

The St. John Standard.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

City Delivery \$4.00 per year
By Mail in Canada \$4.00 per year
Semi-Weekly Issue \$1.50 per year
Semi-Weekly to U. S. \$2.50 per year
(Agriculture)

ADVERTISING RATES:

Contract Display 4c. per line
Classified 2c. per word
Inside Readers 1c. per line
Outside Readers 1c. per line
(Agriculture)

ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1920.

TO OUR READERS

Some months ago when The Standard was purchased by the present proprietor, a certain amount of interest was expressed with respect to the future policy of this paper. Developments since that time have perhaps given our subscribers an insight into the attitude of The Standard on questions of public moment. Certainly it has been the desire of this paper to express itself definitely and fearlessly on such matters of general importance as have arisen, and our position in this regard has been widely commended. It will be the aim of The Standard to continue this policy for the future, to publish its own views irrespective of who may be affected, to pursue its policy, editorially and in its news columns, without hindrance from any political party, religious body, national groups of faddist reformers.

Briefly, this paper stands for unimpaired British connection, and opposes attempts being made by some to bring about dismemberment of the Empire through the flimsy excuse of Irish liberty. We deplore the evident effort of certain well known groups to attain political or public advantage through the introduction of denominational argument. We have faith in St. John, and will use every reasonable means to secure from a neglectful federal government the attention which this city, as a national port, deserves. While believing in Prohibition as a means of attaining temperance among our people, we cannot regard with favor either the law now on the statute books of this Province, or the manner of its enforcement by the present government. We can see no advantage in prohibiting the necessary distribution of liquor in a legal way, while at the same time permitting the unrestricted sale of bootleggers' poison.

Politically our position is simple. This paper has always been, and under the present control always will be, a consistent supporter of the National Policy of the old Conservative party. This position is due to a conscientious belief in a tariff for such protection as will encourage the growth of Canadian industry, and on the other hand, a tariff for such revenue as will fairly distribute upon all our people their share in the cost of administering the affairs of the nation. But we are tied up with no group or clique. So far as political connection is concerned, The Standard is just as free to criticize or condemn the administrative methods of the present federal government, as it is to comment upon the ridiculous antics of the irresponsible Opposition. And this paper fully intends to exercise such freedom of thought whenever occasion demands.

In the provincial field, there is only one opinion among intelligent electors, and The Standard shares that view. A government presided over by a Premier who permits dictation from an avowed supporter of the Irish Self-Determination League is not the government for this province. Nor is the record of the present administration such as can command any long continued confidence. This paper will continue to fight the present provincial government until the people of New Brunswick come to their senses, and sweep from office the crowd who are rushing us into bankruptcy, and worse. But in the provincial, as well as in the federal field, we are tied up with no group or clique. The Standard, whatever may have been its honest obligations in former years, is today absolutely free from all party control, and when so disposed will feel at perfect liberty to express such views as it may deem to be in the best interests of our people as a whole.

Passing to the more intimate matters, and merely for the sake of quieting the nerves of some who have been excited by street gossip, may we say that according to common talk:

We have been financed by the liquor interests of Montreal. We have not.

We have been bribed by the Orange Order to publish anti-Catholic comment. We have not.

We have received large sums from the Canadian manufacturers to uphold a high tariff. We have not.

We have shared in a generous federal campaign fund to publish Government propaganda. We have not.

We have had serious differences with the leader of the provincial opposition and with the leader of the federal party in New Brunswick. We have not.

We are going out of business almost immediately because of lack of support from Ottawa. (Dec. 21, 1920, is it understood, the date fixed for this). We are not.

In further explanation of the above, it may be said that as well now as at any other time, that The Standard these rates.

has been purchased and has been published under the sole ownership and control of the present proprietor, without one dollar of assistance from any other parties, despite the failure of Ottawa to favor us with even a share of the legitimate business usually distributed among printing offices, and in the face of those sustained through the cancellation of advertising contracts because of our attitude toward Irish Self-Determination. It is no confession of weakness to say that financing an industry of this nature, in which ninety-odd persons are employed, in these days of high paper costs a problem of considerable magnitude. This is especially true when it is remembered that the great bulk of the business done is on a credit basis, while wages, paper bills, and practically everything else, must be paid in cash. Yet despite many hindrances we have—judging from results—succeeded in producing a reasonably good newspaper, and can confidently assure our friends that what we have given them in the past, has been nothing to what they may expect in the months to come.

RAILWAY WAGES AND RATES.

An advertisement in the daily press invites men to become railway firemen and brakemen at salaries ranging from \$200 to \$300 a month. This advertisement suggests two thoughts. First, if positions that offer salaries such as those named can be filled by men whose chief, if not only, qualification is the possession of plenty of muscle, what is the sense of men spending years acquiring a liberal education, to fit them to fill responsible positions that only command smaller salaries. And second, if such salaries are paid to railway men who are performing what is not in any sense skilled labor, it is little wonder that the cost of railway operation is so heavy, and that freight and passenger rates are kept so high in order to meet it.

It would seem that any muscular individual with only a common school education can command a salary of \$2,400 to \$3,600 a year as a fireman or brakeman; but the educated man, the man who has spent years at school and college, acquiring the knowledge necessary to enable him to become a professional man, or a school teacher, or to enter any other calling in which brains and ability are the first necessities to attain any degree of success, if he finds himself drawing a salary of \$2,000 a year, he should think himself lucky, and that even only after some years of service. The Chief Medical Officer under the Department of Health, the Provincial Engineer, the Chief Superintendent of Education, men who have spent years and years in qualifying for their positions, are each paid less in salaries than is offered to these railway employees. It is a funny commentary on affairs.

Then the second thought. There can be no doubt whatever that the high freight rates are a serious burden upon trade, and are to a great extent responsible for the present high cost of commodities. Railway officials admit that the increased cost of operation in the last two or three years is mainly the result of the enormous advances in wages that have taken place. There are other factors of course; but wages is the chief one. Many Canadians are finding it somewhat difficult to understand why, because under the McAdoo award wage rates were increased in the United States, Canada was bound to adopt the scale settled by this award. Conditions in the United States are very different from those in this country, and what may be perfectly justified there, is not so here.

Consequent on its tremendous export trade during the war the United States is full of money, with the result that there is more to spend; and if their people choose to increase their railway employees' wages, they are in a position to do it. Moreover the volume of trade in that country is enormous as compared with that of Canada, and higher wages can be afforded. Here in this country we are in debt all round, and the task of making ends meet is very difficult, in fact it is only being accomplished by heavy taxation. There is not trade enough here to pay the cost of railway operation, and in the case of the C. N. R. the Government must make up the deficiency, which can only be done by increasing the taxes. The C. P. R. has other sources of income out of which it can meet its deficiencies, if it sees any.

The five per cent. reduction in freight rates which will come into effect with the New Year is too trifling to be taken into consideration; but as long as the wage schedule for Canadian railways is fixed by the powers of a foreign country, it would seem to be idle for Canadians to expect much relief in the matter of these rates.

Editorial: What's the Matter with the Globe?

The estimated Globe seems to be singularly uninterested in most of its references to incidents that have taken place in the New Brunswick Legislature, and if ever a chance occurs to make a mistake, our contemporary never fails to seize it. Apparently too, the "several lawyers" who have been acting as The Globe's messengers, are equally as ill-informed as that journal itself. The Act vesting the nomination of barristers for appointment as King's Counsel, in the two Chief Justices, was not "made during the tenure of the Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer of the office of Attorney General" as The Globe now asserts. That Act was "made" in the year 1814, at which time Mr. Grimmer was a member of the Supreme Court Bench. The bill was brought into the House by Hon. G. J. Clarke himself, when he was Attorney General, and if The Globe and its "several lawyer" friends are sufficiently interested in the matter to look it up, they will find that the date of its introduction was Monday, March 30, 1814.

The Globe appears to carry its animosity against the opposition party and its late candidates to somewhat extreme lengths. In its report of yesterday's hearing by the Public Utilities Commission of the matter of the new contract between the St. John Board of Health and the Telephone Co. the fact that Dr. J. Roy Campbell, K. C. acted for the Board of Health, was suppressed, but in the other matters that came up before the Commission, the names of the lawyers concerned were carefully given.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Voluntary Reduction.

Six thousand workers in a large factory voted to reduce their wages 25 per cent. This was done after the corporation executive had argued their inability to pay the high wages at lower selling price of the articles manufactured. The vote was resorted to under a policy of industrial democracy adopted over a year ago. If it is right to raise wages that are too low, it is equally just to lower wages when too high.—Winnipeg Tribune.

A Vicious Circle.

A Chicago judge has decided that employees of packing houses in that city are not entitled to increases of wages. The decision was based on the fact that there is no warrant for granting such a demand in face of the general decline in prices of all commodities throughout the United States. "The learned judge probably did not realize that in vanderbilt such a decision he was tearing a segment out of the vicious circle which for several years has been troubling the world."—Victoria Colonist.

Protection of Home Industry.

It is interesting to note that Canada is the only country today which is distinguished by an aggressive movement for free trade. The United States a high tariff party has been returned to power and the farm are the strongest factor for increased protection. In Australia protection is the policy of practically all parties. Japan and the Orient has adopted protection. The old world through the operation of exchange has a natural and valuable protection in addition to high protective tariffs in nearly every European country. Great Britain is the only country which has a pretence to free trade and much of it is pretence. For instance, the embargo on Canadian cattle is nothing but the most vicious form of protection under another name.—London Free Press.

A BIT OF VERSE

BALADE FOR CHRISTMAS.

Carolyn Wells.

Love or whatever makes it go,
Keeps the old world revolving yet;
And now the winter's frost and snow
Rounds out the seasonal quartette.
And now, like some mad, gay
soubrette
The world's pets on its Christmas gear,
And starts to prance and pirouette,
For Christmas comes but once a year!

For weeks I've seen your faces glow,
And in the speech of friends I've met
The Christmas spirit seems to flow
Or bubble in the festive mood.
I feel myself drawn in the net
Of all this crazy world holds dear,
Repeating like a parrot
That Christmas comes but once a year.

The world is Christmas mad, and so
I'm glad for you and me,
Buy gifts, unthinking what you owe,
Buy gifts, though you must run in debt.
The world's heart is on Christmas gear,
It knows no theme but Christmas cheer;
It seems to be life's one best bet
That Christmas comes but once a year!

L'Envoi:

Prince, Christmas joy we'll give and get;
But we slip into the mire,
Do we note, with unmitigated regret,
That Christmas comes but once a year!

THE LAUGH LINE

Some men are truthful at all times—except when their wives ask for money.

Knockers.

"We have an old family knocker on our front door."
"We have one inside."—Baltimore American.

"That judge has a manner peculiarly appropriate to his calling."
"How do you mean?"
"He's so unassuming."—Boston Transcript.

Benny's Note Book

BY LES PAGE

Mr. Perkins came to see my sister Gladys yesterday, some time ago that he was here, for supper, being stuffed and smelling the different smells, and Gladys came in, saying, Well, Nora is everything all right?

Why shouldn't it? said Nora, and Gladys said to me, Now Benny try to behave yourself at supper so Mr. Perkins will think you're a civilized human being and for goodness sake remember to say filling and not stuffing, and sauce, not gravy, or cannibals say stuffing and gravy.

Will you give me a nickel if I do? I said.

O I suppose so, said Gladys, and I said, Will you give me a dime?

I will not, said Gladys, and I said, Well I'll say filling for a nickel but I won't say sauce, I charge a nickel a word.

I never saw such a profiteer in my life, said Gladys.

Meaning me, and pretty soon supper was ready and everybody went in and sat down including Mr. Perkins, and we started to put things on the different plates and I said, When you get to my turn give me plenty of filling an sauce.

Do you mean stuffing and gravy? said Mr. Perkins, things must be in a pretty bad way when boys start to say filling and sauce for stuffing and gravy, I consider stuffing and gravy 2 of the noblest words in the language.

So do I, Mr. Perkins, said Gladys, I love old-fashioned homely words, and saying, Well then G. Gladys, go on, what the heck, and Gladys quick said, That will do from you, don't interrupt, speak when you're spoken to.

Me thinking, Well holy smoke I'll be darned what you know about that.

Proving the more you try to please people the more you don't.

Knew What He Needed.

Little Clinger says the reason she didn't last long as clerk at the book store was because when an old gentleman asked for the Chicken Packer's Guide she told him he didn't need a guide—what he wanted was a guardian.—Dallas News.

Impelled By Duty.

"I must say those biscuits are fine," exclaimed the young husband.
"How could you say those were fine biscuits?" inquired his mother when they were alone.
"I didn't say they were fine, mother. I merely said I must say so."—Boston Transcript.

A First Offender.

A hoodlumper was convicted and was up for sentence before a well-known tender-hearted judge.
"Have you ever been sentenced before?" asked the judge kindly.
"Never," cried the prisoner, bursting into tears.
"Well, well; don't cry," said his honor. "You're going to be now."

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Gifts That Last

Love that prompts the giving of a gift is worthy of a gift that lasts.

As the Love endures, so the gift endures and calls to mind this sentiment: You have it still, the little Birthdays, the Locket and Chain—the watch that rewarded your graduation—the Diamond that pledged your love to him—the Silver and Gold of your wedding gifts. Your life is entwined with these memories.

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