

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1921.

THE COON COMING DOWN.

The coon, in the shape of the Agrarian party, has apparently decided to come down. The extremely radical programme which the leaders of that party had adopted, they now find does not "take" with the majority of the electors whose votes they will soon be seeking, hence they have decided to discard several of its leading features. In the main, public opinion in Canada is very conservative, and does not look kindly on abrupt and sweeping changes of any kind, but when it comes to proposals for changes which it carries this effect would disrupt the whole industrial and social fabric, there is more reason than ever why the public should not take kindly to them. So the hitherto proposed programme of the Agrarians is to be amended, and several features dropped, in the hope that public opinion will approve of what is left.

There are too many foreign born residents in Western Canada for it to be safe for that part of the country to be in a position to impose its will upon the other portions, which is what would happen could the Agrarians control the next House of Commons. With the leader of the Agrarians an American, imbued with all sorts and conditions of grotesque and fanciful notions, backed up by the half-civilized refugees from Continental Europe, what might not be the result of their putting up with? Her people cannot afford to take the risk of any such happening. This fact is beginning to be realized by these Western Agrarians who are now announcing a change of programme in the hope that they may thereby beguile the less wary. But the leopard is just as likely to change his spots as these Agrarians are to change their real views, and they are found themselves in a position to put them into effect. By professing to recant in regard to some of their extreme proposals, they may make it easier for Mr. Mackenzie King and his party, who are now preaching doctrines in Eastern Canada that would not go down in many parts of the West, to throw in their lot with them while the going is good. The fear of forces because an accomplished fact in order that Mr. King or Mr. Crear might become leader of the Government, then the Agrarian party would at once revert to all its original plans, and make it a condition of continued support that they be put into effect. Mr. King would then have the choice of giving in to his allies, or going out of power, and it requires very little guessing to decide which course he would take.

The action of the Agrarians in revising their programme, is mere window dressing just for display purposes.

PUT THE BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS.

There is no law in this country, as far as we have been able to ascertain, which prohibits any friendly society or any other organization from peacefully parading the public streets, as long as such a parade is conducted in an orderly manner and nothing is done which would be likely to incite violence. Because a band of boys and young hoodlums followed the Labor Parade the other evening and were guilty of conduct calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, it is hardly reasonable to put the blame on the men who were walking in the parade, unless it can be conclusively shown that they incited it. That some of the proceedings which followed the parade were most reprehensible and deserving of heavy punishment admits of no dispute or denial, and if the perpetrators can be identified, they should undoubtedly be made to pay, and pay heavily, for their riotous conduct. But until it can be shown that the Labor Unions were the cause of the trouble, it is scarcely fair to blame them for it.

The Standard has not, as our readers are well aware, been able to approve of much that Labor Unions have done during the past few months and we have not hesitated to give our views on the subject, which views in the matter referred to are still unchanged; that matter however is not the point at present under discussion. The question now is, who caused the damage on Monday night? There are those who say that if the parade had not taken place, there would not have been any rioting. Perhaps not; but it may be that if Eve had not happened to tumble across the serpent under that particular apple tree, there would have been no Fall. And so on with most other things. In the absence of proof that those in the parade were guilty of the disorderly conduct that occurred, or that they incited others to commit it, it is neither just nor fair to blame them for it.

TAMMANY ON TRIAL.

Lord Bryce, in his volume on "The American Commonwealth," said it was in the field of municipal government that American democracy had its chief failures. It is not only in the United States, however, that the condition referred to by Lord Bryce is found. In many of our Canadian cities there is a painful lack of interest in municipal affairs and, as a natural consequence, occasionally there are regrettable exhibitions of municipal mismanagement, if not of something worse.

In the big American cities municipal affairs are often marked by blundering and not infrequently by more serious faults. The great city of New York only occasionally awakens to the necessity for municipal house cleaning. Discussing this condition of affairs, the Journal of Commerce says that long years ago the rottenness of Tammany Hall, the chief Democratic organization of the city, under the notorious Boss Tweed, started the city and the country too. There was a vigorous fight to take the city out of the control of Tammany, with temporary success. But municipal reform in New York is usually spasmodic, while Tammany is always alert and energetic. Defeated occasionally though it is, Tammany returns to the battle and usually recovers its power. One of these spasmodic reform movements is on at present. Mr. Hyman, one of Tammany's nominees and the large patronage of the city to reward Tammany's men and strengthen the old Democratic organization. Tammany nominates Mr. Hyman for re-election to the Mayoralty. A non-partisan movement has put in the field Mr. Henry Curran, an independent Republican, at present a city official who is fortunate enough to have won a large measure of public confidence. His nomination is being endorsed by the Republican party. New York is a Democratic city. Seldom can any straight Republican reach the Mayor's chair. But a movement of an independent character endorsed by the Republicans may create a Reform ticket with a better chance of success. It is a fight of this kind that is now on. Mayor Hyman finds exposed to him not only the Republicans but also a section of the Democrats who resent the dictatorship of Tammany. The outlook for Mr. Curran is considered encouraging. But experience has shown that Tammany's power is not easily defeated. Almost the entire press of the city is against Mr. Hyman. Nevertheless his friends are so confident that they are betting heavily on his election.

The assertion that the Melgren Government has been hanging on to office without any mandate from the people—has been usurping power in fact—is such a hoary old chestnut that most people and newspapers are now too ashamed to spring it; still there are some who don't seem even yet to realize that it lost its effect long ago. The present Parliament was elected in 1917 for five years, and there could be no earthly justification for putting the country to the expense of another election a couple of years later, as long as the Government controlled a substantial majority of the Commons. As a peg upon which to hang a grievance against the Government, this old chestnut is a very sorry affair.

One of the most widely known figures in Central New Brunswick passed away at Fredericton yesterday in the person of the Hon. William Wilson, until recently the senior County Court Judge in the province. For the greater part of his life he was prominent in public affairs, and as a platform orator for any worthy cause, his services were usually in demand. As an after dinner speaker he had few equals, and his store of racy anecdotes was often a source of envy among others less gifted. He was retired from the Bench in March last after some twenty-five years' service, and it is to be regretted that he has not lived very long to enjoy the repose which his long service merited.

Travelling on the St. John Valley Railway a day or two ago, we noticed orchard after orchard where heaps of fine looking apples were lying all over the ground, and cattle turned in to feed on them. Yet these selfsame kinds of apples are selling for five cents each in the city shops.

Charlie Chaplin says that Paris is not as gay as it used to be. When men begin to approach Charlie's time of life they are apt to begin to think that girls are not as flirtatious as they used to be.

Perhaps the scientist who predicted that sometime half a ton of coal would heat the whole house for the winter is looking forward to when, on account of the prices schedules, it will have to.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Degenerate Times.
It is remarked that the number of deaths of celebrated men this year has been exceptionally low. This suggests to us also that not a single birth of any famous person has been recorded during the last twelve months.—London Opinion.

Flag-Waving Politics.
Most attacks on civil liberties, which are the very breath of life to political democracy, are instigated by those subtle enemies of all democracy and those defenders of privilege who, though comparatively small in numbers, by hypocritically cloaking their activities in a patriotic garb with skillful flag-waving, humbug the multitude into fighting against the real interests of the people. History teaches that the people have always fought the battles for autonomy and for privilege against themselves; have bled and died for their oppressors. Will we ever learn?—H. H. Willcock in Commerce and Finance (New York).

The Slaves—A. D. 1921.
We told beneath the Blazing Sun, And in the Arctic Zone; We trace the Perils of the Deep— You reap, where We have sown.

We yield our Lives, our Babies, our Wives, To build You Golden Walls Wherein your souls shall rot and die— We are your Willing Thralles.

Hope died within our hearts at birth, Beneath your iron heel; We kiss the hand that wields the Lash, We forge the Poisoned Steel.

Less than the dust beneath your feet, Lords of the Human Mart, We force you to the Golden Bands That fetter Mind and Heart. —Percy Allcott, in the New Age (London).

A New Fuel From Waste Wood.
H. C. Diers, an American industrial engineer, has perfected a new commercial process for converting the waste wood from lumber mills and waste wood from lumber mills and into a new fuel, which he calls lignite. The same wood is used in the process for several years.

With an improved system of retorts and rollers the raw waste wood from the lumber mills is heated, then put through a process of carbonization, the residue treated with sulphide liquor under temperature, and by a system of compression made into briquettes, the same of a coal and used in the prepared bed of fuel is cooled. It is broken and is ready for use. The fuel resembles coal but is lighter in color. It is the cost of making this fuel is a great deal cheaper than the making of coal briquettes. An important feature is the fact that there is no valuable by-product which largely pay for the process. This new fuel is practically a pure carbon, having less than 2 per cent. of ash and no volatile matter, moisture or sulphur. It makes an intense heat, and it is claimed that it is adaptable for all metallurgical purposes, is absolutely smokeless and stands handling and weather conditions. A test of the fuel has been made in one of the iron works on Coos Bay and as a heat agent proved to be equal to the best Eastern coke.—Canadian Forestry Magazine.

A BIT OF VERSE

BUREAUCRATIC PROGRESSION.

In view of the controversy that is going on in England in regard to Government expenditures the following verses will be found interesting:

Ten Little Bureaucrats! which was really plenty. Some said "Economics," and then there were 20. Twenty Little Bureaucrats! Northcliffe said, "New Nations." And then there were 40. Forty Little Bureaucrats! But we must be thrifty. Said Mr. Austen Chamberlain, And then there were 50. Fifty Little Bureaucrats! Somebody had banded— Committee of Enquiry—And then there were 100. One Hundred Little Bureaucrats! By Sir Eric caught— And then there were one, no, nought, nought, nought, nought! —Red Patch, in Montreal Herald.

THE LAUGH LINE

Those Pencil Marks.
Sunday School Teacher—Who says I saw the handwriting on the wall, Bobby?
Bobby—The landlord.—Life.

Generous.
Husband—"Really, dear, when I thanked you for your valuable birthday gift I had no idea that the bill would be sent in to me."
Wife—"Didn't I tell you at the time that I could afford to be generous, you stupid dear?"

Easy Solution.
Old Bullion (on his deathbed)—"All my property is willed to you, but I'm afraid my children by my first wife will make a contest, and then the lawyers will get it."
Young Wife—"Don't worry, my love; I can easily fix that. I'll marry one of the lawyers."

Very Little For Him.
A well-known judge, who had the reputation of being a "don rivant," was one day trying a case in which there was a dispute about a water supply. Having partaken of a hearty luncheon he began to nod suspiciously during the counsel's long-winded arguments. Suddenly the barrister thundered out:

"That we want, my lord, is water!"
"Very little in mine, please, very little in mine," cried his lordship, starting up anxiously.

Several people had the bad taste to chuckle loudly.—Spare Moments.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Skinny Martin was taking a walk, just taking a walk, and we came to 2 Bystallians with no collars and ties and a yonkers full of orndages tawking to each other and waving their arms and shoulders as if they was trying to tawk with as much as possible, and 3 girls was standing there watching them, being 3 bewty looking girls, Skinny whispering to me, "Hay, lets percent we can translate wat theyre tawking about."

And we stopped rite next to the 2 bewty looking girls and one Bystallian sed something and waved his shoulders and everything, and I sed, Did you heer that, Skinny, he sed it would be a nice day tomorrow if it done rane.

Witch the 2 girls started to giggle and look at me and Skinny, and the other Bystallian sed something back to the first Bystallian, and Skinny sed, G, that's a hot one, he asked him wat makes him so funny looking.

Making the 3 girls giggle more, and the first Bystallian sed something else, and I sed, Gosh Skinny did you get that, he sed he knows to eat 47 onions and 19 garlicks for supper.

And we kappy on pertrading to translate wat they sed and making the 2 bewty looking girls giggle, and all of a suddin something came down on the pavement with a farsee squash, being a soft orndage, and I looked up and the first Bystallian was holding another one in his hand looking even sottier, saying, "Wassa da matt? You no like my langwidze?"

Heck, lets go, sed Skinny.
Wich we did, wawking away with a tpression as if we was jest going to wawk away anyhow but feeling kind of funny on our backs on account of not knowing weather he was going to throw the 2nd orndage or not.

Wich he dident.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

To the Editor of The Standard:—
Sir:—There has been much said in the last few days with regard to the enforcement of our laws. We hear of jiltneys being rounded up by the hundreds, and drivers of jiltneys being fined in almost every case, and we seldom, if ever, hear of street cars being reported though we see them continually stopping between posts to take on passengers, running past crossings without sounding the gong, running into vehicles, crossing the tracks without trying to stop outside the limited ten feet, etc. We know there have been accidents galore with the street cars in the last few months and few, if any, with the jiltneys, yet we seem entitled to no protection from the street cars, while the Power Co. admits that it has reported over 1,000 jiltneys in two weeks. Is justice dead in St. John? Would it not be more to the credit of the Power Co. to see that their own men carried out the by-laws, rather than spy on our city tax-payers. Surely the citizens have a right to as fair a deal, as the import-behor.

We hear the report that the Mayor refuses to issue more jiltney licenses. Does it mean that our own citizens are refused the chance to make a living, while labor can be imported to drive one man street cars, without the Mayor lifting a finger in protest? There is no limit to the number of street cars that he can run then why limit the jiltneys? Have not the people shown their preference for the jiltney? Yet there are street cars galore now on Main St. when we do not need them. Yet when we had to depend on the Power Co. for transportation, there were only about four. What would become of the citizens if we had to depend on the street cars alone for transportation? We have only to look back for the answer. If there have been so many accidents with jiltneys in every part of the world and St. John is no exception. Give the rest of our citizens the same protection as the Power Co. and give us protection from them as well for them.

I thank you for your valuable space.
Yours truly,
ANNIE L. SMITH,
33 Kennedy St.

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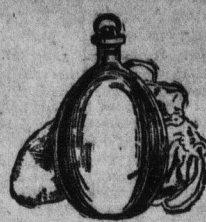
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Home Visitation Important Movement
Industrial and Civic Organizations Join With Religious Forces in Great Work—Meeting This Afternoon.

What local leaders consider one of the most important movements ever observed in the history of St. John is now being organized. It is known as the home visitation, and it will be observed in the city and suburbs on Friday afternoon, October 7th, between two and four o'clock.

The purpose of the plan is to place invited invitations in all the homes, writing all the people to attend the Sunday school, church or synagogue of their choice, and to secure records of the church connection or preference of all the people, which will be given to the pastor, priest, rabbi or organization preferred.

In the average city the size of St. John in Canada and the United States, not more than half of the people are definitely connected with any church, and this concerned plan in which all faiths and denominations are co-operating extends to those not affiliated with any organized expression of religion, invitations from all. Through this co-operative plan more than \$8,000,000 people have been visited in Canada, the United States and England, during the past twelve years, and more than ninety-four per cent. of the people have expressed a preference for some church or synagogue, and have been put in touch with the one of their choice.

The purpose of the work is not to obtain the strength of any faith or church, as no tabulation of the results is permitted, but the cards are turned over immediately to the pastor, priest, rabbi or organization for which preference is expressed. The plan has been observed in many cities in Canada and the United States, including Toronto, Montreal and other cities in Canada, and New York City, Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Philadelphia and many other cities in the states, and Liverpool and Boston, England, before the war.

The plan has the hearty endorsement of all faiths in nearly every city where it has been observed. Protestant pastors of all faiths met a few days ago, and voted unanimously to cooperate in the work. The plan was presented to the pastors of the Catholic churches, and the Knights of Columbus, and they wired to Rt. Rev.