

The Standard



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MANAGING DIRECTOR—Jas. H. Crockett.
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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 18, 1910.

ONE OF THE INTERCOLONIAL BURDENS.

It is curious to note the difference in some of the items of expense account between the intercolonial and other Canadian railways. One of these details is the cost of advertising, printing and stationery. These supplies are furnished, and services rendered for the intercolonial largely by Government newspaper offices. The other railways pay for theirs on newspaper offices. If we take the recently issued government report of railway statistics, we find two other roads whose income approximates that of the intercolonial. These are the Canadian Northern, a transcontinental system partially completed, whose operations are mostly in the west, and the Canada Southern, an Ontario concern. The Canada Southern operates 282 miles, the Canadian Northern in the west, 2093 miles, and the intercolonial 1450. The Canada Southern earned \$7,766,000 with operating expenses of \$4,536,000. The Canadian Northern earned \$10,581,000 with operating expenses of \$6,872,000. The intercolonial earned \$8,608,000 with operating expenses of \$4,952,000. Thus, while the Canada Southern had net earnings of \$3,230,000, and the Canadian Northern of \$3,708,000, the intercolonial, with a business somewhat larger than the former, and somewhat less than the latter, had no net income, but a shortage of \$450,000.

A glance at some of the expense accounts gives an idea of how this difference comes. Printing and advertising bills furnish a good illustration. For these services last year the Canada Southern paid \$56,484, the Canadian Northern, with its western interests, \$91,908, and the intercolonial no less than \$157,510. One of the disadvantages of the intercolonial is the political tax it has to pay for the maintenance of the government press, or as Sir Richard Cartwright used to say, for purposes of poisoning the wells of public information.

THE NAVAL PROGRAMME.

The strong objection to the naval programme of the government is that while it involves, first and last, large financial obligations it gives little promise of assistance in the defence of the Empire. We are to pay largely and the Empire is to get very little. The ships mentioned in the programme may have some value at some time and under some circumstances. But if Britain is in any danger of losing her supremacy on the sea, she will not be in any less danger by reason of what this country has undertaken to do.

It may be true that Great Britain has now in progress of construction, or on her programme, a sufficient number of Dreadnoughts to meet the German peril, if there is one. But if these are the kind of ships that are needed for this purpose, and Canada is coming to the rescue, why is not Canada assisting with the necessary task instead of putting her money into ships of little defensive value? While English working men are paying for these Dreadnoughts to defend Canada, there is very little point in Canada paying for the time they are built. If the thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing promptly and effectively. Mr. Borden's speech may not have quite met the views of all his supporters. But those who oppose his programme seem to be opposed to any Canadian assistance to imperial naval defence. They have a perfect right to express their views, but Mr. Borden has the same right to press to a vote in the House the programme which he advocates.

THE TELEPHONE REPORT.

The Standard has thought it fair to await the investigation by the Board of Trade committee into the question of telephone rates before expressing an opinion on a matter requiring fuller information than was available to the public. This inquiry has taken place not only with the consent of the company, but practically on its own suggestion. The management offered to furnish any information in possession of the company as to the cost of operation, the profits, the capitalization and plant of the company. It is stated by the committee that this information was furnished so far as the company was able to do it. The result of the investigation is the report which we print today.

This document speaks for itself. The conclusion is that the increased telephone rate in this city is by no means justified. At the old rates the net profits made by this exchange are computed to be twelve per cent. on the amount required to furnish an adequate equipment. If we allow a considerable increased cost of the plant, add something more for depreciation, and concede that the city ought to bear some share of the cost of the lesser outside service, we shall still find no justification for an increase in the city rates.

The computation is sustained by the fact that for a period of nearly twenty years ending with the telephone merger, the company paid eight per cent. dividends in cash, and added stock bonuses amounting on the average to about four per cent. per annum on the original stock for which cash was paid. It is possible that this stock dividend was not earned and should not have been paid. But this conclusion means that a large portion of the capital of the company is not entitled to dividends. Another conclusion of the committee is that the price paid for the Central system was far above its business value, though the report does not say that it is above the original cost. It was an unprofitable purchase, and the committee does not think that the profitable St. John exchange should be further taxed to make it profitable.

Having reached the conclusion that the increased

telephone rate in this city is not a proper one, the committee proposes three remedies. One is that legislation be adopted giving municipalities the right to expropriate telephone systems within their boundaries; another that power be given to the supreme court judge to limit the rates, and the third that the city install a municipal system. The last is proposed in case the others fail. The existing law for provincial government regulation is shown to be manifestly inadequate.

To these proposed remedies The Standard adds a fourth. The directors and management of the company have welcomed this investigation and the conclusions which have been reached. It is open to them as well as to the citizens to act upon it. This report is among other things an invitation to the company to reconsider the whole question of telephone rates. For assuredly the conclusions of the Board of Trade committee that the increased charge should not have been made, will commend itself to the people of St. John, and if they do not obtain relief in one of the ways recommended they will find some other way of escape from this excessive charge.

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE ASQUITH MINISTRY.

The second day of polling in England is in proportionate Unionist gains no better than the first. Leaving out unopposed elections in Ireland, the results of which are shown in the thirteen Nationalist returns, there are now 155 members elected. Of these 92 are Conservative and 93 Liberal and Labor, making an almost equal division in the borough and university vote of England, so far as it has gone. As there are 226 members for English boroughs and five for universities, 46 remain to be filled. English counties return 234 members which will not come in for two or three days.

Boroughs in Scotland return 31 members. Two are elected by universities, Edinburgh and St. Andrews forming one riding, Glasgow and Aberdeen the other. Wales has eleven boroughs, and Ireland sixteen. These urban ridings will probably be polled before many of the counties, but as the option rests with the returning officer within certain limits, it may be that some counties and some boroughs will be voting on the same day.

If England divides even, while Ireland, Scotland and Wales go as before, the government majority will be 145, that is 30 in Wales, 50 in Scotland and 65 in Ireland. But there will be some Unionist gains in Scotland, probably seven or eight seats, and a solid Wales is not likely to occur twice. Outside of England 125 majority for all the government parties is a fair estimate. Thus with 54 Nationalists in the House the Home Rulers will be able to dictate terms. If Mr. Asquith can pull up even a small majority in England, he may be independent of the Nationalists. It seems more likely, however, that the county vote will leave the Unionists with a little more than half the English representation. One thing, at least, seems settled. The Unionist party cannot win power in this election.

A PROTEST.

The Presbyterian, of Toronto, does not often venture upon a criticism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government. For these it has a good sturdy Ontario grit admiration. But it draws the line at Sir Wilfrid's paraphrase of Scripture in which he placed himself in the position of Him who wept over Jerusalem. The Presbyterian says:—

"The Presbyterian confesses to a profound admiration for Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and we are not surprised that Mr. W. K. McNaught said on Friday evening last, 'at the Toronto National Club, that there was no more lovable man in the public life of Canada. Among Sir Wilfrid's many and admirable accomplishments is an intimate acquaintance with the Bible. Scripture references and quotations are common in his speeches, and usually they are dignified and appropriate and therefore impressive. All of this renders it the more incomprehensible how the Premier could bring himself to 'make such use of a Scripture passage as he was guilty of' at the Ontario Club. One of the tenderest and 'most touching utterances of the Saviour, spoken at a 'tragic moment of His life, was used to point a jest and 'illustrate the political experiences of the speaker. It is regrettable that some of Sir Wilfrid's hearers seemed 'to find the reference humorous. To many of them it 'must have been painful.'"

SOME OF THE CANDIDATES.

A good deal of interest attaches to some of the candidates concerned in yesterday's polling. The leader of the Opposition has been returned by an overwhelming majority. Several ministers and under secretaries are successful. Among the defeated is Sir John Gort, once a great friend of Lord Randolph Churchill. He formerly held office in the Conservative government, but lately passed over to the Liberals. Will Crooks, a Labor leader, who delivered many speeches in Canada last year, is also among the fallen. Another is Mr. Chiozza Money, a well known free trade author. Lord Howick, son of Earl Grey, accepted a forlorn hope and failed. Mr. Jebb, on whose behalf a group of Toronto men sent a rather ill-advised message to Mr. Balfour, is at the foot of the poll, but the split Conservative vote did not prevent the election of the recognized Opposition candidate. Among the Canadian candidates are Macnamara, Liberal, who is elected; "Fighting" Joe Martin, who is at last successful, and Mr. Bonar Law, Conservative. Mr. Hamar Greenwood, who sat for York in the last parliament, and is one of the popular Liberal orators, has lost his seat.

The re-election of Hon. John Burns, former Labor leader will be generally regarded with satisfaction, though his opponent had the personal good wishes of many friends in this city. Mr. Burns may not have satisfied extreme men in his own party, and of course he shares with his colleagues the opposition of the Conservatives. But he is a public man who feels the responsibility of any position which he takes and who does not turn aside either to please the multitude or to cultivate the favor of the great.

Since the Quebec bridge fell down, two years ago, \$155,000 has been paid for the work of two commissions. One was employed to find out what made the bridge fall down, the other to discover how to build a better one. If a part of this money had been expended for better government supervision when the first bridge was under construction, much money, many lives, and a good deal of time might have been saved.

For the first time in half a century, England is voting on the tariff question. The people do not appear to be at all shocked at the idea of protection. Mr. Balfour said a week ago that he did not expect a complete tariff victory in one election. But if England alone could give it he might, perhaps, see the victory this year.

Whatever may happen to the Lords the Canadian Senate is evidently here to stay. At least that is the verdict of the present House of Commons, following the lead of the first minister. Sir Wilfrid has not even any practical suggestion of senate reform which was one of the planks of the platform on which he took office.

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AND IS REFERRED TO ANY OTHER.

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MOTHERS IN LAW
FORWARD, MARCH

Magistrate Breen of New York
Says Man Need Not Be a
Provider for the Mamma of
His Wife.

Married men will now rise and emit three prolonged cheers for Magistrate Breen, he having decided yesterday that a mother-in-law is an entirely unnecessary article of household furniture which can be removed at the pleasure of the son-in-law. This promise emancipation was received with general satisfaction and last night thousands of women with stern and roundabout faces were busy consulting time tables and preparing to take up the march.

Magistrate Breen took mother-in-law out of the civil service class when he ordered Mrs. Mary Sandbank, No. 306 East Houston street, to make up with her husband and return home, and see to it that her mother, Mrs. Fannie Sandbank, kept away from there in the future. The younger couple are cousins, which accounts for so much Sandbank in the family. To even up the score Mrs. Sandbank, Jr., asked that her husband's father be placed on the ineligible list, but the Court refused to deprive the father-in-law of his season ticket.

Mrs. Sandbank took her husband to court on a summons, charging he had failed to support her.

Her Name.
"What's your name?" asked Magistrate Breen when she lined up before his railing.
"Sandbank."
"You mean Snowbank, don't you?"
"No sir, I am Mrs. Mary Sandbank, and I want you to make my husband support his family."

"Are there any little Sandbanks?"
"Yes, there are," said Mrs. Sandbank, dipping into the conversation. "I never refused to give my mother-in-law a cent, but I am a tailor, but the shop where I worked was burned out a week ago. When I arrived home my wife and her mother demanded my envelope, but I hadn't any. I was trying to explain when they started soaking me with a broom."

"Did you cave in?"
"I did, your honor, and what's more, I did a landslide for myself. I haven't been back there since."
"Your husband isn't a bad sort, said the court to Mrs. Sandbank. What did you kick him out for?"
"He's a good husband all right," she replied.

"And quiet?"
"Too quiet. He's so quiet I'm suspicious of him. A wife always feels that a quiet husband is hiding something from her. I am willing to live with him, and, as for mamma, she only drops in occasionally."
"Well, see that she doesn't drop in any more. Three Sandbanks are enough in one house. Go home and be happy."

And Mr. and Mrs. Sandbank blew away together.

THE COURTS

PROBATE COURT.

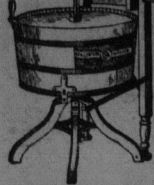
Estate of Mrs. Sarah E. Hopkins.
In the probate court yesterday the will of Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Hopkins was proven. She leaves all her property of every kind to her daughter, Rosina Mary Hopkins, whom she nominates as executrix and who was sworn in such. Real estate consists of several parcels valued at \$2,775; personal \$250. E. T. C. Knowles, is personal.

Mrs. Mary J. Price.

In the estate of Mrs. Mary Jane Price, widow, the accounts of Dr. John

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TWO WOODSTOCK MEN
HAVE PASSED AWAY

Mr. Hugh Hay and Mr. Charles
Trafton, Both Prominent in
the Community, Succumb to
Death.

Woodstock, Jan. 17.—The death of Mr. Hugh Hay, senior member of the firm of Hugh Hay and Son took place on Sunday evening. He had just recovered from a serious illness and afterwards caught a cold which developed into pneumonia. Mr. Hay was 81 years of age, and was born at Cumberland Bay, Queens county. For a short time he carried on a milling business at Beaton, and afterwards moved to Woodstock. About 1853 he started a general store, which he changed in a few years into dry goods, clothing and furnishings. Mr. Hay made many trips to England, where he personally selected his goods. He was an honest and energetic business man and always took an interest in town affairs. He served at the County Board for several terms. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Farris, wife of Hon. L. P. Farris, of White's Cove, Queens county; four sons, W. W. Hay, of Woodstock; Dr. Hugh Hay, of Chipman, Queens county; Dr. Charles M. Hay, of Philadelphia and Clarence Hay, of Aberdeen, Dakota. The funeral will take place on Wednesday, Rev. George D. Ireland of St. Paul's church, of which the deceased was a member, will officiate.

Charles Trafton, of this town, died on Monday morning after a short illness of pneumonia. He was 81 years of age and was a well known and highly respected citizen of the community. Besides the widow, who is seriously ill, he is survived by two sons, Arthur, of California, and Rev. G. B. of Marysville, and one daughter, Mrs. Edward London, of Canterbury.

PRIZES FOR MARKSMEN.

Canadian Rifle League Arranges Two
New Competitions—Open To All
Military Units.

Mr. Neil J. Morrison, captain of the St. John Rifle Club, is in receipt of a communication from Mr. Frank Beard, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Rifle League, Ottawa, stating that Mr. Morrison, at the annual meeting of the League, had been elected representative of the province of New Brunswick on the Executive Committee.

In addition to the sub-target competition, started in 1909, two new competitions have been inaugurated this year, viz., a gallery practice and a miniature rifle for the purpose of maintaining an interest in rifle shooting during the winter months and encouraging the formation of new associations, cadet corps, and clubs, including ladies' rifle clubs.

The competitions are open to all military units, rifle associations and clubs, including ladies' clubs, whether officially recognized by the Department of Militia and Defence or not.

In addition to the prizes to be offered by the League, the Dominion Cartridge Company, of Montreal, has donated a trophy, valued at \$250, to be awarded annually to the team making the highest total score in the four matches of the miniature rifle competition; also one thousand rounds .303 service and ten thousand rounds of miniature ammunition, which will be divided amongst the winning teams from cadet corps in the service and from rifle competitions, respectively, this year.

The cadet corps are granted free entry in the sub-target rifle competitions this year.

John Lefley is under arrest at New York, for the shooting of Isabelle Baker, his sweetheart, her sister Flora, and their mother. Their injuries will probably be fatal.

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For Christmas Gifts

A handsome ring is always an acceptable gift for a lady and a diamond ring is naturally the one most to be desired. Our stock includes no poor color, badly flawed stones. We buy only the better grades of fine white stones.
Solitaire Diamonds, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$40, \$45, \$50, \$55, \$60. All fine white stones very brilliant. Others up to \$300.
Diamond and Ruby, \$18 to \$45
Diamonds and Pearls, 16 to 50
Diamonds and Emeralds, 20 to 35
Diamonds and Sapphires, 16 to 42
Let us show you these rings.

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21 King Street, St. John, N. B.

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Over the
Price of a Postage
Stamp.

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clothes cleaned and pressed for a
month. Investigate this.
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CONFECTIONERY
DELIGHTFUL ICE CREAM

and up-to-date Soda Drinks
with the latest and newest
flavors and fancies, call at

W. HAWKER & SON
Druggists, 104 Prince Wm.

Mrs. Plagion, of Somerville, Mass. a sister.

Hartley W. Thomas.

The death of Hartley W. Thomas occurred about 8 o'clock yesterday morning. The deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Thomas and been ill for four months. He was 33 years and four months old, sides his parents two brothers, G. H. and Ernest A. Thomas, survive. The funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from 15, Erick street.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Cornelius O'Brien.

The death is announced in Boston last week of Mr. Cornelius O'Brien, a former resident of this city, who left here about ten years ago. In his younger days he was an employee of Moore's nail factory, Mill Street, and afterwards with James Funder & Co.

The Am

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increasing demand
In order
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New

Hotel Man Robbed.
Woodstock, Jan. 17.—John
proprietor of the Queen 14
Is supposed that the robbery
committed by a man named D
stopped there on Saturday
The police were notified an
intently started out in search
They found that he had
Albert McBride's house on
road, and asked to be driv
He left there and has heard of

Libel On Post Car
Fredericton, Jan. 17.—Te
in Holden and a jury at Bur
House, Sunbury county, on
Mrs. James W. Brown, of
Sunbury county, brought su
Mrs. Martha Drost, of Sal
Quebec county, for libel
character of Mrs. Brown, un
the sending of two pict
by Mrs. Drost to Mrs. F
James Drost. The jury aw
damages.

Nobleman Strayed
San Diego, Cal., Jan. 17.—Te
perate effort to find Lord
Beaulieu of Sussex, England
Arlington Pike of Victoria
whose whereabouts have be
young since November 10
young plainsman of Ariz
Gonzalez, accompanied by
five, will leave here Thursd
They will sail around the
forin. On November 15, a
clerk and Pike left Yuma
boat on a hunting voyage
Colorado River, intending to
paz, where they would tal
steamer.

Without Water.
Montreal, Jan. 17.—For
last right the whole of the
Montreal was without wat
had not a drop for the
cept such as they already h
Private houses were sum
off and remained so till th
The break was one of the
ious in the history of Mont
fortunately it occurred in a

Property Purchas
Mr. M. J. Murphy, confe
Main street, has bought th
of Mr. J. H. Colwell, situat
the Street Railway car sh

Mortgage to be Bu
The cancelled mortgage
ville Baptist church will be
that church this evening.
be special music and spee
Baptist ministers of the

Ministers' Meetin
At the weekly meeting of
dia ministers yesterday,
Crisp read a paper on "T
ment." A lengthy discussi
upon the subject. At the
The Baptist ministers Rev
Donald, of Fredericton, re
lent paper on "The Pray
Poets."

In Financial Difficu
Messrs. Wilcox Bros.
merchants, Market Squa
assignment to Mr. W. A.
Messrs. Barnhill, Evans
A meeting of their credi
for Friday, January 28.
The liabilities are report
the vicinity of \$25,000 an
se nominally the same.