

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1913.

A SILLY STORY.

With its usual boldness, the Telegraph, yesterday morning, attempted to strike another blow at St. John. Because the Donaldson Liner Letitia will call at Halifax for apples and what local passenger business may be obtained there, the Pugsley organ published a story founded upon an advertisement in a Halifax newspaper to the effect that the Christmas sailings of the Donaldson line would be from Halifax. Following a reproduction of the advertisement appeared this choice collection of Telegraph "rumors":

"It was said at West St. John last night, although owing to the late hour the rumor could not be confirmed, that the Letitia would take on a large quantity of freight at Halifax. It was also rumored that the Donaldson line steamers would call at Halifax later in the season, although of course it was not possible late last night to confirm that. So far as the Christmas sailing is concerned, the advertisement speaks for itself and the Letitia will call at Halifax for passengers, and presumably for freight, that should have gone through St. John."

"It is said that she will be the first Donaldson boat to enter Halifax harbor in years."

"Shipping men who heard of the change in sailing last night were asking what it all meant. 'I think it is time that St. John found out,' said one man."

The publication of rumors that cannot be confirmed is an old Telegraph trick. It is a practice that does not find favor with reputable newspapers, for, while it may provide a brief opportunity of getting a statement before the public without literally stamping it as true, the lie is certain to be nailed, as the Telegraph should know from experience."

It is not necessary to point out in detail the various untruths in the Telegraph story, as Mr. H. C. Schofield, of the Robert Reford Company, did that very nicely yesterday, when he said: "The statement appearing in the Telegraph this morning concerning the Christmas sailings of the Donaldson steamer Letitia is a gross misrepresentation."

Ever since the first announcement that the Empress steamship would make St. John their terminus this winter, the Telegraph has conducted a campaign of misrepresentation of all matters affecting this port. Presumably the motive is to attempt to discredit the government. This the Telegraph has not succeeded in doing. What it has done is simply to make itself ridiculous and to add to its general reputation for unreliability.

ROADS AND CHEAP LIVING.

Now that the people have had an opportunity of allowing Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Hamilton speech to "soak in," and have given thought to his ardent declaration that he is actuated in his campaign for free food solely by the desire to do something to reduce the cost of living, there is a considerable feeling of surprise that he adopted the attitude he did toward the Borden Government's proposal to grant federal aid to the Canadian highways—in other words, a measure for good roads.

It is generally accepted as an axiom that good roads appreciably reduce the cost of living. No lengthy argument is necessary to show that the expense of transporting produce to market is added to the price of the produce and generally the consumer pays. Any improvement which will lessen the expense of getting produce to market will do one of two things—give the vendor of the produce a larger margin of profit or give the purchaser a reduction in the price he pays. In either case some one benefits. Not only will good roads lessen the cost of living but bad roads add to the cost, and give no return. When a farmer hauls to market only half a load, because the road is so bad that he cannot move a full load, there is added to the cost of haulage a round hundred per cent. Consequently it is easy to see where there is a benefit from improved roads.

Visitors to New Brunswick are wont to pronounce the roads of this province better than in most other provinces in Canada, but they are not as good as they should be. The Provincial Government is doing all it can do to provide the best roads possible with the money available for road purposes. The Borden Government offered to assist by a money grant to each province for road construction. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stood up in his place in Parliament and fought the bill and when he was beaten in the Commons, through sheer weight of numbers, had the measure killed by his senatorial hirelings. And now Sir Wilfrid seeks to make the people of Canada believe that he is sincere in his desire to reduce the cost of living. Not only did he entirely neglect to deal with the matter while in power, but when in opposition he consistently opposed every measure which might have contributed some-

what towards attaining the goal he has now fixed as his own. The more careful consideration one gives to Sir Wilfrid's latest attitude the more obvious becomes the fact that he has merely harnessed a new hobby on which he hopes to ride into office.

THE PARCELS POST.

Postmaster General Pelletier has a big task before him in preparing a parcels post system for the people of Canada, but he is proceeding with it in a businesslike way and, unless something unexpected happens the people will be enjoying its benefits very soon after the first of January.

The adoption of the parcels post system opens up a great opportunity for the business houses of this province as well as for the big mail-order firms of Upper Canada. With more favorable postal arrangements, it will be natural for the people, especially in rural communities, to buy more goods by mail. Already The Standard has pointed out that New Brunswick every year loses hundreds of thousands of dollars to the mail-order firms that should be spent at home. In reply, we have been met with the statement that New Brunswick merchants do not appear to be as anxious to get the trade as are the mail-order people. There should be a way of remedying this. Every merchant must have one or two leader lines that he can sell in competition with all Canada, and these should be made the most of.

It is a safe prediction that the mail-order firms will be ready to take advantage of the extra trade opening to come with the adoption of the parcels post and New Brunswick business men should be ready to meet them on their own ground, at least so far as this province is concerned. The people will buy where they can get the best value for their money, and if that value can be brought to their doors at practically no cost, they will be all the more eager to take advantage of the opportunity. With the present outlook for cheap transportation of parcels, of even considerable size, it seems the chance for business development is one well worthy of careful consideration.

All heroes are not found on the battlefield. The young New Brunswicker who was ruthlessly murdered a few days ago while attempting to safeguard and preserve the property of his employers was every inch a brave man. He had a duty to perform, and although it was at the cost of his life, he did not flinch or falter in the test. His bereaved relatives cannot now assuage their grief by considerations aside from their sense of loss, but in future years there will be lasting comfort in the knowledge that he died at his post.

The Standard has no desire to descend to the level of pettiness reached by the Telegraph. If, however, we wished to follow the example set by the Canterbury street publication we might say that the Times "cannot even spell some of the words which in its excitement it applies to the situation" growing out of "The Ocean Mail."

"Backbone of Mexican government broken," says an exchange. Possibly the statement is absolutely true, but in dealing with Mexican governments there is always the possibility that what now appears to be a break may prove to be only a bad strain.

Sir Thomas Lipton has arranged for his staff and contracted for the boat with which he will cross the ocean to go after the America's cup. All that is necessary for success now is the ability to sail fast enough to take that celebrated piece of silverware back across the Atlantic.

CURRENT COMMENT

Free Food and Dear Food.

There is no evidence that the cost of living has been lowered in the United States by the lowering and abolition of food taxes through the Wilson tariff. A Washington despatch states that the average American's Thanksgiving dinner will cost him from 15 to 50 per cent. more this year than in any of the previous sixty years. In an article on the cost of living, the New York Post ignores the tariff as a factor in the situation. Evidently the free-living of foodstuffs has not affected the editor's or any other American's breakfast table.

Families of Three in England. (New York Times.) Families of three are more numerous than any others in England, according to a blue book recently issued. Such families constitute 19 per cent. of the total number; those of four, 18 per cent.; of five, 14 per cent., and those of six, 10 per cent. In London the women living alone outnumber the lonely men to the extent of 58,594 to 37,130.

The Bible and Preaching. (Toronto Star.) Looking over reports of Sunday sermons, we observe that many of the clergy adhere to the old habit of using a bushel of their own words to a pint of the Bible's.

DIARY OF EVENTS

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

PRESIDENT MAKER 38 TODAY.

In considering the men and influences that operated to make him President of the United States, Dr. Woodrow Wilson must thank his lucky stars that a certain interesting event occurred in Arkansas thirty-eight years ago today, Dec. 6, 1875. Had that event not eventuated, "Prexy" Wilson might still be the occupant of the White House, but he must be glad that he didn't have to take such a chance. The event, seemingly unimportant at the time, was the visit of a stork to the McCombs family, residing in the little village of Hamburg in Ashley county, Arkansas. The bird of joy left a boy, who was christened William F., and who was destined to achieve greatness as the chairman and general manager of the Democratic national campaign committee. In the year which witnessed the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency and the institution of a Democratic Congress.

Mr. McCombs graduated from Princeton in 1898, studied law at Harvard, and began the practice of law in New York a dozen years ago. His only political experience, prior to the last presidential campaign, was gained in running for assemblyman. He was defeated, but ran ahead of his ticket. The chairman of the Democratic national committee has long been considered a confirmed bachelor, but in November he married Miss Dorothy Williams, of Washington, in London. President Wilson was not lacking in appreciation, and offered Mr. McCombs the post of a ambassador to France but it was refused.

THE PASSING DAY

Today is the festival of the good St. Nicholas, the original "Sandy Claws," and the patron saint of Russia, as well as the patron and special guardian of children, scholars, virgins, sailors, robbers, pawnbrokers, vagabonds, tramps, wandering minstrels, thieves, prisoners, poor men in general, and all the reckless and improvident elements of human society. Indeed, Nicholas of Bari must be the dustiest of all saints, but he is always pictured as a jolly, good-natured, charitable soul, and he probably does not mind. Looking after the population of Russia would seem to be enough for one saint, while acting as the protector and guardian of all the world's transgressors must be, literally, "enough to try the patience of a saint."

St. Nicholas died in 342 and left two bodies behind for rival Italian cities to wrangle over. The church in the fortress of San Nicola del Lido, at Venice, holds the true bones of the saint, and as the Venetians will tell you, but the authority of the church inclines to the genuineness of the relics at Bari, Italy, where it is said, "the manna of St. Nicholas" still flows from the bones and heals all manner of ailments. The Russians who worship Nicholas as the greatest of saints, annually send vast numbers of pilgrims to Bari. A few years ago the Russian pilgrims introduced the Asiatic cholera into Italy.

For fifteen centuries Nicholas has been considered the protector of the innocent and the wronged and the patron of the "under dogs" in life's battles, and perhaps this is why the Russians have made him their own. For centuries, ever since Christianity was introduced among them, the serfs and slaves of the Czar's empire have prayed to St. Nicholas. The veneration of Nicholas extends to the higher classes in Russia, however, and a few years ago several Russian nobles offered three million rubles for the bones at Bari.

The kindly, jovial, tender-hearted saint, who was so full of jollity and fun and human nature, quite naturally has always appealed to the children who were once, if they are not now, an oppressed class. The "kiddies" of Germany and Belgium are especially devoted to good old St. Nick, who is so often confused with Santa Claus. St. Nicholas became the model of a saint in the following manner: A nobleman of Patara, sunk in poverty, had almost decided to relinquish his three beautiful daughters to a life of shame. A purse of gold was thrown through his window, which was used as the dowry for the eldest daughter. This happened a second and a third time, and the unhappy father was thus able to provide wedding portions for all of his daughters. The saint, who was once, if they are not now, an oppressed class. The "kiddies" of Germany and Belgium are especially devoted to good old St. Nick, who is so often confused with Santa Claus.

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FIRST THINGS

AMERICAN EAGLES.

The first American gold coinage of eagles, half-eagles and quarter-eagles, of the value of \$10, \$5 and \$2.50 respectively, were placed in circulation 121 years ago today, Dec. 6, 1792. Since that date the United States has minted and placed in circulation 117,239,356 double-eagles, or \$20 gold pieces; 49,613,239 eagles, or \$10 gold pieces; 15,589,208 quarter-eagles, or \$2.50 gold pieces; but they were discontinued in 1830. The first coin called an eagle was used in Ireland in the thirteenth century, and was called from the figure of an eagle impressed upon it, but it was made of base metal. The standard of the eagle was born by the ancient Persians, and the Romans also carried gold and silver eagles as ensigns, and sometimes represented them with a thunderbolt in their talons. Charlemagne adopted the double-headed eagle as so emblem of the Holy Roman Empire. The eagle was the standard of Napoleon I. and Napoleon III., as well as of Austria, Prussia and Russia.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Very Likely.
"My tailor is beginning to dun me." "Suspects that you've done him, eh?"

More than One Way.
"To cure warts," says a Chicago doctor, "burn them out with a red-hot pin." Another method is to put in a charge of dynamite.

Then the Battle-Began.
Wife (with magazine)—Here's an article on "How to avoid war." Hub—What does it say—remain single?

Sentimentally Spoken.
Ethel—it seems to me that Jack doesn't pay the compliments he used to. Marie—No, he's suspended payment.

The Limit.
"My wife can have the final word, I don't mind that," said Trent. "What makes me angry is when she demands my final cent."

Drawing the Line.
Officer—What's the matter with that soup you're turning up your nose at? Private—It's full of sand and grit, sir.

Officer—Now look here, my man, did you come to camp to grumble or to serve your country?
Private—Well, I did come to serve my country, sir; but not to eat it.

Not Very Promising.
Mrs. Newlywed (to cook, whom she has just engaged)—You see, my husband is so very particular about his food. Cook (sympathetically)—They're all alike, Mum. My old man was just the same; I never cooked anything to please 'im in me life.—The Sketch.

A GIFT WORTH WHILE

Can you think of anything that will give the man greater pleasure than a Howard Watch? Even though he has a Watch now, it probably is not any better time keeper than it should be, and a new modern up-to-date Howard Watch will prove a most pleasing gift.

The Howard Watch has a reputation for fine time-keeping. It is strictly high-grade in every respect, the lowest priced Watch turned out from this factory being \$40.

We have a good assortment for you to select from. Come in and see them.

L. L. Sharpe & Son,
JEWELERS AND OPTICIANS,
21 King Street, St. John, N. B.

Evening Classes
Will Re open for Winter Term
Wednesday, Oct 1st
Hours 7.30 to 9.30, three nights a week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Terms on application.
S. KERR, Principal.

Don't Bother Baking
Try BUTTERNUT BREAD a while. A beautiful, well browned loaf is BUTTERNUT BREAD—Light, tasty, delicious. You'll be delighted with it.
Grocers Sell It

Your Personal "Merry Christmas"
Daintily printed, with your name, or beautiful imported cards bearing exclusive holiday designs. SEE OUR SPECIMENS.
C. H. FLEWELLING,
Engraver and Printer
85 1-2 Prince Wm. Street.

SANTA CLAUS HEADQUARTERS
The question of the hour, is "what about Christmas?" The children are asking it with wondering and hopeful expectations of what Santa Claus is likely to bring them. The older people are asking it as an inquiry as to how they are to provide suitable and satisfactory presents for relatives and friends, without too heavy a drain upon their time and purse. The problem is easily solved if you attend Arnold's great Christmas sale. Dolls, Toys, China, Holiday Fancy Goods, Toys 1c. to \$10.00 each. Toys 1c. to 12.00 each. Our values are easily the best in Canada.
Arnold's Department Store
83-85 Charlotte St.

Centenary Brotherhood
3.30 p. m., Sunday, Dec. 7th
REV. DR. HEINE
Will Speak on the Subject:
"The Immigrant and the Bible"
Centenary Church All Welcome

A Practical Man.
Girl (to prominent actor)—I suppose there is some role you take special interest in.
Actor—Yes, my dear young lady, the pay roll.

The Place for Him.
Head of department—I don't know what to do about that elderly sales clerk; he's completely lost his bearing.
Manager—Transfer him to the complaint department.

Making Menace Pay.
Parent—Now, what are you going to charge me to cure this boy of the measles?
Physician—Nothing at all, my dear sir, as it is an original case; and you get your ten per cent. commission for every child that catches them from him.—Freck.

Men's Viscolized Sole Boots
For the Wet Weather
\$3.25, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00, \$7.00, \$8.00 and \$8.50
Winter Calf, Box Calf, American Elk, French Calf, Chrome Calf and English Grain
A Boot for Every Purpose
The best, selected from the different manufacturers, ensures you of getting the greatest possible value for your money.

Francis & Vaughan
19 King Street!

WINDOW FRAMES and SASHES
Two factories to fill your orders—promptly and satisfactorily.
Write or 'Phone for Quotations.
CHRISTIE WOODWORKING CO., LTD.
248 City Road

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Open every night in the week, during the entire year
LOW RATES NOW
THE J. R. CURRIE COMMERCIAL INSTITUTE
87 Union Street.

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A Bottle of Good Scotch
When you are in want of a good, old, reliable Whisky, ask for a bottle of
WHYTE & MACKAY'S
Every drop of it is old, mellow and thoroughly matured, and is splendidly adapted for medicinal purposes.

Supreme Among Gems THE DIAMOND!
of all gems, is the most lasting—most beautiful—most widely and universally Popular
Think of all the pleasure and satisfaction that will follow your investment in a Diamond of fine quality now!
Come in and see our Splendid Values and Choicest Settings.
FERGUSON & PAGE
Diamond Importers and Jewelers, KING ST. •

ELECTRO PLATED WARE IN CABINETS
Cabinets of Silverware combine utility with attractiveness.
1847 Rogers Bros. Spoons and Forks.
The Cabinets contain 36, 48 and 60 pieces respectively.
3 Doz., \$29.25 4 Doz., \$39.25 5 Doz., \$50.75
T. McAVITY & SONS, Limited

Empire Richmond
Has but one damper—Controls both fire and oven.
The kindling position marked Kindle.
The baking position marked Baking.
The position for checking fire marked Check.
This is so simple mistakes are impossible.
Used only on Richmond Ranges.
PHILIP GRANNAN, 568 Main St.

Ask Your Grocer for GUNN'S MINCE MEAT.
GUNNS LIMITED, 674 Main Street
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The baking position marked Baking.
The position for checking fire marked Check.
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