

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street,
St. John, N. B., Canada.

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Yearly Subscriptions: \$5.00
By Carrier \$5.00
Per Mail 3.00
Semi-Weekly by Mail 1.00
Invariably in Advance.
Phone Main 1910.
Intercommunicating System Connecting all Departments.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1913.

THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINED.

There is evidence, according to the hints being thrown out, that the final scenes of the closure struggle will be climaxed by violent exhibitions of rowdy tactics on the part of the Opposition. It is the sign of a weakened party to threaten. It is a relic of the methods of the Dark Ages when men, unable to convince, resorted to the dagger. The country already has seen fit to disapprove of what will be known in history as the Pugsley coup, stepping out from the floor and threatening the Speaker. Whatever may be the final impression of the second session of the 13th Parliament of Canada, an outstanding feature will be the length to which certain men will go in disorderly conduct, urged on by the lust of power.

The fact that the Opposition is again threatening riotous scenes, and that the Hon. William Pugsley is being mentioned as chief participant, testifies eloquently to the fact that the member for the City of Saint John has indeed fallen low. If he tried to convince by argument he would be respected, but to convince by brute force is the last method of desperate men.

While the chief argument during the past week, as used by the Opposition, consists in a recentment against an alleged insult to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, there is one thing forgotten. The people of Canada were insulted during two solid weeks by a body of men who carried on a spiritless and senseless blockade with the one avowed purpose of forcing the Government to appeal to the people within one year and a half of having been returned by a great popular vote. The real secret of the Liberal resentment, during the past few days, is the manner in which they have been outmaneuvered by the members of a comparatively young Government.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been the idol of the Liberal party. In the Province of Quebec at the last election the people were lashed by an appeal to sentiment and not to reason. "Vote for the old cock" was the slogan of the party. That cry did not hold water in the House of Commons and when Laurier was forced by the rules of the House legally and constitutionally to give way to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the anger of the Liberals knew no bounds. Their last argument, which was woven into the halo around the head of Sir Wilfrid Laurier had disappeared, and nothing was left.

Now they have been reduced to a scheming band, busily engaged, headed by Hon. William Pugsley, in formulating plots of riot and disorder. There was some excuse for Jack Cadie, and Oliver Cromwell was an angel in comparison with those men who, in an age of reason and civilization, in a young and growing country, endeavor to plunge the whole fabric of constitutional machinery into chaos and anarchy.

If strong measures are taken by the Borden Government to check the growing disorder, the country will applaud. The sunshine of Spring has come and men's minds turn towards constructive legislation, healthy and inspiring. The fogs and darkness of Winter have disappeared and the country has a right to expect that with them will also go the evil humors and the dark vapors of a party whose conduct is rooted in unhealthy ambition.

The end of the week will probably see the closure an established fact, and the end of another week will see the Borden and Hazen Naval proposals on the Statute Books of Canada as far as the Commons is concerned. Before another month is passed it is to be hoped that the regrettable events of the past month will be as non-existent as the Winter snows.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

It is well within recollection that subsequent to the appalling disaster to the White Star liner Titanic, which occurred a year ago last Monday and in which one thousand, five hundred and seventy-seven lives were lost, a Special Committee of the United States Senate under the chairmanship of Senator William A. Smith, of Michigan, was appointed and held an extended and exhaustive investigation covering practically every phase of the disaster. The committee examined 32 witnesses, including 53 British subjects or residents of Great Britain and 23 citizens of the United States. A bill, embodying the recommendations of the committee in minute detail and covering thirty-three pages, was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce. Not one piece of the proposed protective legislation has been passed.

So destructive and interesting a study of the work of the committee, Mr. W. L. Stoddard, a writer in the Boston Transcript, does not hesitate to say the blame is the door of Congress for neglect of an obvious duty.

This bill, he writes, was not passed at the session of Congress during which the hearings were held, nor was it taken up in any way at the final session of the Congress, which went out of existence last March. The only direct legislative result of the Titanic disaster was the passage of the bill regulating radio communications—an important measure if properly enforced—and a resolution for an international conference to consider the safety of life at sea. At the last session of Congress the House passed and the Senate mutilated the so-called seamen's bill, the enactment of which in law would have secured efficiency in the manning of ocean liners. President Taft vetoed the amended bill.

"Such, in brief," he adds, "is the story of what Congress did not do to remedy the conditions which made the Titanic disaster practically inevitable. We are an impulsive and excitable people, but our memories are very short. After the passage of what is now twelve months most of us have forgotten the tumult of that night-mare week as well as the facts that the only legislative body in this country which could deal with the situation has not dealt with it."

One important step was taken by passing a joint resolution, approved by President Taft on June 25th, 1912, providing for an International Conference to consider uniform laws and regulations for the greater security of life and property on merchant vessels at sea, and no doubt the United States will be adequately represented whenever the congress conference may be summoned. There is a touch of cutting irony in the conclusions of the writer in the Transcript at the failure of Congress to grapple with this question. He suggests that "in case another Titanic should go down during a session of Congress it will be unnecessary to hold new hearings and write new legislation; Senate Bill 6576 is all that is wanted for such a disaster."

THE BANK OF B. N. A.

The Seventy-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Bank of British North America, recently held in London, England, was made noteworthy by the presentation of the best statement in the history of the Bank. The address of the chairman embraced a comprehensive review of economic conditions prevailing in Canada, while the report itself showed that substantial progress had been made in every department during the past year.

The net profits for the year are upwards of \$50,000 greater than those of 1911, despite the fact that the change, which was made in the Bank's financial year reduced the trading period to eleven months. Special emphasis was laid on this fact by the chairman, as indicative of the rapid development of the institution. The substantial growth of the Bank's business has necessitated more commodious quarters at several of the large branches, and new premises are being erected at a number of points, the more important of which are Montreal, St. John and Edmonton.

The end of the Bank's year was marked by the retirement of Mr. H. Stikeman, the general manager, and the appointment, in his stead, of Mr. H. B. Mackenzie, and the chairman, in his address, made appreciative reference to the long and valuable service of the late general manager, and the capabilities of his successor.

A RUNAWAY CHURCH.

During the recent flood in the States of the Middle West a wooden church with a bell weighing nearly half a ton was deposited on Blennerhassett Island, in the Ohio River. There was nothing to show where the church had come from or what denomination had worshipped in it. The inhabitants promptly secured it, moved it to a desirable site and will use it for the purpose for which it was intended.

Runaway couples are common enough, remarks the New York Herald, and so are runaway horses. Even locomotives have been known to break from their couplings and run far away along the track. As for boys who run away to shoot Indians or become cowboys and the runaway girls who want to go on the stage or make what they call "careers" for themselves, their name is legion. But never before in the history of our country has a church been known to run away.

Literary Advantages.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The report brought from Grand Rapids that that city of 112,000 people, just a little larger than Ottawa, gives annually \$60,000 for public library purposes, and reads three times as many books as does Ottawa, ought to be the theme in the history of our country. It is a church in a better appreciation of literary advantages.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EARLY MINING DAYS

There are many successful mining camps in British Columbia today which owe their first beginnings to the curiosity and finds of Indians who have during their hunting expeditions come across some mineral bearing rock and have brought it to the white-man to identify.

Others wishing to guard their hunting grounds from the intruding prospector have on discovering any mineral indication shrewdly kept their privacy of their hunting preserves should be molested by the white man. Not far from Observatory Inlet, an Indian hunter chanced to come across a fallen tree which had been torn up by the roots thus uncovering a vein of good looking ore. Fearing its discovery would start a mining camp in the best part of his hunting grounds and so drive away all the fur bearing animals from his vicinity, he spent the greater part of a day covering up the lead with moss which he had to pack from some distance.

To an Indian hunter of the Naas River is due the credit of calling attention to the mineral deposits of Observatory Inlet, the place where one of the first full blooded Indians to hold in his own name a free miner's certificate in the coast district of the Skeena Mining Division, and in which division the Granby Bay mines are situated. The discovery led to the staking of the first group of mineral claims on Observatory Bay in 1897 by Messrs. J. Plevin, D. Robertson and W. E. Collison. These locations were made before Stewart came in existence as a mining camp.

The next mineral find of importance occurred on Mineral Creek, Goose Bay. This is a corruption of the Indian name for the bay, which is Kooch-ah-ah or Kooch-ah-ah. The bay is stripped from the young cedar trees for making mats. The bay has since been renamed "Granby Bay." It is also interesting to note that the Indian name for Mineral Creek is closely connected with the name they gave to the bay. The name is "Anks-sha-dah-shen," so called because of the deposits of mineral ore which was used to dye or blacken the cedar bark used in making mats and baskets.

During a prospecting trip in the summer of 1898 in the vicinity of Goose Bay, Messrs. W. E. Collison, E. Donehue, with Albert Allah, an Indian hunter, landed at the mouth of Mineral Creek to prepare a meal. During the preparation and cooking of the beans and bacon, Donehue who had spent many years in the Omkaneh country, took to gold panning and breaking off some of the corroded parts with the butt of his rifle he filled his pockets and baskets. At that time of the year filled every small stream with the snow had disappeared and the water was directed to what appeared to be a white quartz lead which lay across the stream. On closer inspection he found it to be largely mineralized. Breaking off some of the corroded parts with the butt of his rifle he filled his pockets and baskets.

This was the beginning of the Bonanza Group of mineral claims. An assay of the samples principally showed copper with a little gold. The following spring after the snow had disappeared a careful prospect was made which resulted in the locating of the "North Star," "Emerald," "Emma," "Gertrude," "Fidelity" and "Helen" Fraction mineral claims for the Bonanza Prospecting Partnership.

The group was afterwards bonded to Mr. M. K. Rogers for the late Marcus Daly for the sum of \$45,000.00. But after spending "a considerable amount of money in opening up the property it was discovered after the first payment, the company's expert, after a careful examination, advising against it. The property was restaked by the same owners who increased the number of claims, and in 1912 it was bonded to the Granby M. & S. Company for the sum of \$60,000.00.

Previous to this the hidden wealth of Hidden Creek only two miles from the Bonanza, lay unexplored. Attention had often been directed to the little red hill, but it was iron ore, did not seem good enough, and many a prospector turned away from it with the remark, "It's only iron." Luke Nelson, an old Indian hunter, who claimed that part of the Bay as his hunting preserves, brought a piece of oxidized iron ore to Mr. J. M. Collison and asked him to go up and stake it. The "Alpha" and "Beta" mineral claims were located, being the first mineral claims staked on the ground now occupied by the famous Granby Mines. After holding them for one year the "Alpha" was allowed to run out and the "Beta" was restaked by the original locator.

Attention was now being directed to the new locality, and Mr. Rodgers, who was at the time developing the "Bonanza" group bonded the "Beta," but after the first payment of \$300.00 the claim was abandoned. Meanwhile Messrs. Plevin, Rodgers and Robertson had located the "Summit," "Red Cliff," "Bayview" and other claims in the same vicinity. These were in time bonded to Mr. Hillis, a mining man of Vancouver, who did considerable work in opening up the property, and was the first to demonstrate the possibilities of Hidden Creek. On the return of Mr. M. K. Rodgers to the coast he took over the property for a considerable sum. Further improvements were now made showing up more than ever the value and extent of the deposits, until in the final act Hidden Creek once more changed hands, and the Granby M. & S. Company now own what is believed to be one of the largest copper mines in British Columbia.

OPHELIA'S SLATE



IN LIGHTER VEIN

THE INDIGNANT FARMER.

"I'm just as mad as I can be!" An angry farmer said: "Those early strawberries of mine Desire a folding bed!"

"And my potatoes have declined To ripen underground, Unless, to keep dust from their eyes, Smoked goggles I have found!"

"The cabbage heads, among themselves Indulge in secret chats; And I have overheard them, and They vow they'll have straw hats!"

"Such foolishness I cannot stand; And now—just as I feared—Each single stalk of wheat demands A barber for its beard!"

"The squashes, too, are getting proud; It almost makes me smile; They want the very finest neckwear, Of the very latest style!"

"But now the very limit's reached! I learn, with stifled groan—Each ear of corn insists upon A private telephone!"

—Harper's Weekly.

Married, of Course.

"She disturbed my peace of mind."

"By giving me a piece of hers."

Ape Prank, So to Speak.

We overheard today by chance A jest that caps the mango. Said Badger: "Why not give that dance

The name 'Orang-outango'?" "That's so, why not?" responded Bright.

"It is a monkeyshine, all right!" "That's so, why not?" responded Bright.

His Experience.

"What is your idea of high finance?" "It is a school of fiction," replied Mr. Austin Stutz, "in which mathematics takes the place of language."

Washington Star.

The Secret of It.

He—Their marriage seems to have turned out well, after all. She—Yes. You see they both belong to several clubs and don't meet often enough to get tired of each other.

Hard for the Consumer.

A correspondent informs us that he read on a downtown menu: "Prices subject to advance during interval of giving order and being served."

—Boston Transcript.

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