

## The St. John Standard

THE MARITIME ADVERTISING AGENCY, LIMITED, PUBLISHERS.  
52 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

Representatives:  
Henry DeCherque, Chicago  
Louis Klebahn, New York  
Frank Calder, Montreal  
Freeman & Co., London, Eng.

The Standard is Sold By:  
Windsor Hotel, Montreal  
Chateau Laurier, Ottawa  
H. A. Miller, Portland  
Hotelling Agency, New York  
Grand Central Depot, New York

Advertising Rates:  
Contract Display, 4c. per line  
Classified, 11c. per word  
Inside Readers, 7c. per line  
Outside Readers, 3c. per line  
(Average measurement.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1922.

## YESTERDAY'S PRIMARIES

Probably the first thought that came into the minds of the citizens of St. John last night when they learned the results of the polling was that a clear victory had been gained by the opponents of the civic distribution scheme. At first sight it would perhaps strike most people that way, but yesterday's polling was only the preliminary skirmish, and the real fight will not be pulled off until the 24th inst. Of course we will probably be told that Mr. McLeish's strength has been so plainly demonstrated that there is no possible room for doubt as to the final result, but elections are peculiar things. In the next fortnight, the citizens will have plenty of opportunity for thinking quietly over the situation, and contemplating just what they would be doing if they were to vote.

Admitted that he is a man of varied experience, who is no stranger to city hall and civic life, but the trouble is that with him in the middle, there is no telling what direction he would cause the steed to take, nor what pace he would ride at. Compared with him Mayor Schofield might perhaps be called slow, but at least he can be depended on not to take the bit in his teeth and run away. We want enterprise in civic affairs, and we want safe and sane progress; but we don't want to rush blindly into any scheme—no matter how promising it may appear to be—until we are assured that we will not ultimately be landed into all sorts of trouble and complications.

The voting for Commissioners tried out much as it was expected to do. Mr. Wigmore has an exceedingly satisfactory lead, which there is no reason to suppose will not be maintained when the final vote is taken. Mr. Bullock ran a good second, and it may be presumed that all those who voted for him and Messrs. Jones and Corbett will support them again in the fortnightly time. It is just a question therefore as to who will get the 1730 votes yesterday given to Mr. Hilyard. Besides these, there were a considerable number of citizens who did not vote at all, but who reserved their decision until the final vote. These have all to be reckoned with, so that the ultimate outcome is not by any means apparent yet.

The situation is far too serious to be trifled with. Mr. McLeish's programme calls for immediate embarkation on a scheme that will cost a couple of millions or so at the outset, and what further outlay it will lead to ultimately is problematical to say the least, but it will be considerable any way. A question which the citizens might profitably think over in the next fortnight is whether it would not be wiser to try to mitigate some of the ills we have, than rush headlong towards those we know not of and which may prove in the long run to be infinitely worse.

## GOING BACK ON A BARGAIN.

The New Brunswick Power Company is the successor of a very large number of companies authorized to engage in the public utility enterprises in the Province of New Brunswick under charter from the Legislature. These companies included the following: The People's Street Railway Company, the Saint John City Railway Company, the St. John Gas Company, the Eastern Electric Company, the Consolidated Electric Company, the Saint John Railway Company, the New Brunswick Hydro Electric Company and the Carleton Place Company.

The New Brunswick Power Company was originally chartered under the name of the New Brunswick Hydro Electric Company. By 3 George V, chapter 99 (1915) this Company was authorized to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire, assume or undertake the whole or any part of the business property and liability of any company producing electric current.

By 4 George V, chapter 93 (1914) the Saint John Railway Company was authorized to sell all its property, rights, powers, privileges and franchises to any other company, then or thereafter to be incorporated under the laws of this Province, and authorized to engage in whole or in part in any business in which the Saint John Railway Company was authorized to engage. The Act further provided that after the purchase such company should enjoy all the rights, powers, privileges and franchises then carried on or authorized to be carried on or exercised by the Saint John Railway Company. The Act 4, George V, 1917, chapter 81, confirmed the conveyance from the Saint John Railway Company to the New Brunswick Power Company, and the New Brunswick Power Company was specifically authorized in the act not only to take possession

rights, powers, privileges and franchises, and to carry on any and all business, and to exercise any and all the rights, powers, privileges and franchises theretofore carried on or authorized to be carried on or exercised by the Saint John Railway Company.

The Saint John Railway Company by agreement with the Province of New Brunswick, ratified by Order in Council, agreed to pay the Province for a period of twenty years, a sum varying from three thousand five hundred dollars to five thousand dollars, for the privilege of crossing the new highway bridge at Saint John; and by this agreement the Province guaranteed that the Company's exemptions from taxation should be continued for the said period of twenty years and undertook to implement this agreement by legislation.

Notwithstanding this agreement by the Government, the City of Saint John Amendment Act imposed a tax upon the Company of four and one-half per cent. of its revenues from street railways operation which amounts to from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars in an average year.

By Chapter 129, 10 George V, 1920, an Act was passed unanimously by the House of Assembly, which provided that the Company's rate base should be fixed at \$3,100,000, together with any expenditure made in addition to or extension of the company's plant, property or working capital, or in the development of water power, or in acquiring water power property. Relying on this legislation, the Company's securities have been distributed

all over the Province of New Brunswick, and in certain parts of the Eastern United States, and the preferred stocks and bonds are held by thousands of people in small lots, the average investment not being much more than five thousand dollars.

Under the legislation passed at the instance of the City in defiance of the agreement made with the Government, the Company last year was liable to pay in taxes and charges a sum in excess of one hundred and seven thousand dollars. When it is considered that the payment of this sum made it necessary for the Company to pass two quarterly dividends on the first preferred stock, and four quarterly dividends on the second preferred stock, the grievance of the Company is readily apparent. If all of the dividends on the preferred stocks were paid the same would amount to ninety-four thousand five hundred dollars, or much less than the amount required for charges. The Company's revenue in an average year can be taken at \$1,100,000 and upwards. Four and one-half per cent. of this would amount to \$49,500. In addition the Company pays for its legal clearing of streets of snow (which merely means removing snow from the Company's tracks, and in some cases it is removed, and in some cases it is not) and in paying charges, a very considerable sum. Besides, it has to pay for the upkeep of the Public Utility Commissioners, which are supposed to regulate the Company; but when the City thinks the Company requires regulation it does not go to the Public Utility Commissioners but to the Legislature.

The Company contends that it is entitled to be protected by the Legislature in the business which it was so recently authorized to engage in, and upon the faith of which the security holders bought the Company's securities.

An enthusiastic lady voter called up The Standard last night to enquire as to the standing of the various candidates, and on being told that Mr. McLeish was 2500 ahead of Mayor Schofield, advised that we should at once call upon the lady to resign. We regret that we cannot see our way to oblige the lady in this respect, because we still have sufficient faith in the sound common sense of the citizens of St. John to feel that a majority of them would prefer to see the city embark on Mayor Schofield's safe and sane policy rather than Mr. McLeish's very risky venture.

The Kirby-Phillips report, according to Mr. McLeish's estimate of it as given by him at the meeting at the Pythian Hall the other day, was prepared solely in the interests of the N. B. Power Company, and should be absolutely ignored by the City. Last Friday he thought it was the greatest thing ever, and he had Mr. Phillips alongside him to verify it! More "Tergiversation."

The rumor was current last night that dashed with their success yesterday, the opponents of civic distribution of water had decided to postpone proceedings for the present. It is

winners drink and Thornton, and "standing out" City Hall altogether; the idea being to have five men who will pledge themselves to run the City into a series of experiments at a cost of two or three million dollars.

## PROPOSED PIRATICAL LEGISLATION.

(Chatham World)

A St. John bill, now pending in the Legislature, takes pre-eminence as the worst specimen of piratical legislation that was ever proposed in a law making body, less plain and undisguised purpose is plunder—robbery of the citizen for the benefit of the city. The city is wrestling with a hydro-electric problem. The Government has installed a hydro-electric plant on the Musquash river, and offers the city power for electric light and other purposes. To be or not to be is the present attitude of the City Council. Whether to build a distribution plant of its own or bargain with the Power Company for distribution through the existing plant, is the question. It has not yet been demonstrated that the city power, so restricted in scope, and for the work to be done, nor is it perfectly clear that the cost to the citizens for light and power will be materially reduced by accepting the Government's offer of electric current at cost—cost being as yet an unknown quantity.

In this state of uncertainty the city asks the Legislature to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to take possession of the Power Company's works and hand them over to the city to run them, no time limit given, no restrictions imposed, and sell the property at auction to pay the loss that may be incurred thereby. That is, take possession of the company's plant, run it any old way, with or without any regard for economy, and with power to sell the current at any price. The property is then sold to the city to pay the debt then by incurred. To seize the works and run them until the hydro-electric plant got into working order would seem to be the limit, and might be justified on the ground of public necessity, but the theft result from operating the plant passes the limit. Surely this is the worst example of municipal piracy ever seen, and the Legislature will certainly refuse to sanction it.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Public Be Damned.  
(Brooklyn Eagle.)

Both sides in this industrial war which threatens to paralyze industry and disorganize the whole economic system of the nation, are acting on the assumption that the public interest is secondary. This is spite of the history of every similar struggle here or abroad. In the last analysis, the conflict will be ended by the pressure of public opinion. Yet this calamity has been precipitated under conditions which make it difficult for the public to form an intelligent opinion of the merits in the claims put forth by miners and operators.

Merchant Marine Bank.  
(Detroit News.)

The people of the United States have been bunked. The president of the Pacific and Eastern Steamship Company wrote this in a letter to Senator Fletcher as a comment upon the proposal to grant subsidies to those who will operate ships for the American merchant marine. "As a man who has operated and who expects soon again to operate ocean steamers, I should be strongly in favor of ship subsidies, as I would get some of the easy money," said the president. "But as a citizen, having in mind the welfare of the country and taxpayers, I am strongly opposed to ship subsidies."

Will Right Itself.  
(Los Angeles Times.)

Civilization may be more feeble now and demanding gentler treatment in its old age, but it certainly made a pretty good showing under the hideous march of events, the utterly deplorable customs and conditions including stoves, drink, fashions, cut fashions, feminine depravity, obscene books and plays, intriguing religions, rotten politics and all the rest of it—including even war itself, or even without the world being safe for democracy, without trades unions or better baby clinics or women's clubs or public libraries. Indeed, if we are to believe the alarmists, civilization flourished and was built up during these deplorable conditions, and it has been going down steadily ever since the world had these modern advantages.

A Word for the Die-Hards.  
(London Morning Post.)

Until the election, undoubtedly the Die-Hards—we confess we like the name—held the balance of power. No Government can be formed in their despite, nor without their consent and approval. Their success in the future is assured if they pursue the simple plan of being honest with themselves and with the public, and obedience to the interests of the State, apart from their own considerations. There are in a position to say that there are certain persons with whom they decline to serve. They have to regard both the welfare of the country and the interests of the Conservative Party; and men who are inimical to the one and injurious to the other, are better excluded. We have had enough of time-servers and politicians whose profession it is to face both ways, and at ways with the highest motives.

The League's Opportunity.  
(New York Evening Post.)

There is still a chance for the United States to lift the Turkish problem to a higher plane. A beginning might be made with this very Armenia which has been placed under the protection of the League. Armenian are interested in the fate of the Armenians.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

We got a letter today making her all excited, and when you came home she said, "What do you suppose, William, I've been elected a member of the Dawsons of Claopitara."

Fine, good for you, said pop hanging up his hat, and ma said, I must say you're not very enthusiastic over it.

Many a calm exterior hides a blazing volcano, said pop hanging up his coat. And after supper he started to read the sporting page, and ma said, The password is in the letter, and there was a postscript saying to burn the letter immediately, so of course I did, and now there's no chance of anybody here knowing the password but me.

Grate staff, said pop reading the sporting page, and ma said, Don't you wish you knew the secret password?

No, said pop.

William, you do so, said ma, I can see it's three you, you're burning to know, but if I wouldn't tell you if you killed me first, it begins with M but I never gave it in 1000 years, do you think you could?

I want to read, said pop.

There's 8 letters in it and the first one is M, but I wouldn't give you another hint if you tried to drag it out of me with wild horses, so there's no use trying, said ma.

I've started this base ball story 3 times and now I'm starting it again, said pop.

I can see it's three your pretended indifference, you'd give anything if you only knew what the secret password is, said ma, and pop jumped up saying, Yee gods, if anybody asks for me I'm down in the parlor reading the paper in peace. Which he went down to do, ma saying, He can't fool me, he's just dying to know and he's mad because I won't tell.

Which maybe he was and I started to guess words beginning with M, but ma wouldn't even answer me whether I was right or wrong.

American missionary effort has done nothing on earth can restore it to life. What a man once becomes accustomed to the privileges of liberty no power in the world can restore to him his lost sense of responsibility. In fact the loss of personal liberty is an evil far greater than all the evils which curtailment of it endeavors to cure. There may be hope for the drunkard, even for the debauchee and the gambler. There is no hope for the man with the mentality of a slave and the docility of a paragon.

## THE LAUGH LINE

Not Fair Play.

Two small boys were puzzling their brains to invent a new game. At last one of them said, eagerly: "I know, Billy, let's see who can make the ugliest face."

"Garn! No fear!" was the reply. "Look what a start you've got!"

Taken For Granted.

A tiny maid, held up to bear her father's voice on the telephone, burst into tears.

"Why are you crying?" asked her mother.

"Oh, mamma," sobbed the child, "how ever can we get dandy out of that little hole?"

For Love Alone.

Young Micky had married contrary to his father's wishes. Meeting his son soon afterwards the father said, angrily, "Well, young man, I have made my will and cut you off with a dollar."

"I am very sorry, father," said the youth. Then, after a pause, "You don't happen to have the dollar with you, do you?"

Good Intentions.

Mistress—"Maggie, our gas bill has gone up outrageously this month; you must be dreadfully extravagant."

Maggie—"Sure, an' I'm that careful and economical, mum, that I never turn off my burners at all, for the sake of savin' the matches."

A Nice Lot of Refuse Boards

In Pine, Spruce and Hemlock, bright and dry, planed one side, and wider than the average. We are making Laths every day.

For Quotations,

PHONE MAIN 3000.

MURRAY &amp; GREGORY

Limited

Cutting Mill—Aladdin Co.

ALL GRADES OF

Hard and Soft Coal

Lowest Prices.

GEORGE DICK

46 Britain St. Phone M. 1116.

Announcement

We are now established in our new quarters

69 Prince William St.

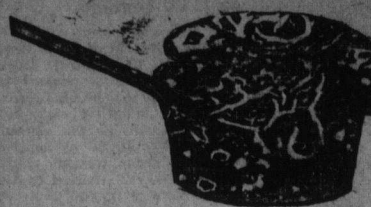
Flourishing Press,

Engravers and Printers,

St. John, N. B.

Smith's Fish Market

## Aluminum Cereal Cooker



One of these cookers deserves a place in every kitchen because it cooks oatmeal, rice and other cereals better than any other method.

## Special Prices for a Short Time Only

6 Pt. Size - \$2.10 9 Pt. Size - \$2.40

Phone M. 2540 - McAVITY'S - 11-17 King St

## BEST QUALITY LACE LEATHER

ORDERS PROMPTLY SHIPPED

D. K. McLAREN, LTD., Manufacturers

Main 1121—20 Gormale St., St. John, N. B.—Box 702.

## HEXAGON SLAB SHINGLES

Cut down Insurance—Sure Paint or Stain—and make a durable handsome roof which satisfies. Prices right.

HALEY BROS., LTD., St. John, N. B.

Phone M. 203 or M. 204.

See our Special Set of

Fixtures for 7 Rooms, \$17.00

ELECTRICALLY AT YOUR SERVICE

THE WEBB ELECTRIC CO.

Phone M. 2153 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS 91 "REMAIN" ST.

## The Union Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd.

Engineers and Machinists.

Iron and Brass Castings. Phone West 598. West St. John. G. H. WARING, Manager.

## RUN DOWN IN YOUR CAR

Look over our stocks of Lumber, Doors, Sashes, Sheathing, Hardwood flooring.

Crown Mica Roofing, Red Asphalt Shingles and the Hexagon Slab Shingles.

Everything you need for building—

Woodwork for homes.

The Christie Wood-Working Co., Ltd.

186 Eden Street

Painless Extraction

Only 25c

Boston Dental Parlor

Head Office Branch Office

527 Main St. 35 Charlotte

Phone 683 Phone 30

DR. J. D. MAHER, Proprietor.

Open 9 a. m. Until 9 p. m.

COAL

Hard and Soft, Best Quality.

Also Dry Wood.

The Colwell Fuel Co., Ltd.

Phone West 17 or 18.

Wholesale and Retail

S. KERR

Principal

COAL

Hard and Soft, Best Quality.

Also Dry Wood.

The Colwell Fuel Co., Ltd.

Phone West 17 or 18.

Wholesale and Retail

S. KERR

Principal

## SAVE YOUR EYES

Headaches

About ninety per cent. of all headaches have their origin in eyestrain. If you suffer from headaches which medicines do not relieve, it would seem to be the wise thing to find out if your eyes are the cause.

Our methods of examination indicate very clearly whether the headache is the result of defective vision, and we tell you exactly what examination indicates.

Let us help you to determine the cause of your headaches.

L. L. SHARPE & SON,

Jewelers and Optometrists

21 King St., St. John, N. B.

COAL

American Anthracite,

All sizes.

Springhill, Reserve,

George's Creek Blacksmith,

Kentucky Cannel,

A wonderful grate coal.

R. P. & W. F. Starr, Ltd.

48 Smythe St. 159 Union St.

Business Men

are just as anxious to discover

and employ well trained help

as young people are to secure

good positions.

No better time for entering

than just now.

Call on and take care of

any address.

S. KERR

Principal

COAL

Hard and Soft, Best Quality.