

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1919.

STARTING IT ROLLING.

A fair start—a very fair start indeed —is Mr. Murray's opening address on behalf of the Opposition in the Provincial Legislature. In a very few words he managed to include such a formidable series of charges against the unbusiness-like methods of the Foster Administration as will keep Peter Veniot and his colleagues explaining for many a day. And Mr. Murray is in a position to produce the evidence. So far, however, he has merely touched the edges, but what he and his friends get into the real combat for criticism the province will sit up and take notice. Mr. Murray has not yet made any reference, beyond a passing remark, to the financial affairs of New Brunswick. He has omitted mention of illegal assessments, of diversion of funds, of defiance of the Audit Act, of capitalization of deficits, and of the many other features which will in due course be brought to the notice of the people. There is so much to say in the way of criticism of the disgraced methods which characterize the present administration that time will be required to bring it all out. For the present, however, Mr. Murray confined his remarks to introductory comment on incidents connected with road work, administration of the Farm Settlement Board, and proposed legislation. He incidentally inquired about the McQueen Potato Report which Mr. Foster has been holding up his sleeve for the past couple of months after having Mr. McQueen amend it to suit the Premier's views, and which he proposes to present when he thinks it will do the party some good from a political standpoint.

What Hon. Mr. Murray stated with respect to ordinary road repairs being charged up to permanent work is just in line with what The Standard has been telling the people of New Brunswick for a considerable time. Here is one particular case in which the County of Kings a resident of that county was engaged in July of last year to do ordinary ditching such as is done on the majority of roads every year. The payment of this work was held up until November when it would not appear in the reports of that year, and when the cheque was issued it was found to be payable on account of permanent work. This one instance was not a mistake on the part of the Public Works Department. It is merely one out of hundreds of similar dishonest transactions which have enabled the Foster Government to bolster up a false surplus by charging to capital account ordinary outlay for incidental repairs.

OUR SCHOOLS.

The Board of School Trustees, in the face of opposition from the three members of its legislative committee, has decided to grant the increased salaries to female teachers dating from September 1st, instead of from January 1st as already arranged. This will amount to about \$40.00 for each teacher, or a total of something more than \$7,000.00 in all. The teachers' original demand was for an increase from September 1st, but the Trustees, after considering this whole question of salary increases, made their compliance with that demand date from the same time as did the increase to male teachers, and probably thought the matter settled. But the one hundred and eighty or so who were disappointed with the decision came right back with an urgent request that their original proposition be met, and Monday's resolution was the result. The Legislative Committee, to which was entrusted the task of securing from the Legislature permission for the increased assessment, has now reported to the Board, and has resigned, and to other members will be left the work of endeavoring to obtain at Fredericton the necessary consent. This is a matter which should not be pushed too far. In view of the opposition which has developed, the interests of the teachers as a whole would be better served by the adoption of a moderate attitude, than by insisting upon the compliance of the Board with the extreme limit of their requests.

The Trustees also named a committee to investigate conditions of discipline in Alexandra School. This is a direct result of the finding of the Coroner's Jury in the Higgins' case, but it is a step which does not go far enough. That Committee, or an enlarged committee should, in order to clear up the whole situation, be empowered to investigate conditions of discipline in all city schools and to make such recommendations as may be advisable. The way of the teacher is hard. There are in attendance in St. John schools, as in all other schools, pupils with whom it is most difficult to deal, who deliberately defy regulations, who refuse obedience to the teachers, and who very frequently obtain the ill-advised support of their parents in this defiance. If some of these pupils acted as badly in their own homes as they do in the school, their punishment, it is safe to say, would be many times more severe than they ever received from teachers. And parents who occasionally complain of severity towards their children are, no doubt, the very ones who would exercise parental authority in a

much more drastic manner than do the teachers to whom they object. Yet there are certain phases in the administration of corporal punishment upon which regulations might be submitted, looking to the protection of the teachers themselves as well as of the pupils. It is advisable that records of punishments be kept and also that no corporal punishment be administered, excepting in the presence of at least one adult in addition to the teacher. Boys and girls are irresponsible creatures at best, and their reports to parents and to others of what goes on in school are not always the most reliable evidence. However, the committee which has been chosen is an excellent one. Dr. Bridges, through fifty years of intimate relationship, has won the esteem of the people of St. John for absolute fairness, impartiality and integrity. Mrs. Taylor has been a member of the Board for six or eight years, and is thoroughly qualified for an inquiry such as this, while Dr. Emery, the new chairman, approaches the whole subject with an open mind, free from any prejudices which might have been created by years of close relationship with the school system. If their investigation is to be of real value it should eventually be made to include the entire school system and not Alexandra School alone, where conditions are no better or no worse than they are anywhere else.

WASTEFUL PRINTING.

The Standard has received from the Government Printing Bureau at Ottawa three copies of a most elaborate booklet, entitled "From War to Peace," which contains a general survey of Canada's repatriation plans. The book contains more than one hundred pages, is expensively printed and is a most comprehensive presentation of all the multitudinous committees and organizations drawing pay under the excuse of soldiers' re-establishment. The principal financial center of the epidemic is the South African Mutual which hitherto has paid out \$320,000 as compared with \$230,000 losses arising out of deaths on active service during the whole period of the war.

THE LATEST FREAK.

Somebody is always taking the joy out of life. Here comes a man who insists on reforming the calendar. The present arrangement under which we have twelve months in the year, these months being of different lengths, is very annoying to Mr. Andrew of Minneapolis, and he has prepared, under the title of "The American Equal Month Calendar," a very plain and simple scheme, whereby the Congress of the United States is to reform the calendar for the world. Instead of having twelve months as at present, this gentleman proposes that New Year's Day be made a legal holiday, unattached, and that it be thrown in as sort of an extra day between the last of December and the 1st of January. Then on every four years the extra day we are now adding on to February shall also be inserted as an unattached legal holiday. By these two changes in the present calendar, there will be left 364 days which will divide into thirteen months of exactly four weeks each. Thus when, as Mr. Andrew states, Congress adopts the new calendar, to take effect on Sunday, December 31st, 1921, every succeeding month would begin on Monday. But the thirteenth month is still to be considered, and it is proposed to insert this between the present February and March, and that it be named "Liberty." Why it should not be named "Wilson" Mr. Andrew fails to state, but the new calendar would start January, February, Liberty, March, etc., and we would lose the benefit of the old rhyme "Thirty days hath September." September would no longer have thirty days. Like all the other months it would have four Mondays—the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd; four Tuesdays—the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd; and four Sundays—the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, etc. Every month would be the same. There would be no variety to life. Of course the rest of the world is not to be con-

sidered in this ingenious proposition so long as the Congress of the United States agrees to the proposal.

Dr. W. S. Carter, Chief Superintendent of Education expresses the opinion that St. John schools should be thrown open to the use of the public. Dr. Carter's past attitude toward the St. John schools has not been such as will tend to make his opinion worthy of respect. When the local trustees have to go over his head and appeal to the Premier or the Province for a small grant for purposes of which the Chief Superintendent is, on paper at least, a warm advocate, his personal interest in the school affairs of this city may well be looked upon with suspicion.

WHAT THEY SAY

Confusing Terms.
New York Herald—Wireless says President Wilson wants draft of League Nations preserved. But this is not understood to mean he desires to have it canned.

Caet's Drill.
Hamilton Times—The women of Brantford are petitioning the School Board to resume the caet drill in connection with the schools. They may want to see their boys trained to be soldiers, but they want them to get the benefit of the physical exercise.

Pervasive.
New York Herald—Germans plotting in Bohemia, says cable report. Yes, and in the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, China, Japan—but it would be easier to make a list of places where they are not plotting, although many of the names don't appear in modern atlases.

The Perfect Day.
Providence Bulletin—At a recent labor conference in Chicago a demand was adopted for a six-hour working day, with two hours for luncheon, but the Perfect Day will never be achieved until the schedule has been arranged for two hours of work and six hours for luncheon.

In the Clutch of The 'Flu.
Cape Argus, (South Africa)—Payments made by South African life insurance companies, as a result of deaths from the epidemic amount to over a million and a quarter sterling. The principal financial center of the epidemic is the South African Mutual which hitherto has paid out \$320,000 as compared with \$230,000 losses arising out of deaths on active service during the whole period of the war.

Where Sunday is Market Day.
New Orleans Times—Pious New Orleans has been modifying its life very greatly for some time. Citizens of ten or twenty years ago would scarce recognize the city of today. Perhaps nothing would look stranger to them than markets closed on Sunday, which were so crowded of old, were the market day moved from the first of February to the first of January so that we could have an earlier spring.

Ottawa Can't Beat This.
Detroit News—The "Hot Air" legislative classic of the United States is said to have been written by a Buckeye statesman in those halcyon days when the payment of Ohio legislators was on a per diem basis. The model of his oratory is said to have never been surpassed, but all that careful after consideration could make of it was that he wanted groundhog day moved from the first of February to the first of January so that we could have an earlier spring.

Whalers in the Sky.
Springfield Union—The shooting of a whale with a machine gun from his airplane by an American aviator near the Pacific coast near San Diego, Cal., a few days ago, opens up a new field of possibility in the whaling industry. It suggests warring ships of the future cruising far in the sky, equipped with airplanes and a complement of aviators and skilled gunners to scout for and bag these monsters of the sea. The inventor of the new whaling industry has only to remember that other industries have been more startlingly revolutionized in the last 40 or 50 years by the invention of new appliances or the discovery of new processes.

All in The Game.
Shelby Record—A farmer on the street the other day had a sack of meal in his hands when he said: "Just look at this little peck of meal for which I paid sixty-five cents and which I used to buy for twenty cents. It is a dirty shame the prices we must pay the merchants." He was asked if his only business town was to buy meal. "No," he said, "I brought in a load of tobacco and sold it at one of the warehouses." "What did you get for it?" was asked. "Forty-eight cents a pound," was his answer. One more question was asked: "How much did you get for tobacco when you could buy meal at twenty cents a peck?" And the simply said, "You go to hell," and walked away.

A BIT OF VERSE

A PRAYER.
Ancient of Days, beneath whose brooding eye
The pagans of eternity unfold,
Who, in Thy timeless immortality
Changeless, the changing course of time behold,
The night and shadow gather round us, Lord,
Forsake us not, still lend Thy guiding light
Lest we forever tread the waste
abhorred,
Lost in the darkness of eternal night.

Lord God of Battles, Thou whose stern decree
Hast summoned us before Thy Judgment Seat,
Forget not, Lord, the cry of agony,
The trumpets and the drums, the trampling feet

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.
Ma sent me around to Smiths meat store this afternoon for 3 pounds of calves liver and he sure it was tender, and Mr. Smit put it on the scales and started to weigh it, he saying, Is it tender?
Sure, see how easy my finger goes in? said Mr. Smit. And he stuck his finger in the middle of it and then rapped it out, saying, O, by the way, do you want to make a nickel?
I dont care, I sed. Meaning I wanted to, and Mr. Smit sed, Then take this beefsteak to Mrs. Skotta—the brown stone house with the big front yard near the church. Collect a dollar and 20 cents and bring it back and Ill be still?
And I took our liver home and went to the brown stone house with the rapped up beefsteak, and just as I started to open the iron gate to go thru the yard a big bull dog with a awfull expression ran around from the back of the house barking like anything, and I quick banged the gate shut again and stood outside looking in at him, and he stood inside looking out at me, he thinking, O well, maybe he sint so fearsa, maybe its his expression more than wat it is him.
And I started to reason with him, saying Hello dog, you cant help your expression, can you, dog? Wich the bull dog jest kepp on looking at me and making a noise away down inside of him, and I sed, Well, I think Ill come in now, dog, I got to deliver this meet. And I put my hand on the iron gate again and the bull dog started to jump up and bark as if that wasnt anything to wat he would do if I came in, he thinking, G, Im going to ring the door bell. I dont care weather they like it or not.
Wich I did, and a lady looked out the 2nd story window, saying, Take it in thru the side yard. And she shut the window agen and I looked at the bull dog once more to see if his expression had changed, wich it hadent, and then I took the meet back to Smiths meat store, saying, Nobody wasent home.
And I waited a minant to see if Mr. Smit would offer me a nickel anyway, wich he didnt.

Long heard across the gulf of blood.

The fiery wrath on tortured peoples poured,
The cup of woe brimmed o'er with women's tears—
These, not a lust of conquest, bared our sword,
And if, forgotten, with mangled hand we seize
The proffered cup of pride, and, drinking deep,
Empty the poisoned chalice to the lees
Till dream of empire lulls the soul to sleep,
In mercy let Thy red right hand be stayed,
Nor sell Thy face forever from our sight
Who, by a moment's phantom pomp betrayed,
Blindly mistake our weakness for Thy might.

Write us not one with Kings who

stuck Thy will,
Nor heed the Law Thine ancient prophecies
Thundered from darkened Sinai's riven side,
But in our need stretch forth Thy hand to save,
Lest we be added to the lengthened scroll
Of unremembered empires o'er whose graves
Oblivion and the dust of ages roll.
And when at last Thy voice shall say,
When lust of life and rage of battle cease,
In that dread hour when we shall knee
Grant us Thy peace.
—D. B. VAN BUREN.

A BIT OF FUN

The Case Stated.
"She agreed to marry him as soon as he showed her his fine building lot."
"I see; a case of love at first site."
—Baltimore American.

Had the Habit.

"I had to get rid of that servant girl."
"What was the trouble?"
"You see she had worked so long in an ammunition factory that every time she heard a whistle blow she wanted to quit work."
—Detroit Free Press.

The Light of Love.

A widower had engraved on his wife's tombstone the words, "The light of my life has gone out."
A little later he married again, and one Sunday was standing with No. 2 before his first wife's grave.
Reading the above sentiment, the lady enquired in a rather huffed tone, "Is that so?"
"Yes," replied he, "but I've struck another match!"
—Edinburgh Scotsman.

She Has Discovered Her Power.

"So you've come to work now that your husband is in the army."
"Yes, ma'am."
"Are you doing well?"
"Very, Im making more money than

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There are plenty of "pine" preparations on the market trying to live on the reputation of "Dr. Wood's." The genuine is put up in a yellow wrapper, three pine trees the trade mark, price 25c, and see a bottle. Put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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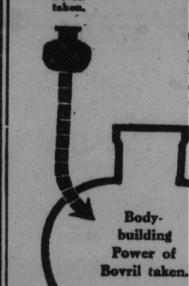
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FUNERALS

The funeral of Cornelius Driscoll took place yesterday morning from his late residence, 22 Mill street, in the Cathedral, where solemn high requiem mass was celebrated by Rev. A. F. Allen. Rev. Wm. M. Duke officiated and Rev. W. L. Moore substituted. Final absolution was given by Rev. E. A. LeBlanc. Interment was made in the old Catholic cemetery.
The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Godson was buried yesterday afternoon, funeral from their residence, Protection street, West St. John. Service was conducted by Rev.

HISTORICAL

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