

The St. John Standard

H. V. MacKinnon, Publisher
 88 Prince William St., St. John, N. B., Canada
REPRESENTATIVES:
 Henry DeClerque, Chicago
 Louis Kleban, New York
 Frank Calder, Montreal
 Freeman & Co., London, Eng.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 City Delivery, \$6.00 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., SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1921.

TIME TO GET DOWN TO FACTS

If the Hon. Mr. Cramer and Hon. Mr. King want to be fair to the people of Canada, let them come out in the open and discuss public issues squarely instead of talking in a circle. The discount of our dollar in the United States is the biggest question in Canada today, yet both these gentlemen are silent about it. As leaders of political parties and would-be Premiers, the people have a right to demand an expression of their views, have a right to know their opinion as to the effect their policies would have on exchange with the United States.

Will they dispute that:—
 1. That under free trade or lowered tariff the importations from the United States would be larger.
 2. That increased importations from the United States would mean an increased balance of trade against us, especially in view of the raising of the U. S. tariff walls against our food products, which have constituted our main exports to that country.

3. That an increased balance of trade against us would necessarily mean an increased discount of our dollar and a corresponding increase in the prices of nearly all commodities to the Canadian people.
 4. That by importing less from the United States of the goods we can produce at home we would help to restore the rate of exchange, and at the same time give additional employment to Canadian workmen.

5. That if their policies were carried out, the discount of our dollar in the United States would become greater and greater and would be absolutely ruinous to the country.
 Another thing: Will they please take the National Financial Statement in hand and tell us definitely and specifically, in detail, how they, or either of them, would construct the National Budget; how they would raise the necessary revenue, what amount, if any, from Customs, what from Excise, to what extent, if any, they would increase the Income Tax, whether they would restore the business Profits Tax, what expenditures they would lop off, what they would do with the railways? The public have a right to know what these gentlemen and their parties think about these matters. Ontario has had a bitter experience with the Farmer Government in control, which has doubled the expenditure and ruined the credit of the Province, and people do not propose to take any chances in the far larger and greater Federal field.

It will not suffice for Mr. Cramer to talk land tax, the idea of which was exploded even by his own advisers. The people want something definite and concrete. The big problem of the Canadian people is how to make bread and butter and keep the Nation's head above water, and the very least that can be expected from men who aspire to the Premiership is that they explain how they would accomplish these objects, and that they do their explaining in such a manner that the people can understand.

The time has come for Mr. Cramer and Mr. King to discuss on the public platform the essentially sensible proposition put forth by the Government that in view of the very abnormal and economical trade situation of the world this is the worst of all possible times to consider a revolution in our fiscal system such as these gentlemen advocate.

ST. SWITHIN

St. Swithen's Day if thou dost rain
 For forty days it will remain;
 St. Swithen's Day if thou art fair,
 For forty days 'twill rain no more.

If there were any truth in this well known doggerel, we would indeed be in for a very sorry time for the next few weeks. The country needs rain badly enough in all conscience, but forty days of it would complete the near-disaster that the past few weeks' drought has about begun. Fortunately we do not take these prognostications very seriously; we are intelligent enough to know that they have no better basis than mere superstition. As a matter of fact statistics show that neither forty days of either rainless or actual daily rainfall has ever been observed subsequent to St. Swithen's Day or any other day, where official records have been kept for nearly a century. However, there are a great many years when rainfall is quite heavy and persistent and cloudiness and humidity excessive during this period, more frequently than droughty conditions, as, normally July and August are the two months of the year with heaviest rainfall.

Still, superstition dies hard; people do not like to give up certain weather proverbs and beliefs, it gives them something to think and talk about, though they know well enough that it is

most of them are mere superstitions. Many of the proverbs are partially true and have originated from some good basic connection, but frequently the real value is lost for the sake of rhythm.

In the public mind St. Swithen's Day belief is a great deal like the idea that the Weather Bureau is always wrong. An occasional mistake by the Bureau, especially if the weather element interferes with certain plans or pleasures, is always remembered, but the 5 per cent, or 30 per cent, of the verified predictions is entirely forgotten. The public is prejudiced against Government forecasts and would rather believe in the groundswell or spurious long-range forecasters.

LIGHTNING AND DANGER

This is the time of year when thunderstorms are most in evidence. Occasionally they are somewhat severe and the electrical display is such as may truly be called "intense." Such storms give rise to a number of questions regarding the possibilities of escaping the dangers always attendant on electrical outbursts.

Many superstitions are current regarding lightning and hindrance. Some people hold that the best safeguard is to close doors and windows and so exclude all drafts. The scientist shakes his head and remarks there is no protection in thus sealing oneself in and that the close air brings its own unnecessary suffering.

Another wise saw voices the opinion that wearing rubber soles acts as an insulation. But the scientist insists that a thin layer of rubber would offer scant resistance to an electric current of many thousands of volts. Still other people apprehend danger from the metal frame of umbrellas. This, too, the scientist assures us is of no effect in drawing down the fiery darts. Many others are of the opinion that it is unsafe to use the telephone during a storm. There is a two-fold answer to the habit of using the telephone while an electric storm is in progress. The first is that in a city where all the wires are underground the danger is at a minimum, but if the wires are strung above ground there is no danger.

At present comparatively little is known about the vagaries of lightning and no long list of rules of conduct can be set down. Generally, however, the danger of standing under trees or in open, treeless fields is conceded by men who have made a study of lightning's tricks. The gist of it all is that it is well for the building that does not happen to stand in the path way traced out by the lightning, and happy is the animal or human being who chances not to step into the track of lightning at play. Lightning makes no discrimination and is quite ruthless in the game it plays.

MARTYRS FOR SCIENCE

One by one the spectacular fliers are killed, the latest being Harry G. Hawker, the aviator who first attempted the Atlantic flight, but was forced to descend in mid-ocean and was rescued by a passing steamer. Three men, however, are the ones who have done most to advance the cause of aviation because they have dared to take chances on new devices and to try to execute new feats with the idea of ascertaining just what could be done in the wonderful modern science. The Wright brothers were a remarkable exception to this rule. Notwithstanding the fact that they accepted all kinds of risks in their early experiments, and had many bad spills, they managed to escape a violent death. Glenn Curtiss is another in this class. The great majority of the early fliers, however, who persisted in their experimental work, have been killed.

It must not be assumed from this statement that the conservative flier has not also played an important part in the advancement of the science. It has rather been his mission to work out the facts that have been established by the spectacular men in the air and to devise ways of avoiding the weaknesses and errors discovered by them. These men are the ones, however, whose names are seldom heard for it is almost always the case that the spectacular man is the one who catches the public eye and gets his name to the front pages of the newspapers.

"Canadians never shall be slaves," was the motto on one of the parade banners. It is on this principle that the Power Company took the course it did.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Famous Misprint.

There are lighter elements in this interesting story. Every paper with a history can boast of ignominious misprints and one which appeared in the "Cape Times" in 1908 is famous for all time. The accidental omission of two or three lines made hash of a report on the motor-cars that were pioneering South Africa then. The result was as follows:

On the steep of the old home-stand were assembled all the rank and fashion of the South-ria panting painfully with the distressing monotony peculiar to the breed, also gave forth a pun-arent aroma common to their species, which in the still summer air of a fairly warm day was rather more prominent than enjoyable.—Westminster Gazette.

A Pertinent Question.

J. Castelli Hopkins, who has always considered it his duty to keep a watchful eye on the affairs of the empire, scents danger again. Just when the whole machinery of imperialism seemed to be running smoothly, Mr. Hopkins warns us that while violence and the more of the empire have been overthrown "there is an organized campaign for Canadian independence which is unseen." This may be serious; but the question naturally arises why should anyone start a campaign for something that already exists?—Woodstock Sentinel.

Obsolete Statutes.

Several "blue laws" which have found their way into the Dominion Statutes are credited to Charles the Second. As the Merry Monarch never posed as a moral reformer, it is probable that he had an unobvious pleasure in making the more virtuous citizens of London as uncomfortable as possible. The rule against bathing on sultry Sundays he no doubt regarded as partial vengeance upon the Puritans, who out of his father's head. The prohibition against personal cleanliness on any day of the week is an arrogance and an absurdity. The recently announced re-discovery that such a restriction is still part of the law of the land will trouble Toronto's torrid bathers—for they know that a human desire to keep out of the hospital would deter the most bothomless busybody from attempting to enforce it. It might be well, however, to clear the law books of a clutter of dead letter regulations—if only to make room for some of the others whose invention these days is such a prevalent pastime.—Toronto Telegram.

A BIT OF VERSE

LOVE'S LESSON.

(Jean Blewett in Toronto Globe.)
 One lesson I've learned in my mind,
 Be very gentle with your own,
 Be to him a father, a little kind,
 Nor worry him by a look or tone.

Put self behind, turn tender eyes,
 Keep back the words that hurt and sting;
 We learn—when sorrow makes us wise—
 Forbearance is the kindest thing.

Be patient lest some day we turn,
 Our eyes on loved one fast asleep,
 And wonder how we lean and yearn:
 How often I have made you weep!

"Some loved you not, and words let fall
 That must have pierced your gentle breast,
 But I—who loved you best of all—
 Did hurt you more than all the rest!"

One lesson let us bear in mind:
 To both our dear ones close and fast,
 Since loyal hearts are hard to find,
 And life and love so soon are past.

THE LAUGH LINE

Small Packages.
 When Jennie on
 Vacation goes
 She always gets
 A blistered nose.
 —Youngstown Telegram.

When Nellie on
 Vacation goes
 She always lands
 Some busted beans.
 —Springfield Union.

When Carrie on
 Vacation goes
 She doesn't carry
 Many clothes.

No Hope For Them.
 "Are those eggs bad?" asked the
 polite waiter.
 "Worse than that," replied the
 customer, "they are positively wicked."

What a Wild Fourth.
 Greencastle is going to have a safe
 and sane Fourth of July this year. The
 Greencastle Herald announces that the
 principal attraction of the celebration
 will be a dog show and a lecture by
 the Rev. Hootman on "The Preserva-
 tion of Fish and Game."
 —Bristol, Ind., Tribune.

Remember Glass Houses.
 "The fellow hasn't much respect
 for women."
 "How's that?"
 "He always calls a Jane a skirt."

It Can't Be Done.
 With the present style the man
 who is willing to give his daughter
 all the money she wants to dress
 doesn't succeed in keeping her in
 clothes any more than the poor man
 —that is not many more.
 —Rochester Times.

All Fall For That.
 "How did Percy win that rich girl?"
 "Oh, he told her he wasn't worthy
 of her."

Limited Capital.
 "I wish before he goes away,"
 said Grocer Hiram Rose,
 "To spend a month in his play
 He'd pay me what he owes."
 —Detroit Free Press.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

As fellows was setting on my front steps talking about different things in general, nothing special in particular, and Sam Cross sed, Heer come Puds Sinking with his sore thumb, gosh you mite think he had radium on it instead of just a blister.

You mite think it was a broken leg the way he's got it all rapped around, sed Lew Davis.

G, he thinks he owns the world with a fents eround it jest because he's got a sore thumb, I sed.

Lets dont pertend we even notice it, lets leave on we nev- or even herd of his sore thumb, sed Reddy Merfy.

Which we did, jest saying, Hello Puds, were you bin? instead of saying, Hello Puds, hows your sore thumb? And Puds sat down holding his sore thumb away out conspicuous, and none of us fellows didnt say anything about it, and Puds sed, G, if you fellows had wat I got you'd be feeling something about his sore thumb, which we didnt, and after a while Puds sed, Hay fellows, I can take the blisters of now, G you awt to see that blister, does anybody want to look at it?

Which nobody sed weather they did or not, and Puds sed, Do you want to look at it, Skippy?

Wat, that darn thing? sed Skinny Martin, thats no good, I wouldnt look at it if you paid me.

Thats no more intresting to me than a deserted mud puddle, I sed, and Sam Cross sed, Id drather look at a hole in a fents than that.

Id drather look at a old hunk of newspaper with nothing on it but advertisements, sed Reddy Merfy. And all the fellows started to say wat they would drather look at, and Puds sed, Aw, wat do I care, who wants you to look at it, you aint got eny simpathy and I wouldnt want eny of it if you had.

And he got up proud and went over to Lorette Mincer steps, and there was about 4 gerls setting on them and pritty soon they was all looking at Pudses sore thumb and making sounds as if a farse axident was happening.

Proving you can always get simpathy if you look long enuff.

ANOTHER BAD WINTER COMING.

The Executive of the Navy League express appreciation of the membership returns that are coming in. Last winter practically all the local receipts were employed in caring for stranded sailors at this port. The indications are, that the burden will be quite as heavy during this coming winter.

Including stranded and unemployed seamen over 42,000 were handled at the St. John Seaman's Institute last winter.

There is only one other port in Canada with a larger record of service than this.

The fundamental principle of the Navy League is sea supremacy. This is necessary to the maintenance of the empire. In order to have sea supremacy, however, we must have sailors. "To look after sailors' interests is the special mission of the Navy League, hence the need for increased membership."

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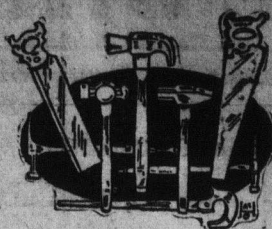
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RAILROAD MAN DEAD.

Montreal, July 15.—The death occurred suddenly last night at his home, 36 Grand Boulevard, of Herbert (Frank) Miller, who saw 23 years continuous service with the despatching staff of the Grand Trunk Railway. Mr. Miller was born 55 years ago at Malbourne, Que., the son of W. S. Miller, train dispatcher of the G. T. R. at Richmond, Que.

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