

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1914.

THE QUEBEC CASE

Grit newspapers, and particularly the esteemed Telegraph, are attempting without much success to make light of the charges preferred against members of the Quebec legislature by the Montreal Daily Mail on the ground that as no charge has been made against Premier Gouin himself the effect upon the government he leads will be light. It is true there has been no charge leveled at the head of Quebec's prime minister. His character has not been assailed. It is equally true that some of his closest friends are, however, in a doubtful position. For instance, his law partner, Hon. L. P. Berard, and his political right bower, Mr. Mousseau, have been charged and resigned, when the investigation was getting rather warm.

It may also be regarded as somewhat unfortunate for the whole Liberal party, both Federal and in the Province of Quebec, that Rodolphe Lemieux, head and front of Laurier Liberalism in Quebec, should have been the man to introduce one of his Gaspe heaters to Mr. Mousseau with the remark, "Mousseau wants anything done Carpenter is the man to do it." There is an additional fact that Mr. Lemieux, Sir Lomer Gouin and Mr. Berard are all members of one law firm, and it may be that the public mind in Quebec is somewhat disturbed because of this. If, as the old adage has it, a man is known by the company he keeps, then Messrs. Lemieux and Gouin were rather discreet in their association with either Mr. Berard or Mr. Mousseau.

Again, it may be remembered that Mr. Mousseau conducted Sir Wilfrid Laurier's election campaign in the County of Soulanges and now that his personal honesty has been questioned, some doubt also be thrown on the legitimacy of his electoral methods. There may be ground for the question, whether Sir Wilfrid's "Liberal gain" in Soulanges was achieved in a manner that will bear the fullest light of investigation.

Possibly Sir Lomer Gouin and Mr. Lemieux will emerge from the probe with the purity of their political vestments unspotted, and then again they may not. As matters stand now it is not easy to tell who may have come within range of the detectives which have played such an important part in the case. At any rate the Gouin government, or the party of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, cannot be said to have gained in favor as the result of the investigation to date, no matter what the Telegraph may say. Of course, we realize that the Standard is under a distinct disadvantage in discussing questions of graft and deals with the Telegraph. Our older contemporary has such a wealth of experience to draw upon.

CANADA AND NEW YORK.

A New York despatch to the Montreal Star of Tuesday contains the information that in America's greatest city there are 331,000 men out of work. The figures are quoted from statistics gathered by the Employment Bureau of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and are probably as authentic as such figures can be. The despatch says in part: "As a result of a canvass of manufacturers, contractors and merchants, the Bureau reported that conditions were abnormal and the worst since the winter of 1907-1908. 'Most of the employers felt, however, says the report, that business relief was in sight, and that a very few months would see the return of normal business conditions.' 'Of the total unemployed, 140,000 were unskilled laborers. The building trades came next, with 70,000. Then followed: Longshoremen, 18,000; cloak and suit makers, 18,000; waiters, 6,500; tailors and pressers, 6,000; clerks, bookkeepers and accountants, 5,000; mechanics, 4,500; boatmen, barge-men and sailors, 4,200; barbers, 3,800; drivers, 3,000; engineers and firemen, 3,000; and other trades in smaller proportion.

"The Bureau acknowledged that these figures are only approximate, but said that in every case the most conservative information was followed." When Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose in the House the other day and dealt with the number of unemployed in Canada, he placed the figure at 100,000 and it was speedily shown that he had multiplied it about four times in order to make a strong case. The population of New York, according to the census of 1910, is 4,764,883, while the population of the Dominion of Canada is about eight millions. Here we find one city in the United States, with a population not five-twentieths as great as that of Canada, and with more than twelve times our total of idle men.

Sir Wilfrid's estimate of the alleged hard times in Canada was intended to discredit the Government as being responsible for conditions leading to idleness. The Grit newspapers loudly proclaim that the Government is to blame for any commercial depression and lack of work, yet the very men who write such trash, to say nothing of the men who read and believe it, would be the first to scout the idea that the government at Washington was responsible for the number of unemployed in New York city. Yet one assumption is as logical as the other. Again, taking the arguments of Sir Wilfrid and other Grit spellbinders, it is not easy to see why there should be idleness in New York city, or why the cost of living should press there. They are getting the benefits of free food, that is food free of all duties, and as this is the Laurier panacea for hard times, why does it not work in the largest city in America as well as in Canada, where the need for it is just one-twelfth as great? The comparison also brings up the thought that if the Grit opportunist leader had to campaign among the 331,000 unemployed in New York he would have a splendid opportunity to play the tune of relief from the grasping agricultural monopoly, the same tune by the way that he does not dare to play for the farmers in Canada. And it was the presence of these same farmers, in his audiences, that caused the sudden relegation of the Free Food Sonata to the lowest shelf in the Grit music rack.

Mr. Pugsley's illness. Remarks the "truthful" Times: "When Hon. William Pugsley was well he was only worthy of abuse from the Tory press. Now that he is ill and unable to be in Parliament the Ottawa correspondent of the Standard writes: 'The loss to the Liberals is serious. In fact his absence largely accounts for the apathy which has been shown by the opposition this session. His was the genius that framed most of the attack during the last two sessions.' While the Standard does not agree with Mr. Pugsley's peculiar conception of political ethics, surely we can be genuinely sorry that he is ill, and consequently may not be able to take his place in Parliament this session. The sessional programme contains many things the discussion of which Mr. Pugsley should hear. For instance, there is the promised report on the National Transcontinental Railway scandal, in which we know he would be interested, as is every other public man. Can it be that the small bore Times does not understand that it is possible to differ from a public man as to his political beliefs or conduct and still revere him as a man who has been stricken with illness? The Standard is sincerely sorry that Mr. Pugsley is not in robust health, but that does not change our opinion that his political record has not been the best or most consistent.

So it is with our attitude toward our peevish neighbor. We have had occasion to accuse the Times of deliberately lying and that newspaper has not had the manliness to resent the charge, or the decency to admit it, when proven. In spite of this fact, however, the Standard harbors no personal grudges, and if sickness were to invade the Times office, we would be glad to extend sympathy just as quickly as if that newspaper were renowned for its honesty, instead of being notorious for qualities exactly opposite. Judging from the Times' complaint, that newspaper cannot recognize the spirit of broad sympathy when it sees it, but in this office, we possess it in superabundance, and consequently add our hope to that of his many friends that Mr. Pugsley will speedily be restored to his usual good health.

MR. PUGSLEY'S ILLNESS

The name of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been suggested as a successor to the position of Canadian High Commissioner in Great Britain, filled so well by the late Lord Strathcona. While Sir Wilfrid would make an admirable man we venture to hope he will not be chosen. It would be an awful strain upon the editors of the Telegraph and Times to think up new ways of telling the people that his appointment was but another dastardly trick of the Tories to get rid of him and thus strike a blow at St. John.

Minor Luxuries. "Where's my hearty breakfast of ham and eggs?" demanded the prisoner. "I know it's the conventional thing," said the warden, "but you know how things are now. You can have canvasback or terrapin instead."

The Advantages of Wealth. "It must be nice to be rich," "It must be nice to be rich," "And be able to save money by buying everything you need at these after-holiday, everything-reduced one-third sales."

A German View. (The Hamburg Nachrichten of June 5, 1913.) "Whatever may be decided upon later, the decision of the Canadian Senate means at any rate a heavy moral and material loss for the defense of the empire, for Mr. Borden's promise has been foolishly counted on. His offer made an enormous impression in the whole world. This impression will now not only be destroyed, but people will everywhere obtain the conviction that England cannot depend upon such help from her colonies."

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

It was on this date that the great earthquake of 1663 occurred, the worst seismic disturbance in Canada, an history, judging from the descriptions of contemporary writers. Leleumont, a Jesuit records: "It began with a great roaring sound heard through the whole extent of Canada, Bells sounded of themselves; beams and joists cracked; the loss of the pallades at Quebec danced about, and many habitations were nauseated by the rocking of the earth. Trees struck one against another, and leaped on each other with such noise and confusion that the Indians said the whole forest was drunk. A number of men in a boat near Tadoussac stared aghast at a large noise and confusion behind him before their eyes. And Mother Marie de l'Incarnation tells of a man who ran all night to escape a crack in the earth which opened rampant in the forest." Indeed, there is even more tangible geological evidence that a severe convulsion took place when the Puritans looked on the shores of New England and the burghers of New Netherlands. The shocks continued but with less severity, for several months. Small rivulets were dried up; some mountains appeared to be much broken and moved, and midway between Quebec and Tadoussac, a point of land that extended some distance into the St. Lawrence.

February 5 is the anniversary of the royal order of 1799 by which the name of Isle St. Jean, as it had been known since its discovery by Cartier in 1534, was changed to Prince Edward Island, out of compliment to the Duke of Kent, then commander of the forces in British North America.

THE PASSING DAY

JAP CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE. This is the holiest day of the year for the 75,000 Roman Catholic adherents in Japan, for it is the festival of the martyrs of Nippon, and commemorates the bravery and zeal of the first Christian converts in that country. Although the religion of Jesus was introduced into Japan by St. Francis Xavier in the sixteenth century, it has made little progress, and today, out of a population of 70 millions, there are only about 115,000 Christians, of whom 75,000 are Catholics and 40,000 Protestants. Vast sums have been and still are expended on missionary work in the empire of the Mikado, but the missionaries have made little progress. The vast majority of the people cling to the ancient Shinto faith and the more modern Buddhism. The great introduction of western culture, agnosticism and disbelief in all religions have become prevalent among the intellectual and educated classes. The works of all the great anti-religious philosophers of the Occident, from Voltaire and Paine to Spencer, Huxley, Haeckel and Ingelow, are read and exercised a vastly greater influence than the Christian Bible.

St. Francis Xavier, a Spanish gentleman who was a convert of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, was the first to preach Christianity in Japan. A number of Jesuit missionaries followed in his footsteps. For a time they were permitted to spread the propaganda of their faith in peace, and made many converts, but in 1590, some forty years after the death of St. Francis Xavier, a fierce persecution of the Christians broke out. Japanese historians declare that this was due to the progress and zeal of the missionaries, who treated the ancient religion of Japan with supreme contempt. He this as it may, thousands of converts were slain or expelled from the country. All Christian rites were forbidden. When the anti-Christian edict was promulgated, many of the Japanese converts formed a confraternity of martyrs, the object of which was to die for Christ. Many little children joined it, and all were ruthlessly slain.

Many of the Christians were buried alive, and left to die of starvation. The heads of others were sawn off with blunt instruments. Others were awfully into a sulphurous chasm. Noble men as well as the poor and humble shared in the horrible fate meted out to those who refused to recede. The Roman Catholic Church, in memory of these martyrs, has set aside the date of February as their festival, and this date is annually observed by the Christians of Nippon. Shinto, the ancient religion of Japan, had for its principal creed the worship of the Mikado as the direct descendant and actual representative of the sun goddess. It also incultured ancestor and hero worship. In 552 Buddhism was introduced, and slowly but surely gained ascendancy over the people. Among the educated classes it was supplanted by the philosophy of Choo Ho, and that, in the last half century, has been vanquished by agnosticism.

SAN MARINO'S INDEPENDENCE. In the little European republic of San Marino today is the solemn restoration of the republic on Feb. 5, 1740. San Marino, perched on lofty mountains overlooking the Adriatic, is only thirty-two square miles in extent, but it is the oldest of the world's existing republics. Its career as an independent country began in the ninth century, but in the sixteenth century the republic was overthrown by Cesare Borgia. It was re-established after the death of Borgia, but it was not until 1740 that its freedom was finally secured. Ever since that time San Marino has been undisturbed, and while all Europe was at war the little mountain country was left to peace and quiet.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID



Sorry He Tried It

"Did you make papa come to terms as you said you would?" "Yes, and they were the very worst that anyone ever applied to me."

Matter of Temperament

"I have brought this record back. It is no good." "Try it again. This is a song by Mme. Squallini, the great soprano. She is so temperamental that sometimes her records will work and sometimes they won't."

Secret of Success

"What is the secret of success?" asked the Fool. "The ability to conceal your lack of ability," replied the Sage.

Two Meanings

He (in a rage)—"That man is the biggest fool in the world. His wife (comfortingly)—Henry, Henry, you are forgetting yourself."

Her Hopes Dashed

He—"I called to see your father this afternoon." She—(suffering visibly)—"Oh, did you?" He—"Yes; he has been owing our firm a little bill for some time."

Don't You Worry

This world is but a fleeting show for man's illusion given. There's nothin' in the world that's true. But the high cost of livin'.

Love and What Then

Enraptured, they gazed hand-in-hand upon the beautiful scene stretched before them in the setting sun. 'Twas the Lake District, and they but three days upon their honeymoon. "Dearest," he said, gazing at her lovingly, "isn't this heavenly?" "Yes, Reginald," she murmured fondly. "Do you know," he whispered, ardently, "to me life does not seem long enough for our happiness. Just think, even if we are fortunate our married life can hardly last longer than fifty years." "Is that all?" she queried, wonderingly, edging nearer. "Yes, that's so," a touch of sadness in his voice. "Only fifty years in which to love each other." "Then kiss me quick, Reginald," she exclaimed. "We're wasting time."

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