

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 43 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.

THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY

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Louis Kiehn,, 1 West 34th St., New York
Freeman & Co.,, 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1919.

MAKING HISTORY.

The first mail carried by airplane between points in the Maritime Provinces was despatched from Truro to Charlottetown during the present week. The passage was made in an hour by Captain Stevens and Lieutenant Stevenson, both returned men and former members of the Aviation Corps. These two left Truro at twelve fifteen and landed at the exhibition grounds at Charlottetown in the presence of thousands of spectators one hour and five minutes later, delaying their landing for five or ten minutes while they gave an exhibition of fancy flying for the benefit of the assembled crowd. The distance was approximately one hundred miles and, after all allowances for circling is deducted, the actual time occupied in transit was found to be exactly forty-five minutes. The first aerial mail to Prince Edward Island consisted of a bag of regular mail stamped with the Truro office stamp, and, in addition, letters of greeting from the Mayor of Truro to the Mayor of Charlottetown and to the Lieutenant-Governor and Premier of P.E.I.

A company, it is understood, has been organized in Prince Edward Island for the purpose of carrying on a regular mail and passenger service. Out of the capital already subscribed a Currier ninety horsepower machine with a forty-four foot spread has been purchased. It is said, however, that in the near future a much more efficient plane will be bought with which it is anticipated the passage may be made regularly every day without the slightest difficulty. Captain Stevens, it is worthy of note, is a New Brunswick man who went overseas as adjutant of the 15th Battalion and later joined the Flying Corps. He is now manager of the Devers Aviation Company at Truro, is conducting the first aviation school in Canada, and is instrumental in promoting the establishment of aerial mail and passenger service at different centres in the Dominion. Lieutenant Stevenson is a Charlottetown boy, although his parents now live in Boston. His grandfather has been a lifelong resident of Charlottetown and was on hand to welcome his grandson on the first aerial flight to the Island.

REGISTER!

The registration of women in St. John under the new Franchise Act is in reality a very simple affair, although some of those officially connected with the work seem inclined to exaggerate its importance. Briefly the thing is this. Any woman of twenty-one years or upwards who has been a resident of this province for the last six months is entitled to vote. If she happens to be a nursing sister the privilege is extended to her no matter how much younger than twenty-one she may be. Those women who in the past have been taxpayers in St. John are already on the voters' list and their names will be retained on the new lists which are now being prepared. These are the only ones of whom the revisors have official knowledge and all others who are not now on such civic assessment lists must make application for registration. This is done by filling in a card provided for the purpose and attesting the same before commission-ers appointed for such work. Registration costs nothing, it involves no responsibility, and it does not mean that hereafter all who register will be subject to civic or other taxation. These lists have nothing whatever to do with the assessment list.

It is admitted that arrangements which have been made for the women voters have not been good. Three offices grouped together were opened, and many who otherwise might have registered during the past week or two have not found it convenient to go to any of these offices. This difficulty will be overcome at once, for today or on Monday numerous offices, scattered all over the city, will be opened with proper officials in charge, and at these, situated near their own homes, all women whose names are not on the list may apply for registration. No one should overlook this most important step for the exercise of the franchise, now that it has been so generously granted as a duty imposed upon all women of St. John and it is to be hoped that without exception they will take advantage of the opportunity now available.

CIVIC PAVING.

The paving programme which the Commissioner of Public Works has prepared at the request of Mayor Hayes is a really admirable foundation on which our commissioners may work. It is the first evidence of constructive enterprise that has appeared in years and, while criticism has been offered by several members of the Council to items on this programme, such criticism is based on very sound reasoning. Mr. Fisher's plan calls for an expenditure of approximately three-quarters of a million, spread over a period of four years. Unfortunately he embodies in his proposal the condition that ten thousand yards

of asphalt shall be laid each year out of current revenue. This was not a part of the original suggestion, nor is there any very good reason why a programme of paving chargeable to capital account, and ordinary repairs from yearly assessment, should be mixed. The asphalt idea is no doubt all very well, but can be more readily handled from year to year when the annual estimates are being prepared. If Commissioner Fisher will omit that item from his report as now received he will find that such objection as has been raised to his proposal will be withdrawn. Other members of the Council, it is clear, entertain opposite views as to the method of paying for the permanent paving. Mayor Hayes, who is a strong advocate of having work of this nature provided under the Local Improvements Act either as it stands today or amended to suit more nearly conditions existing here, is sufficiently broad-minded to endorse any other plan if a change is desired by the people. Mr. Bullock is a believer in the construction of permanent pavements from bond issues to be looked after by general assessment. Indeed there is reason to believe that the majority of the members of the Council favor the denture plan and it should not be difficult for the commissioners to reach a decision on this important point.

The streets selected by Commissioner Fisher in his itemized programme are those carrying heavy traffic, the main arteries of the city, and, while many will wish that a more elaborate programme be adopted and that the West Side be given a more generous share of attention, necessary additions to this list of streets may readily be met from time to time as the necessity for work on them becomes more pressing. This is the first move we have seen toward the construction of such paving as St. John should enjoy, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the members of the Council will not permit the matter to drag, but will give to it their early attention in order that by next spring we may be in a position to go right ahead with the first work to be undertaken.

IN NORTHERN FRANCE.

Philip Gibbs, the famous war correspondent, writing from Amiens, discusses in the remarkable contrast between conditions of today and those of a year ago. Where in September, 1918, thousands of shells flew over the battlefields of the Somme, now the endless stream of munition trucks, supply trains, and uniformed men filling the country roads, are now innumerable motor cars of tourists, chiefly friends of officers over to meet them on the return from service or to have a look at the historic country over which their husbands, fathers, or their brothers fought. In Northern France private enterprise is doing much to overcome the devastation of war, but complaint is heard that the Government is not displaying corresponding activity. In the towns and cities which suffered during the period of hostilities, private homes are being restored, business houses are re-opened and on a more pretentious scale than ever, hotels, theatres and other popular resorts have been re-decorated in a manner surpassing their pre-war state, but public buildings in many instances remain as they were on the day the armistice was signed. Of course labor is scarce and it is assumed that the Government of France, in consideration of the wishes of individual property owners, is unwilling to enter the field in competition for such labor as is available, pending such time as the demand for help from private parties falls off. But through the country things remain much the same, for Mr. Gibbs concludes his very interesting article as follows: "Up the road to Bapaume where I walked it was lonely as of old and the desert remained with the trenches sitting in its shell holes in which weeds were growing, the great mine crater, the dead trees, the litter and filth of the old battles, the entanglements of barbed wire, the dumps of dud-shells, salvage of war material, had hardly changed from the old fighting days. The yellow men squatted around; a group of German prisoners, without escort, sauntered by cheerfully—they are even going home now—and up by Pozieres some Australian soldiers, the last of their crowd, were playing basketball near a graveyard of their comrades. Nothing is being done to restore this devastated region, except by the removal of high explosives and the decent burial of discovered dead. No houses are being built on the sites of the villages which were blown off the earth."

WHAT THEY SAY

Following Russia's Lead.
New York Tribune: The steel strike shows again the temper of Bolshevik labor leaders like Pilsudski and Plumb. They still regard Lenin as the master economist and Russia as the Land of Promise. The theories behind their crusade are prevalent in

all countries. Crowned off their balance by the war. They must be met. A steel strike, with socialization as its aim, was inevitable. Perhaps now is the best time for it to break. The public turned against the Plumb plan for the railroads as soon as it understood it. It will probably resent Mr. Pilsudski's effort to warn that no-thing over for use in the steel industry.

Another Victory.

New York Times: It was an ordeal greater than battle for General Pershing to stand before Congress, hear his praises sounded, and express his thanks, but it was another victory for him.

His Arithmetic.

New York Herald: President Wilson's assertion that America's one vote in the League of Nations is equal to the six votes of the Empire of Great Britain may explain why during a long career at professorship Mr. Wilson was never once chosen to be a professor of mathematics.

Case of Bulgaria.

New York World: Bulgaria was drawn to the German cause against the interests and probably the wishes of her people. She cannot escape her day of reckoning and it is now seen to be a bitter one. But recognition of her right to a trade outlet, possibly internationalized, is not to be denied without sowing the seeds of a new and needless war.

A BIT OF VERSE

WATCHING THE FISHERS.

I stand in wonder by this inland sea,
Watching the fishers plying to and fro
As he stood on the shores of Galilee.
In Palestine the blessed long ago.

I will go down along the white sea-
wall,
Mayhap young Peter's at his nets
again,
Musing and waiting for the Master's
call;
"Come, follow me, I'll make you
fish for men."

Ah, shall he wait and mend his nets
always,
And shall his night-lot in the deep
be vain?
Shall the wild tempest rage with
none to say,
"Peace!" O Lord Christ, wilt Thou
not come again?

The little home at Bethany is drear,
Stricken with grief for one whose
grave is sealed;
The widow weeps beside a hopeless
blear.
The blind, the dumb, the lame ones
go unhealed.
The world of men is heavy-laden,
Lord,
Weary with labor and relentless
strife.
Come with Thy magic touch, Thy
mighty word—
Bring us Thy Peace and Thy abun-
dant Life!

—J. Lewis Milligan in London Graphic

A BIT OF FUN

Something Missing.

Mrs. Brown—"Don't you find it awfully hard doing your own work?"
Mrs. Smith—"Oh, I don't mind the work; in fact, I did the most of it when I had a maid. But it is rather wearing not to have anyone to find fault with."

Very Thoughtful.

"Papa, I'm going to buy you such a pretty painted shaving-mug for a birthday present."
"But I've got one already."
"No, you haven't; I've just broken

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Yesterday afternoon me and my cousin Artie and Puds Simkins was setting on my front steps wishing we had some money, and Puds sed, I tell you wat, I got a good idee, lets us go up to ladies and ask them if they dropped this handkerchief, and they will give us a nickel or sumthing for our honesty enyway. And he pulled his handkerchief out of his back pocket, being sutch a derty one that nobody would of knew that it use to be wite once unless they suspected it, and jest then a lady started to wawk pass, being a pritty this lady for her size.

There goes one, there goes one, I sed. And Puds quick ran after her and showed her the heukerchief, saying, Did you drop this, lady?

Wat, that derty thing, the idee, take it away sed the lady.

Wich Puds did, without anything for his honesty, and pritty soon another lady wawked pass, being a kind of a fat one with blazy expression, and I ran up to her with Pudses handkerchief, saying, Is this yours, lady, did you drop this?

Wy, you impewdent little boy, take that horrid thing away, sed the lady.

Wich I did, without anything for my honesty, and my cuzin Artie tried it on the next lady, being a red redded lady with a vale on, and he came back insulted without anything for his honesty, and I sed, I know wats the matter, the handkerchief is too derty.

Well we dont you get a clean one if you know so mutch? sed Puds.

Wich I did, going in the house and up in ma's room and saying, Will you please loan me a handkerchief ma, I want to do a trick with it, I want her to drop it eny.

There's one on my bevro, sed ma. Meaning a little bit of a one with a boob boarder, and I took it out jest as another lady was going pass, being a middle size lady with a grate big wite thing on her hat, and I cawt up to her, saying, Did you drop sumthing, lady, is this it?

Wy yes, I declare, thank you, sed the lady, And she took ma's handkerchief and kepp on going without giving me anything for my honesty, and after suppr ma asked me for the handkerchief and wen she found out wy she wouldnt properly ever see it agen she made me stay in the rest of the site.

it.

Looking Ahead.

Mabel—"Isn't it strange that Edith should invite that horrid Mrs. Richleigh to her wedding?" She has such a disagreeable past."
Ellen—"Yes, my dear; but she's wealthy enough to furnish a very agreeable present."

Mourful Outlook.

"I engaged the rooms for my holiday," he said, "because the landlady wrote me that they overlooked a superb garden of 200 acres, richly adorned with statuary, where I was at liberty to promenade."
"Well?" his friend enquired.
"It was a cemetery," he said, bitterly.

There's a Reason.

Blayne—"A cosy picture—eh? A manolling in an easy chair, and his wife leaning over him to light his cigar."
Payne—"You haven't seen the companion picture to it, have you?"
Blayne—"Why not?"
Payne—"It's the same man savagely chewing the end of a cigar and writing a cheque."

Poor Adolphus.

"Oh, Adolphus, your birthday present was so lovely!" gushed the young man's fiancée, as they sat on the sofa. "And you left the price-ticket on. You shouldn't have spent so much as \$35, you extravagant boy!"
Adolphus, glad that the faint light hid his beaming face.

"And I see you bought it at Smith's," he went on his chamber. "I wonder if you'd mind taking it back and changing it for one of those \$25 bracelets they have there?"

And half an hour later the young man was still kicking himself for his smartness in buying a \$10 brooch, and putting a \$35 label on it.

"Papa, where is Athens?"
"Athens, I don't know, my boy. You mean Athens, probably."

"No, I mean Athens—the place where everything is blown to."—Exchange.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

To the Editor of The Standard:
Sir,—Although it has been found impossible to arrange to bring to St.

ABE MARTIN



It don't make much difference how much you read if you hain't got sense enough 't know wat 't believe.

There's somebody at ev'ry dinner party that eats all 't colery.

John some of the artists who were expected to appear here for a grand series of musical events, it is hoped that some eminent singers will be heard here during the season.

The first of these singers, Miss Nina Morgana, will appear at the Imperial during the coming week. Although a comparatively new singer on the American operatic stage, she has made a tremendous success, having taken the country by storm. She has been named by critics as one of the great singers of the day, with a great future.

Possibly on account of her recent rise to success she may not be so well known to the music lovers of St. John as some of the older singers, but she is considered one of the best of the new singers and St. John people have a treat in store for them during next week.

Later on we expect to hear other prominent singers, but we should not overlook this chance of hearing one of the best of present-day artists.

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