

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1922.

## CAUTION NECESSARY.

Judging from many opinions expressed in regard to Monday night's meeting, there is a distinct impression abroad that it was called for a special purpose, and in the interest of certain candidates. The whole effort and object of the meeting was to further and advance the preconceived notions of the organizations behind the plan to have the city go into the power business in competition with the N. B. Power Co. It could in no sense be called an expression of public opinion, but on the other hand was merely an opportunity for candidates desirous of entering to get some free advertising.

It is about these leading citizens and tax payers who carry the burden of civic government were heard on this question. It has been clearly demonstrated that certain individuals and certain interests in the city have decided to stampede it into the power business, regardless of whether it costs more for the current, and regardless of whether or not it piles \$1,000,000 or more on to the city's bonded debt.

Public ownership, which on the face of it means higher cost to the community, has no place in the future of St. John. Our taxes are sufficiently high now, and the main citizen and tax payer who has been waiting for a clear explanation of the situation has received his answer in the Kirby-Phillips report.

Civic distribution means one-third of a cent per k.w.h. more than private distribution, providing the city gets all the Power Co's business. Just how many persons will pay more for a commodity when they can buy it elsewhere cheaper, is easy to figure out.

The facts of the case are that by dividing the earnings from the sale of electricity in this city the cost to the consumer will be higher even than the report states.

There can be nothing gained by such competition except that certain persons will have secured a private grudge at public expense.

For the city of St. John to go in debt \$1,000,000 and then be able only to produce a commodity of one-third of a cent higher than its competitor, and on top of that to face an operating loss of about \$400,000 during the next three years, is to say nothing of the great probability of having to spend a large sum of money on a steam-standby, is certainly not an outlook which will commend itself to the people who pay the taxes in St. John. The row between individuals which is at the bottom of this whole agitation should cease from now on to be the determining factor in this situation. The air has been cleared so that any one who so desires can see it in its proper business light.

## THE GENOA CONFERENCE.

The Genoa Conference meets on April 10, and unless it proves a fiasco it is expected to be in session for several months. Lloyd George will be there, but Premier Poincaré has announced that other duties will compel his absence. If the conference follows the usual time as in the spring of 1921, the plans for Genoa may be badly frustrated by a succession of new crises. The Paris Peace Conference that Germany is to be allowed May 31 to accept and carry into effect, the tax-reducing plans of the Reparations Commission for establishing foreign control over German taxation, customs, and finance, and that reform or failure will be followed by the imposition of new penalties. In such a program Premier Poincaré would be unable to attend, and in such an atmosphere where Lloyd George hopes to make of the conference and diplomatic negotiations at Genoa for the reconstruction of Europe Poincaré would not permit negotiations to be discussed at the Genoa Conference, but with that question to be discussed at the Genoa Conference, it is to be expected that attention may be directed from Genoa by a new crisis on the Rhine.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Hon. Dr. Roberts in the course of the few remarks he made in the House yesterday appears to have touched lightly on every branch of the administration of public affairs. He took a good view of any for those at, and considered it quite unfair of the opposition to find fault and "play with facts and figures" in the way in which Dr. Roberts on an important matter came in for the House of Commons. He said that he was not a doctor, but a statesman, and that he was not a doctor, but a statesman, and that he was not a doctor, but a statesman.

been taken up with little more than "inauguration." Public Health in 1913 cost \$27,227; in 1920, \$30,504; in 1921, \$32,180, and the estimate for 1922 about the same as the previous year. So that it seems that as inauguration proceeds, expenses have grown rather rapidly. It will be no doubt be a source of intense satisfaction to the people of New Brunswick to learn that as a result of the awakened interest in matters of public health, tubercle plague has been virtually abolished, as also has Asiatic cholera in Europe and America, likewise yellow fever, malaria, particularly in the Panama Canal zone, hookworm, sleeping sickness, and so on. Dr. Roberts had many good words to say for the system of medical inspection of school children, but he omitted to say what degree of success should be meted out to that inspector who used a pencil to depress the tongue of a child who was suffering from a bad throat, and then immediately afterward, without any washing or disinfecting, used it for the same purpose on several other children, at the time quite healthy, but who in less than a week, all had throats as bad as the first one examined. If this is the way medical inspection is carried on, the sooner it is done away with the better.

## THE KIRBY-PHILLIPS REPORT.

The authors of the Kirby-Phillips report are to be commended for their courage in putting their names to a report which came as a great shock and disappointment to those who have been carrying on the campaign to force the city into the power business. Both these gentlemen must have been aware that only one kind of a report was expected from them by the agitators and they must have realized that they would be subjected to the same accusations as were made against Mr. Ross. The fact that neither of them could seriously be charged with being favorable to the N. B. Power Co. makes their report all the more convincing, but nevertheless did not prevent them from being accused of something stronger than bias. There seem to be certain misdeeds in this city who can conceive of no one being able to give an opinion opposite to their own without charging ulterior motives. That sort of argument gets us nowhere, and the controversy and politics no problems.

## REDUCING EXPENDITURES.

When one reads that Mr. Fielding has made a cut of one hundred and thirty-eight millions in the estimated, it comes about that the Premier Government cannot manage to reduce its estimated expenditures somewhat. Though of course it is of little use to reduce estimates, if there is not to be any attempt to keep within them. We are of course well aware that sometimes it is sounder economy to spend money than to ration, but there is a vast difference between spending money on necessary works and flinging it about right and left with a lavish hand, without any regard as to whether the money to pay the bills will be available when the time comes to settle up.

Regarding the cut in Dominion estimates, while it is considerable, a lot of the reductions would have come this year, anyway, through the passing of more war business. The heavy expenditures of last year and the year before got out of the way many items of business that had to be dispatched, and cleared the way for economy now.

The first division of the Parliamentary session resulted in favor of the Government, through the solid addition of the Progressive party, it provided a rather sorry spectacle, however, when one comes to consider that the question in issue involved the good faith of the Government in regard to keeping its pre-election promises. Certain promises made to the returned soldiers during the election, which caused the man to give their votes to the present Government, were not now going to be kept, and the betrayal of the confidence of those men was not only approved of by the Government, supporters, but was cordially backed up by the Progressives. Such is the Government's idea of honor and honesty.

Now that the most carefully prepared detail report on the power situation made by independent parties shows that the cost of electricity to the citizens will be higher if the city builds its own distribution system than if the Municipal Power Co. is retained by the Power Co., what objection can those gentlemen be to the latter plan except that it provides for St. John in going to grow and prosper in common effort to throw away a million in one day of dollars just to the end of it. A gentlemanly spirit in such a case is not only a disgrace but a shame.

has stated. Why not start it right now?

On Saturday The Globe's Fredericton correspondent suggested that Mr. John A. Young should give up his seat in the Legislature to Mr. J. T. Palmer, the new leader. Yesterday "The Globe" wanted to make Mr. Pinder the man to retire. Why does not some one suggest that having been dispossessed of the leadership, Mr. Richards should also divest himself of his seat, in favor of his successor?

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Britain's Way is Best.  
(Mail and Empire.)  
The Constitution of the United States is by no means the perfect work of man's hand that was suggested by those who framed it. It is proved by the fact that in the hundred and forty years of its existence it has been amended nineteen times or on an average about once every twenty years. Conditions have arisen undreamed of by the framers of that important document and questions have become important which did not exist in the eighteenth century. Prohibition, woman's suffrage and the Federal Income Tax have been the subjects of the latest amendments and there is in some quarters now a desire for a twentieth amendment which would have the tendency of bringing the American system of government more in line with that of Great Britain in one important respect. At present the members of the President's Cabinet are members of neither the House of Representatives nor of the Senate. They are not responsible to Congress. They are chosen by the President and are answerable to him. That system is clumsy, and it is suggested that if the members of the Administration are not to be duly elected members of Congress, they ought at least to have all the rights and privileges of members with the exception of being able to vote.

As matters are now, valuable time is wasted and the House is not in a position to receive immediate and first hand answers to questions which vitally concern it. Mr. Hughes, who was the author of the four Power treaties, is a man who is now being debated in the Senate, has no way of explaining them or of justifying himself except by writing a letter to some member of the Senate, and then appearing before the House and explaining another question. It cannot be asked to Mr. Hughes direct, and so another letter is required. Mr. Mellon of the Treasury Department, could appear before the House and explain why he considered the Bonus Bill such a vicious thing. Naturally he is supposed to be better equipped for the task of defending the Administration's policy of all questions concerning finance than anyone else, or he would not be the head of the department, but the House is deprived of his information, which can only be communicated indirectly and by means of a letter. For the sake of convenience, and the prompt dispatch of business the British system is much better than that which exists in the United States. The latter is not permitted to be made in every way, but it is to be hoped that the House of Representatives would not find the hurry busy of politics congenial to their needs. However, if they were not permitted to do so, there should be little objection to them being made ex-officio members of Congress.

Raising Reindeer in Canadian Arctic.  
(London Press Press.)  
The Hudson Bay Company, with an enterprise worthy of the traditions of the great company of "Gentlemen of Adventure" who have figured so prominently in Canadian history and development for 250 years, have launched on an ambitious project to raise reindeer in Canada's barren Arctic regions. A herd of some 600 domesticated Norwegian reindeer have been landed in Baffin's Land. Further importations of reindeer are expected to follow, the plan of the company being to establish reindeer herds at various points in the Northern territories of Canada and to develop an animal industry which will provide the means of subsistence to the native population and increasing numbers of most supply for Northern markets.

The Hudson Bay Company wisely arranged for experienced Laplanders with their families to accompany the expedition to Baffin's Land. A depot of supplies, building materials, and equipment has been established at Amadjuak for the Lap settlement. Fuels and sleds for travel, sport and recreation, medical stores, books and reading matter have also been provided, the company anticipating the needs and requirements of these people, desiring their welfare and that they should form a happy, useful and contented colony.

The expedition will be followed with interest. If the enterprise proves successful it will mean that vast stretches of Northern barren lands can be made profitable and productive. The Canadian explorer, Stevenson, is an enthusiast on the subject, and on his return from his last expedition earnestly endeavored to interest the Canadian Government in the project of raising reindeer and making it the business of raising reindeer, but it did arrange to protect the Lap herds from the attack of hard now to be found on Melville Island.

Shave, Bathe and Shampoo with one Soap—Caticura

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Fred Perrot and the Engineer.  
A PLAY.  
Scene—A train going to meet the band.  
Engineer. Owtch wat a stummick ahs! Owtch wat a panel! Owtch, how can I hold my stummick and run this locomotive both at the same time? Owtch, I can't.  
Passengers. Hay, wats the matter with the train? Hay, this is too fast.  
Fred Perrot. Hay, engineer, wat the hecks the matter? Is this train running away?  
Engineer. Its doing watever it wants to. I got a fearsome stummick ahs and I woudent take my hands off of my stummick for any man alive. Do you know how to steer a locomotive?  
Fred Perrot. Well I never steered one but I was always handy around the house. Hay, its going faster insted of slower. I dont know how to work it.  
Passengers. Hay, this is fierce and getting fiercer.  
Engineer. Owtch such a name! If a train robber pointed his gun at me this now and told me stands up I woudent take them off of my stummick even for him.  
Fred Perrot. Havent you got my pills of anything you can take? Theres lived to be a assident heer.  
Engineer. O yes, heers a pill. In glad you reminded me. Ah, I feel better already, wy didnt you remind me sooner?  
Fred Perrot. Thats gratitute, that is. Take your old locomotive and steer it rila.  
Passengers. Ah, this is better.  
The End.

## THE LAUGH LINE

Winter's Pleasure Assured.  
Husband—Do you think those new people will make good neighbors?  
Mrs. Tawkins—Oh, delightful. Why, I can see already that they're going to do enough scandalous things to keep up in gossip all winter.

Mighty Weak.  
"Well," said the waiter to the stoic, who had just had his coffee cup refilled for the seventh time, "you must be very fond of coffee."  
"Indeed," answered the stoic, "for I wouldn't be drinking so much water to get a little."—Lynch Bure.

A Real Event.  
Superintendent—Why do you want the afternoon off?  
North—My wife just phoned that the baby has his first tooth.

His Recreation.  
"Why don't you retire from business? You've made more money than I can ever spend."  
"My dear boy, I've got to have something to occupy my mind when I'm not playing golf."

Finding Him Blame.  
"Do you think the chaps who paint these futuristic pictures are insane?"  
"Not necessarily, but the people who buy them certainly are."—New York Sun.

Suited Him All Right.  
Subway Grinch—Awful jatin, isn't it?"  
Actor—"Great! I love a packed house!"—Lada.

A woman may claim to be as young as she likes, but she cannot always look it.



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They make the heart beat strong and steady, restore tone and vigor to the nerves, and remove all the evil results caused by the tobacco. Mr. Frank Lister, 71 Terrace Hill St., Brantford, Ont., writes:—"I had been troubled with palpitation of the heart for a number of years, and by spells it would bother me a lot. The doctor told me it would stay on me sometimes if I did not stop on tobacco. When I would get a spell my heart would pound, and I would break out in a perspiration, and get so weak I would have to sit right down and quit my work; also in the night I would wake up and my heart would be going, I should say about 120 beats a minute. About three years ago I got a box of Mildurn's Heart and Nerve Pills, took them, and found that they did the job. I am now feeling fine and have gained over 20 pounds in weight."

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\$193,021,854; Working stock of 2 per cent. paid October 1921, and showed the following results:

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