

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1912.

HON. J. D. HAZEN.

Canada of London, England, publishes, from the pen of its Ottawa correspondent, the following well deserved tribute to New Brunswick's representative in the Borden Government:

"The Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries and Naval Affairs, will leave in May for England to consult the British Admiralty in regard to a Canadian naval policy. Just an advance word about Mr. Hazen, naval policy. He is the biggest man in the Cabinet. He stands over six feet, is built accordingly, has a splendid appearance and a ready, able, polished and cultured speaker. He is one of the big men of the Cabinet, both physically and mentally. Mr. Hazen is a Parliamentarian of long experience. He was elected to the Dominion House as long ago as 1891. He was then in his early thirties, but was marked as one of the coming men of the Conservative party. In 1896 he went down to defeat in the landslide which hit the party. He turned to Provincial politics, and was in 1899 elected Leader of the Conservative Opposition in the New Brunswick Legislature. He served a long and weary apprenticeship as Opposition Leader, but had his reward in 1908, when he carried the Province, and was called to the Premiership. When Mr. Borden swept Canada last September Mr. Hazen was offered a portfolio and accepted it. To him was assigned the heavy and difficult portfolio of Marine and Fisheries and Naval Affairs. He was already a number of reforms and is proving an energetic and resourceful Minister."

### THE POTATO MARKET.

New Brunswick farmers and agriculturists, if they are wise, will take note of the shortage and the corresponding high prices of potatoes in Upper Canada this winter, a shortage which this Province by a more extensive cultivation of the tuber could have at least in part supplied at a very handsome profit to the grower. From a report published in the Ottawa Citizen we learn that potatoes are now selling wholesale in Ottawa at \$1.70 to \$1.75 a bag. No potatoes worth eating can be procured at a lower price. Turnips and other vegetables are higher than for years. This dearth of supply in the necessities of every household has been a large factor in bringing the cost of living in the cities of Upper Canada at the present time to the highest figure it has ever reached.

Statistics compiled by the Labor Department showing the average price of potatoes in Canada are instructive. For the decade beginning in 1890 and ending in 1899 the wholesale price for the period averaged about 56 1/2 cents a bag. In 1910 the average was 52 1/2 cents and in 1911 \$1.24. In 1906 the lowest year recorded for 23 years, the average was a little over 30 cents; 1897, 27 cents; 1898, 28 cents, and so on, never going above a dollar until 1905 when the price rose to the then unprecedented figure of \$1.11. The next year brought a reduction to 99 cents and potatoes remained below the dollar mark until last year. So far this winter the average price has been about \$1.80 per bag, wholesale, much higher than any figure on record.

In other lines of produce there has also been a considerable increase in prices. Canned corn is now selling to retailers at 92 1/2 cents a dozen cans, which is 6 cents higher than the average in 1910. Canned tomatoes are selling at about \$1.50 per dozen, nearly double the price in 1910 when they brought 50 cents. Last year the average figure was \$1.51. Turnips and carrots are both selling at record prices.

The past year was noteworthy for the demand for New Brunswick potatoes and the increase of prices left a large amount of money in the Province from this crop. There is, however, abundant evidence that a great reduction of the producing area will pay a handsome return to the farmer. Enterprise and energy in this particular line of agriculture, with a wide open market clamoring for supplies, cannot fail to bring satisfactory results.

### THE COMMON SENSE VIEW.

Elber Hubbard, the sage of East Aurora, and editor of The Philistine, is a clear thinker, a close observer of events and a good American. He is not, however, a politician, for which reason he sees things at times somewhat differently, and expresses himself in terms that must make certain politicians rave. Not that he is any the worse for that, however. It is quite possible that the fault lies with the politicians.

Mr. Hubbard has been thinking over the question of Reciprocity, and with his customary habit of getting at the bottom of things quickly he has told Philistine readers just what his thought is. Listen to him:

"Our Canadian brothers need not think that they have robbed us of sweet Reciprocity. If we can't reciprocate with one country, we will with another. Now we are busy formulating a Reciprocity Treaty with Germany, also with Argentina. Also, up to date, I have heard of no suggestion about annexing either. We need Canadian wood pulp and we got it by taking the tariff of this useful article. We need Canadian wheat. There is a duty on Canadian wheat of twenty-five cents a bushel, which practically keeps it out of the States. When we want wheat badly enough, and are really intent on reducing the cost of living, we will justly remove that twenty-five cents a bushel embargo and the wheat will flow in."

Mr. Hubbard has sized up the situation with unerring accuracy. What the United States did in the case of pulpwood was practically a case of necessity with the people of that country. As the American situation was in the matter of pulpwood, so it may become with wheat, and when that time arrives the tariff will disappear against the Canadian article, entirely independent of any Reciprocity agreement.

### SETTLING THE SWEDISH NAVAL PROBLEM.

The Swedish people have a naval problem. They want a battleship of the F-type. They also have a Liberal Government which like a certain Liberal Government nearer home has decided leanings towards a "tin pot" navy. The Government only came into power in 1911 and the people cannot get rid of it off hand. So they have started a subscription to purchase a battleship whether the Government likes it or not; a very practical solution of the problem.

"The question of increasing the Swedish navy has been considered by the authorities for some time, with

the result that for several years investigations have been made with object of deciding upon the most suitable type of battleship to adopt. In 1911 the Riksdag (Parliament) granted a sum of money for the construction of a battleship of 8,000 tons to be built according to what is known as the F-type. This type of battleship was decided upon as being the most suitable for the Swedish navy. The main advantages of ships of this type are considered to be a speed of 23 knots, a powerful armament, and the facility with which it will be found possible to manoeuvre the vessels in the Swedish archipelago.

The Liberals and the Socialists, however, were not in favor of this type of war vessels, maintaining that the cost was excessive and declaring that torpedo boats and submarines would be more efficacious and valuable for defensive purposes. The result was that when the Liberal party came into power in the Riksdag in 1911 its very first action was to postpone the construction of the battleship of the "F" design. This action aroused considerable resentment throughout the country.

As a result of the Liberal party having quashed the resolution previously passed by Parliament a national subscription list has been opened with the object of raising the necessary sum for the immediate construction of a battleship. The collection was started about two months ago and already more than 8,000,000 kroner, or in round figures \$2,200,000, has been received. The population of the country amounts to about 5,000,000 so there is evidently very strong feeling on the subject. Sweden is in a fair way to have its battleship in spite of its Liberal Government.

### PROSPERITY FOR ST. JOHN.

(Toronto News).

Mr. Norton Griffiths, who has the contract for extensive harbor improvements at St. John, N. B., has been telling the people of that city that the work will be rushed to completion, that it will greatly increase the trade of the port, and that within five years the municipality should have a population of over 100,000.

Mr. Griffiths also had something to say about immigration. "He has been instrumental in settling about one hundred English families each year overseas, and he will now undertake that New Brunswick shall get a share of these desirable settlers. Moreover, his company will be concerned in New Brunswick investments, and their interest in the city and Province will not terminate with the completion of their present contract."

The British member of Parliament struck a popular chord when he declared that steamers receiving Government subsidy should make their terminus at a British port on this side of the Atlantic, and that when facilities for docking vessels of the Mauritania and Lusitania class are provided the adoption of that policy must be pressed upon the Imperial Government. As Mr. Maclean of Halifax said recently, the Maritime Provinces seem about to derive real benefits by reason of their situation at the front door of the Dominion.

### Current Comment

(Montreal Gazette).

The report of the Registrar General of Ontario, just issued, shows that of 24,936 marriages recorded in the Province in 1910 and 1909 cases a Roman Catholic took a Protestant as a husband or wife. About one marriage in sixteen, therefore, would be classified as "mixed." The situation suggests that besides laughing at locksmiths, love laughs at decrees. It also presents a reason for the deep and wide interest shown when the discussion of the No Emere decree gave rise to a belief that a cloud was being cast on the legality of marriage unions that must concern, directly or indirectly, a large proportion of the population.

### (Calgary Farm and Ranch Review).

A trainman gave us some information on the car movement evil. He says there are two sources, one is the willingness of engineers and conductors to take bribes and the other the insistence of farmers in offering them. A farmer has a car to ship. He approaches the man in charge of the train or engine and slips him \$5 to pick up his car. The train is already full, but a car is dropped off and the farmer's car picked up. A run of ten or twenty miles is made and the circumstance repeated with the probability that it is the first farmer's car that has been dropped off.

(Edmonton Journal).

Sir Edmund Osler testified before the commission which is investigating the Farmers' Bank affair that he told Mr. Fielding that he knew from personal knowledge the stock subscription was obtained by false pretences. Sir Edmund is a leader in the financial world and his warning, so explicitly given, should have carried the greatest weight. Yet the Minister of Finance allowed these financial pirates to go ahead and play fast and loose with the savings of the public and bring the whole financial system of Canada into disrepute. The revelation is a most damning one.

(Collier's Weekly).

The Prime Minister has surprised the country by the skill he has shown in navigating the Government through some very hazardous channels. Most of the country had underestimated Hon. Mr. Borden's ability as a tactician, and until very recently he has been regarded as a man whose inflexible integrity might prove the weakness of the Administration.

(Christian Guardian).

It does seem an anomaly in this democratic country that any body of men should be able to defy popular opinion and render the verdict of the polls no effect. Somehow the Senate should be made, as the House of Lords has been, amenable to the nation's wishes as expressed at the polls.

(Ottawa Journal).

Lost, strayed or stolen—a delicate little war, several months old, last heard of on the coast of Tripoli some weeks ago. Any information will be gratefully received at Rome or Constantinople. Liberal reward for its return in good condition will be paid by the American press.

(Victoria Colonist).

Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, proposes to abolish treating. Mr. Rowell, leader of the Opposition, proposes to abandon bars. Comes to the same thing, good friends. Abolish treating and there will be no bars. Abolish bars and there will be no treating.

(Ottawa Journal).

With France appropriating \$16,000,000 more for national defence than last year, and Britain devoting a \$32,000,000 surplus to the same purpose, the dove of peace will not be overworked for some months yet.

(Ottawa Free Press).

It comes somewhat as a surprise to be told that France has as much as \$70,000,000 invested in Canada. This makes France our second creditor after Great Britain.

(London Free Press).

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## LOSE THEIR ALL WHEN A BLOCK OF TENEMENTS BURN

Harrisburg, Pa., April 15.—More than 250 foreigners were made homeless by a fire which destroyed 12 tenement houses in the foreign quarter of Steelton early today. Many of the foreigners who kept their savings in their rooms lost everything. Two firemen were seriously hurt by falling walls.

## SEVERAL BUILDINGS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN AUGUSTA, MAINE

Augusta, Me., April 14.—Damage estimated at \$100,000 was caused by a fire which raged for more than four hours early today and which for a time threatened to wipe out considerable of the business section of the city. Starting from an unknown cause in



**EASY**  
I thought I'd get an auto car, I must have said as much, For agents came from near and far To get me in their clutch, And each man said his car was best, The only decent make And that the others—put to test— Were one and all a fake.

## THE VOYAGE

My ship comes drifting to the shore, No treasures in her hold; We skirted all the isles of time, Yet we bring back no gold.

But one day in a golden sea We heard a fairy strain; That pattered down upon the deck Like drops of silver rain.

And one day by a lonely coast We found a lonely flower That had not looked upon man's face Until that happy hour.

And one white night we anchored off The deathly one lonely hour And could not tell the odors from The moonlight and the sea.

Now home at last with empty hands We put our questing by And find a little patch of sun Beneath a smiling sky.

And all the day we hear a song That patters like the rain, And all the night we breathe and dream Of Araby again.

The moonlight muffles up the sob And stretches of across wide, And on a mortal coast we see The one immortal flower.

## COMPENSATIONS

(Frances Lockwood Green, in Christian World, London, Eng.) I may not climb that high, lone path That leads to power and fame, No laurels may crown my toilworn brow, No lustre gild my name, But I do work that my heart loves best.

And life has its shining way; For the joy of life laughs at struggle and strife When the work that you do is play.

I may not claim an ancestral hall And stretch of acres wide, But I have a palace beyond compare, With possessions rich indeed, 'Tis only a cottage of thy rooms, 'Tis only a garden patch, But the joy of life laughs at struggle and strife

When love dwells beneath the thatch.

I may not gloat on the piles of gold And dream of'er art treasures fine, But I have a store which none can touch, A treasure most divine.

The priceless gift of a heart at rest And my jewels are those I love, The lowliest life can face a struggle and strife When its treasure is laid above.

## Most Anything

The sufrage was feeling sore; Said she: "I'll never, never more Go gallivanting days and nights And my jewels are those I love. The meeting that we had today Has turned my thoughts from votes away.

How shocked was I when I got there, To see my housemaid in the chair! She had been chosen president, She boldly led the argument, And she whom I pay five a week Refused to let her mistress speak; "You're out of order," she announced, "Now mind your eye, or you'll be bounced."

Smokes: Dr. Suther says to lie on the right side is healthier than on the left. Brokes: Bilkins says no. And he's a lawyer and ought to know more about lying than do. "What's all that racket in the next room, little girl?" "It's the pop giving Willie a sound whipping."

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