

## The St. John Standard.

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## PROVINCIAL NATURAL RE-SOURCES.

Mr. Chester Martin has recently completed for the Government of Manitoba an exhaustive report on the claims of the various provinces to the 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. 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 admission 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 two 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 and 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 got nothing, 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 so 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.

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## SHORTER HOURS AND REDUCTION.

The high prices prevailing for all commodities is commonly attributed to the falling off in production following the introduction of shorter hours of labor in the majority of industries. An investigation into the actual effect upon production has been conducted by the United States National Industrial Conference Board and its findings are interesting.

Allowing for variations in managerial efficiency, the investigators conclude that a shorter working day increases the efficiency of workers who are called upon to use intelligence at their occupation. In factories, however, where the product results automatically from mechanical processes, production is reduced in the same ratio as the working day. Because of this difference the Board is unable to recommend any uniform schedule of hours, equally adapted to all industries. Shorter hours are, however, favored for skilled workers to enable them to concentrate upon their work with greater efficiency. In the case of "automatic" workers, who are guided entirely by the operation of the machines in their charge, no such concession is needed. In the boot and shoe industry, where skill is required, it was found that the maximum of production could be maintained on a schedule less than 54 hours per week. In the metal-working group it was found that a 56-hour week could be introduced in some trades with no loss to production, but that the rule could not be applied everywhere throughout the group.

In the silk industry it was found that output could be maintained with a reduction of hours. In the cotton textile industry, however, investigation proved that the reduction of the working week to 56 hours involved a proportional reduction of output; while in the woolen manufacturing industry reduction to a 54-hour week resulted in less marked decline. Some evidence was found also of improved efficiency as the result of the payment of a bonus to workers, and in the piece-rate as compared with the day-rate of system of wage payment.

There was not sufficient information available to permit the Board to form any general conclusion as to the effect of the shorter hours upon the health of the workers. In the fixing of hours, the investigators point out that there are many other factors to take into account besides output and health, and their present inquiry does not take in account the wider social field.

The United States Health Service has found that the output of industry is more steadily maintained under the 10-hour day than under the 12-hour shift, the pace of the work tending in the latter case to be set by the less efficient workers, while under the 8-hour day the output varied more nearly according to the capacity of the workers. In regard to the frequency of accidents, a direct relation was traced between fatigue and risk, as a large number of accidents occur in the last hours of the ten-hour or twelve-hour day.

## THE IRISH TROUBLE.

He is a veritable optimist who sees an early solution of the Irish question. But is the situation as "desperate" as many would have us believe? Mr. Lloyd George, it may safely be assumed, is keenly and sincerely anxious to evolve a settlement of the long-standing difficulty. He is clever enough and resourceful enough to find a way out that will satisfy reasonable demands, but it is too much to hope that he will be able to placate the extremists on both sides of the torrent of controversy.

Unanimous approval of a Home Rule measure cannot be secured as long as there are elements among the people whose principal thought is the demolition of the structure of the British Empire.

But, as the Ottawa Journal says, several things have occurred to strengthen the belief that the British Premier eventually will succeed. A significant utterance comes from a representative American Irishman, after a visit to Presidential Candidate Cox, to the effect that the Irish question is not to be injected into the forthcoming presidential campaign; and his Republican opponent has gone no further than to express his "sympathy" for the Irish people—a sympathy which comes from many hearts. Sinn Fein and Ulster alike, Ireland, surely, is entitled to all men's sympathy, from whatever angle we look at her.

The main hope of the separatists was the support of one or other of the great political parties of the United States and they have neglected no opportunity to embroil Great Britain in difficulties with that power. But

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 preference 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 will find opportunities in civic and national affairs, largely in non-controversial matters, work which will be incalculable help to the whole country.

## Second Childhood.

(Farmers' Sun.)  
The Toronto Globe declares that the Deury Government is a foe to public ownership because it wants to investigate the radial situation before plunging recklessly into a building campaign that would cost many score millions. The Globe organizes its argument 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 the people and the government has no 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 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. We are here to learn from you how to manage in so short a span of years to accomplish such immense things, and as far as we can foretell the pervasiveness of the future."

To these men from widely distant parts of Great Britain, as well as from the Motherland, Canada opens wide her doors. Their visit is fraught with great possibilities. They are essentially the molders of thought and the exponents of public opinion in their own lands, and they come to the Dominion to study Empire problems from the Canadian viewpoint—a new angle possibly to many of them.

The visit of the Imperial Press delegates cannot but 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 not gone who close,  
We need not grope with hands,  
Nor lock to ree, 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-laden paths.

## THE LAUGH LINE

THE LAUGH LINE, HIRSHLIL.  
And Poor If He Does.  
Sign in Boris'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 stepped 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 he find himself confronting, 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 packidges?

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 bizziday. 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 alone. Who are you?

3rd man. I'm the president of a orfin asylum and we jest happin to need some orfins. I'll leave you go agen wenn you're 21.

Boy. Mame! Papa!

3rd man. You aint got any.

The end.

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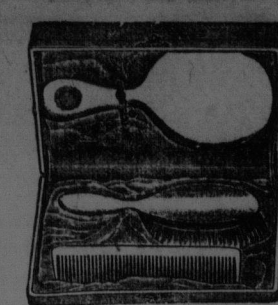
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