

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1913.

SIR WILFRID UNFORTUNATE.

Evidence that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was unfortunate when he enunciated his "free food" policy continues to accumulate. Not only have his theories that cheaper food could be secured by reducing the tariff on food stuffs been contradicted by newspapers of the United States, which have voiced their opinions without political animus, but he has been refuted by some of the important men in his own party.

In his address in Hamilton Sir Wilfrid introduced his policy with the following words: "The policy I give you at this moment, the policy I believe every patriot in Canada ought to support, and the policy I believe it to be the duty of the government to immediately inaugurate, is a policy of absolutely free food—food free from customs duties."

Sir Wilfrid did not go into details as to the benefits to be derived from a reduction of food duties. He did not tell his auditors that the whole saving to the Canadian people would be in the vicinity of thirty cents a head per year, but he dealt only in the most glittering of generalities, contenting himself with conveying the impression that he was to be a sort of second Moses to lead the Canadian people from under the thrall of the cost of living into a land of milk and honey and all free.

Unfortunately for the Liberal leader his words did not long remain uncontradicted. When the deputations of agriculturists visited Ottawa, one of the foremost men there, E. C. Drury, a practical farmer, and former Master of the Dominion Grange, made one or two significant statements regarding the policy of Sir Wilfrid. Mr. Drury, who was a reciprocalist in the 1911 campaign, because he believed that under reciprocity the farmers would get better prices for their products, had this to say of "free food": "Free food would not in any sense solve the cost of living, and, again, 'any attempt to make political capital out of the high cost of living would be false, false to facts.' In a few words, one of the representative agriculturists of the Province of Ontario, thus disposed of Sir Wilfrid's claim and Sir Wilfrid's intention at one and the same time. Reduction of food duties would not solve the problem of the high cost of living, and an attempt to politically capitalize the question was not justified by the facts.

Close upon the heels of Mr. Drury comes no less a personage than the leader of the Liberal opposition in Ontario, Mr. Rowell, who apparently has shot much nearer the mark than his federal leader. Mr. Rowell agrees with the Minister of Labor that more food, and not free food, offers the real solution of the cost of living problem. When the farmers of Canada occupy the vacant acres which are still to be found in every province of Canada, and produce more food stuffs to meet the demands of the nation, there will be no cost of living problem. The Borden government realized the importance of this back to the land solution, and at the last session of parliament introduced several measures designed to benefit the agriculturists. One of the most important of these, and one which would do something to reduce the cost of living by making it easier and cheaper for the farmer to get his products to the market, was the measure to grant federal aid to the roads of the country. Yet this plan was killed by the Liberals in the Senate wholly for political reasons.

The more closely one examines Sir Wilfrid's present cry, in the light of the past performance of his party, the more certain does it become that the only persons Sir Wilfrid hopes to help by his most recent policy are a number of Liberal ex-members upon whom the cost of living is pressing.

CANADA'S FISHERIES.

An industry in which Canada stands supreme among the nations of the world is dealt with in the 48th annual report of the fisheries branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. It is not often that a report of any branch of governmental activity can be regarded as an interesting publication except for the fact that it presents to the people an annual accounting of the capable or incapable manner in which the department has been administered during the year. The report of the fisheries branch, however, not only shows that Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, as well as the officers under him, have seen to it that this most important of our industries has been wisely cared for during the year just closing, but also contains statistics calculated to open the eyes of most dry land Canadians who may not have realized the extent or importance of the Canadian fisheries.

The fisheries besides supplying food to millions of people give employment to thousands. The number of fishermen in the Canadian waters is yesterday.

65,081, and they man 1,669 vessels and tugs and 34,501 boats. In addition there are 23,327 workers on shore in the various canneries, fish-houses, etc., preparing the product of the waters for market. A feature of the catching of the fish is the increasing use being made of motor-boats, which numbered 5,911 in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1913, an increase of 331 over the previous year. The total marketed value of all kinds of fish, fish products and marine animals taken by the Canadian fishermen from sea, lake and river being chief year amounted to \$33,388,464. This was lower than the value of the catch the previous year by \$1,278,408, but that year was the banner one in the history of Canadian fishing, being greater by \$4,702,439 than any other. The year under review is therefore considered quite satisfactory.

The sea fisheries were valued at \$29,315,772, and the inland fisheries at \$4,072,692. The fishing grounds are along the 5,000 miles of Atlantic coastline and the 7,000 miles on the Pacific, and in the 220,000 square miles of fresh water in the interior of the country. All the provinces share in the catch, British Columbia leading with fish caught to the value of \$14,455,488 last year, an increase of \$778,363, the improved showing being chiefly due to an increased halibut catch and greater development of the herring industry. Nova Scotia follows the Pacific Coast province with a catch valued at \$7,384,055, a decrease of \$1,983,495, the result of stormy weather throughout the season, which made deep-sea fishing extremely hazardous and considerably curtailed the catches of cod, haddock, halibut and lobsters. Next in order were New Brunswick, with fish caught worth \$4,264,054; Ontario, with \$2,842,878; Quebec, with \$1,988,241; Prince Edward Island, with \$1,379,905; Manitoba, with \$800,149; Saskatchewan, with \$111,839; Yukon Territory, with \$111,239; and Alberta with \$51,616. The provinces besides British Columbia that made a better showing than the previous year were Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island. Those with a decrease, besides Nova Scotia, were New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Yukon Territory, whose falling off was only \$586.

On the whole, however, the year was an excellent one with respect to the catch and its value. Salmon, of course, is king of the waters in the matter of value, as may be seen from the following table showing the relative value of the chief commercial fishes returning \$100,000 and upwards:

Salmon	\$10,025,523
Lobsters	4,571,014
Cod	3,368,750
Herring	3,359,546
Halibut	2,719,616
Haddock	1,065,536
Whitfish	1,054,925
Trout	982,800
Smelts	709,078
Sardines	688,752
Mackerel	635,293
Pickering	465,462
Hake and cusk	400,120
Pike	319,476
Clams and quahaugs	314,047
Crabs, cockles, etc.	213,740
Pollock	178,294
Alcoves	163,247
Oysters	142,602
Sturgeon	133,109

If salmon led in value herring led in quantity caught, the figures for the year being 2,484,673 cwt. Next was cod, 1,729,070 cwt., salmon following with 1,253,997 cwt. Then follow lobster, haddock, etc. Of oysters there were gathered 23,377 barrels and 105,303 barrels of clams and quahaugs. The estimated capital invested in the fisheries amounts to about \$24,388,459, of which sum \$20,442,714 is in connection with deep sea fisheries.

The Conservatives of York county in convention on Saturday nominated Hon. H. F. McLeod as their candidate for the county representation in the Federal Parliament. Unless Arthur Hawkes makes good his threat to contest the election as a "Canada First" candidate, it is altogether likely that the seat will go by acclamation. Liberals do not relish defeat by majorities running into four figures, and this fate seems to await them in York.

In spite of the general talk of hard times it was a good Christmas and but few went hungry in St. John yesterday.

The year 1913 will be remembered in the United States as a time of financial and political housecleaning when the dust and cobwebs of years were swept away.

Even the spirit of Christmas seems to be of no avail in Halifax where the city newspapers are trying to steal the mail steamers away from St. John.

That heavy feeling today is not evidence of a pessimistic outlook on the dying year. It is merely the legacy of that second helping of turkey.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

One of the most dramatic incidents of the insurrection of 1837 occurred on this date, December 26th, when a party of brave Canadians cut out the steamboat Caroline from under the guns of Fort Schlosser, on the American side of the Niagara river, and sent it adrift. Earlier in December, 1837, some 700 Americans who were in sympathy with the Canadian rebels took possession of Navy Island, belonging to Canada, in the Niagara river about two miles above the falls. They had a small steamboat, the Caroline, which was used to ply between the island and Schlosser, on the American side. A band of Canadians in Col. McNab's force volunteered to try to capture the vessel. On a dark night they crossed the dangerous river in seven small rowboats, took the Caroline by surprise, forced them ashore, set fire to the vessel and towed it out into midstream. She went down the current and was wrecked in a full blaze. It was alleged by the Americans that she had several persons on board, but this was untrue. Captain Andrew Drew, one of the heroes of the incident, who lived to become an admiral in the Royal Navy, was never known as "Caroline" Drew. He was voted an award of honor by the Upper Canada Assembly, as was Col. McNab. President Van Buren protested against the act as a violation of neutrality, and Gen. Winfield Scott was dispatched to the frontier "to preserve order."

December 26 is the birthday of Hon. Joseph Dubuc, for many years chief justice of Manitoba, 1840, and Hon. Horatio Nelson Chute, eminent American physicist, at Grovesend, Ont., 1847. The division of Canada into two provinces took place on this date in 1791.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

ADMIRAL DEWEY 76 TODAY.

Admiral George Dewey, U.S.N., the hero of Manila, will celebrate his 76th birthday today, having been born in Montpelier, Vt., Dec. 26, 1837. The Admiral was a devoted Christian, and his life was a model of duty and sacrifice. He was a member of the United States Navy and served with distinction in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. He was a member of the United States Navy and served with distinction in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. He was a member of the United States Navy and served with distinction in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

The first function and justification for the existence of a navy is the preservation of peace," declared the Admiral recently. To perform this function the navy must be adequate to meet and defeat any probable enemy. At the present period adequacy on our part calls for a navy second in strength to that of England only.

The American Admiral, remembering certain incidents in Manila Bay when "blood was thicker than water," is convinced that there will never be another war between English-speaking nations.

FIRST THINGS

THEATRE FIRES

The first important theatre fire in America was that which destroyed a playhouse in Richmond, Va., 192 years ago today. The governor of the state and seventy other people, including many Virginians of prominence, lost their lives, and many more died later of injuries received in the stampede which followed the alarm of fire. The theatre held about 60 people at the performance which ended so tragically. The chief cause of the loss of life was that the doors opened inward, and became tightly closed by the pressure of the panic-stricken crowd. As the first event of its kind in America, the fire was long remembered with horror, and started the first movement for the adoption of means to prevent the repetition of such a calamity. Many ministers chose to believe that the catastrophe was a sign of divine condemnation of the theatre, and used the event as a text. There have been many other theatre conflagrations since the one which destroyed the Richmond playhouse, the most notable having been the Brooklyn Theatre fire of 1876, in which 295 lives were lost, and the Iroquois horror in Chicago, when 573 people, mostly women and children, were burned or trampled to death.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Dennis McGaffigan.

The body of Mrs. Dennis McGaffigan of Florenceville, Mass., was brought to the city in the late train Wednesday afternoon, accompanied by two children of the deceased, John Bohan of Florenceville and Miss Lynch of this city, to whose home at 141 Paradise Row, the body was taken. The funeral was held from Paradise Row at 11:30 o'clock Christmas morning, to Holy Trinity church, where burial service was conducted by Rev. J. J. Walsh. Interment was made in the new Catholic cemetery. At the grave prayers were read by Rev. W. F. Chapman, N.B.

The deceased who passed away on the 22nd day of this month was the daughter of a former North End man and the wife of a prominent business man of Florenceville.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

A Variant.
 "Jack proposes to me every Christmas." "Does he do his Christmas popping early?"

A Peer Plan for Woovers.
 "So you didn't marry the rich Miss Jenks after all. Was it your own doing?" "Oh, yes. You see I took no for an answer."

Which is Unpleasant.
 Bit—I always keep my troubles to myself.
 Dix—Quite right, too! When you tell them, you are taking up the time of the man who is waiting to tell you his.

Now We've a Headache.
 Our colleague at the adjacent desk has just cogitated this: If a man has nothing, he must do something to have anything. But if a man has something, he needn't do anything to have nothing in a very short time.

High Cost of Living.
 Clerk—Here's a book just out: "How to See Europe on Two Dollars a Day."
 Married Man—Huh! What I want is a book on "How to Exist at Home on Two Dollars a Day."

Patty Done by Pat.
 Asked to describe an "Irish bull." Pat replied: "Well, now, suppose I war to say there's ten cows lyin' down in the meadow over there an' wan of 'em is standin' up, that 'ud be a bull."

Overheard in Smoker.
 Wye—Cigar, old man?
 Wye—Thanks! (puff, puff). Capital weed this. Aren't you going to smoke too?
 Exe (examining the remaining one)—No, I think not.
 Wye—What's the matter? Did you give me the wrong one?

Foresighted.
 New Maid—Would you mind giving me a rikemmodation, mum?
 Mistress—Why, you've only just come!
 New Maid—But yes, I may not want to give me wan when I'm lavin', mum.
 —London Opinion.

Had Heard of Burbank.
 Brown (to his neighbor Jones)—He says he's experimenting with a vegetable which will bring him in thousands of pounds.
 Jones—What is it?
 Brown—He's trying to rear an onion with a violent scent.—Exchange.

Ad Valorem.
 First Domain Dossier—Did ye get that job, Henry?
 Second Domain Dossier—I wouldn't take it. I ast 'im wot he wos agoin' ter give me, an' 'e said as much as I wos worth. I told 'im to his face that wouldn't do for me.—Sydney Bulletin.

A Question of Height.
 Michael—Come quick! Patrick is stuck in a bog up to his ankles.
 James—Don't worry, then, if he's only up to his ankles he can soon get out again!
 Mike—Yes, but he went in head first!—Pearson's Weekly.

Why Not?
 Teacher—Now, who can tell me what political economy is?
 Mike (embroidery tammany statesman)—Gittin' the most votes for the least money.—Exchange.

Practical Physics.
 Motorist—What do you mean by making me slacken up?
 Farmer—Maybe, sir, but he's a bit shaky on the legs and I had to think of the draught!—Exchange.

Useful Gifts in Footwear

Men's Viscolized Sole Laced Boots,	\$3.25 to \$7.00
Men's Patent Laced or Button Boots,	4.00 to 6.00
Men's Overshoes,	1.40 to 3.25
Rubber Boots,	2.00 to 6.00
Boys' Calf, Heavy Sole Laced Boots,	2.00 to 4.00
Boys' Skating Boots,	1.75 to 3.25
Ladies' Patent, Cloth Top, Button Boots,	3.00 to 5.00
Ladies' Fine Calf or Laced, Double Soled Boots,	3.00 to 6.00
Ladies' Evening Pumps,	2.00 to 4.50
Ladies' Boudoir or Felt Slippers,	50c to 2.00
Girls' Calf or Patent Boots,	2.00 to 3.50
Girls' Skating Boots,	2.00 to 3.00
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