

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1919.

A REGRETTABLE ERROR.

If those in charge of the Federal Housing Loan in this community had been enabled to understand the conditions applying to that scheme, there would now be under construction in St. John between fifty and sixty new private residences. Because our commission has not been in possession of correct information respecting this enterprise, not one applicant has so far been permitted to take advantage of the offer made by the federal government. St. John secured a portion of this loan for the use of people desirous of building new homes. Applications began to come in, so that up to the present almost sixty have been received. All excepting two of these were for the construction of two family houses in flats. The exceptions were received from persons desirous of building self-contained or semi-detached houses. Naturally, with the information at hand, the housing commission promptly rejected the three requests for aid in the erection of houses of two flats, for they believed the loan from the federal government was not applicable to such construction. It was stated time and again, apparently on the authority of the federal housing committee of the cabinet, that this fund was to be loaned only to those persons desirous of building self-contained or semi-detached homes. Consequently many who had contemplated securing homes for themselves through this measure of assistance, as well as many others who might under favorable circumstances have taken advantage of the offer, have done nothing and are still doing nothing.

The Standard is in a position to state that the interpretation placed upon the Housing Act by our local commissioners, either through their own opinion or by reason of information obtained elsewhere, is entirely incorrect. This paper is authorized to say that the whole intent of the government was to encourage the erection of new homes under such conditions as would ensure reasonable privacy, prevent speculation, and meet the inclinations of the people in each community. It was never the intention to exclude from participation in this grant those persons of erecting houses of two flats. This paper is also instructed to say that such a reading of the Bill is extremely unfortunate in that it has undoubtedly prevented activities along building lines which formed the whole purpose of the loan.

The Standard does not know who is at fault in this matter, but it certainly seems unfortunate that so much time has been wasted, that so many who might now be watching their new homes nearing completion are sorely disappointed, that opportunity for employment in the building trade has been lost, and that no relief in the housing situation is in sight. Perhaps it is not yet too late for something to be done.

MR. VENIOT'S ROADS.

The Telegraph gives Mr. Veniot a certificate of character and devotes a half column or so of space to a glowing description of the Shore Road, so-called, from St. George. The facts of the case are these. For the past forty years the old Stage Road, as it is known, lying between Lepreau and St. George, was generally used by all and was found reasonably satisfactory. Some years ago a little attention was given to it and thereafter no better road could be found anywhere in New Brunswick than that lying between St. George and New River. It cost \$5,000 or \$6,000 to put that highway in shape, but the work was honestly done and results were obtained. Now Mr. Veniot comes along and because Mr. Veniot has a number of friends in Charlotte County who own automobiles and who live on what is known as the Shore Road, and also because the Shore Road itself is an important highway, he decides to divert all traffic to that road and to abandon the established Stage Road. Mr. Veniot set to work and he has spent about \$10,000 on four or five miles of the Shore Road not far from St. George and has put that stretch into very decent condition. But he is working on a most difficult proposition, in that the Shore Road for many miles is of a formation which does not readily lend itself to improvement. Had that amount of money been expended on the Stage Road, which had the foundation and which only needed a little cleaning up, we would now have a highway through St. John and Charlotte Counties second to none in Eastern Canada. And more than this we would have a road used by at least six miles shorter than the one Mr. Veniot now adopts, and it would be a level road, instead of a succession of hills, striding to horses and difficult for motor traffic. No one in the district affected will be found to condemn Mr. Veniot for improving the Shore Road, for that part of the country is richly settled and in every part of the attention he can bestow upon it. But when it comes to talking of truck

lines, of the best available route, and of the amount of money necessary to put these roads in good condition, then Mr. Veniot's selection of the Shore Road and his neglect of the Stage Road must be looked upon by all as a very serious error of judgment.

THE CONSERVATIVE RUMOR.

When Union Government was formed in an attempt to bring the members of the two great political groups together, it was found that many devoted adherents to Liberalism could not conscientiously submerge their opinions and endorse the new scheme. No one thinks the less of these old time Liberals who are so good by their party. Nor could it be anticipated that in the great Conservative party of Canada there would be found unanimous endorsement of permanent Unionism. Conservatives are just as strongly attached to party principles as are Liberals, and while many of them are still staunch adherents of Unionism there are some who are not. Just as in the case of the Liberals—who would prefer a return to the old alignment. These electors acquiesced in a fifty-fifty share of authority, not with the whole Liberal party as it existed previous to 1917, but with a comparatively small proportion of that party. And this compromise was practically unanimous, for the Conservatives in Canada who opposed the formation of Union could be counted on the fingers. Hence the intimation that there are today some among the Conservative party who are desirous of returning to the old party conditions is not an evidence of general dissatisfaction regarding Union, nor is it to the discredit of those Conservatives themselves. They supported the national plan at the time when they considered that form of government in the best interests of Canada. They no doubt feel that the crisis has passed and while it is inconceivable that even the most ardent partisans among this group will at any time oppose the existing administration, it is but natural that they should look forward with anticipation to the restoration of party lines. How far this group will get with their campaign is a different matter, for while it may readily be imagined that there are many Conservatives—just as there are many Liberals—who might welcome a return to party lines, it should not be believed that the former are so prejudiced as to actively oppose the policies of the existing administration.

A MODERATE REQUEST.

The City employees want more money. It seems that in these days each man's income is panting along several blocks behind H. C. L. and that every effort to catch up is unavailing. If there were any end in sight we might take comfort, but every boost in wages means another cent per pound for meat, a fraction added on for sugar and an additional charge for everything that enters into the daily household budget. Three thousand dollars per year is now worth no more than twelve hundred in 1912, and the laborer or artisan who a few years ago was making two dollars per day finds it difficult to support his family with double that amount at this time. The request of the civic employees is under the circumstances not an unreasonable one. The increase which the men are asking, averaging fifty cents per day, is not excessive even in view of the fact that wages paid to civic employees are now considerably higher than they were a few years ago. And it is improbable that even this increase, if granted, will bring the scale of wages for these workers to what they could obtain in other branches of employment. Even at the risk of restricting expenditure along other lines the commissioners must in fairness give the most generous possible consideration to the application before them.

WHAT THEY SAY

(Macon News.)
Wars Reduced.
 Afghanistan and Great Britain have signed a treaty of peace, which reduces the number of wars now going on to only twenty-two. If we remember correctly the figures recently given the House of Commons by the British chief of staff.

Talk is Cheap.
 Buffalo Commercial—It is one thing to say that the government shall buy the railroads and quite another for the government to put through the deal. When it comes to sending home the people would have something to say about it, and we cannot conceive of their coming forward for such a proposition with anything like the zeal they showed in subscribing to Liberty bonds. Fancy capital responding to an appeal for a labor controlled railway system!

Real Nation.
 Cincinnati Enquirer—A real nation is a spiritual unity of individuals. There can be no national spirit without national prosperity. The two are inextricably interwoven. Therefore the worker who strikes at a time vital

to the nation's welfare must be regarded as a profiteer in degrees akin to the odious individuals who traffic for excessive profit in the necessities of life at the expense of the nation's suffering.

The Earliest Strikers.
 London Morning Post—It is nothing new for the coal miners to be in the forefront of industrial troubles. The earliest recorded use of the term "strike" occurred in connection with a colliery dispute. This was in September, 1768, when the London Chronicle reported a great suspension of labor in the Northumbrian mines due to the colliers having "struck out" for higher wages.

The Captured Guns.
 London Daily Chronicle—Strong feeling prevails in Army circles, we are told, over the action of certain towns refusing to accept captured German guns as trophies to the memory of the exploits of local battalions. The guns mean much to the men who lived in trench, and emphatic protests are likely to be made if, as is suggested, the continued refusal leads to the pieces being melted down. The enemy guns were hated during the long years of war, but because of the price that had to be paid for their possession—because of the associations—these deserve a better fate than that of the furnace.

Selected Immigrants.
 Western Mail (Australia)—Population like water must and will find its own level. The process in the one case may be slower than the other, but the end is inevitable. League of Nations or no League of Nations, Australia will require to be effectively occupied if it is not to be a mere slogan, however inspiring in sound, will not ensure our salvation. We must share our inheritance, with congenial human elements, or share it with the uncongenial. The choice lies with ourselves.

A BIT OF VERSE

SONG OF A HUMBLE CITIZEN.

With temples throbbing and hot,
 With temper ruffled and red,
 A citizen sat in his rent-raised flat,
 Wearily propping his head;
 "I'm a man of peace," he moaned,
 "As he fingered the grocer's bill,
 "Yet self-control is leaving my soul,
 "And I'm nursing a longing to kill!"

It's strike, strike, strike,
 From actor to engineer;
 And strike, strike, strike,
 For cheese or decimal beer;
 I'm a lover of justice and peace,
 But, whoever may happen to win,
 I stand no show; what I'd like to know
 Is, Where do I come in?

It's strike, strike, strike,
 From window cleaner to clerk;
 And strike, strike, strike,
 With never a thought of work;
 I'm strong for order and law,
 But I have nothing to say,
 For first and last I am lashed to the mast.

Whoever may win, I pay,
 With temples throbbing and hot,
 With temper ruffled and red,
 A citizen sat in his rent-raised flat,
 Wearily propping his head;
 "I'm a man of peace," he moaned,
 "But all this makes me sick,
 "Upon my soul, I've lost control,
 "I'm turning Bolshevik!"

ELIAS LIEBERMAN.

A BIT OF FUN

The average woman would rather be married than happy.

One little flower to a living man is worth more than a dragon load of formal emblems to a dead one.

If you don't know on which side of your biscuit the butter is, drop it; the top side will be butterless.

Sylvia: "I said 'No' to no fewer than seven men on my holiday last summer."
 Stella: "What were they selling, my dear?"

Fond Mother: "What do you think baby will be when he grows up?"
 Exasperated Father: "I don't know. Town crier, most likely."

Parson: "Always speak well of your neighbors."
 Mrs. Gingham: "I do! And yet I assure you she is one of the most detestable creatures on earth!"

Wearily Willie: "No blooming good!"
 Tired Tim: "And what came of it?"
 Wearily Willie: "She says, 'Apd so's my dawg!'"

Passing Notice.
 "Did you see that lovely young girl waiting there in the lobby, with the pretty brown dress and furs?" asked hubby as he entered their taxi.
 "Why?" "That frisky thing with the pale puffs, enamelled face, gold-tooth, home-made dress, imitation mink fur, and torn gloves? No, I didn't notice her at all."

Change of Voice.
 A sergeant was so much given to using bad language on the parade grounds that some of the men complained, and the C. O. interviewed him.
 "I told him not to let it happen again."

The following morning the sergeant was in charge of a very ragged squad and after keeping silence for con-

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Weather. School closer every day. Sports. Leroy. Shooter aim. Injuring the new ice cream freezer as much as what he would, on account of being too much tearing attached to it and him having to do it all instead of the rest of the family taking turns.

Sleazey. Mr. Sid Hunts name was in all the papers last Toosday, a man named Sidney Hunt running away with some mans dawier insted of jest keeping on driving the mans awtomobel for him. Mr. Sid Hunt says it must be sumbody else.

Pome by Skinny Martin.
 More Luck Than Intelligents.
 Of all the animals with tails on their rears,
 Including the cat and the other,
 The horse is the only one of all
 Whose tail is a natural fly swatter.

Interesting Packs About Intriguing People. Artie Alixander once had a teeth pulled out without stopping, saying it was a intristing experience but he wouldnt want to have it again.
 (Advertisement.) Wy not make your home bewtiffil as well as usefil? We will go out in the park for you and pick daisies to order. See Lew Davis and Ed Wernick.

considerable time, he eventually burst out with:
 "Bless you, my pretty dears; you know what I mean."

SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY

Fair Vale Outing Association
 Hear Successful Reports—
 Votes of Thanks Passed to
 Performers at Concert—
 Good Programme for Labor Day.

A special meeting of the Fair Vale Outing Association was held on Tuesday evening, President George Dobbin in the chair. On rising the president stated the meeting was called for the purpose of receiving report of the concert committee and such other business as might be brought before the meeting.
 The committee on the concert which was held last week at Rochesay, reported that it was a grand success. While all the returns from tickets were not as yet handed in the committee was in a position to state that nearly all bills in connection with said concert were received and paid and the treasurer handed a tidy little sum to place to the credit of the association. A vote of thanks was moved and tendered to Miss Pyne and Mr. McClellan who were instrumental in bringing the concert to a successful issue.

The chairman of aquatic sports stated that everything was going along smoothly for the Labor Day water sports. The course for the four oared and single scull boat races was all logged and the swimming distances of one hundred and fifty yards for the ladies' gent's and boys' swimming races were measured and a 10-mile dingy race course logged. In fact everything was in order so that when the time arrived there would be no delay. It is the intention of the committee to be in a position to follow one race right after the other in order to finish all events.
 The chairman of the athletic committee stated he was able to report everything working well. The course for the running races was selected, and all that would have to be done on

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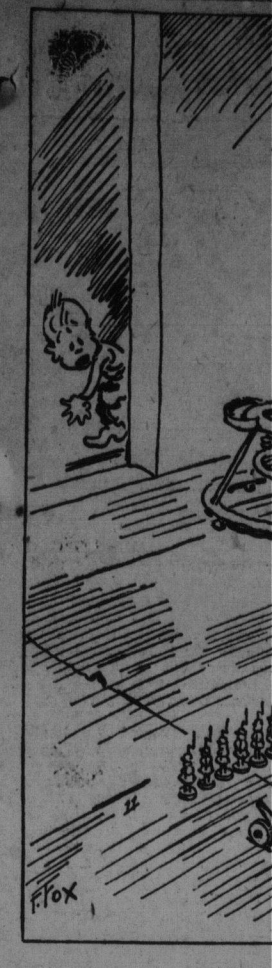
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WEDDINGS.

Hazel Roderick.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized yesterday morning in St. John the Baptist Church, when Rev. Father McBride, with Nuptial Mass, united in marriage Miss Justina Roderick, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roderick, to Mr. Frederic Allan Hazel, son of Mrs. Charles Hazel, and senior member of the firm of Hazel Bros., sanitary and heating engineers. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was handsomely gowned in cream georgette with pearl trimmings, carried a bouquet of orchids, roses, and peonies, and wore a large picture hat to match, and carried a bouquet of mauve and pink sweet peas. Miss Helen Sullivan, of Boston, niece of the bride, acted as flower girl, was gowned in pink satin with hat to match. The groom was supported by his brother, Joseph Hazel, junior member of the firm of Hazel Bros. Mr. Frank Hazel acted as usher. After

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