

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1919.

IN QUEBEC.

The present session of the Quebec Legislature does not appear to be marked out for any special sensation, as is usually the case. The speech from the Throne expresses complacent satisfaction with conditions in the Province, and forebodes measures for the promotion of agriculture, education and colonization. The Government has been opening new areas for settlement in a systematic manner, and this session it will ask for \$5,000,000 to further its colonization schemes. The Government has a slightly larger Opposition, and the latter has acquired some orators of ability, but the Government will have no trouble putting through its measures and winding up the session as soon as it desires.

The legislative programme attracts less attention than the political situation. It was rumored that the recent cabinet shuffle was a preliminary to the retirement of Premier Gouin, but he is practically certain to remain at the helm during the present session, and possibly longer. But there appears to be a general impression that his retirement is merely a matter of months, and there is much speculation as to his successor. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux is mentioned as a possible wearer of the mantle of Sir Lomer, but it is intimated that he is weary of politics, and disgruntled by the summary manner in which Ernest Lapointe has practically ousted him from the leadership of the Federal Liberals from Quebec. Hon. L. A. Taschereau could apparently have the position, but he is said to prefer the emoluments of his professional practice to the political turmoils which are considered inevitable when Sir Lomer's commanding personality withdraws from the scene. Hon. Antoine Gauthier, the newly-appointed Minister of Public Works and Labor, has ambitions, but also a few enemies who are not anxious to present him with the leadership. Then there is Hon. J. Ed. Caron, a genuine farmer, who claims he can lead the manufacturers and the habitant by the same token into virgin pastures of prosperity, and thus preserve the Liberal Party in Quebec from the snares and perils of the agrarian political movement. As the Liberal organs in Quebec exhibit a great fear of the possible effects of a political uprising of the habitant under the banner of the United Farmers it is not impossible that this political farmer may be asked to take the succession in the hope that thereby the Quebec farmers will remain in the fold of Liberalism.

FOR CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS.

The decision of the British Trade Union Congress, representing five million workers, to lay over to February consideration of what action should be taken to support the miners' demand for the nationalization of the mines may be due to deference to moderate opinion, or to some cause not explained in the press despatches. Having been called for the special purpose of taking action on the question of nationalization, the fact that the resolution for postponement was carried unanimously would suggest important developments of some sort since the call for the Congress was issued. The report of friction in the Triple Alliance of miners, railway and general transport workers may have had something to do with it, while the decision of the Government a few weeks ago to reduce the price of coal ten shillings a ton is not without significance, since it is a concession to the views of the miners who vigorously contended that there was no justification for former increases in coal prices ordered by the Government.

Mr. Thomas, of the Railway Union, moved the resolution of postponement. He said their complaints should not be directed against those in power, but against the people who returned them. This is the Labor Party argument—the argument that they should seek to attain their ends by persuasion and conversion of the majority for political purposes, as opposed to the drastic method of direct action through strikes and civil tumult. The Congress agreed to a vigorous campaign to convince the people of the necessity of nationalization, and instructed the Labor Party, the Miners' Federation, and the Co-operative Societies to organize a hundred or more great demonstrations throughout the country. Mr. Smilie, the miners' leader, accepted this programme, but declared the present Government would never be moved except by industrial force, and protested that the miners could not go on as they were now.

It may be supposed that the trade union leaders were adverse to allowing the miners to interrupt the economic recovery of the nation which has been proceeding in a very gratifying manner in recent months. Trade returns for the last month show that Britain's export trade has practically doubled since the first of the year. There is still an excess of imports, but it is now near a point where it will be balanced by shipping profits. The

whole country seems to be pervaded by a spirit of optimism which was not in evidence when the Trades Congress met last summer. The Government's gloomy predictions as to coal production appears to have been groundless, and this gives the miners a card to play in their campaign of persuasion. The attitude of the Congress showed no weakening on the principle of the nationalization of the mines. Smilie avers that the miners are as ready to overthrow the divine right of dukes as ever Cromwell's Ironsides were to overthrow the divine right of kings. Evidently the question will have to be fought out sooner or later; but the decision of the Congress not to be hurried by the direct actionists into dangerous courses is a good omen for the future.

NAVAL POLICY.

The announcement of the First Lord of the Admiralty that the British Government does not propose to decide upon a naval policy for the future until the world has time to settle itself may have an international significance of some importance. Mr. Boner Law recently declared that it was the duty of Great Britain to set the world an example in the matter of the limitation of armaments, and Mr. Long's announcement may imply a hope that the League of Nations will yet be able to deal with the armament question in a manner acceptable to the principal world powers. By intimating her intention to allow her naval policy to remain an open question for the present Britain may also hope that a moderating influence will be exercised upon the United States and Japan, both of which at the moment are considering naval programmes of an ambitious character.

No doubt Britain can afford to postpone action on her future naval policy, for at present her navy is stronger than it was before the war, and with the menace of Germany overcome, there is no apparent need of a stronger fleet. Neither Italy nor France have naval ambitions of any importance, and if they had are too poor to realize them. British interest is not in a larger fleet, but in a readjustment of her forces to the new conditions of naval warfare, and in that phase of naval activity she is not likely to lag behind.

Mr. Long's announcement probably also implies a belief that the United States will come into the League of Nations, and make possible a practical international understanding looking to a progressive limitation of armaments. When Congress comes to consider the demands for very big appropriations for naval purposes, in conjunction with the necessity of providing for the war debt, it may come to look with a more friendly eye upon the League of Nations as a means of insuring peace, and limiting expenditures on armaments.

THE GREAT ORACLE.

Hon. W. L. Mack King does not wear with any great dignity the mantle of the Master Opportunist. Sir Wilfrid had a lofty manner of looking over the heads of questions he did not want to be explicit about. Mr. King locks on both sides of a question, and then tries to part its hair in the middle. He has been telling his followers that as a general policy they should run candidates in all the Federal constituencies, but as a matter of practical politics they must be guided by local conditions in the several ridings and not run candidates simply for the sake of having the Grand Old Party represented in the field. After this oracular utterance his uninspired followers who asked him for a pronouncement on the party's attitude to the United Farmers will no doubt be as wise as they were before. Mr. King is of the opinion that his party's present policy of drifting is injurious, but he is evidently not prepared to steer it on a definite course through the troubled waters of the agrarian agitation. He appears, however, to have hopes that the drifting party can be brought to anchor if he can secure the appointment of a general secretary at Ottawa.

CIRCUS-LIKE METHODS.

Moncton Times: "The esteemed Transcript, in its defence of the recent New Brunswick loan, sneers at the 'circus-like methods' adopted in the flotation of Victory bonds by the Dominion Government. The 'circus-like methods' consisted of an extensive advertising campaign showing the undoubted security of the bonds and educating the masses of the people in habits of thrift and the saving of dollars while dollars are plentiful, against the future time, which is inevitable, when dollars will not be so easy to get. Similar methods were adopted by the United States Government, even more 'circus-like,' and also by the staid-going Britishers. That this advertising campaign by the Canadian Government was successful to a marked degree is shown by the fact that this year's loan, as well as last year's, was more than doubly sub-

scribed, while there are well on to two million bond-holders, or about one in four of the total population. The management of the Victory bond advertising was in the hands of the Canadian Press Association, and it was gleamed at commercial rates based on circulation. Possibly if certain newspapers had been able to hold up the Government for two or three times their commercial rates, instead of criticism there would have been the highest commendation of the methods adopted. But after everything is said, the fact remains that the New Brunswick bonds were sold to brokers at a discount of four per cent, and are now being offered to the public at an advance of more than two per cent. The fact also remains that the city of Halifax is able to borrow from the banks at a less rate of interest than the Province of New Brunswick is paying on the recent issue of bonds, while many business houses are also able to borrow at a lower rate."

Where Canadians Convinced, (News of the World.)
 Bear Wood Estate, near Windsor, Forest, for many years the palatial home of the Walter family, the former owners of the "Times," has been purchased by Thomas Devitt, the shipowner. It is understood that he intends to convert the property into an orphanage and training college for the children of the merchant seamen. A most admirable idea.

County Local Housing Board

We are prepared to receive applications for loans on houses now in course of erection or contemplated by private parties in the County of St. John. Application forms may be had by applying to P. O. Box 205, or to Thomas J. C. Sweeney, Secretary-Treasurer, 109 Prince William Street, City.

ALEX. WILSON, Chairman.

The Christmas Problem

of what to give and to whom to give it can be solved.

This list will help:

FOR BOYS
 Oil Tanned Shoe Pairs . . . \$4.50
 Hockey Boots . . . \$3.50 to 5.00
 House Slippers . . . \$5.00 to \$10.00
 Walking Boots . . . \$3.50 to 7.00

FOR GIRLS
 Slipper Trees 25
 Felt Slippers . . . \$1.50 to \$3.00
 Evening Slippers . . \$5.00 to \$10.00
 Skating Boots . . . 5.50 to 8.00

FOR FATHER OR MOTHER
 Plaid Felt Slippers . \$2.00 to \$3.25
 House Slippers . . . 1.50 to 5.00
 Nice Overshoes . . . 1.50 to 4.25
 Walking Boots . . . 8.00 to 15.00

Call and inspect these and other suitable gifts that will give pleasure not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Foot Fitters **McROBBIE** 50 King Street ST. JOHN

MARVEN'S WHITE LILY BISCUITS

Ask for Marven's Throat Office Assorted Biscuits White Lily Assorted Biscuits
 They fill the mouth exactly. They satisfy.

SOLD IN BULK—IN PACKAGES—IN TIN PAIRS

J. A. MARVEN, LTD. BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS

HALIFAX ST. JOHN

SEE OUR ENGRAVED Christmas Greeting Cards For personal or business use. FLEWELLING PRESS, 3 Market Sq., St. John

Classes Will Re-open after Christmas Holidays

Monday, January 5th.

Send for new Rate Card.

S. KERR, Principal

HAVEN'T YOU PAID RENT LONG ENOUGH?

If what you've paid out in rent was capitalized, you'd HAVE a nice home NOW.

PLAN TO OWN YOUR HOME.

We can supply you with everything you'll need, in Wood and Glass, to build your home, and

WE'LL GLADLY HELP YOU PLAN IT. See US, or call

MAIN 3000

Murray & Gregory, Ltd.

CEDAR SHINGLES ARE SCARCE

For 2nd Clears, Clear Walls, Extra No. 1, and British Columbia Red Cedar—

'Phone Main 1893.

The Christie Wood-working Co., Ltd.

186 Erin Street

WOOD ELECTRIC PORTABLES

Genuine Mahogany and Mahogany finish. Value extraordinary \$3.00 wired.

We also have wire shade frames and Art Shades for use with above.

HIRAM WEBB & SON, Electrical Contractors

91 Germain Street. 'Phone M. 2579-11.

CONFECTIONERY to suit you all. Our packages are elegant. The assortment is Moirs, Neilsons, Corona—Canong's Dutch Dainties. Also the celebrated Jane Todds in fancy packages.

THE ROYAL PHARMACY, 49 King Street.



The Big Value in FLOUR

IN THE KITCHEN, the big event is baking day. And the important thing on baking day is to use "REGAL"—the ideal flour for bread. "REGAL" means bread of uniform texture, lasting freshness and wholesome qualities.

THE ST. LAWRENCE FLOUR MILLS CO. LIMITED MONTREAL

The Sentiment and Service in Silver

COMMUNITY PLATE

 COMMUNITY PLATE
 The Aristocrat of the Dining Table
 We show the beautiful Sheraton and Adam patterns in Spoons, Forks, Knives and other Pieces.
 Make your selection early.

'Phone M 2540 McAVITY'S 11-17 King St.

Classes Will Re-open after Christmas Holidays

Monday, January 5th.

Send for new Rate Card.

S. KERR, Principal

For 2nd Clears, Clear Walls, Extra No. 1, and British Columbia Red Cedar—

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THE ROYAL PHARMACY, 49 King Street.

The BEST Combination For Heavy Power Transmission

D. K. BALATA BELTING and Crescent Plates

D. K. McLAREN, LIMITED Manufacturers

Main 1121 — 90 Germain Street, St. John, N. B. — Box 702

The Best Quality At A Reasonable Price

Buying Watch Satisfaction

One make of automobile will not suit every man, neither will one kind of watch. That is why different makes and different grades of the same make of watches are manufactured.

We make each watch sale an individual matter giving the customer our expert advice and help in getting a watch that will best suit his individual requirements. We follow this up by giving service without charge in adjusting the watch to keep time in his pocket, and keeping it regulated.

We carry only those makes which we know are excellent in every detail and each one is tested before it leaves the store. By explaining to you the features of these makes and grades, you are enabled to choose between them intelligently.

The result is thorough satisfaction with the watch purchased at SHARPE'S.

We invite you to examine our watches.

WRIST WATCHES, \$14.00 to \$30.00
 BRACELET WATCHES, \$22.00 to \$75.00
 POCKET WATCHES, \$15.00 to \$125.00

L. L. Sharpe & Son

Jewelers and Opticians

Two Stores: 21 King St., 189 Union St.

OBITUARY

Michael

The death of Michael

place at his home

Thursday at 1 p.m.

sons, Thomas and

daughters, Mrs. S.

Mrs. Norman, of