

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1911.

A NOTE — AND A BEAM.

The friendly Telegraph on Saturday inserted the following clipping in its editorial comment:—

Another County Heard From.
(Vancouver World.)

The St. John Standard is hereby notified that we appreciate the delicate compliment it has paid us by lifting bodily from this column an article on youth and efficiency and running it as its own.

We do not suppose that either our readers or those of the Telegraph would care one straw whether this little gem of criticism was well or ill-founded. Suppose we did find a good article and publish it, would it lessen its value if it had been written by one of the coterie of editors of the Telegraph, or enhance its worth if it had been wholly produced in our own sanctum? But what are the readers of the Telegraph likely to think of a man who shames "Stop Thief" at the top of his voice while he himself is dexterously endeavoring to relieve a citizen of his watch? If the Telegraph has a real fondness for the subject of plagiarism it can be fully satisfied within its own columns. We have before us the issue of that journal of Monday last and in the editorial columns there appears a sprightly, readable article entitled "Favorite Books" mostly by Augustine Birrell. This does not strike us as being quite fair in a city the size of St. John. The wealthy Telegraph may be able to secure the services of Mr. Birrell as one of its group of editors, but why should it conceal him? Surely, if the name is to be played fairly the newspapers with more slender purses than that of the Telegraph ought to have a little notice of their have to compete with one of the heavyweights of English literature.

Again, Mr. Birrell is not acting squarely towards his new employers. When a man has published a book all over the world and induced people to read it, what right has he to cheat his employers by cutting long strips out of that book and palming it off on the people who pay for his articles as brand new stuff just taken from his brain. Shame on you, Mr. Augustine Birrell! Coming advantage of men who find it easiest to distinguish "Obiter Dicta" from "Sartor Resartus" by the color of the bindings? Why, Mr. Birrell, English statesman and author, did you write in Monday's Telegraph:—

"The question of what makes an author a favorite is always unanswered. We are told that the one thing 'needful' is individuality. But to be an individual is the 'inevitable' lot of every child of Adam. To have an 'individuality' is no sort of distinction, but to be able to 'make it felt' in writing is not only distinction, but, in many cases, immortality."

When in your "Obiter Dicta" under the caption of "A Rogue's Memoirs" you had already told the world:—
"To say that the one thing needful is individuality is not quite enough. To be an individual is the inevitable lot of every child of Adam. Each one of us has, like a tin soldier, a standard of his own. To have an individuality is no sort of distinction, but to be able to make it felt in writing is not only distinction, but under favorable circumstances, immortality."

And when you copied your own words and palmed them off on the unsuspecting editor-in-chief as a newly blown editorial, wet with the dew of your authorship and genius, your individuality, in short—why did you leave out the tin soldier? Was it that it reminded you too much of the Telegraph, to be set up on a different side every time it changed owners?

Now is this all. A little further on in your book you said of Cellini "The rascal is so symmetrical . . . and still further on 'He is so symmetrical a rascal.' The idea stuck to you, and when you wrote the article for the Telegraph you rubbed the symmetry well in, saying, 'Take for example that most symmetrical of rogues, Cellini.' Oh! Augustine!

In your book you said also, "As for our especial rogue Cellini, the question would probably have assumed this shape: 'Rascal, name the crime you have not committed and account for the omission.' How beautifully you condensed it in the Telegraph when you wrote 'There are no crimes he did not commit.'"

Again in "A Rogue's Memoirs" you told us:—
"Listen to him:—'Upon my uttering these words, there was a general outcry, the noblemen affirming that I promised too much. But one of them who was a great philosopher said in my favor, 'From the admirable symmetry of shape and happy physiognomy of this young man I venture to engage that he will perform all he promises and more.' The Pope replied: 'I am of the same opinion.' Then calling Trajano, his gentleman of the bedchamber, he ordered him to fetch me five hundred ducats. And so it always ended; suspicious, aroused most reasonably, always ended; suspiciously, and then—ducat. He deserved hanging, but he died in his bed."

Now just compare this with what you palmed off on the Telegraph on Monday morning. Right Hon. Augustine Birrell doesn't your conscience smite you just a little bit? Here is the extract:—

"Upon my uttering these words, there was a general outcry, the noblemen affirming that I promised too much. But one of them, who was a great philosopher, said in my favor: 'From the admirable symmetry of shape and happy physiognomy of this young man, I venture to engage that he will perform all he promises, and more.' The Pope replied: 'I am of the same opinion.' Then calling Trajano, his gentleman of the bedchamber, he ordered him to fetch me five hundred ducats. And so it always ended; suspicious, aroused most reasonably, always ended; suspiciously, and then—ducat. He deserved hanging, but he died in his bed."

Now do not explain this by theory of the persistency of ideas. That is an outworn excuse. Besides, this is identity of language, not ideas alone. What is your system of mnemonics, Mr. Birrell? We notice you also put in a touch of Matthew Arnold but you gave him some credit so we will let that pass. You also referred to the Bible in language which seems no less familiar than the rest of your article. When you sought the authority of the book why did you not call on another of the editors—the reverend one—who might have assisted with this quotation:—

"Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, 'let me pull out this mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.'"

THE SANITATION OF THE CITY.

The Board of Health has issued a statement which indicates that a great deal has been done to improve the sanitation of the city. Particular attention seems to have been given to house drainage. The sewerage system of St. John dates from 1854. There were, of course, sewers laid prior to that date, but the majority of these were put down by private individuals and were of anything but a permanent character. It was the visitation of the cholera in the year above mentioned that produced an awakening regarding the sanitary condition of the city, which was then about as bad as it could be. Between 1854 and 1911 a very large sum of money has been expended to provide for the proper drainage for all sections of the city and while there are still streets without main sewers within the city limits, they are few and far between.

One section of the act authorizing the laying of sewers within the limits of the old city of St. John provides that all property along the line of a main sewer should be drained into it, the intention being to thoroughly drain the whole city, vacant lots as well as those with buildings thereon. This section of the law has never been effectively carried out, either when it was administered by the Commissioners of Water Supply and Sewerage or since it has come under the direct control of the Common Council. There are scores of properties on the eastern side of the old city that are still undrained, notwithstanding the ample powers given under the act to compel property owners to carry out the provisions of the law. In some cases it is quite as important from the standpoint of public health that a vacant lot should be drained as one with a building on it. As the law is at present administered the option of entering the sewers is left to the property owners, notwithstanding the intention of the act that all properties fronting on a main sewer should be drained.

It is time that the Water and Sewerage Department made a thorough investigation into the conditions which exist in various parts of the city, with the object of securing a thorough enforcement of the law. Legislation should also be procured to make the law operative generally over the whole city. In the majority of cities the sewers are laid at the expense of abutting properties, a special tax being levied for the purpose. In St. John the sewerage system has been provided for by an issue of bonds, the full expenses of which are paid out of the general assessment.

THE MILK SUPPLY.

All classes of people, who reside in a city, are deeply interested in procuring a supply of clean, wholesome milk, which it seems from practical experience everywhere is difficult to obtain. As in every other line of business competition among milk dealers is keen and the desire of the public to obtain milk at the lowest price possible, oftentimes without any regard to quality or cleanliness, leads to careless if not lawless methods. It is safe to say that milk gathered under conditions of perfect cleanliness cannot be sold by the producer at the present price current in St. John. For a year or two the officials of the Provincial Government connected with the dairying industry have made a general inspection of the conditions. The dairying staff of the department is not large and it cannot be claimed that the inspection was of a very rigid character or achieved any great results. For this reason it is to be abandoned for the present. There are a large number of farmers along the lines of the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific railways who supply milk and cream to city dealers. In the majority of cases the herds are free from disease and they are comfortably housed. In some instances, however, the housing of dairy cattle is anything but ideal.

Just how far the Public Health Officer is authorized to deal with the milk supply question, so far as relates to the housing and inspection of cattle is not at present clear. Additional legislation would seem to be necessary before any genuine improvement in these directions could be effected. He has, however, authority to examine the supply, which is offered for sale to consumers. Those who deal in milk are supposed to take out licenses from the Board of Health. Judging from the numerous complaints, milk dealers, or some of them at least, resent the action of the Board in demanding a license fee and regard licenses as an unnecessary interference with legitimate business. The consumer is chiefly interested in obtaining a supply of pure milk which has neither been watered nor treated with preservatives to prevent its souring. The conditions under which milk is handled in St. John could be greatly improved and the Public Health Officer could do no greater service to the community than to make a thorough investigation into the whole question of milk supply. If he does his duty thoroughly his report will make interesting reading and have the result of correcting evils that have existed far too long.

The report of the committee which investigated the Public Works Department of the city has been published, and when it comes before the Council for action will unquestionably cause a lively discussion. Its importance to citizens is chiefly contained in the statements regarding the administrative methods of the city engineer. If these statements are correct, they would indicate that the city is not getting anything like value for the money expended by the Public Works Department. There are a good many charges made in the report and some institutions are thrown out which no doubt will be dealt with when the report comes before the aldermen for consideration, as the reflections are on the aldermen themselves. The prevailing opinion, outside of City Hall, is that the city has never got and is not now getting anything like value for the money expended on the public streets. From time immemorial this opinion has prevailed. In twenty years the assessment for street purposes has been doubled, but it cannot be said that the present condition of King street, for example, is creditable to a city the size of St. John, and there are many streets that are just as bad as King street, though not so much under the public eye. The debate on the report will be looked forward to with unusual interest and possibly the public may get enlightenment as to civic matters generally which will help them to a better understanding of subjects regarding which they are now much in the dark.

Current Comment

(Winnipeg Free Press.)

No more striking proof of the superlative value of sea power in war could be desired than the developments of the Turkish-Italian war. Tripoli can be reached by Turkish troops only by water; and the command of the sea by the relatively all-powerful navy of Italy has made it impossible for Turkey to come to the defence of her dependency. Nations without navies hold overseas colonies only on the sufferance of their more powerful neighbors.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Twenty years ago today C. P. R. stock was selling at \$7 1/2, Union Pacific at 41, and Northern Pacific at 26 1/2. Who said "the good old times?"

(London Free Press.)

Sir Wilfrid says he would rather be right than be Premier. But the case is unfortunate when he is neither right nor Premier.

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STANDARD'S CORRESPONDENT REVIEWS DEBATE AT OTTAWA

Continued from page three.

Having their already depleted ranks divided by dissensions among themselves on the fiscal question, Mr. J. A. M. Atkins, the Conservative member for Brandon, deplored the fact that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and those of his followers who had spoken in the debate had adopted a policy of sowing seeds of discord, a policy of division and strife. He concluded with an eloquent appeal for patriotic unity of the various races and creeds, where it seemed from practical experience everywhere is difficult to obtain. As in every other line of business competition among milk dealers is keen and the desire of the public to obtain milk at the lowest price possible, oftentimes without any regard to quality or cleanliness, leads to careless if not lawless methods. It is safe to say that milk gathered under conditions of perfect cleanliness cannot be sold by the producer at the present price current in St. John. For a year or two the officials of the Provincial Government connected with the dairying industry have made a general inspection of the conditions. The dairying staff of the department is not large and it cannot be claimed that the inspection was of a very rigid character or achieved any great results. For this reason it is to be abandoned for the present. There are a large number of farmers along the lines of the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific railways who supply milk and cream to city dealers. In the majority of cases the herds are free from disease and they are comfortably housed. In some instances, however, the housing of dairy cattle is anything but ideal.

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An Important Statement.

The most important statement made by Mr. Hazen was his announcement of the failure of the Laurier naval policy. The late government, he said, had taken no action upon the tenders received last May because they were for untried ships and because the nine vessels proposed to be constructed could not be completed for six years, by which time they would be obsolete and entirely unfit for the purposes for which they were designed. Under these circumstances the Borden government in rejecting the tenders, had saved the country many millions of dollars. Mr. Hazen promised the House that after the government had conferred with the British Admiralty, the whole naval question from first to last, they would present proposals for naval defence that would appeal to all Canadians as a policy best for Canada and best in the interests of the Empire.

Mr. Hazen was in great fighting trim and during his speech delighted the House with a ray review of Mr. Pugsley's political record. His first speech not only added to his own prestige, but greatly strengthened the position of the ministry. The debate on Wednesday was not of particular interest except towards the close when Mr. Monk rose to speak. He twitted Sir Wilfrid with exhibiting too much bad humor and peevishness and suggested that he was developing "that very natural sentiment of vanity which when a man passes a certain age, leads him to believe that he alone is right." He reminded Sir Wilfrid of the judgment of Sept. 21st. The decision of the Canadian people, he said, was due not only to sentiment, but a careful and judicious appreciation of the conditions of the part which led them on that day to affirm their determination to remain Canadian, to remain in the Empire, and to continue their development as they had done since Confederation, independent of all foreign influence. Mr. Monk made a strong point against Sir Wilfrid when he reminded him of his absolute refusal in 1907 to co-operate in Imperial defence. Turning the result of the recent election he said: "The chief point upon which my right hon. friend lost the confidence of his own people was when we called upon him not to inaugurate his naval policy without giving the people a chance to be consulted and decided upon it." The shot told. The result of the session so far, clearly indicates the strength of the government's position. Mr. Borden is not to be stampeded. The opposition are at sizes and several are finding it difficult to find an exit. For want of anything better they are attempting to pick holes in the personnel of the cabinet, a sure sign that they are yet suffering from the pangs of defeat.

R. E. W.

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quickly stops coughs, cures colds, whooping cough, and all lung troubles.

BOARD OF TRADE ARE BOOSTING CHATHAM

Articles are Being Circulated in Various Publications and Other Means Adopted to Advertise Town.

Chatham, N. B., Nov. 24.—The committee that was appointed some time ago by the Board of Trade to go thoroughly into the question of a market-place for Chatham, has given a good deal of attention to this subject and has gathered a mass of information, which they are about ready to incorporate in a report and submit to the board.

Matters in connection with the new railway line should now be taken up in an earnest manner by the board in an endeavor to see if, when the new line is opened, a better service cannot be put in operation. A first-class passenger car is very badly needed on the branch train, and, failing a train to Doaktown, Chatham should aim at a suburban service to Nelson and Loggieville. Times are also somewhat improved for again approaching Newcastle in the effort for joint action regarding the Doaktown train.

During the past month the permanent secretary has arranged to have full information concerning Chatham; its possibilities and present, understood position, as well as information about its hotels, inserted in the "Red Book of Canada, Great Britain, U. S. A., Australia, and New Zealand," a publication which circulates from Great Britain to the Antipodes. There is a branch office of the publishing house in Vancouver.

The Monetary Times is getting out a special statistical review and Outlook issue in January and the secretary has written an article for that publication. The Busy East of November contains another article of interest to Chatham, a short sketch of hunting in this vicinity.

The Busy East will also, it is hoped, insert an article, now in preparation, concerning the work of the new railway line and its value to Chatham.

Steve Hurley, the enterprising manager of the Royal, received a most pleasant surprise Tuesday night, the gift from the staff of the Royal. The presentation was made by Miss Helen Jardine, and the gift was a bath robe. An address was read by Miss Kathleen Jardine and after Mr. Hurley had made an impromptu but appreciative response all sat down to a delightful supper. Mr. Hurley's many friends will be glad to hear that indications point to his remaining permanently in charge of the Royal.

H. W. Steen, of Fredericton and Geo. P. Ham, of St. John, are in town. Wednesday night the thermometer dropped to 10 below zero.

A very successful social evening was held in the basement of St. Luke's church last evening, under the auspices of the Men's Bible class.

W. B. Snowball presided and an enjoyable programme was carried out.

A successful recital was given Wednesday afternoon in St. Michael's Academy by the members of the Cecilian Musical Circle. Each number on the programme was thoroughly enjoyed.

John A. Fox, the town treasurer, is working between wheels at a large wall map of the township of Chatham.

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hums. The map when completed will show all streets and crossings, the principal public buildings, the new and old lines of railway and it will cover the whole town area, which is a matter of 4 1/2 square miles. The town limits run 1 1/2 miles back from the river and extend from the Brean road to the Fenton farm house, a distance of three miles.

Crowds in Carleton.

Thousands of people took a trip across the harbor to the West Side yesterday afternoon to see the first steamships of the season. The crowds did not however, get down the wharf as far as the ships, as the wharves were fenced off and guards prevented visitors from entering the warehouses.

Watches

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The Artistic Merchandise

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St. John, N. B.

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