

The St. John Standard

H. V. MACKINNON, Publisher
21 Prince William St., St. John, N. B., Canada

REPRESENTATIVES:
Henry DeGroot, Montreal
Louis Kibbala, New York
Frank Calder, Montreal
Frederick & Co., London, Eng.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
City Delivery \$4.00 per year
By Mail in Canada \$4.50 per year
By Mail in U. S. \$5.00 per year
Semi-Weekly Issues \$1.50 per year
Semi-Weekly to U. S. \$2.50 per year

ADVERTISING RATES:
Contract Display 4c. per line
Classified 2c. per word
Inside Readers 35c. per line
Outside Readers 50c. per line
(Agate Measurement)

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1921.

CANADA'S MERCHANT MARINE

The annual statement of the Canadian Merchant Marine for the year ending December 31, 1920, submitted to Parliament yesterday by Mr. Ballantine, although as good as could have been expected, considering world-wide shipping conditions, is not of a character to make the country cheer. The Minister of Marine claims a surplus, and, on paper at all events, he was right; but it requires little power of analysis to discover that it is a kind of surplus which, if repeated too frequently, would have disturbing results. Briefly stated the position is this: That forty seven ships, representing an investment of \$50,000,000 money which the Government borrowed at 5 1/2 per cent, produced total net earnings of \$781,496.98, an amount which, according to the Minister—figures are not quite clear on this point—makes a return of 2.35 per cent. In other words, therefore, the country actually loses 3 per cent on \$50,000,000, or roughly speaking \$1,500,000 for the year.

Nor do these figures take account of depreciation incurred by shrinkage of tonnage values. The average construction cost of the entire fleet was \$191 per ton. Today the same kind of ships are being built at \$130 per ton, and besides, as the result of a surplus of tonnage throughout the world, there are \$6,000,000 tons of shipping in the world today, as compared with 49,000,000 tons before the war, and no fewer than 336 ships of United States registry lying idle—ships can be purchased at practically 100 per cent less than their cost.

Therefore considering this tonnage shrinkage, there has not only been experienced an actual loss in operation, but a serious depreciation in capital as well. Last year every ship in operation could have been disposed of for what they cost; today it is doubtful whether they could be sold for two-thirds of their cost.

TRADE WITH THE U. S.

Almost the last act of President Wilson before he vacated the presidential chair was to turn down the Fordney Bill, which aimed to very considerably restrict the importation of commodities from other countries. One of the very first things to be done under the new administration is the re-introduction of this Bill to the new Congress. The ostensible object of this measure is to compel the American people to support home industries, and to abstain from purchasing from abroad anything that they can do without. In view of the fact that Canada does a very extensive trade with the United States, it is obvious that we must reconsider very intensively the whole question of our trade with our neighbors. We are facing a condition, not just a theory, into which abstract consideration of free trade, fair trade and protection do not enter.

Some people suggest reprisals, but reprisals are something like a two-edged sword, they are apt to do those who put them into force pretty nearly as much damage as occurs to those against whom they are directed. They are a very unsatisfactory form of revenge. But the same we cannot go on buying on a cost of production inflated as that of the United States must be by the protection contemplated, and at the same time go on producing so as to be able to sell to others for the money needed to pay these prices to the United States. Where we cannot sell we must learn not to buy, or go broke. This is not theory, but the plain, cold logic of necessity. The great trouble with us, however, is that an enormous number of our utilities, machines, desires and appetites are standardized and habituated to United States models of production.

There is only one thing to do. We must change our habits in the way of commerce or pauperize ourselves. And, as masses of men have never changed their habits without a reason, even in so simple a matter as that of liquid refreshment, our government will have to assist us in affecting the transformation. There is no necessity whatever for Canadians to mould their habits and customs upon those of their neighbors; it is little of good that they have ever got by doing so; the idea that because something is American in style or origin it is necessarily the best, is a very silly notion, and we sooner trust of us who think that way change our views, the better both for ourselves individually and Canada as a whole.

THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS

A considerable amount of adverse criticism has resulted from the action of the Government in refusing to bring down the full report concerning the Canadian National Railways, so that the country may know how it comes about that such a heavy loss is being made in operation. Frankly the excuse that is offered, that to disclose the details of the operation of the C. N. R. is not an advantage to the C. N. R. is not quite satisfactory. From the results obtained it does not appear that the C. N. R. could learn anything from the internal workings of the Canadian National except how not to run a railway and the C. N. R. directorate seems to know that well enough already for all practical purposes. Moreover it is a pretty good guess that the C. N. R. management knows more about the internal workings of the Canadian National than the Government could tell it.

And if Government operation of railways can only be carried on in the dark, it is a safe conclusion that Government operation of railways in Canada will not be a success, and that the sooner the policy is got rid of the less it will cost the taxpayers. There are, of course, occasions when the temporary withholding of detailed information enables a Government to protect some public interest or advance a public advantage. But it certainly is against public policy for the continuous and normal operations of a Government department to be shrouded in secrecy. No Government should be allowed to continuously run a department behind closed doors.

Last year almost seventy millions of public dollars were lost in the operation of the National Roads. The Minister of Railways says he does not know how it happened, or what to do to stop the drain. Under such circumstances the demand that the Minister shall be allowed to carry on his operations according to their own sweat will, without even letting Parliament and the public know what is being done is a very one.

With all due respect, the people who have to foot the bills have a certain and inalienable right to know how the bills come to be so large. The Canadian National is not suffering from over-publicity; for the Government has been living up to the spirit of this Parliamentary vote in the past, and only setting out as much information as it chose. The National system is the victim of conditions which could not exist if the public knew about them officially and fully, and it can be rescued only by a public policy based on such knowledge and backed by public opinion. If the Minister of Railways is intelligently concerned about either the fate of the National system or the standing of the Government, the best he could do would be to reverse the policy of secret management, take Parliament and the public into his confidence, turn the affairs of the system inside out, and call upon the country to stand by him in an effort to put the roads on a self-sustaining basis. The thing cannot be "put over" in any other way.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN LIFE

The Woman's party in the United States led by Miss Alice Paul, has inaugurated a movement to demand every right that men enjoy in civil life, and presumably including military life as well in the catalogue of the things she will insist upon doing as men do them. Naturally the women want their share of interest in legislative matters—and it appears that as far as she wants to exercise those rights she is going to get them in the not distant future. They insist upon doing jury duty—which most men regard very much as a pestilential nuisance.

Some of them don't want to be dependent upon the men folk in any way, financially or otherwise. In fact, these promises to be a feminist have launched which may end in demanding a look-in on jobs like President, United States senator, governors, supreme court justices, cabinet members and for that matter any old job one might conjure up. Equal rights and no quarter asked is to be the slogan of the National Women's Party if those in control at present have their way. The element of women agitators, led by Miss Paul is comparatively small even among women, and it may be said also that they are the extreme of the radical element as it appears among women. And it appears that with many women lawyers already practicing their profession, a man was employed to draw up a bill to be introduced in Congress to remove all feminine disabilities so far as they are involved in Federal legislation.

But most human beings are governed by reason more than they are by statute. If the law is not too unreasonable, men and women will conform to its requirements, though they themselves may be inclined to believe that it is mistaken in its provisions. And, like men, most women are aware that the world must have homes in order to retain the best there is of civilization; and that children must find their places in their homes in order to provide for the future of the race, as well as to provide the end of happiness that will hold men and women together in the marital relation.

Women have their special duties no less than do men. Civilization has adopted the easier physical tasks for women, while the heavier tasks, requiring rugged strength and stronger physique. In war women are adapted to the equally necessary but more gentle task of nursing, while to men is given the more dangerous task of fighting. And while women may "demand" the technical right to bear arms, or in civil life to do jury duty or hold public office, or manage a flying machine or hammer a blacksmith's anvil, her common sense and ideas of the fitness of things will not permit her to neglect those duties that in nature's ordering of life's programme are hers principally because she is fitted for them and they are entirely beyond man's capacity to perform.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Then And Now.
A sign of the approach of the horseless age is the fact that the number in the graduating class at the Toronto Veterinary college fell from 360 in 1891, to 35 last year.—Guelph Herald.

Getting Too Common.
Statistics show that at the end of last year nearly one in every ten of the people of the United States owned an automobile. It will soon be a mark of distinction not to own an automobile.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Discrediting National Railways.
Propaganda against Government ownership is being astoundingly circulated with the object of discrediting the Canadian National Railways. Eastern papers quote the chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners as publicly circulating Government ownership and public management. There seems to be an organized effort under way to get the public mind into such a condition of disgust with the railways that a demonstration will be reached to get rid of them at any price.

Then a group of philanthropists will appear and offer to relieve the nation from its railway load on a very innocent looking set of terms and conditions, which are certain to work out in such a way that the philanthropists will make large profits and the public secure a new line of operation.

The National Railways will come into their own with increasing population and expanding production.—Vancouver Sun.

Public Ownership.
Figures given by the hydro light and power department of the city of London indicate that Sir Adam Beck's home city is now saving at the rate of one million dollars a year through the operation of hydro. This computation is on the basis of the difference between the cost of electric power and the lowest cost at which steam generated power could be supplied. Had the rates being paid in London when the hydro entered the field been maintained until the present, the consumers would be out of pocket not less than five million dollars.

Misgivings about the effects of public ownership persist, but experience teaches that where it is applied to a public utility under a strong board and independent of political control, it works to general advantage. London has invested more than seven millions in various public ownership enterprises, including the London and Port Stanley Railway, and were the people to sell out today they might reasonably expect to do so at a profit of one cent out of the municipal treasury.—Toronto Star.

A BIT OF VERSE

ELFIN.

The earth is in her elfin mood
And on her brow a fairy glow
Is burning—there is magic food
That only pagan palates know.
The mushrooms of the moon are up,
The turnips of the sun are out;
There's dew on every buttercup—
A thousand tulips shout.
Oh, Bacchus and his frisky train
Are in the number groves again;
The flutes are echoing to the morn,
And Triton blows his wreathed horn.
As Jon Keble heard him blow again
When Grecian wars were born.
Life dances to the tune of life,
And every note on nature's life
Is piped with worship of the spell
That fills the world with singing youth
And wakens in each woodland dell
The hunger for immortal truth.
She shall express herself ere long,
This earth that keeps her pent-up song,
But always from her faithful mold
Utters the phlox and marigold.
The daisy pines the samolite,
The lark of the garden alleys,
And leaves unto the birds and trees
The utterance of her ecstasies.
—Benetown Bard.

THE LAUGH LINE

Dented the Charge.
Kind Lady—You should brace up my poor man. Remember what you owe to society.
Hobo—I don't owe society nothing, lady. What do you think I've been doing—playin' bridge?
A Novelty.
The chief guest at the party was a Poor, and it was something to see the daughter of the house, aged five, to hear anyone addressed by a servant as "My Lord." When sufficient familiarity had been established, she crossed-examined the distinguished guest on the subject, "Why do they call you 'my Lord'?" Were you born in a manger?
The Real Thing.
As two friends were conversing, an old college professor passed them in the street.
"The professor is a wonderful man," one of them remarked, "He's a great mathematician and boasts that he can square out any problem."
"Not any more," ventured his friend.
"The landlord boasted his went and has him sitting up nights trying to solve the housing problem."

Benny's Note Book
BY LEE PAPE

Pop was smoking and thinking in the sitting room and all of a sudden he said, Confound it.
Wy, wait the matter, pop? I said, and pop said, I told the tailor to come around for this suit tomorrow and I meant to have my other trousers pressed today so I wouldn't look like Charlie Chaplin when I go down to the office tomorrow, but his too late now, confound it.
Me thinking, O boy, grate idea, I'll press them down in the kitchen and when pop sees them in the morning he'll be glad as anything and I'll ask him for money for the movies.
Bowing like a pretty good of a idea by the sound, and I went and got pop's other pants out of his room and snuck down to the kitchen with them, and nobody was down there and I heated a iron on the stove and started to press pop's pants on the kitchen table, with nothing special happened till I held the iron too long in one place on account of starting to think of something else, and there was a fierce smell and I quick took the iron off and wat was on the back of pop's pants but a big scorched place the shape of the iron proving wat did it.
Wich jest then pop called down Wat burning down stairs, whose down there, is anything burning?
Sir? I called up, and pop said, Is anything burning down there?
I don't smell anything, I said. Wich I didnt, then, and I quick snuck up and put pop's pants back, and this morning pop came down to breakfast with them on, looking down at them saying, Well for the love of Mud and all the little Muds, I thank these trousers were in pritty bad shape but I had no idee they looked like Belgium jest after the war, wy theres a million creases in them, Im a fine looking spectacle to be going down town.
And he started to eat his breakfast with a expression as if it wouldn't be a good time to ask him for money for the movies.
Wich I didnt, thinking, G, I hope he dont try to look at the back of them were the scorcht is.
Wich I hope he never does.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

CONVENTIONS IN THE OLDEN TIME.

To the Editor of The Standard,
Sir,—We all will admit, I think both parties, Liberals and Conservatives, that politics is a moving game requiring quick judgment and quick action and consistency not always to the breaking point. With these qualifications, the game may be played successfully and the same time in the best interests of the country, uppermost in the politician's mind. Reverting back to the game, it is very interesting to note that H. G. Wells in his *Outline of History*, on page 307, volume 1, in the time of the Cretaceous war, he speaks of how the Roman voters were organized. Better the voters, this own language, the voters were organized to the extent that makes the Tammany machine of New York seem artless and honest. They (the voters) belonged to clubs (Collegia Societates), the latter having some elegant religious pretensions, and the rising politician working his way to office went first to these clubs. If the voters were moved enough by any question to swarm into the city, it was always possible to put off the voting, first by declaring the Council undecidable. If they came in unarmed they could be intimidated, if they brought in arms, a cry was raised that there was a plot to overthrow the Republic, and a massacre would be organized.

Here we find in the back ages, the political game going on stronger and stronger than it is today, but in reading this history, while the political organization was up to date, we find little indication or insinuation of underhand graft, which has been at times mentioned in our political action. In view of an impending election at so recent date, it is somewhat interesting to read and realize what went on in the days of the Tibertus Gracchus Conventions. In those days were open and above board; heated debates took place and resulted occasionally in riot or sardor between political opponents.

The open convention and open line of action is worthy and commendable to many of our political gatherings of today. The coming convention in New Brunswick will, it is hoped, be conducted along the line as suggested above, and no aftermath of complaints and murmurings because of secret methods or underhand maneuverings.

Many people will be looking forward to the gathering of the Conservative party, and much enjoyment and pleasure will be created by old-time associations among the older members; enthusiasm, honesty of purpose and desire for success impressing the younger element of the party.

In tracing the outlines, arguments, suggestions and policy to be played before the convention, let the framers bear in mind that much is to be done which has hitherto been left undone, and success largely depends on the wisdom of the leaders and the enthusiasm of the audience.

I remain,
MONOTON CONSERVATIVE.

Hatney, Camaguey, Cuba.
March 21st, 1921.

Editor of The Standard, St. John, N. B.

Sir,—As several who write to me from New Brunswick are children; some of them add the letters "U. S." after the word Cuba, when addressing their mail. This is very misleading as Cuba is not in the U. S. A., but is an independent Republic.

Cuticura Soap
Is Ideal for
The Complexion

Does not dry the skin, does not irritate, does not clog pores, does not cause itching, does not cause redness, does not cause pimples, does not cause blackheads, does not cause wrinkles, does not cause any of the troubles of the skin.

and is entirely separated from the U. S. A. by the ocean. And as there are some small villages in the U. S. A. called Cuba, some of my mail goes to these places. I frequently get letters that were forwarded from a small village in the northwest part of the State of New York called Cuba, and no doubt several others have gone astray because these letters were addressed.

Therefore, I wish to inform my little friends that if they will omit these initials and remember that five cents is the postage between Canada and Cuba, I will be likely to receive them and I will certainly answer all of them and no one will be disappointed.

Yours truly,
J. D. O'CONNELL.

Hobo—"Yes, lady, dere was a time when I had money to burn and worse's dat I did burn it."
Old Lady—"And what did you burn it with, my poor man?"
Hobo—"With an old flame o' mine."
—Boston Transcript.

PILE

Do not suffer from itching, burning, bleeding, or prolapsus of the rectum. No surgical operation required.

Dr. Chase's Ointment will relieve you at once and afford lasting benefit. It is a powerful, yet delicate, and safe remedy. It is sold by all druggists, or by mail from Dr. J. D. Chase, 100 West 11th Street, New York City. Send for free pamphlet and sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 2c. stamp to pay postage.

Middlemore Home

A party, of children expected to arrive from England, ages 5 to 14 years, those desirous of procuring same kindly apply at once. Address all communications, Middlemore Home, Fairview Station, Halifax, Co., N. S.

St. Andrew's College
TORONTO
A Residential and Day School
FOR BOYS
Upper School, Lower School, Boys prepared for University, College, Royal Military College and Business.
CALENDAR SENT ON APPLICATION
Reopens after Easter April 5, 1921
REV. D. BRUCE MACDONALD, M.A., LL.D.
Headmaster

ADVERTISERS

We Design and Engrave Cuts for newspaper advertising, for Booklets and Catalogues.

FLEWELLING PRESS,
3 Market Square, St. John

Now Landing!
CHOICE OATS
For Seed
C. H. Peters' Sons, Ltd.
ST. JOHN, N. B.

EVERSHARP Pencils

Everybody's favorite because they are "Always Sharp—Never Sharpened." Thousands, yes millions, have put EVERSHARP to the test and know that it makes good.

EVERSHARP Pencils \$1.50 up
EVERSHARP Extra Leads 40c. box
Extra Rubbers 25c. box

Send prepaid anywhere in Canada.

'Phone **McAVITY'S** 11-17
M 2640 King St.

COUPE'S LACE LEATHER
In stock for immediate shipment
—ALSO—
Leather and Balata Belting
D. K. McLaren LIMITED
Manufacturers
MAIN 1121-90 GERMAIN ST., ST. JOHN, N. B.—BOX 702

LEATHER WALLET
Bill Folds, Pocket Books, Coin Purse, Portfolios, Music Bells, Ladies' Purse, etc., in Finest English Leather.
The best assortment by far, we have shown since the war.
CALL AND SEE THEM TODAY
BARNES & CO., LTD.

THE LATEST IN ELECTRIC FIXTURES
Now On Display At
THE WEBB ELECTRIC CO.
Electrical Contractors. 91 Germain Street.
S. C. WEBB, Manager. 'Phone M. 2152.

FIRE ESCAPES
Structural Steel, Bolts and Rods.
WM. LEWIS & SON, ST. JOHN, N. B.

Extra Low Prices for SHINGLES

A Limited Quantity at Pre-War Prices

Shingles	 \$6.00
Clears	 6.10
Clears No. 1	 5.35
Clears No. 2	 5.00

Other Building Materials Accordingly.

BUY NOW AND SAVE MONEY!

'Phone Main 3000

MURRAY & GREGORY, LTD.
St. John, N. B.

"THERE IS BUT ONE HOME—THE HOME YOU OWN."

The home you own can have many of the conveniences that go with the modern house. The rooms arranged so that they will save many footsteps and make less work.

Build a home that your family will be proud of.

Lumber for homes much cheaper now.

'Phone Main 1895.

The Christie Wood-working Co., Ltd.
188 Erin Street.

Painless Extraction Only 25c

Boston Dental Parlors
Head Office 527 Main St. Branch Office 85 Charlotte St.
'Phone 683 'Phone 38

DR. J. D. MAHER, Proprietor.
Open 9 a. m. until 9 p. m.

L. L. SHARPE & SON,
Jewellers and Opticians
21 King St. 189 Union St.

Specials—Salt Fish
Salt Mackerel
Salt Trout
Salt Salmon
Salt Turbot (Delicious)
Salt Herring
Salt Tongues and Sounds

SMITH'S FISH MARKET,
25 Sydney St., 'Phone 1704

THOROUGHNESS AND PROGRESSIVENESS

have always been the dominating ideas in the management of this College.

A great variety of work is given so arranged that each step is a preparation for the next.

Students may enter at any time. Send for new Rate Card.

S. KERR,
Principal

Abbott
THE BOOK OF THE
Of this fair volume who do name
If we the sheets and leaves
With care,
Of him who it corrects
frame
We clear might read the
dom name;
Find out his power
powers doth tame,
His providence extending
His justice which proud
not spare,
In every page no period
But still we, like fool
rest
Well pleased with col-
leaves of gold,
Fair dangle leaves, is
best,
Of the great Writer's en-
ing hold;
Or if by chance we stay
ought
Is as some picture on
wrought.
—William
(18)

EVER
in
will have
short no
pretty to

THE FURN LOVELY NURSERY

Infants' Wills
Children's Wills
Baby Walkers
Dolls' Carriages
Little Red
Child's Auto
Kindergarten
Sea Grass, f
Children's f
Grass and
Children's f
Dolls' Beds
Toy Carpet
Baby's Nurse
Hobby Horse
Children's f
Baby Carriage
era.

GLOVES, L

Hosiery—l
in cream, bl
Short Sock
la sizes 6 1/2
Boys' Goe
er mixtures.
Heavy f
boys or girl
Mercerize
White-l-r
Ribbo
Trimming
are: Plain C
shades, 4 t
and Satin f
Underwear
rosettes.
Fancy D
Hair Bow,
other novel
to use.
Gloves
Children's
Silk and Ch