

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1912.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

It is a pleasant duty to draw attention to the fact that St. John is not only going ahead in its commercial and industrial enterprises but that in an artistic sense there is a forward movement more noticeable today than for many years. Both music and drama of a high class are receiving more encouragement from the citizens, and the success of two recent performances, organized and carried out by local talent, mark a distinct advance in a field which has been somewhat neglected.

The "Messiah," given by the recently organized St. John Choral Society in the Opera House on Tuesday, was an ambitious undertaking, but in the result fully justified the decision of the executive to begin their repertoire with Handel's masterpiece. Last week on the same stage the Loyalist Dramatic Club, another new local organization, presented "The Servant in the House," an unusual play and in many ways a masterpiece of dramatic writing. The success which attended the performances encourages the hope that the players will maintain the high standard they have set themselves and give other plays of equal merit.

St. John has not attained, at least in recent years, to the distinction of being a musical centre. In this respect we are far out-distanced by Halifax. The sister city is bringing this fact rather pointedly to our attention just now by submitting for our approval a comic opera, "The Isle of Palms." This will not be the first time we have received a welcome visit from the musicians of Halifax. Their performances have always shown exceptional ability and careful rehearsal and we have no doubt the entertainment next week will receive liberal patronage. The cause of St. John's backwardness is not due to lack of singers but to a want of organization. Individually our local singers will compare with any city of similar size. The formation of the Choral Society is a hopeful sign and the enthusiasm which marked the first performance should have the result of making it a thoroughly representative and permanent institution.

For the drama there is no scarcity of talent, but the fact that dramatic impersonation ranks high as an art has hitherto not been given much consideration. The farce and the "laughable absurdity" are excellent mediums for a pleasant evening's entertainment but they leave something to be desired as a vehicle for the practice of elocution or the serious study of emotional acting. The institution of the Dramatic Trophy Competition by Earl Gray in 1906 has done much to stimulate interest in the drama elsewhere and has resulted in the formation of dramatic clubs in many of the chief cities of the Dominion. The announcement that the Loyalist Dramatic Club intends to enter for this competition with "The Servant in the House," has been very generally endorsed by those who witnessed the performances. From the character of the play it is evidently the intention of the members of the club to devote their time to a study of the more serious side of the drama. It is a healthy sign that the possibilities in dramatic art are coming to be realized and is worthy of encouragement. Incidentally the visit of the club to Ottawa will be an excellent advertisement for St. John.

## WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN BRITAIN.

The present position of the Woman Suffrage movement in Great Britain is highly interesting. The general franchise measure to be introduced by the Government at the coming session of Parliament will contain no provision for the extension of the franchise to women. It is a question on which the Cabinet is divided. The Premier is strongly opposed to votes for women. Mr. Asquith received last month a deputation from the National League Opposing Woman Suffrage, and told the delegates that he believed the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women would be a disastrous mistake. He said that he had this opinion when he entered public life and had never seen any reason to alter it. On the other hand a majority of the Cabinet Ministers—Mr. Asquith admits that it is "a very considerable majority"—are in favor of woman suffrage. Two days after the Premier had defined his own position Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Lloyd-George addressed a mass meeting organized by the Woman's Liberal Federation to inaugurate a new campaign for Woman Suffrage. They were equally emphatic in advocating the rights of women to the parliamentary vote.

But Ministers on both sides of this question are agreed not to allow the issue to break up the Cabinet. The Foreign Minister and the Chancellor declare that they and all their colleagues are loyal to the Premier. They point out that the only result of pressing the views of the majority of the Cabinet on the Premier and demanding the inclusion of a Woman Suffrage in the Government bill would be destruction of the Administration. Those who did not agree with the Premier could resign, which might make it impossible for Mr. Asquith to continue in office. Such a disruption would bring the Conservatives back to power, and that would not help the Woman Suffrage cause.

This is the justification given by Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey for the conclusion that has been reached. The measure will go to the committee stage as introduced and then it will be open for any member of Parliament to propose the addition of a clause giving votes to women. On this clause the vote will be taken without Cabinet influence. Ministers and private members will divide on the question, and the decision of the House of Commons will be accepted by the Government as effective. If the Woman Suffrage clause is accepted it will therefore be a part of the Government bill and the measure so amended will have the weight of ministerial support and influence behind it. We understand this to mean that if the amended measure should be rejected it would be a defeat of the Government.

Discussing the outlook the News-Advertiser thinks it probable that a majority of the English Liberal members will follow the majority of the Cabinet. We may expect the Nationalists to oppose votes for women, and would not expect Scotland to give it enthusiastic support. As the matter is left the Conservatives will have nearly as much control of the outcome as the Liberals. Mr. Asquith is likely to get more support on this issue from his opponents than from his own party.

The League Opposing Woman Suffrage is largely composed of women. One of the most active of these is Mrs. Humphrey Ward, who is known in England through her association with many public movements as well as by her books. Mrs. Ward wrote a long letter to the Times immediately after the addresses of Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Lloyd-George. She continues to protest against the imposition of the duties of citizenship on millions of laboring women who are now "unable to meet the requirements of their home life." In her opinion the

change would "hand over fresh material for manipulation to the wirepullers of every party." On the other hand Mr. Lloyd-George believes that the extension of franchise to women would strengthen and improve the democracy, and has expressed his confidence that if enemies are not made for the cause, this year "will see the inclusion in the Government measure of an amendment which will enfranchise millions of women in this country."

## THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

The result, so far as determined, of the popular elections to the Reichstag in Germany may well cause some nervous disturbance to the Kaiser. The Socialist or Social-Democratic vote is now estimated as rising 4,000,000. This is just about one-third of the whole electorate. The seats secured by this party already number more than 60, and the secondary ballots, to be held next Monday, are expected to increase this force largely; there are 122 constituencies in which the Socialists are contestants.

The Conservative-Clerical coalition, which has controlled the Imperial Parliament, is badly shaken, if not deposed. The outcome may have national consequences. Perhaps the most significant feature of the situation is the fact that the Socialists have reached this point by no sudden or spectacular leap, but by a steady and rapid growth in popular support.

At the first election under the Empire, hardly more than 100,000 votes were cast by that party. Ten years ago, the poll had reached 1,500,000; at the last election it was 3,250,000; today it jumps by a million more. The unequal apportionment of seats in the Reichstag forbids an adequate representation in that body of this tremendous minority; but in a total membership of 397 the Socialists will have sufficient force to shake things up in a lively manner.

## THE LATEST REFORM.

Kansas is generally credited in the United States as being the home of reform. Having reformed nearly everything else, it is proposed now by the powers that be in the Sunflower State to reform hash. The State Board of Health has interested itself in the matter, and an announcement is made, according to the Bangor News, that in the future Kansas hash must conform to a certain standard or there will be serious trouble.

In elucidating the matter the secretary of the board said: "There may be a dozen different kinds of hash, but the standard committee of the department could make a ruling that hash should consist of certain kinds of meat, potatoes, carrots, onions or other vegetables and require that they be clean and fresh."

The standardizing of Kansas hash will be watched with great interest. If the Board of Health over there can make hash safe and sane a similar reform may be brought about elsewhere. There is hardly anybody who does not like hash when there are reasons for believing that it can be trusted.

Good luck to Kansas in its efforts to fix a standard for hash, and may it be wise enough to make the standard high at the start, for it is always difficult to raise a standard after it has once been established. The time may not be far distant when the man who orders hash will no longer be regarded as one who is the victim of unrequited love or unappreciated literary talent.

It is satisfactory to note that an active campaign in the interests of immigration to this Province is being carried on in England by Mr. Bowder, the representative of the Provincial Government. In a recent issue of Canada it is stated that Mr. Bowder has just completed a lecturing tour in the interests of the Province, in the counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Cheshire, Stafford, Cambridge, Northampton and Berkshire. In conversation with a representative of Canada, Mr. Bowder said that he found a more intelligent knowledge of Canada among his audiences than in his previous tour a year ago. "I had many enquiries," he adds, "which showed that agriculturists are better able to discriminate between the opportunities in the wheat-growing areas of Western Canada and those in my Province, for instance, where mixed farming can be profitably carried on with a small capital, and freehold farms are very cheap." Mr. Bowder is arranging for a personally conducted party to sail for St. John early in April. At the New Brunswick offices, Dudley House, Southampton Street, Strand, a very fine display of New Brunswick apples grown in the Province is on view.

## Current Comment

(Harper's Weekly.)

That the velocity of the wind makes a material difference in the speed of his car is realized by every motorist, but just what this resistance amounts to is not a matter of common knowledge. The increase in resistance is not in direct proportion to the increase in the velocity of the wind, but is double the amount that would ordinarily be expected. For example, a wind of fifty miles an hour exerts a pressure of ten pounds against each square foot of surface directly in its path, while a body moving through the air at a speed of one hundred miles an hour meets with resistance of forty pounds a square foot. To travel at fifty miles an hour, then, against a head wind of equal velocity, sets up a resistance to the movement of the car of about one thousand pounds, or half a ton, and it is small wonder that the occupants gasp for breath. At this speed the total pressure exerted against a man of ordinary size would be equal to a two hundred pound weight distributed over the upper half of his body, and it may be imagined that lung action under such conditions is rather difficult.

(Richmond Times-Despatch.)

Whether one likes it or not, it must be recognized that the women may not prove an inconsiderable factor in the next presidential election. In the six equal suffrage states there are 1,000,000 women who will be privileged to vote for presidential electors, and in one of the six—California—investigation by the Secretary of State has shown that the eligible vote of the two sexes is about equal. A contemporary, which is not at all inclined to equal suffrage, wants to know how the presidential candidates themselves are going to ignore these facts and conditions. Oh well—but we are not answering conundrums.

(Port Arthur News.)

It would be wise for the Canadian banks to permit of some reforms in the banking act when it comes up for revision. The proposal of ex-General Manager McLeod of the Bank of Nova Scotia for the external inspection of banks, has met with considerable opposition from certain banking interests; yet there is no doubt that the establishment of such a system would have a tendency to increase the confidence of the public in banking methods and thus making for stability in financial conditions.

(Guelph Herald.)

The report that the next Viceroy of India is to be Prince Arthur of Connaught partly bears out the idea that in future Governors of the great colonies and dominions will be princes of the blood. It has been said that King George wishes his sons to be trained for the duties of kingship, that any of them might be called on to discharge some day, and that he plans to give them their training in Canada, Australia, India, South Africa and the other colonies.

## MONCTON'S POULTRY SHOW CONCLUDED

Extreme Cold Only Drawback to One of Best Exhibitions Ever Witnessed in Railway Town.

Moncton, Jan. 14.—The fourth annual exhibition of the Westmorland Poultry and Pet Stock Association came to a close Saturday night. The exhibition was by all odds the best yet, but owing to the extreme cold the attendance was not as large as might be expected. The association should also secure a more suitable place for holding its exhibition and one that will be more accessible to the public. Among the prize winners from St. John and the section of the province, are the following:

H. C. Lemon, St. John—Hamburges A. O. V. cock and cockerel 2nd, hen 1st and 2nd; Golden Wyandottes, hen 3rd; S. C. buff Leghorns, cock 1st, cockerel 2nd; Hamburgs, Golden pencilled cock 1st, hen 2nd; Leghorns, A. O. V., hen 1st and 2nd; Blue Andalusians, cock 2nd and 3rd; White Cochins, bantams, cock 1st and 2nd.

Scott and Warren, St. John—Black Spanish pullet 1st; Minorcas, 1st, black cockerel 3rd; Blue Andalusians, cock 1st, hen 2nd; Game bantams, cockerel and pullet 1st and 2nd; Minorcas R. C. black, pullet 3rd.

Mrs. Louise S. Brown, St. John—Rhode Island Reds, cockerel 1st, pullet 1st and 2nd.

W. H. Johnson, St. John—Game B. R. red, cock, hen and pullet, 1st; Game Indian Cornish, cock 3rd, pullet 1st; Game Indian white, cock and hen 1st; B red game, cock, hen and pullet 1st; Pyle game cock 1st, hen 2nd, and pullet 3rd; Game A. O. V., hen 1st; Seabright bantams, cock and hen 1st.

Frank Merritt, Marysville—Rhode Island Reds, cock, 2nd, cockerel 3rd; Minorcas, R. C. black cock and hen, 1st; Game Indian Cornish, cock, 1st, hen 1st and 2nd; game bantam, cock, 2nd; Minorcas R. C. black, cock and hen 1st.

Glenview Poultry Yards, Sussex—Rhode Island Reds, cock 1st; hen and cockerel 2nd; barred Plymouth Rocks, cock 2nd, hen 2nd and 3rd, cockerel 4th, pullet 3rd and 5th.

Orchard Hill Farm, Brown's Flats—Wyandottes, A. O. V., cock, hen, cockerel and pullet, 1st.

Harland Yards—Buff Wyandottes, cock, hen and pullet, 3rd; Golden Wyandottes, cock, hen, cockerel and pullet, 1st; Wyandottes, A. O. V., hen, cockerel and pullet, 2nd; R. C. white Leghorns, cock and hen, 2nd and 3rd; pullet, 1st and 2nd; S. C. buff Leghorns, cock, 2nd; Hamburgs, Golden, pencilled, hen, 1st; Hamburgs, A. O. V., cock and cockerel, 1st; pullet, 1st and 2nd; R. C. brown Leghorns, hen 2nd, cockerel 3rd; white Plymouth Rocks, cock, 2nd, pullet 2nd, hen 3rd; buff Plymouth Rocks, pullet 1st, cock 2nd, hen 2nd; buff Orpington, hen 1st; black Orpington, hen 2nd, cock 3rd; Dorkings, hen and pullet 1st, cockerel 3rd; light Brahmas, pullet 2nd, cock 3rd; partridge Cochins, cock, 3rd; black Langshans, cock 2nd and 3rd, hen and cock 3rd; Leghorns, A. O. V., pullet 2nd; Anconas, cock 2nd; French breeds, A. O. V., cock, hen and pullet, 3rd; Golden Spangled Hamburgs, cock and hen, 1st; Silver Spangled Hamburgs, hen and pullet, 1st; Rhode Island Reds, cock, 2nd, cockerel and pullet, 3rd; Houdans, hen 3rd; Poland, cock, 2nd, hen, at game Indian Cornish, cockerel 1st, pullet 1st; Hamburgs, Silver Spangled, hen and pullet, 1st; Pyle game hen, 1st; game A. O. V., cock, 2nd; game bantam, cock and hen 3rd; black Cochins, bantams, cock, 3rd; Seabright bantams, pullet 2nd; Poland A. O. V., cock, 2nd; hen 2nd and 3rd; Rouen ducks, 1st, duck, 2nd; Rouen ducks, young, duck 2nd, duck 1st.

## "UNSCREENED BARS."

Richibucto, N. B., Jan. 15th.

To the Editor of The Standard: Dear Sir—Readers of The Standard who manifest an interest in temperance reform, have doubtless read with regret the stand Rev. Mr. Gaetz has taken in his sermons upon "unscreened bars," etc. Contrary to the opinion of nearly all Christian workers, there may be a few who share the same views as Mr. Gaetz on the question. We doubt, however, if the temperance sentiment is rooted deeply enough within them to avail much. Every business man, open to the light of day, is an enemy to the liquor traffic, and the most potent argument as to the truth of this is the fact that all saloon keepers prefer to carry on their business in secrecy. It is almost inconceivable that a minister of the Gospel could congratulate the people of St. John on the highly respectable manner in which the liquor business is carried on in their midst. Since the word "respectable" in reference to the whiskey business originated with Mr. Gaetz, I also will make bold to use the expression and ask the reverend gentleman this question: To what cause do you attribute the apparent respectability of the business as you see it in St. John? Certainly not to the dens that are hidden away from public gaze. The term "respectable" would hardly apply to the saloon as we have it in some parts of Kent county, and other places where the license system is in vogue. In order to justify criticism the methods employed by earnest temperance workers, it is essential to thoroughly familiarize oneself with every side of the question. In fact I have a strongly defined conviction that the remarks made by Mr. Gaetz are based on a very superficial knowledge of the liquor question as a whole.

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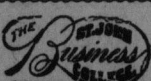
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### EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

Local Examinations in Theoretical music for all grades will be held on April 15th, 1912. Application forms, filled in and accompanied by fees, must reach the Central office in Montreal on or before April 1st, 1912. Forms and free copies of the Official Syllabus containing full information are obtainable from the Local Secretary, Mr. D. Arnold Fox, 183 Princess St., St. John, or from the General Secretary, No. 323 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal. Information about the Diploma of Licentiate and Degree of Mus. Bac. can be obtained from the General Secretary, Montreal. The Examination Board, on application being made, will be glad to consider any additions to the present list of Local Centres.

Natural History Society. The first lecture on the free course given by the Ladies' Association of the Natural History society will be held today, Thursday, at 4 p. m. Mrs. James T. Robertson will lecture on "Seville." The public are cordially invited. Friday, 19th, the second social evening of the Natural History society will be held.

Shot a Cat. At the request of S. M. Wetmore, secretary of the S. P. C., a policeman shot a cat yesterday afternoon in a yard off Wellington Row.

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