

The St. John Standard.

H. V. MACKINNON, Publisher
82 Prince William St., St. John, N. B., Canada

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
City Delivery, \$6.00 per year
By Mail in Canada, 4.00 per year
Semi-Weekly Issue, 1.50 per year
Semi-Weekly to U. S., 3.50 per year
(Agate Measurement)

ADVERTISING RATES:
Contract Display, 3c per word
Classified, 2c per word
Inside Readers, 9c per line
Outside Readers, 15c per line
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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1920.

PROVINCIAL NATURAL RESOURCES.

Mr. Chester Martin has recently completed for the Government of Manitoba an exhaustive report on the claims of the various provinces to absolute ownership of the natural resources within their own boundaries. The conclusion he comes to is that the prairie provinces, being now admitted to full partnership in the Dominion of Canada, are clearly entitled to assume the same obligations and enjoy the same rights as each of the other provinces does. He contends that inasmuch as all the older provinces were given at Confederation the full control of all the lands and other natural resources within their borders, therefore upon the creation and at the mission into Confederation of the newer provinces they are similarly entitled to the absolute ownership of those resources that lie within their borders, and that, by reason of these resources having been withheld from them, they have been defrauded of some of their rights. Mr. Martin seems to consider that Confederation will not be properly consummated until these concessions have been made to the prairie provinces.

Mr. Martin's report, having been made for the Manitoba Government, is more or less of an ex parte nature, and while his conclusions will naturally be approved of by those for whom the report was made, the older provinces will scarcely see matters in quite the same light.

When Confederation was entered into by Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces they "pooled" all their assets for the good of the whole Dominion, and they became equal partners in the entire area of the new Dominion. Each, therefore, owned a share in the vast, then almost unexplored, Northwest, which was part of the assets of the new Canada. As time went on, and the country became more settled, the desirability of creating other provinces became apparent, and first Manitoba, and later Alberta and Saskatchewan, were constituted into separate provinces, but the lands or other natural resources within the borders of these new provinces were reserved by the Dominion Government, as they were then, and still are, the property of all the provinces at large.

If these resources, which at present belong to all the provinces equally, are going to be given to the particular provinces within the borders of which they are locally situated, what compensation is going to be made to the other provinces, and particularly the Maritime Provinces, to make up for this gift? Ontario and Quebec do not need any further compensation, for they have already had their boundaries very considerably enlarged by the addition of extra territory, but the Maritime Provinces have not, for the simple reason that they are situated that no extension of their boundaries is possible. It follows, then, that the only compensation it is possible to make these provinces must be in the form of a yearly subsidy, or a money grant, and the question of making such a grant has been taken up at Ottawa on more than one occasion by Interprovincial Conferences that have been held. No decision, however, has ever been arrived at, for the reason that the western provinces would not agree to any such course being adopted. They want to "hog" the whole lot, they want the lands, but they object to those to whom they now belong being paid for their interest in them.

Mr. Martin's plea that Confederation cannot be properly consummated until the western provinces have these lands and other natural resources handed over to them is too specious altogether. He asks for equal treatment for all the provinces alike; if one province controls the natural resources within its borders, then all should do so. The argument won't hold water, for to begin with when the older provinces came into Confederation, the terms upon which they did so are set out in the B. N. A. Act. The newer provinces are not included in this Act, and their creation was upon different terms altogether, which are set out in the several acts creating them. It is nonsense to say that because they are now independent provinces they are entitled to be put on the same basis as the older provinces are on. They are not; they are entitled to just what the Acts creating them give them, no more and no less. These Acts withheld from them the control of the natural resources within their borders, on the ground that the latter were the property of the Dominion at large. If they are to be ceded to them now, the Maritime Provinces, as part owners, must be compensated. Simple justice demands this.

the campaign has failed miserably and we may look for the overdue measure of relief in quarters within the Empire. If John Bull had fewer advisers he would probably have more time to think. But he will probably blunder through somehow.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Rotary and Kiwanis.
(Vancouver World.)
The authorities of these bodies, with no personal present in view, and no selfish ends to serve, is a most welcome addition to the collective activities of the community. In their great motto of "Service, not self," these younger business men bring in opportunities in civic and national affairs, largely in non-controversial matters, work which will be incalculably help to the whole country.

Second Childhood.

(Farmers' Sun.)
The Toronto Globe declares that the Deury Government is a foe of public ownership because it wants to investigate the radial situation before plunging recklessly into a building campaign that would cost many scores of millions. The Globe organ, however, has no justification for this same kind of expenditures under private ownership. In the latter case the money expended is a man's own to be disbursed as the owner sees fit. In the other case the money belongs to all the people and to government, and it is right to squander it in doubtful enterprises.

Very Welcome.

(Hamilton Spectator.)
The note of welcome sounded by the Prime Minister of Canada at Sydney to the overseas delegates to the Imperial Press Conference will awaken an echo in every Canadian heart. And this welcome will be still more hearty because of the spirit manifested by the delegates through their spokesman, Lord Burmah, who in expressing his appreciation of the welcome extended said: "We have not come as preachers or teachers; we have come to learn for ourselves the secret of the great success of the Dominion in its broken, and you are better off mentally, physically, financially. It's so easy, so simple. Get a box of No-To-Bac and if it doesn't release you from your craving for tobacco in any form, your druggist will refund your money without question. No-To-Bac is made by the owners of Cigarettes; therefore is thoroughly reliable."

The visit of the Imperial Press delegates cannot be mutually beneficial to them and to Canadians, if the attitude expressed by Lord Burmah characterizes all concerned. May the conference shortly to be held, mark the dawn of a new era in Empire affairs.

A BIT OF VERSE

They Softly Walk,
They are not gone who pass
Beyond the clasp of hand,
Out from the strong embrace;
They are but in the clouds,
We need not grope with hands,
Nor lock to see, nor try
To catch the sound of feet.
They have put off their shoes
To softly walk by day,
Within our thought to tread
At night our dream-laid paths.

They are not dead who find
The sunset gate, the goal
Of all the weary years,
Not lost are they who reach
The summit of their climb,
The peak above the clouds
And storm; they are not lost
Who find the light of sun
And stars and God.

THE LAUGH LINE

THE LAUGH LINE, HERRING.
And Poor He Done
Sign in Gerie's window: "It's a poor lover that doesn't send flowers. Roses \$9 per dozen."

An Impossibility.
"That coat looks rather shabby," remarked a friend to the struggling artist. "Why don't you have it turned?" "Do you imagine this coat has three sides?" asked the artist, sadly.

Expensive Business.
She—But when you proposed to me you said you were wealthy.
He—So I was, but you should remember that we were engaged for nearly a year.—Boston Transcript.

An Early Rise.

Boy—Would I get a chance to rise if I worked for you?
Employer—Sure you would. You'd have to rise at 5 every morning and sweep out the store.

True Chivalry.
One evening coming home from the theatre on a tramcar with a lady friend, Jones stopped from the car and noticed a motor-car coming up behind him.
So Jones kept his eye on the car, and took the elbow of the next person alighting after him, expecting it to be his friend.
Still watching the motor, he led the elbow safely to the walk, and then turned to her.
But, to his embarrassment, who should be find himself encountering, but a great, tall man, who said, in the sweetest voice:
"Thank you, I was never escorted by a young man across the street before; you are the kindest fellow I ever met!"
The lady was following them; and she giggled over the joke all the rest of the way home.—Answers.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Scene. Boy setting on his front steps wishing he was a millionaire.
Boy. It must be grate to have all the money you want. I'd be satisfied if I only had half as much as I want. G. I know what I'll pretend I'm an orfin. Everybody gives money to orfins, and pritty soon I'll have so much I'll have some to give to other people if I like their looks. Heer comes a man now. Hay mister, I'm an orfin, would you mind giving me some money to keep me from being quite so poor?
First man. Dont you see I'm carrying these packages?
Ack 2.
Scene, another man starting to go past.
Boy. I'm an orfin, mister, and I aint got any father or mother to give me money. Would you please mind giving me some?
2nd man. This is my bizzyday. Wy didnt you ask me yesterday?
Ack 3.
Scene, another man starting to go past.
Boy. Have you got any change, mister? If so I'm an orfin and I'd be only too glad to have it.
3rd man. Come with me.
Boy. Hay, leave me the president of an orfin asylum and we'll be happy to name some orfin. I'll leave you go agen wen you're 21.
Boy. Mamma! Papa!
3rd man. You aint got any.
The end.

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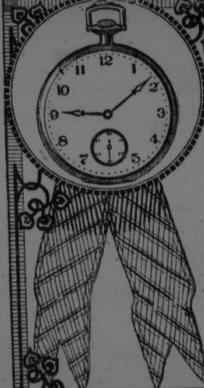
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