

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1920.

MR. MURRAY'S SPEECH.

As a comprehensive review of Provincial affairs, the speech of Mr. J. A. Murray in the Legislature, yesterday afternoon, was a masterly effort. No one has a more intimate knowledge of these affairs than he; and he certainly made the most of it. The whole speech was admirable in tone and conception, and entirely devoid of any of those wild flights of imagination which have characterized some of the speeches delivered by Government supporters this session.

Mr. Murray had all the best of the argument behind him when he compared the present Government's record with that of their predecessors. Every one recalls the expressions of horror which fell in heavy showers from the supporters of the Government party when that party was in opposition over what they were pleased to call the then Government's wasteful extravagance. Compare that so-called extravagance with the conditions which obtain today, and what do we find? The capital liabilities increased by over five million dollars in two years and a half; with larger revenues by two or three hundred thousand dollars than ever were received before, yet there have been deficits rolled up on ordinary account of nearly \$900,000 in the same period, and, in addition, a programme for further expenditures drawn up with absolutely no regard at all to either of these facts. This from an administration that is popularly supposed to be headed by a "business man."

Mr. Murray's speech will repay the careful perusal and consideration of every thinking man in this Province. It bristles with information such as everyone interested in Provincial affairs will be glad to have.

THE EXTENSION OF THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

Premier Foster has introduced a Bill to provide for the extension of the Valley Railway north from Centerville. We can only say we are surprised that any sane man, much less a man who was elected to office on the "business man" platform, should even propose such an undertaking under present conditions. Is the Province not heavily enough in debt as it is without wanting to sink it any deeper in the mire? Is Premier Foster utterly lost to all sense of responsibility? There is no more actual need for the extension of the Valley Railway beyond Centerville than there is for five wheels to a coach. And even if there were need for such an extension, the present cost of railway construction should cause any reasonable man to put the project aside until conditions become more favorable. The local traffic on such an extension, if it were built, would be so small as to be absolutely negligible, and as for the through traffic over the Transcontinental, that is already provided for via McDivy Junction to Fredericton. What is the sense of building a second line to bring traffic through St. John, when already there is one line in operation doing it?

The Premier's object is, of course, to propitiate his constituents in Victoria County, but the continued allegiance of that County to the present Government party cannot be permitted to be bought at the enormous expense this proposed extension would call for. Does the Premier propose to squander the million dollars he boasted he saved the constituents in the recent purchase of Valley Railway stock in London on this extension?

When it was first proposed that a railway should be built down the Valley, the people from the various North Shore Counties protested most insistently against what they described as a waste of money, in providing the residents of a district that was wholly without transportation facilities, with a railway. What do Mr. Foster's supporters from these counties think of his proposal to construct a railway through a district which is already well served by the C. P. R.?

CANADA'S GREAT WORLD TRADE.

Discussing the above subject, the New York Sun says:

Great Britain practices to a degree the sound economic and commercial doctrine that it is both possible and practicable for a trading nation to overcome an adverse balance by buying more, not less, abroad. Deeply in debt to us on current trade balance, British manufacturers have nevertheless bought raw material from us prodigiously and even wildly, notably cotton. Manufacturing thus into finished products, the United Kingdom sells it the world over for so much more than our raw material cost the British spinners that on that single item the general international trade balance against Great Britain is cut down by many millions of dollars.

Canada, becoming after the war began one of the great trading nations of the world, has inherited the economic genius or has learned the trading lesson from the British parent land. Although there has been a huge American trade balance against Canada, and although American exchange

has been embarrassingly against Canada, and in spite of talk across the line of stopping imports from us so as to readjust the trade balance and the exchange rates, Canadian common sense has forbidden or avoided any such thing.

While in the seven months ending with January Canada's purchases from us at \$483,000,000 were some \$60,000,000 lower than for the corresponding period in the previous year, the drop was much more than accounted for by the cessation of war material needs. And while Canada's sales to us at \$319,000,000 were some \$17,000,000 more than in the corresponding period of the previous year, the excess of imports from us over exports to us scored for the seven months the very substantial figure of \$102,000,000. For the twelve months ending with February 29 the balance in our favor was not far from \$300,000,000.

What this excess of purchases from us means in enhanced Canadian economic power may be judged by the fact that Canadian exports to Great Britain were more than half a billion dollars for the twelve months ending February 29 and the Canadian trade balance against Great Britain for the same period was no less than \$400,000,000.

The total Canadian exports for the twelve months were nearly \$1,300,000,000, built up not merely on the basis of Canadian raw materials and Canadian products manufactured out of Canadian raw materials but on the basis as well of the huge purchases of goods in the United States, bought, as Great Britain herself buys, largely for re-export.

It is interesting to note and it is an important fact in our international commercial and financial standing that Canada, with only a few millions more population than New York, continues to be after the war, as she was during the war, our second best customer in the whole world. Only the United Kingdom surpassing her. How the Canadians buy from us and what it is worth to us may be understood by the fact that for the seven months ending with January 31, 1920, Canada bought in the United States double the value of goods bought from us in the same period by all the countries and all the peoples of the whole of South America.

Canada's great world trade is an asset of greatness not merely for herself but as well for our own United States.

Some cities in America have decided to advance the hands of the clock an hour at the beginning of April, some are going to take the move in May while others are not going to interfere with the clock at all. Steamship companies are announcing their intention of abiding by standard time, so as not to conflict with the railways and the towns outside the ports. There is evidently considerable confusion in the air as regards time for the coming summer. There is need of a get-together movement for the sake of uniformity.

The Canadian railways have considerable construction programmes, but they cannot get labor. The foremen, who have always done this type of work, have gone or are going home to Europe. A good deal of the hard, rough outdoor work necessary in this country will have to be neglected until the "foreigners" return in numbers.

A bill was yesterday introduced into the Legislature to increase the scale of Succession Duties. This is presumably the first result of the Rev. Prof. Kierstead's researches. It did not require much expert knowledge to suggest such a simple method of obtaining an increase in the revenue as that now proposed.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Soft Snap for Kiddies.
 (Calgary Herald.)
 Children of a certain Calgary public school are to be tried out on a milk diet at the suggestion of T. W. Carlyle, who will supply the lactical fluid. The idea is to see how much the youngsters improve in health and weight while under the diet. It looks as if it would be pretty soft for the kids.

Nobody Would Worry.
 (Toronto Mail and Empire.)
 The whole of the Ottoman Empire is said to be in a state of anarchy, excepting Constantinople, which is occupied by Allied troops. If the Armenians were exterminated, the Turks and their cousins could be left to have a good taste of misery as a lesson.

After Coronel.
 (Victoria Colonist.)
 In considering the proposed measure for the naval defence of the coast of Canada, it is to be hoped Dominion legislators will not forget the conditions that prevailed on the Pacific Coast following the Battle of Coronel. In that engagement Admiral von Spee was victorious after a battle that was creditable to the British in everything but discernment of the strength of the enemy. That unfortunate contretemps was amply redeemed not long afterwards in the Battle of the Falkland Islands, in which the conditions were reversed, and the menace on the Pa-

cific of von Spee's squadron was removed. In the interval between these two historic naval events Canadian cities on this coast were left without any defences whatever except such as were absolutely inadequate to meet any possible descent upon them of the victorious ships of the German Admiral. It was more by the decree of fortune than anything else that we escaped the consequences of unpreparedness. Canada never again should be caught in such a condition of unpreparedness with respect to any portion of her coast, whether in the West or the East. Such defensive measures as are necessary and are within our means should be devised and adopted without loss of time in debate.

The Wearing of Military Togs.

(Lethbridge Herald.)
 The order prohibiting discharged soldiers from wearing their military overcoats and tunics has been cancelled, and all returned men can wear their military uniforms, without being in danger of arrest. The original order-in-council was passed to protect the country against impostors, claiming to be soldiers, and wearing badges and ribbons without authority. The military authorities are asking to have the Criminal Code amended so as to make provision whereby improper wearing of uniforms, badges, and ribbons can be properly dealt with. The uniform is a badge of honor, and it is only right that those who use it for base purposes should be rigorously dealt with.

Work for the Night Cometh.

(Cleveland Plain-Dealer.)
 Practically every community is short of homes. Material for industrial expansion is hard to obtain. Building projects are held in check by conditions familiar enough to everyone. The abnormal cost of living, a heavy hand on every household, and conditions are not such as to promise any early and adequate relief. Part of these closely related conditions are due to labor shortage, but no small portion of it is caused by individual unwillingness to deliver a dollar's worth of work for each dollar the pay envelope contains.

The Earliest Strike on Record.

(London Daily News.)
 Is there an earlier instance of a strike than this, recorded in Horace Walpole's Last Journal, July 14, 1778: "At this time the shipwrights in all the dockyards refused to work unless their wages were increased. They grew so mutinous at last that horse and foot guards were sent to restrain them." It lasted until September, when Walpole notes that the "quarrel was composed, and they went to work again," but he does not say whether or not they got their increase.

A J. Tingley, Chief of the C. N. R. Police and Detective Force, is registered at the Victoria.

A BIT OF VERSE

WHAT DID YOU DO?

Did you give him a lift? He's the brother of man,
 And bearing about all the burden he
 Did you give him a smile? He was downcast and blue,
 And the smile would have helped him
 To battle it through.
 Did you give him your hand? He was slipping down hill,
 And the word, so he fancied, was "up."
 Did you give him a word? Did you show him the road,
 Or did you just let him go by with his load?
 Did you help him along? He's a sinner, poor fellow,
 But the clasp of your hand might have carried him through?
 Did you bid him good cheer? Just a word and a smile,
 Were what he most needed that last weary mile?
 Do you know what he bore in that burden of care,
 That is ever man's load and that sympathy shares?
 Did you try to find out what he needed, and from you,
 Or did you just leave him battle it through?
 Don't you know that it's part of the brother of man,
 To find what the grief is and help when you can?
 Did you stop when he asked you to give him a lift,
 Or were you so busy you left him to shift?
 Oh, I know what you mean—what you say may be true—
 But the test of your manhood is what did you do?
 Did you reach out a hand? Did you find him the road,
 Or did you just let him go by with his load?
 —J. W. Foley.

THE PLAGUE

OF PIMPLES

Body Covered With Them.

The primary cause of pimples arises from the blood not being in a good condition. When the blood becomes impure you will find that pimples will break out all over the body, but more particularly on the forehead, nose and chin, and although they are not a dangerous trouble they are very unsightly. What you need when pimples or boils break out is a real good blood purifying medicine such as Burdock Blood Bitters.

This preparation has been on the market for over 40 years and is the most reliable remedy for all troubles arising from a bad condition of the blood. It removes all the impurities from the system and will leave a clear, healthy skin.

Mr. Emerson G. Goodwin, Cambridge, N. B., writes: "For nearly two years I suffered from boils and pimples on my face and neck, and nearly all of my body was covered with the pimples. I tried most everything, but got no relief. One day a friend advised me to try Burdock Blood Bitters, and after using three bottles the pimples and boils had all left me and there is no sign of them returning. I can say with a good conscience that Burdock is one who is troubled with skin disease." Manufactured only by The T. M. Mum Co. Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

WIND.
 Wind is fast air. It blows from the north east, south or west, depending on which direction it wants to go, only you can't always tell by looking at a weather vane, on account of most weather vane's looking as if they are all the time changing their minds.

Sometimes a wind is so weak it can't hardly blow dust, and the next minute it gets so strong it will blow anything that's willing to blow, especially loose newspapers. This proves nobody can predict the future.

It's easy to walk in the coldest wind when there's houses or something in front of you to stop it, but when there's nothing to stop it except just you, it makes a grate different. There is much more wind in winter, when it's not necessary, than there is in summer, when it is. This proves its easier to be satisfied with what you want than with what you get.

No matter how hard the wind blows, it still stays invisible, but when you see dead leaves and paper and peeples hats flying around in the air, you know it's the wind pushing them. One of the funniest things the wind does is blow other peoples' umbrellas inside out.

Birds have a slant just setting on the wind with their wings spread out if it's blowing the way the birds want to go, with it generally is, on account of it not making much difference to a bird which way it goes.

When people hear the wind making a fearful lot of noise outside, they think it's awful cold out and get ready to shiver before they open the front door. This proves the value of avortment.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Fredericton, N. B.,
 March 30, 1920.
 Editor Standard,
 St. John, N. B.

Sir:
 No newspaper which claims to be a journal of the home and fireside should ever publish such an article as your editorial of yesterday on the effects of Prohibition. The tone of the article is pessimistic in the extreme. A journal of the home and fireside should breathe an air of cheerfulness and hope. The root idea of the article is pessimistic in the extreme. It is out of harmony with the message of the gospel, and is opposed to universal experience. Man was made in the image of God, and may recover that image. All his evil energies may be turned into good and useful channels. This is the gospel that you ought to preach at Easter-tide. Let us have no more of that sour-grained gloomy stuff in your editorial columns.

Yours truly,
 J. M. LEMONT.

(There is an old saying that "There are no blind as those who don't want to see," and we sadly fear that our friend Mr. Lemont, like Mr. Marshall before him, is in this class. It is all very well to shut one's eyes to an evil, and then declare that no such evil exists; but that line of argument does not do away with the evil at all. We did not say it existed in St. John or even in New Brunswick, as yet, but that it was becoming apparent in some of the larger communities in the United States and Canada. This statement was based upon information we have that we know can be relied upon. The evil exists in some places, it will probably extend to many others in due course.)

With regard to the Inspector's expense accounts, these accounts are on file at Fredericton and can speak for themselves. As to what is "fair journalism" or "wise journalism" any adverse criticism of the Prohibition law would be neither "fair" nor "wise" in the view of Mr. Marshall and those who think with him. As we said they belong to a class which, on this subject at any rate, cannot be reasoned with. Mr. Marshall's letter is in itself abundant evidence of that fact, (ed.)

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