

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 22 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.
 THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY:
 Henry de Clerque Mailers Bldg., Chicago
 Louis Klebana 1 West 24th St., New York
 Freeman & Co. 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1920.

THE NEW PARTY AND ITS PLATFORM.

Some little time ago we expressed the opinion in these columns that the Union Government as such, would in the near future cease to exist, and that its place would be taken by a new party to be formed out of the old Conservative party with the addition of those former adherents of the Liberal party who do not and cannot accept the policies and adopt the views of the present leader of the Opposition. It is not believed that there will be more than two or three members who have up to now supported the present Government who will not become members of the new party, and there is very reason to believe that it will have the full confidence and support of the vast majority of the electorate.

The formation of this new party necessitates the promulgation of a programme upon which it will ask the support of the people. The programme was announced yesterday, and it is broad, liberal and comprehensive enough to satisfy any patriotic citizen. While firmly determined to maintain Canada's status as a component part of the British Empire, it will insist upon the fullest autonomy in respect of purely domestic concerns. This is satisfactory enough for anyone. Further, it will set its face against anything savouring of class legislation, holding that the laws of this country should apply to all parts of it alike, and to all classes of the community alike. This policy may not suit the Grass Growers, but it will be approved by most other people. Naturally the question of future tariffs is one of the most important items, if not the most important item, in the new programme. The new party stands firmly for a thorough revision of the tariff with a view to the adoption of such reasonable measures as are necessary (a) to assist in providing adequate revenues, (b) to stabilize industries, (c) to encourage the establishment of new industries essential to the economic development of the nation, (d) to develop to the fullest extent our natural resources, (e) to prevent the abuse of the tariff for the exploitation of the consumer and (f) to safeguard the interests of the Canadian people in the existing world struggle for commercial and industrial supremacy.

Every thinking man knows that the country cannot get on without revenue, and that this revenue must be provided by the people in some form or other, and that indirect taxation through the medium of customs duties is a fair and reasonable method of raising at least a considerable portion of it. Moreover, the industrial life of the country needs a certain amount of protection if it is to grow and develop as satisfactorily as could be wished. The degree of protection to be provided need only be adequate to the necessities of the case; high protection would be just as disastrous to the best interests of the community as insufficient protection would be. The former would ruin the consumer, the latter the manufacturer. Articles that are not made in Canada need no protection at all, and need be taxed only to such an extent as will permit of their bearing their reasonable share of revenue production. The new party's programme deals very fully with tariff matters, and it will be fully endorsed by the bulk of the Canadian people.

In view of the tremendous importance the matter of transportation is to the proper development of the country, a sound and workable railway policy is essential, and the plan outlined in the new programme of co-ordinating the working of the various railway lines owned by the Dominion will be regarded as sound statesmanship. The proposals aim to provide for greater efficiency, with a reduction in cost of operation, at the same time removing the railways as far as possible from any chance of political interference. Having in mind the conditions which existed in the Government-owned railways prior to the advent of the Borden Government, when they were made the dumping ground for all the political misdeeds and needy importunities who were to be found in the ranks of the then Liberal party, it will be well that the new party should be enabled to put their proposals into effect. Any return to power of the party now in opposition would simply mean a recrudescence of all the old abuses that under the Borden administration went by the board. Transportation is going to play a very prominent part in the development of Canada and Canadian industry, and it must be dealt with in a statesmanlike manner.

Considerable interest naturally attaches to the question who is to be the leader of the new party. Morley, in his life of Walpole, declares the qualifications necessary to make a successful leader to be as follows: "The first quality in one who aspires to a leading place in the councils of a nation is that he should have sound and penetrating judgment; the second is an ample and accurate knowledge of the business in hand; and the third is the tenacity of will and strength of

character. . . The arts of management are a useful, perhaps an indispensable, adjunct." Whether there is any man in the party who in the opinion of the rank and file measures up to all the standards mentioned to be seen; but there are several who come very near to doing so.

ANOTHER STUCK PIG SQUEALS.

Most people are painfully aware that the cost of boots and shoes has reached such a level that it is only with some difficulty that many are able to get together a sum sufficient to buy a pair. Why prices have gone up to the level they have is something that few people can understand. They know, of course, that leather costs more to buy, and that wages are higher; but nobody believes for a moment that these two factors are wholly responsible for the tremendous "uplift" in prices. American newspapers tell us that the shoe manufacturers of that country find themselves so stocked up with boots and shoes, which were made in the hope of a still further rise that it is not now likely to come, that they have had to resort to sacrifice sales in order to get rid of them. At these sales purchases can be made at practically pre-war prices, with pre-war quality also.

Naturally this sort of thing is not quite in line with the views of the retail merchants, and the Massachusetts Retail Shoe Merchants' Association is now using quite a lot of newspaper space in an effort to point out to the public several reasons why these sales should not be patronized. They advise the public to stick to the regular merchants if they would avoid loss and disappointment; that in their opinion the shoes offered are not of the best quality; that they are not such dependable shoes as can be bought at the regular stores; that, in short, only the regular merchants know how to fit a customer properly, and that people themselves are not sufficiently expert to know whether a shoe really fits them or not. These retail merchants, finding themselves stuck, have begun to squeal; they wanted to do the stocking, and are finding themselves forestalled. The manufacturers are getting the benefit of it; it may be and from the retailers' point of view, but so it is.

Prices have got to come down, and this is one way of bringing about that much to be desired end. With the tremendous stocks on hand, the manufacturers cannot afford to keep on tying up more capital in the manufacture of shoes to be kept on the shelves till wanted. They need to turn their money over just as much as do the retailers, and if the latter are not willing to cut their prices to stimulate trade, the manufacturers must sell over their heads.

HANSARD "BLOOMERS."

The Canadian Hansard is wrongly accused of being a dry volume. The diligent reader will find a chuckle or two in nearly every issue. "Bloomers"—the term in this sense is neither sartorial nor floral—happen even in Parliament, and sometimes they find their way into the official record, though often they are suppressed by the blushing authors. To these "howlers" (to use another word which is sometimes applied) Mr. McMaster of Brunei, in a speech in French has just contributed a remarkable specimen. Certain members of the Government, he said, were like "the three musketeers in the romance of Victor Hugo." Mr. Lapointe interrupted to remark that it was the romance of Alexander Dumas. "Well, then, of Alexander Dumas—they don't know the difference," went on Mr. McMaster, but he thereupon closed his remarks with some abruptness.

He may take comfort from the fact that other Parliamentarians of long experience have made similar slips. Frank B. Carroll, now chairman of the Dominion Railway Board, once said in the House that he did not wish to "rehash old sores." Hon. George P. Graham is credited with remarking: "Let us begin 'de novo,' as they say in Quebec," and on another occasion he convulsed the Commons by a reference to "drying up the bowels of compassion." Then there was Francis McKee, of Sudbury, who, in speaking of certain horses, called them "pieces of turn-pieces of goods," his first impulse evidently being to call them furniture, and his correction not much of an improvement. A. B. Copp, of Westmoreland, a couple of years ago assured the House that a lobster catch had "decreased over one hundred per cent.," which some arithmetical genius figured out to mean a restocking of the waters. But Hansard obligingly substituted the general term "enormously" for the percentage which Mr. Copp had cited.

D. D. McKenzie, of Cape Breton, handles the English language with skill, and has a genius for repartee which sometimes embarrasses his opponents, but when, on one occasion, he said of certain people that "some are dead and some have died," there was general merriment in the House. Only

the other day Mr. McKenzie, who is of course of Scotch descent, told how, in his boyhood days, there was no need of cadet corps (for which the House was voting estimates), and added he, "there was no pettiest business as there is with the organization that is spoken of now." This reference to girl cadets was rather skilfully evaded by General Griensbach, who gravely remarked that he was not of Scotch descent, but nevertheless resembled Mr. McKenzie's reference to a pettiest which was certainly not a pettiest at all though it looked like one. From all of which it may be gathered that Parliament sometimes wears a broad smile. And, as a matter of fact, these little interludes help to relieve a monotonous which Parliamentarians sometimes find to be almost unbearable. With the House at high tension and a bitter, contentious subject under debate, or somebody's unseasonable "bloomer" has been known to relieve the pressure and tide over an ugly situation.—Toronto Star.

Mr. "Grange Juice" Bryan seems to have met with a rather rough time at the Democratic Convention yesterday, which went 929 to 120 against his dry plank in the platform. State after State went against it, which is a fairly good indication of how popular prohibition is over the border.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

July 2nd, 1920.
 The Editor of The Standard, City.
 Sir:—The writer is glad to observe that workmen with good old British instincts are beginning to make up to the unfair situation that places them and that they resent the prohibition from a glass of beer that was foisted upon them by the late Government of the Province without a shadow of warrant or mandate from the people.

Many years of observation lead the writer to say that the great majority of normal people believe in the use of a truly temperate manner of beer and wine, and spirits. Some drop of brandy in the cupboard; another, a drop of whiskey on retiring another, something when a friend comes in; another a glass of beer after a day's work. The writer has no personal inclination for beer and wine, in this northern climate whiskey is the best alcoholic drink.

Will anyone dare to assert that there is anything morally wrong in these views? No one in his sober senses will dare to make such an assertion. If a person weren't liable to be executed all over the country one wouldn't mind writing over his name, but it isn't very comfortable to submit one's views to a newspaper and then feel that some dark people are lying awake worrying over your personal final salvation.

Let the workman be a worker with his hands or otherwise, wake up and not be done out of his liberties by ministers of religion or merchants on the whole, or who submit one's views to a newspaper and then feel that some dark people are lying awake worrying over your personal final salvation.

Let the workman be a worker with his hands or otherwise, wake up and not be done out of his liberties by ministers of religion or merchants on the whole, or who submit one's views to a newspaper and then feel that some dark people are lying awake worrying over your personal final salvation.

Assert your liberties; put down the law that allows a constable to come into your own or your wife's bedroom day or night and search everywhere, put down the law that won't let you quietly carry your trip along the street without liability to search; put down the law that doesn't give the same right of appeal to the accused as to the accuser; put down the law that presumes a man is guilty and makes him prove his innocence; a reversal of British Law that every man is presumed to be innocent until proved guilty—why should we go to the States of Kansas and Georgia for our law?

I suggest that whoever the persons are who are urging the vote for beer and wines, they support a treasurer, some good citizen, and let the people know and subscriptions both large and small will come in to help to carry on a reasonable propaganda with none of those silly pictures that Dr. A. Pierce Crockett painted so effectively this morning and so offset the by the way, we go to the street cars, on the lamp posts and elsewhere that are in motion.

Should the result of the plebiscite in this city be in favor of beer and wines, steps should be taken to insure that the wishes of this community should be given effect to at least locally regardless of the vote elsewhere.

Yours etc., REASON.

To the Editor of The Standard:
 Sir:—A "dodger" was left at my house this afternoon which informed me that one David Fraser would on Sunday next relate how he got through \$75,000 in five years on drink and in riotous living.

The thought occurs to me in connection with this, that drink cannot be such a soul and body destroying agent after all, if, after having consumed \$75,000 worth of it, a man still remains a man.

Yours truly, H. D. R.

THE LAUGH LINE
 He Knew the Way Out.

"Now, Silas," said the teacher, "suppose you wanted to build a thousand-pound house, and had only seven hundred pounds, what would you do?" "I suppose I'd have to marry a girl worth three hundred pounds," answered the modern child.

No Sunday School Scholar.

Lady:—You're still charging scandalously high for milk. I thought prices were coming down.
 Milkman:—It isn't our fault, mum. It's the farmers. They're worse than the Forty Thieves you read about in the Bible!

Thumb Tacks as Garters.
 A man who had seen overseas duty

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

"This afternoon after school it looked as tho it wasn't sure if it was going to rain or not. And some of us members of the In-Violable team was sitting on Pads Simkins front steps wondering whether to walk out to the park for a little practice, Skinsy Marth saying, Aw, wait the sun's going out, we'd be out in the rain before we go half way, look at them clouds.

Aw, clouds ain't rain are they? said Leroy Simkins, if it rains ed every time it got cloudy there would be a flood every 5 minutes, lets go.

And we keep on arguing, some thinking it was going to rain and some thinking it wasn't, Pads Simkins saying, Aw, it ain't going to rain, I got a funny feeling in my feet every time its going to rain and I ain't got it now.

Aw hock, wait your feet compared to clouds? said Skinsy Marth.

And we keep on arguing, me saying, Aw lets go, I dont think its going to rain, if it was going to rain it would of started before this.

Times a good argument, lets go, said Leroy Davis.

Aw, wait the sun's getting out in the rain, I bet if you listened hard enuff you could hear thunder, said Sam Cross.

Why ain't I got a funny feeling in my feet, then? said Pads Simkins.

And we keep on arguing and all of a sudden Pades mother came to the door and made him go a second and 684 Hunts mother looked out the parlor window and waved and Leroy Davis sister came around and told him he had to go to the home. And it didn't rain and there wasn't enuff fellows left to go anyway, proving the more argument the less chance.

walked into a general furnishing store in Chicago and asked the clerk for two thumb tacks.

"You're in the wrong place," said the clerk. "The stationery store is next door."

"Isn't this a haberdashery?" inquired the customer.

"It is," replied the clerk. "I sell a shadow of two thumb tacks to hold up my socks. You see I have a wooden leg."

His Ailbi.
 An accusing glitter in her bright blue eyes, Mrs. Monkton faced her husband.

"What is this long, dark hair on your coat, Henry?" she demanded.

"Oh—er—a horse hair, my love!" stammered Henry, hoping for the best.

"Most likely!" sneered the good lady. "And, no doubt, you got it in a motor car?"

"Exactly, my dear. The seat covering was worn through, and some of the stuffing came out."

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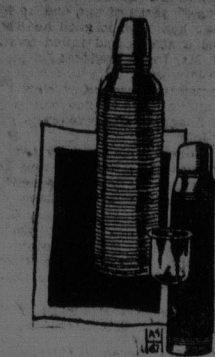
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OBITUARY.

Mrs. Thea R. Jones

Word was received Thursday of the death in Montreal of Mrs. Mary Jane Jones, widow of the late Hon. Thomas R. Jones. Mrs. Jones died on July first at the residence of her son.

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