The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1922.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

When Mr. Foster was poring over the public accounts for the year 1916 he saw in his mind's eye nothing ahead of the province save bankruptcy and financial ruin, if the then Government was allowed to continue its pernicious course unchecked. His mind reverted to the palmy days of the Tweedie-Pugsley-Robinson regime prior to March, 1908, that glorious time when all were for the party, and none were for the State (to adapt Macaulay), and when, despite the profligacy which existed, the public debt amounted to $6,359,657 only. He sighed heavily when he reflected upon the awful sum that the successors to that party in the administration of public affairs, had increased that debt to, $10,804,646, exclusive of $4,547,000 for the Valley and Gloucester Iron Mines Railways, and all in nine years. His whole being yearned for the opportunity to rectify this deplorable condition of affairs, and on a platform built up of promises to keep the ordinary expenditure within ordinary revenue and not to get any more into debt; the people put him in charge.

Mr. Foster's administration of affairs has not been quite so successful along the lines of reform he promised, as he led the people to think it would be. When he assumed office, the public debt was, including the railways mentioned, $15,351,646. He has been in office just five years, and that debt today now stands at $25,374,932, including the issue of debentures made about three weeks ago. In other words, Mr. Foster has added as much to the public debt in five years as his predecessors did in nine, despite all his protestations regarding the iniquity of saddling so much indebtedness on the province.

Mr. Foster concluded his soliloquy in 1917 wth the remark that "of course there would be the usual excuses and explanations forthcoming," but he emphasized three items which he thought would prove to the ordinary tax-payer just how much these excuses and explanations were worth. These three items were as follows, and to bring them down to date, we have added Mr. Foster's contribution to them in heavier type, so that the public may have the opportunity to compare Mr. Foster's precepts with his practice. Here are the items:—

Interest charges in 1908 ....$	178,569
Interest charges in 1916	351,094
Interest charges in 1921	697,069
Actual deficit at 31 Oct. 1916	371,727
Actual deficit at 31 Oct. 1921	507,132
Bonded debt and guarantees:	
At 31 Oct 1907	6,359,657
At 31 Oct 1916	16,927,646
Bonded debt alone at 31, Oct 1921 (not including guarantees)	23,574,932
Added since	1,800,000

As Mr. Foster himself said: "Think it over."

THE NEW C. P. R. CERVICE.

The inauguration by the C. P. R. of a Sunday servce of trains locally is a welcome innovation which will probably be greatly appreciated as its existence becomes more widely known. There is a large number of people so fixed that their only chance to get out into the country is on Sunday and they have not been able to do this hitherto because there was no train service available. Of course we realize that everybody who is anybody nowadays owns—or is registered as the owner of—an automobile; but, just the same, there is still a large army of nobodys who must have recourse to the trains to take them out of town, if they are ever to go.. It is to this section of the public that the new service will appeal. The time of departure, 10.10 a. m. (daylight) is a convenient one, as it gives intending passengers time to attend church at 8 o'clock, and get breakfast without undue hurry. To the man who is occupied in an office or a store all the week, the opportunity to take his family into the country on Sunday will prove an inestimable boon.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Judging from the cabled extracts of their criticisms on the result of the Bottomley trial most of the English newspapers appear to think that he fully deserved his fate. If he really is as guilty as the jury's verdict would imply, he certainly got no more than was rightfully coming to him. His offence was of about as mean and paltry a nature as could well be imagined in view of the fact that his victims belonged to the less well-to-do classes, who were the least able to stand the losses his peculations caused. Yet he was not a fool, he was once a real force, even if a somewhat malign one. If he had been perfectly honest instead of deliberately corrupt in his pecuniary affairs, he would none the less have been more or less of a menace to society.

His publication, John Bull, had at one time a very great circulation; it appealed systematically and unscrupulously to the worst passions that war excites; in his periodical as in his financial schemes he was exploiting meanly and wickedly the noble virtue of patriotism. The law could not touch him till he stole; it is no crime in the eyes of the law to play the demagogue for personal profit. Every country has its Bottomleys; they are free to go to the limit in breeding hate and sowing the seed of war. An editor who preaches sedition quickly gets into trouble; let him pose as a patriot and rally the mob by preaching hatred of foreigners and he may not only go unwhipped of justice but may get into Parliament or the peerage. Whatever punishment Bottomley has incurred by his fraud, his offense against the law is no greater than his offense against society as an instigator of hatred.

One of Bottomley's greatest obsessions was his hatred of Americans, in fact it is perhaps doubtful who has been the most violent of the two, Bottomley in his Anti-Americanism, or Hearst in his Anti-British outbursts. They, both of them, carry to the limit a tendency which is found in most countries to a greater or less extent. Just as the better class American citizen despises Hearst and his Anti-British propaganda, so sensible Englishmen detested Bottomley and his pernicious teachings, but in his case nothing could be done about it till he let himself get caught in an offense of which the law could take cognizance. Then British law acted promptly as usual, and without the slightest regard for his prominence or his wealth. The plea of patriotic service during the war was brushed aside; it was idle, said the judge, to talk of patriotism if he were guilty of those frauds. Until his appeal is heard, a cell has an occupant and a seat in Parliament stands vacant, and, in addition, the Bottomley bubble is burst. The law had to protect the convicted criminal from the mob, and it is assured that his influence over the mob is a thing of the past. It is a wholesome lesson, even though it leaves lesser offenders unscathed.

A STATE MANAGER.

Governor Harkness of the State of Vermont is evidently very much enamored of the town manager systsm of civic government, for he has suggested the extension of this system to State matters. He has written to the Budget Committee of the Legislature proposing the appointment of a business man to act as general manager of the State's affairs, and as a justification for so doing, he expresses the opinion that half the five million dollars it has cost to run the State could be saved by the employment of such an official.

Whatever may be said of the Governor's idea, as a theory, in practice, it may be doubted if it would be possible to instal in the State government a business machine that would not be handicapped by political considerations. The fact is that business and popular government are not synonymous, and can hardly be made so. Popular government is the best possible government, but there are many penalties which we have to pay for popular rule, and lack of business efficiency in conduct of Government affairs is one of them, as the people of New Brunswick have found out to their cost since 1917. Under an autocracy there can be efficiency, for then the affairs of the State are directed by a single individual, who is responsible to no one but himself, and who can see that the different departments of Government are handled by experts whose only concern is the execution of the will of the autocrat. The German Government previous to the war was perhaps the most efficient Government the world had ever known, while the present German Republic is anything but that. But there are no autocrats in the various governing bodies on this continent, and while an efficient executive under popular government can no doubt do many things to promote efficiency, to accomplish the task of dividing business and politics in the affairs of State would be an absolute impossibility.

Life imprisonment for criminals three times convicted is a recommendation which is likely to be considered by the American Bar Association at its annual meeting at San Francisco in August. This might be a little rough on a criminal convicted on three counts at one time.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

No Use For Coalitions

(London Daily Mail.)

In domestic affairs a dictator who poises himself first on a Conservative leg and then on a Radical leg is bound to bring confusion. The country feels that something is wrong. Here, too, the remedy is to return to "the quieter and steadier methods" of Government by parties. The Coalition has ceased to stand for any intelligible principle except that of clinging desperately to office.

Australia Against Socialism

(The Australasian.)

The apprehensions of a crisis do not now oppress the people who no longer think it necessary to huddle together for safety. Prudence in government is as desirable as ever, but the best form of prudence is that which leaves the community free to exercise its full strength in the manner which individuals deem best. The people of Australia are definitely opposed to Socialism, and the platform of the predominant party should be framed without any timid concessions to Socialism.

The Golden Age

(London Observer.)

We do not deserve to have any greatness in the future unless we attack our present problems in a cheerful and resolute spirit and refuse to consider that our race is ruined. Critics in Queen Elizabeth's time probably thought that they were living in an age which would never repeat its triumphs. And yet as they, too, were succeeded by the Victorians, so in the course of history it is just possible that another Golden Age may dawn, which we must prepare for not by unavailing pessimism, but by the fearless strength of an undefeated hope.

The Fateful Day

(New York Evening Post.)

We are not afraid of May 31 and a French inroad into the Ruhr. Competent students on the spot have never been afraid of such an invasion, and the prospect is more remote than ever with France not isolated from Great Britain and with France rejoicing over what it regards as our indirect backing at Genoa. A France not abandoned is a France that can be brought to see reason. A German Government that has shown serious intentions to fulfil obligations is a Government to work with. Already American bankers are to participate in the discussion of the German loan which is essential to a reparations adjustment. What our bankers are doing privately in the way of co-operation, our Government is under duty to do, officially, manfully, in the open.

The High Cost of Books

(London Daily Telegraph.)

Despite the general poverty of the land, there is always room for a brilliant author and always a sale for his literary output. In a great American city fabulous wealth co-exists with incredible privations. In the same fashion one or two huge recent successes reveal a similar contrast between abounding popularity and general neglect. But these are, after all, isolated phenomena. It still remains true that there can be no healthy prosperity for the book trade as a whole, or, indeed, for authorship, until the cost of production—and especially the cost of printing—comes down. What is happening at present is the inevitable issue. Printing work is going out of the country, to Holland, to Sweden, and even, as some report, to Germany itself. And this is not a state of affairs to encourage our local and national industries.

The Farmer in Politics

(Cape Times.)

What party gives the farmer the best guarantee of sound conditions? Not the Labor Party obviously, for its policy tends to drive capital away and restrict development. Not the National Party, either, for it does more to stir up dissension and trouble and prevent concentration upon national expansion than any other influence in the Union. There is left the South African Party. It is a party of moderate men representatve of both white races. It believes in peace and conciliation and constitutional methods, because it is convinced that under those conditions only can the country secure a maximum of stability and progress. It is, and always has been, sympathetic to the farmer, because it knows that agriculture is South Africa's lasting standby and that the more prosperous the farmers can be made the happier and more prosperous will the entire country be.

Canada's Budget

(Boston Transcript.)

The pending Fordney Tariff Act calls for the repeal of all preceding tariff agreements, including the ill-fated reciprocity act of 1911, nor is it likely that the Canadians will soon be able to have reciprocity on as liberal a basis as that which was offered to them in 1911. Powerful elements in Canada, moreover, including the Quebec Liberals, still favor a high tariff wall between Canada and this country, and their strength is probably sufficient to prevent, for some time, any further reductions in the tariff duties imposed on American goods. Americans will note with satisfaction the willingness of the Canadian Government to lower the tariff bars against American goods. The reductions recommended by the Minister of Finance indicate, for one thing, that Mr. King's Administration does not propose to yield to the demand that Canada put up a retaliatory tariff against American goods, in order that American business men in Canada be put to a great handicap in meeting the competition of their British rivals.

A STUDY OF OLD AGE

Is always interesting and reveals the fact that the blood is usually thin and lacking in the strengthening properties of young folks blood. If you want to fill your blood with the fire of youth, build up your strength, restore your nerves, just use Dr. Hamilton's Pills. This wonderful medicine is a grand system regulator. Keeps the bowels in good condition, keeps the body free from waste and impurities. For young and old the use of Dr. Hamilton's Pills is recommended. 25c at all dealers or The Catarrhozone Co., Montreal.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

DETECKTIVES

Robbers and sutch who wawk erround
Feeling unsispecktive,
Would change their ixpression if they thawt
They was followed by a detecktive.

Detecktives dont wear uniforms
And look as innosent as can be,
But if a pick pockit picks ones pockit,
The next second he stops being free.

If a bergler sees a pleeceman
He knows wen to run at a glants,
But theres nuthing to beware of
In a detecktives coat and pants.

O they look harmliss in the distants,
And even wen they get neer,
But theres hancuffs in their side pockit
And a revolver in their reer.

They have a badge inside their coat
In case you doubt who they are,
But a honest man looks strate in their eye
And offers them a cigar.

THE LAUGH LINE

The Innocent Law Abider

Dyer: "I hear poor Sparker was killed on his very first night flight."

Fryer: "Yes, it was very sad. You know old Sparker was always such a law-abiding chap. Well, the other night the moon went behind a cloud, and without ever stopping to think where he was at, he just stepped out to light the lamps."

"Pros-Poned

When Angevine Anglebeam returned home with her writings her mother asked her:

"What did the editor think of your verses?"

"I guess he thought they were all right."

"Did he accept any of them?"

"No, he said he couldn't print any of them just now because he was all out of poetry type."

Resemblance Noticed

Mrs. Beane was admiring Mrs. Deare's baby.

"Oh, what a darling!"

"Da-da! Goo-goo! Hoo-o! D!" replied the baby.

"The dear!" exclaimed Mrs. Beane "He's trying so hard to talk!"

"Yes, he talks that way all day, but he doesn't say anything," ventured Bobbie, the five-year-old brother of the baby.

"The baby is so much like his father," Mrs. Deare commented, apropos of nothing, of course.

Unconventional

At a London dinner party was an unconventional young fellow, fresh from an out-of-the-way village in America. His hostess, who knew his brother well, tried to make him feel at home. "I hope," she said, "as they sat in the drawing room, "I do so hope this room isn't too cold for you." "Lordy," he answered, "I might have been in hell for 137 years for all the icicles there are on me."

COULDN'T DO HOUSEWORK HEART WAS SO BAD

Many women get weak and run down and unable to look after their household duties owing to the heart action becoming impaired or the nervous system unstrung.

Nature intended women to be strong, healthy and happy instead of sick and wretched. But how can a woman be strong and healthy when day in and day out she has to go through the same routine of work, sweeping, dusting, cooking, washing, etc. Is it any wonder that the heart becomes affected and she gets irritable and nervous, has hot flushes, faint and dizzy spells, smothering and sinking spells and can't sleep at night.

To all women whose heart is weak and whose nerves are unstrung we would recommend

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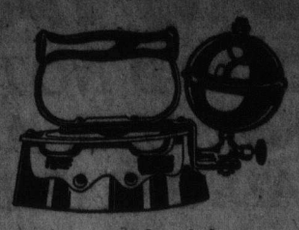

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