

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard, Limited, 82 Prince William street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor. ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS: By Carrier \$5.00
By Mail 3.00
Semi-Weekly by Mail 1.00
Invariably in advance.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING: Line Rate, over 5,000 @03
Line Rate, under 5,000 @03
Classified, One Cent Per Word.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1914.

CONCERNING THE OPPOSITION.

The Telegraph and the Times do not like the idea that the Opposition in the Dominion House is slowly falling into decay, and with characteristic partisan zeal they attempt to tell their readers that such is not the case. Possibly it is too much to expect that the time will ever come when these newspapers will adopt the policy of telling the public the actual truth as to the questions, or parties they support or condemn, but should such an occasion ever arise when the Pugsley papers would depart from their policy of glorifying the bargain counter remnant of the once great Liberal party and condemning the Government, they must be forced to admit that the Laurier party, as represented in Parliament during the present session, is the weakest Opposition Canada has had for many years.

This statement can be proven by the facts. The Telegraph and the Times have their copies of Hansard, recognized throughout the British Empire as one of the finest examples of non-partisan reporting in the world. Hansard knows no politics, the wisdom of Grit and Tory receives equal attention in its columns. Consequently its accounts of what transpires in the House of Commons are absolutely correct. If the editors of the Telegraph and the Times will carefully peruse their Hansard, and read there the evidence to satisfy them that the Opposition party in the Commons of the present session exhibits the aggressive fighting spirit of Liberalism, of which the old school Liberals were proud to boast, then all statements to the contrary must be incorrect and inaccurate. Hansard will tell the tale, and if the Opposition is the splendid fighting machine the Telegraph and the Times would have their readers believe, then those newspapers should lose no time in consulting it. A little real evidence along the line suggested would, we think, be more effective than many protestations of strength. There is no lack of testimony to the weakness of the party. It is up to the Telegraph and Times to prove its power.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION REPORT

Those good people throughout the length and breadth of Canada who believed that the appointment by the Laurier government of the Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, would speedily lead to the establishment of technical and industrial schools which would confer great benefits upon the youth of the country will hardly be pleased with the information that although the Commission finished its work many months ago, its report is not yet complete and the indications are that when completed it will be in such cumbersome form that more delay will be encountered while the present Department of Labor puts it into a form where it may be of some practical use.

The commission of which Dr. J. W. Robertson was chairman spent much time in travelling around the world gathering information in the commercial and industrial centres. They toured Canada from coast to coast, covered the length and breadth of Great Britain and Europe and in all conducted their investigations on a most elaborate scale. The object was a worthy one, presenting a grand opportunity for useful work, even though the undertaking, like all projects of the late government, was an expensive one. It now appears that not only was it expensive but through the length of time that has elapsed the value of its findings has considerably depreciated.

Advisers from Ottawa are to the effect that the fourth and last volume of the Commission's report is not yet in the hands of the Minister of Labor. This volume deals with the findings of the Commission on the Canadian portion of its work, and for that reason, is of the most importance to the people of Canada. Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, has shown keen interest in the work of the commission and has exerted every effort to get its reports finished and before the people as quickly as possible. But Mr. Crothers was confronted with an Herculean task. He might as well have tried to change the stars in their course as to hurry the movements of the learned gentlemen to whom was entrusted the preparation of the report.

As long ago as last October, Hon. Mr. Crothers wrote to Dr. Robertson urging the necessity of greater progress with the work. Just in case our Liberal friends may feel inclined to dispute the statement, his letter is worth republishing here. It is as follows:

Ottawa, October 25, 1913.

Dear Sir:—In October 1911, shortly after I was placed in charge of the Department of Labor, you advised me that you expected to have the report of the Commission on Industrial Training

ing and Technical Education complete by the first of January 1912. From time to time that date has been moved forward and still it is incomplete. On the 20th of March last I wrote you to say that I must insist upon its completion by the first of April last. On the 7th of April last you wrote me among other things to say "now that the report is practically completed." The matter still having dragged along, on the 22nd day of May I wrote you to say among other things, "You will please arrange to close up the matter not later than the 31st inst., and I hope that by that time you may have it completed to your entire satisfaction." Shortly thereafter the report, purporting to be complete was handed to me to place upon the table of the House as such. Now a controversy has arisen between the secretary of the commission and some of the members as to the condition of the report at that time, you, yourself, stating that it was then complete, and others contending that material portions thereof had not then been written. However that may be, the fact is that now, nearly five months after I was advised that it was complete, you tell me today that you will require ten days at it after the 27th inst. It cannot, I think, be fairly contended that you have not had time to do this work, for, during the last two years, you have done much other work.

As the end of this work must be reached soon, by yourself or others, I have to say that if you are unable to complete it by the 10th proximo, you will please deliver it to me as it then may be and I will engage someone else to finish it.

Faithfully,
(Sgd.) T. W. CROTHERS.
To James W. Robertson, C.M.G., L.L.D., Chairman Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, Ottawa.

It will be seen from this letter that Mr. Crothers lost no time after he was appointed to office in urging that there should be some tangible result from the work for which the Canadian people had to pay at a heavy rate. In a month after the accession to power of the Borden government, Mr. Crothers was first advised that the report would be ready in January 1912. Twenty-five months have practically elapsed since then and yet is unfinished.

More serious even than the delay is the report now current that in its present form the report is entirely too cumbersome to be of real value and have to be taken to have it condensed to form where it may be intelligible. When the commission was appointed, Liberal papers teemed with eulogies of the government for its action in the interests of the working man. In the light of the facts as they develop, it appears that the effect of the commission's work will be very largely lost through delay and bungling. Meanwhile the need of technical education in Canada continues great. Workingmen and sons of workingmen who had hoped to profit from the instruction to be gained in the technical schools the Laurier government was to have established may console themselves with the hope that the report will be issued and in shape for their grandchildren to make use of. Truly the undertakings of the Laurier government were wonderful in their conception and execution.

CANADIAN CLUBS AND POLITICS.

When H. B. Ames spoke before the Canadian Club in this city several weeks ago, and, in the course of an interesting address dealing with his visit to British shipyards, happened to voice a few words in approval of the Borden policy of an emergency gift to Great Britain for the purpose of Naval Aid the machine Liberal papers howled at him in derision and pointed out that he had grossly violated all precedent in daring to refer to a controversial political subject before a Canadian Club which is supposed to bar from its meetings all matters savouring of politics.

Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, advanced the view of his province on the Naval Aid question when addressing the Canadian Club of Ottawa, and the row that ascended from the Liberals might have been heard even in Sir Richard's distant home by the deep sounding Pacific.

It seems, however, to have entirely escaped the memories of Liberals that Sir Wilfrid Laurier also addressed a meeting of the Ottawa Canadian Club when he took occasion to make an ardent plea for his reciprocity policy, using language on that occasion which would have been better suited to a political meeting. But the Liberals were careful to say not a word regarding the violence that had been done to their club constitution.

But the worst is yet to come. On Saturday last the members of the Ottawa Canadian Club were well entertained by no less a personage than Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, the English Radical, who is one of the loudest free trade shouters in the ranks of the opposition in Parliament today. "Red Michael" discoursed on the free trade theme and his advocacy of the Laurier platform was as fervid as the most earnest Grit could desire. So far there has been no protest, but

We expect the machine Liberal Telegraph and Times will at once unleash their editorial thunders on this most un-Whiggish of men who dare to offer violence to the constitution of the Canadian Clubs of Canada. We are respectfully waiting.

Diary of Events

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

MARGARET DELAND.

In planning an American academy of "immortals" at a recent meeting of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, masculine authors and artists calmly ignored the existence of the charming feminine sex, although Dr. Brander Matthews, as an afterthought, did admit that there are few women who can write and paint and sculpt a little. He magnanimously gave them permission to start an academy of their own, and even went so far as to mention the names of five women who in his opinion are eligible for membership. Among them he included Margaret Deland, the novelist.

Margaret Wade Campbell was the maiden name of the distinguished writer of fiction, and she was born in Allegheny, Pa., 57 years ago today. It is hardly necessary to say that she is of Scotch descent. Her branch of the Campbell clan settled in the South, but removed to Pennsylvania before the American Revolution. She was married, at the age of 23, to Lorin F. Deland, a Boston man, and has since lived principally in the Massachusetts metropolis.

It was not until several years after her marriage that Mrs. Deland turned to literature. Few authors in literary history have gained such immediate success and wide fame through a first book as Mrs. Deland with her "John Ward, Preacher." It appeared at about the same time for Mrs. Humphrey Ward's "Robert Elsmere" and touched on a somewhat similar theme. "John Ward, Preacher" was almost as widely read and discussed in England as on this side of the Atlantic, and many critics declared it was a greater book than Mrs. Ward's.

With an international reputation established almost in 24 days, Mrs. Deland sought expression in verse, and published "The Old Garden and Other Verses," one of the most widely read volumes of poetry of the last century.

This was followed by "Old Chester Tales," "Dr. Levens' People," "The Common Way," "The Awakening of Helen Richie," "The Iron Woman," and "Partners." One of these, "The Awakening of Helen Richie," was dramatized and Miss Margaret Anglin starred in it for two seasons. From her youth Mrs. Deland was fond of writing verse, but she was so modest that she seldom permitted others to read her work. One day, several years after her marriage, she showed a poem to a woman friend, and the latter brought the verses to the attention of William Dean Howells. Thomas Aldrich and Oliver Wendell Holmes. The three gifted men were so enthusiastic in their praise that Mrs. Deland's husband and friends insisted that she make a serious attempt to develop her literary gifts. The result was "John Ward, Preacher."

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL IS MARKED BY MANY FIESTAS.

Throughout the Latin world the carnival spirit will reign supreme to-day and tomorrow. Mardi Gras, Shrove or Fat Tuesday, the last day before Lent, comes tomorrow, but in most cities the festivities extend over many days, with the principal events on Monday and Tuesday. The word "carnival" is from the Latin "car-ni-val-e," meaning "farewell to flesh," and hence is very appropriately applied to a noisy and rollicking festival. The day is generally observed in all the Latin countries of Europe and South and Central America. Paris, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon and hundreds of smaller European cities, give way to the spirit of mirth before donning the sackcloth, but the greatest of all carnivals is that held annually in Nice.

At Nice, as in New Orleans, processions of gorgeous floats are the most spectacular features of the festival season. In both cities the advertising wares or the use of the name of any merchant or manufacturer in connection with the floats are strictly forbidden. Most of the floats provided by the city are of the structure of the city's guests from all over the world are massive structures, requiring a dozen or more horses to draw them through the lavishly decorated streets. Remarkably beautiful effects are attained by the designers of many of the floats, but a majority are comic rather than lovely, and caricature men and events of current interest.

The king of Nice's Mardi Gras has his throne in a palace fronting on the lavishly decorated Place Massena, and there he remains until after Tuesday, when he will be crowned king of the street. At the end of his brief reign the jolly monarch is placed on a bonfire of wood and burned alive—or so the Nicola will gravely inform the visitor, although the latter may suspect that the dark form bound to the stake is but a dummy. In any event, we are given to understand that the king is dead. Vive la republique!

During the carnival Nice is fairly buried under a deluge of confetti. The plaster confetti, which necessitates the wearing of a mask if one would retain the eyes intact, is strictly confined to certain streets and specified hours. That may be escaped, but the paper confetti may be thrown anywhere, any evening. Most of the gay maskers carry large bags full of the stuff. When the merriment is at its height the air is filled with confetti. In New Orleans the pre-Lenten celebration had its beginning in 1827. The Knights of Momus, another carnival body, was organized in 1872, and in the same year Rex, the monarch of the festival, first emerged from the waters of the Gulf and made a triumphant entrance into the Crescent City. The election of a carnival king is no difficult matter—the honor goes to the citizen who writes the largest check to be applied to the expenses of the carnival committee. The monarch's consort is chosen in much the same way—any girl may reign as queen of the New Orleans Mardi Gras if she has been wise in the choice of a faithful

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID

GEE, I'M TIRED OF THIS PLACE! I'D LIKE TO TAKE A TRIP!



AND HE DID



No Use for Poets. "Didn't Oliver Goldsmith once live here?" asked the tourist. "I don't remember the name," said the landlord. "Who was the poet?" "He was a poet." "Then it's hardly likely that he ever lived here, sir. We always demand the rent in advance."

er. The four public street pageants are given by as many separate organizations, each being concerned only with its own particular display, which is given freely to the public.

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Misunderstood.

Country Vicar (to widow whose best pig has died).—"Well, you know Mrs. Higgs, these little troubles are sent us by Providence for our good."

Mrs. Higgs—"Oh, yes, sir; but what a comfort it is to know that there's one above us won't let Providence go too far!"

How to Prepare. Mrs. Briggs—"So there is not going to be a postal strike after all Mrs. Johnson."

Mrs. Johnson (remembering the coal strike).—"Well, you never can tell but it may come at any moment; so I shall lay in a good stock of stamps now."

A Personal Matter. Mabel had gone to the art exhibit. Not that she cared for pictures, but every one went. A friend saw her and told another friend. Friend No. 2 met her a few days later. "Why, hello, Mabel; I'm awfully glad to see you. I hear you are interested in art."

"Me? Art who?"—Current Literature.

His Description. Country Vicar (anxious to be considered the father of his flock, to his school children).—"Now, my children, you know how I have been here in the parish for many years caring for your parents and yourselves. What name would you give me if I called you my father?"

Little boy (confidently).—"You be the old top!"

Mother—"I wish you would go on an errand for me."

Small Son—"My legs aches awful."

Mother—"Too bad. I wanted you to go to old Mrs. Stickney's sweetshop, and—"

Small Son—"Oh, that isn't far. I can walk there easy."

Mother—"Very well. Go there and just beside it you will see a grocer's shop. Go in and get me a bar of soap."

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