

The St. John Standard

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PATRONAGE.

According to theories propounded under certain policies of Unkig Government, the moment a law-abiding citizen is elected to Parliament he becomes a politician and consequently a dangerous character. The Civil Service Commission which is one of the instruments by which the patronage system was overcome, openly declares that elected representatives of Canadian constituencies must not have anything to do with the selection of persons for positions in the gift of the government. Indeed instances are recorded in this very province wherein suggestions by federal members regarding the capability of applicants for federal office have destroyed their ever chances those applicants may have had for the positions. And it is now generally recognized among our federal representatives that any display of interest on their part on behalf of an applicant spells failure for that applicant. The private member today is a firebrand in his own constituency. In Ottawa he is one of a group whose duty seems to be to vote for or against the existing administration, but whose knowledge of conditions in his own county is not only not sought by heads of departments, but is rejected as undesirable. The Civil Service Commission fills all positions and, in so far as the experience of New Brunswick is concerned, it has been filling the majority of these positions very badly indeed. This satisfies no one, except perhaps a few of those securing the positions who are now and always have been bitterly opposed to the principle of Union Government. Where the Civil Service Commission gets its information on the qualifications of applicants is a mystery, for The Standard has not yet been able to find any members of Parliament whose advice has been sought or who know of suggestions being asked from any of their political friends in matters of this nature. It would appear, therefore, that this Commission either obtains its information from opponents of Union Government or makes the appointments without knowing anything about the applicants. And judging from results, both of these methods seem to be in vogue. Even with respect to the selection of returned soldiers there is a striking weakness in the methods adopted by this Commission. The Great War Veterans' Association, a new very generally recognized organization throughout Canada as the official organization for returned men. It is true that all returned soldiers do not belong to this body, but the majority of them do and it is gaining in influence every day. Whatever policy may be adopted by the Civil Service Commission elsewhere, it is not the policy of that body to seek advice or suggestions from the Association in this province. It is quite true that there is a properly appointed official, the head of the Returned Soldiers' Commission in New Brunswick, whose advice is sought and who may be relied upon to make such recommendations, when requested, as are advisable in his judgment. This is the proper course to pursue, but it would not do any harm if the Civil Service Commission were at the same time to secure from the Executive of the G. W. V. A. the names of such returned men as are available for appointment to federal offices. That Executive should certainly know more about the returned men than any other constituted body in existence, for it is composed of the men themselves, and the Executive Officers are closely in touch with the requirements of the members and know their individual qualifications. Under present methods of distribution of patronage—and this is what it amounts to in spite of the creation of the Civil Service Commission—no one can be held responsible to anyone else for failure to appoint the best qualified person to office. Under the old patronage system, which all will admit had its weak points, and grew to be an evil, the elected representative or the defeated candidate, as the case might be, on whom devolved the duty of making recommendations, was responsible to the active members of his own party for every appointment made on his suggestion and in order to maintain his organization and to retain the support of those members, it was necessary for him to consult with his friends before making such recommendations, in order that they might feel sure that he was doing the right thing. Today there is none of that. The federal member sees positions in his constituency filled by persons about whom he knows nothing, whom he would not recommend by active opponents of the administration and he has to swallow it all, knowing that it is not for the good of the country and that should he interfere in any of these appointments he would destroy the chances of those whom he would like to see appointed to office.

PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS.

It is gratifying to note that Coroner Kenney is conducting an inquiry into the death of Harold Higgins, the school boy. This inquiry should not be confined to the circumstances surrounding the boy's death, and his treatment in the school, but should

have the widest possible scope. It is imperative in the interests of the city that the fullest investigation be made into all statements concerning the treatment of children in city schools. Of late there have been a number of instances which have created in the minds of parents in some districts a feeling of uneasiness with respect to their children, and an impression prevails that among the teaching staff there are a few whose methods of punishment are more drastic than effective. The Standard has received several reports along this line, and while some of those are doubtless exaggerated because of personal feelings of those interested, still sufficient have been added to warrant the anxiety that exists, and the belief that nothing but an absolute clean-up of the whole situation to satisfy the minds of the people will be accepted. The very best teachers in St. John are those who never lay a hand on their pupils and while there is no desire to prohibit the administration of punishment to a reasonable degree, still it is not well that teachers or anyone else connected with the schools should be able to exercise the authority of parents not to impose punishment in such a manner as to create unrest among the parents of children attending school. It is to be hoped that Coroner Kenney's inquiry will be extended not only to cover the circumstances surrounding the death of Harold Higgins, but to lay bare everything in connection with the administration of punishment in the school which he attended. And this inquiry in itself may lead to an investigation of conditions elsewhere.

DOLLAR DAY.

Dollar Day as an institution has caught on. Thursday is recorded as the biggest day in the retail business ever enjoyed by the merchants of St. John, with the possible exception of Christmas Eve. This is a bargain day which now comes twice a year and was originated in St. John by a small group of enterprising and enthusiastic members of the Retail Merchants' Association, who in their first attempt did not receive very heavy support from their fellow business men, but who persisted in their effort to create a recognized bargain day, which would act as a stimulant to trade. Each summer season and each winter season has witnessed additions to the list of those participating until now practically all lines of trade are represented and the merchants engaging in the bargain movement are placing on their counters for special sale practically all the lines they carry. Fortunately the weather this week was ideal, and this helped to a certain extent in bringing out customers, but apart from weather conditions the feeling has been developed that the Dollar Day means in reality a day of reduced prices. The efforts of the promoters of this movement have now been more than justified, and the prospect is that Dollar Day will be of increased interest as each season passes.

NOTHING VERY NEW.

The speech from the throne, which parliamentary representatives are now digesting at their leisure, contains practically nothing new. The extension of the franchise to women is the only legislation forecasted which has not been previously announced in a definite way and even this is not entirely new, for at the last Federal election this franchise was granted to a large proportion of the women of Canada. Announcements concerning prohibition, repatriation, better housing, trade development, land settlement, vocational training, etc., indicate nothing unexpected, for all of these measures have already been provided for by orders-in-council and Parliament will be merely asked to give effect to what has already been done. The program in itself is an extensive one and will mean a busy session, but it will not produce anything of an important national character on which opportunity has not previously been given for consideration. The budget contains mention of the tariff and perhaps this is well, for the tariff comes up as the national issue for our next election, and public sentiment in regard to it is not yet sufficiently crystallized to justify an announcement of the government's intentions.

WHAT THEY SAY

N. Y. Herald—Havill refused to take the members of Congress into his confidence before he went to Europe, the President now proposes to take them to dinner. Quid Pro Quo. N. Y. Herald—Manufacturers say American women's corsets cost \$50,000,000 a year. A striking figure to produce striking figures, as it were. Unwholesome Aliens. Kingston Whig—England is now deporting all the Russian Bolsheviks she can find. Can this country not do the same? It would save much future trouble. "Challenges One's Thought." Springfield Republican—"Now that the trustees of the public men whom the French element in Canadian life has given to the country is gone, the

future of the relations between English speaking and French speaking Canada challenges one's thought. Sir Wilfrid's calm moderation and temperamental poise made him a politician of great value compared with the extreme nationalist leaders who appeared in recent years in Quebec.

Embargoes.

N. Y. Evening Sun—Embargo under any name is a two-edged sword. Formerly Germany made us feel both edges of it while Britain's free trade policy seems to have created in some minds among us the notion that we had of right the same hold on her markets as her own people, regardless of reciprocity.

A Fine Tribute.

Woodstock Sentinel-Review—It is a fine tribute that the Manitoba Press pays to the late General Sir Sam Steele. "No one," it says, "ever saw Steele in a bad mood. He was obviously necessary, and no one ever knew him to use less." He must have been a remarkable man, indeed, of whom this could be truly said.

Playing the Game One Knows.

New York Commercial—If you mean with a little money could be speculation alone and go into business they would have better chances of accumulating a competence for old age and the support of their dependants than one man in a thousand who dabbles in stocks, wheat or cotton on margin. Investment in good securities is another matter. Many Americans look with envy on the success won by foreigners in business. Such immigrants stick to the track they know and do not try to "play the other fellow's game."

A BIT OF VERSE

Chant of the Grand Fleet. 1915. I am the Pontiff of the Oceans wide; My power doth bridge the Seas. From land to land I make the pathway sure. My might unseen, Unheard is known and felt through all the earth; My Valiant—the waters round the Isles, That to me a shrine wherein are kept. The holy Inez, Leve Honor, Liberty; No sacrilegious hand must touch my shrine; I know the ocean as a householder Knows his beloved home, each passage-way. Each room, however large or small or dark, Mine own familiar precincts, my domain. In days of peace, it was my joy to be At peace with all the world and e'er to keep My trust—the ocean—clean that nations Might sail in safety, whoso'er they willed. The days are dark, and lowering the skies, My shrine is clouded with the nation's grief. Of noble blood, shed nobly for the right. My heart is heavy, but my power untouched. By U-boats are the waters soiled and stained; Those vermin of the seas that crawl beneath The surface, hidden like the criminals, They try to gnaw the vitals of the fleet. Think they my power is naught but vain? Let them beware, who trouble me or mine. Thus far, no further shall they go, And the found warders through the seas. Then—dust and ashes for mine enemies, 1918. I am the Pontiff of the Oceans wide; While Nations struggled through the whirls of death, Now have I led forward in the grip of war. I kept unending vigil o'er the deep. I held with struggle hold the enemy, And sent my warders through the seven seas. They rested not, but swept the waters clean. Foul menace, secret warfare, passed away. The deep lay as an open book to me; I held secure the freedom of the seas. As then so now, I stand and even shall Watch, unslumbering as the eye of God. As in that day when fierce with broken pride, Proud and found guilty, sailing to their doom, Came forty miles and more of vanquished foe, Forc'd to obedience to my sovereign will. So wrong ambition and the lust for power, Not theirs but mine, must ever humbled be. For this I waged for long my silent war. And thus I won my silent victory. My power doth sweep the deepest ocean bed, I wielded and to Heaven through my prayers, I count my labors as a sacred trust. To keep for all the earth fair liberty. This my predestined task, mine first and last. My Alpha and my Omega of right. My crown of joy my service to mankind, To guard for aye the Freedom of the Seas. —P. M. C.

A BIT OF FUN

Sonie Riel. Flannigan (listening to new jazz record)—What kind of music do you call that, Norm? Flannigan—That's a fox trot, daddy. Daughter—An' how many tin cans did th' fox have tied to his tail when he throated? Sometimes a forlorn look in a returned soldier's eye means he didn't get his old job back, and sometimes it means that he did. He was the keenest student in the class, and when an unpopulous professor said: "Gentlemen, your next subject for composition will be 'Manners,'" he at once rose and asked: "Can we write on bad manners, sir?" The professor looked over his spectacles at the all-conquering youth, and quietly answered: "Certainly; you can write about whatever you are best acquainted with."

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE

Us fellows was kicking Pops Simkin's foot ball out in the front street and all of a sudden Sid Hunt hollered, "Chase me, Flatfoot, the cop, and we all quick went and east on my frum steps, Flatfoot stood down at the corner as if he was wondering whether to start to wawk up and make us run. Skinny Martin says, G, if we had any of that of it in time we could of gave Flatfoot a Kristmass present and then he would of let us play football in the street all we wanted. Well G, lets do it now, lets us take up a collection and give him something and tell him we bin looking for him ever since Kristmas, I sed. Everybody thinking it was a grate idee, and we took up a collection of 6 cents, and a committee consisting of me and Leroy Shooter ran around to Mommy Simkin's store and hant a bottle of green ink for 6 cents and ran back with it and Flatfoot was still standing down at the corner, Leroy Shooter put the football in my vesterble and all wawked down, Leroy Shooter carrying the bottle of green ink on account of him having put 2 cents and nobody else putting more than a sent, and Flatfoot stood there watching us come down. Leroy Shooter holding out the bottle of green ink and saying, We bin looking for you ever since Kristmas. Wats the idee? sed Flatfoot. Its a present, sed Skinny Martin. Well can you heat that? sed Flatfoot. And he took it and sed out loud off of the label, green ink, soapstone quality. And he put it in his pocket, saying, I dont know what ill do with it because I always rite in pencil wen I rite, but I aint never refu sed a present yet. Us fellows stand, ing there looking at him a wile, and then Pops Simkin saying, If we kicked a pritty soft football in the street would you do anything? Nothing but lock you all up, that's all, sed Flatfoot. And he wawked away, me saying, G, wiz, that was a heek of a idee. All the other fellows saying, so especially Leroy Shooter on account of him having put 2 cents.

She Enjoyed It. "Did you enjoy the concert?" "It was wonderful, just wonderful. I can't tell you how impressed I was listening to so much glorious music that I couldn't understand."

No sooner does Germany begin to get the wrinkles out of its stomach, than it begins to imagine it won the war.

It isn't easy living up to the reputation of being a wit, but Jimkins did his best.

Meeting a friend one morning, he said, suddenly, "I sed, old fellow, have you heard about that girl who poured a jug of water into her fiance's top hat?"

"No," replied his friend, getting ready to hear an excellent little anecdote.

"Neither have I," said Jimkins, as he began to walk quickly away. "It hasn't leaked out yet."

Good Form. "Do you think it good form for a girl in a silk skirt to walk upstairs like that?" asked one.

"I call that very good form," replied the other, looking again.

Looks That Way. "Now, I understand what they mean by a state of chaos."

"Seems to me what they are trying to set up in Russia."

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

THE POLICE MAGISTRATE. Does the application of the Police Magistrate for increase of salary stand at all?

A short time ago a request went from the City Council asking that he be retired, owing to general inefficiency, with an allowance that was big enough, but the Local Government came back with the reply that if the city wanted a change they could obtain it by appointing to the position a Magistrate thought he should have as superannuation. But, as there was nothing doing on that score, he comes now for a straight increase from a Council which had previously decided (and rightly so) that he was not giving satisfaction.

Yours truly, A CITIZEN.

SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Editor Standard: Reading in an evening paper of recent date of the good work that is being done for the dumb animals, the thought came to me, is there no one to look after the school children or the teachers who are so cruel as to beat them the way they do? No wonder there are so many nervous children. What grown person could stand by and see another beat the children the way some of them are beaten, and not have their nerves affected? But what is why the children are forced to do. It is really terrible. Is there nothing that can be done or are they to be allowed to beat and terrify the children by leaving, and send them to an early grave? Have we mothers got to stand by and see this go on? Thanking you for your space, I remain A MOTHER.

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APPETITE FAILED. Mr. Daniel Dexter, Liverpool, N. S. says: "For years I was a great sufferer from indigestion. I was troubled with gas on the stomach which caused disagreeable sensations. I was also frequently troubled with nausea and vomiting, which were very distressing. As a result of my trouble my appetite almost completely failed, and what I did eat caused me considerable pain. I was continually doctoring, but did not get any benefit, and had about made up my mind that I would suffer for life. One day a friend asked me why I did not try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and while I had not much hope of a cure I decided to do so. I had only taken a few boxes, however, when I found they were helping me. Very gladly then I continued the use of the pills, and in less than three months I was as well as ever. I have been able to eat a hearty meal, and to feel that life was again worth living. I had also been troubled from time to time with attacks of rheumatism, and the use of the pills cured this as well as the indigestion. I am now over a year since I took the pills, and in that time I have had no return of the trouble."

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