

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard, Limited, 22 Prince William street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

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Line Rate, under 5,00008
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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1914.

SUPREME COURT CHANGES

The announcement this morning of the retirement of Chief Justice Sir Frederic Barker, the promotion of Mr. Justice McLeod to the office of Chief Justice, and the appointment of Attorney-General W. C. H. Grimmer to the new Appeal Court of New Brunswick marks important changes in the judiciary of the province. The Chief Justice, Sir Frederic Barker, has long adorned the highest court of this province and has discharged every duty entrusted to him in a manner well according with his principles of high-minded justice, and his deep sense of the responsibility of his exalted office. In his successor, Mr. Chief Justice McLeod, New Brunswick is again fortunate. Mr. Justice McLeod has long been recognized as one of the best judges who ever occupied a seat on the Supreme Court bench, and his appointment as Chief Justice will be heartily concurred in by the bar and the public.

By the appointment of Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer to the Supreme Court, the government of New Brunswick loses a member who, in the difficult position of Surveyor-General, did untiring, conscientious and fearless work in the administration of the Crown Lands department. Later, as Attorney-General, he fulfilled the best traditions of the office and was at all times actuated by the sole motive of fearlessly performing his duty to the public. In his selection for the Supreme Court, New Brunswick honors himself. He will be heartily congratulated today upon his elevation to an office he is so well qualified to fill.

In considering his successor in the provincial administration it is but natural that the first name to be thought of is that of Hon. George J. Clarke, the present speaker of the House of Assembly. Hon. Speaker Clarke has filled the office entrusted to him with dignity and fairness, and it is the decision that the mantle of the attorney-general falls upon his shoulders, there need be no fear that the chief law officer under the gift of the crown will be unworthily filled.

CONCERNING THREE-CENT BREAD

When the Liberal newspapers espousing the free food cry of Sir Wilfrid Laurier fall back upon the prices of food in England, compared with food in Canada, as an argument in favor of reduction, or even abolition of food duties, they come to ground they are unable successfully to traverse without resorting to unfair methods and statements that will not bear the light of investigation. When they make the bare statement that bread baked from flour, milled from Canadian wheat, is sold for little less than three cents per pound in England, compared with four cents in Canada, they tell the truth. When they claim that condition exists because there is no duty on food stuffs going into England, and to infer that with free food the same price would obtain here, they do not tell the truth and the inference they attempt to draw is incorrect. What makes it worse is the fact that newspapers making such statements know they are untrue, and the reason for making them at all is not to enlighten but to deceive and delude their readers.

The Times, on Saturday night, derided the idea that the living standard, or the price of labor in England, or Canada, had any connection with the cost of bread. Judged by the standard of intelligence in most of the "Times" contentions that paper's opinion on the present question is not surprising, but the derisive attitude of the Times does not remove the fact that the standard of living, the price of labor and the price of food, all stand in very intimate relation to each other and one affects the other.

It does not require much reflection to see that in two countries where the average wage differs as greatly as in Canada and England, there can be no fair comparison of the cost of living unless the standards of living and the price of labor are considered. The Liberal newspapers may find what ground for argument they can in the difference of one cent per pound in bread in favor of England, but they cannot compare the margin of the working man's income over outgo in Canada and in England without proving that the Canadian couple a position far superior to his English brother.

When a man is in receipt of good wages the cost of living bears less heavily than it does when wages are lower. Suppose bread made from Canadian wheat is sold a cent per pound more cheaply in England than in Canada, what does that prove? In the light of statistics regarding the comparative price of labor in both countries, it certainly does not prove that

the English working man who buys three-cent bread is in as good circumstances as his Canadian brother who has to purchase his bread at a higher price.

Even in considering the price of bread, it must be remembered that, while the British miller may pay as much for his Canadian wheat as the Canadian miller, all other costs of bread manufacture in England are much less than in Canada, and even in the case of the miller the price of labor bears a direct relation to the price of food.

If the inference of the Times is correct, that the difference in price is caused by the duty, then the United States, under its free food tariff, should be able to import its food-stuffs for its consumers as cheaply as England. Yet the price of foodstuffs in the United States is just as high as in Canada, and in some instances higher. And why? Simply because the price of labor, in both the United States and Canada, is far higher than in England, and the standard of living different.

And leaving England for Germany, how does the Times explain, or will it attempt to explain, the fact that Germany, with a tariff on foodstuffs twice as high as the Canadian tariff, also has cheaper food prices than Canada enjoys. As a matter of fact the cost of living in protectionist Germany is but a fraction higher than in free trade England. If the rate of tariff was the sole determining factor in the cost of living Germany should be one of the most expensive countries in the world to live in, but it is not on record that it is.

The question of cost of living does not as greatly concern the price of bread or sugar or meat, as it involves the ability of the purchaser to pay the price. Judged from this standard the Liberal newspapers have failed to make out a case, when they attempt to compare the condition of the Canadian working man with his brothers in England, where the cost of living is felt to a degree this country has not yet reached.

Last night was cold, but the Almanac tells us half the winter has gone. Judging from the record of days past and the general feeling of the atmosphere last evening, the half to come may be regarded as fairly alive to the necessity of living up to its reputation.

It must be remembered that the free food cry is in reality a cry for the opening wedge of free trade. Free trade in Canada would add tens of thousands to the number of the unemployed. Canadians want none of it.

Now all that is required to complete the humility of the Winnipeg police, men, who were held up by Murderer Krafchenko in his successful escape from Winnipeg jail, is to learn that the gun he used was not loaded.

The people of Ontario are thinking of Sir James Whitney these days. The records of his government show that Sir James was always thinking of the people of Ontario.

Four days more and parliament will open. Can't you just picture Mr. Pugsley's fine exhibition of righteous indignation when the Grand Trunk Pacific scandal is sprung?

Nine Mexican generals surrendered to the force which a few days ago Huerta dignified with the name of a "ragged rabble." Another evidence that clothes do not make the man.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Trout Hatchery.

(St. John Globe.)

The trout hatchery established at Little River by Hon. Mr. Hazen will make available an annual supply of lake and brook trout to restock the lakes and streams of St. John and other New Brunswick counties. Restricted and properly guarded, it will be possible to again make excellent fishing resorts out of many lakes and streams that have been fished out. The large and ever-growing army of fishermen appreciate the effort the Minister of Marine is making to cultivate the game fish. The benefits of work of the kind proposed has been made apparent in the development of the salmon fisheries since hatcheries were established. Except in a small way by the old local government there has never been made any well-directed effort toward propagating the trout in this province. Maine has shown that propagation and conservation can make good fishing resorts of practically every stream, lake and pond in the State. Hon. Mr. Hazen's efforts should lead to similar success in New Brunswick, providing sport for our own fishermen and making the fisheries of the province so attractive that there will be a yearly increase in the number of profitable visitors—sportsmen and tourists.

Quelled Disturbance.

The presence of the police was necessary on Saturday afternoon to quell a disturbance in the home of Henry Lockhart, High street, which he, himself, was creating.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Sir Charles Bagot assumed the office of Governor-General of Canada seventy-two years ago today, succeeding Lord Sydenham. He came at a period when Canada was just at the beginning of a new era, after a long period of stress and trouble. Only a few years before his arrival the rebellion of 1837 had been quelled, and the Earl of Durham, after his famous report, had resigned the governorship. The unity of the Upper and Lower Provinces was effected in 1841. Lord Sydenham was an able executive, but an accidental fall from a horse ended his life before he had fairly commenced his task. His successor as Governor-General of United Canada, Sir Charles Bagot, was a man of great ability and well fitted for the position. He had held many important posts, including that of minister to Washington in a period when the utmost tact and diplomacy were necessary to avert trouble between the two countries. He followed, to a large extent, the program of Lord Sydenham, but he died in 1843, before he had barely commenced working out his policy. January 12 is the birthday of Dr. John George Adami, one of Canada's greatest medical scientists, long professor at McGill, at Manchester, 1862; of Alexander Francis Chamberlain, anthropologist, for many years in Canada, at Kensington, England, 1865; and of Howard G. Kelley, known in Canada as chief engineer of Grand Trunk, 1868. On this date in 1846 a fire in a Quebec theatre caused a loss of fifty lives.

THE PASSING DAY

Plough Monday

Plough Monday, the ancient English festival, comes today, and in some regions of England the old practice of dragging a plough from house to house, soliciting alms to do drink, will be revived by the agricultural laborers. Plough Monday was formerly the occasion of a great spree in which all the farm hands indulged, and it was a hard-hearted landlord, indeed, who would not contribute to the fund for buying the necessary beverages. Plough Monday comes on the first Monday after Epiphany or Twelfth Day, and it received the appellation from its having been fixed upon as the day upon which English and Scottish farmers indulged in a final Christmas "drunk," after which they returned to the duties of agriculture.

GIPSIES CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

Gypsies, who have a calendar unlike that of any other people, will celebrate New Year this week. On this side of the Atlantic many of the gypsies have adopted the modern calendar, but in Europe, and especially in Russia, they still cling to the ancient system. The beginning of a new year is a period of rejoicing among the wandering tribes, and Christmas in Greece, it is the favorite season for matrimony.

Although the gypsies have wandered around the world, telling fortunes and engaging in other precarious forms of making a living, it is in the land of the Czar that they are most numerous, and where they may be seen at their best and worst.

One of the most notable and romantic of gipsy New Year marriages was that which united a gipsy named Olga with Yesseli Vereshchagin, the immortal Russian painter of war pictures. Vereshchagin became famous all over the world by his pictures of the Russo-Turkish war, in which he sought to denounce war by picturing battlefield scenes in all their grim and grisly realism. He was killed in the blowing up of the Petropavlovsk at Port Arthur, during the Russo-Japanese war a decade ago. It was before he achieved fame that he met, loved and married the gipsy girl. He was a young man, wandering over Russia looking for models, when he came upon a gipsy camp. Olga attracted his attention, and he bought her from her parents for a small sum. They were married during the New Year celebration and at once left the encampment and settled in a small home in St. Petersburg.

In the Russian capital the beauty of the gipsy girl attracted wide attention, and a young officer named Chertkov fell violently in love with her. The artist was addicted to the vice of gambling, and Chertkov played with him until his money was gone. Then he offered to risk all he had won against Olga, and the artist accepted the challenge. Again the officer was the winner, and Olga was indignantly consented to go with the victor. They were legally married, as the gipsy wedding was not recognized as binding by the Greek church authorities. Chertkov was made a prince, and eventually became viceroy of Poland, where, it is said, his gipsy wife urged him to commit many acts of cruelty and oppression.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

JACK LONDON'S BIRTHDAY.

Jack London, considered by many the most forceful and virile of American novelists, was born in San Francisco thirty-eight years ago today. Newsboy, sailor before the mast, hobo and jack of all trades were his early occupations, and his education was derived principally in the school of adversity and experience. At eighteen he began his education in the University of California, but he left that institution to go to the Klondike. His first stories were returned with great regularity, but he persevered, and at last disposed of a story for \$5—at least, that amount was promised, but London never collected it. He was twenty-four when he secured his first literary bullseye with "The Son of the Wolf." His "The Call of the Wild," written in 1903, and "The Sea Wolf," published a year later, are today English classics.

Divorce Mathematics.

"How much alimony did she demand?"
"Twenty dollars a week more than his salary."
"How foolish!"
"Well, she said she guessed he could afford it, since he always had spent twice what he earned."

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID.

"FOR HEAVENS SAKE GET YOURSELF SOME DECENT CLOTHES—YOU'RE ASHENT— I'LL PAY FOR 'EM."



Not Much of a Fortune.
Alice—"My face is my fortune."
Ethel—"You'll have an income tax to pay, dear."

A Ruling Passion.
He—"The mercury was at 32 at noon yesterday. Today it is down to 10 below."
She—"My, isn't that a bargain?"

Egg Boycott.
"How is your egg boycott coming on?"
"I dunno. I suspect the dealers are delivering them in unlettered wagons and that many people are eating them on the sly."

New Songs Too French.
"I cannot sing the old songs—"
"A mournful thought, and true; But I am rather grateful to Epiphany. I do not know the new."

A Smart Animal.
"Which is the smarter, the dog or the horse?"
"No comparison. The dog is the wise one."
"How do you make that out?"
"You know how the horse works. Did you ever see a dog working for a living?"

1914.
We wonder how to raise the babe, We fret and fuss, And then discover that the kid is raising us.

Tableau.
"John, it was very sweet of you to hold my hand all through the moving picture show. You haven't done that for several years."
"But I didn't hold your hand."
"Then, who did?"

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"Did you hear about Jane's New Year's resolution?"
"No, what is it?"
"She's going to swear off smoking."

Sign of Old Age.
When you begin to wish that all your rooms were on the ground floor you are beginning to become old.

Be Reasonable.
Don't let the efficiency craze run away with you. A man can do wonders but not miracles.

Among Those Present.
Sunday School Teacher—Why was Daniel forced to enter the lions' den?
Bright Pupil—Why, he'd a spolt a whole film if he didn't!

Why Forget 'Em?
When you count up the worries that enter some lives
Do not stop
Till you add in the husbands who go with their wives
When they shop.

Pleurisy Pains Vanish! Chest Colds Cured!

NERVILINE HAS NEVER FAILED TO CURE.

Don't suffer! Nerviline is your relief. Nerviline just rubbed on, lots of it will ease that drawn, tight feeling over your ribs, will destroy the pain, will have you smiling and happy in no time.

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