

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1912.

## "THE TIMES ARE CRITICAL."

"The day of peril is too late for preparation," was the keynote of a stirring speech delivered at St. John's on Wednesday by Mr. Winston Churchill. War might come without warning, and he instanced the conflict now raging between the Balkan States and Turkey which burst upon Europe "with all the force of a spontaneous explosion, carrying all before it." The First Lord of the Admiralty drew from the situation an instructive lesson. He said:

"Placed with this manifestation, who is the man bold enough to say that force is never the remedy? Who is the man foolish enough to say that martial virtues do not play a vital part in the health and the honor of every people? Who is the man vain enough to suppose that the long antagonisms of history can always be adjusted by the smooth, superficial conventions of politicians and ambassadors? We are fortunate indeed among the nations of the world. We are born under a lucky star, in a good age, with no old scores to pay and no modern enemies to prosecute. We can survey the past without a pang, and we can survey the future without a grudge, but we must be prepared. We must be ready for all eventualities, but that is not enough. We must be strong and self-reliant, and, in the end, for all our party policies, we must be united."

In these telling words Mr. Churchill well defined the position in which the Empire stands today. They will appeal as strongly to Canadians as to the British people. The Dominion, born under a lucky star, with no scores to pay and no modern enemies to prosecute, is in a position to perform—to be prepared and ready for all eventualities. It is only by a policy of unity and co-operation with the Mother Country in Naval Defence and in all matters in which the Dominion has a vital interest that the position of security can be maintained. As Mr. Churchill eloquently expressed it at the close of his speech: "The tasks which devolve upon us are serious. The times in which we live are critical. We have to hold what we have won."

## THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY IN GERMANY.

It is of some interest to note that the German Government are taking steps to curtail the operations of the Standard Oil Company in Germany, where it is claimed the American concern is practically controlling the oil trade. A Government bill has been prepared to be submitted at the forthcoming session of the Reichstag, with the purpose of giving the exclusive right of traffic in oil in Germany to a company which will be formed with private German capital. The Government will retain a strong official supervision over the company, and precautions will be taken to prevent the shares from falling into foreign hands.

According to Dr. Schwarz, editor of Petroleum, the official organ of the German oil trade, the Government's determination to beat the Standard Oil monopoly in Germany was brought about solely on account of the merciless war on the oil dealers of that country, who, according to Dr. Schwarz, have been reduced from economic freedom to economic serfdom, by the dominance of the Standard Oil Company. The price is kept down, it is said, by the competition of the Austrian refineries, and when the trust finally secures control over them also, the price of oil in both Germany and Austria will be at its mercy, as it is in America.

The new method of dealing with a problem which, through the energy of the Standard Oil promoters, has come to exist in nearly every civilized country, is apparently based upon the assumption that there is an economic saving in doing business on a large scale, but that to provide against oppression, a necessity exists to exercise strict Government control over a company having a monopoly. While the new German Oil Company will be empowered to acquire existing wholesale oil plants and stocks, by expropriation or by necessary, elaborate provisions are made to prevent the augmentation of prices. If the fixed maximum price should be exceeded, the company's dividends cannot exceed the legal rate of interest; and the dividends are to be allowed to increase proportionately—if enough profit shows—as the price sinks below the fixed standard. The efforts of the company, towards reducing prices instead of raising them.

It is by no means certain that the German Parliament will pass the bill, as the two parties which together constitute a Parliamentary majority in Germany, seem to be opposed to it. But the measure constitutes an interesting contribution to modern economic legislation designed to combat oppressive trusts. The life of the proposed company will be thirty years, at the end of which the Government may take it over.

## THE CAMPAIGN OF THE MILITANT SUFFRAGETTES

The Women's Social and Political Union, the organization in the Old Country which directs the policy of the Woman Suffrage Movement, has had a somewhat checkered career, marked by disputes and resignations, during its six years of existence. The latest disaster, the withdrawal of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who were unable to endorse the new militant policy, will prove a serious blow to the cause. They had been associated with Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Christl, Pankhurst in controlling the Union's activities since its inception. It is unofficially stated that the actual ground of disagreement among the leaders of the Union was the refusal of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence to support a continued policy of destruction of property and incendiarism.

As a result of this recent disagreement the Union was left without an official organ in the press. Votes For Women, the journal which had given publicity to the Suffragist cause, was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and was made over to the Union. When they retired they resumed the proprietorship and will continue to issue it under their joint editorship. This calamity has now been remedied by the militant section. On October 17th the first issue of a new mouthpiece entitled "The Suffragette," appeared in London. It is a weekly paper, "edited by Christabel Pankhurst, L.L.B.," a warrant for whose arrest in connection with the window-smashing conspiracy of last March is still in force in England. Miss Pankhurst is reported to be editing the new journal at long distance range, from Paris.

The announcement is made in the first number that

the Union has decided to fight the British Labor party at all bye-elections. "A Labor member," says "The Suffragette" menacingly, "is just as much a supporter of the Government as is a Liberal member. No more elections shall be won by the coalition if the W.S.P.U. can help it. Women have been very patient with the Labor party, but patience would now be weakness." No doubt the Labor party will be duly impressed.

Some light on this new line of attack was given by Mrs. Pankhurst at a recent meeting in the Albert Hall, London. On the platform were 200 ladies who had suffered imprisonment, robed in white and bearing silver-tinted banners. They rendered several songs and contributions to the cause were received which amounted to \$16,470, besides many gifts of jewellery on behalf of the cause. Mrs. Pankhurst, in moving a resolution, pledging the meeting to continue the militant agitation, pointed out that Suffragists must teach the Labor party the value of their own principles and say to them, "You, with Asquith and Co. are equally responsible for all that has happened and is happening to women in the struggle for emancipation."

It is something to know that Mrs. Pankhurst stated that it was not the policy of the Union to endanger human life. "They could strike the enemy," she said, through property. "Those who can break windows," was her command, "break them; those who can make the Government realize property is as greatly endangered by women Suffragists as it was by the Chartists of old, do so." Her last words to the Government were, "I incite this meeting to rebellion. You have not dared to take the leaders of Ulster for their incitement to rebellion. Take me if you dare!"

The resolution to continue the militant agitation was carried. The meeting was a lamentable exhibition of a number of educated but misguided women attempting the impossible. No Government could be forced into granting woman Suffrage by methods of this kind. The lesson from the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, who were among the wealthiest supporters of the movement, has apparently been lost. The militant campaign in England at times provides exciting and creditable incidents, but it is liable to indefinitely postpone the adoption of the suffrage and defeat the purpose these misguided women have at heart.

## NEW ZEALAND STOPS DUMPING.

New Zealand has declared war upon cheap foreign goods which are imported into the Dominion under the guise of being of British manufacture. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Customs, has proposed a scheme whereby the dumping of goods made under sweating conditions in foreign countries will no longer be possible. He intends to make recommendations to the Cabinet that a technical expert should be appointed to keep the Customs Department advised on the matter of the kind of goods which are being exported from England to New Zealand. It is reported that the reason for this move is that the Minister is in possession of information which shows that large quantities of goods made on the Continent of Europe under wretched conditions are being sent out to the Dominion with the label: "Best quality; made in London."

Some of these goods are made by people who are paid at the rate of less than 25 cents per day, and are shipped to England and then exported to the Colonies as of English manufacture. Two experts have been already told off to watch the exports and imports. These two officers supervise the exports to Australia, and the proposal is to appoint a third officer to perform similar duties with regard to New Zealand. Information has also been gained that certain classes of goods stamped as genuine all through contain doubtful material, and steps are to be taken to stop the importation of these articles.

## VOTING MACHINES.

Chicago has been trying an experiment with voting machines. A few months ago a number were purchased, which were used in a city election with varying success. Now an effort is being made to prevent their employment in a coming election. The object of attack is the legal limitation upon the voter of one minute in which to cast his ballot. It being contended that this time is insufficient for arranging a "split" ticket. This contention is apparently borne out by the results of tests elsewhere. Experts succeeded in splitting tickets in forty seconds, but others fell far behind that record.

The president of the Citizens' Association of Chicago, who has been a prominent figure in reform politics for many years, required over two minutes to vote, making several mistakes in the process. A street car conductor was a little longer, and a reporter, was the longest of the three. Those who are opposing the machines for legalizing election are used. Part of this result will be due to the one-minute limitation, and part to mistakes which will invalidate the machine-cast ballots; while, many voters, it is reported, owing to their unfamiliarity with this method of voting, will stay away from the polls altogether.

## Current Comment

The Balkan League.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

There is nothing incredible in the announcement made by the Outlook of London, that the Balkan and Greek League is an alliance for mutual protection against the Powers, as well as an offensive league against Turkey. Hitherto the States comprising this alliance have had their bounds fixed, and their power defined by diplomats of neutral States. They have decided that the next adjustment will be made by the parties concerned. The statement that they are tired "sitting in the ante-room" while other people determine how much they shall have of the soil or the liberties that they fight for, is quite natural under the circumstances. But when the war with Turkey shall be over, which may be a long way ahead, the allied States may not feel like entering into the new conflict with stronger powers, which have been passing through no exhausting and improving ordeal.

## Abolish the Third Degree.

(Pekin Daily News.)

In accordance with the order of the Ministry of Justice trial by torture has been forever abolished. Tutuh Cheng, of Kianan has instructed the Provincial Courts to destroy all instruments causing corporal pain. Any form of punishment by torture will not be tolerated and severe punishment will be inflicted for violation of this order.

## Medical Note.

(Pittsburgh Dispatch.)

A diphtheria epidemic in a section of a Pennsylvania town resulted from failure to call a physician in the first case. It is not about time for everyone to understand that hiding contagious diseases is the surest means of spreading them?

## The Cabinet Changes.

(London Free Press.)

The Cabinet changes that Liberals have predicted would wreck the Administration have gone through with scarcely a flutter, and the Government comes out admittedly stronger than it has been at any time since it took office.

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## SAYS EMOTIONALISM IS WEARING ON GIRLS

The experience of many educators in this country, says the Christian Herald, is strangely at variance with the finding of the London School Board that co-education is a disadvantage to boys, that girls are slower to learn than the boys, and the presence of girls in the same room with boys retards the progress of the latter. The opinion of a woman teacher on one point involved, because this opinion is off value in another direction, is worth quoting:

"The result of my observation, after more than thirty years spent in teaching mixed schools, is that girls are brighter than boys, and learn faster. As all know, it is that girls of the same age are more mature than boys. In after life, my bright, and even my mediocre, boys accomplish more than my bright girls. I heard of them, of the solid things they were doing. My bright girls—girls that were meteoric—dropped out of sight. "I found, on following them up, that they had worn themselves out in emotion. They flew at or through everything with the same velocity, the same intensity, with which they had shot through books. The life of woman encourages and overdevelops affectionateness, devotedness. She needs to take herself less seriously or less intensely; to accept her vocation with more calmness and strength, more coolness and poise."

## THE TEMPLE FAIR

Although the wet weather of last evening affected the attendance at Temple Fair, a fairly large number of people were present including many children who were enjoying Children's Night. The prizes last evening were won as follows: Shooting gallery, prize an umbrella, won by Stanley Williams; excellent table, prize, a pair of gloves, won by Foster Horseman; plate game, prize, a parlor lamp, won by Dr. Roberts; hoop-la, prize, a pair of boots, won by Dr. Roberts. The standing of the fraternal societies in the flag contest is as follows: Court Dunsong 37,000; Golden Rule I. O. O. F. 2,000; Court North End I. O. O. F. 800; St. John Power Boat Club 500; Dominion L. O. L. 200; Havelock L. O. L. 100.

## BANK BRANCH FOR SUSSEX.

The Royal Bank of Canada will open a branch office in Sussex and have taken a lease of the offices on Peter street next to J. Hazen Adair's law offices. Manager Blair, of the St. John office, was here last week and yesterday completed arrangements for the opening of the branch. The new bank will be in town at once.

## Humor With Law.

Judge M. W. Pinckney at a recent banquet recalled an incident to show that there is some humor associated with such a thing as the law. In Dawson City, a colored man, Sam Jones by name, was on trial for a felony. The judge asked Sam if he desired the appointment of a lawyer to defend him.

"No, sah," said Sam, "I'm gwine to throw myself on the ignorance of the code."

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