

The St. John Standard

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 Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1914.

DEVELOPING OUR TRADE.

The departure for England of Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has given to some of the cheaper opposition newspapers the opportunity to again refer to him as "the absentee member" of the Borden Government. Hon. Mr. Foster will probably survive the gibes at his expense, as he has done since his selection for the portfolio of Trade and Commerce, to use his very best efforts and recognized abilities to develop the Canadian trade, undeterred by what his critics may say.

Since he took office in 1911 Hon. Mr. Foster has spent much time in direct negotiations to secure better trade arrangements with other countries. Evidence of his good work is seen in the treaty with the West Indies which is working out in a manner to indicate that it will soon be numbered as a distinct asset to Canada, particularly since the establishment of improved steamship connections between the two countries. The report of the Canadian Trade Commissioner in the West Indies, states that although the islands have suffered to some extent from financial depression and indifference crops, there is every indication that trade with Canada will be especially brisk during the new year.

The products of Canada and the West Indies are complementary so that steamers plying between the countries are well assured of good cargoes both ways, an essential to a successful shipping business. To a greater extent Canada will take the fruits and other tropical products of the Indies and give its flour, fish and manufactured goods in exchange.

Not alone in the West Indies but in other countries is the energetic Minister of Trade and Commerce laying the foundations for an extension of Canadian trade and it is for Canadian business men and manufacturers to follow his work and take advantage of the opportunities he is presenting. Every channel for the extension of Canadian trade is receiving the fullest publicity through the provisions made by Hon. Mr. Foster's department and with a strengthened staff of trade and commerce representatives abroad this country is building up a live department that will be prolific in results not only for the present but in a greater degree for the future.

THE MISSING "FIGHTING SPIRIT."

Considering the distance from New Brunswick at which it is published, the Toronto Mail and Empire has the political situation in this province well sized up, if an editorial in Friday's issue of that paper is a criterion. Dealing with the bloodless victory for the Conservative party in York County, and the failure of Mr. Pugsley, and his organizer, to come up to the mark with a candidate, the Mail and Empire says:

"The fighting spirit of which the Laurier politicians so often boast does not cause them to err on the side of rashness. They did not seize the opportunity to make a dash for the seat vacated in York, N. B., by Mr. Crockett's elevation to the bench. Hon. William Pugsley, who is so valiant in speech, was not on his feet as a champion on Wednesday, when nominations were to be made. Yet he has been trying hard to make people believe that New Brunswick only wanted a chance to show completely it had turned against the Borden Government and its policy. When he was in Toronto last summer he gave out an interview in which he declared that his province was utterly opposed to the Borden policy for strengthening the British navy. His failure to put a candidate against Mr. McLeod shows that he strongly suspects the contrary of what he said in Toronto to be the truth. The Borden Government is stronger than ever in New Brunswick or in any other province—stronger because it has kept faith with the people, and because Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues take up policies that put them further and further out of touch with the people."

THE BALKAN SITUATION.

Judging from the reports which filter out of the Balkan states the recent cessation of hostilities did not come up to expectations in restoring the once warring countries to anything like the condition of prosperity they enjoyed before they started to quarrel over the division of the spoils won in the contest with Turkey. It is said that there are practically 200,000 homeless refugees in Bulgaria who, without shelter, are exposed to the terrors of winter. In Albania, it is stated, 30,000 inhabitants are in danger of death from starvation or exposure. In both cases the result can be directly traced to the recent war.

With a treasury depleted by the cost of three severe and expensive struggles, the Bulgarian government is in a poor shape to withstand the strain that would naturally come upon it in the present situation. In Albania the

conditions are said to be due to the effect of Serbian military occupancy, but the results are the same. The situation in Turkey cannot be any better, yet, the despatches bring the word that Turkey is buying, or threatening to buy a first class Dreadnought, with the suspected intention of waging another war on Greece in the hope of again becoming owners of the Aegean Islands. This report has already caused considerable anxiety over the prospect of another war.

Truly it is a poor start for the New Year, but it is to be hoped that the European powers will not wait until the Turks and Greeks are practically at each other's throats before intervening. The squabbles of the Balkan states and their traditional enemies have already cost enough in lives and money. Europe must well be weary of the situation in the near east and there will be general accordance in the hope that the reports of impending strife are either totally untrue or greatly exaggerated.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is to be a particularly interesting election today in the city of Ottawa, when, in addition to the choice of Mayor, and civic government, the question of more or less importance to the civic welfare. One of the proposals to be decided is whether the citizens of the Canadian capital will expend the sum of \$50,000 for the erection of a public swimming bath. The value of public baths has been realized in practically every city of size. In the larger Canadian cities, such as Montreal and Toronto, there are several public baths which have done valuable service, not only in providing healthful recreation for those who can swim, but as a means of teaching the art of swimming to those who have not already acquired it. In a maritime city like St. John, the need for a swimming bath is even greater. Here we naturally turn for most of our recreation to the river or sea, and yet what percentage of the people can claim a mastery of the earliest of aquatic pastimes—swimming? Possibly in the fullness of time we may be able to read in accounts of elections in the St. John of the future the information that the taxpayers voted by a large majority in favor of an expenditure for public baths. It would be money well spent.

A NOTED JOURNALIST.

Lord Burnham, founder of the London Telegraph, has just passed his eightieth birthday, and a shower of congratulations. The Telegraph was the first penny daily in London, and its cheapness brought it a huge circulation. Not only was it popular in price, but it aimed to popularize the news of the day by making it as picturesque as possible. In this respect it seemed to borrow its inspiration from the New York Herald of the elder Bennett. But it also kept men of real ability on its staff. For many years Sir Edwin Arnold was its chief editorial writer, and George Augustus Sala its free lance correspondent. About forty years ago Lord Burnham (then Mr. Levy Lawson) joined the younger Bennett, of the New York Herald, in sending Stanley to find Livingston in Central Africa. Since that period there have been many changes in London journalism. In comparison with the Mail at a half-penny, the Telegraph is quite sedate and respectable. It is still about the best paper for its price, although there are now several other penny papers. The recent cut in the price of the Times from three-pence to two-pence, leaves the Telegraph about midway between two extremes.

Complaint is made by a Telegraph correspondent in Fredericton that the local government is employing more men in its civil service branches than there is necessity for. The complaint, of course, is not justified, but even if it is, it comes with very poor grace from a journal supporting a politician it could get useful ideas on the subject of governmental extravagance by a careful perusal of its editorial and news columns during the provincial election campaign of 1908. More to the point, however, is the fact that the other case of bountiful and paid for opinions.

The New York Post comments on the absolute failure of the abolition of the duties on foodstuffs under the new tariff, to reduce the cost of living in the United States. The situation is not one to cause surprise. The United States is a great producer and exporter of most of the staple foodstuffs. Reducing or abolishing its duties on meat and breadstuffs may affect localities so as to immediately benefit the purchasing consumer, and cannot make living dearer; but so long as the amount of food imported is only a minor percentage of that raised and used at home, prices generally will be affected by economic rather than fiscal laws.

Diary of Events

HISTORICAL DAYS IN CANADA

Two years from today will mark the centenary of the birth of Sir Daniel Wilson, the eminent archaeologist and educator. He was born in Edinburgh, January 5, 1816, and was educated at the university of that city, becoming fellow and secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. At twenty-seven he came to Canada and settled in Toronto, as professor of history and English literature and lecturer on ethnology in the university. A few years after his arrival in Canada he wrote his "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," a work of great interest to antiquaries. This was followed by an elaborate classification of the antiquities of his native land, declared by the historian Hallam to be "the most scientific treatment of the archaeological evidences of primitive history which had ever been written." In 1863 he wrote "Prehistoric Man; or Researches into the Origin of Civilization in the Old and New Worlds," which included the fruits of his exhaustive researches into the ethnology and antiquities of Canada, with a discussion on the unity and antiquity of the human race. In 1880 he was appointed president of the university, and in that capacity he accomplished much for the advancement of Canadian learning, taking a prominent part in the scientific and literary work of the Dominion. He was also president of the Literary section of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1888 was knighted. He died in Toronto in 1892.

January 5 is the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Frederick Courtenay, who was Bishop of Nova Scotia from 1888 to 1904, at Plymouth, England, 1837, and of Sir John Thompson, journalist, playwright, and one of the founders of the Chicago Herald, at Fredericton, N. B., 1849.

TH HUMAN PROCESSION

DAVID BISPHAM. Philadelphia was the place, and fifty-seven years ago today the date, of the earthly premiere of David Bispham, the renowned grand opera baritone. David Bispham, at nineteen, graduated from Haverford College and entered upon the occupation of a wool merchant. As leader of the choir of St. Mark's church he became prominent in the amateur musical circles of Philadelphia. In 1885 he arrived at two important decisions. One was to join the ranks of the benedictines, which ambition was the result of falling in love with Miss Caroline Russell, daughter of a United States army general; the other decision was to go abroad and study music. In Italy he studied under the elder Lamperti in Milan and Vannucini at Florence. Later he went to London, where he continued his studies, and became a great favorite in the amateur musical life of the world's metropolis. Mr. Bispham made his professional debut as the Duke de Lorraine in Messager's "The Baccante," at the Royal English Opera in 1891. When this engagement was concluded Sir Augustus Harris, the Covent Garden manager, offered the American singer a place in his company. For years he remained at Covent Garden, singing over a score of roles in Italian, German and French grand opera. In 1897 Mr. Bispham returned to his native land, having accepted an engagement proffered by Maurice Grau, manager of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. He achieved his greatest fame on this side in Wagnerian roles. Of late years he has devoted himself largely to concerts on both sides of the Atlantic. In London eight years ago he gave a most successful production of the romantic opera, "The Vicar of Wakefield," playing the title role.

THE PASSING DAY

TWELFTH NIGHT. The eve of the festival known as Epiphany, Twelfth Day, Twelfth-night, and Old Christmas Day, will be celebrated tonight by the state people of England, and, to a lesser extent, by actors and actresses on this side of the Atlantic. Twelfth Night was long generally observed with social rites and strange ceremonies by all the people of England and Scotland, but the tradition is now kept alive principally by theatrical folk. The observance of Twelfth Night by the theatres dates from 1796, and had its origin in a request made by Robert Baddeley, a famous comedian of Drury Lane Theatre, London, who died in 1794. In his will he bequeathed his cottage to a theatrical fund, in trust, to be maintained as a home for four actors or actresses. He also left a fund to provide an annual expenditure of three pounds for a cake which was to be divided on Twelfth Night among the actors of Drury Lane Theatre. The first of these cakes was cut 118 years ago tonight. On successive anniversaries since then the most celebrated actors and actresses of the English stage have assembled to celebrate the cutting of the cake. In the course of years the cake-cutting has grown into an elaborate feast, which is attended by all the leading lights of the London stage. The annual banquet is held on Twelfth Night, after the play.

Baddeley's peculiar bequest was based on the centuries-old custom in England, and one which is still followed in some parts of the country,—that of cutting a "bean cake" on Twelfth Night. This is a cake in which a bean has been baked, the finder of which is made king of the night and the following day.

Epiphany or Twelfth Day will be observed tomorrow. This feast celebrates the manifestation of Jesus by the appearance of the star which conducted the Magi or wise men to the place where He was to be found. This feast was instituted eleven centuries ago, in 914. It is often called the "manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles," as the word Epiphany means "manifestation." The Greek church terms it theophany, or "appearance of God," and it is also called "the feast of light." In Germany it is known as "the festival of the three holy kings." The Roman Catholic observance of Epiphany is based on three great events, which the church celebrates in one and the same festival. The first manifestation was the miraculous star which revealed the birth of Jesus to the kings of the East. The second manifestation commemorated at Epiphany was when Jesus was baptized by St. John and "the Holy Ghost descended upon Him in the form of a dove," while a voice from heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." The third manifestation celebrated by Catholics was the transforming of water into wine at the marriage feast of Cana.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID.



WHAT! YOU ARE GOING TO HIRE SOME BIG LAFFER TO CARRY THAT LITTLE TRUNK DOWN STAIRS? NOT MUCH! I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

He—As a sex you are full of pretence. Now, why do women always kiss each other?
 She—Oh, that's only to make you men jealous.

Getting Even.
 A little boy had been punished by his mother one day, and that night at bedtime he prayed thus:
 "Bless Papa, and Sister Lucy and Brother Frank and Uncle Fred and Aunt Mary, and make me a good boy. Amen."

Host's Youngest.
 "Don't your shoes feel very uncomfortable when you walk, Mrs. Nuryche?"
 Mrs. Nuryche: "Dear me, what an extraordinary question! Why do you ask, child?"
 Youngest: "Oh, only cos pa said the other day since you'd come into your money you'd got too big for your boots."

An Apology Due.
 A country weekly says:
 "We wish to apologize to Mrs. Orland Overlook. In our paper last week we had as a heading 'Mrs. Overlook's Big Feet.' The word we ought to have used is a French word pronounced the same way but spelled differently. It means a celebration and is considered a very tony word."

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Justice to Your Eyes
 The more delicate the work you expect of a piece of machinery the more attention you give the machine.

But of no machine do you require the amount of delicate work that you do of as your eyes.

Are you giving your eyes the attention they deserve?

If you are having the slightest trouble have us examine them.

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How it Started.
 "What started the argument?"
 "He said he believed in universal peace."
 Excerpt.

"Tommy, you ain't go fishing with Peter; he's just getting over the measles."
 "There won't be any danger, mother; I never catch anything when I'm fishing."

For Ocean Grayhounds.
 Malden—What's this "trough of the sea" we read about?
 Corney—Oh, I guess that is what the ocean grayhounds drink out of.

Both Behaving.
 Mrs. Wombat: "Mah husband ain't been arrested in twenty-five years."
 Mrs. Coomley: "Mine's up to 'fife, too."

His Dodge.
 First Jeweller—Aren't you afraid to leave those diamonds in a front window at night?
 Second Jeweller—Not with my scheme. Just before I go home I put in a little sign on them reading "Anything in this window 10 cents."

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 A delicious Beef-beverage ready when you want it—without trouble. The wonderful invention which stands for hand-pess—ease—quickness in the kitchen. Tins of 4, 10, 20 and 100 Cubes.

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 OTHER MAKES \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.50.
 Skate Attached Free.

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 91 Charlotte Street

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We trust that a continuance of the same patronage will make 1914 the best of all.

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