

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1920.

EDITORIAL POLICIES.

Quite a commotion has been raised in some parts of Western Canada as a result of some advertisers refusing to continue to patronize certain newspapers, which have embarked upon an editorial policy that these advertisers consider is opposed to their interests. The complaint naturally comes from the newspapers who will be the sufferers; though some of them are taking the matter very philosophically, and while regretting the loss of the advertising, are very insistent that their editorial opinions are their own concern, and with which their advertisers have nothing whatever to do. This is a sound and proper view to take. The editorial policy of a newspaper is controlled solely by the owners of it, who, in shaping it, naturally take into consideration the views and opinions of their readers and subscribers. There are two sides—and in some cases more than two—to every question, and a newspaper to be consistent can only hold one at a time. Circumstances may, and do, arise from time to time which may cause a newspaper which has at one period taken certain views, to alter its opinions, and as long as good and sufficient reasons can be offered for this course, no undue criticism should be advanced. In dealing with any matter—we refer now more particularly of course to public affairs—different people will hold different opinions as to the proper view a newspaper should take; what one man thinks is the right view, another will say is a very wrong one. But every man is entitled to his own opinion, altogether irrespective of what his neighbor may think or say on the subject. This surely will be—or ought to be—conceded by every reasonable or thinking man. A view that suits one man will not suit another, but each is equally entitled to think for himself, and one has no right to brand the other as narrow-minded or bigoted because the latter happens to take a different view of any particular matter from what he himself holds. It is only when one refuses to allow the other the right to a different opinion than that which he himself holds, that the former can be called narrow-minded or bigoted.

As with individuals, so it is with newspapers. A newspaper advances such opinions as in the judgment of its editor are the correct ones, and will meet with the approval of the majority of the newspaper's readers. He may realize that in advancing certain views he will not meet with the approval of all his readers, or even of a considerable number of them; but, on the other hand, he knows very well that he cannot please them all, because there are bound to be many whom he knows will think differently. He realizes, also, that all reasonable men will feel, and admit, that, while they do not agree with the view he takes, there are many who will, and a newspaper, if it is to be a newspaper, and not merely a hack, cannot cater to only one class of thought.

Coming back to where we started, it is just as foolish for a newspaper to feel aggrieved because it loses some of its advertising patronage as a result of expressing certain views editorially as it is for an advertiser to "kick" because those particular views do not suit his own. When an advertiser buys space in a newspaper, he simply buys a share of the publicity that the newspaper can afford him. He has no right to anything else, and should not expect anything else. He is not buying the right to dictate its editorial policy, because no self-respecting newspaper has that for sale; neither is he buying the right to demand that it be changed because he does not agree with it.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE AND THE REFERENDUM.

Montreal Gazette: The question of asking for a liquor referendum has been put before the Ontario Legislature under conditions that are extraordinary. One of the first of the Drury Government's declarations was a word of encouragement for the prohibitionists of the province, practically a prohibition of faith in the principle of prohibition. Since then, the attitude of the Government has been one, not perhaps of coolness, but of caution. The prohibitionists themselves were openly divided as to the desirability of invoking the new Dominion law which extends the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act to a whole province, provided the Legislature asks for a referendum and the result of the referendum is favorable to the dry side. After much discussion, a good deal of which was carried on in newspaper columns, the opposing prohibition camps finally got together and decided that they would like to have a referendum. The Provincial Government, however, does not appear to have got together to the same extent. The labor wing of the coalition favors the sale, or, at any rate, the consumption, of beer and wine, and has said so in quite unmistakable terms. The lack of unanimity among the prohibitionists, so long as it lasted, was a good enough excuse for ministerial inactivity, but, when the breach was healed, the situation, from the Government standpoint, altered for the worse. Last week, a referendum resolution was moved in the Legislature, not by a member of the Government, but by one of the Government's supporters, Mr. H. McCreary, of North Lonsdale. The Ministers, according to the accounts by eye-witnesses, maintained an attitude of studied aloofness while Mr. McCreary was performing. The latter set out to read to the Assembly a brief which, it transpired, had been prepared by a lawyer not a member of the House. Not being permitted to proceed with the presentation of this brief, the Minister member subsided, and, after a brief discussion, the debate was adjourned. That was last Wednesday. Since then there have been many evidences of uncertainty as to what the Legislature will do about it. The Government, in pursuance of its unconstitutional policy of safety first, has left the initiative to a private member, but will have to declare itself one way or another, and as it does not know what the two Oppositions will do, its position is one of extreme difficulty, not to say distress. The Government has convictions but apparently they conflict, and this further complicates an already perplexing situation. Congresses are being held, speculation is rife, and strenuous efforts are being made by each group to find out what the others will do. The example of government that presented is as remarkable as it is perilous, but it is the kind of government which the Drury Ministry has planned, deliberately, to give the province. It depends for its success upon the Government's ability to play off one Opposition against the other, and upon the willingness of both Oppositions to be utilized in that way.

PATRONAGE ON THE I. C. R.

The Detroit Free Press, commenting on the announcement of a large deficit in operation of Canadian National Railways, cites as one reason the existence of certain conditions on the Intercolonial. In the opinion of Detroit engineers who have had an opportunity to look into the operation of the road, The Free Press says: "It is used as a political machine, nearly the whole operating force, down to switchmen, being turned out when the administration goes out. The incoming administration wants the jobs for its supporters, and efficiency is a minor consideration. Each man knows that he holds his position by virtue of political influence, and thus has nothing to hope for should he give the best that is in him. So he does not give it."

The Detroit engineers do not say, apparently, what happens to intercolonial employees when a Union Government is in charge. In the light of such statements, however, the remarks of Mr. D. B. Hanna, head of the national system, when addressing the Canadian Club at London, Ont., four months ago, present a remarkable contrast. Mr. Hanna said that he saw no obstacle in the way of success of the nationalized railways of the country; that he did not fear the interference of politics, and that in his fifteen months' connection with the national roads there had been no attempt of this character whatever. He added that when Parliament stepped beyond its jurisdiction in this respect, "they will have my resignation."

The Detroit Free Press is presenting ancient history rather than current events.

YPRES.

Today is the anniversary of the Battle of Ypres, in which the Canadians "saved the situation" for the Allied cause. The following clipping tells the story: "At 5 p. m. on April 22nd, the enemy attacked the front of the 45th French Division, on the left of the Canadians, sending forward great numbers of men behind clouds of poisonous gas. The French troops were compelled to retire, and our men, filling the gaps as well as possible, fought for six long days and nights, almost without respite, bearing the brunt of the great attack, until the German armies drew back, disheartened and defeated. That was a job well done, and it brought forth a healthy and well-earned swagger in the bearing of the individual Canadian. The division suffered over 8,000 casualties, but, in the words of the British Commander-in-Chief, 'saved the situation,' and by outstanding valor in the face of hitherto unknown weapons of war, shed lustre on the name of Canada."

They seem to be a pretty bunch of amateurs in authority in the Legislature at present, when no one appears to be able to distinguish between a public bill and a private one. Premier Foster expressed the belief that all School bills were public ones. He has been long enough in the House now to learn better than that. Any bill that seeks to amend the Schools Act, and applies to the whole province alike, is a public one, and must be brought in

as a Government measure; but any bill to amend the Act in so far as it applies to any particular school or location is a private bill, and must go through the Standing Rules Committee and pay the usual fees. London despatches say the world is short of wheat. But the Canadian mills have lots of flour, for which there is not much export demand. If present stocks of flour are not sold soon, they will be left as a surplus in the new crop season, and then perhaps prices will moderate.

It is estimated that the war cost \$200,000,000,000, and that 8,000,000 men were killed in it. Thus it would appear that an expenditure of \$25,000 was made for each soldier killed. Even with all diabolical modern inventions it costs more now to kill a man than ever before.

When a Sinn Feiner assassinate a policeman the act is justified on the ground that Ireland is an independent country at war with England. When a policeman kills a Sinn Feiner the act is denounced as a cold-blooded murder.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Work Or Be Shot! (San Francisco Chronicle.) Credits must be given Trotsky as an organizer. He is now applying to industry the same stern methods by which he whipped his armies into shape. With the aid of a new executive department of the Soviet, the Chief Committee for General Compulsory Labor, he is conscripting the male population, organizing it on military lines into a labor army, and actually making the lazy Russians work at high speed for twelve hours a day. The discipline is said to be precisely the same as in his army, and actually the firing squad is the magnet of his labor engine. What a joke it is on the proletariat, that thought it was going to work how, when and as little as it pleased.

A Handicap to the Country. (Christian Science Monitor.) In Canada, as across the border in the United States, immigrants of the same nationality, especially those from eastern Europe, have a way of forming themselves into villages and communities, doing so for the express purpose of maintaining those traditions and manners of living to which they have become accustomed. Their ideal is, as nearly as possible, a Slovak village, and this very ideal is, in its way, an effective barrier to real progress. Of course much may be done, and is being done, through the schools; but at best, it is a slow process, and it is becoming increasingly evident that the place to check the undesirable immigrant is at the place of entry, if the restrictions have not been so widely circulated as to prevent the undesirable from leaving his own shores.

America Stands Out. (London Morning Post.) President Wilson's attempts to force the enforcement of Peace Treaties down the throat of the Senators mole have again been unsuccessful. The treaty has not even been accepted with such reservations as would have made it impossible; it has, indeed, in its amended form, obtained a majority; but the majority is short of the two-thirds necessary to ratification, and so it might as well have been defeated. And to the reservations, they include which could not possibly be accepted by the British Government, a reservation, that is to say, expressing sympathy with Sinn Fein. As to this particular reservation there might be something to say. President Lincoln, if we remember aright, had some cause to complain to British expressions of sympathy with the South in the American Civil War. And here we have a case which is pretty much on all fours, for the British Government stands if not for the Union at least for the common sovereignty of the United Kingdom. The unity of these islands under one supreme Government is as important to the British people as the unity of the United States was, and is, to the American people.

THE LAUGH LINE

Many men argue with terrific frenzy over the religion they haven't got. What He Swept. Master—Haven't you swept the shop out yet, John? Boy—Then what on earth have you been doing? Boy—Sweeping the dust out, sir!—Ferguson's Weekly.

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: "I 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 now recommend B. B. B. to any one who is troubled with skin disease." Manufactured only by The T. M. Burns Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Benny's Note Book

THE PARK AVE. NEWS. Weather. Not so much of a change in the morning yet you get outside of the covers. Stately, Miss Maud Jomson is better and is once more in our midst, saying she wasn't axactly sick, only a little indisposed on account of the measles. Pome by Skitny Martin. O! The sky was blue as blue could be O the clouds was wite as chaw O I looked at a bird flying way up there

Latest Fashion Notes. Miss Lonster Minsor is having a dress made by her mothers private dressmaker, last Saturday afternoon being the 3rd time she stood up to have it pinned on her and she expects to do it again. The dress will be all wite with blue things on it and will fit perfectly. Advertisement. Wy be hoped? We will come around and blacken our faces and turn our coats inside out and tell you minstrel show jocks for 20 cents a hour. See Benny Potts and Artie Altlander. Advertisement. Make packing easy by having us come around and hand things to you for 15 cents a hour. See Puds Simkins and Sam Cross.

Fixing Needed. "John, I hear you are lagging in a mechanical way. Can't you fix Tommy's horn?" "What's the matter with it?" "Nothing, I want you to fix it so it won't blow."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

THEY DO SAY—

Paris is reported as sponsoring frocks of linen, in both white and colors. Do not suffer from itching, bleeding, or protruding piles. No surgical operation required, and as certain cure you can, at once, all grades, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto. Sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 5c. stamp to pay postage.

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A BIT OF VERSE

YPRES. (A Glyn Prys Jones in London Daily Chronicle.) "Soldier, soldier over the sea Pray can you sing a song to me? For the hot tears blind and I cannot see, The graves lie thick and the blood flows free, And the crosses stab the heart o' me— I call—your mother—England!"

"The men who sleep at Ypres Were not afraid to die, Those hero-men whose strength was true, Though smitten hip and thigh, They paid the worth of their English blith, And the gleam of their island sky, And they sleep a sleep that is sweet and deep, With the guns for their lullaby.

"The men who fell at Ypres, Pugged their grim fight alone; They stood the sluds of a bitter glade That ye might see the sun, That glorious sun that set for them Ere their nostrils had begun; But they buried the flame of thy sacred name Through the twilight of the Hun.

"The men who die for England Are like a pillar of fire, From East to West to thy behoof They came—but not for hire; Their names shall ring where thy banners ewing, Though their bodies choke the mire, And each is a gem in thy diadem, In the land of their long desire.

"Mother, mother over the sea, This is the song I bring to thee, Though the graves be thick and the blood flows free, The crosses are for the love o' thee— Their gift to thy children—liberty, Mother, my mother—England!"

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PROTESTS AGAINST INDIVIDUAL MONUMENTS

Sir George Perley Contends That Equality of Treatment of War Graves Best.

London, April 20.—(Canadian Associated Press.)—Sir George Perley has addressed a letter to the Secretary for War, who is also chairman of the War Graves Commission, saying that he notices a motion is to be discussed in the British House of Commons advocating that relatives of fallen soldiers should be allowed to erect monuments of their choosing over the graves of the fallen. Sir George says that this motion seems to strike directly at the

It is When That

It isn't the body that craves the mind. When you are bodily tired usually fall to sleep at the first try. But when the nerves are in anxiety and worry rest is impossible. The mind seems to be most when you are thinking, thinking, first of one thing and then of other matters of little or no importance. But you simply cannot sleep. Sleeplessness is the most common of the first indication of down of the nervous system. The object of sleep is to allow to rebuild tissue and the nerve tone. Sleep is the ideal condition. If you cannot sleep you worry breaks down nerve cells at a slow rate, so that instead of nerve force for the demands you are using up the reserve. The nerve centres are sometimes storage batteries. If you