

The Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, Canada.

TELEPHONE CALLS
Business Office Main 1722
Editorial and News Main 1746

SUBSCRIPTION.
Morning Edition, By Carrier, per year, . . . \$5.00
Morning Edition, By Mail, per year, . . . \$4.00
Weekly Edition, By Mail, per year, . . . \$1.00
Weekly Edition to United States, . . . \$1.25
Single Copies Two Cents.

Chicago Representative:
Henry DeClerque, 701-702 Schiller Building,
New York Office:
L. Kiebach, Manager, 1 West 34th Street.

SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 1911.

THE POWER QUESTION.

A member of the committee appointed to consider the proposals of the Hydro-Electric Company has intimated that a special report governing the granting of franchises is in course of preparation and will be submitted to the Council at an early date. This rather sweeping announcement gives no indication as to methods the committee will pursue or what evidence, if any, will be taken on which to base a report which to be of any value requires the most careful preparation. Ald. Elliot, who makes the announcement, merely says: "We are not considering the power question from the point of view of the Hydro Electric or any other company. We are making recommendations as to what we think the city should do in the way of laying down conditions protecting its interests and the rights of the citizens."

Theoretically, of course, a committee of the Council has but one duty to perform—to protect the interests of the city and the rights of the citizens. It will be a comparatively easy matter to draw up a cast from the report on these lines, but it is safe to say that if the report deals only with one side of the case no power company would accept its conditions. St. John needs cheap power and in view of the fact that there are now two companies in the field, one or both of which may, at an early date, be in a position to do business, the committee would do well to give a wider scope to their deliberations.

In protecting the city's interests there should be no disposition to stipulate for impossible conditions as to the price of the current, the conduits and other details. To demand a definite price before permitting a company to enter the city limits is an unreasonable proposition for which no precedent can be found in other cities. It is also fair to assume that the price of power will adjust itself in competition.

The power question is something entirely new to St. John and should be considered from the broadest standpoint. Before any development can take place it is obvious that a large amount of capital must be provided. Capitalists in these days do not have to go begging for their investments, and in financing an undertaking of this kind they naturally look for a greater return than can be secured from gilt edged securities. So far the Common Council has not shown a very friendly attitude to the proposals which have been made. The committee which has undertaken to prepare a report on the granting of franchises has a great opportunity to thoroughly and fairly investigate the whole situation. If the fact is realized that no company will deliver power to St. John for commercial purposes without a fair return for the money invested and that favorable consideration does not necessarily mean that the city will fall a victim to a gang of speculators, something definite may be accomplished which will lead to future applications being treated on a more business-like basis.

SIR WILFRID'S RETURN.

Discussing the return of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the political situation, the Toronto News remarks that an ancient knight once prayed God for a strong right arm and a vigorous foe. Sir Wilfrid's vigor, it thinks, will be needed. He is entering upon a fight that will test every muscle. It will be a satisfaction to the victor to know that the Premier was well trained. Aside from the health of the Liberal Leader there is little ground for satisfaction. He went to England as the avowed advocate of Reciprocity with the United States, a policy that tends to weaken the ties uniting Canada to Great Britain. There can be no questioning this fact. President Taft has urged the adoption of the agreement because it may prevent the consolidation of the British Empire. For the first time Sir Wilfrid found himself strongly criticized in London and deservedly so. As a result he did not represent the mass of Canadian opinion in this respect at least.

The attitude he took at the Imperial Conference was an apparent defence of autonomy. But autonomy was not attacked. The Asquith Government, whatever its faults, is not an advocate of undue centralization. The Canadian Premier shied easily. Every drifting leaf, every butterfly in the path awakened his apparent nervousness. He was a good show horse, but not much for work. The wild fears expressed by Bourassa and the Nationalists seemed to be his inspiration. He played to the gallery—a gallery of Montreal law students and disappointed politicians. Perhaps also the gallery included the constituency of Drummond-Arthabaska. It is apparent that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier left Canada he found his chief danger politically in Quebec. He fancied that the West would accept the Reciprocity bargain with rejoicing. His great task therefore would be to mend the fences in his own Province. While he has been attempting this Mr. Borden has been in the West. His audiences have been large and sympathetic. Reciprocity will not sweep the prairies, and the anti-Imperial attitude of the Premier in London will add materially to the strength of the Western Conservatives.

So far as the health of the Prime Minister is concerned, "when the ranks of Tuscany will scarce forbear to cheer." As for his record abroad—it will provoke only an eloquent silence, and an accession of voting strength to the leader of the Opposition.

PREPARING FOR THE SUMMER SESSION.

As the time for the re-assembling of Parliament, on July 18, draws near, reports from Ottawa indicate that preparations are proceeding apace for the comfort of the members during the hot weather. If anything like the present oppressive spell be in store—and it is too much to hope that the weather man will relent to such an extent as to leave no grounds for complaint,—the members of Parliament may prepare themselves for a hot time, meteorologically if not politically.

Officials of the House of Commons, however, are leaving no stone unturned to provide what alleviations they may of the almost certainly torrid time to be experienced. Electric fans are being installed in the chamber of the House and throughout the Parliament buildings. Currents of cooled air will blow their great

ful breezes over the perspiring brows of the weary parliamentarians. The Public Works officials responsible for these artificial mitigations of a summer session are said to realize the absolute necessity of providing these cold air zephyrs as an antidote to the "hot air" with which the Government speakers will attempt to flood both Parliament and the country. One ton of ice will be used daily in this cold air system.

The present ventilating apparatus is quite unsatisfactory, the chamber being shut off on all four sides from direct communication with the sunlight and fresh air. Without some hygienic improvements, the very thought of two hundred members sitting day and night during Old Sol's busy time might well fill the hapless representatives with dismay. But this is one of the penalties of greatness, and the nation's representatives will not allow these light afflictions of an adjourned session to bedevil the exceeding weight of glory pertaining to them as the people's choice.

The session will be made still more tolerable not to say positively inviting, if a proposal now being discussed is carried through. The flat roof of the new wing, it has been pointed out, would make an admirable roof garden if properly equipped. Accordingly the roof will in all probability be covered with awnings, and when plants, tables, and suitable resting places are added it will be a pleasant place to catch an occasional lungful of the ozone of the third heaven. While not a circumstance compared to the far famed roof gardens of New York and elsewhere, yet it may be regarded as a good start for Canada.

NATIONALIZING BRITISH TELEPHONES.

On December 31 the British post office department will take over the business of the National Telephone Company with its capital of \$80,000,000, its 18,000 employees and 500,000 instruments. The plant, lands and buildings will be paid for at a price to be fixed by arbitration without any allowance for goodwill or for compulsory sale or for past or future profits. In a recent explanatory statement made in the House of Commons, the postmaster general, Mr. Herbert Samuel, said that under Government control future rates will be fixed on the same principle that the service must be speedy and accurate, that it must pay its own way and provide for interest and sinking fund on capital. Any surplus should, he said, go to reduction of the rates and improvement of the service.

Ten years ago the number of telephone instruments in the United Kingdom was only 300,000—now there are 600,000 including both the postal and company instruments. The postmaster general, however, hopes that the number will be quadrupled within a very few years and is prepared to spend \$30,000,000 for extensions and new equipment. The post office is taking over all the employees on fair, even generous terms, Mr. Samuel stating that the pay would in many cases be greater than that allowed by the company, and in no case less unless the rate of pay had been abnormally raised within the last few years in view of the transfer to the state. It is not the intention of the government to throw the telephone system into the routine of the post office department and responsible officers in the various districts will be given a large measure of local control.

LOYALTY TO THE LOW.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Loyalty must be all-inclusive. It must include the King and Queen, but not more than that must include the commonest and lowest man and woman. We must guard with greatest care the lives of royalty, but what man dare say that we should guard with less care the lives of the lowest?

A charming story is told of Queen Victoria. Going through the wards of a military hospital, she paused by a soldier who was dying in great pain. With the pity that ever characterized the good Queen, she asked him if there was anything she could do for him. He replied, "No, madam, unless you will thank for me the nurse who has cared for me." And the Queen, with ready perception and fine spirit, said to the nurse in tones that all might hear, "I want to thank you for your kindness to my son."

In this there was more than a queenly compliment. It voiced the fact of facts in democracy. There is closest intimacy of relation between royalty and what we call the common crowd. It is the same unity that binds every man of us to every other man. It is the oneness of life that makes the high one with the low. "For King George and the People!" We have learned the first well. Let us not forget the second. Now that we have crowned our King, let us to the task of uplifting the people.

Current Comment

(Stratford Herald.)

No better endorsement of Hon. Mr. Hanna's prison farm scheme at Guelph could be desired than the recommendation made to the Presbyterian General assembly at Toronto, that there should be a prison farm in every province. Even a Liberal newspaper hasn't the assurance to sneer at the success of this institution of a Conservative government.

(Kingston Whig.)

The Presbyterian church laments a shortage of six hundred workers in the ministry because it cannot guarantee them the living to which they are entitled. The almighty dollar is cutting a big figure in the world, outside of the church. The number that lendeth to the Lord does not increase very fast.

(Beaumont Journal, Texas.)

That Pittsburg preacher who invites the women members of his congregation to attend church without hats, and his male members to come without coats, may not be the greatest preacher in the Smoky City, but it's an even break he has as much common sense as any of them.

(Bobcaygeon Independent.)

Now would be an opportunity for the churches to have an old time hell revival. A hundred and three in the shade, gives an idea of what an eternity would be, with the addition of a flavor of sulphur on the side.

(Quebec Telegraph.)

The theory of criminologists that crime is affected by climate is supported by facts. You never hear of a snowshovel being stolen in summer or a lawn mower in winter.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Sir Henry Pollard's wide experience in floating securities has evidently been recognized by the Government in selecting him to launch the Canadian navy.

(Washington Star.)

Worcester, Mass., has a law prohibiting barkeepers from treating. Most of the evil of treating does not result from the impudently hospitality of the barkeeper.

(New York Times.)

The boy who says he would rather give his quarter to the benighted heathen than go to the ball game will bear watching.

AT LAST, A CURE FOR RHEUMATISM

"Fruit-a-tives Cured Me" Says Mrs. Baxter.

"I was a helpless cripple from Rheumatism for nearly a year. All down the right side, the pain was dreadful and I could not move for the agony. I was treated by two physicians without help. I saw 'Fruit-a-tives' advertised in 'The Telegram' and decided to try them. After I had taken one box I was much better. When I had taken three boxes, I could use my arm and the pain was almost gone. After taking five boxes I was entirely well again. The cure of my case by 'Fruit-a-tives' was indeed splendid because all the doctors failed to even relieve me. 'Fruit-a-tives' cured me."

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Deformation and Reformation or the Conversion of an Occult Scientist.

S. S. Lesson by Evangelina.

July 16th, 2 Chron. 20: 1-20. Manasseh was crowned at twelve. He began by doing "like unto the abominations of the heathen" and before long was doing "worse than the heathen."

Where did the law of heredity come in? The law was all right but the father was all wrong. He had grown failed to see what so many fathers fail to see that.

"A partnership with God is fatherhood. What strength, what purity, what self control, what joy, what wisdom, should be long to him. Who helps God fashion an immortal soul."

Briefly summarized the sin of Manasseh was the amalgamation of the false with the true religion, the establishment of a national theodolatrie religion. So long as the kingdom of Judah preserved a pure, unadulterated, God-given religion she was able to stand before the overwhelming forces of Assyria, so long as she incorporated the false with the true she inevitably went under.

Adam Smith in his "Wealth of Nations" says: "The false, medieval church may be considered the most formidable combination ever formed against the authority and security of the civil government, as well as against the liberty, reason, happiness of mankind." The same applies to every religion having a measure of truth and two measures of falsehood.

Never was there a time when the experience of Manasseh should be more emphasized in our Sunday schools and churches than at the present, when as Guinness says, "Every weapon, political, civil, religious and even the principles and practices of false systems, not only Papal but Protestant, introduced into the bosom of the Protestant church and planted securely within its walls and are working most disastrously for its corruption and overthrow of man."

Reverting to the text, what do we read? "He built altars for all the host of heaven in the house of the Lord. He caused his children to pass through fire. . . . He set a carved image, the idol which he had made in the house of God. . . . Altars to false gods in the temple! An idol in the house of God! Blasphemy!"

Is not the same thing being done today? Is not ritualism established its altars, its worship of "The Holy Eucharist," and set up its "carved images" (crucifixes) in the house of God?

Losing sight of the spiritual, they perform their paltry round of observances and insist in walking by sight and not by faith, and "the priest,"

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says Hon. S. H. Blake, "is so determined to claim reverence for making God out of a piece of bread that he seeks to surround himself and the ceremony with

Tawdry Spectacular Arrangements to the dishonor of God and His service."

But the introduction of heathen practices into the temple of God was not the only sin of Manasseh.

"He observed augury and used enchantments and used witchcraft, and dealt with familiar spirits and with wizards. It was wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord to provoke him to anger."

The introduction of heathen worship into the temple, had as it was, was surpassed by the introduction of the occult sciences—"Sorcery, necromancy, witchery," or in the language of our day—spiritualism, theosophy, Christian Science, clairvoyance, palmistry.

"While men of highest scientific ability admit a large percentage of fraud in the phenomena of spiritualism," says James Gray, Principal of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, "they declare that there is a medium of truth in it, a residue of truth that they cannot explain on any scientific principle whatever."

The Word of God Does Not Deny the Power Behind the Medium. It does not prohibit most emphatically any alliance with it.

There shall not be found among you one that maketh his son or his daughter to use divination (the pretended art of discovering secret or future things by supernatural means) or an observer of times (fortune-telling events by signs, as the Pope did last week when a plaster column supporting the lion of St. Mark at the Ethnological exhibition fell and killed two workmen, which he took as a premonition of his own downfall, the lion of St. Mark figuring on the Papal coat of arms), or an enchanter (one who gains control by magical words and rites) or a witch, (one who has supernatural power by compact with the devil) or a charmer (a magician) or a consulter of familiar spirits (with the dead departed) or a necromancer (one who reveals future events by means of communication with the dead).

Against The Black Art. In any form God has passed an imperative, irrevocable, prohibitory law. "Thou shalt not."

No wonder God was "provoked" at such an indignity as that a king should stoop to be guided by the twaddle of medium or palmist, of a fortune teller or witch.

When Manasseh professed to worship God and at the same time went to these mediums of Satan concerning his affairs he was serving Satan.

Had he lived on the present he would undoubtedly have been a Christian Scientist. Such was the reality of every delusion of the devil.

No one knows better than Satan how much men think of physical life and health and what they will do to relieve suffering, and knowing this, he found in a weak, effeminate, irrational woman an easy medium for floating the same old lie so readily believed by the first woman of Eden—"Thou shalt not surely die."

Christian Science, which is neither Christian nor Science, but a pagan nonsense, denies the reality of man.

One of its exponents, the daughter of a Cabinet Minister, and a college graduate, declares that such a catastrophe as the burning of the Tower of Babel and the loss of one thousand passengers "never occurred except in the imagination of the people."

Mrs. Eddy affirms that "there are no intoxicating properties in alcohol but only in mortal mind. Alcohol is intoxicating because people think so, if they thought the same about milk they would."

Become as Intoxicated On Milk as on alcohol.

How easily the smart set is hypnotized by a smarter set of devils and made to believe the smartest lies even fabricated!

How infamous to find a "Church of Christ" planted in every fashionable suburb which denies the personality of God, denies the reality of Jesus Christ, denies the reality of Satan, denies the reality of sin!

Their text book says: "A lie is all the devil there is." So long as he can delude people into such a belief he is quite willing to heal their bodily ailments by mind cure or any other cure.

"And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people but they gave no heed, whereupon the Lord sent the King of Assyria which took Manasseh and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon."

I and you, prophet nor the son of a prophet but

Mark My Words. As sure as the theodolatrie religion is allowed to flourish, like spruce trees in New Brunswick, with the introduction of the clear steel of the sword of the Spirit, we too, like Judah, shall be compelled to grant to an alien, intolerant, antagonistic power, supremacy over us.

It is not many years since Sir Robert Peel in speaking of the deformation of the established church in England said: "The day is not far distant when we shall have to fight the battle of the reformation over again."

"And when he was in distress, he besought the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers."

He appealed to the supreme court of heaven—not through any mediator or priestly intermediary this time. The way to the mercy seat was not blocked by mortal man claiming

Pecuniary Consideration For Healing Or Forgiveness, or if it was he hurried them out of the way and went directly to headquarters.

And God was entreated of him, and heard his supplication and brought him again to Jerusalem into His kingdom."

The experience of Manasseh reminds one of that of Philip Mauro, attorney at law, New York. He said, "My mind had been much occupied in efforts to pierce the veil of the material universe, and to discover what, if anything lay concealed behind it."

"The quest had carried me to the domains of science, philosophy, occultism, theosophy. And the pursuit had yielded nothing more reliable than conjecture and had left the inquirer after truth wearied, baffled, intellectually starved. Life had no meaning, advantage or purpose, and the powers of the much vaunted human intellect seemed unequal to the solution of the simplest mysteries until God in His wisdom sent me to learn the way of everlasting life from a number of humble people who possessed knowledge for which one of the most scholarly men of his day was willing to sacrifice all his brilliant prospects saying, 'I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.'"

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