

# The Standard

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## IMPERIAL NATURALIZATION.

For some twelve years the Imperial authorities and the self-governing Dominions have had under consideration the question of Imperial Naturalization. As the British Empire has grown and developed, in all its borders, there has arisen a strong desire to formulate some plan of Imperial citizenship—a plan by which a British subject, naturalized in any of the Overseas Dominions, could claim the protection of the flag and of the Empire in whatever part of the world he might find himself. At the last Imperial Conference the subject was discussed by the representatives of the self-governing Dominions and as a result it was agreed that the Colonial Secretary should prepare a draft bill dealing with the question. This bill, which is entitled the Draft Imperial British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill, has now been prepared and submitted to the Governments of all the colonies. In the course of an interesting debate in the House of Commons on Friday, Mr. Foster made the important announcement that a committee of the Privy Council was studying its provisions with a view to sending an answer to the home authorities at the earliest possible moment.

The anomalous position of the Canadian law, and the same applies to the laws of other Dominions, is, perhaps, not fully realized. Today the man who comes to Canada and resides here for three years goes before a Justice of the Peace, makes an affidavit to this effect, and takes the oath of allegiance. He receives a certificate ultimately from a judge of a court that he has become a British citizen. But as a matter of fact all that naturalization gives him is the right to vote and to a certain extent to call himself a citizen of Canada. Beyond the confines of the Dominion this citizenship gives him no advantage, neither does it entitle him in other parts of the world to recognition or relief from representatives of the Empire in the slightest degree.

The bill which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, and is now under consideration by the Government, provides for a complete change in the naturalization laws of the Empire. Its first clause defines natural-born British subjects. The second section provides for the Secretary of State granting a certificate of naturalization to an alien, who makes an application for the purpose, and satisfies the Secretary of State that he has resided for five years in His Majesty's Dominions or has been in the service of the Crown for not less than four years. The use of the phrase "His Majesty's Dominions" makes this a wider provision than that of the present law which requires that residence must have been within the United Kingdom. The second requirement is that the applicant be of good character and have adequate knowledge of the English language. The oath of allegiance must be taken. In operation this section of the bill will permit any person who has resided in Canada the required period to make application to the British Secretary of State for Imperial naturalization. There is also a provision in the bill in another section by which each of the Colonial Governments may grant a certificate.

The section which practically creates the Imperial Naturalization of Aliens is very wide in its effect. It provides:

"A person to whom a certificate of naturalization is granted by a Secretary of State, shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be entitled to all political and other rights, powers and privileges, and be subject to all obligations, duties and liabilities to which a natural-born British subject is entitled and, as from the date of his naturalization, have to all intents and purposes the status of a natural-born British subject."

Section 7, giving power to the colonies, contains provisions which are naturally of vital interest in this country. It says:

"The Government of any British possession shall have the same power to grant a certificate of naturalization as the Secretary of State has under this Act, and the provisions of this Act as to the grant and revocation of such a certificate shall apply accordingly, with the substitution of the Government of the possession for the Secretary of State, and the possession for the United Kingdom, and also, in a possession where any language is recognized as on an equality with the English language, with the substitution of that language for the English language."

The right of colonial legislation or Parliaments to deal with the question of the exclusion of aliens or British subjects under the proposed act is contained in the following clause:

"Nothing in this act shall take away or abridge any power vested in or exercisable by the Legislature or Government of any British possession or prevent any such Legislature or Government from treating differently by classes of British subjects."

This section would, of course, reserve the right of Canada to discriminate against Hindus or any other class of British subjects. The right to continue the naturalization of aliens by the granting of a limited certificate on three years residence is also preserved.

The bill, as previously stated, has been submitted by the Imperial authorities to all the colonies and it is satisfactory to note that the Government of South Africa has already expressed approval of its provisions. In a letter dated November 18, 1911, Mr. Harcourt, the Colonial Secretary, communicated this information to the Governor General with the request that the Canadian Government should forward their views on the Draft Bill at an early date. The telegram from the Governor General of the Union of South Africa to Mr. Harcourt was as follows:

"November 2, 1911.  
"Your despatch 14th July, naturalization bill, Minister state that objections raised by Government of Union South Africa in this matter are fairly met by the new draft and they have no alterations to propose."  
"Gladstone."

It was stated by Mr. Bennett of Calgary, during the debate, that he was informed New Zealand and the Commonwealth of Australia had also taken similar action. Mr. Foster in announcing that a committee of the Privy Council was now studying the question laid stress on its importance and expressed the opinion that the matter was in a more forward position than it had ever been before. The debate was noteworthy in that members of Parliament on both sides of the House were unanimous in support of the provisions of the bill submitted by the Imperial authorities. As Mr. Bennett eloquently expressed it: "The bill will provide a remedy for the difficulties that have arisen and will enable persons coming into this country and who have attained to citizenship to be able to say, with as little expense and trouble,

"that they have secured a citizenship that is the highest, and best that can be conferred upon any people under any flag under the sun."

## THE RAILWAYS OF CANADA.

Last year was the most successful, from a financial standpoint, of any year in the history of Canadian railways. There are now in operation in Canada 25,400 miles of railway, an increase of 609 miles over the preceding year. There are under construction in different parts of the country 7,000 miles of road and of this 1,578 miles are in actual operation, though not formally declared to be so by the Railway Commission. There was a large increase in the capitalization of railways during the past year, the total being \$118,391,514, of which \$61,650,300 was in stock and \$56,741,214 in bonds. The total capital liability of all the railroads operating in Canada is \$1,628,689,201 or \$55,821 per mile. The cash aid to the railways from different sources in 1911 was \$1,426,192.

The gross earnings from all sources were \$188,733,494, an increase of \$14,777,277 over 1910. The operating expenses aggregated \$137,034,785, making the net earnings \$51,698,709 as against \$53,557,776 in 1910. The total amount paid in dividends for 1911 was \$30,577,740, equal to 4.08 per cent. on the capital. In 1910 the percentage was 3.16 per cent.; in 1909 it was 2.97; in 1908, 2.11; in 1907, 2.17. The showing of last year therefore was largely in excess of any previous year, for which figures are furnished.

The total number of passengers carried was 37,097,718, an increase of 1,293,143, and the freight tonnage 709,884,282, an increase of 5,401,416 tons. During the year the railways killed 492 persons, a decrease of 120 from the previous year. The number injured was 3,350, a decrease of 3,190. Of the total of the killed 202 were employees. The number of employees injured was 1,114. Thirty-six of the fatal accidents were due to level crossings, which were also responsible for the injury of 108 persons. The total number of employees of Canadian railways were 141,224, an increase of 17,456. The wages earned totaled \$74,613,318, an increase of \$7,495,945.

These figures show that Canada is making progress at a rapid rate. The addition of over 2,000 miles to the railways operating in Canada during the year gives an idea of how the country is spreading out. While the increase in the number of passengers carried demonstrate the increase in population, while the increase in freight tonnage proves that the trade of the country is expanding. The most gratifying among the increases, however, is that in net earnings and dividends, as they show that the railroads are, generally speaking, in a more prosperous condition than at any time heretofore in the history of the country.

So far as New Brunswick is concerned the railroad mileage remains practically at the figures of last year, as the National Transcontinental, extending from Moncton to the Quebec boundary, although practically completed, is not yet in operation and therefore is not reported on.

## IRISH HOME RULE.

The forecast of the Irish Home Rule Bill, which is shortly to be submitted to the British Parliament, as it appears in the London Daily Chronicle, is a very comprehensive measure. The Irish Parliament will have full control of the customs and excise duties, but provision is made for the continuance of free trade between England, Ireland and Scotland. For fifteen years following the passage of the bill Ireland is to receive an annual Imperial subsidy of ten millions of dollars, but after that period will contribute to the Imperial expenditure, based on a percentage of its revenue. The new Irish Parliament is to consist of two houses, a Legislative Council of 50 and a Legislative Assembly of 203. There is a unique and altogether new feature introduced. When there is disagreement between the two houses on any measure, and when the proposed legislation has been twice rejected by the Council, the two houses will vote together and the majority will carry. The Irish Parliament is to have no control with the respect to foreign policy, the army, navy or militia, coinage or coast lighting, and is forbidden to establish or endow any religion or deal with any religious matter. The Imperial Parliament will control the Irish Constabulary for a period of twelve years. Ireland will continue to be represented in the Imperial Parliament but the number of members will be reduced.

The question of rates charged by the Express Companies of the United States, is now before the Inter-State Commerce Commission at Washington. One of the investigators for the Commission submitted in tabular form the result of examination of one month's business of the Adams Express Company, showing overcharges amounting to \$67,000. The counsel for the company asserted in reply that not more than 20 per cent. of this sum remains in the company's treasury, as its agents have instructions to make refunds on all discovered overcharges. The express rates charged in Great Britain, France and Germany were submitted to prove that American rates were higher than those in any European country. The answer to this was that in the United States express parcels are carried on passenger trains, while in Europe they are handled on fast freight trains. The general opinion amongst those who have investigated the express business on behalf of the commission, favors the establishment of a flat rate in different zones, which would be more easily understood than the present complicated tariff and would prevent overcharges by agents of the companies.

Four years ago the British Government passed a law making provision for a Public Trustee, for the purpose of affording cheap and reliable administration of small estates. The gentleman selected to fill the office of Public Trustee has proved very satisfactory and the department has increased so much in the four years of its existence that it now has over 200 clerks. The value of the property entrusted to the administration of the Trustee is now \$105,000,000. The average value of the estates administered is \$40,000. In addition to the money value the Trustee has the oversight of 1,300 minor children. As the office of Public Trustee is not in any way a monopoly, it has to be conducted on business principles. Up to date it has been more than self-sustaining. A new building for housing the department is contemplated and a site has already been procured.

Mr. Nantell, the new Minister of Inland Revenue, proposes to put the food adulteration law into operation. This will be gratifying news to the people generally, as there is more adulterated foods on the market in this country than in any other. Some years ago the Food Adulteration Act was passed through Parliament by the old Government, but no attempt was made to enforce it, and the result has been to permit the sale of all sorts of adulterated food stuffs. In taking steps to secure pure foods for the people Mr. Nantell is doing a genuine service to the people of the country. It is to be hoped that where an adulterator is discovered he will promptly be prosecuted and if convicted after a fair trial given the full penalty of the law, because many of the articles used in adulterating foods are poisonous to the human system.

The Standard Oil Company has gone out of existence, or rather the thirty-three corporations which composed it, are supposed to be setting independently of each other. There is still, however, a suspicion that the Standard Oil Company is as much a reality as ever it was, as each of the thirty-three companies which composed it has advanced the price of gasoline and coal oil two cents a gallon.

## PARTINGTON PULP MILL ABOUT SOLD

Control will Pass to American Syndicate—Also the Gibson Lands—Will Operate Both Properties.

Fredericton, Feb. 3.—The annual meeting of the Alex. Gibson Company was to have taken place at Marysville at noon today, but was postponed for three weeks. In the meantime it is understood that arrangements will probably be concluded for a transfer of the Gibson Company's vast timber lands and mills to the Consolidated Pulp and Paper Company, Limited, the \$5,000,000 company organized by ex-Senator N. M. Jones of Bangor, Maine. Your correspondent learned today from undoubted authority that negotiations for the transfer of the property, which were commenced by Mr. Jones during his recent visit to England have not as yet been concluded, but it is expected that the transfer will take place before the end of the present month. It is also generally understood that the new company promoted by Mr. Jones and composed largely of Maine capitalists, will secure a controlling interest in the Edward Partington Pulp and Paper Company's property at St. John, although Captain Partington will retain an interest in the business. It is believed arrangements for the proposed sale of both the Gibson and Partington holdings to the new American syndicate have all been arranged and that it only remains to formally complete the legal transfers, etc. The general understanding is that the transfer will not make any change in the plans of the company but that the proposed big paper mill will be built at St. John to form part of the pulp mill plant.

In connection with the recent change in the title of the Gibson property, it is learned that the costs of the suit were upwards of \$16,000. Of that amount \$8,676 was paid for advertising, and the balance of \$7,324 in out-of-pocket expenses, while the lawyers' fees amounted to about \$6,500, of which Messrs. Weldon and McLean, St. John, who acted for the Gibson Company, drew over \$5,000.

## Thistles and Frederictons.

The Thistle curlers will meet the Fredericton team this afternoon and evening here. The games were scheduled to take place tomorrow, but a wire received from the team from the Capital on Saturday said that they will arrive here today instead of Tuesday. There will be four risks, and the Malcolm trophy games which were to have been played this evening are off for today.

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## POSTMASTERS ASK MORE PAY

Deputation from Canadian Postmasters Association Waits Upon Postmaster General for Increased Salary.

(Ottawa Citizen, Jan. 31.)

A deputation from the Canadian Postmasters' Association waited on the postmaster-general on Monday night and presented him with a memorial asking that a schedule which was presented be adopted where salaries were determined on the percentage basis. The deputation was well received by the postmaster-general, who agreed that the claims advanced were reasonable. He promised to give the matter his consideration. The deputation was composed of J. V. Bourque, of Shediac, N. B., president of the association; H. E. Proctor, Aurora, secretary of the Ontario association, and H. S. Moore, of Norwich, Ont. Last year the deputation waited on the postmaster-general and consideration was then promised, but parliament dissolved before anything was done.

The chief requests of the association as contained in the memorial were that co-operation plans could be worked out in order to facilitate postmasters in arranging for supply during absence. "That for offices where salaries and other allowances are determined on the percentage basis the following scheme be adopted for salary: Sixty per cent. of actual or proper stamp sales up to \$1,000 per annum; forty per cent. on stamp sales from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per annum; and thirty per cent. on sales from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per annum (as at present); and where as a minimum of \$35 has been established it is thought that this should be considered a flat allowance for the establishment and keeping open of the office and that a percentage allowance on stamp sales should be made in addition.

"That while we believe the correct principle for making allowance to postmasters for rent, light and fuel should be that of the actual cost or value, especially where the office occupies entirely separate space from mercantile pursuits, we would ask that should the department find it difficult in adopting this principle that an annual allowance (10 per cent.) be made on the legitimate postal revenue of each office, or such an approximation thereto as would seem to be fair and just, as between the different portions of the Dominion."

The memorial contained the following plea for the increase in the rate of commission:—"During the last ten to fifteen years the cost of living has advanced more than fifty per cent. That cost of most classes of help has doubled, and that rents range from 75 per cent. to 150 per cent. higher than at that time.

About ten years ago the rate of postage was reduced from three and five cents to two cents. This was a boon to the general public, but a blow to the postmasters. Just at the time when expenses were beginning to run up. Under the three cent rate, \$300 would pay postage on 10,000 letters (Canadian). Now it will pay for 15,000 letters. This is about the only source of income to the postmaster, and the amount of work per 1,000 letters remained unchanged, so that the postmasters' work was increased fifty per cent. to draw the same allowance.

Applying the reduction to British mail, \$300 would pay postage on 6,000 letters. Now it will pay on 15,000, or an increase of 150 per cent. The matter on which postmasters get no allowance, circulars, catalogues, newspapers, magazines, etc., which come from city offices for distribution, has increased in volume, in addition to the extra work required on letters to keep allowances on a level.

## NORTON CLERGYMAN IN CARLETON CHURCH

Rev. John Lennox, of Norton, N. B., was the preacher in Carleton Presbyterian church yesterday, in speaking about the cost of living, Mr. Lennox said a renounced sceptic by the name of Blatchford, and the editor of a Socialist paper said this: "It is no wonder that the Christian religion is a few fathoms deep in the patronage of royalty, nobility, the state, and wealth, also thousands of preachers to advocate its cause. If we, as sceptics, had the same facilities to advance our cause, what marvelous progress we would make."

Mr. Lennox went on to show that Mr. Blatchford had overlooked the fact that when Christianity dawned upon the world it began with a wilderness preacher, and a few fishermen, who became the followers of Christ. The monarchs of the world and wealth and the influence of the day was against them, but they triumphed over the vindictiveness of a persecuting age and the Christ is enshrined in millions of hearts today in every country of the world.

## OBITUARY.

Mrs. Eliza Humbert.

The death of Mrs. Eliza Humbert, widow of Thomas C. Humbert, occurred at her residence, 92 Elliott Row, yesterday afternoon. She was 79 years old and had been ill but a few days. Mrs. Humbert was a daughter of the late John B. Gaylor, who was prominent in the old shipbuilding days in St. John and who laid the corner stone of Queen Square Methodist church. Her husband was a member of the old firm of Fleming and Humbert, locomotive builders.

It was Stephen Humbert, his grandfather, who brought the first Methodist minister to St. John. He and his son, John, were members of the legislature at one time, the former representing Kings and the latter St. John.

Mrs. Humbert leaves one son, Charles S. Humbert, and two daughters, Mrs. A. R. Lordy, and Mrs. James Gaylor of this city.

The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon with services at the house at half past two o'clock.

W. L. Hayford.

Word was received in the city yesterday morning announcing the death

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in Bucksport, Me., of W. L. Hayford & Sons, lumber merchants, and in his sixty-fifth year. The deceased afterwards conducted a shingle mill ed is well known in this city having been a resident of St. John for many years. During his residence here Mr. Hayford was prominently identified with the lumbering industry around late Mr. Hayford is survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. W. A. Henderson.