

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1921.

INFORMATION WANTED

The fact that no notice of particulars of the trial of the various persons given as to the contents of the bill brought down in the Legislature by the Government does not make it any more easy for the reading public to follow the proceedings in the House. Until the advent of the Hagen Report, the Government was to employ a summary of Government bills to the newspapers for publication. This was a laudable and instructive device which given that copies of all bills should be sent to the daily papers in the province. This practice appears now to be stopped also; and the result is that the press, and consequently the public at large, are in entire ignorance of the provisions of the various measures to which they will, before long, have to submit.

This condition of affairs does not arise from the reason that there is no official of the House who can see to the dispatch of bills and reports. There are three or four messengers with nothing whatever to do for the greater part of their time, any one of whom could easily spare five minutes a day to the work of mailing to the St. John and Moncton daily newspapers, copies of all bills and reports as soon as they are brought into the House. It would be to be done; why was the practice discontinued?

Yesterday for instance a bill to consolidate and amend the Game Acts was under discussion. There are few subjects in regard to which the general public are more interested than the Game Laws, and yet no one has any idea what new provisions the Government proposes to enact relating to it. It is of little use to make the public aware of these provisions after they have been discussed in Committee and passed. The public wants to know ahead of time so that they may communicate with their representatives. For instance, we gather from the official report of Mr. Pinder's remarks that there is some requirement in connection with the length of moose horns, which must not be less than three inches. Probably had this particular provision been made generally known, no doubt quite a number of suggestions might have been forthcoming as to how the length of an unfortunate animal's horns could be ascertained before the fatal shot could be fired. Obviously it is going to be a trifle difficult for a guide to walk up to a moose with a tape measure and take the dimensions, before calling to the sportsman either to go ahead and shoot, or refrain. The Minister of Lands and Mines said he wanted an expression of opinion on the question of shortening the game season. How is this to be got if the people do not know that the matter is to come up for consideration?

THE EDMUNSTON MURDER

What steps does the Attorney-General propose to take to seek out and bring to justice the individual who murdered Minnie Stevens? If he takes no further steps in the matter, he leaves the inference open that he personally considers St. Pierre to be the guilty party, and that it is therefore useless to look any further for the murderer. But a jury of intelligent, God-fearing, law-abiding citizens decided after hearing all the evidence and confining on it for upwards of one hour, that St. Pierre could not have been the man; and it is unthinkable that these men would so false to their oaths as to deliberately acquit the prisoner had they not been absolutely certain that he could not have committed the crime. Of course the remark that one of the jury was overheard to make, shortly after the trial was over, that "If the girl had been French he'd have been convicted in no time," was just simply meant jokingly and must not be treated seriously for a moment. A jury of respectable French-Canadian men would never allow itself to be influenced in its findings by the nationality of the victim or of the accused. They were sworn to bring in a verdict according to the evidence, and as most of the evidence was to the effect that the murderer was a French-Canadian, it is not surprising that they found the murderer to be a French-Canadian.

A bill to abolish tipping, gratuities and perquisites may be introduced in Parliament. The idea of such a measure will receive applause from a lot of people who will disregard the fact that the measure would add to the cost of what has been well paid for. They are few, however, who will venture to live up to their theories. The average man is a cow and when confronted by a curtain.

was not the guilty man, because a jury of his compatriots declared that he was not, although according to one of them, he would have been the man had the murdered girl been French instead of English. Popular indignation is finding general expression at the idea of the guilty man being still at large and nothing being done to bring him to justice. It is the Attorney-General's move and he can't make it too quickly to please the public. As long as the murderer of Minnie Stevens is at large, no young woman is safe.

INCOME TAX REPORTING AND COLLECTING

Premier McEwen is authority for the statement that the Minister of Finance may alter the present system of income tax returns and payments. Under the new method, every citizen is required to make out his income tax return, to estimate himself the amount of the tax due, and remit either for the whole amount or an instalment of one-fourth. Interest at 6 per cent is charged on the remaining three-fourths until paid.

The Mail and Empire feels that it may be much more efficient to make the income tax payer his own assessor and collector, but the fixing of extremely heavy penalties for mistakes and the much more complicated system of super-taxes and exemptions now in force, make the system needlessly formidable. The queries respecting exemptions, and calculations of tax payable, as submitted to the newspapers, show a general public confusion regarding the exact workings of the new regulations. It would be better to continue the present system, trying to rectify honest mistakes that would be caused by making assessments on the old system. The objection to assessing by the income tax officers is that it is very slow. To get notices out to 100,000 taxpayers, with all the details necessary, is a huge task. But no other Government has, as far as we know, undertaken to put the onus of reporting, estimating, and remitting payment on the citizen. We hope the Government will find an equally efficient and less unpopular way of getting in that part of the revenue.

The experience of taxpayers who have paid their tax on 1919 incomes in the last few months, and who have to pay the 1920 tax by April 30 is not pleasant. Whatever the new regulations may be, they ought to avoid this swift succession of drains on the citizen's financial resources. Nearly all Canadians understand why the income tax is necessary, and are entirely willing to pay it, but few of them are accountants, lawyers, and financial experts, and the burden of collection should fall on specially qualified persons.

The opinion was expressed in the Legislature yesterday that the guides might not like any shortening of the open hunting season. It is about time that the action that the interests of the guides is all that has to be considered in dealing with the Game Laws, was discarded. The guides don't own the Crown Lands, although they may think they do, and the anti-sportsmen attitude which the Crown Land Department more often than not adopts to ward these gentlemen, only encourages them in their belief. The only interests to be served are those of the Province; and if shortening the open season will be to the Province's advantage, there should be no hesitation in making the proposed change.

A Toronto doctor was sued for having left a sponge in a wound after an operation. The court decided that the doctor had shown "more than the average surgical skill," and had "performed the operation in an expeditious and skillful manner." From which it might be inferred that it is not uncommon for a Toronto surgeon to leave his whole tool kit distributed among the internal works of a patient.

The Hon. Mary Ellen Smith has become a member of the British Columbia Government, but without a portfolio and without a salary. These may come in time. When women took seats in the Legislature the door to the premier's office was opened to them. The rest only requires patience and persistence, and, perhaps, persistence more than patience. Mrs. Smith is credited with plenty of persistence.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Work But Not Worry.
 In view of immigration inspectors' testimony that every willing to work on a farm can get work, it must be inferred that all unemployed persons here are unwilling to do farm work—Standard Herald.

An Attractive Woman.
 Down in Oklahoma an automobile is more effective than Capital's dust in developing the tender passion. A woman shooting a man in that state has received fifty proposals of marriage.—Vancouver News-Advertiser.

Help Somebody or Something.
 If you don't go out of your way to do something for someone else or for your community you don't amount to much even though you pay your debts and lead a moral life. If all citizens were like that the town would soon drop and die.—Get interested in someone or something outside your self.—Windsor Press.

Be Efficient.
 It is noted in the Toronto Globe that the Toronto Builders' Exchange reports that an increase in the efficiency of labor has resulted in a considerable reduction in building costs and that as a result, contractors are able to bid in lower bids on construction work. The Puller Corporation of New York, earlier in the year, noted that contractors, like manufacturers, were enjoying in a decrease in labor unit costs, due to a marked increase in the efficiency of labor, even though the wage scale was unchanged. The situation thus indicated is interesting. It is the work done, not the hours spent on it, that counts in the cost. High efficiency can maintain high wages.—Montreal Gazette.

Three Millions of a Kind.
 "Newspaper publishers will be interested," writes our favorite author of light and casual fiction, who is none other than Arthur Brisbane, "to note that the circulation of the Hearst Sunday newspapers has passed three millions." As to that, we can't say. We don't pretend to know where the three millions of that sort of folk in this country. Luckily, the country has a population somewhat in excess of one hundred millions.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A BIT OF VERSE

TREES.
 In the Garden of Eden, planted by God,
 There were goodly trees in the spring-time
 Trees of beauty and height and grace
 To stand in splendor before His face
 Apple and hickory, ash and pear,
 Oak and beech and the tall pine;
 The trembling aspen, the noble pine,
 The weeping elm by the river side;
 Trees for the birds to build in and sing,
 And the mice tree for a joy in spring.
 Trees to turn at the frosty call
 And carpet the ground for their Lord's
 footfall;
 Trees for fruitage and fire and shade,
 Trees for the cunning builder's trade;
 Wood for the bow, the spear and the
 shield;
 The keel and the mast and the daring
 sail;
 He made them of every grain and gift
 For use of man in the Garden of
 Earth.
 Then, lest the soul should not lift her
 eye,
 From the gift to the Giver of Paradise,
 On the crown of a hill, for all to see,
 God planted a scarlet maple tree.
 —Hilse Carman.

THE LAUGH LINE

Sarcasm should be kept as armour,
 not used as a sword.
 One Exception.
 Prot.—Nobody ever heard of a
 sarcasm.
 Bright Soph.—I have, prot.
 Prot.—What is it?
 Bright Soph.—Thirty days.—Punch
 Bowl.

A Perfect Gentleman.
 She (sighing).—Oh, I met such a
 lovely, polite man today. He—Where
 was that? She—in the street. I
 must have been carrying my umbrella
 carelessly, for he bumped his eye
 into it. I said, "Excuse me," and he
 said, "Don't mention it—I have another
 eye left."

Like the Dodo.
 "Yes," remarked the high-brow caller
 "I rather pride myself on the dis-
 covery of another hypothesis."
 "Indeed?" returned Mrs. Newrich,
 a little doubtfully. "I had an idea they
 were quite extinct."—Boston Trans-
 script.

Perhaps Not.
 One clothing merchant uses the
 apple as a trademark. He claims
 there wouldn't have been any cloth-
 ing business if it hadn't been for an
 apple.—Winnipeg.

Swift Retribution.
 A Jew and his son were attempt-
 ing to board a tramcar at a London
 terminus. As the crowd surged up
 they were about to reach the step
 when a portly city man raised his
 elbow, and forcing the Jew back, took
 his place last as the car started with
 the result that the pair were left be-
 hind. The Jew looked up to his fa-
 ther.
 "Father, wasn't that a wicked man?"
 "So, math, son?"
 "Father, will God punish him?"
 "Math, son, God has punished him—
 I had his watch."

Benny's Note Book

By Lee Page
 "Ben and Skinny Martha each had a cent and there was a man with a push cart selling root down at the corner, Skinny saying, 'Let's ask him how much those big red apples are, if they're 3 cents apiece we can put together and buy one and each have half.'"
 "Which I asked him and he said, 15 cents a pound."
 "I don't mean hole-sale, I mean how much apiece? I said, and the man said, 3 cents."
 "Being a tuff looking man with a big mustash, and me and Skinny started to whisper, me whispering, I tell you let's wait, let's see if he's pertend to trip and bump into the push cart and maybe one of the apples will fall off and get a little squash on one side or something so he'll sell it to us for 3 cents reduced."
 "Which we watched cents to see who had to do the tripping and Skinny lost, and he tried to trip about 3 times and missed, and an apple started to fall off and the man grabbed it just in time, saying, 'Hay, hay, was going on here?' And he grabbed a hold of Skinny, and I said, He didn't do it on purpose, he's kind of nervous and it makes him bump into things, ain't you Skinny, don't it, Skinny?"
 "Sure, in nervous as the dooce, said Skinny."
 "Well then take yourself a walk and go somewhere else and be nervous, said the man. And he gave Skinny a push making him trip for real, and he landed in a sitting position and got up again and me and him walked away, Skinny keeping on per-tend to trip every once in a while to prove he was nervous in case the man was watching, and when we got around the cor-ner we stopped and tried to think of some other way to get one for 3 cents."
 "Which we couldn't."

I SEE IN THE STANDARD

John Burroughs, the greatest naturalist of the age, will be buried today in the Catskills, the mountains he loved as a boy and loved throughout his entire life. A great boulder upon which he used to sit as he pondered over the glories of nature will be his monument.

John Burroughs was born April 3, 1837, (and therefore would have been 84 years old next Sunday) in Roxbury, Delaware county, New York, coming from a long line of farmers. His father is described as "a sturdy man with red hair and a ruddy freckled face," a hard worker and a little harsh at times. But the son thinks kindly of his father. Perhaps he has good reason to be having received but one flogging—for letting the cows in the clover meadow after he had been warned to keep them away.

His mother was an unlettered woman with a "brooding cast of mind and yearning heart." It was she who always pleaded with father to buy John the books he craved. And her pleas usually prevailed. The early childhood of John Burroughs is pictured most delightfully in numerous occurrences of these days are recalled by the naturalist: "his first day at school; the first circus he attended and his first sweetheart."

Starts to Teach School.
 At 17, with his black oilcloth satchel in hand, and with empty pockets and a yearning heart, he went to Tarrytown, an obscure village in Ulster County, New York, to teach school. Relieved from never-ceasing farm duties, he was able to devote himself more to reading. And soon we see him break into print in a little country newspaper—The Bloomsbury Mirror—with an article on Spiritualism. At 21 his first literary essay, "Expression," appeared. How overjoyed he was! So Emersonian was this essay that a number of literary critics credited it to the Concord Sage—a fact which made our young author decide there

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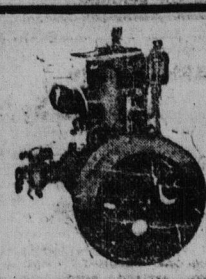
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Col. Harvey

Washington, April 1—The movement of the George Harvey, of New York, to Great Britain today at the White House.

PLANT SHUTS

Lawrence, Mass., April 1—The plant of the Champion Inter Co., employing 600 men, down next Monday for the week. It was announced today by the company that the plant would be closed for the week.

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