

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1913.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

In the reports submitted during the past few days at the annual meetings of the various chartered banks, it is difficult to find justification for the impression that business conditions in Canada at the present time are not sound, or that this country is suffering from a pronounced financial stringency. Most banks reported that their local business was practically as good as usual, but that foreign money markets reported the stringency.

Conditions in Canada, and especially in the Maritime Provinces, during the past year, have not been such as to give ground for alarm. The record of failures does not show anything to indicate that we are passing through a financial crisis. The crops have been good, and, with the exception of isolated cases where industry is affected by local causes, most of the factories have been kept in operation full time.

How is it in St. John? Before we agree to the opinion that there is any financial shortage here let us analyse the situation. Building operations are brisk. The sugar refinery, the new grain elevator, the building and remodeling of bank premises, the new post office, the marine depot, the work on the construction of the new bridge at the Falls. Surely not for many years has St. John had such a number of what might be called "big jobs" under way at once. There has been no scarcity of work for men who wanted it.

In connection with the winter port traffic, it is not yet apparent that the trade this season will not eclipse previous years. There will be as much or more work for the ship loaders and others engaged in the loading and discharging of vessels. No evidence in either building or transportation circles of a financial depression. No evidence in the way of idle men on the streets to justify the impression that work is scarce. True, the Dominion government immigration department has notified its agents to advise intending immigrants that work will not be as plentiful in Canada this winter as it has been in the past, but this is not the first occasion on which such warning has been given.

While the western wheat crop was in the fields, ungarnered and unsold, there was some justification for the cry of hard times in the west, but it appears now that the crop was a particularly good one, and was promptly moved. Consequently an enormous amount of money will be loosed in the west to go into the process of developing that great country.

Meanwhile men in a position to know express the opinion that New Brunswick has had a good year, and there is every evidence that the next twelve months will see even greater prosperity. Business in Canada at times has probably been better, but it has also been very much worse, so, after all, it appears there is not much ground for complaint. Prophets of blue ruin can always be found, but it is not on record that they contribute much to the city, province or Dominion for which they are so industriously engaged in foretelling a future of gloom and disaster.

THE CRY FROM HALIFAX.

The Halifax newspapers are now devoting much space to the "want it all" traits they have discovered in the people of St. John. The Echo, for instance, fears that if we are not checked in some way, Halifax will have nothing left but its harbor. The Echo, in relating the achievements of St. John, remarks as follows:

"It is well to remember at this time that the people of St. John have obtained everything they set out to obtain from the beginning of the controversy.
 "They first demanded that they be given the Royal boats. They obtained them.
 "They then demanded that the mails be routed over the C. P. R. instead of over the Intercolonial. They obtained this concession.
 "They then demanded that the Teutonic be required to sail direct to St. John instead of Halifax as scheduled. They obtained this concession.
 "And the people of St. John are now demanding that the Empresses be returned. Will they score again?
 "The Empresses will be returned to St. John if the people of that city meet with the success that has attended all their other endeavors in the matter of the mail steamship business."

The Echo is most inconsistent. It has demanded that the people of Canada should have their mails by the shortest possible route, and yet it objects to the routing of first class mail over the C. P. R. from St. John to Montreal, a distance of 480 miles, instead of over the Intercolonial Railway, a distance of 741 miles. The mails certainly ought to go over the shorter route. Is the Echo afraid of the test? It would almost appear so.

As far as known, the people of St. John do not demand that the Empresses be returned. They demand that the mails be routed over the C. P. R. instead of over the Intercolonial. They demand that the Teutonic be required to sail direct to St. John instead of Halifax as scheduled. They demand that the Empresses be returned.

President Wilson, of the United States, declares he will recognize no Mexican government that is stained with blood. Apparently that will make his relations a little strained with both the Federals and the Constitutionalists.

Does any one suppose that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier had dreamed the government would have taken such speedy action to enquire into the causes of the high cost of living, he would have been so eager to make that Hamilton speech?

John did not demand that the White Star liner Teutonic should be required to sail direct to this port. The Echo's statement to the contrary is false. The Teutonic is coming to St. John for precisely the same reason that will probably bring other steamers, now scheduled for Halifax; because the facilities for caring for the rapidly growing business are not as good in Halifax as in St. John.

As to the Empresses, they went to Halifax because of the fear that with the increased sailings of the other lines they would not get as good service in St. John this year as they had in the past. Possibly the C. P. R. officials who ordered the change acted with wisdom, but it is not the general belief that Halifax has given the big liners even as good accommodation as could be had in St. John.

When St. John gets harbor facilities sufficient to accommodate all the steamers the C. P. R. passenger and mail boats will return and will sail to and from this port direct. There is no mystery about that, for the announcement was plainly made when the Empresses first withdrew to Halifax that the change was but for one season. Halifax has no need to worry over that line, or to indulge in mysterious hints of "switching." The steamers will come to the port with the best facilities, and even now that port is St. John.

All the ink the Chronicle and Echo can spill, and all the abuse they can heap upon Premier Borden, Hon. J. D. Hazen and their own Mayor and Board of Trade, will not change the case. St. John is bound to get the business when its facilities are in shape to care for it all, and Halifax may as well realize that now as any other time. Wharves and warehouses and truckage facilities are not created by newspaper controversy, and the attitude of the Chronicle and Echo in the present situation is, to say the least, decidedly silly.

WILL GO TO WORK AT ONCE.

Evidently it is not intended that the departmental experts appointed to enquire into the high cost of living in Canada shall waste any time. Ottawa despatches tell us that the preliminary arrangements have been completed and the board of enquiry will get to work at once in collecting its information. Much of this is already in the possession of department officials, and has but to be gathered together and compiled in the form which will make it of the greatest practical value.

There can be no two opinions regarding the fitness of the men to whom has been entrusted the responsibility of the enquiry. For years they have been in daily touch with sources of the information they must now collect. In this way they have as advantage over practically any other commission that could have been appointed, and which, probably, would have called upon these very men to supply much of the necessary data upon which to base a report.

If the investigation is completed, as speedily as now seems to be the idea, parliament should have some interesting information upon which to work before the session is far advanced, and it should be possible to form a fairly accurate opinion of what steps are necessary to bring the relief needed to both the Canadian consumer and producer. It is sincerely to be hoped that the opposition will not attempt to defeat the purpose of the government's action in deciding to give expert attention to what, since 1897, has become a very live question.

If there is a remedy in sight the government can be depended upon to apply it, and should be permitted to do so without the Canadian public being forced to put up with a repetition of the senseless obstructionist tactics that marked the conduct of the opposition last session. Obstruction in parliament is one way to increase the cost of living by adding to the expenditure of time and money necessary to do the country's business.

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Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

For the second time within a few months, Canada resounded to the call to arms fourteen years ago today. The imperial government had announced its acceptance of a second contingent of troops from Canada for the South African war. Lord Roberts, appointed commander of the British forces in South Africa December 18th, was so pleased with Canada's prompt response and the enthusiasm and fervor of the people that he cabled that "the action of Canada will always be a glorious page in the history of the sons of the Empire." "I look for great things from the men who sent and is sending to the front." The first Canadian contingent of a thousand men had been composed of infantry, and it was decided that the second contingent should be composed of cavalry and artillery. The contingent was completely equipped with horses and guns, and within a month the detachment was ready to sail. In February a third force of 400 cavalry was equipped and sent to South Africa by Lord Strathcona and Mountjoy. The first Canadian Mounted Rifles battalion of Canadian Mounted Rifles was led by Lieut.-Col. Lessard, the second by Lieut.-Col. Herchmer, and later by Lieut.-Col. Evans; the field artillery was commanded by Lieut.-Col. Drury, and the Strathcona's Horsemen rode into action with Lieut.-Col. Steele at their head. In a banquet at Toronto following the announcement of the expedition, the Prime Minister, Lord Balfour, declared that "all our money and all our men are at the disposal of the British Empire."

THE PASSING DAY

HALCYON DAYS.

These are the "halcyon days," commemorated by ancient poets as a period of calm and peace and tranquillity. The seven days preceding and the seven days following the winter solstice, which falls on the first of December, the twenty-second of December, were the halcyon days of the old world. In modern dictionaries halcyon has come to be a synonym for idyllic, peaceful, happy, or even, among the ancients it was the name of the bird now called the kingfisher, and the fourteen days nearest the winter solstice were called halcyon because it was at that period that the bird deposited her eggs on or in a floating nest in the midst of the waters. Out of consideration for the halcyon bird, who was supposed to be favored by the gods, it was expected that the sea would remain calm in order that the eggs might not suffer injury. The superstition existed in spite of the storms that often prevailed at that period, as so many superstitions survive in the face of evidence, and it was held that the storm was proof of the anger of the gods. Some of the ancient writers attributed to the kingfisher the power of arresting the violence of the waves. Many fabulous stories are told of the halcyon or kingfisher now, and in parts of Europe. It is declared that the breast of a kingfisher suspended by the tail will always be blown to the north when accurately balanced the bill will point in the direction of the wind even within doors, and that its head and feathers are a protection against evil influences. The feathers are also alleged to be a sure means of securing the affections of a loved person. There are sailors to-day who carry with them always a kingfisher feather to assure themselves that wives or sweethearts will not prove false while they are sea. The feather, however, does not prevent the tar who carries it from having a sweetheart in every port.

There are a number of varieties of the kingfisher, but the commonest is the fisher of Europe, which was the halcyon of the ancients, is about seven inches long, with a stout body, short wings, and a long sharp bill. It possesses many of the brilliant colors of tropical birds, the upper back being dark green, the lower back bright blue; the upper part of the head, wings, and tail are of a deep blue; the throat and neck stripes yellowish white, and lower parts pale chestnut.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

A CLERGYMAN AUTHOR

While engaged in the active duties of a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal church, the Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady has found time to write over half a hundred books which have won for him a host of admirers throughout the English-speaking world. Dr. Brady has a volume to his credit for each year of his life, since he was born fifty-two years ago today in Allegheny, Pa., and when it is considered that he did not begin his literary career until after he had completed an appointment to Annapolis and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1883. Later he decided that railroading offered a greater future, and for several years he was employed on the Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific railways. It was while thus engaged that he felt stirring in his heart the call to the ministry, and he took up the study of theology under Bishop Worthington of Nebraska. In 1890 he was ordained a priest of the Episcopal church, and was rector of churches in Colorado and Missouri and archdeacon of Kansas, and later archdeacon of Pennsylvania. He was rector of a Philadelphia church when he scored his first successes as an author with "For Love of Country" and "For the Freedom of the Sea." In the year 1900, while Dr. Brady was still fulfilling the duties of a minister, five books appeared under his name. In 1902 he resigned his charge to devote his entire time to literature, but the call of the church was too insistent for him to resist, and three years later he accepted the pulpit of a Toledo church. In 1909 he went to Kansas City, and later to a church in Mount Vernon, a suburb of New York City.

Sizzling hot coal for the kitchen range can be had from the Consumers Coal Co. They look well today, but how will they stand the years of hard work and wear. Don't invest in the wrong typewriter. Get a Remington at first. C. M. Fraser, (2. A. Little, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN

Nothing to Talk About.

(Philadelphia Record.)
 "The woman of the Fiji Islands don't wear any clothes," remarked the returned traveler.
 "Gracious!" exclaimed the stay-at-home friend. "I wonder what they find to talk about?"

Inconsistency.

(National Monthly.)
 "Wimmen certainly ain't got no consistency."
 "What's the matter, John?"
 "Me wife chased me out wid a roll'n' pin this mornin', and then cried because I left home without kissin' her goodbye."

Another Story.

(Houston Post.)
 "My gas meter is out of whack."
 "What's the matter with it?"
 "It lies. It doesn't register correct."
 "That's what they all say."
 "But it doesn't register half the gas we use."
 "Then it's lying on the wrong side! We'll send a man right out."

Astonishing.

"Extraordinary!" cried a man who was reading the newspaper. "Another discovery has been made in Saturn. Aren't they wonderful, these astronomical discoveries?"
 "Yes," assented his wife, "but the strangest part is that they should have managed to discover the names of the stars."

His One Vote.

An ambitious man rather unwisely stood a candidate at an election, and at the close of the poll was found to have received only one vote. The candidate was excessively mortified, and to increase his chagrin, his neighbors talked as if it were a matter of course that he had given that one vote himself. This annoyed him so much that he offered a \$50 suit of clothes to his only supporter if the individual would come forward and show himself.
 An Irishman responded to this appeal, proved his claim, and called for the reward.
 "How did it happen?" inquired the candidate, taken quite by surprise.
 "How did it happen that you voted for me?"
 Pat hesitated; but, on being pressed, he answered:
 "If I tell you, you won't go back on the suit of clothes."
 "Oh, no; I promise you shall have the suit anyhow," replied Pat.
 "Well, then, your honor," replied Pat, "sure I made a mistake in the ballot paper."

The Last Straw.

Jack Podger was the most obnoxious man that ever lived. His services were given gratis to all applicants. He could mend a clock, repair a puncture, drown a kitten, paper a wall, and, in fact, perform any operation known to mortal man. In consequence, Jack's services were in constant demand.
 A week or two ago, after cobbling a neighbor's boots, mending his cousin's sun bonnet, sweeping the vicar's chimney and writing a testimonial for his charwoman's nephew, he retired to rest. He was awakened by a terrific bang at his front door, and immediately rushed to the window.

The Best Quality at a Reasonable Price

The Howard Watch

This Christmas is surely the time to gratify for him one of his dearest wishes—to own a thoroughly reliable watch, preferably a Howard.

Not that he hasn't a watch of some kind already.

But the higher up a man gets in the councils of the business and professional world, the more Howard owners he finds among his associates.

We are showing a very complete line of these celebrated watches and cordially invite you to see them.

L. L. Sharpe & Son,
 Jewelers and Opticians
 21 KING STREET, ST. JOHN, N.B.

A FEW DAINTY CHRISTMAS CARDS

are still on hand which can be printed promptly with your greeting and name.
C. H. FLEWELLING,
 Engraver and Printer
 85-12 Prince Wm. Street.

Doors, Sashes, Mouldings, MIRRORS, PLATE GLAS, ART WINDOWS

MURRAY & GREGORY, LTD., - ST. JOHN, N.B.
 General Builders, Refractories, Lumber, Shingles, Boxes

What's the matter? he bawled, irritably.

"You'll excuse me for troubling you at this time of night," came the reply, "but the fact is, our baby is so very cross and we would like you to come and pacify him. He always comes home without kissin' her goodbye."

GOOD COAL SAVES THE SITUATION

Does your household ever oversleep these dark mornings? Everyone in a hurry for breakfast? Men folk to get away to work? Children to get ready for school? At such times, Consumers Coal Co.'s Chestnut Coal saves the situation. No dull soggy fire, it is up and burning almost as soon as the kindling. You would almost think it knew what was expected of it. Give this coal a trial when you buy your next supply. The Consumers Coal Co.'s address is 331 Charlotte street, (opposite Broad street.) Telephone M-2670. They have a large stock of all kinds of household fuel including this same coal in egg and nut sizes for heating purposes.

Quality, service, price—Get all three from the Consumers' Coal Co., the home of good coal.

TENDERS.

TENDERS will be received until Monday, 29th December, inst., until noon in the office of the Common Clerk, addressed to him, City Hall, Prince William street, for 300 ft. of fire hose with couplings and branch pipe to be delivered in No. 4 shed, Sand Point.

Hose to be cut in fifty (50) feet lengths and connected with couplings according to St. John Fire Department standard. The couplings to be secured to the hose with expansion rings, and jet of branch pipe to be of one inch bore.

Samples of hose to accompany each tender.
H. B. SCHOFIELD,
 Commissioner of Harbours, Forts, Public Lands.
ADAM P. MACINTYRE,
 Comptroller.
 St. John, N. B., December 19th, 1913.

A. C. SMITH & CO.

New Brunswick Agents for

Molascuit

We can guarantee our feed to be the best Molascuit feed on the market.
 The price is very low in order to get it introduced.
 Telephone—West 74-11 and West 81.

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SHORTHAND AND BOOK-KEEPING.
 \$10.00 for Thirty Dollar Course.
 \$15.00 for Fifty Dollar Course.
 GOOD UNTIL XMAS.
 Stationery free if scholarship is purchased now—Enter any time.
Currie Commercial Institute
 87 UNION STREET.

Christmas Gifts For All

Now is the time and this is the opportunity for economical Christmas buying. Come to us for DOLLS, TOYS, GAMES, BOOKS, STATIONERY, FANCY GOODS, ETC.
 Sale of Handkerchiefs, Samples, 30c, 40c, 50c, 60c, 70c, 80c, 90c, 1.00, 1.20, 1.50, 1.80, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50, 7.00, 7.50, 8.00, 8.50, 9.00, 9.50, 10.00, 10.50, 11.00, 11.50, 12.00, 12.50, 13.00, 13.50, 14.00, 14.50, 15.00, 15.50, 16.00, 16.50, 17.00, 17.50, 18.00, 18.50, 19.00, 19.50, 20.00, 20.50, 21.00, 21.50, 22.00, 22.50, 23.00, 23.50, 24.00, 24.50, 25.00, 25.50, 26.00, 26.50, 27.00, 27.50, 28.00, 28.50, 29.00, 29.50, 30.00, 30.50, 31.00, 31.50, 32.00, 32.50, 33.00, 33.50, 34.00, 34.50, 35.00, 35.50, 36.00, 36.50, 37.00, 37.50, 38.00, 38.50, 39.00, 39.50, 40.00, 40.50, 41.00, 41.50, 42.00, 42.50, 43.00, 43.50, 44.00, 44.50, 45.00, 45.50, 46.00, 46.50, 47.00, 47.50, 48.00, 48.50, 49.00, 49.50, 50.00, 50.50, 51.00, 51.50, 52.00, 52.50, 53.00, 53.50, 54.00, 54.50, 55.00, 55.50, 56.00, 56.50, 57.00, 57.50, 58.00, 58.50, 59.00, 59.50, 60.00, 60.50, 61.00, 61.50, 62.00, 62.50, 63.00, 63.50, 64.00, 64.50, 65.00, 65.50, 66.00, 66.50, 67.00, 67.50, 68.00, 68.50, 69.00, 69.50, 70.00, 70.50, 71.00, 71.50, 72.00, 72.50, 73.00, 73.50, 74.00, 74.50, 75.00, 75.50, 76.00, 76.50, 77.00, 77.50, 78.00, 78.50, 79.00, 79.50, 80.00, 80.50, 81.00, 81.50, 82.00, 82.50, 83.00, 83.50, 84.00, 84.50, 85.00, 85.50, 86.00, 86.50, 87.00, 87.50, 88.00, 88.50, 89.00, 89.50, 90.00, 90.50, 91.00, 91.50, 92.00, 92.50, 93.00, 93.50, 94.00, 94.50, 95.00, 95.50, 96.00, 96.50, 97.00, 97.50, 98.00, 98.50, 99.00, 99.50, 100.00.

Arnold's Department Store
 83-85 Charlotte St.

Monday, Jan. 5th

IS THE BEGINNING OF OUR NEW TERM.
 A very generous and greatly appreciated patronage has made our last year our best year.
 We trust that a continuance of the same patronage will make 1914 the best of all.
 SEND FOR CATALOGUE.
S. KERR, - Principal

Supreme Among Gems THE DIAMOND!

of all gems, is the most lasting—most beautiful—most widely and universally Popular
 Think of all the pleasure and satisfaction that will follow your investment in a Diamond of fine quality now!
 Come in and see our Splendid Values and Choicest Settings.

FERGUSON & PAGE
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Have you thought that these make excellent as well as USEFUL GIFTS.