

## The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25, 1910

## AN ABSURD CAMPAIGN.

Some of the newspapers in the United States have been working overtime in an effort to persuade both themselves and their readers that there is an actual backward flow of American farmers from the Canadian West. "What's to become of the 15,000 disappointed American farmers who within the past nine months have forsaken the Canadian West and returned to their native land?" asks the Syracuse Post-Standard.

The answer is that there are no 15,000 disappointed American farmers who have packed up and left the Canadian wheat fields. Not since the statement was first made has there been evidence offered of a trek southward, and the lie was given to the statement in figures issued by the immigration department at Washington less than two weeks ago.

The absurdity of it all, as the London Free Press points out, is easily apparent. These American farmers came to Canada because there was free land, or land almost free. They have secured it and they see conditions in the Dakotas, where land is high, far worse this year than in any part of the Canadian West. It is not likely, in the nature of things, that they will abandon a farm because the season hasn't been a bumper one. They know from experience that every season cannot be the best, in Canada or elsewhere.

The situation is explained, in part, by the boom started in the United States for the South. To boom the South, it has been found necessary to stem the real tide of emigration, which is to the Canadian West. The means does not matter as long as the end is achieved. Listen to these reasons why the trek back to the republic began again, according to the Syracuse Post-Standard:

"They don't care for the Canadian form of government; they don't like to have winter come on in August or September; they prefer to farm in some climate where more than alfalfa and hardy grains can be raised."

It is to be regretted that the Canadian form of government doesn't appeal to these "men of energy and enterprise," as they were properly termed. We must admit that justice in Canada may not be quite as swift as in some of the Southern States, towards which the dissatisfied farmers are advised to head, but it must be confessed that it is quite as sure, and there is not the possibility in Canada of a man being strung to a telegraph wire or riddled with bullets, perhaps, after all not the man really wanted. The Post-Standard man has something still to learn about the weather of the Canadian West when he speaks of winter in August and September, and his knowledge is equally limited when he concludes that growing alfalfa and hardy grains is the sole occupation of the West.

The tirade is interesting as a sample of the methods that suggest themselves for bolstering up courage in the face of what is, after all, a serious drain on the republic. Canada experienced it all long enough to understand, but when the shoe is on the other foot it pinches.

## THE DECLINING BIRTH RATE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Several points of interest were brought out during a discussion on a paper on the social aspect of the falling birth-rate by Dr. J. W. Ballantyne of Edinburgh, at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association in London. Dr. Ballantyne did not consider the ultimate restoration of the normal birth-rate hopeless, although the tide, he said, was still flowing in the other direction. He deplored the fact that Tennyson's "Torrent of Babies" was now reduced to a rivulet and pleaded for the saving of more young lives by hospitals all over the country, making special provision for maternity cases.

The vexed question of the fitness of the first-born was taken up by Dr. J. W. Hunter. He held that the elder-born children of a family were more liable to suffer from defective conditions than the younger members. With the working classes that held good up to and including the birth of the seventh child. With the eighth-born, however, there was a sudden sharp rise in the liability to "defect," and the type of defect became more severe than that affecting the elder-born. With still later children the liability to defect steadily increased. The offspring of parents who were themselves the elder-born members of a family showed more defect than the offspring of parents who were the younger members. This held good up to and including an eighth-born parent. With the offspring of a ninth-born parent, however, there was a marked rise in defect. Dr. Hunter mentioned that somewhere about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age a woman was best fitted for motherhood, and that after twenty-five the capacity to bear a vigorous first-born child rapidly diminished. In conclusion he argued that the limitation of the family to two or three children meant the annihilation of the race.

Some of those who took part in the debate did not regard the falling birth-rate as an unmixed evil. One speaker argued that Great Britain was so dependent on foreign countries for food supplies that an increasing population would be a danger. Dr. Powell, of Middleborough, did not mind the decline if it secured to the country an efficient and desirable population. The State consisted of two classes; those who paid and those who got, and the latter was a remarkably increasing class. They were told that these people were supported by the State. They were not, they were supported by the other section of the State. That consideration, to his knowledge, had weighed with the middle classes in limiting their families. The more families increased the lower they went in the scale of

society. Dr. Powell advocated legislation, which he admitted would be against, that would prevent a drunkard after a certain number of convictions from having the opportunity to propagate his drunken class.

Dr. Muir said that the falling birth-rate did not concern him in the slightest. In the large families of the poor it would be advantageous. When he looked at the poor little wretches in some mean streets, not one of whom would bless the Lord that he was born, he thought there was a need for the limitation of the families of the very poor. If the population increased as some of their sociologists hoped, how long would the country be able to feed its population?

Miss Hanson held that the present generation was more thoughtful. If a man and woman could not see their way to provide for their family to go on in the same way as themselves, they avoided marriage. Women were engaged in increasing numbers in the struggle for life and in increasing numbers they avoided marriage because they did not know what kind of time their daughters might have in the future.

Dr. Ethel Bentham reminded the conference that if they wanted to have any influence on prospective legislation they must advance proof for the statements they made. She controverted the idea put forward in the discussion that athletics had told against motherhood. In her experience she had found that the hardest-worked women and the most muscularly-developed women had been amongst the best mothers. They should be certain of their facts before they blamed athletics.

## THE PROTECTION OF TOBACCO.

The French government recently decided to levy duty on every cigar brought into France, not excepting even those carried in the pockets of visiting tourists. It was formerly permissible for a tourist to bring ten cigars into the country duty free. In future each cigar will pay toll to the extent of six cents besides 100 per cent. on three ounces of tobacco and upwards. While these provisions may appear as a somewhat rigid enforcement of the customs duty and a heavy protection against importation, yet as a matter of fact the import duty in Canada, although not minutely enforced, is considerably heavier, and, apparently, with less reason.

In France the manufacture of tobacco and cigars is a monopoly possessed by the government, and consequently the revenue both from the manufacture and sale, and also from the duty imposed on any import, goes to the public revenues, and to that extent to lower the taxes.

In Canada it is different. In the first place the manufacture of tobacco and cigars is carried on by private firms or companies, and the profits therefrom are a private perquisite. But the protection that these firms are accorded is in excess of what France imposes to protect its own monopoly. For instance, an imported cigar made from the best Havana tobacco can be purchased in Belgium for \$3 per hundred. Those cigars brought into Canada have to pay \$7.50 duty, or over 200 per cent. This would make the cost in Canada over \$10 a hundred. This is a tremendous amount of protection to be accorded one industry, and it is little wonder that tobacco manufacturers become rich.

Moreover, the quality of goods sold in this country in the way of cigars, does not begin to equal that manufactured in Europe. Most of the so-called imported cigars are manufactured by the American tobacco trust either in the United States or in Cuba, for the American and Canadian market, and are not to be compared in quality with the Havana cigars which could be imported, even under the 200 per cent. protection, and sold here at a less price. But the retail dealer, who undertakes to import European cigars direct, soon discovers reasons why he must discontinue the practice or confine himself exclusively to the sale of outside brands.

There does not seem to be any good reason why tobacco and cigars in Canada should be so high in price, especially when the public gets little or no benefit from it. The smokers have to burn their money, and the non-smokers get no benefit from the burning. At the same time there is no good reason why Havana cigars of the finest flavor, that will burn for over an hour, can be bought in Belgium for three cents, while a similar cigar, but not nearly so good, costs twenty-five cents in Canada.

The annual report of the Canadian Forestry Association for the current year has just been issued. In addition to a report of the business meeting of the association, a full report of the convention, held in Fredericton in February last, is contained in the volume. All papers read are given in full, and much of the ensuing discussion as well. Much valuable information is contained in regard to the protection of the forest from fire, the wood pulp industry, the education of professional foresters or forest engineers and many other aspects of forestry of particular interest in this part of Canada. Copies of the report can be obtained from Mr. James Lawler, secretary of the association, Ottawa.

## CURRENT COMMENT

(Ottawa Journal.)

Governor Tweedie of New Brunswick takes, for a Maritime Province man, an unusual stand in declaring himself as opposed to the proposed tunnel under Northumberland Strait connecting the province of Prince Edward Island with the mainland. The proposed tunnel, it is estimated, would cost anywhere from ten to twenty million dollars, and its chief purpose would be to avoid the annual hiatus in mail and transportation services, caused by the broken ice in the Straits. But it begins to look, seeing rapid progress is now being made in aviation, that soon an airship will be invented that will do for the Island Province almost all that a tunnel would, namely keep open communication and carry mails, no matter what the condition of the ice might be. And many airships, expensive as they are, could be built for the price of a very short stretch of under-sea tunnel.

(London Free Press.)

The postal savings system in Canada would add to its popularity if the red tape with which it is burdened were removed. Why should a depositor be required to wait four days and upwards to obtain his money following an application? It is not so in the savings banks under private management. In the larger centres at least it should be possible to give the same service to depositors that may be obtained in any other savings bank.

(Portland Eastern Argus.)

Canada has a population of seven and a half millions, according to the Canadian census estimates. At the present rate of increase her population in a few years will be doubled. Think what liberal trade relations under reciprocity with these millions to the north of us, would mean for New England, Maine and Portland?

(Victoria Colonist.)

Athabasca Landing is 400 miles north of the international boundary line, and on July 9, oats were growing there 43 inches high. Canada's farming belt grows wider the more is learned about it.

(Vancouver World.)

The fellow with money to burn is apt to scorch his fingers.



## CONTENTMENT

A dandelion in a meadow grew Among the waving grass and cowslips yellow,  
Dining on sunshine, breakfasting on dew,  
He was a right contented little fellow.

Each morn his golden head he lifted straight,  
To catch the first sweet breath of coming day;  
Each eve him closed his sleepy eyes to wait  
Until the long, dark night had passed away.

One afternoon, in sad unquiet mood I paused beside this tiny, bright-faced flower,  
And begged that he would tell me, if he would  
The secret of his joy through sun and shower.

He looked at me with open eyes, and said:  
"I know the sun is shining somewhere clear,  
And when I cannot see him overhead I try to be a little sun right here."  
—From an old scrapbook.

## GOOD STORIES

The member of Parliament of whom some craft stories had been circulated was about to build a house.  
"You will want a southern exposure I suppose," asked the architect.  
"No, sir," said the man. "If you can't build this house without any exposure, I'll get another architect."

## A POOR RULE



The Young Man—Eyes; but suppose he does, too?  
JOSH WISE SAYS:  
It is the ambition of most men to have a house of their own, and to have one room to themselves.

Maud—What is woman's sphere?  
Jack—That her hat isn't on straight.  
Hub—You think too much of dress.  
Maud—Don't think much of this one, so I shall go at once and order another.

"Did you ever notice how a ring is like the marriage obligation?"  
"No, how do you mean?"  
"A ring is more easily put on than it is taken off."

She—How much do you love me?  
He—How much? Why, I couldn't love you any more if every one of your freckles was a \$20 gold piece.

"Who was it kissed you in the arbor last evening?" (Simplissimus.)  
"What time?"  
"Our landlady is a woman who never mimes matters."

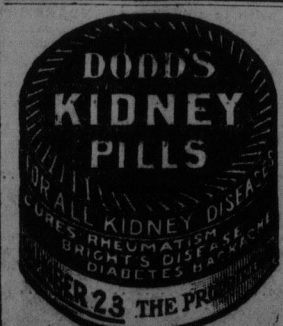
"How can you say that, when we have had three times a week?"  
"Come into the garden, Maud,"  
But Maud was much too wise.  
"Oh, no," said she, "the corn has ears And the potatoes eyes."

## JAPAN-KOREA UNION

## AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT

Tokio, Aug. 24.—The text of the convention under which the "Hermit Kingdom" is annexed to Japan was communicated at eleven o'clock this morning to the representatives of the powers.

The document which, according to now established facts, was signed August 22nd, will be effective when officially promulgated. This will occur according to some of the ministers, August 29th, or August 30th, when the independent existence of the little kingdom, the struggle for whose control started the Russo-Japanese war, will cease.



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## THE TELEGRAPH AND THE ROADS

Plan of Pictures of Roads and Bridges Adopted by Dredgers' Organ Shows Rottness of Old Government.

(Frederick Gleaner.)

The St. John Telegraph in its efforts to make political capital, has been telling its readers from day to day and week to week that the highways and bridges of the province are in a wretched condition under the Hazen government. In this it has been net by the testimony of even its political friends, as well as by the evidence of many non-partisan men of note who speak from personal experience, who say that the Telegraph is absolutely wrong and absurd in the position it takes; that the roads, speaking generally, are in excellent condition, the best they have ever known them to be in. Worried by the promptness and decisiveness of the answers of the men of its own political faith, who readily see the stupidity in the position it has taken, the Telegraph has had resort to the printing of some pictures of defect bridges in the province, hoping thereby to yet make good its claim that the highway boards and the Hazen government are responsible for the bad shape into which some of the bridges have fallen. But, unfortunately for the Telegraph, in its last resort for evidence and argument, it is presenting the views of a bridge government, the very government that they were left by the old government as the result of indifference and graft. They are the work of the tricksters who bodied with the road and the bridge money under the government which the Telegraph supported. When the Hazen government came into power they found hundreds of bridges in this province in just such shape—some of them in a much more dilapidated condition—as those which the Telegraph is now presenting in a picture form; and if our contemporary will continue its illustrations, extending them to the bridges of the province, it will the more readily impress people with the immeasurable rottness of the administrations of which it was an ardent supporter.

We would suggest as one illustration the Patterson Gulch bridge, in Kingsclear; that is, the picture of that work as left by the old government. That bridge was built in one summer, and wiped out the next.

## Wrist Watches

We have received a new lot of WATCH BRACELETS in gold (Spring Link and Mesh) from \$30.00 to \$80.00. Also gold watch and leather strap \$18.00 to \$30.00. Silver and Gun Metal with Leather Straps, \$6.50 up.

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There was no inquiry made as to the cause; but in the following summer, after a good deal of agitation, work was resumed on a new structure; and so wretchedly was this work done that when the Hazen government came in they were compelled to meet the public requirements, to undo what had been done, and practically to rebuild. That bridge, as rebuilt, stands today as a monument of honest work, a credit to the public works department of the Hazen government. An illustration of the old bridge would be in line with the Telegraph's campaign.

We repeat what we have said on two or three occasions, that it will take a few years yet to fully repair the damages and destruction to the public works of this province of twenty years of the dishonest and dishonorable government of Premier Hazen's predecessors. The old government left us with dilapidated roads and bridges, a depleted treasury, and consequently difficult problems to solve. That the work since has been well done is the very general opinion. As a correspondent has written, "considering our limited revenue, which would have been much greater today had the former governments been honest, the Hazen government has already done wonders in improving our roads and rebuilding our bridges; it is fortunate for the province that they came into power when they did." The Telegraph should continue its illustrations of the conditions in which the old government left things. They will be interesting reminders to a people already confirmed in their wisdom in bringing about the change of government which took place as a result of the election of March 3rd, 1908.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

Final Session of Conference at Stockholm Discuss Egyptian Problems—Next meeting in Rome.

Stockholm, Aug. 24.—The final meeting of the international peace conference has been held. A request was made by Mohammed Tard Bey that the conference should express its sympathy with the nationalist cause in Egypt, and that the Egyptian question should be included in the programme of the next conference. It was decided, however, that the question should be left to the peace bureau at Bern. The next peace conference is to be held in Rome next year.

CHICAGO WHEAT MARKET.

Chicago, August 24.—Wheat was weak today and closed from 3-4 to 1-4 off; Corn closed quarter to 5-8 down after dragging all day, while oats kept in a narrow range and finished weak 1-8 to 3-8 off. Provisions felt the weakness of grains and fell off generally, closing from 2-1-2 to 2-2-2 down.

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JOHN F. HOBBEN,  
HENRY A. ESTABROOKS,  
LEANDER ESTABROOKS,  
Administrators.

H. H. Pickett,  
Solicitor.

CHINA NOT READY.

Peking, August 24.—An inquiry has been received from the United States government by China, asking whether the Chinese were prepared to send representatives to attend an international conference on the opium question to be held at The Hague in September. The Chinese government stated in reply that they would not be ready for the conference until November.