

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1914.

A CHEERING OUTLOOK

It may be presumed that the premiers of the Canadian provinces are qualified to speak with a large degree of certainty as to the outlook in their respective sections of the Dominion. Probably they are in a better position than other men to forecast what the year 1914 has in store for us in the way of material prosperity. Admitting their opportunities for forming reasonably correct opinions on our prospect, it is especially gratifying to know that, at the present time, the premiers of the provinces of Canada are united in the belief that the year upon which we now entered will be a prosperous one.

The Monetary Times, in a special number, has gone to much trouble to collect these opinions as to the year and they are worthy of careful perusal. Turning first to our own province of New Brunswick, we find Hon. J. K. Flemming pointing to the good crops, and the satisfactory prices realized for last year's agriculture, with the certainty of an increased acreage in the present year. He expresses the opinion that the development work now in progress in St. John will serve to still further confirm this city in its position of the eastern gateway of Canada. "A feeling of optimism prevails," says the premier, "and everywhere one turns investigation shows that progress and advancement are being made." This is a most encouraging prospect for New Brunswick.

But it appears that our optimism is shared by the premiers of the other Maritime Provinces. Premier Matheson, of Prince Edward Island, looks to his hope on the new industries of farming and other culture, and then directs attention to the good results which have followed in ordinary agriculture. The people of the island province, he says, "are prosperous and more hopeful and confident than ever before." Premier Murray, of Nova Scotia, says in that province the volume of mercantile business has been but slightly affected by the financial stringency, and he hopes for good results from changes in the United States tariff. This, the premier expects, will be particularly noticeable in the fishing industry.

From the Maritime Provinces to the great central provinces of Quebec and Ontario, the feeling of confident optimism flows on. Sir Lomer Gouin states that the recent financial depression has hardly been felt in Quebec, and that province has marched onward to progress and prosperity with unabated vigor. He feels it a certainty that Quebec's enormous resources will insure a good year in 1914. In Ontario, Sir James P. Whitney is no less confident of the coming good times. "We have had a year of great prosperity and can see still greater things ahead. Every advance made by western Canada gives an impetus to the older provinces, by creating new demands for agricultural and manufactured products, and by compelling enlargement and development in every line of business," is his contribution.

Comes Premier Roblin from the wheat fields of Manitoba with the cheering announcement that his province is stronger "financially, numerically, commercially, industrially and educationally, than it was in 1912. Progress and development are as rapid as they could be and are healthy and permanent." Premier Scott declares that Saskatchewan, to a marked degree, has participated in the onward march of the Dominion during the past year and will continue to keep up with the procession in 1914. Premier Sifton of Alberta expects that the year will show progress and development in all lines of normal business and bases his view upon the success of the year just closed.

And the last word comes from the Pacific coast, where Premier McBride of British Columbia, contributes his verse to the song of the national prosperity. The Pacific province has had a good year and, judging by it, the premier expects the coming twelve months will witness equal or greater expansion. Immense areas of the province, which have hitherto been dormant, are being opened up through railway construction, and there is much to hope from in their development.

Altogether it is a particularly enthusiastic chorus sung by the representative government leaders from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and judging from the prospect in our own province of New Brunswick, every note of optimism is correctly tuned. Nineteen-fourteen should prove a banner year for New Brunswick, and for Canada.

A MAN OF MANY ERRORS

Liberal newspapers supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier's views on the question of free food have made the statement that the Liberal leader has been the pilot who guided the people of Canada into the proud position they hold today. This claim is hardly borne out by the facts. On the contrary, it will be found that at almost every occasion Sir Wilfrid's judgment on important national questions confronting Canada has been sadly at fault.

Starting with the birth of the Canadian confederacy in 1867, he was found in opposition to the plan of confederation, and the march of the years has shown to the world that he was wrong. In 1878, when trade matters loomed large on the horizon and the National Policy was produced, he again saw the proposal of the hour through prejudiced spectacles and opposed it. The flourishing industries from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which give employment to hundreds of thousands of men, and which have prospered under that policy, stand as testimony to the fact that he was wrong again.

When the question of developing the west commenced to engross public attention, and the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was taken up, Sir Wilfrid was once more among the Little Canadians who opposed the plan. In the light of the great part which the C. P. R. has played in the development of Canada, is there any man who will say today that the construction of that railway was a mistake? Again Sir Wilfrid was in error.

In 1901 he favored Commercial Union, as against a moderate protection for Canadian industries, and once more he was wrong. And in 1911 he was guilty of the crowning indiscretion of his career, when he espoused an agreement with President Taft of the United States which, if carried out, would have made Canada but a commercial adjunct to our neighbors across the line. The Canadian people in no uncertain terms showed him his mistake.

Coming down to the last session of parliament, Sir Wilfrid led the party which opposed the policy of giving immediate and effective aid to the naval forces of the Empire. And he was wrong. Even now, when it might be expected that his sojourn in the opposition would have taught him the folly of his various platforms, he is found with another idea—that removal of the duties on food stuffs will solve the problem of the cost of living. And he is wrong again. He utterly neglects the experience of the United States—unable to see that the cost of living is a greater problem in free trade Britain than it is, today, in Canada, and even fails to find proof of the absurdity of his contentions in the very Canada he aspires to again govern.

Sir Wilfrid and his newspapers forget that ten years ago the price of food stuffs was sixty per cent less than it is today, and yet the rates of duties on food stuffs were exactly the same in 1904 as in 1914. If the duties are solely responsible there should have been no increase in costs. The Liberal leader is absolutely incorrect in his diagnosis of Canada's complaint and consequently cannot be depended upon to prescribe a remedy.

Toronto opened the New Year with a strenuous civic election in which Mayor Hocken was re-elected by a majority of 5,000 votes. The campaign, which was continued during the past few weeks, hinged largely upon the question of the Toronto Street Railway, and Mayor Hocken made an immediate purchase of the chief plank in his platform. The aldermanic ticket favoring civic acquisition of the street railway system was also victorious.

While the St. John automobile party, making the journey from this city to Halifax, with greetings to Mayor Bligh and others in the sister city, will have an experience to talk about, we still believe automobiling over snow-bound roads with a flirtatious mercury ranging in the vicinity of twenty-one degrees below zero, is a task more pleasant to contemplate than to perform.

Much space was given to the gentleman who, a day or two ago, descended 1,200 feet into the crater of Vesuvius and found it almost ready for an eruption. As far as known he broke a record, but if he had struck a match, when at the extreme bottom, he might have broken the altitude record as well.

Cats and canaries are said to be the features of "The New York Bird Show" now on in Gotham. Should the "features," by accident or design, be induced to give a brief exhibition of community living, the resultant activity would probably prove a "feature" not on the programme.

An optimistic member of The New York Sun staff tells readers of that paper that eggs will be much cheaper after Christmas. This information is not in the least interesting, for after Christmas who has the price of even a cheap egg?

Those rivals in Mexico who are settling their little differences with Gatling guns and Mausers seem to have entirely forgotten the existence of the south of peace and good will.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

On this date in 1874 parliament was dissolved and the new ministry headed by Alexander Mackenzie swept the country. On Jan. 2, 1896, the Dominion Parliament met, and a cabinet crisis, caused by the controversy over the Manitoba school question, followed almost immediately. The funeral of Sir John Thompson was held in Halifax Jan. 2, 1895.

THE PASSING DAY

GENERAL WOLFE'S BIRTHDAY.

No other military hero has ever made so great an appeal to Anglo-Saxons as James Wolfe, who captured Quebec and fell mortally wounded in the very hour of a victory that put the British flag over the French. Today is Wolfe's birthday. Wolfe was only thirty-two when his glorious career came to a tragic end on the Plains of Abraham. He was a brave, a scholar and a dreamer and a lover of poetry as well as a gallant warrior.

The quaint little Kentish town of Westerham was the birthplace of the martial hero of the hour. In the house in which he was born, the church in which he was baptized, and the grave in which his ancestors were buried, still remain as shrines for the admirers of Wolfe. The early home of Wolfe is now preserved as "Quebec House."

Although born in England, the son of an army officer, Wolfe's ancestors had lived in Ireland, and numerous representatives of the Wolfe family may still be found in Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. Wolfe's grandfather, Capt. Edward Wolfe, was an enthusiastic Nationalist, and with his brother, a Franciscan friar, fled to England to escape prosecution in his native land.

One of the most touching pictures in all history is that of Wolfe, pale and emaciated from a long illness, standing erect in a boat floating up the St. Lawrence, and reciting the lines from Gray's "Elegy":

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth

Await alike the inevitable hour—

The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

"Now, gentlemen," said Wolfe, "I would rather be the author of that poem than to capture Quebec tomorrow." But on the morrow he captured Quebec—and for him "the paths of glory lead but to the grave."

FIRST THINGS

REFORM SCHOOLS.

The first reform school for juvenile delinquents was opened three centuries of a century ago today, Jan. 2, 1839, at Mottray, near Tours, in France. M. de Metz, formerly a councillor in Paris, warmly seconded the views of the Comtesse, was the founder of the institution, the Viscount donating the estate on which the establishment was built. It was the purpose of this school to turn French boys into good boys, and it was so successful that its example was followed all over the civilized world.

In 1849 the corner stone of the first English juvenile reformatory was laid at Redhill, Surrey, by the Prince Consort. Within a decade there were half a hundred such schools in England and nine in Ireland. America soon followed the lead of Great Britain and France, and there are now reform schools in every state of the Union and province of Canada. The juvenile court is a more recent development of the same idea.

TH HUMAN PROCESSION

CARTOONIST OPFER 57 TODAY

Frederick Burr Oppen, the famous cartoonist, whose work is familiar to newspaper readers in Canada and the United States, was born in Madison, Ohio, 57 years ago today. After leaving school he went into a country newspaper office in his home town for a year, and then decided to try his luck in New York. Sketches with New York papers, including "The Saturday Evening Post," "Wild Oats," attracted the attention of Frank Leslie, who gave the youthful artist a regular job on Leslie's Weekly. After three years with that publication he went over to Puck. For eighteen years his work appeared weekly in Puck, but in 1899 he accepted an offer from Mr. Hearst, and has been with the Hearst publications ever since. His work now appears regularly in all of the Hearst papers and in scores of others.

In addition to newspaper work, Mr. Oppen has illustrated books for Mark Twain, Bill Nye, George V. Hobart and Finley Peter Dunne. Since then he has written many novels and stories for the leading American magazines. His latest novel, "The Common People" are well known figures in Mr. Oppen's cartoons.

A CANADIAN WRITER.

A fair Canadian who has won a wide following of readers is Maude Radford Warren, who was born at Wolfe Island, Canada, the daughter of Moray Isaac Henry Radford, 38 years ago today.

It was while she was instructor in literature and composition at the University of Chicago, her alma mater, that Miss Radford began her literary career with King Arthur and His Knights. In 1907 she married Prof. Joseph Warren, of the University of Chicago faculty, and in the following year she wrote her first novel, "The Land of the Living." Since then she has written many novels and stories for the leading American magazines. Her latest novel, "The Main Road," has vastly added to her popularity.

Unusual.

"Yours is a very unusual case," said the doctor.

"What, doctor? Will I recover?"

"Oh, yes."

"Then what is unusual about it?"

"I don't seem able to find the slightest excuse to operate."

Contagious.

First Fair Summer.—This poverty in an awful thing, don't you know?

Second Ditto.—Yes, And it is funny how it runs in a whole family!"

Puck.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID

"BY GOD, I WISH I HAD A DOG, IT WOULD BE LOTS OF COMPANY. I THINK I'LL ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSPAPER FOR ONE."



And for Other Reasons.

"Why do you call Grasper an old crab?"

"Because he hates to shell out."

One Way.

Easycio (who has just borrowed forty dollars)—Much obliged old man, I can't pay off my tailor and begin the new year free of debt.

Heard on Last Rainy Day.

"Look here, madam, you just jabbed me in the eye with your umbrella."

"I'm very sorry. Here's my father's card. He's an eye doctor, and if you use my name he'll give you his lowest rates."

He Hated a Hypocrite.

"I despise a hypocrite."

"So do I."

"Now take Jackson for example; he's the biggest hypocrite on earth."

"But you appear to be his best friend."

"Oh, yes; I try to appear friendly towards him. It pays better in the end."

Act Ostracised Him.

"Who is this Dean Swift they are talking about?" a parvenu once said to Lady Bulwer; "I should like to invite him to my reception."

"Alas, madam," replied Lady Bulwer, "the Dean has done something that has shut him out of society."

"Dear me, what was that?"

"Well, about a hundred years ago he died."

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