in its editorial: "Some recent incidents in the House of Commons are held to indicate that Mr. Pugsley aspires to the Leadership of the Liberal party, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier makes up his mind that it is time to lay down the responsibilities. In the work of devising means to annoy the Government and prevent the progress of bills Mr. Pugsley has been astute and effective above all the rest of the Liberal lieutenants, and on occasion has put Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself to one side. He has ability, taste and training for the game as it is sometimes played. He is an opportunist even more than the Chief he presently serves. He is practical enough to work with an old opponent to secure a present purpose. He has contrived to be in favor with each party in turn, and if he does not again find it convenient to work with the conservatives, it will hardly be because of his personal predilections or prejudices. "He has had a good many hard things said of him, even in New Brunswick, where, heretofore, they have not been squeamish. He is not a tower of strength for his party in places where the Canadian equivalent for the non-conformist conscience dominates public opinion. The traditions he suggests are not the best. It may be doubted if, with all his skill and adaptiveness, in ten years he could restore the Liberal party to power."

AN UNWARRANTED ACTION.

The tactics of the Opposition in endeavoring to embarrass the Government were carried to an unwarrantable length yesterday afternoon in the House, when Mr. William Martin, a Western Liberal member from Regina, discussed the condition of the Union Life Assurance Company of Canada. He asked that the Government advise the policyholders of the result of any investigation made into the affairs of the company. The country will applaud generally the rebuke administered by the Minister of Finance to the Western member for the publicity which he has drawn upon the Company by bringing the financial condition of the company before the House. Mr. Martin committed a breach of Parliamentary courtesy in failing to warn the Minister of Finance beforehand of his motion, so that he could have been fortified with all the necessary details. On such a delicate matter as the financial condition of an insurance company it would naturally be expected that a Member would bring more evidence to strengthen a case than extracts from newspapers, no matter how reputable they might be. The papers declared that in its business operations "Elements of stability and profit-making were largely absent."

The hasty action of Mr. Martin will be deplored throughout the country. The cautious and judicious reply of the Minister of Finance will be received with satisfaction. The situation stands as follows: Certain newspapers hinted at the financial instability of an insurance company. As shown by the Minister of Finance, his Department had been in cable communication with some of the English shareholders, who had expressed the desire to increase the assets of the company by paying in more of their subscriptions for shares. Negotiations were also going ahead in Canada, which might come to an end this week, the effect of which would be to improve very much the financial character of the company. Then, as events are progressing satisfactorily, behold Mr. Martin, like a knight errant, enters upon the scene. He brings the newspaper reports, adorned by his own comments, before the House of Commons, which means that all Canada will hear of the insurance company this morning and premium-holders will be stamped. The Minister of Finance had renewed the license of the company for a short period on the ground that it was better to save the company than to destroy it, and it was hoped by the present negotiations, as well as by cutting down expenses, to justify the Department in extending the license.

The Minister of Finance rebuked Mr. Martin on the ground that he was not quite certain but that his premature action would stop the negotiations at present being carried on. "What is the net result of Mr. Martin's action? He has gained no party capital. He received a well-merited rebuke from the Minister of Finance, and he has also succeeded in disturbing the minds of honest premium-holders throughout the country. It was an unwarranted action to haul up before the public the affairs of a company without giving the responsible Minister an opportunity to go more fully

into the details relating to it. But no one will condemn the action of the Finance Minister in renewing the license of the company for a short time. The guiding principle of the present Government has been to avoid the ill-advised and revolutionary, and to follow the principles of good government, while securing the support of the people. Mr. Martin should have received better advice from his Leader. But the Opposition is not anxious for business stability, or its tactics would have been different during the past few weeks.

BRITISH SOCIAL REFORM.

In the budget to be introduced this week by Chancellor Lloyd George the sum to be devoted to social reform purposes will be about 110,000,000. Insurance, old age pensions, rural housing and numerous other forms of assistance to the proletariat will demand one-eighth of the total income. In discussing these proposals the Toronto Mail and Empire draws some instructive conclusions. To the purpose and intention of the social reform programme of Mr. Lloyd George, it says, there are no enemies. But differences of opinion may justly arise as to the wisdom or efficiency of methods for applying the amelioration under the complicated conditions existing. The Asquith social reform programme is based upon the rather Socialistic idea of educating the masses to look to Government benevolence for relief in their distresses and ills. The Government gets the wherewithal by direct taxation of the most visible forms of wealth. It is a moot question as to whether such an effort to take from the rich to give to the poor can reach effectively or permanently to the desired solution of the problem. The resources of a Government for benevolent purposes cannot be indefinitely enlarged. New needs always arise to keep the demand unsatisfied. One generation of indigents in a crowded condition of society is succeeded by another. There must always be a bottom to the human stratum. The sum of \$100,000,000, applied every year, is a small sum with which to raise the condition of the working classes, alleviating the worst evil of poverty arising from low wages, or economic ills. It would seem a wiser method of achieving the same object and one having much farther reach to put into effect fiscal improvements that would enable employers to give the workers better terms. The biting competition of the world brings the bulk of the burden of Free Trade, so far as Britain is concerned, upon the shoulders of the workers least able to afford it.

CURRENT COMMENT

Evidence for Closure.
(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)
In view to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement that he was always opposed to closure, Mr. Borden was able to cite the contrary opinion of Mr. Fielding, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Lemieux and Sir A. Aylesworth of the late Laurier Administration. Of these Mr. Paterson, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Lemieux gave pledges that closure would be introduced if the government should be sustained in the election.

Patched Up.
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
The fact that Speaker Champ Clark was a candidate for the Democratic nomination as President, and that he would have secured that nomination but for the efforts of Mr. Bryan, has been the basis of many predictions that there would be constant friction between the State Department and the Speaker of the House. The quarrel between the two men, however, has been patched up, and one source of trouble for the Wilson Administration has been stopped.

An Interesting Comparison.
(London Free Press.)
Canada in 1912 added a population greater than the population of one of her oldest provinces, New Brunswick. The increase in population for the year is more than the total population of any one of four provinces—New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Alberta or British Columbia. To add a province in a year is a remarkable achievement for a young country.

"The Pump's Froze."
(Ottawa Citizen.)
The Toronto Star, indicates that city's milk stringency by an illustration. "You can only spare me one quart of milk today," exclaimed the villager to the milkman's boy. "Why is that? Has one of your cows died?" "No sir," replied the boy, "but the pump's froze." Which leads the Citizen to remark that Ottawa's chief dairy does not seem to need its own water supply for its business.

A New Ambition.
(Ottawa Journal.)
The wide establishment of boards of censors for moving pictures, which view scores of films every day, has furnished many a small boy with a new ambition.

DIARY OF EVENTS

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

REV. JOHN MUNRO GIBSON.
Rev. John Munro Gibson, a distinguished Presbyterian divine, who began his career in Canada, was born at Whithorn, Scotland, seventy-five years ago today. His education commenced at University College, Glasgow, and was completed at Knox Theological College in Toronto. Graduating with honors from that institution, he was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and in 1864 became minister of Erskine church in Montreal, as a colleague to Dr. William Taylor. During the year of his ministry in the Canadian metropolis he married Lucy, a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Henry Wilkes, principal of the Theological College of British North America. Rev. Mr. Gibson remained in Montreal ten years, and during the last six years was lecturer in Greek and Hebrew exegesis in Montreal Theological College.

In 1874 he left Canada to become the pastor of the leading church in Chicago. Returning to Great Britain, he won wide fame as a pulpit orator, scholar and author, and in 1891 was chosen moderator of the Presbyterian Church of England. In 1897 he was president of the National Council of Free Churches. His London ministry commenced at St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church in 1880, was from the first crowned with great success.

SAMUEL FORTIER.
Samuel Fortier, for a number of years chief of irrigation investigations for the United States government, and famous throughout the continent as an engineer, was born in Leeds, Quebec, fifty-eight years ago today, and was educated at McGill University. Another native of the province who won fame across the border, George Griswold Hill, was born in Montreal forty-five years ago today. He was an editor of agricultural publications, and wrote "Marketing Farm Products" and other books on the subject, before he became a Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune.

THE PASSING DAY.

FIRST AMERICAN NEWSPAPER.

Two hundred and nine years ago today America's first regularly issued newspaper, the Boston News Letter, issued its initial number. In the little more than two centuries that have passed since that pioneer venture, the number of publications in the United States and its possessions and the Dominion of Canada has increased to about 25,000, and the publishing industry has become one of the most important, both in usefulness and in the amount of money invested. Nearly 12,000 cities and towns in Canada and the United States now have newspapers, and it is safe to say that there is not one but has a larger and better paper than the tiny sheet issued by the first newspaper, the bell in Boston town on April 24, 1764. The News Letter was issued regularly every week for seventy-two years. It consisted of a single sheet, printed on both sides, two columns to the page, and most of the space was devoted to British politics. The local news was confined to two or three brief items. The circulation of the News Letter during its first year averaged less than 100 copies, and it had been in existence twenty years before it passed the 300 mark. At the birth of the Republic the United States had a total of only three weekly papers, Pennsylvania leading with eight, and Massachusetts a close second with seven. The first newspaper in New York and Connecticut had three each. The first newspaper in what is now the Dominion of Canada was the Halifax Gazette, which first appeared in 1782, forty years after the beginning of the News Letter. Statistics for 1912 show that the income of all newspapers and other publications in the United States and Canada for the year reached the astounding total of three hundred and sixty million dollars. Another interesting sidelight on the profits from publishing, when carried on on a large scale, is given by the fact that the Amalgamated Press, Ltd., which publishes the newspapers and other publications of Lord Northcliffe, showing profits last year of \$1,318,415. France leads the world in the matter of newspaper circulation, with two Paris publications having a daily issue of over a million. Three London newspapers issue over 800,000 copies, a mark reached by only one daily paper in the United States.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

AN AUTHORITY ON ORCHIDS.
In the recent International Flower Show at New York the first prize for orchids went to an Englishman, Sir Jeremiah Colman, who is one of the world's foremost authorities on the growing of those rare and beautiful flowers. Sir Jeremiah, who will celebrate his fifty-ninth birthday today, valued one flower at \$5,000. This entry, named the "Mary Colman," in honor of his wife, was a deep scarlet stem, so lightly poised as to suggest a butterfly. Technically it was a special variety of the Odontodia, one of the loveliest of orchids. The flower was returned to its owner immediately after the close of the exhibition. Sir Jeremiah's country seat, Gatton Park, in Surrey, is the Mecca of floriculturists and flower-lovers from all over the world. While he specializes in orchids, he is interested in all varieties of flowers, and his rose gardens are famous throughout England. In his youth Sir Jeremiah was a famous cricketer, and was captain of the St. John's College team at Cambridge. He has large business interests, is politically active, and has held several public offices.

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST BUILDING

A number of famous men have been invited to a dinner in New York tonight, to be given by F. W. Woolworth, the five and ten-cent store magnate, in honor of Cass Gilbert, architect of the towering structure of its kind in the world, the Woolworth Building. The genius whose brain conceived the towering structure of steel and concrete that is the world's highest building, is a native of Zanville, O., and is now in his fifty-fourth year. He is the son of General Samuel A. Gilbert, of the United States Coast Survey. Educated in the public schools of Zanville and St. Paul, Minn., and at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Gilbert began the practice of his profession at the age of sixteen.

OPHELIA'S SLATE



IN LIGHTER VEIN

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute,
For I cut out the words "to obey,"
As my temperament they wouldn't suit.
O servitude, what were your charms
In the days of the old human race,
Better rein in a place I can't name
Than serve in the opposite place!
Society, friendship and love
For my husband I've placed under ban.
And make him as meek as a dove,
The nice little, mild little man.
Submission! What treasure untold
In the days of the patriarch John Canoe,
He has learned all the wisdom of age,
And out all the sallies of youth!
My friends—very often a friend—
Drop in very often to tea,
And ma comes a twelvemonth to spend
Which makes it quite pleasant for me.
Now every one yields me my place,
Which by firm endeavor I've got,
So I very sorely say grace,
And reconciled feel to my lot.
La Touche Hancock.
Variable.
Oll Lady—How old are you, little boy?
Bobbie—I'm under five years on the street cars, and over sixteen when I go to the movies—Puck.
Economy.
Hub—Have you done what I asked and saved some money this month?
Wife—Yes, dear. I spoke to the grocer and he's promised not to send in his bill till next month.

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MOTION BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Rothesay Subscriber Registers Complaint Against Girls who Read Novels Over Party Line—An Interesting Session.

The withdrawal of the New Brunswick Telephone Company of their petition asking for approval of the classification of exchanges now in force and for permission to allow exchanges to shift automatically from one class to another without the formality of a hearing, as the number of subscribers changed and for expense hearing on changes in rates and the presentation of an application to be permitted to charge subscribers on the St. John and Rothesay exchanges the regular tolls of 10 cents or calls between the two exchanges was the feature of the adjourned session of the Public Utilities Commission, which was held in the local government rooms, yesterday. One witness, Howard P. Robinson, was examined, and E. S. Carter on behalf of the subscribers of Rothesay objected to a toll of 10 cents both ways between St. John and that exchange, as would be the case if it were put on the same basis as other exchanges. The objection was made by Chairman Oty that there had been no protest against the present schedule of classifications, and it was thus virtually approved. It would be useless to grant formal approval on that basis, as either exchange would be affected. The objection was made by Chairman Oty that there had been no protest against the present schedule of classifications, and it was thus virtually approved. It would be useless to grant formal approval on that basis, as either exchange would be affected. The objection was made by Chairman Oty that there had been no protest against the present schedule of classifications, and it was thus virtually approved. It would be useless to grant formal approval on that basis, as either exchange would be affected.

Former Manager.

Howard P. Robinson was the first witness, and testified that he was formerly manager of the New Brunswick Telephone Co. The classification of exchanges was based on an application of the fact that all the leading companies on the continent had adopted similar systems. Whenever there are more than three or four hundred telephones in an exchange they demand a separate toll rate, and an improved type of instrument. This is the reason that the limit of one of the classes was set at 400 and another at 2,000. The reason the rates are graded from the larger exchanges down to the smaller is that rates are proportioned to the extent of service, the investment involved. A certain amount must be earned on the system, and this is proportioned as well as possible. An air line mileage charge is the basis of the toll rates. Sixty cents per hundred miles is the basis of the system. There is a universal toll rate determined by the block system of air line measurement. This was followed in making up rates up to the 20c rate. Then we followed their rates from that point, cutting the price by 5c in each case. In Kent county there are some anomalies, owing to contracts entered into by a previous company which we bought out. Sixty cents per hundred miles would mean some reductions in Kent county. I have obtained a copy of the classification in use in Nova Scotia, and I do not believe that the arrangement is as efficient as our own. The Rothesay Situation.
Com. Oty—"There seems to be an anomalous situation at Rothesay. Can you explain that?"
Mr. Robinson—"There is a toll from Rothesay to St. John, but not from St. John to Rothesay. I believe Rothesay was originally part of the St. John exchange, and some attempt was made at a mileage charge. The prices were reduced and a toll put on."
E. S. Carter—"I pay 53c and a toll rate as well."
Com. Oty—"If the effect of this change would be to put Rothesay in the 100 exchange class, what change would this mean in the rates?"
Mr. Robinson—"It would increase the rates for business 'phones by 5c, and decrease the rates for house 'phones the same amount. The tolls might vary."
Mr. Carter—"We have 106 telephones in the Rothesay exchange, but 80 of these are only used in the summer. They will ask us to pay 10c. In and 10c. out, and the price will be about 2c. less than the fare by rail."
Mr. Robinson—"I resent the imputation that we have any ulterior motive. We are only trying to solve the problem of the exchanges. I do not believe the bulk of the people of Rothesay would be in the St. John rate, but I think there is strong objection to this increase. The people look to this board to protect them."
Com. Oty—"Why should this discrimination in favor of Rothesay be maintained?"
Mr. Wilson—"Many of the people of Rothesay have made objections to me against the change. The reason given for the increase seems to be based upon chances that will have to be made, and I think some witness familiar with the telephone business should