

The Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 32 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Daily Edition, by Carrier, per year.....\$5.00
Daily Edition, by Mail, per year.....3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition, by Mail, per year.....1.00
Single Copies Two Cents.

TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office.....Main 1722
Editorial and News.....Main 1746

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1912.

MR. MONK'S RESIGNATION.

The announcement that Mr. Monk will resign from the Cabinet on the ground that personally he stands committed to an appeal to the electorate on the question of an emergency contribution to the British Navy, has made the situation clear in at least two important particulars. The country now knows that as a result of the Conference with the British Government Mr. Borden will recommend a direct contribution to strengthen the British fleet. Mr. Monk's position is also clearly defined. His personal relations with his colleagues in the Cabinet are cordial and friendly. He realizes the necessity of an urgent vote to meet the gravity of the situation, but having given a pledge that the electorate should first be consulted he retires from a sense of duty.

In the light of recent developments a review of the political situation, which appears in the Toronto Telegram, is worth quoting. Under the caption "The Resignation of Mr. Monk," the Telegram says:

"WHAT WILL BORDEN DO in view of Hon. F. D. Monk's resignation from the Ministry of Public Works in the Dominion Government?"

"That is one question."

"The other is: WHAT WILL LAURIER DO in view of Mr. Monk's resignation?"

"The English-speaking Liberals have been taunting the Conservatives with their acceptance of the Monk-Bourassa leadership. These Liberals will be accepting that leadership themselves if Sir Wilfrid Laurier affixes the image and superscription of the Opposition to the Monk-Bourassa scheme of warfare upon the naval policy of the Borden Government."

"The Monk secession, minus the help of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is powerless."

"The Monk secession, plus the help of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is powerful only if there are enough Quebec Nationalists supporting the Borden Government, and if these Quebec Nationalists unite with the Laurier Liberals in sufficient numbers to ensure a parliamentary vote of want of confidence in the Borden naval policy."

"AND THEN WHAT?"

"An appeal to the country to judge between the Borden policy of immediate naval aid to Britain and the tactics of the Laurier-Monk-Bourassa alliance."

"There can be no uncertainty or doubt as to the nation's verdict on a straight issue as to whether R. L. Borden is to be Premier of Canada or the powers of that high place are to be exercised by F. D. Monk or Henri Bourassa."

"The subsequent proceedings would not be healthy for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's English-speaking followers, if Sir Wilfrid could effect a junction with Mr. Monk's parliamentary supporters in sufficient numbers to force a general election on the naval issue."

"Cowardice would have encompassed the Borden Government in the troubles and difficulties of the naval issue."

"Courage has enabled Mr. Borden to unload the troubles and difficulties of that issue on Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Monk resignation reveals R. L. Borden as a strong man armed in the power of his resolve to be faithful to Canada's honor and true to Canada's interest in the naval safety of the British Empire. Mr. Borden may regret the departure of Hon. F. D. Monk and be prepared to accept with equal regret the withdrawal of other friends and supporters. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier has still greater occasion to regret the consequences of R. L. Borden's courage. The issue raised by the Monk resignation will be best let alone by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That issue can only be touched by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in such a way as to complete the ruin of himself and party."

"The naval issue is out of politics."

"That issue has no further terrors for R. L. Borden, no further profits for Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Canada's Premier has 'dished' his adversaries, and the good work has been done not by the politics of smartness, but by the higher, nobler politics of sincerity. On the naval question R. L. Borden has taken the right road. The Borden Government and its supporters will find that the right road is occasionally the easiest road to travel on even in politics. The policy of offering Britain a direct contribution of \$30,000,000 will supply R. L. Borden and his party with an experience that must illustrate in their own history the truth of the poet's words:

"And more than once in our rough island story
'The path of duty has been the way to glory.'"

TRAFALGAR DAY.

The anniversary of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar will be celebrated today throughout the Empire. Flags will fly from the public buildings and children in the schools will be reminded of the stirring events of 1805 which established Great Britain's supremacy on the seas with all that it implies. It is of interest to note that in the Mother Country the Executive Committee of the Navy League recently made a public appeal for the fuller observance of Trafalgar Day throughout the Empire. A similar effort in 1911 to achieve this object was crowned with great success and the League hope confidently that this year the manifestation of patriotic feeling will be even more widespread.

How fully the Navy League realize the importance of bringing to the knowledge of the people all that the supremacy of the Navy means to the Empire is well expressed in a recent communication from the Secretary of the League to the Naval and Military Record. He writes:

"The particular desire of the Executive Committee of the Navy League is to bring home to the mind of the British people the dominating significance of sea power in our National and Imperial life; to make more completely understood the close relationship which exists between our Imperial prestige and the efficiency of the Navy; and to impress the popular imagination with the fact that the Navy is our great and only national insurance, and that upon its unassailable strength the continuance of our industrial vitality and our commercial vigor depend."

"The memory of Nelson recalls all that is finest in British naval tradition, and the commemoration of his great victory at Trafalgar must continue to exercise a powerful influence upon the mind of the people of the whole Empire."

"The Executive Committee earnestly suggest:—
(1) That on Monday, the 21st October next,

wherever possible, public meetings should be held and addressed by prominent local people. These meetings should be entirely non-party in character, and confined solely to an appeal for widespread recognition of a vigorous naval policy as a vital necessity of the nation's existence, and as the best means to do honor to the memory of Nelson."

(2) That school fetes and demonstrations by school children should be organized, so that the mind of the rising generation should be directed towards the realization of what the name of Nelson recalls."

(3) The decoration of public buildings by flags and scrolls bearing the ever-treasured legend, "England expects that every man will do his duty."

(4) The encouragement of the exhibition of flags and suitable mottoes on private houses."

"The Navy League confidently hope that the public response to the appeal will be of such magnitude that in very few years Trafalgar Day may be raised to the position of a great national naval festival."

This anniversary has long lost all tinge of unfriendliness to France. It is noteworthy that but two months ago the British Government entered into a new naval alliance with the Republic and that her fleets are now concentrated in the Mediterranean for the purpose of protecting her own and Great Britain's interests. The Entente Cordiale is a very practical understanding for the mutual benefit of both countries. France is the nation among all the European Powers with whom Great Britain co-operates in her policy of Naval Defence. The combination of these powerful fleets will go far as a guarantee of the world's peace."

DOMESTIC FRUIT INSPECTION.

The extension and reorganization of the fruit inspection service is one of the achievements of Mr. Burtill since his appointment as Minister of Agriculture. The result has been seen this fall in the most efficient fruit inspection Canada has ever had. At the last conference of the Dominion Fruit Growers great stress was laid on the importance of the proper grading and marketing of fruit and the need for more extended inspection, especially at points of shipment and in the case of fruit coming in from the United States. As far as possible the id. a of the fruit growers have been followed in the reorganization.

The Dominion has been divided into five inspection districts, the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Eastern Ontario, Western Ontario, and the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. In addition to the five chief inspectors fifteen temporary inspectors have been added to the staff. In the past Canadian export fruit was closely inspected, with the result that Dominion fruit stands high in the markets of Great Britain and Europe. Despite continual requests for better domestic inspection, the late Government neglected to improve the arrangements for inspection for domestic consumption. The local buyer both in the East and the West was thus at the mercy of unscrupulous dealers. The change which has been effected has given the domestic market almost as close inspection as is given in the case of the export fruit.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE ROBERTSON.

A figure notable in the past civic and political life of St. John has passed away in the person of Mr. George Robertson, who was for some years Mayor of the city, and was twice elected as its representative in the Provincial Legislature. In all civic enterprise for the well-being and betterment of St. John the late Mr. Robertson took a prominent part. His faith in the city's future never failed. His belief that a dry dock was essential to the equipment of this port and his untiring efforts to that end will be long remembered. It was no small source of satisfaction to his many friends that in his lifetime this project was undertaken and his wish realized.

As a citizen the late Mr. Robertson won the respect and esteem of the community in which he lived. He was a man of fine character who did not hesitate to express his views on all questions of public interest. In his business life he held a reputation for honor and integrity. Illness caused his retirement from active participation in public affairs some years before his death, but to the last he took a keen and lively interest in the progress and prosperity of the city he loved so well. To his sorrowing family the citizens of St. John will extend heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

Current Comment

A Benefit to the Empire.

(Montreal Star)

Nine out of ten misunderstandings can be traced to lack of knowledge. At no time in the history of the British peoples has it been so vitally necessary that they should understand not only one another's policies, but one another's purposes. Canada, Australia, South Africa need not only uncolored reports of the industrial, economic and political reports in Great Britain, but they need them sufficiently detailed to contain something of the life and spirit of the various movements.

In Mexico.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Felix Diaz, a nephew of the man who ruled Mexico for thirty years, is the latest revolutionary Mexican leader. It would not be surprising to learn that multitudes of Mexicans—tired of the anarchy that has prevailed in their country since Porfirio Diaz was deposed, and yearning for the internal order which he maintained with an iron hand—are flocking to the standard of the younger Diaz in the hope that the new revolutionary movement will put the great old soldier-statesman back into power.

Sympathy!

(Moose Jaw News.)

R. L. Richardson made his opponents go some, which is something to his credit; but he was up against a man who could go. The truth is that so good a newspaper man as R. L. should have known better than expect to win on such a worn out nag as Reciprocity.

One is Enough.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Sir Wilfrid has been giving to the people of Toronto the various reasons why the Liberal party did not win in the last general election. These are seventeen in number. The first is that they couldn't. The rest do not count.

Not Easily Evicted.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

It is true that the Turks are foreigners and trespassers in Europe, but they are squatters whose eviction will not be easily carried out by the Balkan States in their new Balkan capacity.

A Northern Aspect.

(Athabasca Landing News.)

Three inches of snow are reported at Cobalt, Ont., but the plink and the pansy and the stately sunflower are still blooming at Athabasca Landing.

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PRIZE WINNERS AT ORANGE FAIR

The Orange Fair in St. Andrew's Park was brought to a close on Saturday evening when a large crowd was present. The prize winners were as follows:
Kitchen range, donated by Hon. John E. Wilson, Mrs. George Hay, 205 Carmarthen street.
Glenwood Oak Waterer, donated by J. L. McAvity, Robert Goodrich.
Barrel of flour, William Johnson, Hawthorne avenue.
Set of axes, W. E. Barker, 88 City Road.
Sugar Cured Ham, John Stanton, Peters Wharf.
Double Barrel Gun, R. Gibbon, 43 Half Barrel Flour, Mrs. H. S. Brown, 11 High street.
Door Prize, Jardine, William McAfee.
The prizes for the sports were won as follows:
Shooting Gallery—Set of Carvers, Douglas McArthur, Jr.
Gun—Oil Painting, W. Buhar.
No. 1 Excelsior Table—Gentlemen's prize, Fountain Pen, W. Warring; Ladies' Prize, Manicure Set, Mrs. Logan.
No. 2 Excelsior Table—Gentlemen's prize, Umbrella, P. A. Boden; Ladies' prize, Jewel Case, Mrs. Hoyt.
Gentlemen's Bean Board—Prize, Pearl Handled Knife, Samuel Johnston.
Ladies' Bean Board—Prize Photo Frame, Mrs. W. Monahan.
Ten Pin Game—Prize Fancy Clock, W. C. Case.

The door prizes for Thursday and Friday nights Nos. 1904 and 2023, have yet been claimed. The drawing of the motor boat will take place on Tuesday night at the rink. Holders of tickets and all others are invited to be present.

OBITUARY

Richard A. Estey.

Fredericton, Oct. 19.—The death took place at Victoria Hospital this morning of Richard A. Estey, one of the best known lumbermen on the St. John river, as the result of two paralytic strokes. He was born in Fredericton sixty-three years ago. For over thirty years he was engaged in the milling business and also conducted lumber operations on an extensive scale on the St. John river and its tributaries, particularly the Tobique. He had been a member of Hiram Lodge, F. and A. M., for many years. He was a widower and is survived by one son in British Columbia and two daughters, Mrs. Geo. Currie, St. John, and Mrs. Bedford Phillips of this city. Three sisters, Mrs. David Hatt and Mrs. William Fowler of this city, and Mrs. H. E. Bond of Toronto, also survive.

James G. Reid.

James G. Reid died suddenly on Friday evening at Amherst. He was a native of Green Head, Pictou County, and was engaged in the tailoring business in St. John prior to the great fire, but moved to Amherst in the year 1878. He enjoyed the respect and confidence of all citizens. He is survived by his wife, four sons and four daughters. The sons are Charles, St. John; J. Frederick, Amherst; Arthur, Montreal; and Guy, Halifax. The daughters are Mrs. W. A. D. Stevens, Moncton; Mrs. T. Q. Dowling, St. John, and the Misses Reid and Mabel at home. Mr. Reid was a worthy citizen whose death is generally regretted.

J. Edmund Ratcliffe.

J. Edmund Ratcliffe, for many years a fireman in the employ of the St. John Railway Company, died at his home on Elmwood street, yesterday, after a short illness. The deceased was born at Upper Loch Lomond, June 15, 1855. He is survived by a widow, one

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daughter, Gladys, one brother, Joseph living in western Canada, and one sister, Mrs. J. Cassidy, now in the states. All his life he was active in church work, being a prominent member of the Methodist denomination. He was, with the movement on the part of the local union for an increase of wages from 21 cents to 30 cents an hour, left on Saturday.

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