

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1913.

## CONDEMNED OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS.

Mr. Frank B. Carvell and Hon. William Pugsley have been found guilty of as deliberate inconsistency in the matter of the Closure. They have been seen in the House of Commons, they have been discovered as the most agile acrobats in the vaudeville Liberal troupe of performers. The Simon Pures of the Opposition are in reality the greatest sinners of them all, for Mr. Carvell, on the Closure in 1908, as a member of a party in power, is a different being to the present member of a party in the cold shades of opposition, and the same applies to Mr. Pugsley.

Here are the words of Mr. Carvell on the day of April 10th, 1913: "I was on the committee three years ago and up to that time nobody ever thought of Closure. We never discussed such an extraordinary and vicious principle."

But here is the way in which the same member dealt with the subject on June 5th, 1908, in the House of Commons, when applied to the Opposition of that day. Mr. Carvell said: "The action of these Hon. Gentlemen raises the question fair and square: Can the Government of this country, whether Liberal or Conservative, afford to be placed in such a position as that? Can any Government afford to place itself at the mercy of an Opposition and virtually declare that if the Opposition do not like anything contained in legislation that is introduced, all the Opposition has to do is to withhold Supply and the Government will back down? Carried out in practice you have a country ruled not by the majority but by the minority. I ask again, can any self-respecting Government afford to be placed in this position? I say there is only one solution to this question: If the Opposition or any other Opposition choose to pursue such a course, the inevitable consequence will be the Closure. I am not the first one to advocate the Closure."

But Mr. Carvell went further and proceeded to quote part of an editorial appearing in the Montreal Gazette of June 1st. The editorial read as follows: "It is not the use but the abuse of right of discussion that creates public weariness and leads people to upset the natural order of things and to think of the Government, which acts as of more importance than the Parliament that only talks. So, probably, the mass of the people without knowing much about the situation, would approve of a plan which promised to shorten the Session of Parliament by checking the flow of unreported talk. Closure began in the French Parliament. It was adopted by that of Great Britain. It exists in the Congress of the United States. These are in their way the three leading parliamentary bodies in the world. What they have agreed to accept may be expected to come in other popularly ruled countries."

That is the quotation and the Member for Carleton adds:

"To my mind that is the proper doctrine."

But he did not stop there. He proceeded:

"Therefore, I say that this is a matter which ought to be discussed thoroughly, and I believe that if the Opposition determine to persist in this unpatriotic, unworthy course the next move the Government will have to take, is to adopt the Closure. And I now say to the Government that, in my opinion, while I think that it is the only course they can pursue, it is one that will be sanctioned and approved by the people of this country. Let the Government start in at once to change the rules of this House, if it takes months to do it, in order to adopt the Closure."

As Mr. Arthur Meighen remarked in the House on Thursday night, "These are the words of the Member for Carleton, who thinks it is his Province was disgraced because a member from the Province of New Brunswick had something to do with the introduction of this resolution."

But what of the attitude of the other Simon Pures of the Liberal party, who was the first on Wednesday afternoon to try to obstruct and defeat the passage of Closure? What did Mr. Pugsley say on July 24th, 1911 in the House of Commons when he was Minister of Public Works? He said in terms very clear and unmistakable:

"The threats which Hon. Gentlemen have made this afternoon tend towards almost, if not quite, revolution among the theory which has hitherto prevailed. That theory has been that the Government would recognize not only their rights but their duty, and that is, that the will of the majority shall prevail. That is recognized throughout the country as governing all assemblies, all meetings in which people are concerned, and at any meeting attended by the people of this country, there has been fair and reasonable opportunity for the discussion of any question, the minority have always

ways recognized that the view of the majority shall prevail, so far as all events as that body is concerned; and so in this Parliament.

"I ask Hon. Gentlemen opposite whether after Hon. Gentlemen have had a full opportunity, as they have had during the time that this question has been under discussion, of expressing their views it is not tending to destroy free parliamentary institutions for Hon. Gentlemen to rise as they have risen today and threaten that this question shall not be allowed to come to a vote."

This statement of the Member for the City of St. John, made less than two years ago, is a clear indictment of the tactics of his own party during the past six weeks. Mr. Pugsley thought in 1911 that such tactics applied to his party upset the whole theory of British Parliamentary Institutions. He does not think so now in opposition. The lust of office has changed his mind.

But in the same speech some Conservative member interrupted: "What about 1896?" That was the occasion when the Liberal party obstructed, and Mr. Pugsley answered: "I do not care what took place in 1896. I was not here in 1896. I say it is not in harmony with the principles which ought to govern parliamentary institutions that gentlemen should rise in their places and threaten, simply because their views are not the views of the majority, that there shall be no opportunity to vote upon this question and no opportunity in a constitutional way of giving expression to the views of the majority of this House. That is revolutionary; it is not in harmony with the principles of constitutional government."

The people of New Brunswick contrast the present attitude of the two New Brunswickers with that of a very short time past. What will be their verdict? That the Opposition is denying its past and that the principles of true Liberalism are being sullied and stained by men who claim to be its representatives.

## CHINA'S FIRST PARLIAMENT.

It is of interest to note that the latest movement in the Republic of China towards becoming "Westernized" is the establishment of a Federal Parliament. In this decision China is following the example of Japan, but being a Republic, pushes the imitation a long step further by dispensing with the "hereditary executive." The ruling regime seems to be a military ascendancy tempered by political necessity. A parliament for China is a radical change in a very old nation, and is still on trial.

In an instructive article reviewing the situation in China, the Boston Transcript refers to the fact that a Federal Republic was long the purpose of a band of Chinese reformers, men of Western training. To reap the fruits of the revolution that overthrew the Manchu dynasty was the fixed purpose of the military element now dominant in administration.

"We shall know," comments the Transcript, "whether the Chinese law makers make laws or simply register decrees. The ultimate relations of the branches of the Chinese Government are yet to be worked out, but we need not give up to discouragement if the process is protracted. Centuries were required to bring the parliamentary system of Great Britain to maturity, and it would be gross flattery of the Chinese millions to attribute to them the same degree of political development the British masses had attained when their great National Council began."

Canada's trade with China is not yet very extensive. The imports last year were valued at \$567,947, and the exports at \$419,628. A unique opportunity to study the trade at close range will be afforded Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has accepted the invitation of the Chinese Government to visit the new Republic on his way home. Should the Chinese Parliament be in session Mr. Foster will doubtless avail himself of the privilege of watching the deliberations of the two Houses. They consist of 596 Representatives of the people, and 274 Senators; figures which indicate that the two legislative bodies of the Celestials are among the largest in the world.

## Quebec's Advice.

(Montreal Herald.) Two crowded train loads of immigrants arrived in Toronto. Only fifty of them stayed in Ontario, the rest going on at once to the West. It is about time that the East woke up and attracted some of these newly arrived citizens. There are countless opportunities for them on this side of the Great Lakes, and the depopulation of the Eastern Provinces has been allowed to go on too long.

## Humanity First.

(Christian Guardian.) The woman is more than the factory; the child is more than the factory.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

#### FIRST EARL OF DURHAM.

John George Lambton, first Earl of Durham, one of the most picturesque and striking figures in Canadian history, was born 121 years ago today. He had made a great reputation as statesman and diplomat when, in 1838, the helm of the Canadian ship of state was placed in his hands. His brief and brilliant career as governor was marked by the announcement of a policy which became the basis of the great Dominion of today.

Charged with having exceeded the powers conferred upon him by the special act of parliament under which he had been appointed, and his course disapproved by a vote of the House of Lords, the Earl returned home without waiting for his recall. He made an able defence of his plan of administration, which was practically justified by being adopted by his successors.

#### FIRST CANADIAN CARDINAL.

Archbishop Elzéar Alexandre Taché, the first Canadian cardinal, died in Quebec 15 years ago today. Born in Quebec in 1820 he entered the priesthood at 22, was consecrated archbishop of Quebec in 1871, and in 1886 was elected to the sacred college receiving the red hat as the reward of a long life devoted to educational progress.

### THE PASSING DAY.

#### A GREAT LIBRARIAN.

Many multi-millionaires contributed fortunes to the erection of the great public library in New York, which is claimed to be the finest institution of its kind in the world. Dr. John Shaw Billings, who died recently, contributed something more than money, and to a considerable extent the giant edifice that houses so many literary treasures is a monument to his memory.

Today is the anniversary of Dr. Billings' birth in Indiana in 1828. He was a physician, army surgeon, librarian of the United States Surgeon-General's office, statistician for the census bureau, and professor of hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania before his appointment as director of the New York Public Library in 1896. He worked hard and with effect toward making the library popular and a resort for people of all classes seeking information in any domain of knowledge.

"No matter who you are, or what your work or business is, we can help you," was the invitation extended by Dr. Billings to the people of the United States. Under his direction the library was housed in the largest and finest edifice of its kind in the world. Over two million people visited the giant building last year. The library and its branches has more than two million volumes.

Among the branches, the one most patronized, and which directed the largest number of books, was located in the heart of the east side, among a population of "ignorant foreigners." Another notable result of Dr. Billings' propaganda last year was the reduction in fiction reading, only forty-seven per cent. calling for books of that character.

#### BULL FIGHTING IN SPAIN.

The first bull fight in Spain was held in Madrid on this date in the year 1290, and was attended by a tremendous crowd, including leaders of church and state. The populace immediately gave their approval to the sport, and it has continued as the foremost and favorite pastime of Spaniards to this day.

### THE HUMAN PROCESSION

#### WHAT NEWSPAPERS PRINT.

What is news? It is synonymous with suffering. Dr. James J. Walsh, the eminent physician and authority on physiological psychology, who, although he is only 48 years old today, has won a reputation as a savant that extends to many lands. In the course of a recent series of lectures on "The Mystery of Suffering and Evil" the New York physician pointed out that if the newspapers were deprived of all items relating to matters involving human suffering, the front page would be bare.

The biggest news story in modern times, he declared, was the Titanic disaster, and this because it involved the most suffering and pain. The death of Capt. Scott and his companions, the Omaha tornado, the great floods, he gave as recent examples of the relation of suffering to news. Wars, earthquakes, loss of vessels at sea, great fires, and other disasters in which there is much human suffering under spectacular circumstances make the most interesting news, asserts the physician.

Sympathy for suffering is a desirable attribute, but Dr. Walsh holds that too many waste their store of pity on lachrymose fiction and weepy dramas. It is his theory that when sympathy is showered on fiction, on novel heroines, and stage heroes, the individual is likely to become callous and indifferent to real human suffering.

#### THE "FIVE AND TEN."

Frank W. Woolworth, who started a five and ten-cent store on a borrowed capital of \$300 and is now a multimillionaire, has turned 50 years today. The world's highest birthday will celebrate his sixty-first birthday on Sunday. The great merchant, whose chain of stores glides this continent and extends to England, was born at Redman, N.Y., April 13, 1852. The fifty-five story office building on Broadway, New York, which bears his name, was reared with the savings and dimes that pour into the more than 600 stores of the Woolworth system. The Woolworth residence in Fifth avenue is a veritable palace, also built with the lowly five and ten cent pieces.

The first Woolworth store was opened in Utica, N.Y., in 1878. It was the pioneer five cent store of America, and it was also a failure. Mr. Woolworth next tried his idea in Lancaster, Pa., where it struck the popular fancy. From time to time Mr. Woolworth opened new stores. Some of them failed and were closed. Others succeeded, and became units that daily added to the vast system.

Mr. Woolworth attributes much of his success to knowing when to quit. When a store didn't pay soon after its opening, it was closed. No stores are permitted in the Woolworth chain of stores. Every place has to pay or hang its head on the windows.

## OPHELIA'S SLATE



## IN LIGHTER VEIN

### Had His Number.

A Philadelphia lawyer and tonnage was describing some of his experiences in regard to custom. "I once entered a shop," he said, smiling, "and the salesman pointed out to me a dilapidated chair. 'That there chair, sir,' he said, impressively, 'belonged to Louis Croquet, King of France.' 'Why, there's no such person,' 'Oh, yes, there is, sir,' said the salesman, and he showed me a ticket marked 'Louis XI.' "—Liverpool Post.

### The Late One.

He said he'd call at seven. But we were forced to wait in worry and impatience till a quarter after eight. How excellent, how good to see a man of punctuality!

### Too Luminous.

Mary HAD a little lamb. Observe the tense, we pray. For with the prices that prevail it couldn't be today.

### Misunderstood.

Now you may take them off—held on! Stop these protruding ears. We don't mean what you think, no, no! Storm windows and storm doors.

### Comforting.

Dauber, "Podgers," art critic, has roasted my picture humorously. Friend, "Don't mind that fellow. He's no idea as a parrot what others say."

### The Call of the Bawl Yard.

What are the sounds I am hectic to hear. Clamor I've missed for full half a year. Noises subdued through a winter sans cheer. When missing were war club and mitt? The flap of the flag on the old flag-pole? The cry of the coacher, now caudic, now droil? The voice of the bleachers that comes from the soul. Pleading with Yeager to hit? Yes, that's it.

### Shine!

Ethel—What beautiful shoes your next partner is wearing. I should think they must be done with Cherry Blossom boot polish. Maud—Yes; isn't it a comfort he shines somewhere, even it is at the wrong end!—London Opinion.

### Most Intensive.

"Do you believe in intensive gardening, Mrs. Hoerak?" asked the visitor. "Well, rather," said Mrs. Hoerak. "I spent all last winter raising one geranium in a soap box."—Harper's Weekly.

### Indiscretion.

"The Parvenus are furious at that society reporter for saying there wasn't a jarring note in their last affair." "I suppose the poor wretch didn't know they made their money in preserves."—Town Topics.

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