

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JULY 13, 1914.

Pay your Taxes on or before July 15 and save 5 per cent. discount, immediately after the fifteenth of July. Executions will be issued for all unpaid taxes.

THE TIMES MUST PRODUCE.

The Times on Thursday evening stated that it had been informed "on very excellent authority" that Hon. Mr. Fleming had issued instructions for the payment of Mr. W. H. Berry's salary for the month of May, and also that the matter had been the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Government held in Fredericton on Wednesday. The Telegraph on Friday morning republished the Times' article with approval. The Times' statement was not true, and in publishing it the Times lied. The Telegraph knew it was not true but was willing, by republishing it, to endorse the lie.

On Saturday morning The Standard challenged the Times to name its "very excellent authority" or else stand convicted as a wilful and deliberate liar. Saturday evening the Times replied with cheap evasion of the question. Such evasion will not satisfy the public or The Standard. Either the Times made the original statement without the slightest foundation for it, or it has some reputable person who is prepared to vindicate that newspaper by admitting that he furnished the information upon which the article was based.

The Standard is prepared to produce its authority for the statement that the Times' article was untrue. Unless the Times is a coward as well as a liar it will be equally frank. Produce the "excellent authority" or stand convicted of deliberate falsification. It is up to the Times.

THE MANITOBA RESULT

Montreal and Ottawa newspapers to hand find, in the result of the elections in Manitoba, material for practically any sort of opinion that will coincide with their political leanings. Liberal newspapers, partisan before anything else, see in it all sorts of handwriting on the wall, but their predictions will probably be dismissed even by their own more independent readers as being productions born of their hope rather than their reasoning powers. There is no doubt that the multitude of promises made by Mr. Norris had an affect aside from their political significance. Those who favored the abolition of the bar, apparently had faith in his pledge that he would bring it about, and the same may be said of many of his other promises. As a maker of pledges Mr. Norris had the advantage of being an untied man. He had never been called upon to perform and, consequently, had no sins of omission to account for. It is not difficult to call to mind Liberal leaders in this province who would be less fortunate in arousing the confidence of the electorate.

The result in Manitoba cannot be said to show that the people generally were dissatisfied with the administration of the Roblin Government. That administration was not made the subject of sharp criticism during the campaign which was fought on the prospective events of the future rather than the realities of the present or the happenings of the past. Questions above and aside from ordinary political controversy entered so largely into the contest that Liberal newspapers which try to read into the result a dissatisfaction with Conservative rule are wide of the mark.

In Ontario the case was different. There the people had had experience. If not with Mr. Rowell, at least with the men behind him. They also had comparatively recent experience with a Liberal administration and the result showed that even with the hope of advanced temperance legislation they were not desirous of returning to the conditions prevailing under the government led by Hon. Geo. W. Ross. In returning to power, Mr. Roblin will find himself faced by many questions which must be settled. He is generally regarded as a shrewd politician, as well as a statesman with the best interests of the province of Manitoba always close to his heart, and there is little doubt that he will be able to meet the difficulties before him in such a manner that when he next appeals to the people it will be with an improved organization and many of the troublesome questions which, this time, affected him adversely, settled in satisfactory form. The Roblin Government has been somewhat shaken, but is still in the ring to give to the province of Manitoba another term of wise administration.

MORE "GRANDSTAND PLAY."

Additional evidence of the manner in which Mr. F. B. Carvell is using the Dugal charges as a vehicle for appeals to the gallery through the medium of the Telegraph, is found in the incident of the letter he felt it necessary to send to Acting Premier Clarke in reference to the return of Mr. W. H.

Berry. Mr. Carvell wrote a letter to Mr. Clarke and, at the same time, he, or his man Friday Carter, sent copies of it to the Telegraph. The result was that before Mr. Clarke had received it the acting premier was in the city yesterday and to a representative of The Standard said he had not yet received the letter referred to.

In his epistle, provided of course the advance copy furnished to the Telegraph is correct, Mr. Carvell made a dramatic appeal for further information in regard to the St. John Valley Railway, and also to have Mr. Berry appear before the Royal Commission as a witness in the timber land charges. Now Mr. Carvell knows, or should know, that it is not in the power of the acting premier, or the Government, to bring Mr. Berry back to this province. Failure to appear as a witness is not an extraditable offence and Mr. Carvell, as a lawyer, is fully aware of the fact. Therefore his letter to the Telegraph and, incidentally to Hon. Mr. Clarke is nothing more serious than another piece of stage play and will deceive no one. It is quite in line with the previous efforts of Mr. Dugal's counsel.

CONCERNING "THE MOVIES."

Under the title "Our Boy Bandits," a well meaning but anonymous writer contributes an interesting letter to the Globe in which he, first, attacks the moving picture theatres, and then makes the suggestion that they should be utilized by the school authorities as a means of educating the children. Surely the Globe's correspondent cannot be informed regarding the character of the films shown in the St. John theatres at least. The suggestion that the theatres should be used for educational purposes is a highly commendable one and if he, or some one in authority, could find a way of bringing it about might prove a solution of the very problem to which he refers.

In cases such as that of last week, where a deed of violence was perpetrated, people are prone to cast about for some condition to blame for the act which has outraged the city's sense of complacent well being and they usually fall back upon the moving picture houses. And it is to be gained by such attack? It is well known that every picture shown in the local houses is censored by a board composed of level headed citizens, the chairman of whom is none other than the superintendent of education for this city, and the man within whose province it would likely come should it be decided that the moving picture houses should be used for educational work. It is to be expected that this years of educational work have given him a fair insight into the mind of the average boy and he may be supposed to have some slight idea of what might so affect a boy's mind as to cause him to commit a deed of violence. Consequently it is reasonable to believe that he would refuse to pass films which might prove incentives to crime.

Patrons of the moving picture houses will agree that the class of pictures shown in this city are far and away above the average. As a matter of fact the theatre managers, themselves, are their own most severe censors. They have a class of patrons they wish to entertain, not to offend, and the development of the moving picture business has been such that the days of the cheap melodramas are no more. People now demand a better class of production and, as far as the local theatres are concerned, they get it. It is utterly absurd, however, to say that all films depicting any deed of arms should be eliminated just as it would be to say that all books relating to similar matters should be suppressed. Moreover, it does not appear that the youths concerned in the recent burglaries, and the unfortunate Officer O'Leary, were urged to their deeds by the picture shows. None of them were children, but lads well along to manhood. Had they spent more evenings in the picture theatres and fewer on the street corners awaiting opportunity for the commission of crime of the very sort which brought their undoing they might now be in a more fortunate position. It is useless to cavil against the moving picture industry, an industry which has forged to the front as the greatest purveyor of innocent amusement to the masses. It has improved with its development, and it will continue to improve. The moving picture houses have come to stay.

ENDING THE OPIUM CURSE

China's long fight to rid itself of the opium curse is nearing a successful finish, says the Toronto Mail and Empire. Manchuria and eleven of the eighteen provinces forming China proper are declared to be free of opium. Admitting the correctness of the declaration, the British government has agreed that exports of Indian opium to these provinces shall be prohibited. The Chinese government has instructed the governors of the remaining provinces to stamp out the use of opium and prevent poppy cultivation before the end of the year. When this is done exports of Indian opium to China must cease entirely. The bringing of the general prohibition on export in effect in 1915 would be beating out the expiry of the Anglo-Chinese agreement respecting opium by two years. That agreement expires in 1917, and contemplates the entire cessation of Indian exports of opium to China by that time. The quantity to be exported is decreased yearly by about twenty per cent. until the vanishing point is due in 1917. It is rather noteworthy that for the last seven or eight months of last year no Indian opium was exported to China. The British authorities, finding that the authorized quantity had been sent early in the year, stepped in with a prohibition. It has been a difficult task, on account of the economic conditions in India, to stop the opium traffic, but China's extraordinary success in preventing the growing of the poppy, and the use of opium—the penalty for using it being beheading—has deserved equivalent British energy in suppressing Indian interest in the nefarious trade.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

On this date in 1812 the British ship Minerva, acting as a convoy for a fleet of transports bringing troops to Quebec, reached Canadian waters after having had a thrilling experience with the American ship Essex. The enemy's vessel ran in and captured one transport with 200 soldiers, but the commander of the Minerva, by a skilful display of seamanship, contrived to keep in close touch with the six remaining transports and to bring them safely to port. Three days later a British fleet made its first invasion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the capture of the war. News that hostilities had been declared was carried to Halifax by the British frigate Blenheim, which had escaped from an American squadron near Jamaica. The Nova Scotia city immediately became a scene of warlike preparations and, early in July, Vice Admiral Sir John Cochrane, commanding the British fleet, set out a British squadron to search for American vessels. It was in command of Capt. Philip Bowyer Vere Broke and included the Shannon, thirty-two guns; the Belvidere, thirty-six; the Africa, thirty-four, and the Aeolus, thirty-two guns. A large proportion of the population of Halifax cheered the vessels on their way, and in their crews were not a few Halifax men. On the sixteenth of July the fleet captured the Natalus and on the following day the American ship Constitution contrived to escape. Capt. Broke, the commander of the Shannon, defeated in this bloodless encounter, later had a glorious revenge in the memorable action with the United States vessel Chesapeake. After a terrible battle the Yankee ship was forced to surrender and was brought a prize to Halifax.

THE PASSING DAY.

Just 106 years ago today, July 13, 1808, a perspiring Englishman met another P. E. in a London street, and the first P. E. said to the second P. E.: "Is it hot enough for you?" Whereupon—let us hope!—the clenched fist of the second P. E. landed on the nose of the first P. E., and the latter stretched his perspiring length upon the torrid soil. Meteorological observatories were unknown in 1808, and the statements regarding the torridity of that famous "hot Wednesday" may have been exaggerated, but it was doubtless the hottest day England has ever known. Thermometers varied wildly, and some registered as low as 34, while a thermometer on the shady side of the Strand affirmed a temperature of 101. That "hot Wednesday" in England was hotter by several degrees than the "hot Tuesday" of 1790, which also occurred in mid-July. Credible statistics show that the middle of July usually brings the hottest days of the year north of the equator. On the 14th, in Sussex, the temperature was 98 in the shade, in 1847, and on the 15th in 1881 London sweltered beneath a sun that glowered to the tune of 94.1 in the shade.

While Englishmen make a great fuss over these temperatures, they are cold in comparison with some of the records established by Old Sol in America, both North and South, and Africa. The highest temperature ever recorded scientifically was a fraction over 124 degrees, taken in Algeria, on the edge of the desert, on July 17, 1879.

America has come very near to the world's record, however, and it is noteworthy that on this side of the Atlantic, as in England and Africa, a majority of the "hottest day" records have been established in mid-July. Yuma, in Arizona, to which place the wicked deceased trooper's ghost returned for his overcoat, holds the dubious honor of being the hottest place on the map. Yuma's record is 120 degrees, which may be described without exaggeration as being a bit warmish.

Phoenix, in the same State, closely approaches the Yuma mark with a record of 119. California can boast of a record of 115, established at Fresno. El Paso, Texas, and Walla Walla, Wash., have been willed by a thermometer to 113.

In mid-July the tropics usually invade several of the northwestern States, and the heat waves often extend as far north as the "jumping place" of Canadian civilization. At Miles City, Mont., and at Boise, Id., the temperature has reached 111, and at Pierre, S. D., a temperature of 110 has been recorded.

Other records of extreme heat include 110 at Sacramento, Shreveport, La.; Concordia, Kan., and Roswell, N. M.; 109 at Lead, S. D., and at Minneapolis; 108 at Oklahoma City and Ft. Smith, Ark.; 107 at Louisville, Omaha and St. Louis; 106 at Indianapolis; 105 at Cincinnati and Denver; 104 at Minneapolis, Boston, Washington and Albany; 103 at Philadelphia and Chicago.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I was upstairs sucking awn a lemmun stick reading, Life in the Underworld, and awl of a suddin I smelt something, smelling pritty good, awl rite. G, I thawt, Noras making gingerbread. Noras being our cook. And I kepp on reeding Life in the Underworld and sucking awn the lemmun stick and smelling the gingerbread, and after a while I thawt, I wudlir if she will give me a peece, while its hot. Beeing the best time to eet a peece, and after I had bin sucking awn the lemmun stick and reeding Life in the underworld and smelling the gingerbread a while lawntir, I broak a peece awf of the lemmun stick, brakeing it awf of the end I hadnt bin sucking awn, and got up awf of the floor and went down in the kitchen, saying to Noras, Wae do you think I got for you, Noras.

Wats the little man got for me, sed Noras. A peece of lemmun stick, I sed, showing it o her. Wy, bless his hart, I woodnt take his peece of a lemmun stick, sed Noras.

You haff to take it now, I sed, I calim awl the way down stares to give it to you. Well if youre not the grate littel fella, sed Noras, awl rite, put it awn the desir, and Ill get it latir, my hands is awl wet. And I put it awn the desir, looking awl around for the gingerbread and not seeing it, but smelling it awl rite.

Noras, I sed. Wats the little man went now, sed Noras. I smelt gingerbread, I sed. Faith, so do I, sed Noras. Give me a peece while its hot, I sed.

Wy, you poor little fella, its next doar in Joneses thare baking that, sed Noras. Aw, G, I sed. And I went upstairs agen, taking the peece of lemmun stick awf of the dresser agen awn my way out of the kitchen.

101 at Windsor, Ont., San Francisco, Cal., Vicksburg, Miss., and Detroit, and 100 at New York. The lowest "high extreme" recorded at any station in the United States was at Block Island, R. I., where the hottest day known was only 92. Strange to say, this record is almost equalled in Arizona, the hottest State, for at Flagstaff the highest Summer temperature recorded was only 93.

FIRST THINGS

WESTERN NEWSPAPERS. The first newspaper west of the Mississippi was the Missouri Gazette, which was founded July 13, 1808, just 106 years ago today. Joseph Charles, the first editor and publisher, manifested a happy disregard for superstition by issuing the first number of his pioneer publication on the 13th of the month—although he may possibly have considered that July being the seventh month would counterbalance the "thirteen flinx." In any event, the launching of the Gazette on the thirteenth of July was a fortunate combination, for the Gazette afterward the Republican and still later the St. Louis Republic, is now one of the greatest daily newspapers.

Eastport, Me., July 9.—As the result of a brutal assault by a band of drunken thugs, George Ferguson, of this city, who now controls the police, and death at the Chipman Hospital with a fractured skull. The physicians hold out no chance for his recovery and the police believe that his assailants have made good their escape into New Brunswick.

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Ottawa, July 10.—It is understood that one of the new senators will be Harvey Hall, of Toronto, who is the parliamentary representative of the order of railway conductors. Mr. Hall is one of the best known representatives of labor in the country, and the appointment is to be made, it is said, as a recognition of organized labor and its force for good in the community. There are at present four vacancies in the senate, and the vacancies are expected to be filled shortly.

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