

## The St. John Standard

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St. John, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1920.

## A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

When Sir Thomas White advocated the formation of a National Liberal-Conservative party in his speech the other evening, he probably had no such idea in his mind as attempting to "call spirits from the vasty deep," as The Daily Telegraph suggests, or any other equally foolish notion. But what he did have in mind, and what he succeeded admirably in getting off his mind, was some very sound and sensible advice to business men, to whom he spoke as a business man himself. And quite a large proportion of the leading members of the Liberal party are pretty sound business men, who would appreciate the truth and importance of the advice he gave them.

No man, no matter what his political affiliation may be, is going to ruin his own business prospects just to keep any political party in power. With him his business comes first; and it is only the little men, the Kings and the Coups, the Turgoons, and the Michauds and such like, who have no businesses to look after, and who wouldn't know big business if they saw it even through a magnifying glass, who can afford to play skittles with trade problems. Business men of Liberal affiliations know and realize perfectly well that to throw open the markets of Canada to the invasions of foreign competition, without any restrictions, would very soon result in financial ruin for themselves. The programme which Messrs. King and Crerar and those who think with them are offering does not provide much inducement for the business man, no matter what party he belongs to, to throw in his lot with them. The road to ruin is easily found of itself, and it is not necessary to join the personally conducted party of Messrs. King and Crerar in order to reach it.

## JELICOE'S NAVAL PLANS.

It cannot now be contended by those who are not particularly in favor of a Canadian navy that there are no plans or estimates in existence to guide them in coming to a decision as to how best to act in the matter. In the course of his recent tour of this country, Lord Jellicoe took the opportunity to size up the situation pretty fully, and the result of his observations is that he has prepared and now presents four alternative suggestions, either of which this country can adopt accordingly as Parliament shall decide.

How far Lord Jellicoe's proposals will be adopted, or if they will be adopted at all, remains to be seen. He has given a fairly wide range of choice, from a respectable battle fleet costing \$25,000,000 down to a \$5,000,000 outfit intended for purely local patrol service. The discussion of these proposals will probably be long, and, no doubt, controversial; and there may be a disposition among the Liberal party to feel that Lord Jellicoe's plans are not very different in many respects from the old naval policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If they take this view, then, to be consistent, they cannot well follow a proposal which, if it does follow along the lines of the old Laurier policy, would naturally be a vindication of their old leader.

One feature of the report which will be well received is its complete abandonment of the old suggestions that a Canadian naval organization ought to be in some way under the control of the British naval authorities. From the beginning to the end of the report there is not a word to suggest that this proposed navy ought not to be purely a Canadian organization, owned, manned and operated exclusively by the Canadian nation.

## TARIFF AND LIVING COSTS.

The cost of living is higher in the United States today than in any other country in the world. Notwithstanding that there is in the great republic an abundance of foodstuffs, it costs more to obtain a meal in an hotel or to provide it in the home than in the case anywhere that we know of. Although their pockets bulge with money, the American people are crying out at the high costs.

Yet, as the London Free Press points out, there are free traders and near-free traders in Canada who would have us believe that were we to destroy the tariff which enables us to keep our Canadian workmen employed and to promote the independent growth of this country, that we should be striking a vital blow at the high cost of living as we experience it.

The question how we are to cheapen living costs by buying more foreign goods and producing less goods at home is not answered by these theorists. Obviously, if food costs are to come down, as they say would be the case with the removal of "taxation" on food, then the food producers, who are our farmers, will receive less for their portion.

But these free traders and near-free traders say to our farmers that they can make farming more profitable if they can gain access to the United States market. We must remember in this connection that if our farmers are admitted to a foreign market, the farmers

of that country will expect admission to our own markets. If this opening up of markets means more for the farmers, it means higher prices for the consumers to pay. If, on the other hand, it means cheaper living for the Canadian consumer, it must mean lower prices for the Canadian producer. Which is it?

Whatever happens, whether the consumer or the producer, either or neither, benefits, we can be certain of one thing, namely, that the astute political leaders of the United States look upon reciprocity upon this order as the entering wedge of domination of Canada from Washington.

Canada, if she were to be true to herself, must go on with her building programme. We do not lack markets. The world is crying out for our farm products. Our farmers are not dependent upon a competitor agricultural nation such as the United States to provide them with an outlet for their surplus.

A strong, vigorous, self-reliant Canada, independent of tariff changes at Washington or elsewhere, with a home market consuming 50 per cent. of the products of her farms — that is the Canada of today. Why change?

In one breath Agrarian orators denounce protection as paternalism and in the next demand Government aid for western settlers. In the opinion of such men it is all right to help the western farmer, but when it comes to a Canadian trying to build up a Canadian industry and employing Canadian labor, the very mention of assistance is reprehensible. Mr. Labouchere used to say that he did not object to Mr. Gladstone having a trump card up his sleeve, but that he objected to his claiming that the Lord had put it there. In the same way the country, while having no right to object to the Farmers' point of view, has a right to object to their basing it upon purely angelic and altruistic motives.

Soft coal users are warned to get in their next winter's coal now. It is advice applicable to users of hard coal as well. What with railway rates going up, both in the United States and Canada, and anthracite miners demanding 60 per cent. wage increases and a 30-hour week, after April 3, the outlook for cheaper coal is as black as the coal itself.

## WHAT THEY SAY

## A Family Affair.

(The Review.)  
 If there is a single situation in Europe which at the moment deserves to be described as a squabble it is precisely that Irish business into which some more or less American noses are so fond of obtruding themselves.

## Cotton in the Empire.

(Express Mail.)  
 Many competent authorities have again and again urged the importance of steps before taken to provide cotton within the British Empire, and quite apart from this possible shortage from America it would seem that the growing of cotton within the Empire would remain one of the most desirable objects which our statesmen could foster. It should certainly be the object of all who are connected with the industry in all its many by-paths to promote in every possible direction every well-conceived effort to produce more raw cotton within the British Empire.

## Could Britain Borrow One, Perhaps.

(Brooklyn Eagle.)  
 Mr. Asquith, indeed, is not a born leader of men. He is a keen and accurate thinker, a fine speaker, not a bad strategist on the conventional lines of party strategy. But conditions just now have thrown conventional strategy into the scrap heap; issues of the present are not now law or free trade issues, but go down deep into the roots of things, and Asquith is even farther than Lloyd George from a full grasping of the relations of past with present, and present with future. Whether any English leader is any nearer is another question.

## Political Lack of Frankness.

(London Advertiser.)  
 This lack of frankness and straightforwardness has too often been the method adopted by politicians in Canada to secure and retain power and influence. It is immoral and debasing and when exposed, as sooner or later it always is, has the effect of bringing the control and administration of public affairs into disrepute. It is this that has made the average elector always take the well-known pre-election promises as mere wind, always to season the candidate's engagements with a heavy dose of salt.

## Dollars Vs. Lives.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)  
 There are always people to whom dollars mean more than human beings. That is the very reason why men and women of ability are leaving the teaching profession or are no longer attracted to it. Men and women capable of becoming competent teachers can usually make more money helping others to make money than by serving the state by helping to make enlightened citizens.

## Sir Robert Borden.

(Montreal Gazette.)  
 The intimation that Sir Robert Borden will return to Ottawa at a date yet early date to resume his duties as Prime Minister is interesting in a double sense. People generally will be pleased to think that his health is being restored. The party he led to success in 1911 and those who supported him as the con-

test of 1917 must still regard him as the most capable parliamentarian of the day. He can guide the Government better than anyone in sight; and the need of a capable guide is clearly seen today, when conditions political are in process of change, and the resultant uncertainty does not make for confidence. Only one man in the Government can in such a situation give the line of policy and exercise the influence that holds a party to the path of duty, and he is the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden has done much in the past, and should have the opportunity for doing more in the future.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## FRIENDLY GREETINGS.

We've read about the other gun,  
 A marvelous affair,  
 Which sends a shot that weighs a ton,  
 Beyond the ambient air.  
 This shot, the scientists explain,  
 Is accurately reckoned  
 To travel through an other lane  
 A thousand feet a second,  
 As forth it flies between the gaps  
 That separate the stars.  
 And by its aid we may, perhaps,  
 Communicate with Mars.

How pleased the Martian folks will be  
 When suddenly, some night,  
 They waken with a start to see  
 A flash of blinding light,  
 A detonation rends their ears,  
 They feel a crushing force,  
 And with the shock their world appears  
 To stagger from its course!  
 And, as their buildings crash and fall  
 Beneath the stunning blow,  
 They say, "Well, well! Don't that  
 beat all!"  
 Old Earth just said "Hello!"

We own we'd like to be on hand  
 To see this message sent,  
 To watch the earthly missile land  
 And note how true it went,  
 If any grand stand seats are sold,  
 And on me since New Year's Day.  
 Although it takes our hoarded gold,  
 We're aiming to be there.  
 But as we take our telescopes  
 And clap it to our eyes,  
 We feel that we are going to hope  
 That Mars does not reply!

## A BIT OF FUN

Not So Shocking Now.  
 Edith—Ever dream of appearing in public in your night dress? Isn't it awful?  
 Maud—It used to be before our ordinary clothes got so skimpy.  
 Some limb of a Comp. Dig This.  
 Farish Magazine—"In our last number for 'Fleur de legs' read 'Fleur de lys.'"

How to Keep the Cook.  
 "Wanted, young ex-soldier for house-parlormaid's work; cook kept."  
 —Yorkshire Post.  
 "Repairing or Hiding?"

Playing Safe.  
 Miss Oldbird—It is very strange. Not one of my male friends has called on me since New Year's Day."  
 Miss Young—Nothing strange about it; this is leap year.

A Modern Predicament.  
 "My dear, you are not dancing."  
 "No—most provoking, I mislaid my partner at Paddington, and he isn't the fellow I like where the dance is."  
 —London Punch.

The Change.  
 She (during the quarrel): You used to say before our marriage that I was your inspiration.  
 He: Yes, and now you're my ex-asperation.

Always the Same to Him.  
 "Your wife seems like a different woman when she's speaking."  
 "That so! I'm afraid I don't know the child."  
 "Can you support a family?"  
 The cautious father cried,  
 "I only wanted Emily."  
 The wise young man replied.

Charity Begins at Home.  
 Charity Collector—"Have you any particular use for your old clothes?"  
 Citizen—"Sure, I'm wearing them."  
 —Baltimore American.

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## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.  
 Weather. Invisible sunsets on account of rain.  
 Sports. Sam Cross has a black and yellow baby turtle named Sam, Jr., after himself, but he doesn't think he will be allowed to keep it if his father finds it in his slippers many more times.  
 Sister Sports. Sid Hunt and Pado Simkins for the ice sliding championship Saturday afternoon and lost by 2 feet and 7 inches according to Benny Potts, the official umpire with a tape measure donated for the occasion from his mother's sewing basket in her absence.  
 Poems by Skinny Martin.  
 A Matter of Taste.  
 I went fishing in our bath tub  
 For sharks with dotted tails,  
 Tho there was nothing there to fish for  
 So I could just as well fished for whales.  
 Pearse Accident! Leroy Shooter was walking down stairs backwards just for a change last Wednesday afternoon when suddenly all of a sudden he lost his ballance and fell down the last 3 bed over heels, and if his tung hadn't of bin out nothing would of happened, but it was and he bit it.  
 Have you lost anything lately? Why not have it looked for by expert lookers for 10 cents a hour? The Ed Wernick and Law Davis Hunting Agency. (Advertisement.)

## Quebec's "Hour."

(Montreal Gazette.)

Reference to the relations which have existed between Quebec and the English-speaking provinces was made in the House of Commons on Tuesday, and was productive of an unfortunate manifestation of ill-feeling. Incidents of the kind have been regrettably frequent in the past, but there has been cherished lately a hope of better things, of mutual forbearance, based upon a clearer understanding of conditions and their causes, and upon a realization that a divided Canada cannot go forward to the same great destiny which awaits a country whose various parts acknowledge a common interest and work together in harmony for its advancement. The war is over, and the differences which grew out of it may well be relegated to the past with the conditions which were their cause. The future, which we hope the war has made secure, belongs, not to any one section of Canada, nor to any group of provinces, but to all, and in like degree to all it is a future of rich promise, but that promise cannot be realized fully unless the Canadian people of whatever race or creed, can be brought to regard themselves as one

## Daily Fashion Hint.



A TRULY SMART FROCK.  
 Full of the glory of springtime is this tea-time frock in rose pink georgette trimmed with lace. The skirt has a deep band of the lace set in between the belt and hips, two narrower folds trimming the lower edge. The vest in the V-shaped neck is of lace as also are the undercuffs of the short kimono sleeves. At the back the waist is extended in long ends which are tied in sash effect. Medium size requires 5 yards 44-inch georgette with 1 1/2 yards wide, and 3 1/2 yards narrow lace.  
 Pictorial Review Waist No. 8709. Sizes, 34 to 44 inches bust. Price, 25 cents. Skirt No. 8870. Sizes, 24 to 32 inches waist. Price, 25 cents.

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 Black Calf ..... \$8.50  
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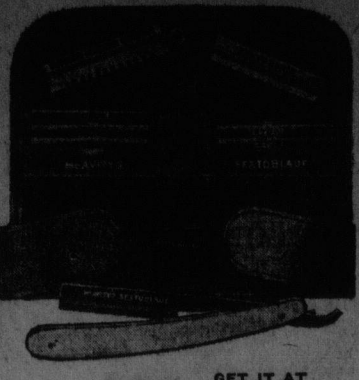
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