

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 83 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B. Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.
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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1920.

THE FOSTER GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES.

The Telegraph wants to know why the Foster Government should be opposed in view of the "progressive" policies it formulated and is attempting to carry out. It contends that the Government's water-power policy, its highway policy and its administration of the Crown Lands, are such as to make it deserving of continued public support.

The Government's proposals for the development of the water powers of the province look very well on paper, and sound very nice when they are talked about, but it needs a good deal more than is as yet apparent to warrant anyone coming to the conclusion that they are likely to end in anything more substantial than just proposals. A general election is looming up in the not distant future, and the Government must necessarily have for their continued support. A scheme for the development of the water powers is likely to be popular, and it will serve as well as anything else. Some little pretence at commencing active operations will probably be made during the coming summer as evidence of bona fides, and then dropped as soon as winter begins to approach. This sort of thing is an old trick of the party now in power in the province. How many times did a railway down the St. John Valley do duty as an election bait for the Government previous to 1908? How many times were pretences made of sticking out the right of way above and below Fredericton, till the people go to look upon the practice as just a game? What evidence have we that the water powers scheme is anything more than a vote-catching game? It is too costly to be practical under present conditions anyway.

The Government's highway policy as so far disclosed seems to be nothing else than a money-squandering orgy. As much money as can be got together for the purpose is being sent in different localities the northern part of the province more particularly, with pretty nearly every man and boy and team employed in order that as much as possible shall share in the loot, thereby increasing the popularity of the Government among those who have votes. Some improvement has been effected on the roads that are used by automobiles, but the ordinary country roads that the farmers and "common people" use, have not benefited by the Government's wonderful highway policy. "Durable" roads are only for the idle rich to roll along in their cars; the farmers and ordinary folk must get along in the mud as usual.

The Government's forestry policy does not differ from that pursued by their predecessors. The same Crowland survey is going on, the same officials, Col. Loggie and Mr. Prince, are in charge of the Department's affairs; the only change is the creation of a Forestry Board, which meets once a quarter, for the sake of appearances. The real heads are the two officials mentioned, and they are doing the same work as always. Some improvements are being made from time to time, of course; this would happen under any administration as the need for them became apparent.

The Telegraph further alleges that the provincial revenue has increased under the present Government. Of course it has; why wouldn't it? It is a fact that the revenue has increased. About every source of revenue that could be increased has been, and some new sources of revenue created, as witness the Moving Picture tax. Even the widows and orphans have been made to suffer to help the Government along in its wild orgy of extravagance by the change in the Succession Duty Act. The only source of revenue the Government has not changed so far is the one they ought to have started with, the rate of stampage. Whether they will have the courage to tackle the lumber operators remains to be seen.

The Government is in receipt of a revenue greater by hundreds of thousands of dollars than was ever enjoyed by any Government before, and yet they come out year after year hundreds of thousands in debt. Their one idea seems to be to spend not only every cent they get as fast as they get it, but to spend money they have not got and don't know how to get. Some one will have to pay the piper sooner or later.

TEMPERANCE REFORM IN SCOTLAND.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson predicts that in a few years Scotland will go "dry," but he admits that the cause of prohibition all over the world depends upon prohibition in the United States. Should the Supreme Court decide the amendment unconstitutional, as it is being asked to do, or should the amendment be repealed, or should there be such lax enforcement of the law that prohibition will become the sort of joke it has been in the State of Maine for half a century, then the cause of world prohibition will be set back a hundred years. The Mail and

Empire points out that on June 1, an Act becomes operative in Scotland under which local option elections may be held, and thus gradually, if the temper of the people approves, the whole country may refuse to have intoxicating drinks sold. But the fact that local option becomes a possibility is not a sufficient reason for predicting a "dry" Scotland in the near future. On this continent local option was in effect under various forms for some decades before there was prohibition. In fact, the principle of local option, after having been tried and found acceptable, had to be abandoned before prohibition could become operative, for while many localities became "dry," many remained "wet." There can be little doubt that in Ontario today there would be many a moist oasis if local option were in effect.

Prohibitionists, of course, do not believe in local option. They regard it as the lesser of two evils, and as a more temporary expedient. Undoubtedly it has helped their movement, and probably will do so in Scotland. When one locality goes "dry" and the consumption of liquor within its boundaries is not lessened, on account of the ease with which it can be obtained across the road, naturally the "drys" begin to agitate against the neighboring "wets." In other words, it is the frequent failure of local option to lessen drinking materially that paves the way for the experiment with prohibition. The prohibitionists say in effect: "Now, prohibition is the only cure for the drink 'evil.' You think it can be combated by local option? Very well, we will 'help you get local option, and after it 'has been in force awhile you will realize that it does not prohibit, and will be 'ready for the real cure.' In Great Britain, prohibitionists have a long, rocky road to travel, despite the fact that a realization of the evils of excessive drinking has seized English-speaking peoples as never before. It seems unlikely that there will be a return to the conditions that existed before 1914; the time when Scotland will be bone dry appears equally remote.

BRITISH-MADE MOTION PICTURES.

An attempt is being made to introduce into this country motion pictures made by British artists, with the view of making the Canadian people better acquainted with British ideas, bylines scenery, and British achievements. There are now five companies engaged in England and on the European continent making these pictures, the capital employed being supplied from English and Canadian sources. The idea is a good one; the effect of bringing these pictures to this country must be to materially strengthen the bonds of citizenship in a common Empire and create a closer sympathy between the two people. Hitherto the pictures shown in this country have been almost wholly of American origin, America, besides being the greatest picture producing country in the world, being practically the only source of supply. Naturally amongst these pictures, being meant primarily for American patrons, have had a thoroughly American flavor, and quite a large number of Canadians are getting somewhat nauseated with them, particularly such of them as attempt to portray British society life and manners.

To those who know anything of British society, it is irritating enough to read the descriptions of it which are to be found in novels by American authors, without having it caricatured by picture players who never set foot in England in their lives. There is, unfortunately, a large class of picture enthusiasts in this country to whom British-made films will not appeal. There is a distinctly different tone and style between the British and American films. There is altogether too much realism of a certain kind in many of the American pictures which would not be tolerated in an English picture house for one moment, but to which the picture-goers in this country are accustomed. Without wishing to peddle upon or disparage the American productions in the slightest degree, it is nothing more than the truth to say that there is an air of refinement about the English pictures which is entirely absent in those made in the United States. This characteristic will probably lead a certain class of movie fan to vote them tame and flat, and lacking that "pop" that is to be found in American films, "pop" in this case being synonymous with what many people would be inclined to call vulgarity. There are, of course, many pictures made in the United States—probably the majority of them in fact—to which not the slightest objection could be taken on any ground, but there are also a very large number of others of which this cannot truthfully be said.

Those who were privileged to see the two pictures made by the Anglo-Canadian Film Co. that were shown in the Imperial Theatre on Saturday night and Monday morning, would be able to form a very good idea of the class of films being turned out by this company. In technique and artistic talent they were certainly equal to any

that are produced in the United States, with the addition that they depicted scenes taken on the spot where the play is supposed to be staged, and not in artificially manufactured representations of it. If some more of these British pictures could be shown here, a better idea of their qualities would be gained, and a demand for them in preference to the American article would be made.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The British Merchant.

The career of the Hudson's Bay Company is but an example on a large scale of what the merchants of Great Britain are doing in comparatively minor scales to establish the mercantile supremacy of the Empire. Neither the burning suns of India nor the blazing fires of the great frozen northern regions of this continent could deter the earlier and later adventurers from gathering natural wealth, wherever it was to be found, and dispatching it to the great trading centre of London. Millions of men are labouring on land and sea today towards the same end, although they may have no conception of the cause they are promoting. Whatever the future may have in store it is certain that the present generation will neither see nor read of Macaulay's New Zealand standing on London Bridge and contemplating the ruins of what was once the greatest and the wealthiest city in the world.

Six Days Enough.

(Windsor Star). The City Council is to be commended for its firm attitude toward the proposal of a Detroit firm to sell Quinine in a Detroit paper the other day stated that there would be Sunday selling of the property in question. Of course the real estate men may get around the Canadian law, by merely showing property on Sundays and actually completing the sale across the river or on some other day of the week, but it is well that it should be known just where our authorities stand on such matters. When Canada is no longer able to do enough business in six days of the week, it will be time for Canada to shut its shop and retire from the field. We do not want here the Sunday conditions across the river.

Benefits of Prohibition.

(Toronto Globe). Proof that prohibition does reduce drunkenness and crime attributed to drink is furnished almost daily by official records from places where it is the force. Mr. Charles Chute, Secretary of the New York State Prohibition Committee, has presented a report which shows that 45,143 offenders of all ages were arrested in seven years, a decrease of 23.32, or 34 per cent. In the Magistrates' Courts of New York there was a decrease of 29 per cent, in offenders, and of 52 per cent, in cases of public drunkenness. The Niagara County Jail on August 1 had only 20 prisoners as compared with 62 a year ago. All the County Jail reports some decrease, and several had no inmates. Chute stated that in the opinion of practically all the Judges and probation officers consulted, the great decrease in court work was due to the effects of prohibition.

THE LAUGH LINE

Nobody ever does as much good as he really could do.

One of the curious things about this life is that a man will live to be 45 years old and still not get over the habit of taking off his hat to a woman.

The Truth.
 Gus—"Bertie is always bragging about his ancestral halls."
 Al—"His ancestral halls he means. His grandfather made a fortune out of kippers."

Thoughtful Willie.
 Mr. Slim—"Willie, didn't you go to the trunk-maker's yesterday and tell him to send round the trunk I ordered?"
 "Willie—"Yes, pa."
 Mr. Slim—"Well, here is the trunk, but no strap. Didn't he say anything about the strap?"
 Willie—"Yes, pa; but I told him I thought you hadn't better have any strap."

Not Her Fault.
 The young bride, after serving to her husband a dinner that was so so said, as the dessert of mincepie was brought on—
 "I intended, dear, to have some sponge cake, too, but it was a total failure."
 "How was that?" the husband asked, in a disappointed tone, for he was fond of sponge cake.
 "The druggist," she explained, "sent me the wrong kind of sponges."

All Fancy.
 "I believe in the wisdom of the plain people."
 "So do I," answered Miss Cayenne. "But so few of us are contented to be regarded as plain people."

Another Paradox.
 A painful mistake is reported from North London. It appears that a young lady who went to a fancy dress ball as "The Silent Wife" was awarded the first prize for her over impersonation of a telephone girl.

No Comparison.
 "Young man," said the fond father, "in giving you my daughter, I have entrusted you with the dearest treasure of my life."
 The young man was duly impressed and made no endeavor to conceal his emotion and gratitude. Then, during the few moments of impressive silence that followed he heard the patter of rain against the window.
 "Goodness me," he exclaimed, "it's raining, and I haven't my umbrella! May I borrow yours, sir, to keep me dry while I run to the station?"
 "Young man," said the fond parent, "I do not trust anyone with my umbrella!"

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and pop and ma was in the setting room and I started so look for my cap to go out, thinking, Gosh, where the heck is it, its in these drawers.

And I looked on top of everything and underneath, everything, including some places twice, finding a sent under the sofa and a big rubber band under the book case, but not my cap, and I said, Say, pop, did you see my cap anywhere did you see my cap, ma?

No day is complete if that boy don't lose his cap, and ma. Meaning me, and I said, I didn't lose it, ma, its in these drawers because I remember I saw it in with me, so it cant be lost.

It must be a relict to know its not lost like the art of conversation or the science of pottery, said pop.

Sir? I said, and pop said, We dont you have one definite place to put your cap, and then you would avoid all this mix up.

I have, pop, only I always forget to put it there, I said.

I lose, said pop. And I kept on looking without finding the cap or anything else, and I said, G, ma, you must be setting on it.

No im not, either, said ma, and I said, Well will you get up and see, and she said, O, youre more trouble than your worth. And she got up and she wasnt setting on it, and I said, Do you feel anything funny under you, pop?

I do not, said pop, and I said, Well would you mind please getting up to see, please?

How could I resist such politeness? said pop. And he got up and the cap wasnt on his chair, and I said, Well its hear sumwars, all rise, Ill bet anybody.

Wats that bump inside your blouse? said ma.

Whch it was my cap, and I put it on and went out. Proving I was rite all the time about it being in these sumwars.

GERMAN INVENTS A NEW TYPE WAR BOAT

Claims That Nation Controlling His Craft Need Fear No Other Navy.

(Cross Atlantic News Service Copyright).

Berlin, June 1.—A new type of boat, which, its inventor declares, will revolutionize naval warfare, has been invented by a German naval engineer named Madler. He asserts that the nation using his craft "need fear no other navy, however strong," that with sufficient numbers of these vessels guarding ports, it will be impossible for any ship to pass.

The vessel has an ordinary cruising speed of twenty knots, while with auxiliary engines it is claimed she will be able to develop forty-eight knots. Its other principal features are its torpedo capacity and its invisibility. She carries ten torpedoes, which are fired by the steersman, who drives the vessel as one drives a motor car. At the moment the torpedo is delivered the steersman swings the vessel round, pressing lever which enables the boat to make a quick getaway. An extremely shallow draught allows her to sail over minefields with safety. The motive power is crude oil. The boat has a cruising radius of 2,500 miles, and is armored through out.

For coastal voyages only two men are necessary, for longer trips accommodation can be arranged for fifteen. After tests in the autumn of 1918, German experts endorsed the inventor's claims and advocated the construction of vessels to his specification. Owing to the armistice none were ever built.

Madler is now endeavoring to dis-

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