

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1920.

## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

The reading public has been favored on several occasions of late with accounts of the dire conditions which face the Western grain growers as a result of the fall in the price of wheat. At no time probably have the hearts of the people been very deeply stirred with sympathy for the former have been made painfully aware through the medium of their own pocket-books that the grain growers during the last three or four years have been doing fairly well; and that a lean year following so many fat ones, will not, or should not, rain them.

The Editor of The Farm and Ranch Review, himself a large farmer, in his New Year's message to his readers, takes a somewhat new line, which will we doubt not, be appreciated by the public at any rate; even if all farmers may not agree.

He says:  
 "To the Western farmer, the past year was a tremendous, heart-breaking disappointment. From prosperity, when a denuded wheat market ruthlessly dashed the cup of success to the ground."

"I am one of the host of disappointed farmers. My associates and I raised well over 100,000 bushels of wheat. We threshed and shipped early, but following our usual procedure, sold at the Lake head instead of for future delivery. The cost was approximately \$90,000. I may, therefore, be supposed to have the fellow feeling; I can't pay my debts this year."

"The grim spectre of starvation is stalking through Central Europe. Millions of unfed children—cries in vain for nourishment. They eat grass to sustain life and misery a moment longer. Typhus and other horrible diseases are preying on the unrelenting bodies of starvation-stricken mankind. The amount of relief funds available is pitifully inadequate and Herbert Hoover can calculate with mathematical certainty the number of human lives he can save with wheat at \$2.00 a bushel and the host that must die a lingering death were wheat \$3.00 a bushel!"

"I mentally compare my miserable, peckish personal problems at this time of the fall in the price of wheat, with the alternative of higher prices, wrung out of the lifeblood of trusting, innocent children, and I recoil, horror-stricken, from the mere thought of touching my share of the lost \$60,000, were it handed to me on a silver platter."

"Follow farmers! I follow-sufferers. I wish I could extend to you my undivided sympathy, but, as God is my witness, I just can't. We would be less than humans were our misfortune not tempered by the conviction, that our losses in dollars represent gains in lives. Personally, I count myself fortunate to have had this sacrifice thrust upon me, and to have reached a satisfying mental attitude on the subject."

## C. N. R. AFFAIRS

The time appears to have arrived when the question as to who is to control the affairs of the C. N. R. should be settled once and for all. At the present time this control seems to have been usurped by the Railway Brotherhoods who have decided that C. N. R. employees shall not handle freight sent for shipment by the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company. If these Brotherhoods are to be allowed to remain in control of affairs, it is just as well that the public should know it. Their action in the present instance has not a particle of justification, and can only serve to alienate public sympathy from railway employees should they ever deserve it.

This action on the part of the Brotherhoods does not arise out of any grievance that the railwaymen have against the Railway Board of Management, but it is taken in sympathy with the employees of the Steel Companies, who are at loggerheads with their employers. In the hope that it will force the hands of the companies and compel them to accede to their employees' demands. In other words, it is a sympathetic strike, the kind of strike of which the general public does not approve. If railwaymen are to be allowed to dictate what traffic shall or shall not be handled by the railway, according to the actions of outside individuals or concerns, what with their approval or not, then there is at once an end of all constituted authority.

There appears to be no limit to the demands of the railwaymen. The other day they demanded the appointment of a Board of Arbitration to take up the question of the British order permitting any C. N. R. employees

taking an active part in politics. Should such a Board be appointed, the immediate resignation of the entire Railway Board must necessarily follow. If on the other hand, no appointment is made, a strike on the part of the railwaymen may be expected.

It seems therefore that there must very soon be a "showdown." In order that it may be settled once and for all who is controlling C. N. R. affairs. It may be necessary for the Railway Board to take very drastic action, even going so far as to order a cessation of all operations on the road for a time. Such a course might perhaps cause some inconvenience to those parts of the country which have to depend wholly upon the C. N. R. for transportation facilities, but it would be no worse than having the railway tied up through a strike of the men—and it looks as though one of these events must happen before any settlement can be expected. The public is always inclined to be sympathetic in regard to the just grievances of labour, but there is a considerable difference between that kind of grievance, and one that exists only in fancy. The railwaymen have no cause for grievance at all in connection with the Steel Companies; and their so-called grievance in connection with political activities exists only in their imaginations.

## SOME APPRECIATIONS

It is said that self praise is never very much of a recommendation, and such an assertion is probably true in the great majority of cases at any rate. We have no intention of indulging in the practice ourselves, but we would be less than human if we did not feel greatly pleased at the many flattering expressions of appreciation that come in a continuous stream from our readers. During the past few months we have received scores of letters from readers in all parts of the province expressing approval of the stand this paper has taken upon various public matters.

One reader who resides in the western part of the province informs us that he subscribes to several papers, both Canadian and American, and these provide him with good opportunities to judge The Standard as compared with the others. He adds: "You surely have made your paper the best in New Brunswick, and I would rather miss my dinner than miss The Standard. Of course you are abused and lied about for some people can't stand the truth!"

Another reader, this time from Nova Scotia, writes: "For the last two years The Standard has been coming regularly to my house, and I can assure you its visits are appreciated. Quite naturally I do not agree with your attitude on every question, but there is one thing I like about your paper—one is never in doubt about what your attitude may be. Your departments are up to date, and your first page is as good as any daily in the country, and far superior to many. You are right in saying you have succeeded in producing a reasonably 'good newspaper.'"

The foregoing are only samples of some of the letters we are continually receiving and it is naturally gratifying to us to know that our efforts to give the reading public a good, reliable newspaper are meeting with so much approval. It is our intention to continue along the course we have mapped out for ourselves, and to make from time to time such further improvements in The Standard as are necessary to keep abreast of the times. It is impossible, of course, for a public newspaper to please all classes of readers at all times, and sometimes we feel called upon to express views that some sections of the community may not approve of. To those we can only say that what may seem to them as a "rotten bunch," for whom he has no further use whatever. In fact so disgusted is he with them, that he has refused to exercise his patronage which his position as an ex-member of the Government and its standard bearer, entitled him to dispense. The cause of the mental abrasion on the part of the Honorable Minister arises from the fact that the Government had one month to do

something for him, and did not do it. He has lost his cool, and with it his job, and the way he felt about it was that something else should have been found for him. The sudden cessation of \$2100 salary, \$1100 seasonal indemnity and allowances, and \$7 a day living expenses, all at one fell swoop is preying on the honorable gentleman's mind. Hence these tears and lamentations—also recriminations.

## THE INTERPRETATION OF INTERPRETATION.

Miss Lucy Gaston Page, herself one-time candidate for the presidency of the United States, and all the time superintendent of the International Anti-Cigarette League, has sent a letter to President-elect Harding asking him to join the ranks of non-smoking presidents. The letter concludes: "The United States has had no smoking president since McKinley. Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson have all clear records. Is not this a question of grave importance?"

In reading the above news item, the Ouse of the river sent his soul through the invisible—some letter of the after time to spell.

The world he saw was as dry as Job's under-bush about with "cannibals" who could take handpicks from Eliphaz the Temanite, Bilam the Shalabee, Zophar the Naamathite and even Kilai the son of Harabel, and beat them at their own game of larking counsel by words.

In that world an array of anti-vermining (males west of them) as dressed long and voluminous correspondence to those in authority. As this from the superintendent of the International Anti-Paint, Powder and Hair Dyeing League to the President of the Disunited States of America: Madam—May we draw your attention to our campaign against women's make-up, now being prosecuted in these states. Enclose pamphlet for our ideas as to the danger to individual health and safety as also the deteriorating influence upon the young of all eyebrow penciling, cheek rouging and powdering, hair bleaching and tinting. We have the honor to acknowledge the hair dyeing president since Helen Troy, Dettie Dolores, Xantippe Scoldhusband and Matilda Bombast have all had children.

The Anti-Chocolate Candy and Ice Cream Eating, Anti-Tea Drinking League, further, was well in line both with data and recommendations. The Anti-Shore Skin, Anti-High Heel Association of the day bombarded not only the president-elect, but all successful office seekers with illustrated literature. Further, the Anti-Movie Fans' Fraternity prescribed an "auto do" for all Pickford, Fairbanks, Chaplin, Talmage and counterpart films of the year 1916.

There thus remained only the Anti-Dancing Solidarity (both sexes) which by the constant harping not only upon the immorality of the dance, but upon the sale of blue pills and other anti-bellies and anti-anemia nostrums a millionfold. And thus the anti-dance citizens of motion and gloom panacea was made complete.

"I'll stay at home if it is made unlawful to tramp or drive or ride on trolley."

And though I'll miss tobacco something awful, if also I'm deprived of my cigars, it is not this that stirs my indignation. At times and alternately makes me sad, I get the way because my deprivation. Will make a lot of smug reformers glad.

If I may draw my blinds because I'm fearful that I will meet some stern policeman's gaze, Get dragged to court, and tried for looking cheerful. And sent to jail perhaps for thirty days. I know that I'll commit no overt act. But what will fill my heart with bitter stings. And rile my soul up, is the satisfaction I give to men who've made me do these things."

As for Miss Lucy Gaston Page and her kind—think "The lady doth protest too much." The question of grave importance is not whether Mr. Harding smokes his after dinner cigar, pipe or cigarette as you will, but whether a lot of intemperate women are not even now working to throw away that which their more reasoning and more reasonable sisters have striven so hard to gain?

Lady Nicotine, like Tam O'Shanter's wife, may be nursing her wrath to keep it warm."

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

**Aerophagia.**  
 A distinguished physician has advised the placing of a cork between the teeth to prevent one's bringing the wind. Not all are given the comfort mentioned—though many, no doubt, will wish it made all-inclusive—but the scientist impresses it on dyspeptics whose malady may possibly be due to aerophagia. Literally translated, that word signifies air-eating, and it describes a habit not at all uncommon, says the doctor—that some persons have of unconsciously swallowing air. This process keeps the stomach distended, like a blown-up bladder, and thereby smoothes out the natural folds of the stomach's lining that nature has provided therein to protect the secretory glands of the pylorus.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

**Fly-Time All the Time.**  
 "Kill the Pesky House Fly between Thanksgiving and Christmas!" This is the call of the anti-fly committee of the Merchants' Association of New York. We are warned that the fly, "the worst enemy to humanity," is always with us. The occasional refugee, seeking the comfort of the house, when times are not so good, the menace that a summer flock or drove, or herd of flies does. But the lone survivor of his kind that volitionally survives over the winter, giving or Christmas feast is to be taken seriously, for it is Nature's chosen agency for the perpetuation of this species, the voracious commu-

## Benny's Note Book

BY LES PAPE

## THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Too cold.  
 Skins. Mr. Pops Skins is still taking piano lessons, saying he would like it all right if it wasn't for the practicing.  
 Sports. Skinny Martin and Skinny Mallin had a contest last Wednesday afternoon to see whose shadow was the skinniest, the contest ending in a tie. Among those present was Benny Poite, Artie Alexander, Sid Hunt and Leroy Shooter.

## CALL THE DOCTOR.

Pome by Skinny Martin.  
 The poet stood on the burning deck  
 Shaking and shivering fast as heck.  
 "O I born and freeze from my feet to my nose!"  
 She shouted out loud in the mist of the breeze.  
 Also she had the chills and fever.

The hardy a passenger would believe her.  
 Financial Notes. Sid Hunt has owed Pops Skins 2 cents for about 5 weeks now and Pops is threatening to ask him for it in front of his father if he don't pay it back soon.

Pomes rote to order on any subject no matter what—See Skinny Martin—(Advertisement.)  
 Lost and Found. Nothing.

Let us hope that the coming year will be more prompt than the going one.

## Graham Bell, World Benefactor.

In the Canadian town where Dr. Bell worked out his invention a memorial to his work shows him in the act of communication in knowledge, in joy, and in sorrow. That is the right tribute. Whatever brings mankind closer together in all the tasks of brotherhood of man. That is the right tribute. That is the modern improvement of communications may be as much to unite the world as all the eloquence that ever pleaded for the brotherhood of man. That improvement is, indeed, still in progress. The telephone of another generation may depend upon systems he conceived or upon powers yet to be discovered. But the proper impulse has been given, and that we owe to Alexander Graham Bell.—London Daily Telegraph.

## Simplified Spellings.

The order issued by the Navy Department abolishing simplified spelling in that branch of the Government is a reminder of the storm of protest which was precipitated some years ago by the action of President Roosevelt in directing the public printer to adopt the system in the publication of all public documents. The brief history of the movement illustrates the futility of hoping to bring about drastic change in habits which have been the result of a slow process of evolution. The spelling reformers had a good deal of authority on their side, and not a little logic. Theoretically, the reason why our spelling ought to be simplified was at least as tenable as the arguments advanced in support of immediate adoption of the metric system of weights and measures. But practically the former was beset by as many difficulties as the latter.—Portland Oregonian.

## THE LAUGH LINE

**PROOF POSITIVE**  
 In a small village in Ireland, during the war, the mother of a soldier met the village priest, who asked her if she had had bad news. "Sure, I have," she said. "Pat has been killed."  
 "O, I am very sorry," said the priest. "Did you receive word from the war office?"  
 "No," she said. "I received word from himself."  
 The priest looked perplexed, and said, "But how is that?"  
 "Sure," she said, "here is the letter; read it for yourself."  
 The letter said: "Dear Mother: I am now in the Holy Land."

**Colliers Hate It Too.**  
 "Dislike of winter is a sign of old age."  
 "Not necessarily. It may be the sign of a golf idiot. He hates winter, too."

**Called Her Bluff.**  
 For goodness sake, Minnie, whose socks are all during 1.  
 They belong to Willie Sharp. When I refused him I said I'd be a sister to him, and he took me at my word.

**LIKE SWEET OLIVER ON THE HILLSIDE**  
 Our cow chow feed for cows is sweet, wholesome and good for cows' milk, blood, bone and tissue. Just like turning your cows out into the sweet clover and barley when summer comes. Our cow chow feed is good for them the year round—helps them produce more milk and better milk.

**"Quality talks."**  
**C. H. PETERS' SONS**  
 ST. JOHN, N. B.

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## OVER \$200

## CHRISTMAS CONCER

## HELD AT SEAL C

## Churches Filled With J

## Crowds—Pastors Wel

## membered.

## KILLED COW MOOSE

## Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 28

residence of Henry Marston, a goldsmith, in Lower St. Mary's street, was destroyed by fire on Monday noon.

Oscar Hayward of Charlottetown was convicted in the police court today on killing a cow moose. County and fined \$100 or two in jail.

"Next to an old friend, a wood fire's the best thing I keep one from getting lonesome."

**Back to**

**High**

**PURIT**

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