

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE CABINET MAKERS.

The opposition cabinet makers who were in session here Tuesday and yesterday have adjourned to meet in Fredericton on Tuesday next when the convention will be enlarged by the addition of all the defeated, as well as the successful candidates.

The opposition party has not yet determined just where its leader, Mr. Foster, will seek election. Naturally, as his party is so strongly supported by the French voters of the province, being dependent upon French support for the election of at least twenty of its twenty-seven representatives, it is to be expected that he will go to one of the safe counties for his seat and Madawaska is mentioned as his probable choice. As the opposition candidates in the general election had majorities of more than 1,000 in that county even Mr. Foster should not be facing a great risk there.

If the leader is reduced to this plight, however, it will place him and his party in a most humiliating position, yet there does not appear to be any other safe way out of the difficulty. He cannot go to Sunbury county for if, as is expected, Mr. Morescau is successful in his quest for the portfolio of agriculture, there will be one by-election in that constituency, and even though the oppositionists succeeded there on Saturday last it is very doubtful if they would be successful again in view of the change in the political situation and the fact that the reins of power in this province will be in the hands of French-Canadian representatives.

Another difficulty in the way of placing Mr. Foster, to say nothing of the cabinet position which the Telegraph and Times are insisting shall be reserved for Mr. Carter, is the fact that French-Canadian members themselves have claims they should not be expected to relinquish and the justice of which cannot be denied. Being directly responsible for the opposition's success they have, of course, the right to dominate its councils and if Mr. Veniot, and Mr. Michaud and Mr. Leblanc and Mr. Bordage and Mr. Melanson and Mr. Dugal all demand cabinet recognition where will Mr. Foster, or Mr. Carter, or Mr. Morescau be accommodated.

It was feared that with a majority of but six, or five after the speaker is elected, the oppositionists might be embarrassed for lack of cabinet material. That danger has passed. They are surfeited with it—such as it is. It is not the material but the process of election which is likely to prove the most difficult problem to solve. The cabinet makers have need of all the cunning of their craft.

MR. CARTER'S REWARD.

The Telegraph and Times appear to scent a plot on the part of the members of the Carter-Foster party to deprive Mr. Carter of a sufficiently remunerative reward for his efforts in behalf of the peculiar brand of political purity represented by that aggregation. It is true that Mr. Carter, who, in addition to his mud-slinging activities, offered as a candidate in Kings county, was thoroughly repudiated by the intelligent electors of that constituency. It is true that there would be considerable difficulty in finding a seat for him in any English constituency in the province, and it is also true that some members of the party who were successful at the polls have announced that they "will not stand for Carter" in the cabinet, but minor obstacles such as these should not prove insurmountable to a party which is determined to see to it that the reward for this humble and honest worker in the cause of political righteousness shall not be confined alone to his salary as party organizer.

And why should Mr. Carter not be in the new cabinet? He is as good as anything else they've got. In fact, this journal of the home and fireside regards him as one of the rarest jewels in the whole collection. His inclusion in the cabinet would be a good thing for New Brunswick in that it would hasten the rout of the aggression which, by the use of false and unpatriotic canvasses and the support of the French-Canadians are likely to secure temporary control of the affairs of this province. By all means

let us have Mr. Carter. And, if we are to have him at all, why not as premier?

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

The Standard publishes this morning a letter from Titus J. Carter, ex-M. L. A. for the county of Victoria, in which that gentleman refers to a charge made by a former Liberal to the effect that P. B. Carvell, Plus Michaud and the opposition candidates in that county circulated the canvass that if the Government were not defeated in the elections, conscription would follow in a very few weeks and "the boys in those districts would be forced to the front and butchered like cattle."

If this charge is true, and Mr. Carter is a gentleman of repute who would not make it if it were false, then there should be an investigation at once. Such a canvass is as dastardly as it is untrue but that it was used with effect in all the counties where the French vote was a determining factor is shown in the result. That such tactics should prevail is a disgrace to New Brunswick, a disgrace for which the political party that would avail itself of them must bear the full responsibility.

ACADIAN DOMINATION.

Referring to the Acadian domination of the Provincial Legislature by reason of the success of the opposition party, and the part played by Gloucester county in contributing to that condition, the Fredericton Gleaner says:

"The vote there recorded against the Government is nearly two to one. This puts every constituency in the province in which the Acadians have an influence in the voting power in direct alliance with the opposition. It does more; it puts the Acadians in direct control of the opposition, who are now in a majority in the Legislative Assembly. It may yet result in putting the Government of this province and the administration of our affairs absolutely in the hands of the Acadians. Of the twenty-seven seats held by the opposition, eighteen are under Acadian domination. Our people are, therefore, facing unfortunate and serious conditions at a very critical time; and those who cannot agree that the English-speaking people of New Brunswick should be eliminated from all influence in the government of the country and pitchforked into the position of serfs and servants for the Acadians, who are said to get their inspiration, may be expected to put up a bitter fight before they will yield to such intolerable conditions. It was said in Kent during the campaign, and emphasized in Madawaska and Gloucester, and in the Acadian districts of Westmorland, Restigouche and Victoria, that, having got all they were likely to get from the old government, the time was ripe for the Acadians to turn it out; they were now in a position to take control of a new government and to dominate as they please. They are certainly in control of the opposition, who now number twenty-seven in the House; and, if the English-speaking electorate submit quietly to the humiliation, the Acadians and their church will soon be in absolute control of the government and the affairs of the province."

Despite the fact that The Standard has found it necessary to materially increase its advertising rates, the local merchants have been very generous in their response. Reductions of space because of the higher rates have been very slight and contract cancellations are not at all numerous. This morning's issue is a fair sample and The Standard does not anticipate that the amount of space in this issue devoted to advertising will vary greatly in the future. No doubt those few who have reduced their contracts will in time return to their former consumption of space when they realize that their business competitors have not curtailed.

Why worry about such a sordid thing as tangible recompense for Mr. E. S. Carter? According to the Telegraph and Times that gentleman has won a great victory in the interests of truth and public virtue. That should be sufficient. Virtue is, or should be, its own reward.

A PARABLE

The Government of New Brunswick and some Prohibitionists.

A certain man, being in need, applied to a rich and powerful neighbor for assistance. He was courteously received, but told that there were other claimants on the bounty of the Rich Man, and that their wants must first be supplied. Later the Poor Man returned with the same request, and was received sympathetically, but told that the time was not opportune. A third time the Poor Man appeared, more urgent than before, and pleading his undying friendship if his needs were met. This time the Rich Man not only gave up his purse but also handed over his watch and chain and his diamond ring.

Shortly afterwards the Poor Man had an opportunity to assist his benefactor. Much to the surprise of the Rich Man, the Poor Man, assuming a haughty air, addressed him in the following words: "Your life, my dear sir, has not been as pure as it should have been, and you are still on intimate terms with a man who is a lawbreaker and a great sinner. Reported to have been a great sinner, besides, another man has promised me that when he becomes as rich as you are, he will do for me just as much as you have done."

With these words he struck the Rich Man full in the face, knocked him down, and jumped on him. As the Rich Man lay groaning, the other laughed with glee, and the Demons in the Pit joined in the laughter.

WASTED AND BADLY DISTRIBUTED FOOD

One reason for the high cost of living is waste. This includes the waste of food on the farms, because the farmer is unable to market it for enough to pay the cost of transportation and the lack of proper grading and packing and standardizing of the product as it leaves the farm. Waste in the city due to the delay in delivery because of the practice of passing the food from one dealer to another in speculation; and waste due to the total destruction in compliance with the law by the city inspectors in condemning whole packages of food, particularly fruits and vegetables and in some cases eggs, when only a small fraction of the article itself is damaged. Generally inefficient and extravagant modes of distribution are still another factor in the high cost of food in the city. Agents or drummers go to the country to solicit the shipments for a particular dealer. He has heavy expense and usually a good salary. This comes out of the pocket of the producer, is largely shipped in small lots at double the freight rates or carload shipments. When it reaches the city the commission dealer often buys it for his own account, or for the account of some company in which he is interested. As a result of the producer he deals with himself. It then goes through the hands of several wholesalers and jobbers. Frequently as many as seven in all, before it reaches the retailer. With it all is a duplication of cartage charges, first from the dock to the commission dealer, and then from the dealer to the wholesaler and jobbers who speculate in it. When the housewife buys her daily supply she pays her portion of the accumulated cost of wastes, commissions, extravagance, and profits.

This system of sale and resale and speculation is encouraged, abetted, and maintained by a system of credits extending all the way from the commission dealer through to the retailer. The loser is obliged to cover himself for these losses, and the producer and consumer bear the burden. The dealer in a position to shift the burden upon them.

The shipper is obliged to entrust the sale of his goods to the dealer in the city. Sometimes the dealer is honest and does the best he can with the times, and makes a fair return. Sometimes he takes the goods to the shipper, and the producer in this case gets an insufficient return, and sometimes, no return at all. While this feature of the trade is less objectionable now than it has been in the past, the records and the traditions of these practices still exist in the mind of the shipper, and it is a well-known fact that shippers hesitate to send prime goods to the New York market. They prefer to sell them at home.

They prefer to sell them at home, and consign them to a dealer in the city. This has the effect of reducing the natural supply for New York, with a tendency to increase prices here. The remedy for this condition is a direct, efficient, and economic system of distribution from the farm to the consumer through a terminal wholesale market system and the retail store. The plan of the New York State Department of Foods and Markets is to establish assembling rooms for food at the railroad in the local producing centers throughout the State. The producers under this system would operate into co-operative associations and they would own the market or assembling room. They would bring their products to this local packing house as it comes from the tree or the ground, and an employer in charge of the packing house would in grade and pack the produce, and, if the dealer in the city, would ship the balance in carload lots straight to a terminal wholesale market in the city. The food would be received in this terminal market by an auctioneer or salesman licensed by the State and operating under the supervision of the state, who would cause an inspection of the goods, make an open sale, and keep an open record of the receipt of the goods, of its condition, of its weight, of its price, and of the person who bought it. The sales would be made in quantities to accommodate the city retailer so that he could buy his supply direct from the agent of

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

Ed Wernicke big brother Joe was standing in front of his house smoking a cigarette and looking up and down and Ed Wernicke said to me and Puds Simkins and Leroy Shooter, Hay, fellows, want to have some fun.

How? said me and Puds and Leroy Shooter. My brother Joe got a new girl and her name is Elmore and he gets mad as anything if anybody says anything about her, why don't you 3 wawk past him and ask him how Elmore is, said Ed Wernicke.

Which we started to do, taking a hold of each others arms and wawking up the street, and when we went past Sids big brother Joe we said, Hello, Joe.

Hello, kids, said Joe. And we kept on going without asking him how Elmore was, which we got past Leroy Shooter said, G, Benny, why didn't you ask him?

I didn't want to get a kick in the pants, I said.

I didn't either, said Leroy Shooter, and I said, Lets go back agen and ask him how Maude is, Maude sounds sumthing like Elmore. And we turned around and went past him agen, all saying, Hello, Joe.

I herd you the first time, said Joe.

How Maude? I said.

Are you talking to me or the other fello? said Joe.

And me and Puds and Leroy Shooter kept on going, Puds saying, Lets go back and ask him how Albert is, Albert sounds sumthing like Elmore. And we turned around and went past him agen, all saying, Hello, Joe.

You kids are funny as a krutch, said Joe.

How Albert? said Puds.

Ill kick you all into the middle of next week if you try that agen, said Joe.

Which we didn't.

the producer, and, of course, the housewife would be supplied daily from the retail stores.—From "The High Cost of Food—Causes and Remedies" by John J. Dillon, in the American Review of Reviews for February, 1917.

BERNSTORFF GRATEFUL TO CANADIANS

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 28.—Although no information has been given out by the naval authorities in charge of the examination of the Fredericton, which sailed for Copenhagen last night, it has been learned that the navy officers in charge performed their duties so diplomatically that Count Von Bernstorff, the disgraced ambassador to the United States, personally thanked them for the courteous way in which they had performed a delicate task. When the steamer backed away from the wharf last night the passengers and members of the diplomatic corps came on deck and gave three cheers for those who had been in a sense their guardians during the stay in Halifax.

Probably the most important discovery made was twenty-five thousand dollars in gold which was reported to have been taken from the Countess Marie Mathilde of Washington, who is the daughter of a prominent American distiller. The confiscation of this and smaller amounts in other cases caused much indignation even when the absolute necessity of them was explained to them. Bernstorff, the disgraced ambassador to the United States, personally thanked them for the courteous way in which they had performed a delicate task. When the steamer backed away from the wharf last night the passengers and members of the diplomatic corps came on deck and gave three cheers for those who had been in a sense their guardians during the stay in Halifax.

JAPAN—RUSSIA—ENGLAND

In considering Japan's future relations with Russia, we must keep in mind her relations with England. It goes without saying that the Milado, in concluding the recent convention with the czar, entertained no idea of supplanting with the new pact the existing alliance with England. But the point must be kept in view that Japan has been acting upon the principle that England and Russia will, and must, after the war, continue to be friendly.

Much, therefore, must depend upon the actual post-bellum attitude of Russia and England toward each other.

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