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**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
THE EVENING TIMES**

New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers

These newspapers advocate:

British connection

Honesty in public life

Measures for the material

progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion.

No graft!

No deals!

"The Rhinoceros, Rose, and the Maple Leaf forever."

Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 8, 1913

THE STANDARD'S CONVERSION

It gives us no little pleasure to note that

The Standard, which formerly regarded our

growing trade with the United States with

undignified horror, is now beginning to

welcome the prospect of increased "truck

and trade with the Yankees," and is even

inclined to regard low tariff doctrine as

by no means dangerous. In an editorial

on the proposed tariff reductions at Wash-

ington The Standard tells its readers that,

as a result of growing low tariff views

among the American people, "a wave of

public sentiment swept Mr. Taft and the

Republican party with their high tariff

into the discard. The Democrats, who on

general lines stand for a tariff for revenue,

today control the situation."

Canada, it tells us further, retained its

fiscal independence by defeating reciprocity,

and now "can witness the lowering of the

tariff wall by the United States with con-

siderable complacency."

Wonderful indeed are the changes

wrought by time! Not many months ago

The Standard would never have employed

such a word as "complacency" in this

connection. Day after day it warned its

readers that free access to the United States

markets for our natural products would

mean ruin. The Yankees, it said, would

carry off all our raw material, our wood,

our minerals, our coal, our iron, our wheat,

our cattle, our fish. In vain did we

remind the overwrought Conservative

journal that as our people would get good

prices for all these things they could stand

a whole lot of such "ruin." In vain did

we point out what The Standard's backers

knew too well—that Canadian users of our

raw material would have to meet the

prices of American bidders in some cases,

while in others our producers would enjoy

steady, competitive prices the year round

for their surplus. The Standard merely

replied itself more tightly in the old

and yelled "Treason!" As the argument

progressed it abandoned the usual forms

of controversy and began to print accounts

of American attempts to take Canada by

force of arms. It would not publish any-

thing about the burning of Washington

by British troops, preferring to represent

this country as at the mercy of a numerous

and hungry horde of Yankees. It slept on

its arms, and ever it had the most horrid

dreams of nightmare.

But yesterday it was able not only to

view "with complacency" the proposed

tariff reductions, but to welcome a pro-

jected free list including lumber, both

rough and partly dressed, all food

products, cattle, meats, wheat, flour,

which our loyal contemporary has been

notoriously reluctant to embrace.

RENTS AND HOMES

It is perfectly human to complain about

increased rentals for houses and stores.

provided one does not own the houses and

stores. If St. John had sufficient houses

of modern construction to contain the

persons of all the various walks in life

who are looking for homes within their

means, there would be less outcry about

rising rents. Also, if any landlord this

year is securing in rentals sums not just-

ified by the nature of the dwellings he

owns, that fact is due to the hopelessness

of tenants who cannot find anything as

good for the same money. The average

tenant is no more philanthropic in his

make-up than the average landlord, and

no one should be surprised because a land-

lord raises the rent if he is convinced

that he can fill his house at the increased

price.

Although really valuations will probably

go up considerably this year in the eyes

of the assessors, it is very likely that

rents will go up to an even greater degree;

but it requires competition—that is, more

houses—to make city rents reasonable,

and one effect of the rising rents in all

directions will be to improve upon all

classes the need for more and better hous-

ing accommodation. A great many of the

houses in St. John are very old, and a very

considerable portion of them still lack ap-

pliances which are necessary both for sat-

isfactory reasons and from the standpoint of

comfort. Nevertheless, if we remember

that the owner of a rented house should

secure from it a sufficient sum to pay

taxes, water rates, and insurance, and still

leave enough over to give him a fair re-

turn upon his investment, it may be

thought that while some rents are exor-

bant, many are still reasonable. The build-

ing of more houses, particularly of de-

tached houses with a little free ground

about them, will be of the utmost benefit

to St. John, and such construction will

be a check upon excessive rents in the city

proper. In many city blocks the old

houses were built without a foot of space

between them, so that the owners were

governed by the idea that no property

could be valuable unless it lay within a

short distance of King Square or City

Hall. As a result, comparatively few

dwellings have any lawn or garden plot,

and many of our most thickly populated

localities are, almost unavoidably, both

unhealthy and unattractive.

Some citizens are complaining that the

activity of the Board of Trade has pro-

duced high rents. A little consideration

should dispose of that contention. The im-

mediate cause of high rents is the belief

of the landlords that there are now people

enough in search of houses to warrant

them in asking a higher return from their

property. That belief on the part of the

landlords arises from the improved pros-

pects of the city, and from the common

conviction that our population, already too

large for our housing accommodation, is

going to grow steadily during the next few

years. And this conviction is well founded.

There is an impression in some quarters

that the city is spending too much money

upon such lines of betterment as im-

proved streets, better lighting, and enlarged

police and school services. As a matter

of fact, St. John has not yet begun to

spend nearly enough money in these direc-

tions. The revenue will be found; a more

equitable system of taxation will discover

most of it, and the improvement will go

on. St. John has entered upon a period

of readjustment, and the flurry in rents

is one of the developments inevitable in

these circumstances.

Out of this situation there will come an

other feature of progress, and a most de-

sirable one, namely that the number of

persons who contrive to secure homes of

their own will increase. When we have

improved transportation connecting the

various parts of the city and the several

suburbs, including electric suburban lines

and a bridge across the harbor, many of

our people will be able to secure a plot

of ground and a home within reasonable

distance of the city centre, even though

it be a modest one.

THE BLACK MAN'S BURDEN

The blessings of European civilization are

proving of but doubtful value to the

tribes of the tropics who work the rubber

plantations. During the rubber boom of

two or three years ago, it is said that

about \$150,000,000 was invested. When

the shareholders rejoice over heavy di-

vidends or protest over scant ones, it may

be added satisfaction for them to know

how the rubber is produced. Sir Roger

Casement's report, which has been recently

published in full, gives many details about

the matter. Speaking of the Putumayo

Company's agents, a Peruvian paper pub-

lished in the Upper Amazon says:

"They force the Indians of the Putumayo

to work day and night at the extraction

of rubber, without the slightest remunera-

tion. They rob them of their crops, their

women, and their children, to satisfy

the voracity, lasciviousness and avarice

of themselves and their employers. . . . They

hog them inhumanly until their bodies

are visible; they give them no medical

treatment, let them die eaten up by flies,

or to serve as food for their dogs; they

murder them, cut off their fingers, their

limbs, legs, their torture them by fire,

water, and by tying them up, crucified

head downwards. . . . They cut them to

pieces with machetes; they grasp children

by the feet and dash their heads against

walls and trees; they have the old people

killed when they can work no longer; and

finally, to amuse themselves, or to ob-

edience, they Saturday, they destroy

their weapons at men, women, and chil-

ren, or, in preference to this, they some-

times in heronry, and set fire to them, to

enjoy their desperate agony."

Even then the worst is not told, for

many other abominations are revealed in

the report of the British government's

Commission. These things were not done

by the agents of King Leopold in the

Congo, but by the agents of a British com-

pany in the Upper Amazon! They would

be going on yet, were it not for the re-

velations of Sir Roger Casement's report.

There seems no limit to the abominations

to which men may be driven by law and

greed when they stand isolated and armed

among tribes of helpless people. Men and

women in the "smarter" society draw

their incomes from the anguish of tortured

and murdered men and women, and praise

their forefathers when the dividends run so

high. In the case of this particular com-

pany their dividends have ceased and most

of the evil doers are either in prison or

purged by justice; but the rubber business

in the Putumayo is but a repetition of its

history in many other places. In the

Congo there is coming to be a shortage of

both labor and of rubber, owing to the

reckless extermination of people and plants.

The powers that have arranged the map

of the African continent, ostensibly in the

interest and for the well-being of the na-

tives, have passively allowed the premature

destruction of not less than ten millions

of people. A great shortage of labor

haunts the exploiters of Africa today. They

have killed the golden goose and are

haunted by memories of their atrocities.

It is beyond question that the contact

of Europeans with natives all over the

world has been one long tragedy for the

native races. In the record of misery and

pain nothing else can for a moment com-

pare with the cruelty, lust and brutal greed

by which that contact has almost every-

where been accompanied.

THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE