

### The St. John Standard

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#### CAMPBELLTON'S FINANCES.

A few days ago The Standard offered certain comments on Campbellton's finances, touching on the manner in which that community had been treated by the Foster Government. Immediately Mr. Loudon, of Fredericton, who knows about these things, presented for the justification of Mr. Foster and his colleagues, certain correspondence which bore out almost to the exact letter the contention of The Standard. This contention was that while the Foster Government is paying six per cent. interest on its own bond issues it has refused to carry out the agreement made with Campbellton to pay that municipality an equal rate on its reserve fund carried on the bond guarantee. The Standard stated that the Foster Government was paying Campbellton three and one-half per cent., whereas it should be paying six per cent. We most humbly apologize to Mr. Foster and his colleagues for we are quite prepared to accept Mr. Loudon's statement that Mr. Foster is actually paying Campbellton on its balance at the rate of four per cent., instead of three and one-half per cent., as stated. This leaves the government only two per cent. to the bad on the agreement which was made.

Also, as a result of The Standard's comment on the finances of Campbellton, this paper received a letter from Mayor Alexander of Campbellton, supporting in every respect The Standard's statement that during the recent Victory Loan drive Campbellton asked the Foster Government to invest ten thousand dollars out of the reserve fund in Victory Bonds. This is exactly what The Standard stated. We thank the Mayor of Campbellton for his corroboration of our report, but this corroboration does not affect the main contention of The Standard that on the balance in reserve at Fredericton to Campbellton's credit, the rate of interest being paid by the Foster Government is very much lower than was promised the people of Campbellton, and about fifty per cent. lower than Mr. Foster is paying on his own bond issues.

With these few brief remarks, etc.—

#### TAKE THE INVALIDS ELSEWHERE

While accommodation at the Port of St. John remains as it is, this city does not want any invalid soldiers. Hon. Mr. Carvell and Hon. Mr. Elin are said to be actively interesting themselves in the question of this aspect at Halifax, and the suggested use of Portland. If their interest is directed towards diverting to St. John hospital ships due to arrive within the next two or three months, then The Standard believes that their activities are extremely inadvisable. If, however, their efforts are towards the creation of proper passenger accommodation at this port, then any such effort is deserving of the hearty support and sympathy of this entire community. It is all very well to say that St. John can handle invalid soldiers. St. John can do nothing of the sort. There is not in existence along our entire harbor front today one single building to which men can be transferred from ships and from which they can be placed in trains, at the same time enjoying the degree of comfort to which they are entitled and which of necessity must be provided. We have nothing whatever excepting one shed, impossible to heat, rot at all equipped with sanitary or other conveniences necessary, into which a train can run. It is utterly ridiculous under these circumstances to talk of providing comfort for sick and wounded men, and certainly St. John's desire to increase its business should not be permitted to run away with its common sense in a matter of this nature. If a hospital ship were to arrive here under present conditions the resulting confusion, hardship, and banging would give this port such unfavorable advertising all over Canada as would forever prevent it from making another bid for passenger traffic.

But while this is the case, it may well be asked why nothing has been done during the past year to prevent the situation now existing. It has been very generally recognized that there would be hundreds of thousands of men returning to Canada at the conclusion of the war. Military authorities at Ottawa have been repeatedly urged to provide at Atlantic ports facilities for the accommodation of soldiers returning from overseas, and still nothing has been done. Not one cent has been expended in St. John in the past four or five years for passenger accommodation, and now we are face to face with the inevitable result of our own neglect.

Perhaps it is possible to arrange hastily such accommodation as will be required. Passenger buildings could be put up in a couple of months, and as the season will last much longer than that, and as demobilization and the return of disabled soldiers will probably continue well on into next winter, it might be advisable from a military standpoint alone to go on with this work which is so urgently required. And then, apart altogether from the military end, it is recognized that St. John is lacking in passenger

accommodation for even normal traffic, so that any expenditure now made would be in the nature of preparation for our future needs.

But it is better, far better, that Halifax should continue to receive invalid soldiers and to make as much of a mess of the work as it pleases, rather than that St. John by overreaching itself should get into a far worse position than Halifax is in at present.

#### LET THEM SLIDE.

There are a great many hills in St. John, and there are also a great many children. When you put snow on the hills, and children on sleds, something is bound to happen. This is the condition existing just at present, and something is happening, but it is not just what the children wish. They go out to coast. They select the streets and paths least frequented, and they start in to have the time of their happy young lives. But the first thing these little tots know, a policeman, with time hanging heavily on his hands, rounds them up, pinches their sleds, walks off with them to the station, and orders the weeping children home.

This is not a square deal. These little boys and girls have just as much right to live in St. John as have their fathers and mothers, and their life just now consists of coasting, just as much as their fathers' lives are spent in going to work. Sliding down hill on sleds or anything they happen to get hold of, is the business of children in weather like this, and they are entitled to carry on their business. It may be true that once in a while some fussy old fossil, male or female, narrowly escapes being bumped by a hilarious youngster on a flexible flyer. Possibly a street railway motorman once or twice in a season may be forced to apply the brakes rather more quickly than would otherwise be necessary in order to avoid running over a kid shodder across the tracks. But that is what the motorman is for, and the fussy old fossil has no business running round loose if he or she cannot appreciate the pleasures of childhood and make allowance for the exuberant spirits which the first snow brings.

This is not an argument that every hill in St. John should be used for coasting by the youngsters who wish to congregate for that purpose. It is merely a cold statement of fact that there are scores of hills with little traffic, which the children should be permitted to use and enjoy themselves. This is also an expression of opinion that the policeman who seizes a child's sled should himself be arrested for that. And it is useless to suggest that any one particular street be set apart for coasting, for if this were the case the bigger boys and girls would plague the life out of the littler ones, take their sleds, run into them, and make their childish lives miserable. Let the little ones coast wherever they please, they are only young ones, and heaven knows they are entitled to all the pleasure they can get, for they will never have the chance again.

#### THE LITTLE TOY FRIENDS ARE TRUE.

"In the Royal Palace in Vienna the children's playthings lie scattered on the floor just as the little ones left them when the household took hurried flight."—Press despatch.

"The little toy dog is covered with dust. But sturdy and staunch he stands. And the little tin soldier is red with rust."

Time was when the little toy dog was new. And the soldier was passing fair, And that was the time when our little boy blue Kissed them and put them there.

"Now don't you go till I come," he said, "And don't you make any noise—"

On Saturday of this week certain ladies of St. John under the auspices of the Local Council of Women will appeal to the public generally on behalf of the Children's Aid Society. This appeal will take the form of a tag day, designated Rosebud Day, and contributions which will be handed over in full to the Children's Aid Society will be received through the generosity of citizens when approached by the taggers. There will be no house to house or office to office campaign, as has marked other such movements of this nature, so that all should be prepared to give most generously when requested by those devoting their time to the work. The organization conducting this work started the Children's Aid Fund for the purchase of the building now in use. Saturday's receipts will be devoted to the furnishing of that very excellent institution.

#### THE EDITOR'S MAIL

**MARITIME UNION.**  
Editor Standard:  
One of the things which should occupy the attention of the Board of

Trade, Canadian Clubs, and other bodies of Lower Provinces is Maritime Union.

Thanks to the padded census lists of the province of Quebec (Bishop Fallon of Ontario sets the standard for the statement) the representation in parliament at Ottawa of Ontario and the lower provinces (particularly the latter) has been cut down every ten years, so that the influence of the maritime provinces has been very much curtailed.

There is no bank, incorporated company or public body but appoints scrutineers in order to ensure a fair election, but in the case of the Canadian census, on which the representation of the several provinces is based, the other provinces have no check whatever on the lists of the province of Quebec. The system on which the census is taken affords every opportunity for padding the lists. In Great Britain and other old settled countries the census is taken at twelve o'clock on Sunday night, the names are left with the householder to be filled in with the names of the people in his house at midnight; people on the streets, canal boats, ships, etc., are taken on forms furnished to the police, etc. In Canada the taking of the census is spread over some days or weeks, and the lists include the names of people temporarily out of the country. This is supposed to provide for the fishermen and others, who may be temporarily away from home (and if anything rather favor the lower provinces) but under the system of parish records of the province of Quebec (if we are to credit Roman Catholic Bishop Fallon) the thousands of names of those who have gone to the New England States, western provinces and other parts of the census lists of the province of Quebec.

Many are unaware that the population of Quebec province governs the representation of the other provinces. Under the British North America Act Quebec is given 65 members at Ottawa, and the 65 divided into the population of that province gives the number which must form the constituencies of the other provinces. If Quebec could show a more rapid growth than any of the other provinces, the representation of the latter in parliament will naturally be cut down.

My point is that under the looseness of the census act and lack of any check on the taking of the census in Quebec on the part of the other provinces, the thousands of Quebec in the matter of representation at Ottawa, and have undoubtedly suffered in the past.

Beyond this matter of representation before the Maritime Province can be united, a long educational campaign may be necessary. There will be vested interests to be fought. The Maritime Union should collect at least an equal property in their positions as provincial capitals. The government employees at these points will strongly oppose the amalgamation of the three local legislatures, by which the services of a number of them would be dispensed with. And last, but not least, the existing provincial legislatures would have to commit political suicide to make way for the new legislature.

On the subject of the new Maritime Union, Mr. P. P. of St. John's has voiced strongly Prince Edward Island's objection to Maritime Union, at the same time somewhat inconsistently admitting that it was desirable. The financial record of the Maritime Board of Trade in past years that many of the Island's just grievances were removed.

In the case of Prince Edward Island county councils would need to be created. The selection of a site for a new central would naturally lead to some conflict. Of course, the new legislative assembly could meet in the present houses of assembly in yearly rotation; but what did not work in the case of Upper and Lower Canada, (and led to the selection of Ottawa as a compromise capital) could scarcely be expected to work in the Maritime Union. The educational campaign for Maritime Union I am banking on most is the financial one. The existing public opinion has been educated in a campaign led by Logan, Baxter, Magee and others—which we hope may be the case.

#### WHAT THEY SAY

**Misnamed.** (Hamilton Spectator.)  
A million Austrian deserters have organized and call themselves Green Guards. A more appropriate title would be blackguards.

**What of the National Health?** (Ottawa Journal.)  
Previous to the present year, two great epidemics of influenza ravaged the world, one in 1902, the other in 1909. Each of these was followed by a less virulent but still extensive and destructive recurrence of the disease the following year. According to this,

### Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.  
We and my cousin Artie was walking along this afternoon and we each had a cent, me saying, G. Artie, I tell you lots of stuff.

Wait and Artie, and I said, Let's start to save up for Christmas, let's start with these 2 cents, and keep on saving every cent we get, and by the time Christmas comes I bet we will have so much money it will take a shoe box to hold it.

Well, it might take a shoe box, said Artie. Him now, looking on the bright side of things, and I said, G. just think if we each save 2 cents every day for a month, that will be 60 cents apiece.

And in 2 months we will have twice that much, G. how much will that make? said Artie. And he took a stump of a pencil out of his pocket and did it on somebody's man's front step, saying, Gosh, in 2 months we will each have a dollar and 20 cents or 2 dollars and 40 cents altogether.

G. that aw to fill a shoe box, you better rub that off that marble, I said. It might fill a shoe box, said Artie. And he rubbed the pencil marks off of the step with the rubber end of the stump, making a fearful smooch of the step with a rag, and we kept on walking and just then the waffle wagon came down the street, the man blowing his horn and yelling, Waffles, waffles, get em while they're hot. And me and Artie left it go all the way past us down the street and then I said, Hay, Artie, wat do you say we run after it and buy waffles with these 2 cents and start saving up tomorrow?

Which we did, and which we properly won't.

we shall have the influenza back here next year. The possibility is disturbing. And it suggests that Canada may be wise to take up at once the question whether a Dominion Ministry of Health is a desirability.

**Proposals.** (St. Louis Star.)  
It is wrong to say that women do the province of Quebec (if we are to credit Roman Catholic Bishop Fallon) the thousands of names of those who have gone to the New England States, western provinces and other parts of the census lists of the province of Quebec.

**Organization for Justice.** (Grain Growers' Guide.)  
Is our country, after the world fight for international justice is won, going to establish economic and social justice within its own borders? The fiscal system of Canada is, as it has long been, a system of injustice, it is not a system of equal rights for all.

**Unity.** (Christian Science Monitor.)  
Of all waste effort the most useless, just now, is the endeavor to show that this or that influence person, or activity "won the war." The subject may tempt one to conversation, but it is a saving of time and effort to remember the fable of the man and the bundle of sticks, with the moral "in union there is strength."

**Germany Can Pay.** (Toronto News.)  
Germany intended, if victorious, to levy indemnities of \$45,000,000,000 on France, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and other Allied nations. The Allies should collect at least an equal property in their possession, immense natural resources, and millions of husky men to develop these resources.

**A BIT OF FUN**  
On the Stand.  
"You say you stood up?"  
"I say I stood, your honor. If a man stands he naturally stands up."  
"You can't stand any other way?"  
"Is that so? Ten dollars for contempt. Stand down."

**Point in His Favor.**  
"I'll take back some of the hard things about Wagner's music," remarked Mr. Githery.  
"Even though he was a German?"  
"Yes; I learn from a paper Mrs. Githery has written for her music class that Wagner was once driven out of Germany for showing his contempt for the German Government."

**Not Positive.**  
"Have you been following this trial?"  
"Yes."  
"Is the defendant as beautiful as they say?"  
"Well, she is beautiful enough to be acquitted. If you mean to ask if she is beautiful enough for vaudeville, I dunno."

**Fair Warning.**  
Old Gent—"Do you think the Germans could really bombard London with a big gun?"  
Tommy—"You never know, gov', nor. If you've got any sense you'll leave off wearing your best hat."

**A Lack of Listeners.**  
Edith—"No, I didn't have a very good time. I wanted to talk, but there wasn't a man there."  
Her Aunt—"But there were lots of other girls."  
Edith—"Of course; but that was no satisfaction—they all wanted to talk."

**Some Pundit.**  
"What a beauty patch is to a fair maid's face; what the song of the"

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