

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY APRIL 16, 1920.

### THE CARLETON VACANCY.

Mr. Baxter's amendment to the motion to go into Supply, that Supply be not proceeded with until a writ has been issued to fill the vacancy in Carleton County, will probably cause the Government to stop and think. It might seem to be a very easy matter to vote it down, but the Government is confronted with the fact that some of its supporters have expressed themselves as entirely out of sympathy with the delay that has taken place in filling the vacancy. Mr. Mesereau, of Sunbury, said he thought it was "bad policy and bad politics" not to call on an election; Dr. McGrath, of Northumberland, also said he had no sympathy with such tactics and others have spoken in a similar strain. If these gentlemen hold to their views as expressed, Premier Foster will have a divided household with him. The chances are, however, that he will temporize, as usual, and promise early action as soon as the session is closed.

As we have said in these columns on previous occasions, the withholding from Carleton County of its proper representation is a most contemptible piece of business a leader of a Government could be guilty of, and we can only express surprise that a man of Mr. Foster's calibre should have allowed himself to be a party to such tactics. Even some of his own friends in the City and County of St. John, in whose opinion he has always stood high as a man of honor and principle, are saying that they cannot understand the position he has taken in the matter. There are men, of course, whose environment has been such that they could not be expected to rise to a proper appreciation of a matter of this kind, but one would not naturally think of including Mr. Foster in that class. However, he seems to have voluntarily placed himself in it, and he has only himself to blame if he has consequently lost some of the good opinion that he has hitherto been held in by his neighbors. The withholding from Carleton of its third member has been a miserable, petty exhibition of partisan politics of the meanest type, which the average man would be heartily ashamed to be mixed up with.

### THE MARITIME PROVINCES SHOULD GET THEIR DUE

Mr. J. C. Torrey, M. P. P., Nova Scotia, in the course of an address before the Halifax Rotary Club the other evening, on the claims which the Maritime Provinces have for some recompense for the large landed area given over the Western Provinces, expressed his intention of moving in the matter by a resolution to be brought up by him in the Assembly. This will undoubtedly be a move in the right direction, but it will be of very little practical benefit or effect unless it is backed up by much more aggressive action. We have had resolutions to the same effect passed with all solemnity in our own legislature and they have been followed up by delegations to Ottawa to lay the matter before the Dominion Government, but nothing has come of it all so far. There have even been delegations from the Maritime Provinces jointly to Ottawa on the matter, and a courteous reception is about all they got, and a promise to think the matter over. The matter has been discussed at gatherings of Provincial Premiers, and other representatives, and while every latitude has been given to the Maritime representatives to lay their grievance before the Conferences, the proposal to make these Provinces some pecuniary grant to even up the value of the lands given to their Western relatives, has always been opposed by the representatives of the latter. It is grossly unfair, but so it is.

When Confederation came about, the Maritime Provinces threw into the common lot of the new Dominion all they had, for the good of the whole. Their resources were used to build up the country without discrimination as to location, and they went largely to help in the development of the Western Provinces. Enormous tracts of land were reserved out of these new Provinces and retained by the Dominion. Now they have been handed over to the Provinces within whose boundaries they were situated. The whole of the district of Ungava has been given to Quebec, and an enormous area of the Hudson Bay district has been given to Ontario. The Maritime Provinces got nothing. No compensation has been made to them either in land or cash. The former, of course, they cannot get, for the reason that they are bounded on all sides by the sea and a foreign country. But they certainly should be compensated by a grant of money, that being the only form in which compensation could be made.

There is no need to wait for Maritime Union to press this matter upon the Dominion authorities. Joint action by the Provinces concerned would be equally effective—if anything could be effective with the Western Provinces so selfishly armed against them. It is the same old

story, the prejudice of the West against the East. But the East must keep on kicking until its reasonable and fair demands are granted.

### THE COST OF LIVING.

The increase in the cost of living in war-time was easily understood by the public, but, as the Journal of Commerce remarks, it is not so easy to understand why, long after the war is over, the high prices still continue. The official statement in the recent issue of the Labor Gazette that prices continue to rise is disturbing. Practically all the chief commodities and also rent show a material advance, and the prospect is for a further advance rather than for any reduction. The situation is a puzzle to many. It is to be remembered, however, that actual shortage of supplies is greater now than it was during the war. There was an abundance of supplies in most countries when the war broke out, and though the expectation of shortage had an immediate and increasing effect on prices the diminution of stocks was gradual, and it was only when the war was well advanced that actual shortage began to be keenly felt. Now all reserves have been exhausted. The world has to depend on the goods of recent production, and production, carried on under great difficulty and with a shortage of efficient labor, has not overtaken consumption. It is now, rather than during the war, that the shortage is most keenly felt. Demands continue to exceed the supply, and so long as this condition remains there can be no reduction of prices. Increased production in all the lines of food and other necessities is the only hope of reducing the cost of living, and this betterment must come slowly.

### NOVA SCOTIA COAL.

The year 1919 was an unsatisfactory one for the mineral industry in Nova Scotia, and, incidentally, for the coal consumers of other Provinces. The war-time activities were curtailed and those of peace were not re-established. Then there were labor troubles which curtailed production or checked recovery. The coal and iron trades and associated industries showed less production than was recorded in 1918, and when these are taken out of the total a moderate remainder is left. The coal sales from the mines reached the high record figure in 1913, when a total of 6,478,000 tons was recorded. In 1914, the figure was still above the 6,000,000 ton mark, but a decline had begun, which has not yet been recovered. Last year the production was the smallest since 1903. A main cause of the loss was the lack of shipping facilities, and more being called for transport service. In 1914 the Province of Quebec was the chief consumer of Nova Scotia coal, taking 2,381,000 tons out of a total sold of 6,164,000 tons. Nova Scotia taking only 2,203,000 tons. Last year, while Nova Scotia took 2,512,000 tons of the total sold of 4,559,000 tons, the increase over 1914 being due to the development of the iron and steel industry. Quebec took only 344,000 tons, and even this small figure was made to double the shipments of 1918. It is noted in the report that towards the close of the navigation season of 1918 facilities for water transportation to the St. Lawrence began to improve. During the past winter there has been considerable production of tonnage for freight service, while most of the ships taken by the Government as transports have been turned back to peace occupations. There should be a considerable number of vessels available for the St. Lawrence coal service with the beginning of navigation; and though freights will be high and the mine prices of coal will be possibly double those ruling before the war, the coal markets should be glad of all Nova Scotia can send; and the more it send the better will it be for the Provinces concerned, and to some extent also, for the consumer.

So necessary has the Foster Government become that they now find it necessary to pry on the widows and orphans. Their proposed amendments to the Succession Duties Act will cause all estates of \$25,000 and upwards to pay duty, whereas as the law is at present small estates up to \$50,000 have been exempt. Still, as Mr. Veniot has expressed his intention to go on spending money, it has to be found somewhere or other, and the widows and orphans are easy marks for amateur statesmen.

According to a despatch from Toronto there seems to be no doubt that considerable opposition may be expected to the resolution tabled by Mr. McCreary calling for a referendum on the question of prohibiting the importation of liquor. The Toronto Telegram states that Labor men have stated that they will not stand for a bone dry legislation. It will be found that Labor in New Brunswick won't stand for it either.

### WHAT OTHERS SAY

Leaving it to George.  
 (London Advertiser.)  
 President Wilson urges the Allies to kick the Turk out of Europe, but refuses to lend a foot.

Those Overhead Charges.  
 (Providence Journal.)  
 The prices on some of the spring hats in the shop windows suggest the desirability of a reduction in overhead charges.

Only Three Years.  
 (Toronto Telegram.)  
 April 9, 1917—April 9, 1920—Only three years, and already the anniversary of one of the decisive battles of the world, the storming of Vimy Ridge arouses no more enthusiasm and commands no more public recognition than the birthday of Hon. W. L. M. King.

No Free Trader is Walter.  
 (Hamilton Herald.)  
 Hon. Mr. Rolfe is right. Moreover, he is on safe ground. The workmen of Hamilton will not through any act of his be in danger of losing their jobs, and he will go to a foreign country to find work.

The Soldiers and the Treasury.  
 (Hamilton Herald.)  
 There will be much relief in all parts of Canada over the official assurance that the financial resources of the country are not to be further strained at present in the attempt to meet the demands of the soldiers' organizations. However, we believe that public opinion would support generous additional relief to ex-soldiers who are in need of aid and increased pensions to those who have been maimed or otherwise disabled in their country's service.

A Proper Response.  
 (New York World.)  
 When Mr. Lloyd George said in the house of commons that De Valera is putting forward in this country "the same claim in exactly the same language as Jefferson Davis did," and that Great Britain claims nothing more in Ireland than the United States did in the south, "and will stand for nothing less," he made a proper response to the senate's recent middle-class resolution in favor of the Sinn Féiners. It never has been difficult to pay Congress to record in support of the schemes of insurrection, secession and independence on the part of other peoples, but for one reason or another such doctrines as applied to ourselves are always passionately resented.

### THE LAUGH LINE

Slips.  
 She—in a way, getting married is like slipping on a banana.  
 "How's that?"  
 She—"Well, you don't always get the party you want."

A Reasoner.  
 "Johnny," said his mother, "you haven't washed the back of your neck. You ought to wash it out of yourself."  
 "What for? I can't see it."  
 "But other people can."

Identified.  
 "This" said the fond young wife, as she passed a plate of pudding to her husband, "is cottage pudding. I made it myself."  
 The husband tasted it.  
 "I have known it was cottage pudding," he returned.  
 "Would you?" she asked, delighted.  
 "Yes, I can taste the plaster and the wallpaper."

Requires Brain.  
 A certain Englishman famous for his erudition, playing such a wretched game on the links that he remarked one day to his caddy, "How is it that I, a man acquainted with all the arts and sciences, cannot play this confounded game of golf?"  
 "Well," said the caddy, "it's like this: Ye ken a' boot they sm' affairs, an' ye'll think connectin' 'em, but ye must understand that it tak's a heid to play golf."

Jazz.  
 Mr. Hooper (rising from table)—Shall we dance this fox-trot, Miss Flopper?  
 Miss Flopper—That wasn't the orchestra starting up—one of the waiters just dropped a tray of dishes.

Wood sent to the bottom of the ocean in deep places is crushed by the pressure and loses its buoyancy.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

St. John, N. B.,  
 April 14, 1920.  
 To the Editor of The Standard,  
 Sir:

The Local Government passed their bill on Thursday to establish a plant at Brookville for the grinding of Limestone for Fertilizer. This is the first time we have ever known a Government to go in competition with established private industry. It is certainly establishing a very serious precedent which simply means that no private business of the community would be safe.

We feel, in justice to ourselves, that it would not be fair to allow statements made by the Minister of Agriculture in the House to be passed by, particularly in view of the fact and figures given him at a meeting between the private producers and the Executive Council. The Minister states that private plants have been exploiting the farmers for years, and that the farmers are paying today from \$7.00 to \$11.00 for Limestone Fertilizer. The figure placed before him at the meeting with the Executive Council was \$4.00 per ton in bulk, f.o.b. Terryburn, and of which he was fully conversant at the time. To take the average short freight haul, the farmer would be paying in the vicinity of \$6.00 per ton for this Fertilizer, and the longer haul he would pay more. But the average freight for the Province is 2 1/2¢, which would make the cost to the farmer \$6.25, not \$7.00 to \$11.00 as stated by the Minister. The farmer in many cases will not purchase car lots, consequently it is necessary to ship him bags, in which case we only charge for the cost of

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Saturday morning Sid Hunt came around with home made tickets saying on them in red ink, Teddy the Grate Diving Dog! He will Absolutely Dive into a Tub of Watr from a Hie of 3 Feet in Sid Hunt's back Yard Saturday Afternoon. Admission Only One Sent. Sid saying, Who wants to buy a ticket, fellows, if he don't dive you get your money back.

With me and Pats Simkins and Leroy Shooster and Reddy Merly haw tickets, on account of being the only ones that had seats, and in the afternoon we were around and sat on Sid Hunt's fenta, and there was a wash tub full of watr standing next to a high skinny table in the middle of the yard, and Sid put his foot terrier Teddy on top of the table and bowed to us fellows, saying, The grate dive will now take place.

And he pointed his finger at Teddy, saying 1, 2, 3, dive.

With Teddy didn't, jest standing there and looking back at Sid as if he was expecting Sid to do something instead of Sid expecting him to do something. Sid saying, Hay there, did you heer me, 1, 2, 3, dive. Teddy jest keeping on looking at him, and after he had est it about 6 more times without any dive happening, us fellows started to yell We want our money back, we want our money back, we want our money back, and Sid sed, The grate diving dog is indisposed today so he will do some other tricks instead, and us fellows yelled, We don't want to see any other tricks, and Sid sed, Teddy, sit up. With Teddy did, and Eld sed, Shake hands, With Teddy did, and Sid sed, Dark 3 times, With Teddy did, and Sid sed, 1, 2, 3, dive. With Teddy didn't, and we all started to yell for our money back again, and Sid tried to make him dive about 6 more times in vane and then he gave us all our sents back, saying, You old bunch of tile wads, take your old money.

bags, \$150 per ton.

In explanation of the Government's activity in this line, the Minister states that plants now in operation could not meet the present demand. The present demand for Limestone is about 3 M tons per year, including a portion which is shipped to Nova Scotia. The plants now operating at Torriburn, if permitted to run six months of the year would produce 12 M tons, or four times the present consumption; if permitted to run twelve months, would produce eight times the present consumption; and the Minister knows this, and that if these figures are analyzed, it will be seen that the statements made by the Minister are very erratic.

The Minister of Agriculture in his anxiety to secure the support of the farmers for his Government, is either grossly misrepresenting the figures given him or his capacity is such that he should not be permitted to hold office, particularly in a so-called business Government.

It might be interesting to the public to know that the cost of this plant to the Government will be in the vicinity of \$25,000. Figuring on the basis of consumption to-day, the total gross amount from sales which the contractors—Smith & Merrithew—will receive, after they deduct the average freight and the royalty of 25¢ per ton to the Government, will be less than \$8,000 per year. This would not look like a very profitable investment.

Then again the Minister is asking the local farmer, who would be with in say 50 to 100 miles of the plants, to pay for their fertilizer in order to help out the more distant farmer. Naturally, this is what the Minister would like, so that he could have somebody else shoulder the costs which his constituents would have to bear.

We started this Limestone plant at the solicitation of the old Government and made quite a heavy investment. Later on, the Provincial Limestone Co. established their plant and we have both been pushing and extensively advertising this material, but have never been able to create a sufficient demand to lower the cost below the present, and get any return at all. We have been continuing in the hope that the farmer might be persuaded to use the Stone more extensively, and eventually with a fair output, get some remuneration for our investment.

The Government has seen fit just at this time, to put our plants into junk, creating a loss of perhaps \$25,000.

We might also say that the Department of Agriculture when this Limestone business was first mentioned, gave our firm very misleading information.

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## WEDDINGS.

Clarkin-McMullin.  
 Anthony Wilfrid Clarkin and Miss Elizabeth McMullin were married at the Cathedral yesterday morning at six o'clock. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Wm. M. Duke, parish priest. The happy couple were former residents of Kelly's Cross, Prince Edward Island.

Lutes-Thomas.  
 At the Main street Baptist Parsonage a quiet but pretty wedding took place yesterday afternoon when Rev.

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