

### St. John Standard

**PUBLISHER:** H. V. MACKINNON  
**PRINTED AT:** 55 Prince William St.  
**REPRESENTATIVES:**  
 Henry DeCherue, Chicago  
 Louis Kleban, New York  
 Frank Calder, Montreal  
 Freeman & Co., London, Eng.  
**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
 City Delivery \$4.00 per year  
 By Mail in Canada \$4.00 per year  
 By Mail in U. S. \$5.00 per year  
 Semi-Weekly Issue \$1.50 per year  
 Semi-Weekly to U. S. \$2.50 per year

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1921.

#### THE BUDGET

The speech of Sir Henry Drayton last night when bringing down his budget proposals for the current fiscal year seems to be as far as can be gathered from the somewhat meagre report available at the time of writing, a remarkably clear and concise review of the trade and financial situation and with it was coupled an announcement respecting the tariff, and another in regard to taxation proposals for the purpose of adding to the revenues.

A prominent feature of it is that there is to be no general revision of the tariff now. The policy is to wait and see what is done in the United States. On this point, the Minister said: "Having special regard to the fact that there ought not to be a general revision of the Canadian tariff now, and another after the close of the United States Congress, no action will now be taken."

There are a few changes, however, and they will be of far reaching effect. One provides against the dumping of foreign goods on the Canadian market, by stipulating that their value be not at forced sale prices abroad, but having regard to regular standard value in the market, the cost of production and a reasonable profit hereon.

Another safeguarding provision is that the depreciation of a foreign currency, greater than 50 per cent, shall be disregarded, no matter what the exchange rate is, it is made necessary, furthermore, to brand all goods with the country of origin. So much for the tariff end.

Coming to taxation, the budget does away with the business profits tax and such of the luxury taxes as were not remitted last December. The Minister wants to raise \$485,000,000; on the basis of last year's revenue he would be some \$62,000,000 short. It is proposed to charge to capital account \$47,000,000 for soldiers' civil re-establishment, heretofore charged to revenue, while National Railway notes to the amount of \$108,000,000 will be renewed instead of being taken out of revenue. This will relieve the current revenues of an obligation of some \$155,000,000. The amount of \$62,000,000—the shortage on the basis of last year, is expected to be more than made up by the new taxes. While the business profit tax—producing about forty millions last year is wiped out—it is calculated that the increase in the sales tax and the taxes grouped with it (which last year produced about \$70,000,000) will be doubled.

The provision against dumping and that which takes cognizance of depreciated and appreciated currencies will not only produce more revenue but afford a wider measure of protection to the Canadian manufacturer. If the exchange in the United States is adverse to Canada to the extent of 12 per cent, the duty will be paid not only on the dollar, but with the 12 per cent exchange added. On the other hand, there is an efficient check against foreign imports by limiting the depreciation of currency to 50 per cent. Another source of revenue will be the increase of the duty on spirits to \$20 a case or \$10 a gallon. The combined duty and excise before was \$16 a gallon. The only tariff change affecting specific commodities is the imposition of a duty on cocoa and products, onions, grapefruit, limes, coconuts, sugar and rum which enables a preference to be given the West Indies under the new agreement.

The financial statement shows a surplus revenue of nearly \$70,000,000 over the ordinary expenditure, and but for the loans made up by the finances by the railway deficits, there would be a surplus taking everything but capital charges into account.

The reasons for leaving the tariff alone are obvious. Those taxes which have hampered industry are removed, while increases in existing taxes are made where they will prove least burdensome, though, at the same time, producing needed revenues. Moreover the home industry gets a needed and justifiable protection against the dumping of foreign goods, and also a means more of it against importations from the United States by adding to the value the amount of exchange. It must be conceded that the Minister of Finance has handled a very difficult problem in about as satisfactory a manner as he well could have done.

Beginning as a private soldier, Ferdinand Poch worked his way up to be a Marshal of France and Generalissimo of the Allied Armies. Three years later he was appointed honorary colonel of the West Toronto regiment thus rounding out a career perhaps unequalled in military history.

The Dominion Department of Public Works announces that there will be no change in the price of the new S. P. R. 1921.

#### MARITIME UNION

Dr. Baxter's address before the Rotary Club yesterday on the Maritime Union was interesting for the reason that he dealt with his subject from a somewhat different view point than has been the case on previous occasions. While the movement in favor of Union has not so far made any very spectacular advance, the opinion is nevertheless slowly but surely gaining strength that if the Maritime Provinces are ever to be in a position to effectively enforce their demands for a proper recognition of the rights given them at Confederation, they must act as a single unit. It is absolutely clear that as things are at present these provinces are not getting their due now, and they never will unless they take strong measures to this end.

Dr. Baxter feels that no sane man would ever advocate secession from Confederation. Possibly he is right; but if the Dominion as a whole does not keep faith with the Maritime Provinces in respect of the considerations they were to get for surrendering their individual rights at Confederation, what inducement have they to remain in it? The whole care of the Dominion Government appears to be centered in the new Western provinces, which by reason of their large area and rapidly growing population are yearly becoming of more and more political importance which apparently is the only thing that counts with the authorities at present. The political status of the Maritime Provinces is getting of less importance with every census; and by and by these provinces will, unless their people wake up, be treated as non-entities altogether.

We doubt very much, however, if Dr. Baxter will make the movement for Maritime Union very much more popular in New Brunswick when he deliberately asserts his willingness to allow Halifax to become the seat of government for the proposed consolidated province. It is the sinking of the separate identity of their province and the abandonment of the local seat of the government that is the stumbling block in the case of the majority of the people of New Brunswick. They are prepared to admit that in practically every case the ideas and interests of the people of all three provinces are alike, and would not suffer if administered by one government instead of three. At the same time the principle "What we have, we'll hold," remains paramount in their thoughts, and they hate the idea of surrendering anything to which they have become accustomed.

This state of affairs, however, while not unnatural, is entirely a matter of sentiment, and under present day conditions business considerations are gradually pushing sentimental ones aside. When those people at present opposed to Maritime Union begin to appreciate better the more solid advantages which the Maritime Provinces when forming one undivided unit would possess, as compared with three separate entities at the present time, sentiment may perhaps lose some of its force.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux is stooping to pretty small politics when he endeavours to hold up to ensure the Minister of Customs, because of a letter written to the French Purchasing Commission soliciting business for a house with which that Minister was at one time connected. While opinions may differ with respect to the judgment displayed by Hon. Mr. Wigmore in writing just as he did, the feeling of the country will be that there was nothing so very improper in the affair, nor was it of a nature which could justify Mr. Lemieux's outburst. On the other hand, the fact that the French Purchasing Commission, a part of the French Embassy in London, permitted the publication for partisan purposes of private correspondence, which under all rules of commercial decency should have remained on its files, is not an indication of those standards of business morality which should characterize a public institution of this nature. The thing is too pleasurable to justify any waste of time in Parliament.

The outstanding feature of the financial statement seems to be that the existing revenue would be ample to cover all the expenditure requirements but for the deficits on the National Railroads. But for these it would not be necessary to raise \$62,000,000 by new taxation.

A young New York boxer having died after a benefit bout, suspicions have been cast on the benefit, he derived from it.

The average man requires a ration of two and five-eighths ounces of fat a day.

#### WHAT OTHERS SAY

**Join the "Really Thrifty" Club.**  
 This is the time for the really thrifty to lay in next winter's coal, start to do their Christmas shopping and begin saving for next year's income tax—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**Safety First.**  
 One or two breweries, says a prohibition officer, could turn out beer in ample quantities to serve the medicinal needs of the nation. Ah, but what if an epidemic came along? We can't be too careful.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**The Deadly Fly.**  
 The scratch of a lion's claw is almost as deadly as his bite, for he never cleans his nails, and he always carries under them rotting meat, that is rank with deadly germs. Flies do the same thing on a smaller scale; and don't forget that they never wipe their feet.—Montreal Herald.

**Lord Shaughnessy's Proposal.**  
 It should be observed that Lord Shaughnessy's proposal to the Government is somewhat similar to the proposal of the G. T. B. directors, the wants the Government to take over the C. P. R. property that doesn't pay very well and guarantee the G. T. B. shareholders their regular dividends, and to leave to the C. P. R. people that portion of the C. P. R. properties which is a gold mine.—Hamilton Herald.

**Not All Picnic in Marriage.**  
 The less marriage has to do with the arts and sciences, and the less the arts and sciences have to do with marriage, the better for the human race. Marriage may be a sacrament, a solemn sacrament or not. Creeds differ. It is no joke for man, no joke for woman. And happiness doesn't make much as other things. Neither man nor woman was ever meant to be asphyxiated in bliss. Success lies in responsibilities accepted, a home and a family established, a sense of duty done at the end of every day.—Brooklyn Eagle.

#### A BIT OF VERSE

**WHEN WE SANG IN THE OLD CHURCH CHOIR.**  
 Lowell Otis Reese.

The world was young in those days of ours,  
 The world was so young and new,  
 All belied of birds and of sweet spring flowers,  
 And tomorrow fresh wonders grew;  
 But the world rolled back and Love reigned instead,  
 And music on a magic lyre—  
 For someone sat in the seat ahead  
 When we sang in the old church choir.

Someone with eyes of the brownest brown,  
 And lips that were wondrous rare;  
 Dark waves of glory that tumbled down,  
 From the crimson 'tarn set there  
 At a rakish slant. Oh, that pure delight!  
 Life! grant me but one desire—  
 To see and feel as I felt that night  
 When we sang in the old church choir.

The preacher prayed with a will,  
 And when he prayed for those near and dear,  
 The deacon shouted a loud "Amen!"  
 And I felt that the Lord was near.  
 The preacher preached of the bleeding Lamb,  
 And his words were as words of fire.  
 But I worshipped the girl with the crimson 'tarn,  
 When we sang in the old church choir.

The church is gone, and the preacher long  
 In the land that he loved so well,  
 Hark! the music of the new church, deep and strong,  
 Hear the great pipes joyous swell!  
 I sit and dream and cogitated am,  
 For someone, is by my fire,  
 Sweet as in the days of the crimson 'tarn,  
 When we sang in the old church choir.

#### THE LAUGH LINE

**Hash-money may explain why silence is golden.**

**Defining a Nobody.**  
 "Say, father, what is a nobody?"  
 "A nobody, my son, is a prominent woman's husband."

**Bad For Business.**  
 "Is she very pretty?"  
 "Pretty? Say! when she gets on a street car the advertising is a total loss."—Boston Transcript.

**Wouldn't Do.**  
 Mrs. Gramercy—"If you want a nice hall rug why don't you get one of those tiger skins with the real head on it?"  
 Mrs. Gayboy—"I never could use one of those things in my hall. You don't know how imaginative my husband is every time he comes home late!"

**Tip to the Hair Trade.**  
 Cynthia Cyrus says: "A girl that gets her hair bobbed ought to be switched, and she will be as soon as it goes out of fashion."—Sun Dodger.

**Tasting Freedom.**  
 John Green has moved from the old jail to the brick corner on the Stephenson property.—Bath County (Va.) Express.

**The New Servant.**  
 "Would you kindly bring the sugar basin," she requested, a new timidity in her voice.  
 Miss Temporary tucked the silver silver under her arm. "Right!" she replied, opening the door with a kick of a pointed toe and letting it slam smartly after her.—Church Times.

**For Her Sake.**  
 "Fond of gardens?"  
 "Not particularly."  
 "But I see you out working among your shrubs and things almost daily."  
 "Yes, to keep peace in the family. My wife is fond of making me dig."

## Benny's Note Book

**INVENTIONS.**  
 There are many new inventions nowadays that people used to miss without knowing they were missing. This is one of the lucky things about living in the 20th Century instead of the 1st or 2nd. Another lucky thing about living now instead of formerly is that you are still alive.

One of the most important inventions is the telephone, which rings any hour of the day or night so you can talk to somebody that maybe you never even saw and maybe you wouldn't even want to see. You can also talk to your friends just as easy. When anybody in the olden days had a long piece of wire they just used it to fix things around the house instead of wasting time thinking about trying to talk thro' it. Well now all you half to do to talk thro' the telephone wire is just call up and if you get the rite number you know exactly who your talking to, and if you get the rong number you don't.

Another important invention is the electric lite, which saves us the trouble and expense of tarning on the gas every time we want a lite and also makes the matches last longer. Ever since the inventor of the electric lite all you had to do to make a dark room disappear is just push a button.

Another important invention is the camera, which takes your picture and shows you exactly how you looked that instant no matter how much you change later. Thus when you are all grown up you can look at a picture of how you used to look when you was a baby and realize how much you have improved.

3 other important inventions are the locomotive, which does all the work in a train of cars, and the tonograf, which gives us the privilege of tarning off the music whenever we don't feel like hearing it.

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**SIX YEARS FOR DOUGHTY.**  
 Toronto, Ont., May 9.—John Doughty, convicted of stealing \$106,000 in Victory bonds from Ambrose Small, missing theatrical man, was today sentenced to serve six years in the provincial penitentiary for this offence. It is thought that the Crown authorities will drop, for the present, the charge against Doughty, of conspiracy to kidnap Small.

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