

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1919

THE KING-MAKER IN NEW ROLE.

Are the Quebec Liberals who under the lead of Ernest Lapointe made Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King leader of the Liberal party preparing to throw him overboard? The Parliamentary correspondent of *McLean's Magazine*, of Toronto, rather thinks so; and he argues the likelihood of an alliance between Hon. Mr. Crerar and Mr. Lapointe. This writer believes that the farmers will come from the west and Ontario in force at the next election, but if Quebec and the Maritime Provinces fail to fall in with the farmer movement Crerar will not be strong enough to control the House. He adds: "The farmers can't tie up with the Unionists. They can't cut in with the old-line Grits, who are more reactionary than the Unionists. But they may find allies in the Lapointe-Bureau Liberals. During his recent campaign Lapointe went out of his way to eulogize Hon. T. A. Crerar. And this at the time the old-line Liberals had sent McMaster, of Bromo, and Pedlow, of Renfrew, away out to Assiniboia to help Mr. Motherwell, an old-line Grit, lose his deposit to Gould, a Crerar candidate. Just another indication— isn't it?—that the split in the Quebec Liberals is widening. Just another straw that shows which way the wind blows. That wind, the political observers will tell you, is blowing Crerar and Lapointe closer together every day."

L'Evenement, of Quebec, discussed at some length the other day the situation created by the rapid ascension of Lapointe, and his energetic efforts to undermine the authority of Premier Gouin, the champion of the corporation interests of Montreal. Under the caption "Treasure in the Liberal Camp," the Quebec Journal declared that Lapointe, Bureau and other restless Liberals were conspiring against the man they made Liberal leader in defiance of Premier Gouin. Lapointe is very ambitious; he evidently believes the old-line Liberals have no prospect of arriving at power; and he is a young man in a hurry. Just why Lapointe resigned his seat in Parliament and went down to East Quebec and drove off the Nationalists has not been very clear at this distance. Possibly he wanted to show Crerar that the following he calculated to bring back at the next elections would not be tainted by Bourgeoisism.

Having no great faith in the future of old-line Liberalism, Lapointe is doubtless scheming to sidetrack the farmers' movement in Quebec. He has the qualifications for starting a new movement of his own. A magnetic personality, a forceful and fluent speaker, he has in a few years made himself a notable figure in the House, and he plainly plans to occupy Laurier's position in the imagination and affections of the hero-worshipping habitants. If he can strike up an understanding with Crerar, so much the better for his chances of keeping the Quebec farmers in line, and making himself the undisputed master of the political situation in Quebec. There may be significance in the fact that while Crerar has come to the Maritime Provinces to deliver his message and launch a political organization, he so far appears to have done nothing to extend his organization to Quebec. Whatever may be the outcome of the situation in Quebec, it evidently bodes no good to Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and the old-line Liberals. If he does not arrive at an alliance with Crerar, Lapointe, if he can hold the Quebec farmers in line, would come back after next elections with a prestige which would probably enable him to overthrow Mackenzie King.

HA HA.

Ha Ha Bay may become the Winter Veranda of Canada, and St. John may hope back into its ancient position of a provincial port. At any rate that is the idea of a writer who discusses the possibilities of St. Lawrence winter navigation in the *Montreal Gazette*. Perhaps that is the explanation of the apparent lack of interest of the Minister of Marine in the question whether St. John wants the Government to take over the harbor. Possibly it may explain the difference between nationalization and Harbor Commission as they have it at Quebec, where during the last fiscal year \$842,559.45 of public money was spent on harbor improvement and charged to the capital account of Canada. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine has one ship hopelessly stranded on the Vache Reef below the mouth of the Saguenay, and another drifting in the river 200 miles below Quebec, with the Lord Strathcona and the Lady Grey frantically trying to free her from the ice. But these little accidents don't worry the champion of Ha Ha Bay.

Up the River of Saguenay 55 miles lies Ha Ha Bay, and Lake St. John is not far away. For twelve miles from its mouth the Saguenay never freezes; and we are told that in such a peculiar river other stretches of

open water must be found. Ha Ha is 130 miles from Quebec, which is 115 miles from Montreal, a total distance of 235 miles. By way of comparison, St. John, N. B., is 430 miles from Montreal, but by removing a few mountains the railway haul from Ha Ha to Montreal can be reduced a few miles. So Ha Ha has something over St. John, not to speak of great snowstorms that bother railways.

Apparently the advocate of Ha Ha believes the greatest difficulty in using his new winter port will be the navigation of the Gulf itself towards the end of winter. Then great accumulations of drift ice have a tendency to block Cabot strait, but here investigation would probably prove that a passage is to be found to windward. This, we are told, could be determined by aeroplanes operating from St. Paul's Island or Cape Race, Newfoundland—a pleasant job, no doubt, in a Newfoundland blizzard.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Although the war has been over for some time, there are still hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war held in various European countries. In France there are many German prisoners of war, and in Germany there is a quarter of a million of Russian prisoners of war. The various Russian Governments all hold numerous prisoners of war. Britain has apparently sent home most of the German prisoners held in England at the date of the armistice, but this may not apply to prisoners captured by British troops and held in France. Britain holds some Russian war prisoners. An Allied Commission controls all the German war prisoners on French territory, and also all the Russian prisoners of war on German territory.

Recently the German Government protested that France was maliciously holding German prisoners. No doubt France is making use of them in restriction work, though at present prices of food they are probably not doing enough work to pay for their maintenance. To the German protest the Allied Council replied that the Allies as a whole were holding the German prisoners, and that it was not the Allies, but the attitude of the German Government to the Peace Treaty, that was responsible for the detention of the German prisoners. The Allies were ready to release their prisoners just as soon as the German Government showed willingness to accept the Peace Treaty in good faith.

An emissary of the Bolshevik Government has been seen conferring with a British representative regarding the exchange of Bolshevik and British prisoners. M. Litvinoff raised the question of repatriating the 250,000 Russian prisoners held in Germany, and asked for representation on the Allied Commission to assure that no Russians should be sent to Kolchak or Denikin against their will. The British representative said this matter was not one for the British Government, but for the Allied Council, promising, however, that representations should be made to the other Allies.

The Washington Department of Agriculture early this year advised American farmers to reduce their acreage sown to fall wheat by 15 per cent. Latest returns are to the effect that the American farmers this autumn actually reduced their acreage under fall wheat by 23 per cent. This does not look as if the American farmer expected a large home market next year, nor would it suggest that there will be much of a market there for the Canadian grain growers. Nevertheless Canadian farmers can afford to go in for as large production as possible, for European conditions indicate a good market next year.

In view of the difficulties presented by the unfavorable rate of exchange, C. H. Cahan, of Montreal, suggests that the Canadian Government should place an embargo on the import of all articles of luxury from the United States. The November trade returns show that the adverse exchange situation had little appreciable influence on the demand for goods of American origin. While many people in this country are said to be in need of satisfactory housing accommodation, American automobiles are being imported on a great scale.

Ottawa Chiters: "Anyhow, none of the present Union Cabinet can fill Premier Borden's stockings." And Hon. W. L. M. King makes a poor fist of filling Laurier's shoes.

The Bolshevik game in the United States appears to be a paying game. It is reported the Reds bound home in the Soviet Ark have among them \$100,000 in real money. When they arrive in Russia they will doubtless divide up—with the Lenin crowd.

WHAT THEY SAY

Tariff Board.
 The tariff is as much a political ques-

tion as has been the government ownership of certain railways. The government which had the courage and sagacity to put into legislative effect that which its railway commissioners advised in the one case, may equally fairly be expected to legislate for the good of all classes along the line of economic advice it will be tendered by its tariff commissioners. Farmers' associations proclaim their confidence in the Union government taking over the railways now included in the national system. They recognize the studied principle with which this tremendous undertaking was examined, investigated, reported and translated into legislation, and made law by parliament. But with strange pertinacity they will not concede that before the government can, before any government, effect similarly efficient legislation for the country with respect to the tariff it must first have information and advice only to be procured through the permanent tariff board.

A Tribute to Sir Robert.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)
 Both for the sake of his party and for the sake of the Dominion Sir Robert Borden has decided to translate his office. His record as a forceful leader and as an unwavering loyalist has earned him an eminence above all other Canadians, and the Canadian people are fortunate in occupying for the present the confusion of new political alignments which in all probability must follow his retirement.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE VANISHING POINT.

(By George Gilbert.)
 My grandma (frugal damask she) Was wont, when summer bargains came, To lay in sugar, blithe and free, A barrel of white, a barrel of brown, With payment "on the nail" made down.

My mother held to her ma's plan, Yet put in quite a different style; She bought but just enough to do. Some choice picked fruits, her time to while; Ten pounds of white, two pounds of brown, "Just charge it up or charge it down."

I, trembling, face the Grocer King, As on his throne he lolls at ease, I dare not ask a single thing, Nor peach, nor pear, nor even peas; "An ounce of white, an ounce of brown!"

Our son will face that Puissant One, In years to come and make his plea, And, by the carat, when he's done, The Monarch will weigh carefully; A dose of white, a dose of brown; The price? Enough to buy a crown!

A BIT OF FUN

No Chance For Him.

Cole—They say your divorced wife has made up her mind to marry a struggling young lawyer.
 Wood—Well, if she has made up her mind, he might as well cease struggling.

Experienced.

"Mamma!"
 "Yes, my child."
 "Will you tell me a fairy story?"
 "But it's very late, my son."
 "I know, but dad isn't home yet."
 "Well, wait until he comes home, dear; he'll tell us both one."

His "Stuff."

"What was that crash in the cellar?"
 Her husband rushed down.
 "Only a few jars of your preserves, dear," he reported cheerfully. "My stuff is all safe."—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Careless Swain.

His fellow-clerks gathered round him when the news became public property, and extended congratulations.
 "But," said one man, "I understand the girl you are engaged to is a twin; how do you tell the difference between her and her sister?"
 "Well, it's a jolly nice family," said the lucky man, "and I don't bother very much."—*London Tit-Bits.*

Another Use For Motors.

"Personally, I don't believe grocers ever put sand in their sugar."
 "They don't have to around here."
 Answered old Mr. Putterby, "What with cars and one thing or another zippin' through Chikago'sville from atop up to dark, all a groceryman's got to do is to leave the cover of his sugar barrel and let it accumulate."—*Water-town Times.*

A Mystery.

Visitor—My good man, you keep your eyes much too near the house.
 Cottager—That's just what the doctor said, mum. But I don't see how it's a-goin' to hurt 'em.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Skinny Martin had a birthday party Wednesday nite on account of having a birthday, everybody being there that got a invitation and we played different games including spin the plate, and then Skinny Martin's father came in, saying, Now boys and girls, I've got bad news for you—we are going to eat now.
 With all the fellows yelled, hurray hurray and all the girls looked as if they felt like yelling it, and we all went out to the dining room without much pushing, and there was 3 big cakes on the table including one with chocolate icing, and Mrs. Martin brat in ice cream and lemonade and things, and everybody started to eat and enjoy themselves the most yet, and after a while Mr. Martin said, Well, boys, considering what a happy occasion this is, perhaps some of you would like to make a speech.
 With the girls all started to giggle and the fellows started to dare each other to make a speech, and after a while Puds Simkins got up to make one, saying, Ladies and gentlemen, we are setting and eating here this evening to celebrate Skinny's birthday, long may it wave I purpose the followin toast, I hope Skinny never gets the mumps or the measles or falls down and breaks both legs.
 With everybody clapped and yelled Hurray, hurray, and Leroy Shooter got up, saying, Ladies and gentlemen, I purpose a toast, I hope Skinny never gets ran over and I hope nothing serious ever happens to a elevator while he is riding in it.
 Hurray, hurray, yelled everybody clapping and I got up, saying, Ladies and gentlemen, I purpose a toast I hope Skinny will be alive in time for his next birthday and if he's not I hope he'll be in heavin.
 With everybody clapped and yelled some more, and Sam Cross was just goin to get up when Mr. Martin waived him to keep on setting down saying, That will do for the speeches, boys, they were very nice, I'm sure, but I don't think we had better have any more.
 With everybody silent.

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ORGANIZED LABOR READY TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT

Will Probably Urge Adoption of the Forty-four Hour Week.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Canadian organized labor is preparing for its annual interview with the Dominion Government. The Dominion executive of the Trades and Labor Congress now has in hand the proposals it will lay before the government. The interview itself will be on January 8. Chief among this year's requests by organized labor will be one for the legislation reducing the hours of labor. Labor men emphasize that in the Treaty of Versailles Canada has already recognized the principle of the eight hour day, or the forty-eight hour week, but it is highly probable that the executive will decide in favor of urging the forty-four hour week.

BITUMINOUS COAL TO BE EXPORTED UNDER RESTRICTIONS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—Exportation of bituminous coal, shut off during the recent strike, will be permitted under restrictions through an order issued tonight by Director-General Hines. Instructions have been issued for export through Newport News and Baltimore of fifty per cent. of the amount handled during October, and similar arrangements are to be made soon for other ports.

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THE MONTCALM FAILS TO REACH SABLE ISLAND

Had Supplies for Lightkeeper There But Weather Conditions Prevented Delivery.

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 29.—The Canadian Government steamer Montcalm arrived at North Sydney on Sunday afternoon to take bunker coal and is expected to sail again on Tuesday, but as yet she has no definite orders from Ottawa to attempt an effort to reach the Belle Isle lightkeepers who are reported short of supplies. The Montcalm came here after an unsuccessful attempt to reach Sable Island with supplies for the lighthouse people there. Weather conditions blocked the attempt.

CANADIAN MURDERS THEN SUICIDES IN LONDON HOTEL

London, Dec. 29.—(By C. A. P.)—Charles William Pearce, demobilized Ontario soldier, employed as a lumberman at Warham Camp, shot and wounded the barmaid and landlady of the hotel at Midhurst, Sussex, and then blew his brains out.

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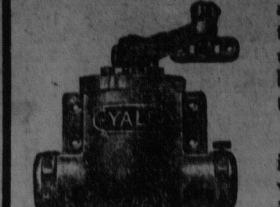
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Fredrickson, born received death at Chik Brunswick Gr treasurer of Yung Co., who stroke while v Kaufmann, wife cago, with who winter. Decem erlinton 21 year of the late J been connected all his life, m spent in the U had been man Seco, Ste, and of pulp and About eleven