

The St. John Standard

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CLOSURE—THE ONLY SOLUTION.

Nothing could have been more admirable and moderate than the statement of Mr. Borden in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon on the re-introduction of the Naval Bill.

There is much to ponder over in the action of Mr. Borden in holding out an opportunity to the Opposition to cease obstructive tactics. It was the action of a statesman and a leader conscious of the dignity of Parliament.

There is only one solution to the question now. The Government must, and will, act promptly. A method must be introduced by which the debate will be terminated within a "reasonable period."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has again expressed his intention of opposing to the limit and by every means in his power, the passing of the Borden naval proposals.

Mr. Borden said yesterday, by his attitude, that he was quite willing that the rights of Canadians should be regarded in the matter of free speech.

It is a ridiculous position in which the Opposition now finds itself. It stands before the country as an obstinate, badly led party.

Where will the Laurier announcement of yesterday lead the Liberal party? It will lead to a closure.

INDUSTRIAL PEACE.

To give some idea of the progress towards industrial peace in the Dominion during the past year, it is of interest to note that the number of days lost in strikes was 923,000 less than in the previous twelve months.

The effort to arouse the people through appeal to a narrow and prejudging Chauvinism has signally failed, and the sooner the Liberal leaders realize this fact the sooner they are likely to recover from the humiliating position in which they have placed themselves.

Mr. Crothers has an excellent record. He had not been long in office when he effected the friendly settlement of a strike which had existed

among the coal miners of Alberta for eight months. This satisfactory conclusion led him to decide that the only way to keep in touch with Western labor conditions was to have a man stationed at the coast.

The wisdom of this course was demonstrated a few months ago among the miners at twenty metal mines in the Kootenay district. From five came applications for an annual Board of Conciliation, each naming a separate member.

Within the last fortnight an application was received from the British Columbia Telephone Co. for a Board of Conciliation to investigate a dispute with their electrical workers who had gone on strike.

Edmund Kean's appearance as Shylock made 1814 a notable year. In 1823 coal was first introduced in the "Cataract of the Ganges" and an impulse was given to the movement toward realism in stage settings.

The first playhouse of continental America, in which English dramas were produced, was opened at Philadelphia in 1749. The actors were arrested and bound over to "keep the peace."

Mr. Pugsley's organ, the Times, states editorially that Mr. Borden's proposals in the Naval Aid Bill "would send \$25,000,000 out of Canada to be followed by other millions from year to year."

That statement is an unvarnished falsehood, and the Times knows it. When introducing the Bill on December 5th last Mr. Borden said: "It is borne in mind that we are not undertaking or beginning a system of regular or periodical contributions."

No further comment is necessary, beyond adding that Mr. Borden confirmed his previous statement in the House yesterday "in the strongest form of expression that parliamentary usage will permit."

A Signal Failure. (Winnipeg Telegram.) The effort to arouse the people through appeal to a narrow and prejudging Chauvinism has signally failed.

The Queen's who was the Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria, has given her husband two sons and a daughter. Crown Prince Leopold is now in his third year, and being carefully reared for the royal position he will one day hold—unless M. Vanderelde and his fellow socialists succeed in their attempt to overthrow the throne.

Mr. Pugsley's organ will be a pretty popular policy.

DIARY OF EVENTS

THE PASSING DAY.

DRURY LANE THEATRE. Famous Old Playhouse Celebrates 250th Anniversary Today—Hosts of Eminent Actors, Actresses and Singers Have Had Their Day of Glory on Its Stage.

London's oldest theatre, which is also the most venerable playhouse in the English-speaking world, the Drury-Lane, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of its opening today. It was on the eighth day of April, in 1663, that the Drury-Lane first opened its doors, and it was on that date that the world's first play-bill, or theatre programme, was issued. It read: "By His Majesty his companies of comedians at the new theatre in Drury-Lane will be acted a comedy called 'The Amorous Lovers'."

Drury-Lane's only predecessor in London was the Theatre, near Bankside, of which Shakespeare was for a time part proprietor, and where some of the great chamberlains had an annual allowance from the monarch of ten yards of scarlet cloth, with lace.

In 1666 Nell Gwynn performed at Drury-Lane theatre, and added to its popularity. Eleven years after the opening of the playhouse a conflagration swept over that section of London and the theatre, with sixty other buildings was destroyed. It was immediately rebuilt by Sir C. Wren, and during the next half century was the scene of the triumphs of Cibber, Wilkes, Booth and other stars.

Garrick made his debut there in 1742, and in 1766 was a prime mover in the formation of the famous Drury-Lane Theatrical Fund. From the Drury-Lane stage Garrick bade farewell to his last audience in 1776, and Sheridan undertook the management.

In 1794 the Drury Lane was rebuilt on a much larger scale, and shortly afterward Charles Kemble made his first appearance as Malcolm in "Macbeth." In 1809 the theatre was again burned, but was rebuilt by Wyatt, and reopened with a prologue by Lord Byron.

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FIRST THINGS

TYPE-SETTING MACHINES.

The first patting type-setting machine, the linotype, was patented in its essential principles twenty-three years ago today, April 8, 1890. Since then other machines of this character, notably the monotype and the intertype, have been placed on the market, and have proven highly satisfactory.

The first attempt at a type-setting machine was patented in England in 1794. Church, a Connecticut inventor, invented the keyboard principle in 1822. A score of machines were patented on both sides of the Atlantic between 1840 and 1860, and the Alden, an English machine, was used to some extent on book work.

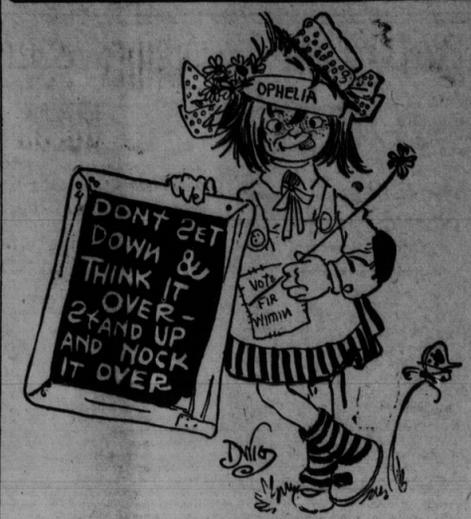
All of these appliances failed in one essential particular—they did not provide for the automatic justification of the lines. Otto Mergenthaler, of Baltimore, solved this difficulty, as did Lanston, the inventor of the monotype, but the Mergenthaler machine was first in the field, and is now used in newspaper offices all over the world, and by many job printers.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

Albert I. King of the Belgians, passes his 54th birthday today, and his birthday will be the occasion of a holiday throughout his little nation. The successor of the infamous Leopold is a good man of domestic tastes, and is more English than French in appearance and manners. Before his elevation to the throne, he spent much of his time travelling incognito in England.

OPHELIA'S SLATE



IN LIGHTER VEIN

Arguing It Out. "The horse is superior to the automobile at every point."

"Nonsense. You can't name a point." "Well, for one thing, you can eat horse meat. Thousands do."

"I've tried it. I'd just as soon have a piece of rubber tire with gasoline sauce."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

He Owned It. The street orator interrupted his harangue to address the portly man smoking a fat black cigar.

"My friend," he queried, "how much do you spend per day on smoking?" "Oh," replied the individual accosted, "about fifty cents to a dollar."

"Do you know that it is wrong to waste all that money?" "Oh, I don't know that it is."

"If you had saved it all these years past you might own that big business block over there."

The portly man turned languidly with a question: "Do you smoke?" "Certainly not," answered the fervent speaker, indignantly.

"Do you own that business block over there?" "No," rejoined the portly man, calmly, resuming his fat black cigar. "I do."

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