

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 1910.

THE HAZEN GOVERNMENT AND THE ROADS.

The attempt of the St. John Telegraph and one or two other newspapers, says the Moncton Times, to make it appear that there has been no improvement in the roads and bridges in this province since the advent of the Hazen government, is almost too silly to be noticed. Granted that the roads are still far from being as good as they should be, every man in the country knows that they are generally better than they have been in a decade or more, while the improvement on the bridges has been even more marked.

Every day we hear of fast time being made by auto parties in cross-country runs which would have been impossible two or three years ago. Only the year before the change took place one of the most important roads in the county of Westmorland, within six or seven miles of Moncton, was in such a desperate condition that a lumberman who was operating in that locality was obliged to take his teams off, as it was simply impossible to get a load through the mire.

When the Hazen government reached power a little over two years ago it found a large percentage of the bridges out or in such a tumbledown condition that there was danger of collapse at any moment. It was rightly deemed advisable to first put the bridges in a condition for safe traffic, and it is a matter of record that never were so many small bridges renewed or extensively repaired as during the past two seasons. Many of the roads have also been put in excellent condition, though doubtless there are some that yet need a good deal of attention.

The opposition organs are also indulging in a good deal of childish prattle to the effect that the care of the roads should be taken out of the hands of the politicians. It is strange this did not occur to opponents of Mr. Hazen when they had the power to do something in this direction, as for instance when they were passing their famous Highway Act, which they declared to be a perfect measure, but which, when they found during the election that public sentiment was strongly against it, they promised to amend if given another chance.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Hazen's government has gone a long step in the direction of taking the roads out of politics. Their Highway Act provides that the administration in each parish shall be in the hands of a board consisting of the two councillors chosen by the people, the government retaining the right to name only one man. This gives the men chosen by the people to conduct their local affairs control of the highway boards, and if the opposition have a better plan they have failed to formulate it. If the highway boards are inefficient the people have a remedy in their hands every two years by selecting better men largely free from the entanglements and prejudices of party politics.

Possibly Mr. Hazen's government is not perfect, and it will be some time yet before we have perfect government either in the municipal, the provincial or the federal arena. The best the people can do is to punish inefficiency or dishonesty at every opportunity and support the best governing body that is available.

The Hazen government, whatever its shortcomings, has made good in at least four respects: (1) It has straightened out the system of keeping the accounts, making the Auditor General an independent official, giving him more extended powers and doing away with the suspense accounts which were the cause of much confusion, and in two notable cases revealed since the change, of absolute dishonesty. (2) It is making an honest and impartial collection of the territorial revenue, giving the government more money for useful public services without any increase in the rate of taxation. (3) It has given the people cheaper school books. And (4) it has made extensive improvements in the bridges and done at least something in the right direction in the better care of the roads.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN IRELAND.

Much has been accomplished of late years in the way of improving the housing of agricultural laborers in Ireland. A traveller who has visited the Emerald Isle this summer writes of "the enormous change that has recently been wrought owing to the erection of cottages." Reviewing what has been accomplished in this way, Chief Secretary Birrell pointed out not long ago that the Laborers' Acts between 1883 and 1896 resulted in the building of 21,900 cottages. They were built on certain terms of current rates of interest, and undoubtedly made a heavy addition to the burdens of the ratepayers.

The Bryce Act of 1906 placed at the disposal of the rural district councils \$21,250,000 on land purchase terms—namely, 2 3/4 per cent. interest, or 3 1/2 per cent. annuity. Under that Act up to the present time 23,000 cottages have been built. More cottages have been built since 1906 than were built in the thirteen years between 1883 and 1896. This great increase indicates very clearly the improvement in the financial terms, and it is reasonable to assume that not only in Ireland, but in any other country, if the terms are made easy enough the result in view can be secured.

The British government has decided to advance another \$5,000,000 on precisely the same terms as regards the rate of interest as in the first instance. The provision for the laborers and the distribution of the great estates among the tenants, who thereby become proprietors, have effected a revolution in less than a generation. Ireland now bids fair to rival Denmark, Holland or Belgium as an agricultural country.

ESPERANTO.

Although the advocates of Esperanto may not be very numerous in this part of the world, it is interesting to note that this latest and, it is claimed, best attempt towards the formation of a simple auxiliary tongue for universal international use, is making considerable headway. At the sixth international congress held in Washington last week 300 delegates, representing almost every civilized nation on the globe, were present. In fact, if all the tongues gathered at the meeting had begun to speak in their own languages the situation would of necessity have recalled the Tower of Babel. But this is where Esperanto proved its usefulness. The congress, including the speeches, was conducted in the language which has been aptly described as consisting of "Latin roots with modern embellishments."

One of the most interesting features of the congress was the enthusiasm with which Dr. Louis Zamenhof of Poland, who created the new language, was greeted. With lusty cries of "Viv Zamenhof, vivu esperanto!" the congress arose as one man and showed its appreciation of the genius of the Warsaw oculist. The words shouted expressed the ringing hope that the author would live a full life and that his work might never die.

Dr. Zamenhof's address consisted for the most part of a eulogy of the people of the United States for their freedom of spirit and their anxiety to be foremost in any new and useful movement. He bade the delegates to continue earnest efforts for the spread of Esperanto, and admonished them that rare courage and ceaseless diligence were necessary to accomplish this end.

Dr. Zamenhof sarcastically referred to the critics of Esperanto. These critics had declared the new language impractical, he said; but this, he contended, was disproved by the debate held during the sessions of the congress. These sceptics, added the doctor, criticised Esperanto for defects, and yet they had no word of disapproval for the similar feature of the "beautiful Greek." He saw indications that the spread of Esperanto would be greater in the future than it had been in the past few years.

Whether or not Esperanto will eventually take the place which its inventor has designed for it there can be no doubt it has made great strides since Dr. Zamenhof, under the nom de plume of "Dr. Esperanto" published his first brochure in 1887. Four years ago the English Chamber of Commerce put Esperanto on the examination list for applicants for positions, and it is an elective branch of study in many schools today, especially in France. Officers in the United States army and magistrates in the Philippines have reported that they have found the language useful.

The main feature of Esperanto, as would naturally be expected, is its simplicity. The grammar is absolutely regular, and has been reduced to the utmost extent, having due regard to the necessary qualities of clearness, precision and flexibility. There are only sixteen rules, and the reading, it is claimed, can be mastered in an hour. The principle adopted in the formation of the vocabulary is the selection of root-words which are most common to the principal European languages. Its pronunciation is phonetic. "Esperanto estas helpa lingvo internacia, eksterordinare facila; estas egale bona por la komercio, la scienco, la literaturo kaj la poezio." is a specimen of the language which shows that it can be readily understood without much study by any English-speaking individual.

THE METHODS OF SCOTLAND YARD.

"My dear sir, you know that we are not permitted to discuss these things." This reply, given by one of the women sent out by Scotland yard to take charge of Miss LeNeve in answer to a question by a representative of one of the Montreal papers, is a sufficient explanation of the reason why nearly all stories regarding Crippen and Miss LeNeve since they were arrested by Inspector Dew, have been the product of the fertile brains of newspaper reporters. It is the business of Scotland Yard to secure, not to impart information, and the employees of the Criminal Investigation Department, of which Inspector Dew is an able representative, naturally carried out their instructions to the letter.

Inspector Dew on this account was not popular with a section of the press. His great sin was that he declined to talk. But it was not his business to be communicative. He came to Canada to take Crippen, who is charged with murder, back to England. He was not in any way concerned with the widespread publicity given to the case, and he made no secret of the fact that it annoyed him.

Failing to secure material at first hand, certain yellow journals published a story which was cabled to London that Crippen had confessed. By the circulation of this report a grave injustice to the interests of the prisoner might have resulted, and Inspector Dew emerged from obscurity to make about the only authentic statement he can be credited with during his stay in Canada. "Crippen" he said, "has not confessed. He has made no statement in regard to the crime. The statement that he has done so is an abominable lie, utterly and fantastically false."

The journals who published the report of the alleged confession doubtless were much interested in the news cabled from London last Friday that the criminal court of appeals had granted the plea of Mr. Arthur Newton, Crippen's solicitor, for a writ of attachment against the London Chronicle, which accused the prisoner of poisoning his wife and said that he had confessed. Contempt of court was the allegation in the plea.

Inspector Dew, while in Canada, was the subject of more than one personal attack in the press. As the Montreal Herald points out, he was for the moment the official representative of a very admirable anti-criminal institution of the Mother Country, which Canadian peace officers would do well to imitate in many respects. He was a gentlemanly officer who came here in the service of his country on an unpleasant errand and conducted himself in a quiet and becoming manner. Such attacks as were made upon him do not represent the opinion of Canada or the manners of Canadians.

CURRENT COMMENT

(St. Croix Courier.)

If imitation is the sincerest flattery the government of New Brunswick is to be congratulated on the fact that the forward step taken by the administration in procuring a reduction in the price of school books is to be followed by similar action on the part of the governments of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The island has already determined to make the change and Nova Scotia now has a committee investigating the subject in New Brunswick and Ontario. The policy adopted by the governments of the last named provinces is but a further illustration of the truth so long recognized in Canada, that the people must look to the Conservative party for the initiation of legislation tending to the protection and benefit of the people generally.

(Stratford Herald.)

Hon. Frank Oliver ran into a fusillade of laughter Saturday evening when addressing the Laurier meeting in Calgary. He had been dining into the audience for a quarter of an hour the benefit of Liberal rule with a eulogy of Sir Wilfrid. "We do not come here," he went on, "to talk politics." He waited for applause, but in its place came a roar of laughter, in which even those on the platform joined. This was evidently an ill-timed clown act in the Great Laurier Circus.

FROM "THE HUNTER OF THE PRAIRIES"

Aye, this is freedom! These pure skies
Were never stained with village
smoke;
The fragrant wind that through them
flies
Is breathed from wastes by plow
unbroke.
Here with my rifle and my steed
And her who left the world for me,
I plant me where the red deer feed
In the green desert and am free.

With what free growth the elm and
plane
Flung their huge arms across my
way.
Gray, old and cumbered with a strain
Of vines, as huge, an old and gray!
Free stray the lucid streams and find
No taint in these fresh lawns and
shades;
Free spring the flowers that scent the
wind.
Where never scythe has swept the
glades.

Here, from dim woods the aged past
Speaks solemnly; and I behold
The boundless future in the vast
And lonely river, seaward rolled.
Who feeds its founts with rain and
dew,
Who moves, I ask, its gliding mass,
And trains the bordering vines, whose
blue
Bright clusters tempt me as I pass?

Broad as these streams—my steed
obeys,
Plunges and bears me through the
tide.
Wide are these woods—I thread the
maze
Of giant stems, nor ask a guide.
I hunt till day's last glimmer dies
O'er woody vale and grassy height;
And kind the voice and glad the eyes
That welcome my return at night.

Then it Happened



It was in the port of Trinidad that Dick Binnacle decided he must take a swim. And it was time, since it was seven months since he had taken a bath.

The boss'n, a grizzled rat, advised against it. "There's wampires in that water," he said, shaking his hoary head. But Dick went overboard all the same. The water looked so green and peaceful. Just at this moment a triangular black object appeared above the surface, gliding toward him. "I wonder what that is?" murmured Dick.

It was remarked on board that for the first time Dick Binnacle wasn't on hand when the grog was doled out. (The End.)

JOSH WISE SAYS:

"Isn't it wastin' good ammunition to shoot folly as it flies?"

Mrs. Lightly:—"I think, Helen, that you ought to advise your husband against smoking so much."

Her Friend:—"I couldn't think of such a thing at this time; why we need only 18,000 more coupons to get a handsome painted sofa pillow."

Customer:—"Have you felt slippery?"

Clerk:—"I'er—yes, ma'am, but not since I was a boy."

"A fool and his money are soon parted."

"Yes, but you never call him a fool till the money is gone."

Footpad:—"Your watch, mister, and be quick about it."

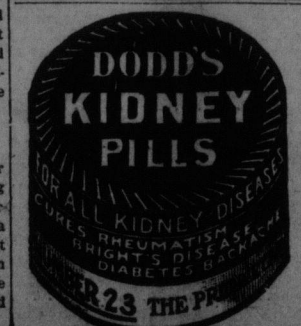
Peasant:—"Let me pass, I have no time to spare."

"Officer," said the earnest seeker for information, tendering a good cigar, "I want to ask you a very confidential question. Is there any petty grafting going on in your department of the service these days?"

"Divil a bit, sorr," answered the copper on the beat, accepting the cigar.

MOISSANT OFF ON LAST LEG OF RACE

London, Aug. 20.—Moissant, the aviator, started on the last leg of his flight to London at 6.20 o'clock this morning, but after a three-mile flight was compelled by the strong air currents to descend. He announced after his descent that he would be unable to make another start for several hours.



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HOW CROWN LANDS REVENUE HAS GROWN

Revenue Has Increased Until Now an Amount Larger Than Civil List is Received Annually—Their History.

London, Aug. 20.—The crown lands, of which so much was said in the recent debate in the House of Commons when the King's civil list was voted in return for the surrender of these lands, have grown to great value from small beginnings with the industrial progress of the country. In 1907 their net produce was \$2,000,000, so that Parliament in one way may be said to be making a good bargain in voting the King an income of \$2,350,000 a year. In these lands are included all the hereditary landed property of the crown except the duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, the latter of which is a source of private income of the Prince of Wales, while the former came to the crown through Henry IV, whose private property it was before he became King. George III. was the first sovereign to surrender his life interest in these hereditary revenues in return for a fixed civil list of \$4,000,000. Parliament by this bargain acquired the important right of controlling and fixing at the beginning of each reign the personal expenses of the King.

CHATHAM.

Chatham, August 18.—Mrs. Geoffrey Stead was chaperon for a camping out party of young people who spent the week-end up river at Barnaby Island. Charles Crombie is the guest of Hon. A. A. Ritchie, Newcastle.

Miss Isabel Cassels, Toronto, is visiting Mrs. Wm. Dick at Blink Bonle.

Mrs. Frank McNaught is expected on a visit to Miramichi friends and will spend some time at Burnt Church.

David Ritchie's many friends are pleased to see him greatly improved in health. He is now at his home Newcastle.

Miss Ella Parker is visiting at Burnt Church, and her friends noted with pleasure that her stay at the popular seaside resort is steadily improving her health.

Mrs. William A. Hickson, Newcastle was hostess at a very enjoyable afternoon tea on Friday. Those who attended from Chatham were: Mrs. Jas. Beveridge, Miss Beveridge, Miss Pierce Mrs. W. C. Winslow, Mrs. Geoffrey Stead, Miss Snowball and Miss Stavert. Among the Newcastle ladies were: Mrs. Osborne Nicholson, Mrs. J. Y. McKane, Mrs. Hubert Sinclair, Miss Jessie Flemming, Mrs. J. W. Miller, Miss Annie Altkin.

Wrist Watches

We have received a new lot of WATCH BRACELETS in gold (Spring Link and Mesh) from \$30.00 to \$80.00. Also gold watch and leather strap \$18.00 to \$30.00. Silver and Gun Metal with Leather Straps, \$6.50 up.

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West 219-41—Jack, D. R., residence, Duck Cove, number changed from West 163-21 to West 219-41.
West 219-11—Linton, David, residence, Sand Cove Road.
Main 1405-11—Lyons, A. B., residence, 6 Windsor Terrace.
West 219-22—Schonfeld, John K., residence, Duck Cove, number changed from West 163-43 to West 219-22.
Main 2258-11—Warwick, S. J., residence, 393 Main.
F. J. NISBET, Local Manager.

August 20, 1910.

Purchaser—"These seats are in the back row. Is there any chance of exchange after I get inside?" Theatre Ticket-seller—"Sure! After the show begins you'll be able to get any seat in the house!"—Puck.