

## The St. John Standard

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## NOTICE

Effective immediately, The Standard office will operate on Daylight time. The business office opens at eight o'clock Standard time) and closes at five o'clock. Advertisers will please govern themselves accordingly.

## STILL IN THE DARK.

The legislative session has come and gone, and as yet there has not been found anyone who understands the public accounts. It was hoped up till the last moment that some one would appear who could offer to the members of the House an explanation of the three different financial statements presented. But evidently no such person exists, and for another year the people of New Brunswick must remain in the dark as to the financial affairs of the Province. A majority report of the Public Accounts Committee, prepared by members of the Government party, declared that the presentation of accounts under the new system is the cause of misunderstanding. A minority report signed by Messrs. Smith, Jones and Pinder, members of the Opposition, repeats the same statement in rather more emphatic terms. One of these reports was admitted to the records of the Legislature while the other was arbitrarily excluded. Why there should have been this discrimination is not understood. The new system of accounting has already caused "some" misunderstanding among the members themselves, and possibly Speaker Hetherington considers it unnecessary for both Government and Opposition to rub it in.

When the Provincial Secretary was making his budget speech, his statement it will be remembered, was that the Government had left the preparation of a financial report to the first time in history anyone could at a single glance see the exact financial position of the province. A little later Hon. Mr. Robinson, who had apparently taken more than a single glance, told the House that two financial statements which differed in many particulars had been prepared and that they were confusing to anybody who did not have a key to the mystery, and also a key to the cabinet where the treasurer generally keeps his orders, bills, vouchers, etc. Still later, when the provincial secretary had in turn indulged in a second glance, he informed the Legislature that the two statements were calculated to mislead, and because of this had seen it on his second inspection, to introduce a bill to abolish the practice of issuing the annual revenue and expenditure statement six days after the close of the fiscal year. Premier Foster, who assumed an attitude of great surprise at this frank admission of an obvious fact, and who by the way was not previously consulted by his ministers, ordered the bill withdrawn. But shortly afterwards Mr. Foster, who, in his turn, had taken a second glance at the wonderful documents before the House, announced that he himself intended taking such action as would evade the risk of ever again being caught misleading the public. However, Mr. Foster with his characteristic inability to make up his mind whenever any question of importance is under consideration, refrained from action and the House proceeded, leaving two or three different financial statements still a matter of guess work, and the old system of deception in vogue.

All avenues of escape are not closed to Mr. Foster and members of his Government, for following their usual custom the Premier and his associates may refer the matter to the supreme court, or to some committee of experts. Surely such a policy is needed, for when the ministers themselves confess that the public accounts are confusing and misleading, the ordinary layman can hardly be expected to form an intelligent estimate of the financial affairs of the Province by glancing through a mass of figures annually presented. One might expect to find a simplified statement of the financial affairs of each department and also to find these consolidated in the form of a general statement, but to understand the situation in respect to any one department involves an examination of many pages of figures. Advances are made from ordinary revenue to capital, and sums are taken from capital and transferred to ordinary revenue. Under capital liabilities the province is carrying a bank overdraft of nearly a million dollars and apparently there is a shortage of more than a quarter of a million in current account. Possibly orders-in-council would make these things clear, but the public accounts do not. Nor is there a separate account dealing with Valley Railway finances. To arrive at any understanding of the affairs of that road necessitates going over several different accounts without any conclusive result.

In fact, the whole system of book-

keeping seems to have been designed to confuse, and to permit the accumulation of deficits on current account by transferring them to capital or carrying them on bank overdraft. To get out of some of the difficulties this loose method of financing involves, the Government introduced in the last hours of the session, a bill authorizing the Government to make temporary loans. Absolutely no information was given the House as to the purpose of these loans, nor was any limit placed on the borrowing power of the Government. Peter Venio is planning a great year.

## IN MEXICO.

Mexico's latest incipient revolution has come to an early end. In a battle on Saturday last Aureliano Blanquet, the nominal leader, was killed, and Francisco Alvarez was captured, the latter being executed on Tuesday. Others among the leaders of the revolt are in the hands of the Government forces, but the moving spirit of the affair, Felix Diaz, is still at liberty. Among those revolutionists captured are some who state that arms were provided through a German firm in Mexico City, but there is a prevailing impression that funds have also been furnished by certain foreign oil interests who prefer investing surplus capital in Mexican politics rather than in development enterprises, trusting to the success of the revolution to give them advantages over their competitors.

This man Blanquet was minister of war in the Huerta cabinet, and was in this and in other governments a working partner of Felix Diaz, who, it is understood, was to have been the chief beneficiary if the revolution now crushed had been successful. He was one of the group responsible for the betrayal and subsequent murder of President Madero and has for years been a bitter opponent of Carranza. Felix Diaz, still at liberty, is perhaps the ablest politician of the lot, and it has, without doubt, been due to his manipulation of private enterprises that the recent revolution was organized. It is also due to his mistaken belief that Mexico requires a person at government that this revolution has met with such early failure. Mexico needs a strong government. It has nothing of that nature now for Carranza, although perhaps the best available leader, has not a sufficiently determined character to enforce upon Mexico those reforms which are so needed for the settlement of the country. Not since the days of Porfirio Diaz has there been any stability in the administration. For Diaz, one of the greatest grafters of all time, ruled by his personality alone, a quality entirely lacking in those who have attempted to succeed him. Unfortunately for himself and for Mexico, the veteran dictator refused to acknowledge changing conditions until that time arrived when he was forced to give up office and to seek safety elsewhere. He had become rich at the expense of foreign investors. He had exploited Mexican resources for the benefit of himself and his friends, but he was a genial chief and an energetic administrator, and during his tenure of office Mexico enjoyed comparative peace.

Under the dictatorship of Diaz there grew up in Mexico a very strong middle class whose members, while above the Peons were not included among the land owners. These people enjoyed a measure of education and found sufficient opportunity to develop among themselves a sentiment inimical to the policy of favoritism which Diaz played. The result of that growing discontent was the Madero revolution by which Diaz was ousted from office and Madero made president. The latter fell a victim to the treachery of supposed friends, and was succeeded in office by Huerta, whose authority, however, was never recognized by other governments and who, because of the unpopular policy which he adopted in every phase of his administration, was eventually deposed by the supporters of Venustiano Carranza, now president. Carranza has survived four years of unrest, a period marked by incipient revolts, by almost constant civil war, by political treachery and by disloyalty on the part of those whom he at one time regarded as his staunch supporters. He has not succeeded in bringing Mexico out of the darkness, but he has managed to maintain a semblance of order which has permitted a partial development of his country's wonderful resources. At best, however, conditions in the southern republic are unsatisfactory, nor is there any reason to believe that even did the associated nations desire to intervene their efforts would be marked by success. Class distinction in Mexico is so marked, the ignorance of the masses of the people is so great, and so hostile is the attitude of all towards foreigners that only among themselves will they originate a government eventually able to restore peace. The leader of such a government is not yet in sight.

## BIRD PROTECTION.

It is the intention of the Canadian Government to enforce as fully as possible the Federal Bird Law passed

on the recently arranged Migratory Bird treaty. Under this treaty Canada and the United States will act together in protecting both game and non-game birds in an effort to prevent the promiscuous slaughter which has been going on for years, seriously reducing their numbers. In their migration north birds, in former years, have merely passed from one open season to another and their continuous exposure to destruction with scarcely a period of immunity during the entire year has been rapidly destroying the more sought after varieties. Under the new bird law no person shall kill, capture, injure, molest, sell or offer for sale any migratory game birds during the close season, nor be permitted to take the nests or eggs of any birds at any time. The enforcement of this law by both countries is a recognition of the value of insectivorous birds in field protection, as well as game birds as such. It is recognized that several of the most valuable species are on the verge of extinction. Birds which formerly existed in countless flocks, especially in Atlantic Coast Provinces, are among these, and it is useless for one country to endeavor to protect these birds while the neighboring country permits their slaughter. Thus the present attempt is the first of its kind to make effective a game law governing the whole territory through which these birds pass and feed. Each common bird, north and south, has been in the habit of making its own open season, a custom which, although satisfactory to these communities, has been detrimental to the country as a whole in that it permitted practically continuous slaughter of the migratory birds. Because of the new system of federal control inaugurated in Canada and the United States in this respect is looked for, while at the same time the rights of communities are recognized, and shooting permitted within reasonable bounds so that no one portion of the country may be permitted to take more than its fair share of the game.

It is intended under this law to absolutely prohibit the destruction of migratory birds during the spring months. Spring shooting has been looked upon as the chief cause of the reduction in the numbers of wild fowl in Canada and the United States in that it permits the destruction of mated and breeding birds. On the other hand the new law provides an open season of three and one-half months in the fall so that the annual increase of birds may be killed in season of the year's breeding stock. In respect to spring shooting, the United States has given up more than has Canada, for along the Atlantic Coast and the Mississippi Valley, geese, ducks, etc., have been killed by thousands in the spring, chiefly for marketing, while the spring shooting in Canada has been comparatively insignificant. The Federal Bird Law provides that anyone who violates any provision of the Act shall be liable to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars and not less than ten dollars, and imprisonment for not more than six months, or both fine and imprisonment.

**WHAT THEY SAY**  
The Best of Political Principle.  
London Free Press: "Produce good people, the rest follows." Dr. Cady is going the right way about it.  
The Tower of Babel Can Wait.  
The Troy Times: "Peace first. It will be time then to call for plans and specifications for the new Tower of Babel, which is to reach up to Heaven, to make men everywhere of one language and to substitute internationalism for nationalism."  
A pertinent Question.  
Toronto Telegram: How much free speech would be allowed, and how many Open Forums would be running in Toronto if the Simpsons, Bancrofts, Stairs and other local Europeans had as much power as capitalism is supposed to exercise in Canada, and as much power as Socialism does exercise in Petrograd?

**Two Great Enterprises.**  
London Daily Chronicle: Should all go well with the Channel tunnel scheme, the world will see two colossal enterprises running side by side. Holland's great dyke across the mouth of the Zuyder Zee is on the same plane in point of cost, labor and far-reaching effect on human life. The dyke will run into 230,000,000, will carry two lines of railway and a broad highway, and reclaim from the inland sea land enough for nearly 5,000 farms of 100 acres each.

**All is Peace.**  
Chicago Tribune: Gentle spring is with us all in peace and full of promise, except in Siberia, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Greece, Italy, Rumania, Germany, Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey and a few other places.

**Will "Farmer's Daughter" please tell us if this is an honest practice, or has it become a matter of course from long usage.**  
F. W. HOLT  
St. John, N. B., April 23, 1919.

**Summer Time.**  
Westminster Gazette, March 29: Tomorrow the public will wake to find that it has lost an hour's sleep, and that it has entered upon that period of the year which the authorities hopelessly designate as summer. This morning, on the other hand, it woke to find London ankle-deep in snow, a phenomenon sufficient to demonstrate that whatever the Time may be, the times are indisputably winter. Considerable juggling with the facts of the case will be required to convince us of the necessity of a more clement season, but we hope that this timely hint from the authorities on earth will be properly appreciated by the Clerk of the Weather.

## Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

I was laying on my back on the setting room floor last night wishing I owned a candy store, and pop was smoking and thinking, and I sed, Pop?  
I haven't any change, sed pop.  
I wasn't going to ask for money, pop, I sed.  
O, then speak freely, sed pop.  
Which I did, saying, would it be a insult to call a parain a red headed onion?  
Aluffy speaking, I believe it would, sed pop, and I sed, Only pop, there ain't any such thing as a red headed onion, so how could it be a insult?  
I never thawt of that, I admit there seems to be a slite doubt in the matter, sed pop.  
Which I thawt a while and then I sed, Would it be a insult to call a parain a old red bunch of wiskers?  
Well, that's another delicate question, and still, if they ever happen to appoint me on the Lige of Nations committee and that question comes up, I believe I will take the side of the complaining nation thus designated, sed pop.  
Meaning Yes, and I sed, Well how bad of a name could you call a red headed parain without axully being a insult so he would want to fite you for it?  
From my experience with red headed people, it simply cant be done, sed pop.  
And today wen I saw Reddy Merty I didnt call him anything.

## A BIT OF VERSE

A touching tribute which embodies Roosevelt's last words is found in the following verses by Edith Evans, which was quote from the Phoenix Arizona Republic.  
Theodore Roosevelt.  
By Edith Evans.  
"Put out the light, please." These last words he said.  
On whom now light eternal shines.  
For him  
No burden of the slow and fading years,  
With consciousness of an impending blow,  
The sword of Damocles above his head,  
About to fall and bring oblivion.  
No, it were best to go while still the strength  
Of his great manhood unabated stood,  
And matched his mighty spirit, which, untamed  
By pain and travail of the passing days,  
Still sprang toward longer-for action when it seemed  
The time was ripe to serve his country best.

Now he rests,  
His work on earth was done—else he had stayed  
To finish it. No life goes incomplete  
Back to its maker, tho' our earthly days  
Not always read the story to its end  
and end? For him it's but the beginning.  
A sure presage of immortality.  
Such souls were never made to be destroyed.  
But to go on and on, to wider fields  
And new achievements, fitted to the powers  
Which on earth were, as a sacred trust,  
Held blameless, stainless, and inviolate.

## A BIT OF FUN

Just Right for Her.  
"When I get a car I want one which will suit me."  
"Then, my dear, you had better get a runabout."  
That's Different.  
"What was the price of that suit?"  
"Sixty dollars."  
"If you paid \$60 for that suit you got a bargain, I merely promised to pay \$60."

No Charge Accounts Please.  
Judge—I understand that you prefer charges against this man?  
Grocer—No, sir, I prefer cash, and that's what I had him brought here for.

Reducing.  
"Yes."  
"My wife is starving."  
"So's mine," responded the affable millionaire. "It's touch on the girls, but it's the only way to get a fashionable figure."

Preparing For More Atrocities.  
Editor—Er, Smith, I want you to order a ton of new type—Z's and Y's and X's. They are starting another war in Russia.

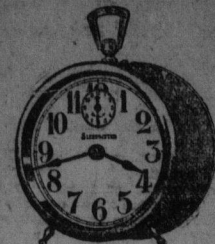
## THE EDITOR'S MAIL

**THE FARMER'S WORK.**  
The Editor The Standard:  
Sir—Will you kindly permit me to thank "Farmer's Daughter" for the statement of the case of the farmer in The Standard of the 22nd.  
We all know that the farmer, if he has the right kind of a farm, should, in these days, be one of the most successful of any and most independent, and the percentage of true sentences certainly not less than in any other class.  
Now in reference to the "Farmer's Daughter's" experience. The principal trouble appears to be that this farmer tries to do too much work before train time. Why does he waste, perhaps, an hour separating milk? Nature sends it mixed and city people are supposed to be getting it that way, but here the poor man robs himself of an hour's sleep to separate it when no one but he wants it separated.  
Will "Farmer's Daughter" please tell us if this is an honest practice, or has it become a matter of course from long usage.  
F. W. HOLT  
St. John, N. B., April 23, 1919.

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**WEDDINGS**

**Hamm-Belyea.**

A very pretty wedding took place in Centenary church yesterday afternoon at 5.30 when Miss Muriel Walker Belyea, daughter of G. H. V. Belyea, became the bride of F. W. Hamm, son of Parker Hamm. The bride presented a very pretty appearance in a pearl grey suit with hat to correspond, carried a bouquet of Killarney roses. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. C. Berrie.

Mrs. Hamm was the recipient of many beautiful and useful presents, among which were a cut glass pitcher and tumblers presented by No. 2 Salvage Corps Company, and a piano lamp presented by the employees of the Blue Ribbon Company.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Hamm left on a honeymoon trip to Montreal and on their return will reside on Douglas Avenue.

Daley-Daley.

In the Cathedral at 4.45 yesterday morning Rev. Wm. Duke united in marriage Miss Agnes Teresa Daley, daughter of the late Charles Daley of Val-de-Riviere, Albert County, and William Francis Daley, son of James V. Daley, also of Riviere. The bride was given