

# The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, JULY 18, 1910

### DEPARTMENTAL DILATORINESS AND DIGNITY.

"It would have been natural to expect," says the Montreal Star, "that, if ever the Militia Department moved expeditiously, it would be in such an emergency as that at Campbellton. The Department has hundreds of tents, stored at various points throughout New Brunswick for the use of the Militia during their annual training; five thousand people at Campbellton were sleeping in the open without a stick to shelter them. On its face it does not appear that there should have been any insuperable difficulty in placing the tents immediately at the disposal of the homeless families, but it is most unwise to regard the work of the Militia Department or any part of it from the standpoint of what might normally be expected.

"Expedition and despatch are vulgar words which fit in badly with the air of easy and refined elegance which is the distinguishing characteristic of our highly-prized Staff Officers. If a thing can be done, from a business standpoint, in five minutes, the representatives of the Department may generally be expected to do it more or less satisfactorily in about that many hours, and as four hours is a hard day's work, this does not make for the satisfaction of the other party to the transaction. This is one of the great advantages of having a staff, large enough and brilliant enough to do all the full-dressing for a force five times the size of our present Militia.

"It is to be feared that the unfortunate citizens of Campbellton, waiting among the ruins of their former homes for the tents which would be so valuable to them and are, at present, so useless to anyone else, will find it difficult to view this dilatoriness of the militia authorities in its proper light. It is three days since the fire burned itself out and, up to this (Friday) morning, the canvas shelters, which would have been of inestimable value immediately after the disaster, might as well have been in Timbuctoo or Kamschatka, instead of Moncton and St. John as far as the use they have been to the fire victims is concerned.

"Shacks and huts of various kinds have now been erected on the ruins of former homes and business places. Possibly the tents will arrive about the time the needy families have all been provided for by other means and then left, a monument to the Militia Department's energy and efficiency, until damp and mildew make them useless even for this purpose."

The fire broke out on Monday afternoon. It was late on Friday before the tents arrived. The remarks of the Star on the dilatoriness of the Militia Department are well founded. But there is another disgraceful feature of which the Star is evidently in ignorance. On Tuesday at 9.30 a. m., Premier Hazen wired to Ottawa for authority to send a supply of tents. After a whole day had been wasted the Premier received a reply at 7 p. m. that instructions had been given to the ordinance officer at St. John to issue tents "subject to guarantee from you for all damage losses on return of equipment." Further loss of time resulted as the ordinance officer could not be located until the following day. It took another forty-eight hours for the tents to reach the sufferers.

Anything more contemptible than this specimen of red tape it would be difficult to imagine. Here were thousands of Canadian citizens, men, women and little children utterly destitute and scattered over the hill sides exposed to the pouring rain, and, forsooth, the Militia Department of Canada, their own country, must exact a guarantee against loss before it will stir a finger to aid them. With this example before us, is it any wonder that there is continuous outcry at its incapacity?

### THE STRAIGHT TIP.

Followers of the Sport of Kings cannot fail to have enjoyed the excellent seven days' racing which was brought to a close at Moosepath on Saturday. It is equally certain that, collectively, those who backed their own or other people's fancy are many hundreds of dollars poorer than when they started. This result was a foregone conclusion.

There are certain gentlemen who follow these races year in and year out, and make a comfortable living by "laying the odds." Fortunately for them, there is a confirmed belief in the public mind in the infallibility of the "straight tip." Therefore do they make money. And straight tips could be had at Moosepath, as elsewhere, for the asking. The number of philanthropists who frequent race meetings is amazing. The unsophisticated youth of this city, not knowing one horse from another, could always find friends on the course who would put them wise to a "sure thing." Now, if A, by inducing all the other letters in the alphabet to back their fancy with him, can regularly clean up a few hundred dollars at the end of the day, where does A's profit come from? Some time might profitably be spent before the next race meeting in solving this little problem.

Statistics have been compiled in a specific case which should be of serious interest to the clever young men whose love of sport takes the form of betting on the strength of tips. A certain newspaper in England prints such clamorous advice on racing subjects, shows such fervency in urging its readers to bet, that certain of its contemporaries have been moved to pay it a little attention.

One writer in the journal under discussion has been constant in giving tips, and an ill-natured critic made a compilation and comparison of prophecies and results.

Here are the results. The flat racing season began in England on the 14th of March, and between that date and the 16th of June this particular writer had published 506 selections of winners. Of the horses picked 108 won, so that, roughly, this prophet was right once and wrong four times.

If a reader of the newspaper had bet a sovereign on each selection published he would, of course, have made 506 bets, each of one pound; he would have won 108 of these and lost 398; and, after allowing for the complexities of the odds, he would, on the 16th of June, have been behind to the extent of thirty-nine pounds and fourteen shillings—or about \$190. Thus it would cost the man nearly \$200 in three months to follow one tipster steadily and perseveringly.

It is well to reflect that this particular tipster was really doing his best, and probably is one of the more skilful of the brotherhood. The newspaper which employs him depends largely upon its racing news, and racing tips for its revenues; and would naturally employ the best talent available; moreover, this writer enjoys a considerable fame of his own. Of course, if the clever young men don't mind paying for their fun, it is all right. Financially it is a losing game.

### THE SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

When Theodore Roosevelt returned from Europe he announced that he would be in silent retirement at Sagamore hill for six weeks. The inference intended was that Theodore would take no part in the political controversies of the moment. It is less than a month since T. R. walked down the gang plank, but his promise to the contrary, notwithstanding, he has already announced that he will speak for Beveridge in Indiana. Probably no political announcement in the United States in the last ten years, says the Edmonton Journal, bears deeper significance. Incidentally, it is an announcement which means much to Canada.

The whole population of the American union has been waiting for a word from Roosevelt which would show where he is at in the great struggle which is going on within the Republican party. They now have their answer. Roosevelt is with the insurgents. The developments which will follow this decision by the ex-president are so far-reaching as to be difficult to grasp.

The controversy in the Republican party has been between what Roosevelt has been pleased to call the special interests, as represented by Cannon, Payne and Aldrich, and what the same authority calls the public interests as represented by Beveridge, LaFollet and Bristol. The pivotal point has been the tariff, although the question of conservation, as evidenced in the Ballinger case, and of railway control, as shown in the Taft railway bill, have been side issues. The hottest attack has been made on Speaker Cannon on the allegation that by a mis-use of his position as speaker he has practically turned the United States government into an oligarchy, which he has ruled for the benefit of the special interests, allowing nothing to come before the House which did not suit his purposes.

When Taft became president it was with the promise that the tariff would be lowered. When the tariff bill came before the House, Taft fell in line with the interests represented by Cannon, Payne and Aldrich, and the tariff which was eventually jammed through both House and Senate, and which Taft championed on the stump, was so far from a fulfilment of the pre-election promise that the party split became too pronounced to be ever patched up again. The situation became such that either the old combination which Roosevelt, while president, had defied and intimidated, must be driven from the party, or else the insurgents must be driven out altogether. This is the war that was going so merrily on when Roosevelt returned from hunting lions.

By throwing his own influence in with the insurgents, Roosevelt will carry with him the greatest personal following that any man has ever had in the history of the United States. The finish cannot be anything short of the complete excommunication from the Republican party of the representatives of the Payne-Aldrich-Cannon clique and the ultimate triumph of the wing of the party which is now known as the insurgent party.

Canada's interest in the struggle is that if the Roosevelt influence leads to the supremacy of the insurgents, the first move which they may be expected to make is to lower the tariff. Canada is in the unfortunate position that she can get along without the tariff of the United States altogether, but a revision of the United States tariff by which Canadian products could enter the United States market on something like a fair basis would not hurt Canada and certainly could not injure the United States.

### THE TWO ROSS RIFLES.

"Since the Canadian marksmen went to Bisle," says the Evening Times, "and began to make a splendid record with the Ross rifle, the eager Conservatives, who denounced that weapon, have been very quiet." "The eager Conservatives," we may remark, give the people of Canada credit for knowing the truth about the Ross rifle. They are quite aware of facts concerning which it suits the purpose of the Times to feign ignorance.

It is well known that the weapon in use at Bisle is not the service rifle of Canada, with which the troops are armed, but a target rifle which is being used by the team under a certificate given by the Militia Department.

The Ross service rifle of Canada costs about \$25, and bears about the same relation to the specially manufactured target rifle as a flintlock bears to a breech-loader. At the recent camps, especially in the mounted infantry regiments, the jolting on horseback shook the breechlocks out of numbers of these rifles, and they were lost.

As a contrast to the Ross service rifle the Times is referred to a recent performance by a United States National Guardsman who made 116 consecutive bulls-eyes at 500 yards with the United States service rifle, doubling the world's record. This rifle costs \$25.

### CURRENT COMMENT

(Montreal Gazette.)

Those who take the darkest view of the situation in the West think the wheat harvest will show at least 75,000,000 bushels. Others see ground for hoping the output will be 100,000,000 bushels. If the smaller figure should prove to be the best guess the showing will probably be well up to what any other country of a million population can show. If the larger estimate is justified it will be a fairly good crop, even for the West.

(Kingston Whig.)

Now comes a sailor, who has been on the high seas for fourteen months, who sealed Mount McKinley and found a tube and records, supposed to be Dr. Cook's. It may be that the alleged explorer may yet be vindicated, but his friends will do him a favor by keeping very still until the proofs are made complete.

(Toronto Globe.)

The British Parliament will soon make it obligatory on passenger vessels of all nations leaving British ports to carry wireless telegraph equipment. The miracle of one decade becomes the legal requirement of the next.

### UNDERTONES

There are songs in the Iron City, if we will only heed. Lyrics from flying hammers, above the shouts of greed.

The turmoil and the tumult—there are for those who hear No wonder of the woodland with Love's exquisite ear.

The great bronze doors of morning fling wide to let him in— The silver hidden murmurs beneath the city's din.

One, homesick for the forest, the clear, unalloyed air. Hears music through the madness of the awful town's despair.

The low, insistent calling, amid the fevered days. Of half-forgotten vernal notes lost in youth's lovely haze.

A singing brook the heart may hear above the traffic's tide. The winds above the thundering trains, with dreams of prairies wide;

The faint call of a lonely bird in this deep loneliness, A flutter of pathetic winds above this sharp distress;

The glad, exhilarating race of the light country rain. And catch the fragrance of a rose from some remembered lane;

And echoing through the canon streets, a breeze from the meadow and mead. There are songs in the Iron City, if we will only heed.

—Charles Hanson Towne.

### THE LIFE OF A STOIC.

Whatever I may possess, I will neither hoard it greedily, nor squander it recklessly. I will think that I have no possessions so real as those which I have given away to deserving people. I never will consider a gift to be a large one if it be bestowed upon a worthy object. I will do nothing because of public opinion, but everything because of conscience. Whenever I do anything alone by myself, I will believe that the eyes of the Roman people are upon me while I do it. In eating and drinking my object shall be to quench the desires of nature, not to fill and empty my belly. SENECA.

### Good Stories

I was calling when the little daughter of my hostess came into the room. Knowing that her mother's mother had that morning returned home after a somewhat lengthy visit I said: "Weren't you sorry to have grandma go away, Pearl?" "Yes, I was," she answered promptly. "And so was mamma—very sorry. But," she paused thoughtfully for a moment, "I couldn't see at breakfast but that papa was just as cheerful as ever."

### Then it Happened



After years of study on the inner workings, habits and traits of airships, the supreme moment of Gussie Gohigh's life had arrived. He was to see the first Fanatical Flight of the Atmospheric Airship Association. From the top of a 30 story building, Gussie gazed gleefully at the concatenation of dirigibles as they whizzed about.

"At last my ambition is realized," he cried joyfully. "I now see the point of these wonderful inventions."

But he did not see the point of a monstrous Beppelein airship, as it came at a terrific rate of speed from another direction.

### THE END.

JOSH WISE SAYS:

You can be pretty sure that the weather bureau is located in the guessed chamber.

"Mamma," said little Dorothy, "I want some water to christen my doll."

"No, dear," replied the mother, "it's wrong to make sport of such things."

"Then I want some wax to waxinate her. She's old enough to 'have something done.'"

Mrs. Nured, Sr. (to son, after a family jar)—"Don't forget son, that 'a soft answer turneth away wrath.'"

Mr. Nured, Jr.—"Well, I know a soft question of mine brought a lot of it on me."

She—I don't see why women shouldn't make as good swimmers as men. He—Yes; but you see, a swimmer has to keep his mouth shut.

"Crimson Gulch made a wonderful showing in its census figures."

"Yes," replied Bronco Bob. "We took care of that. Three-finger Sam was the census taker. We gave him unlimited credit at the Pink Paradise saloon and took care that he never went to work until he was seasin' at least double."

"So he claims to be the only perfectly impartial umpire in the game?"

"On what does he base his claim?"

"He says he's always abused by both sides, instead of by only one."



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### ROADS WERE IN GOOD SHAPE

Traveller Writes Contradicting Letter Published in Telegraph Concerning State of Patersville Roads.

Petersville, July 13.—The Orange-men of Queens County, West, celebrated the 12th at No. 4 Hall, on the Gage-brown road, in Petersville, the day being very fine. Old and young turned out in gala attire and about 700 people enjoyed a very pleasant picnic. The ladies catered to the appetites of the crowd in first class style, and all enjoyed themselves immensely.

The splendid pavilion that was erected for dancing was well patronized, and excellent music furnished for the occasion.

Your correspondent being an old resident of Petersville, enjoyed a trip back that day very much. I never saw that section of country looking better. The hay, grain and root crops are exceptionally good.

The drive from Weisford was very pleasant, on account of the excellent condition of the road, which I never saw so good for forty years.

I was agreeably surprised to find the roads in such good condition, for I had read in the Telegraph a short time ago that the roads were almost impassable. It being stated that the bridges were bad, and the roadway nothing but mud holes and dumps, and that the road money and statute labor was squandered.

I made inquiries concerning the mat-

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ter, and was informed that the fine condition of the road was due to the present Highway Act, and the efficient way it was carried out.

Regarding the false statements of the Telegraph correspondent, I was told that the roads as described by him were what they were under the old highway act, as administered by the Pugsley-Robinson government, and that the correspondent was a party hater who did not know enough to speak truly of anything concerning the Hazen government. It appears he had to describe the roads as he had been accustomed to seeing them under the old conditions, and probably would be pleased to see them so again; then he could imagine that the old party had returned to power.

I believe in fair play and in giving credit where credit is due. Not being closely allied to any party I feel that in all justice I should ask you to publish these facts, and if the Hazen government has given the country good roads, give them the credit, and let the public know that the other statement is not based on facts.

Trusting I have not taken up too much of your valuable space, A TRAVELLER.

LONG REACH. Long Reach, July 11.—The motor boats from Millidgeville passed here Saturday on their way to Fredericton. Miss Jane Williams of St. John was the guest of Miss Olive White over Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon, while crossing the river to attend Beulah Camp meeting, Bert Holder's boat was capsized. Mr. Holder was so intent upon watching some other boats crossing that he did not know that he was in an danger, until he was suddenly thrown into the water. People who had been watching him from the river bank immediately started to his rescue. When they reached the unlucky man he was peacefully sitting on the bottom of his overturned boat.

Rev. and Mrs. J. Estey and Miss Estey arrived at the Methodist parsonage on Thursday last. Mr. Estey is to take charge of Kingston mission for the ensuing year.