

The St. John Standard

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THE RIFT IN THE LUTE.

When Peter comes in at the door Byrne and Murray fly out the window. This at least seems to be the outstanding feature of the discord existing in the Foster-Purty League. At the time of the recent Government meeting in Fredericton rumors were flying to the effect that all was not peace and harmony in the ranks of this wonderful aggregation, but those most particularly interested kept their mouths closed and only during the past few days have facts begun to leak out. It seems that the trouble arises over Mr. Currie, who refused to resign, and who, in adopting this attitude, is enthusiastically endorsed by Mr. Veniot and certain others. Mr. Veniot, he is remembered, is the boss, and what he says goes whether the other fellows like it or not. So when Peter tells Mr. Currie to hold on to his job, Mr. Currie holds, and the others may growl all they want to, but that is as far as they get. Yet so strong is the disapproval of Mr. Currie's continued existence as a member of the Legislature that they have transferred to the broad shoulders of Mr. Veniot the full burden of responsibility for Mr. Currie's distressing attitude, and they refuse to sit in council so long as Mr. Veniot is there. Hence it happened that at the last meeting in Fredericton, when things were going along as smoothly as they usually do in the Foster Government—which is not saying very much—Mr. Veniot walked in to take his accustomed seat. And as he sat down, Mr. Byrne and Mr. Murray got up. Then Mr. Veniot got up and Mr. Murray and Mr. Byrne sat down. This might have continued indefinitely, but it became apparent that Mr. Veniot had no intention of retiring from the chamber and consequently the two other members went, first announcing their intention of remaining out for just such length of time as Mr. Veniot remained in. So a portion of the council proceeded with its business and, after reaching certain conclusions, Mr. Veniot retired. Thereupon the two absentees were summoned and everything was gone over again for their benefit. This was the course that was followed during four long days, for it took that length of time to get through the little business under consideration, where the regular meeting of the Government occupies as a rule not more than a day and a half. Mr. Veniot is determined that Mr. Currie must continue as a member of the Legislature. Mr. Byrne and Mr. Murray are equally insistent that he must go, while as for Premier Foster, who takes his orders from the Gloucester Minister, he, like the turkey, just keeps on saying nothing. So all through the greater part of the week the weary session dragged along and at its close rumors were spread that Mr. Currie had resigned or was about to resign. These, it is understood, were circulated by the members of the council in whom the wish was fostered to the thought, and were promptly contradicted by Mr. Veniot. And that Mr. Veniot is right in his conclusion is supported by the statement of Mr. Currie himself, who defies the people of New Brunswick and in a statement published this week announces his fixed intention of continuing to hold his seat in spite of the findings of the royal commission appointed by his own party, and which found him guilty of wrongdoing in connection with provincial affairs. It thus appears that Mr. Veniot, as might have been expected, rules the roost, and that the other members of the council, taking orders from him, are compelled, despite their strenuous objections and their frequent retirements from the session of the council, to swallow the pill which the Gloucester Head Builder has prepared.

If this were the only source of friction in the Provincial Cabinet, Mr. Foster might congratulate himself on getting through the past year with a whole skin, but strangely enough there are other little worries which are turning his hair gray and causing him to lose sleep. One of these is the policy of Dr. Roberts, to whom money means nothing, and who looks upon New Brunswick as a toy with which he has a perfect right to amuse himself. This phase of the existing dissension is developing daily, and perhaps extended reference might interfere with its progress. But the dispute will soon come to a head and by the time the Legislature meets we will look for a very interesting situation.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

The Kings County Municipal Council has passed a resolution urging the appointment to military positions of importance in Canada of men who have been overseas. The council should have gone further and advised the military authorities to select for all positions men who are resident in the communities in which these positions exist.

It is stated that in St. John district, for instance, sixty per cent. or more of the officers on headquarters and other staffs are from Upper Canada. The Standard has no means of verifying the figure given, but it is clear that there are attached to this district many officers who are not New

Brunswick, and it is equally clear that there are many New Brunswickers now idle who are quite capable of filling the positions occupied by these others. This is not intended in any sense as a criticism of the abilities of those now holding these jobs. No doubt the men selected are capable officers who are doing their work satisfactorily, and against whom nothing can be said. But on the other hand there would be a larger measure of popular satisfaction were it realized that the openings for employment in military affairs in this district were made available to New Brunswickers. It does not appear that very many of our own officers are employed elsewhere. True, we occasionally hear of one or another being appointed to a position in Halifax or somewhere else, but these are exceptional cases and as a rule officers from this district who have served overseas are not sought by the military authorities for appointments to positions of any importance outside. On the other hand it is evident that Upper Canadian officers are so favored and practically every week witnesses the arrival here of new men from outside to take up duties which could be just as efficiently carried on by New Brunswickers. This is a matter with which the local command has very little to do, for it does not actively interfere in making recommendations concerning others than those with whom it is in direct contact. So it must be supposed that in the majority of cases the appointments to positions being here are made from Ottawa without submission to St. John headquarters.

It appears rather difficult for some of those in authority in military affairs to realize that so far as the majority of people in Canada are concerned the war is over, and that conditions which prevailed until Nov. 11th are not the conditions now existing. During the period of hostilities the people of the country kept quiet, no matter what their feelings may have been and allowed the military administration to run things in its own way without criticism and practically without comment. But since the sentimental reasons resulting in that silence have been removed, opinion is now more freely expressed, and there is a rapidly growing feeling that hereafter military rule must be in accordance with what the majority of Canadians regard as the best policy to be pursued in the interests of the country. We are apt to hear more and more of this criticism as time passes and the best way to avoid possible friction will be by the military authorities following the trend of public opinion and guiding their course as closely as is possible, in accordance with the wishes of the people.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS.

Order-in-Council P. C. 3070, which was recently passed by the Government to eliminate certain defects in the existing Pension Regulations does not, as certain accounts might lead one to suppose, introduce an entirely new set of Pension Regulations. There are important clauses in the new Order-in-Council which add considerably to the powers of the Pension Commissioners. Chief amongst these is that which applies to cases of prospective dependency. The claims of prospective dependents have now been officially recognized and the Board of Pension Commissioners may now award Pensions to a large number of soldiers' dependents who, under the old regulations, were ineligible. Another important clause which will have a far-reaching effect is that which empowers the Commissioners to award pension to parents or persons in the place of a parent of a deceased soldier in accordance with the degree of their dependency on the deceased soldier, and in accordance with their needs.

Formerly it was necessary that these persons should have been wholly or mainly dependent on the deceased soldier to be entitled to pension. Now, however, cases where a state of only partial dependency existed, may be considered for pension. The phrase "in accordance with their needs" is self explanatory. If, for example, the dependents just referred to are in receipt of an income sufficient to provide for their support, pension may be refused.

Wide publicity has been given through the press to the clause relating to cases of "Special Hardship," but no general ruling can be laid down regarding cases which may come within this category. It will be the task of the Board of Pension Commissioners carefully to investigate all doubtful cases and if it is considered that they come within this category to submit them to the Governor in Council for a final decision as to whether or not pension shall be awarded.

WHAT THEY SAY

That's the Reason.
Ottawa Journal—Since 200,000 American soldiers have decided to make France their future home, it is wonderful if the news of a bone dry United States has had anything to do with their decision.

Who Pays for Good Roads?
Toronto Globe—Hon. G. H. Henry,

Minister of Agriculture, in appealing to a rural constituency for support for the Government, says that more than half of the \$1,220,000 collected for auto licenses was paid by people in urban municipalities, that it was all spent on country roads, and not one dollar of it on city roads or streets. This sounds like robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Enforcement.
Montreal Gazette—The Government at Quebec is being asked to prepare for a strict enforcement of the prohibition law, which goes into effect on May 1 next. The request is not idle. The experience of the other provinces is evidence that it will be no easy matter to suppress the illicit traffic. Particularly will this be the case in Montreal, with its great and diverse population. The bootleggers, the moonshiners and the shebeen-keepers will surely be active, and it will require unceasing vigilance on the part of the authorities to check their dangerous efforts.

Why Despair?
Detroit News—In saying that the first league of nations should be attempted, even if doomed to failure, in order that the second league of nations may be a success, we have in mind the fact that such an experience would simply duplicate that of the American Union originally formed by the continental congress. The first American Union was a failure; and so was the second one. The American Union of today represents the third attempt.

Fixing the Blame.
San Francisco Chronicle—In the case of the former Kaiser the free and vain use of "I" and "my" settles all disputes as to responsibility. Had he been still more egotistic "I" would have been still more prominent, but it was conspicuous enough to brand him as the arch criminal, who ordered the barbarities committed by his soldiers, and before a subordinate is called to book the allies should demand the extradition of the tyrant who issued these fiendish instructions.

Two Clashing Theories.
Kansas City Star—There are two theories on which public utilities may be operated. One is the theory of making the investment attractive to private capital, the other is the theory of operating the utility for the benefit of the community as a whole. The first is the theory that has generally been adopted. Experience has shown that it clashes with the public interest. It leads first to the almost universal practice of watering stock for speculative purposes, then, partly as a result of the inflation, to skimping service and increasing charges in order to earn dividends.

Always the Shadow.

Of all sad thoughts of modern tongue and pen, sadder is the fact that when the average politician prophesies concerning the future greatness of a district or province, he generally alights himself by the province. "If a certain railway is built or completed," thus the Edmonton Journal—"in an address in Winnipeg the other day, Sir James Aikens, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, made the prophecy that some day the largest city in the province would be on the shore of Hudson Bay. To hasten this day he urged the early completion of the Hudson Bay Railway, which he believed would prove a great success."

British-American Fraternization.

New York Post—If the world is still ruled by the imagination and it is the fraternizing now going on between England and the United States is of the highest augury. President Wilson's demonstration is entirely new. The demonstrative English is, of course, purely symbolic. He himself hastens so to interpret it. In acclaiming him, the English democracy hails that of America. The two have fought and suffered and triumphed side by side, and now have the instinctive and over-mastering feeling that, united, a great world mission is placed in their hands. To translate this emotional solidarity into common aims and common practical action, is now the task of the statesmen of the two nations.

A BIT OF VERSE

ENGLAND! ALL HAIL!
Not with abandon, but austere great.
Thy grey eyes gleaming through
War's darkening gale,
Anger distilled to clearness, and re-
Patient and tireless till thy will
prevail:
England! All hail!

Through our wide Empire, round
Earths swelling breasts,
From all the seas we turn to where
you lead;
Now true one, thy children's diverse
race
No sund'ring cleaves, nor cast
nor various creed:
England! All hail!

No ocean roars but there thy dead
have passed,
Conquerors of death, since masters
they of fear;
Glad for thy sake and at thy wordless
sign,
Foreword they pressed to yield life's
things most dear:
England! All hail!

Not the lone desert can the traveller
know
Where, great of soul, thy children
have not wrought;
Far as the deathless mind hath hewn
its way
Tolling have reached thy caravans
of Thought:
England! All hail!

Lead on; thy fair brow smitten by
the light
O'er Time's dark frontier years,
That lies beyond War's shambles foul
and black
A golden radiance on God's broad
highway:
England! All hail!

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Colonial Institute.)

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Weather. THE PARK AVE. NEWS.
Weather. Making you think of summer on account of being so different.
Sports. Saturday afternoon Benny Potts and Pats Simkins and Leroy Shooter had a contest standing a little ways away and seeing who could throw the most stones in a big hole dugged in the street to fix the slope, which after about 4 had went in, the man and a shovel came out of the top of the hole, the man saying, Somebody must be looking for trouble, ain't they? the contest ending by everybody running to beat the band.
Intriguing Fables About Intriguing People. Sid Hunts uncle is a dentist and Sid could have all his teeth pulled out for nothing if he wanted to, only he don't want to.
Pome by Skinny Martin.
None of My Biznias.
A strange kid slipped on an empty banana
And came down bang on his lip,
And chased me 4 blocks and a quarter
Just for asking if he enjoyed his trip.
Sixtiety. Mr. Charles (Pats) Simkins and Mr. Artie Alexander went to the theater last Saturday night and watched the crowd going in.
Lost and Found. Lost—A spelling book with a wide rubber band around it. Reward for the return of the rubber band. See Sam Cross.
Found—Nothing.

A BIT OF FUN

A Permanent Arrangement.
Two colored men, comparative strangers, were in the same seat of a day coach en route to a penitentiary.
"How long you got 'up for, bo?" inquired the first one by way of making conversation.
"Three years," was the reply.
"What was it you done?"
"Oh, they claimed I took some money. What'd you do?"
"I got mixed up with a fellow who was triffin' with mah wife."
"And how long they sent you up for?"
"From now on."

BunCHED Them.
Harold's mother was giving a party. She told the little fellow that whenever he passed in front of any one he must say: "Excuse me."
Harold made many trips back and forth, and got tired of repeating the same phrase over and over; so he finally said:
"Ladies and gentlemen, please excuse me for the whole evening."

Heard at the Club.
Doctor—"What was the most confusing case you ever tried?"
Judge—"A case of champagne. I hadn't got halfway through it before I was all muddled up."

An Old Adage Revised.
"He always calls names when he finds he is losing a game of pitch."
"Then with him it is a case of 'you can't touch pitch without being reviled.'"
—Baltimore American.

I'm Satisfied.
Counsel—"I'm sorry I couldn't do more for you."
Convicted Client—"Don't mention it, governor; ain't five years enough?"

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