

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited 53 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1919.

UNCIVIL SERVICE.

This is how the Civil Service Commission handles appointments in the Post Office Department here. Formerly the post master, the superintendent of railway mail service, or the post office inspector, when in need of men or women to fill vacancies, were permitted to report to Ottawa on the qualifications of the applicants. They did not necessarily make recommendations, but mentioned how each person seeking the position was qualified, and let the selection to Ottawa. Today they are prevented from doing anything of the sort. The heads of departments notify Ottawa that a vacancy exists and that is as far as they are allowed to go. Nor is the federal representative for St. John permitted to recommend any candidate for the position. The selection rests wholly with the Civil Service Commission which knows absolutely nothing about any one or other of the applicants; which, if it desires any information, gets it from some unknown source, but judging from results, scarcely ever bothers to find out what is done.

The thing works out this way: Very recently it became necessary to appoint a mail carrier in connection with the St. John post office. The G. W. V. A. had several capable men looking for positions, and the names of these men were presented for consideration. A number of applications from other parties were made informally to the St. John post office. The recommendations of the G. W. V. A. were entirely ignored. The wishes of the departmental heads of the post office were disregarded, and the appointment of a seventeen year old boy was made. This lad is not a soldier, is not of age, and is not a responsible person to be employed in such a capacity. There is nothing whatever against him personally, but there was no reason under the sun why the Civil Service Commission should have passed over the request of the G. W. V. A., should have failed to consider the claims of those who are returned soldiers, and have appointed a mere boy to the position.

Some months ago, for the inside department of the post office, a young man named Hale, from Carleton County, was appointed. Mr. Hale is spoken of as an excellent character, a very competent worker, and one whom it was a pleasure to have in the office. But he did not belong to St. John, and the introduction of a policy under which appointments to the St. John post office are made from other parts of the province is not a policy which has been in effect in the past. There is no objection whatever to such a course in the matter of railway mail services or of the inspectors' department, for these are of province-wide influence, but the St. John post office is a purely St. John institution, and as such should employ only St. John people. There would be a great loss if St. John men and women were sent up to Fredericton, to Woodstock, or to Moncton, and the people of this city have a right to expect that our own residents shall be given available positions in our own office. However, Mr. Hale was an excellent clerk, but unfortunately his health broke down and recently he was compelled to go west for treatment. The vacancy was reported to Ottawa. The opportunity became known to the Great War Veterans and a returned soldier, who has all the necessary qualifications, and who in all reason, should be appointed to the position, was recommended by the executive of the G. W. V. A. This recommendation has again been ignored by the Civil Service Commission, and the post master in St. John is prevented from making any suggestion. Now word has been received that the place will be filled by a man from Annapolis County, N. S. This is in every sense unjust. The Annapolis man may be an estimable citizen. There may be good reasons why he should have a government position, but there is no reason why he should be brought from Annapolis and given a position in the St. John post office when there are St. John men applying for that position, when there are returned soldiers in this city who are in need of employment, and when none of the heads of that post office are desirous of employing outsiders so long as our own men are competent and available.

It is such cases as these that are bringing the Civil Service Commission into disfavor and embittering returned soldiers against the policy of Union Government which permits such a commission to operate.

GERMANY'S UNREST.

Germany seems to be in a bad way. Making all due allowance for exaggerated press reports and various other methods adopted in the hope of securing the sympathy of other powers, there is reason to believe that discontent with the existing order of things is spreading to such an extent that the whole country is in a state of disturbance. The revolutionary government, which apparently enjoyed a measure of support for some time after its establishment, is incapable of meeting the demands of the diversified elements now clamoring for improved conditions. It was not to be

expected that the Prussian military group would surrender authority without a struggle, and possibly this war party, having partly re-organized, is inciting the disaffected soldiers and workmen to revolt. Certainly it is clear that fighting is the order of the day, that normal conditions of life do not prevail anywhere, that public utilities and private enterprises are demoralized, and indeed that the whole country is splitting up into opposing groups, out of which confusion only widespread terrorism can result. Lloyd George has no doubts concerning Germany, and the frequent warnings which he is uttering to the people of England as to the possible outcome of conditions in Germany are applicable to England itself, for there labor unrest is a source of very considerable worry. The problem of imposing peace on Germany will be rendered all the more difficult through failure of that country to present a responsible government with which the Allies may deal.

THE PORTLAND SCARE.

The Portland bubble has burst. Evidently the transfer of C. P. R. steamers to that city existed merely in a vivid imagination. Not only has there been no definite step taken by the C. P. R. in this regard, but the Portland people themselves realize, and hesitatingly admit, that they are not in a position to look after any additional business whether by rail or water. They see now that even when their present harbor extension plans are completed at the expiration of five or six years, they will not then compare with St. John harbor as it is at present. And for the plans which they have now in mind no money has yet been voted. Portland has asked a million and a half, which is the prospective cost of the pier and equipment suggested. There is no real reason to believe that the State will vote this or any other amount. The whole affair is as yet only a proposal and the action, such as it is, which has already been taken, is merely the outcome of an ordinary request by the C. P. R. as to available terminal facilities should additional business justify that company in sending any of its steamers to Portland.

CARLETON IS DETERMINED.

So Honorable Peter Veniot has been neglecting Carleton County again. This seems to have become a fixed habit with the members of the Foster Government, for the premier himself has permitted that county to go for the past two years without its full representation at Fredericton. Mr. Veniot's failure, however, is with respect to the construction of that high-way bridge across the St. John River between the parishes of Kent and Wicklow. Authority for the construction of such a bridge was passed some time ago and the money voted. But Mr. Veniot has not gone ahead with the work, and the people of the communities interested, having used up their stock of patience, now propose to insist that the undertaking so long deferred and the cause of so much inconvenience and financial loss to farmers must now be carried out. To bring matters to a head two public meetings have been held at Bath one on Thursday of last week and one on Monday of this week, at which many speakers strongly condemned the policy of the Foster Government in failing to go ahead with the work. Following the meeting a strong deputation was appointed to go to Fredericton in the near future and endeavor to impress upon Mr. Veniot and his associates the need for this bridge.

MUSIC VS. BOOZE.

"Music is a Godsend in the presence of prohibition." This is brand new. We have been told that candy, usually the richer varieties, satisfy the craving for alcohol. But candy, especially chocolate, costs money these days, and although it is a food, according to the manufacturers, it is sometimes out of reach of the poorer classes. Music, however, can be brought to all. If you haven't a little Victrola in your home there is always the open-air concert by the Salvation Army or the I. C. R. engines, and when that almost overpowering thirst assails you, never mind blowing yourself to a dozy pound of Page & Shaw's, but instead of a drink of Scotch, content yourself with a symphony. More than this, when the whole world seems blue, and you would give most anything for a glass of beer, turn on a Lauder record. The effect will be the same. If you happen to be a victim of the Flu and the bottom has dropped out of everything, avoid brandy as you would the evil one, and buy your little boy a Jew's harp, a mouth organ or a tin whistle. It is wonderful what comfort can be attained by such a simple method.

A COSTLY MOVE.

The Aquitania was diverted to New York from Halifax for three different reasons, none of which has been accepted as genuine. First, solely on account of the inferiority of the port of Halifax. Second, for no other reason than that the British Admiralty had promised her for the transport of

American troops. Third, wholly because the Canadian railways could not handle the large numbers of men she carried. Immediately following that transfer the Aquitania ran into and sank the steamer Lord Dufferin, bound for St. John. The shift from Halifax to New York stems to have been a costly one.

The speech from the throne is a rather windy affair. One of the worst on record. It is true that nothing is said about the price of milk, but with this single exception practically every other subject on earth has been introduced. If length and verbosity are any criterion we may expect a busy session.

Commissioner Fisher argues that Mayor Hayes and Commissioner Bullock have not met with such success at Ottawa as The Standard's reports would indicate. Commissioner Fisher judges their efforts by the standard of his own accomplishments. He should guess again.

The Times—"Nature set the assembled politicians an example on this the opening day of the Provincial Legislature. When they awakened it was to find all the landscape clothed in a mantle of purity. The Government members are all here."

Merely to avoid further worry over the New Brunswick Power application, why not respectfully refer the Carleton report to the Paris Peace Conference?

WHAT THEY SAY

Two Beatings.

Brooklyn Eagle: We shall bend our swords into plowshares, and our corkscrews into buttonhooks.

Everybody's Doing It. London Times: As the Three Abits ball at the Albert Hall, on February 12 a "Jazz Valse" will be played, with the accent on the third note of the tag, a blend of valting and jazzing.

It's A Funny Old World. Utica Observer: "No beer, no work." "No wine, no weddings." "No bait, no fish." "No cure, no sicknesses." "No red liquor, no ward politicians." Gee, but this is going to be a funny world after a little.

An Infectious Disease. London Daily Express: Bolshevism is a nasty disease, and very catching. Unlike influenza, however, its origin and species are fully recognized, so that inoculation may follow. It might be well to catalogue it as a crime. Murder, manslaughter, treason, treason-felony, and Bolshevism. Why not?

End of a Happy Dream. Hamilton Times: There is said to be a scarcity of professional nurses in Canada. We thought that all of the girls were returned from the front there might be too many of them, and we were trying to think up a scheme to marry them off to the returned men.

A Position Defined. Hamilton Herald: Not only in the United States, but in Canada also, the Ancient Order of Hibernians takes its stand on the side of the republic of the British Empire. It is under the auspices of the A. O. H. that the meeting was held in Ottawa last Friday night for the purpose of endorsing the Sinn Fein programme.

One Ideal of Happiness. B. T. L., in Chicago Tribune: Men who know Russia tell me that the peasants really were happy even under the twin despotism of vodka and czar. It was not, of course, a reformer's idea of happiness; a reformer's idea of happiness is perpetual attention to everybody's business but his own. People who are interested academically in other people's happiness usually succeed in making everybody unhappy.

Where Weight Will Count. London Daily Chronicle: People who occupy a lot of room in train or tram or bus have not hitherto regarded their bulk as a personal disadvantage. When it comes to travelling by air they must revise their views. The estimated tariff for passengers by airship across the Atlantic is 3d. per oz. for each 1,000 miles. That works out at £2 16s. a stone, and the superiority of the lightweight is plainly apparent. There may come a day when we shall train for a long distance aerial voyage, just as jockeys waste to ride horses at a stated weight.

A BIT OF VERSE

The Thoughtless Fool. He does the most annoying thing, And makes remarks outlandish; You'd say so much of woe he brings, His hand is bread and butter; And yet whenever he's in the wrong, He always says to rue it, Then is the burden of his song, I didn't mean to do it.

That phrase absolves him from all blame, In his own estimation, There's naught to say should he disclaim Intent of devastation, He interferes with someone's plan, Brings discord, mayhap, to it; Then mildly pleads as such men can, I didn't mean to do it.

He pulls a curtain from the pole, He breaks a window shutter, He harrows up some woman's tail With words he should not utter, He'll make a wreck of anything, And as he stops to view it, Why to that phrase he will still cling— I didn't mean to do it.

The broken vase or statue, Or feelings lacerated, A business scheme that is upset, A scandal great created— All these and others less profane, He holds if you but knew it, Are covered by that one excuse, I didn't mean to do it. —Chicago Post.

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

My cousin Artie slept at my house last night, and me and him was laying there going to sleep, and Artie sed, Do you tawk in your sleep? I don't know, I never listened, do you? I sed, and Artie sed, I mite, for all I know.

If you tawked to a person while they was asleep I wonder weather they would anser you, I sed, and Artie sed, Well Ill tell you leta wai, leta whichever one stays awake the longest start to ask the other one questions and see if he anser them.

G, all rite, I sed, And I keep on going to sleep and pritty soon I almost was, and jest then I herd somebody tawking, being Artie saying, Hay, Benny, are you asleep? Me thinking, G, he's going to ask me questions. And I started to breath slow as if I thawt I was asleep, and Artie sed, How old are you? Which I didnt say anything. And Artie sed, How old are you? How old are you? How old are you?

20 minuts after 4, I sed, Tawking like somebody tawking in their sleep, and Artie sed, Well then wat time is it?

2 million, I sed.

Aw, you aint asleep, sed Artie.

The heck I aint asleep. Sounding as if I was so asleep I couldnt hardly say so, and Artie sed, Who discovered America?

Me, I sed.

Youre a darn liar, sed Artie, and I sed, Youre another and you cant back it up or down. And I quick turned over and went to sleep on my stumick, and this morning I sed, Did you ask me any questions last nite, Artie?

You know darn well I did, sed Artie, and I sed, O, did you, G, wat did you ask me?

I shut up, sed Artie.

Being the end of the supject.

A BIT OF FUN

Bills For Bill. "Bill's wife is very stylish. She is one of those divinely tall women."

"Yes, and she keeps her poor husband profanely short."

Found Out.

Kitty—Jack told me I was the first girl he ever told he loved.

Betty—When did he tell you that?

Kitty—Monday night. Why?

Betty—Oh, nothing; only he must have been lying to me Tuesday night.

We've All Done It.

Not so very long ago a chauffeur was brought up after having run down a man.

"You struck this pedestrian, and he was seriously injured?" the judge asked.

"Yes, sir," replied the chauffeur.

"Why did you sign your car and miss him?"

"He was zigzagging himself," said the chauffeur, "and he happened to be at the same time as I did."—London Answers.

Had Him There.

He—it is said that a man's brain is bigger than a woman's.

She—Well, the same thing is true about his feet, but they are no more serviceable than a woman's.

Like the Preacher.

"You say your laundrywoman reminds you of a good preacher?"

"Yes; she's always bringing things home to me that I never saw before."

The Advantage of the May.

"They offered me a place at the speaker's table."

"Did you take it?"

"I did not. I told them I'd rather sit down with the crowd and escape if I wanted to than sit up there and be entirely at the mercy of any long-winded orator who might want to talk until midnight."

Just So!

"What is marriage?"

"Love personified."

New Disease.

Arkansas papers.—They now seem to be the favorite beverage now, with a green colored hair tonic running a close second. Several of our Beau Brummels seem to have a severe case of dandruff of the liver.

Pessimistic Superstition.

"Is there superstitions?"

"Very, but in a one-sided manner only."

"I don't get you?"

"The signs she believes in are all bad ones. There seems to be no good luck whatever in her superstition."

Was That the Reason?

"Some people believe that thirteen at table is unlucky."

"Wonder if that's why the maker of the multiplication table stopped at twelve."

Reversed.

"The world owes every man a living."

"I know, but on the other hand—"

"What?"

"Every man also owes it to the world to prove that he's entitled to a living."

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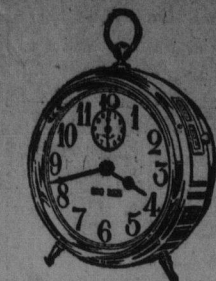
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