

## The St. John Standard

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ST JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1921.

## MR. MEIGHEN NEEDED IN PARLIAMENT.

General satisfaction will undoubtedly be felt at the announcement that Mr. Meighen will probably occupy a seat in the House of Commons when the next session opens. When we say "general satisfaction," we mean just that; not satisfaction confined to Mr. Meighen's own political followers, but experienced among all classes, with the probable exception of a few dyed-in-the-wool partisan Liberals, who would prefer to see him at the bottom of the sea or anywhere else, where he would not be in their way. It is true, of course, that the country turned Mr. Meighen down three weeks ago but since that day public opinion has had a chance to sober down somewhat, and we have little doubt that reviewing the results of their polling on election day, very many of those who marked their ballots against Meighen candidates, would hesitate considerably if they were called upon to mark them over again today. The country was not prepared, and is not prepared, to put itself unreservedly in the hands of the politicians whom the chances of the ballot box have brought to the front. As a rule, in such general elections as that we have had on the 6th inst., the people vote rather against the ruling party than for the Opposition.

It cannot be pretended that the free trade articles of the Liberal platform or the almost identical articles of the Progressive platform are acceptable to the majority of the Canadian people. It cannot be pretended that the majority of the Canadian people like the class of politicians of Mr. Crenan or the war record of Mr. King. It was because Quebec was enthusiastic for Mr. King that that Province voted solidly against the Government. Revenge for the Conscription Act and its enforcement carried the day in Quebec.

Mr. Meighen carried on a campaign that, though it did not win the election, won him golden opinions among hosts of people who voted against his candidates, but he could not hope to disarm the bitter hostility of Quebec, or to turn the tide of the Agrarian movement that self-seeking politicians and placemen had worked up in the West. People who felt bound to vote against the Government because they were enlisted either in the Agrarian movement or in the revenue movement, could not but admit that he was easily the ablest man in Parliament and that there was no other leader in the field who was so fair a fighter. Now that he is coming back into the House there will, as we said before, be great satisfaction not only in Conservative circles but among Canadians of all parties. In Opposition he was a power for the good of the country. The people want him there because he is not a demagogue but a great statesman.

## WHY THE DELAY?

"One thing is certain. The Canadian public will not fail to recognize, nor will the political 'history' to record, that Mr. Meighen's last act as Prime Minister like his first, was one of 'usurpation'."

It is quite unnecessary to state that the remark above quoted was made by the Hon. Mackenzie King. Everyone who reads it will readily recognize that there is but one man in the country with a mind so small as to be capable of giving birth only to ideas of such a nature, and that man is the Prime Minister-elect.

Mr. King has been clamouring, in season and out of season, for the past eighteen months at least, for Mr. Meighen to step down and out of a position which he, Mr. King, declared he had usurped. Mr. Meighen stepped down and out a fortnight ago, and made way for Mr. King to take his place. Why has not Mr. King taken it? And why, if Mr. King is not ready to take that place, does he blame Mr. Meighen for usurping on the day of Government until he is ready?

No doubt Mr. King is so because as a consequence of his having been so dilatory in choosing his colleagues, the Meighen Cabinet having been compelled to carry on, has been in a position to call on an election which will give Mr. Meighen a seat in the House again. But why call it "usurpation"? It is merely part of the ordinary routine of government, which Mr. King and his friends should by rights have been carrying on for a week or more now, instead of leaving it for an administration whose resignation has been handed in more than a fortnight.

Every day that passes brings out some new evidence that Mr. King is totally unfitted for the great office to which he is to be called. The office of Prime Minister of Canada is a man's

Job, and it needs a man with the qualifications of a statesman to fill it satisfactorily. Mr. King may make a politician—of the peanut variety—but he will have to undergo a very considerable change before he ever becomes a statesman.

What is Mr. King fooling about? The position in which he finds himself today was not unexpected by him. In fact he said on many occasions that he and his party were going to win out. Usually an opposition leader has the contingency of success before his mind for weeks before polling day, and accordingly indulges in day-dreams regarding the friends whom he will call to his assistance. Well, the election is over, Mr. King has won, and practically all the leading members of his party, from whom he would be likely to choose his cabinet, have been elected. What delays him announcing his government?

## UNEMPLOYMENT.

With all the discussion that has taken place during the last few days on the subject of the prevailing unemployment, we do not appear to be any nearer a solution of the trouble. It is all very well to suggest, as some people do, that work should be made in order that it may be given to some needy man to do; but it is not everybody that can afford to create work, or even to hand over work that needs doing to some one else. Quite a large number of people have jobs on hand that need attention, but they are so situated financially that they must attend to the jobs themselves. Neither can the majority of people afford to employ unnecessary help, though many are doing this, in order to aid some unfortunate individual.

The idea of opening a registration bureau where those who need work can leave their names and addresses is well enough in its way, but as His Worship very truly observed, there is not so much trouble to find the men as there is to find the work for them. Large numbers of men are quite unfitted for manual labor, and others who are equal to it, won't take it because it is rather more strenuous than they like. Then again there are those who demand a certain minimum wage, whether the job is worth it or not, and they prefer to remain unemployed rather than work for less than they think they should receive. If they can't have a whole loaf they'll go without bread altogether.

Reference has been made to industries that are running short time, and the suggestion put forward that these should be asked to go on full time in order that additional work may be created, even if it has to be done at a loss. But few industries can afford to do this; if they are going to produce at a loss to any appreciable extent, they will very soon be in bankruptcy. Work cannot be created by artificial means except to a very limited extent; for while work so created may be of some temporary benefit, if carried on for long, it must result in loss in other directions. To find anything like a satisfactory solution of the unemployment question is going to severely tax the ingenuity of those who are interested themselves in it.

The Boss told me yesterday that if I didn't wake up, he'd fire me. Seeing that there are so many out of work at the present time as things are, I feel it would be pretty hard form for me to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Besides it's a bad time of the year to give up a job in a nice warm office.

Well, Christmas is over. One thing about it coming on Sunday is that you can celebrate either Saturday, Sunday or Monday, or all three if you like.

One of the things that casts a gloom over the Christmas season for a good many fellows is the worry they have over the kind of nookies they are going to get from women relatives who think they've got to give them something.

I see in a Boston paper where a Brattleboro man in middle life found a \$10 bill which his mother had placed in his Bible when he was a lad. He had to hold him.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

(Matter of Sport.)

The public welfare conference complains that the American people are even taking their sports by proxy or sitting down. Outside of the game of golf almost all American pastimes are of the easy-chair variety. People ride in busa wagons or go to the movies and find their chief pleasure therein. They are forgetting how to walk and if a man is called upon to make a spurt after a car he is liable to drop over with heart disease. Fifty thousand people will go to a ball game or a prize fight to watch somebody else take exercise. The doctor says there is something wrong about that.

## Silence Not Always Golden.

(Kansas City Star.)

While silence may be a barricade, it is also a dangerous weapon to the one who employs it. The expression of some kind is a safety valve. The silent one may be more deeply hurt by bitter words than his actions would indicate. He is hesitating to express his opinion late without vent he will soon become a confirmed grouch for whom no one has any use. So if you are going to use the "silent method" of chastising your enemies or immediately and relieve yourself on something, even though it be no more than the word in the back yard. That is where many a great man's bitter battles have been fought.

## London's Turn Next.

(Brooklyn Daily Eagle.)

That the London discussion will ultimately lead to a general European conference there is no doubt. And in such a conference Great Britain should play the role the United States has played at Washington. Mr. Lloyd George, with his confidence strengthened by the success of the Irish negotiations and the Arms Conference, is sure to recognize and to grasp the opportunity that is thus presented to him, and it would not be surprising if the London Conference had some of the beginning of a genuine settlement of the European difficulties that have kept the world in confusion ever since the world ended.

## The Failure of the Boycott.

(Times of India.)

The present non-co-operation movement in this province at least, has reached the stage when leaders have begun to dissociate themselves from their followers. Not a single gentleman of any standing will accept responsibility for the Khilafat Volunteers, and the boycott has failed in every direction. What one has to expect next, therefore, is precisely what happened in Bengal, ten or twelve years ago. Leadership will fall into the hands of desperate men. They will, of course, end by killing the movement.

## The Situation in Egypt.

(London Times.)

It has not yet been made clear that the Egyptian people are capable of defending unaided their own interests. Those of British Empire, and those of the various foreign communities who have taken root in Egypt. If Great Britain were to withdraw entirely, if Egypt were to be left alone to make the experiment of complete independence and were to fall, other foreign Powers might be impelled to step in and restore order. Great Britain, both in view of the work she has done in rescuing Egypt from anarchy and oppression and in view of her vital interest in defending the communications of her Empire, is bound to take steps to guard against such an eventuality. This conception of the British position in Egypt by no means excludes a gradual progress of the Egyptian people towards a fuller measure of independence.

## As Britain Sees Us.

(Manchester Guardian.)

Political power in Canada has rested in the past mainly in the hands of the industrial East. There lay the money, the political energy, the voting strength. A Premier who could reckon, as could Laurier, on the cordiality of the big business interests and the devotion of Quebec had little else to trouble about. But the centre of power has begun to shift. Politics in Canada are stepping westward. The farmers of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, who fought so vigorously in the "Reciprocity" election of 1911 without political organization, have since then grown into an organized political force that can menace its forerunners. The "country party" in most lands has stood for Conservatism. In Canada it stands for alliance with Labor. In the Farmers' party the old-fashioned "Right" and the new-fashioned "Left" politics meet. Its return in numbers to Ottawa cannot but make for interesting developments in Canada's history.

## THE LAUGH LINE

An exchange says that there are 50,000 muscles in an elephant's trunk. It was evidently packed by a woman.

Digger. Diner—Look here, this steak isn't fit for a dog to eat!

Walter—Sorry sir; if you'll wait five minutes I'll send you one that is—Bombay Looker-On.

Doing Well. "I guess my daughter has taken a coffee in housework at college."

"Heh?" "She writes that she is on the scrub team."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"He Will Learn Something. The following recently appeared in

Others who take the trouble to look may have the same luck, but it is more apt to be dried leaves they'll find than dollar bills.

The girl across the way carries her complexion in a silver box. That dangles from her finger, but she admits that though her complexion may catch a bean, it's her disposition that will

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was sitting on our front steps this afternoon wishing it would snow, and some lady stopped going past, saying, Are you Mrs. Pottas little boy?

Yes mam, w? I sed, and she sed, Go in and tell your mother Mrs. Kelly is hear to see her. Being a funny race lady with wite gloves and a gold tooth, and she went in the parlor and sat down and I went up and told ma, and ma sed, O, all rite, Ill be rite down, you go down and tawk to her a wile.

Which I did, saying, She'll be rite down, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Kelly saying, Thats good, how old are you?

I going on 10, I sed, and she sed, Isent that nice, do you learn a tot in school?

A pritty lot, I sed, and she sed, Isent that nice, heers 3 pennies for you.

Im not supposed to be allowed to take money from viseters, I sed, and she sed, O, Isent that nice, thats quite rite. And she put the 3 cents back in her pocketbook, me standing there hoping she wouldnt, and I sed, Of course nobody ever told me if somebody put some money in my pocket wile I wasent looking, nobody ever told me I couldnt keep it wile I found out it was there.

Being supposed to be a hint, only Mrs. Kelly didnt seem to notice it, and I sed, And nobody ever told me I wasent allowed to hunt for money in case somebody hid some and told me I could keep it if I found it.

Being supposed to be another hint, and Mrs. Kelly sed, Its too bad I didnt think of doing it that way, Isent it? and I sed Yes mam. And I stood there a wile longer to give her time to still think of it, wch she didnt, and ma came down and I went out and sat on the front steps agen diskusted.

A Chicago newspaper's advertising columns:

"If Wilbur Blank, who deserted his wife and babe twenty years ago, will return, said babe will knock his block off."—The American Legion Weekly.

Connubial Plea.

"Tired of waiting, dearie?" she asked, emerging from her dressing room after exhausting her feminine arts in the attempt to appear beautiful.

"Oh, no," he replied, wearily. "It's all in a lifetime."—Life.

The Expert.

Very Old General (to ex-serviceman who has applied for post as valet): "You know, I'm an awkward case to deal with. I've got a glass eye, a wooden leg and a war arm that needs looking after, in addition to false teeth and a wig."

Applicant—"Oh, that's all right, sir. Before I joined the army I was six years in the assembling department of a motor works."—Bystander.

Fair Wear and Tear.

The fashionable lady who, for the sake of economy, collected her own rents, found Mr. Brown in a bad humor. She found it necessary to forestall his complaints by making some herself. She got in one job with great éclat. "And the bath, Mr. Brown, it's in a terrible condition!"

"Yes, mam," said Mr. Brown, "it is, and you'd look a bit sorry and sad if you hadn't had any paint on for six years!"—Pearson's Magazine.

Two-thirds of the cognac in the United States is made at the United States Mint in Philadelphia, Pa.

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## Presented With Their Diplomas

Interesting Event in Nurses' Home Yesterday—Musical Programme and Short Addresses Delivered.

The new Nurses' Home at the General Public Hospital, was the scene of a most important and interesting event, yesterday afternoon, when a class of six young ladies who have completed their course of training and successfully passed the necessary examinations, were publicly presented with their diplomas. The committee in charge of the event, Mrs. J. V. McLellan and Col. Alex. McMillan, deserve much credit for the admirable way in which everything was planned and carried out. The short instrumental and vocal musical programme had been provided. Short addresses were given by M. E. Agar, chairman of the board of commissioners; Hon. W. F. Roberts, minister of public health; Dr. Walker and Mayor Schofield. As the conclusion of the formal programme light refreshments were served. The exercises were held in the reception room of the Nurses' Home.

While the people were gathering, and while lunch was being served, a splendid programme of music was beautifully rendered by Miss Hogan's orchestra.

M. E. Agar.

M. E. Agar, acting as chairman, and in calling the meeting to order expressed his pleasure, on behalf of the commissioners, at welcoming those present on such an auspicious occasion, when six young ladies, who by three years of hard work and study had fitted themselves to go out in the world and serve humanity, were to receive their diplomas. He said that the diploma was a most fitting thing should be done in a public manner. For some years past, for lack of room it had not been possible to make this a public event, but now as the room was available it was hoped by the commissioners to make it an annual event. Mr. Agar paid a graceful tribute to the work of Mrs. J. V. McLellan, the first lady member of the commission, who had done much since becoming a member and to whom the greater part of the credit for the arrangements for the afternoon, must be given. In closing Mr. Agar said it had been hoped to have His Honor, Lieut.-Governor Paisley present, but he had not been able to come.

Presented Diplomas.

He then called on Mrs. L. M. Curran for a solo, which was delightfully rendered and following this the diplomas were presented by the chairman to the graduating class, Mrs. McLellan, at the same time handing to each a bouquet of red roses. The young ladies who received the coveted piece of parchment were: Miss Francis W. Stanley, Miss Hazel Sterritt, Miss Cora V. Reid, Miss Hazel K. Barbour, Miss Mary Allen and Miss George L. Hutchison.

The Valedictory

Following the presentation the chairman called on Miss Stanley to deliver the valedictory, which was as follows:

"With our commissioners, class mates and friends here to meet us, perhaps, for the last time, on the Christmas season, that happy, busy time, in which we have so many pleasant things to think about that we scarcely yet have considered our home separation. Three years ago we commenced our training to-day, we looked forward to this day as the realization of our hopes. Now that the time has really come we find our joy and satisfaction are mingled with regret. No longer are we privileged to work and study together, we must go forth alone to work on our own responsibility in a way which will do credit to our dear old training school. May we realize at all times the importance of our slogan 'Altruism,' may it ever inspire us to our best. These are our earnest wishes.

"During the last few months of our training, we have enjoyed our new home to the fullest extent. The entertainments which have been given for us, and the general interest which has been taken in us, have made lasting impressions on our minds.

"Greetings and best wishes for the New Year to you all."

"The Class of 1921."

The next number was a violin solo by Mrs. MacMichael, which delighted the audience.

Hon. W. F. Roberts

Hon. W. F. Roberts, minister of public health, was called on by the chairman for a short address. He said this was a most pleasing and interesting occasion for the citizens of St. John. Six young ladies, who by a course of study and hard work had fitted themselves to care for the sick and suffering of the community had been given their graduation certificates and were on the eve of going out into the world to take their place with many who had gone before. The nursing profession was the noblest which woman could adopt and much of the success of the physician and surgeon in treating disease and injury was due to the aid of the nurses. The young ladies who received their diplomas were a gift

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