

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1919.

HARBOR COMMISSION.

In his address on harbor commission before the Rotary Club the other day Hon. S. E. Elkin brought out a point in connection with the accumulated sinking fund which certain interested parties are proclaiming to be a new feature of the scheme and which it is declared makes the bargain much more attractive from the standpoint of the city. Mr. Elkin's presentation of this particular feature was not all new, for on July twenty-four in discussing the harbor proposal, The Standard said: "The Dominion takes over entire ownership and control of the harbor. We receive two million dollars, a portion of which will be in cash, the remainder in the assumption of liability on existing bond issues. We retain the accumulated sinking fund provided against these bonds, which fund now amounts to something like three hundred thousand dollars. But this is our own money and if considered as part of the purchase price should also be added to our valuation of the property, which, however, is not being done."

Mr. Elkin contended that by retaining this three hundred thousand dollar sinking fund St. John would be just that much better off than appeared in the terms of transfer. This is not the case. The official valuation of the harbor agreed to by representatives sent here by the Federal Government was two million two hundred and ninety-seven thousand, but this amount did not include the redemption fund of three hundred thousand and now to the credit of that bond issue. Had this amount been considered by the valuers, the value of the harbor would have been two million five hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars and the reduction in price under the government's present offer would have been five hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars instead of two hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars, as at present. Mr. Elkin has no doubt unconscious of his error in this regard, but it is not fair to the interests of St. John that this statement should be accepted by our people as correct, when as a matter of fact the sinking fund of three hundred thousand dollars did not enter into the consideration on either side in the proposal. Nor is his point in this connection in any way new, inasmuch as it has been quite familiar to all who have followed closely proceedings up to this date. It may appeal to those who have not watched the course of events and who through lack of knowledge may be inclined to accept as correct any statement made to them. That three hundred thousand has nothing whatever to do with the case.

THE VALLEY LINE.

Intimation is given that unless the Canadian Northern Railway Board of Management shows a little speed in the matter of arranging running rights over the Canadian Pacific Railway from Westfield to St. John, an appeal may be taken to the Railway Commission. The Valley Railway to St. John has been under construction for the past five or six years. The section lying between Gagetown and Westfield has been under way for about three years. During all this time it has been known to the management of the government lines that running rights to St. John would have to be arranged, and that the C. P. R. quite naturally would not permit passage of trains without an agreement of some sort. We are told that officials of the government roads include some of the ablest railway men in Canada, men who should have nothing to chance nor overlook any measures necessary for the successful operation of their lines. But although these officials must have realized the necessity of arranging the agreement for running rights, no move of any sort was made by them until two or three weeks ago when they put up a proposition, evidently under the impression that whatever they wished to suggest would be accepted by the C. P. R. It must have been quite a surprise to them to learn that the C. P. R. itself is somewhat interested in the terms of this proposed agreement, and perhaps it was a shock to find that the C. P. R. rejected the offer then made. At any rate the latter company replied to the proposal, outlining its own ideas of what the agreement should cover. Now at the last minute we are told that this agreement is not yet completed, that the road is ready for operation, that the C. P. R. will not permit passage of trains until the agreement is signed, and that the Provincial Government contemplates appealing to the Railway Board to force the issue. There is slackness somewhere, possibly due to the frequent changes of management on the C. N. R., but certainly detrimental to the interests of those people who are anticipating a satisfactory railway service over the line which has cost this province so much money. It is difficult to realize why the Foster Government knowing the situation has not, previous to this, taken definite action towards completion.

WHAT THEY SAY

Why Have Them?
(The Rocky Mountain News.)
Men's suits are to go up 100 per cent. in value and have pickpocket-proof pockets. But will there be anything for the pickpocket-proof pockets to protect?

Justified Lack of Confidence.
(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)
It may as well be said at once that the people generally have little confidence in either the will or the energy of the ordinary authorities in enforcing the law against any of the powerful interests; but the new Board of Commerce still remains to be tested.

Profiteers' Propaganda.
(Buffalo News.)
The talk of a shortage of leather is pure fiction. The leather trade and the shoe-making industry are simply engaged in a game of hold-up. The war is bound to have disastrous effects on the leather trade, but the prices are in sight, is part of the propaganda of the profiteers.

Maintaining Our Roads.
(Quebec Telegraph.)
The Province of Quebec has been a pioneer in building up an elaborate highway system, and we may now boast the construction of roads to surpass anything else in Canada. But we are not yet out of the woods. The construction of roads predicts their maintenance, and sooner or later we must face that problem.

Southern Alberta.
(Lethbridge Herald.)
Without exaggerating the situation in which the present drought has placed the live stock industry, it may be said that it is in a very critical condition. It is faced with a crisis which is not yet out of the woods. The construction of roads predicts their maintenance, and sooner or later we must face that problem.

Peculiarly Fitted.
(Kingston Whig.)
Mr. Mackenzie King, a man of high ability and in the enjoyment of the full vigor of manhood, has parliamentary experience as Minister of Labor in the late Liberal government and is peculiarly fitted to deal effectively with industrial and labor matters. He did not shrink the labor question in his brilliant speech on Thursday, and as leader of the party he is entitled to the fullest confidence in the consideration and solution of all matters he will be called upon to deal with.

A BIT OF VERSE

RECONSTRUCTION.
(By Lieutenant Eugene W. Roesech.)
The village was, but, war-torn, is no more.
And where the deep canals had silver rain
Dank growths have straggling grown
From shore to shore;
A calm moon paints the crosses of the slain.

Dread ruins raise their wecks, like
begging hands,
Up from the shell-pocked earth;
Where the road, roadway met a
cottage stands.
And huddled there—a children's garden plot!
The cottage turf-hatched roof is gaping wide,
And dust clings thick around the
shattered walls.
That prop the tottering door on either side,
Upon whose step the shimmering
starlight falls.

The garden plot, behind a rotted stile,
Is bare, and withered petals mat the ground.
Spring comes, and, beneath its warm, inviting smile
The garden stirs—a blooming rose is found!

A POET'S THOUGHT.

Tell me, what is a poet's thought?
Is it on the sudden born?
Is it from the starlight caught?
Or by the tempest taught?
Or by whispering morn'...

No more questions of its birth:
Rather love its better part!
If a shroud of sky and earth,
Gathering all its golden heart,
From the poet's heart.
—Barry Cornwall.

A BIT OF FUN

Explained.
"How do you do it, son? You sleep in that class every day."
The prof. is a retired minister and don't mind it.—Penn. State Froth.

Quite Useless.
Mrs. Jones: "Can't stay long, Mrs. Green. I just come to see if you wouldn't join our mission band."
Mrs. Green: "Heavens, don't come to me! I can't even play a mouth-organ!"

Domestic Amenities.
Mrs. Puss—Strange that you men never put things back in their places. I suppose Eve had to nag Adam about that.
Husband—If she did I'll bet he retorted that he wished he could put his rib back in its place.

A Hot One.
Late Mistress of House (who is remarkably unattractive, to maid trying on mistress's new hat before the mirror): "How dare you! What do you mean by putting on my new hat?"
Maid: "Excuse me, ma'am; I only wanted to see how it would look over a pretty face."

His Mouth Was Open.
A newspaper is responsible for the statement that John Lay denies that he had his tonsils unburied by getting skyward Friday afternoon at the airport that was cutting dices in the sky. The machine represented as claiming that the machine shifted its position

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Ma was setting in her room sewing with the sewing machine and I was on the floor trying to see what it felt like to be a torpedo, and while I was going under the bed what I did find but a dime standing on its edge leaning against a shoe, and I came out and watched Ma sewing a while, and then I sed, O G, Ma, I forgot to tell you, I sertyen am lucky, Ma, I always finding things, I sertyen am lucky.

I don't see how it is I can never find anything, other people are always finding things, what did you find? sed Ma.

A dime, Aunt I lucky, Ma? I sed.

I could walk it over a dime a hundred times and I'd never see it, what did you find it? sed Ma.

Im always finding things, Im sertyen lucky, Ma, I sed.

So you remarked, what did you find it? sed Ma.

None of the fellows is as lucky as I am, Ma, if there's anything to "Live on the pension, of course."

Im the one finds it, I sed, is finding always keepings, Ma?

Not always, but in the case of a dime in a hole townfull of people I suppose it would be pretty hard to find the owner, sed Ma. Me thinking, G, that's as much as saying I can keep it, and Ma sed, You haven't told me were you found it yet.

The dime? I sed, and Ma sed, What else did you suppose? and I sed, I didn't know, Im always finding things, and Ma sed, Well, Im still waiting, and I sed, I sed a sed.

O, so that's it—under whose bed? sed Ma.

Yours, I sed.

Hand it over, sed Ma.

Wich I did.

often enough to keep him turning about, so that part of the time his mouth was in the shade.

Very Strict.
Browning had lately taken to lecturing on the teetotal platform. "So you want to marry my daughter, sir? What are your principles? Are you temperate?" he asked a candidate for the position of son-in-law. "Temperate!" was the reply. "Why, I am so strict that it pains me even to find my boots tight."

ONT a Futurist.
It appears that not long ago, at a gathering of artists, a certain Futurist painter approached Louis Wain and said: "Why do you always draw cats, cats, nothing but cats?" It is true that a draw cats," returned Mr. Wain, fixing the Futurist man with his eye, "but at least I do not call them landscapes."

Long Time of it.
"Well, Bill, what are you going to do when you get demobilized?"
"Live on the pension, of course."
"You don't think yer going to get a pension from the army do yer?"
"No, not army—old age pension, I mean."

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

PROHIBITION.
Editor of The Standard.

Sir—I have watched your columns for some days expecting to see a reply to Mr. Robert S. Crisp's letter published on 12th inst. Nons has appeared. Unfortunately, too many people are apt to place an unwarranted reliance on printed matter and consequently, unless some individual takes it on himself to criticize well stated points appearing in letters to the public press, these people are bound to be misled. Apparently Mr. Crisp reads on this. He writes, "Now regard the question of Temperance versus Intemperance," and proceeds on this foundation to build a lofty pinnacle of words (mainly extracts from other men's speeches, and newspaper articles) showing the evils of drunkenness.

Is the gentleman so ill-informed as to think that this is the question under discussion, or is this merely another phase of the unworthy and dishonest tactics, referred to in my last letter, used by the so-called Temperance party to befog the issue who advocates intemperance?

The Non-Prohibition party stands for temperance in its truest meaning, viz. moderate indulgence of the appetites. The Prohibition party stands for restriction and intolerance in its worst form. The Non-Prohibition party is conscientiously working for the benefit of the country. The Prohibition party is rapidly sending the country to destruction.

Immeasurable harm has already been done to the Temperance cause by Prohibition. A man has but to travel, as I do, through this province and get into intimate contact with the people to have his eyes opened to what is happening. I can truthfully say that in many districts that I visit there is more intoxicating liquor consumed now, under Prohibition, than ever before; not the sound and, it used in moderation, beneficial drinks formerly supplied by the licensed saloon-keeper, but rank poisonous home-made "dopes." The up-to-date result of Prohibition has been to teach the intemperate drinker a lesson by which he can intoxicate himself for a fraction of what it cost him in the saloons. A

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ABE MARTIN



It seems like it's impossible for a fellow to be an exemplary citizen without tootin' in when he walks. Who remembers when a girl's intellectual qualities was an asset?

still more deplorable result has been the placing of recipes for the manufacture of this stuff in the hands of boys who might never have entered a saloon under former conditions.

Mr. Crisp quotes from a letter written by the Right Rev. John Ireland, Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Paul, Minn., as follows: "If total abstinence does not appear to be the remedy try some other never have entered a saloon under former conditions."

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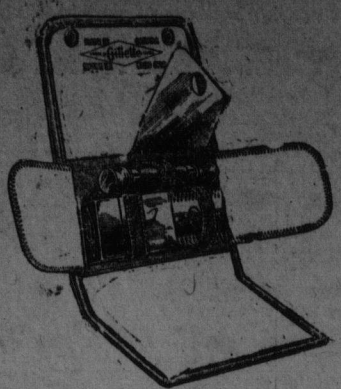
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WEDDINGS.

Oxford, N. B., Aug. 13.—A very pretty wedding occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Myatt, when Rev. G. R. Kyle united in marriage their daughter, Ethel Georgia, to Russell Bancroft Harvey, of Grand Manan. Promptly at 4 o'clock, to the strains of Lohengrin's Wedding March, the bride and groom took their place on the lawn under an arch, artistically arranged, of ferns and daisies. The