

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1913.

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 unwarranted 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. Pugsley 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 \$100,000,000. 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 most questionable 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 are always a few to the human strain. 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 reply 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. Patterson, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Lemieux and Sir A. Aylesworth of the late Laurier Administration. Of these Mr. Patterson, 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 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 fifty years 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 Leamington, Ontario, church. 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 PORTIER.

Samuel Portier, for a number of years chief of irrigation investigations for the United States government, and famed 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 Quebec 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 on 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 first sheet of the Boston News Letter. The bell in Boston town on April 24, 1704. 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 the publication of news. It 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 200 mark. At the birth of the Republic the United States had a total of thirty-three weekly papers, Pennsylvania leading with eight, and Massachusetts a close second with seven. Journals in New York and Connecticut had three each. The first newspaper in what is now the Dominion of Canada was the Halifax Gazette, established in 1752, forty-eight 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 the report of the Amalgamated Press, Ltd., which publishes the newspapers and other publications of Lord Northcliffe, showing profits last year of \$1,315,415. 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.

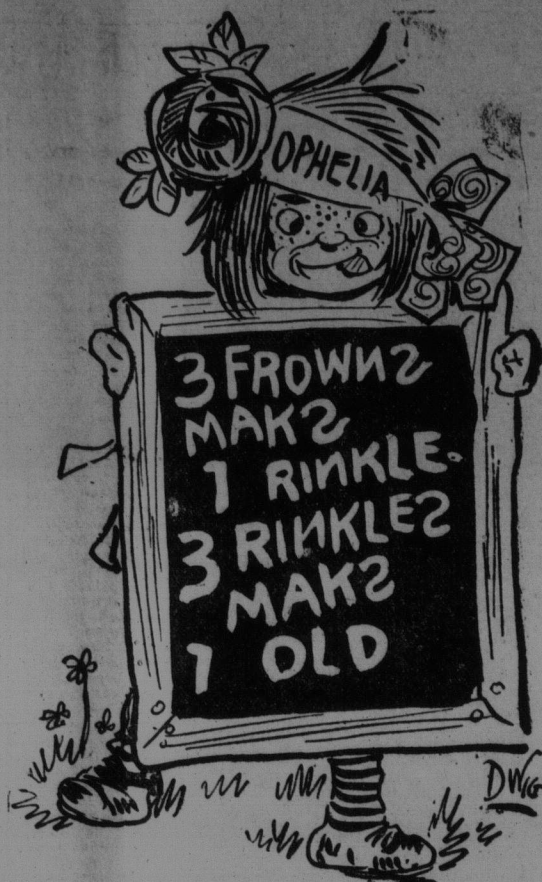
THE HUMAN PROCESSION

AN AUTHORITY ON ORCHIDS. In the recent International Flower Show at New York the first prize for orchids went to an Englishman, Sir Josephine Colman, who is one of the world's foremost authorities on the growing of those rare and beautiful flowers. Sir Josephine, who will celebrate his fifty-fourth birthday today, valued one flower at \$5,000. This entry, named the "Mary Colman," in honor of his wife, was a deep scarlet flower on a long and slender 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.

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 greatest edifice of his kind in the world, the Woolworth Building.

The genius who brain conceived the towering structure of steel and concrete that is the world's highest building, is a native of Zanesville, 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 Zanesville 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
He gained when I taught him the truth.
He has learned all the wisdom of age,
And out all the sallies of youth!

My friends—have many a friend—
Drop in very often to tea,
And come 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.

Variable.

Old 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?
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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His Side Line.

"That poet who wrote a ode to a bunch of daffodils and won the \$10,000 prize offered by the Eastern magazine—is that all he does for a living?"
"By no means. He is also an author, a contributor to three agricultural journals."—St. Louis Republic.

No Facilities.

"They say that Cupid strikes the match that sets the world aglow. But where does Cupid strike the match?—that's what I'd like to know."—Cornell Widow.

His Choice.

First Urchin—Say, Tommy, would you rather have a zebra or a giraffe?
Second Urchin—A giraffe, of course. I'd like a zebra for lookin' over de fence at de all game.



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TO ROTHESAY

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John Subscribers Must Pay

MOTION BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Rothsay 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, after the number of subscribers changed and for exchange hearing on changes in rates and the presentation of an application to be permitted to charge subscribers on the St. John and Rothsay 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 room, yesterday. One witness, Howard P. Robinson, was examined, and E. S. Carter on behalf of the subscribers of Rothsay objected to a toll charge 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 Otty 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 permitted without a special hearing. When the hearing opened yesterday morning there were present Chairman G. O. Dickson, Otty, Commissioner A. B. Connell and Miss Michaud; W. A. Evans and R. P. Bennett, representing the New Brunswick Telephone Co.; Aid. W. E. Farrell, of Fredericton, president of the New Brunswick Union of Municipalities, and J. W. McCready representing the New Brunswick Union of Municipalities and the Fredericton Board of Trade; Alderman W. J. Williams, Woodstock; Hon. John E. Wilson, representing the government; E. S. Carter representing the subscribers of Rothsay, and Howard P. Robinson, a former manager of the New Brunswick Telephone Company.

Former Manager. Howard P. Robinson was the first witness, and testified that he was formerly manager of the New Brunswick Telephone Company. He said that the rates were based on an application of the fact that all the leading companies on the continent had adopted similar systems. When there are more than three or four hundred telephones in an exchange they demand a better service and an improved type of instrument. This is the reason that the rate 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, and the amount of tolls 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 line mile 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 prices by 10c in each case. In Kent county there are some anomalies, owing to contracts entered into by a previous company which we bought out. These rates are more than three or four hundred telephones in an exchange they demand a better service and an improved type of instrument. This is the reason that the rate of one of the classes was set at 400 and another at 2,000.

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Mr. Robinson—"There is a toll from St. John to St. John, but not from St. John to Rothsay. I believe Rothsay 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 \$33 and a toll rate as well."

Com. Otty—"If the effect of this change would be to put Rothsay in the 100 exchange class, what change would this mean in the rates?"

Mr. Robinson—"It would increase the rates for business 'phones by \$1, and decrease the rates for house 'phones the same amount. The tolls might vary."

Mr. Carter—"We have 106 telephones in the Rothsay exchange. 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 implication that we have any ulterior motive. We are only trying to bring the exchange rates in line with the bulk of the people of Rothsay would sooner pay the St. John rate, than the Rothsay rate. It seems to me that there is strong objection to this increase. The people look to this board to protect them."

Com. Otty—"Why should this discrimination in favor of Rothsay be maintained?"

Mr. Wilson—"Many of the people of Rothsay have made objections to be against the change. The reason given for the increase seems to be based upon charges that will have to be made, and I think some witness familiar with the telephone business should