

### The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1921.

#### THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The electoral campaign which is now going on in South Africa is of more than national interest. It is being watched by the whole world, because it is recognized that upon its result rests the whole future of South Africa. The question before the people is whether South Africa shall continue as one of the component parts of the British Empire or not. If General Smuts, who stands for continued British connection, is successful, the question may be regarded as settled for many years to come at least, but on the other hand should the Nationalist party under General Hertzog, which avowedly aspires to the re-establishment of a South African Republic, win out, it is not unlikely that civil war may be the result. General Smuts has already carried seven seats by acclamation, and it is satisfactory to learn that the benefit of the good start thus obtained is not likely to be lost.

Hitherto there have been four parties in South Africa, and the country has had the benefit of group government to an extent that would surely delight the soul of Mr. J. J. Morrison of U. F. O. renown. They were the South African party, led by General Smuts; the Unionists, a British party headed by Sir Thomas Smuts; the Nationalists, with General Hertzog as leader, and the Labor party. Elections have now been held in South Africa, with 44 seats for Unionists, 44 for Nationalists, 25 for Labor, 21 for Smuts. It is hoped in group government, General Smuts was unable to carry on except by compromise. With the Nationalists advocating a republic, compromise was impossible. The Nationalists were growing bolder and apparently stronger, and General Smuts saw there was no alternative but to form an alliance with his old-time political enemies, the Unionists, and face the country squarely on the issue of continued British connection or independence.

The South African party held a conference in Bloemfontein, when the following resolution was passed:

"This congress, being convinced of the necessity of a strong party which shall promote the national unity of the European races and the economic development of South Africa on peaceful lines, accepts the expansion of the South African party on the basis of its fundamental principles and on the four points contained in the program submitted on behalf of the South African party at the Vereeniging congress, and authorizes the head committee to take the necessary steps for such expansion and the reorganization of the party. This congress makes an appeal to all who agree with the above-mentioned expanded party."

Shortly afterward the Unionists held a conference in the same city and the oldest party in the Dominion decided for patriotic reasons to effect a deal, passing the following resolution:

"That this congress of the Unionist party, recognizing that the disruptive influences in South Africa have become a growing menace to the maintenance of the constitution and to the peace, progress and development of the country, welcomes the appeal of the prime minister to all right-minded South Africans, irrespective of race or party, to unite in order to combat these influences; further, having regard to the resolution passed at the congress of the S. A. P. and recognizing the necessity for a strong party which shall maintain the fundamental principles of the Act of Union and promote the national unity, the welfare of all sections of the people and the economic development of South Africa on peaceful lines, authorizes the leader, with the party executive, after full consideration of the situation, to take such steps as may be best calculated to secure this end."

This united party, under the leadership of General Smuts, has appealed to the country, and with every likelihood of a sweeping success. His appeal to the Dutch population is made on a broad basis—to stand by the Constitution, to preserve self-government, co-operation with other races, and ensure peace. Any breaking of the British connection would instantly destroy the Union, and probably set up another war between the various groups, and the Dutch of the Union can hardly want that now, any more than the British.

#### THE PLOT THICKENS

That serious differences have on several occasions recently occurred between the members of the Smuts Cabinet is well known, and the present situation in this regard seems to be summed up in the words "worse and more of it." A short time ago Dr. Smith left the Government because of differences with Mr. Tweeddale, whose insufferable interference was more than he could get up with.

### I SEE IN THE STANDARD

The Hon. A. L. (Sifton) Secretary of State for the Dominion, died yesterday at his home in Ottawa. Mr. Sifton had long experience in Canadian politics, although his speeches were less numerous than those of many a younger politician. In the old days when he reigned over the Northwest Territories he was known as the "Sphinx" and even when called to continue his work for Canada from the House of Commons he maintained his silence.

#### Seldom Made a Speech

In the last three years at Ottawa he had not made over half a dozen speeches, but when he did rise to address the Commons there was no fitting of members to the calm of the corridors. They remained to hear for they knew his views would be well worth hearing. Mr. Sifton had spent most of his days in the West, where he resigned the position of Chief Justice of Alberta to become Liberal premier. He had at one time been a member of the Territorial Council of the North West and his knowledge of the western lands and his ability was well recognized. As Chief Justice he had a very happy post, but he was convinced that the country required him to be in the West, in a more strenuous place, so he took up the new duties. The innovations that he adopted made some call him a Lloyd George; some pictured him as a radical.

At the call of the country again he left the West and came to Ottawa three years ago to continue in various positions his work for the Dominion and remained there until the end.

Faithful servants the Dominion ever had. Mr. Sifton gave most of his life to the development of the Canadian West, having served on the old Territorial Board before the provinces were formed. At the call of the elder Party later he abandoned his position as Chief Justice of the Territories to become leader in Alberta, a position that brought him the Premiership in 1917. When Sir Robert Borden was forming the Union Government he surrendered his life long Liberal principles to do his bit in a Union Cabinet. Mr. Sifton was a Canadian first of all, and party was of secondary importance with him. He gave his best to the Liberals in the West and he was equally loyal to his Unionist Chief.

#### WHAT OTHERS SAY

"Old Times Have Changed." The manners of the old times—his contemporaries—are exposed by no less an authority than Charles Lamb, celebrated English essayist, who lived in the middle of the nineteenth century. In his essay on "Modern Gallantry" he tells of often seeing women standing up in the pit of a London theatre, till sick and faint with exertion, with men about them seated at ease and jeering at their distress. Consider now the gallantry of the modern woman. She may hold on to a seat in a street car, but she doesn't jeer at the woman standing in the aisle, as did her ancestor in the theatre. In fact, he is now asked of himself to be seated when women are standing and scarcely lifts his eyes from his newspaper. —Mississippi News.

#### A Ridiculous Claim

In an effort to meet the criticism that the city of Toronto is the greatest benefactor from Toronto University and yet contributes nothing to its coffers, a statement was recently sent out over the Canadian Press wires to the effect that the city employed the university grounds and buildings from taxation. Credit was taken for this an amounting to the same as a grant and as offsetting the City of London's annual contribution of \$55,000. The City of Toronto, with its usual modesty, is claiming credit where none is due. The facts are that the University of Toronto is located on crown land and the city cannot do otherwise than exempt the property from taxation. Toronto has no alternative. London grants exemption to Western University, as well as votes an appropriation, but here the buildings are on taxable property. On a population basis Toronto would have to vote \$700,000 per annum to equal London's grant. It cannot be denied that the City of Toronto derives the greatest benefits from the presence of the university in its midst. This is proven by the enormous large percentage of students attending the institution whose homes are in the Queen City. The whole of the province is taxed for its maintenance, the city gets not a penny out of the university's treasury, nor have the citizens shown any

### Benny's Note Book

Pop was smoking with his feet up and I was thinking of doing my homework without axilly doing it, and I said, Pop? All present and accounted for, and pop? Meaning what did I want, and I said, Some (man) was here to see you this afternoon and he said he would come back tonight. The doos, and pop, what kind of a looking man? O no speshil looking kind, just a ordinary nice man in a overcoat, I said. In sure id reckonize him anywhere from—that description, what did he say he wanted? said pop. He said he would come back again tonight, I said. So you told me, but didn't he leave any name? said pop. No sir, I said, he said he would be back again tonight. That's the first time he said that, said pop, that's a confounded lot of funny thing, I'm not expecting anyone. Do you want to know who it was? I said, and pop said, We you just got throo saying he didn't leave any name. No sir, he didn't, pop, because we should he, I knew who he was all the time, I said. Well you're a brite young man, you are, the way trouble is people mite never guess it if you didn't tell them, and pop, well who was it, who was it? Who the man? I said, it was Mr. Eldridge. Doat know him, said pop, and I said, Well he said he would come again tonight, he's the principle of our school and I was throwing pieces of coal and one went throo the window into his office and broke the window on the way, it was a grity big window. Well ill be confounded, said pop. Wich jest then the bell rang and it was Mr. Eldridge again and he told pop the window would cost 5 dollars and pop gave it to him and then he gave me something mutch worse.

sure, nor have the citizens shown the generosity of Montreal's wealthy man toward McGill.—London Free Press.

#### Then It Happened

"I wonder if you could" mused the Cheerful idiot. "You wonder if I could what?" demanded the Wise Guy. "Why, I wonder if you could say that a divorce is merely the correction of a mistake?" replied the Cheerful idiot.

#### Dangerous Fish

Jones was talking to some friends of a fishing trip he was contemplating on his holiday. "Are there any trout up there?" questioned one of the friends. "Trout? Thousands of 'em," replied the other enthusiastically. "Will they bite easily?" "Well they're absolutely vicious," Jones replied. "Why they're absolutely vicious. A man has to hide behind a tree to bait his hook."

#### Optical Expert

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I shall make a visit to my St. John office, room 20, Union Bank of Canada building, for five days—Tuesday, January 18th; Wednesday, January 19th; Thursday, January 20th; Friday, January 21st, and Saturday, January 22nd. Office hours 9 a. m. until 5 p. m.

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Rev. J. W. Graham, D.D., general secretary of education, Methodist church of Canada, the special preacher at the service in the Portland church on Sunday. Dr. Graham, of the greatest pulpits on the continent, and it is expected that congregation will be present at this distinguished preacher.

### FRENCH VOTE CONF

Paris, Jan. 21.—The Ch... Deputies voted confidence in... ministry of Premier Bri... 475 to 68.

### STOMACH O.

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