

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1922.

## PROVINCIAL TAXATION.

As a result of the spendthrift proclivities, gross mismanagement and general lack of knowledge of how to conduct public affairs, on the part of the former Government, the Province is steeped so deeply in financial difficulties, it is said, that unless some new sources of revenue can be found, the most serious consequences are likely to ensue. Despite the fact that the revenue is now twice what it was in 1917 when the present Government took office, there have been deficits in each year of its administration amounting in the whole down to the end of the fiscal year October 1920 to over \$800,000. What the deficit for the year ending October last is has not yet been announced, but the members of the Government are well aware of it, and are probably not feeling any too cheerful about it. Still experience does not seem to teach them anything; the same reckless extravagance characterizes their conduct; and M. appearances are to be any guide as to their probable course of action, if they had ten times as great a revenue as they actually have, they would still spend every cent of it—and more.

The people of New Brunswick are now informed that more money must be forthcoming from somewhere or other to enable the expenditures to be met; and a despatch from the seat of government says that the choice of a new revenue raising scheme rests between the following: (1) Liquor sales; (2) Income tax; (3) Land tax. It will thus be seen that even with the "bonding revenues" that members of the Government are so fond of referring to as instances of the beneficent results of their administration, the people are face to face with direct taxation. Taking these three sources of revenue in their order, the one that should perhaps be most strongly recommended is a tax on liquor sales, and so let those who want liquor pay for the privilege of being able to get it. The more it costs them, the better for themselves and the revenue. The cause of temperance will be more effectively served by making it lawful for a man to procure liquor if he wants it, and is willing to pay a stiff price to get it, than by any so-called prohibitory laws—that don't prohibit.

As for the imposition of an income tax, any Provincial Government that falls back on this form of taxation should be summarily ejected from power. We already have to pay money to the Dominion Government; we also pay income tax to the local authorities in towns and cities; if we are called upon to pay yet another income tax to the Provincial authorities many people will have no income left for their own use. A land tax has fewer objectionable features than a third income tax because it would fall to a large extent on the farmers, who with very few exceptions, do not now pay income tax. This would even matters up somewhat, for nineteen-twentieths of the income tax is paid by dwellers in urban districts, while the farmers get off free.

But why should other sources of revenue be needed at all? If the Province was really getting what it was promised when the Foster party came into power—a business government, there would be no need for more revenue. The ordinary revenue at the present time, is, as we said before, more than twice the amount it was five years ago; and if Mr. Foster and his colleagues had practiced the economy that they preached, they would have kept their expenditures within their income, more particularly in view of the fact that the latter was so much increased. But the more money they get, the more they seem to want to spend. The history of the Liberal party shows that extravagance is that party's besetting sin. They call themselves the party of progress, but the only progress they appear to make is along the road to debt, and they refer to their Conservative opponents as reactionaries when they attempt to put the brakes on reckless expenditure.

Mr. Foster's only idea of economy seems to be to keep seats in the Legislature vacant as long as possible, so that the seasonal indemnities may be saved.

## "BUNK."

Among the interesting things which Dr. Basil Williams told the Canadian Club last night, when he addressed them on the life of Pitt, "the Great Commoner," first Earl of Chatham, was that Americans readily admit that as a rule they take very little interest in history, either that of their own country, or of any other; in fact Mr. Henry Ford says he considers the 19th century carried so far in

history pure "bunk." That is just about the sort of opinion one would expect a man of Mr. Ford's calibre to have, but it must come as more or less of a surprise to learn that a nation as admittedly intelligent as the American, should regard history as of so little interest and consequence.

There is no subject under the sun so fascinating nor of such compelling interest as history and the more an individual learns of it, the more he desires to learn, "bunk" indeed! Where can be found a more engrossing subject than a study of the lives of the great statesmen, soldiers and leaders of men, through whose efforts civilization has reached the pitch at which we now enjoy it? If some of our budding statesmen would take the trouble to read the lives of some of the English statesmen of the 18th and 19th centuries, men who did something to build up the British constitution, such as the two Pitts, Burke, Fox, Walpole, Harley, Peel and so on down to Gladstone, it would be to their advantage. No one can read the lives, speeches and correspondence of such men without learning to admire their style of oratory, their diction and choice of expressions, and their command of language as a whole. The same may be said of the classics, in fact it is said of Gladstone that he attributed his great gift of expression to his familiarity with Homer and other Greek poets. We may talk as we like of our boasted civilization and of the heights of learning to which we have attained in this 20th century, but the man who knows his Homer, his Virgil and his Cicero, along with other classical authors, will tell you that even after the lapse of centuries these men still stand unrivalled when it comes to showing ability to make proper use of language and displaying a real gift of expression.

No, history is not "bunk" and the man who said it was only betrayed a degree of ignorance that makes him most sincerely to be pitied.

## FADS AND MEDICAL SCIENCE.

A London dentist tells a journalist that he is overwhelmed by people sent to him by doctors to have their teeth out: "Young men and young women—it is all the same. It is like 'bleeding in the old days—a universal cure. Some of the most fashionable physicians will soon be sending people to get their teeth out to cure a sprained ankle. Of course there is something in it." Of course there is. There is always something in a new medical fashion, even if it is carried to extremes. No doubt there was something even in the older medical fashions, based on empiricism and now gone into the discard such as indiscriminate bleeding.

This leads the aforesaid journalist to conclude that it is largely a matter of perspective, for one gets the truth mainly by glimpses, and the newest glimpse is apt to be rather disappointing to steadiness of vision. One year the great secret may be seen to lie in the vermiform appendix or the tonsils; from foot arches attention may abruptly shift to the sacro-iliac nerve or the thyroid gland. At one time eye-strain may seem to account for most of the woes of civilized humankind, till the verminous or intestinal bacteria take their turn.

If the teeth are having their turn now, it is only a reversion to the simpler practice of ruder days when people did not expect to keep their teeth till old age, and toothache was summarily dealt with by the nearest barber. When dental surgery began to work its miracles it seemed for a while like a complete solution, but in medical science there are few complete solutions. Each new discovery is a forward step, but progress is not necessarily in a straight line. Fads come and go, but each before it goes contributes something to knowledge. In the particular case of this London dentist called upon to care lumberjacks by the extraction of teeth, medical opinion may and does differ widely as to the wisdom of carrying the theory so far without convincing evidence that the source of the trouble is to be found in the teeth, but even if enthusiasts push a specialty of this kind to extremes they are on the right track. Science is learning much of the devious routes by which infection may travel and of the prime necessity of discovering and eliminating septic conditions which may be the source of infection.

Thus as knowledge widens it becomes both more complex and more intricately interrelated. New diseases are discovered and named, but at the same time maladies which had been regarded as distinct are found to be varying manifestations of a common cause. The war on sepsis which the 19th century carried so far in

surgery the 20th century is pressing vigorously into the field of medicine. Whether the malady is rheumatism or neurasthenia, headache, or hiccups, the modern doctor begins by looking for the source of some poison that might cause the disease.

Particular fads may be carried to extremes, but this is not so much a matter of scientific knowledge as of personal judgment; the experienced and level-headed practitioner can find place for the new without losing his sense of proportion. And when a craze of this kind subsides it almost always falls into its proper place as a valuable contribution to orthodox science. That the discoveries to be made along the lines of investigation which have been opened in recent years will carry medical science far cannot be questioned. There was a time not so long ago when medicine seemed to lag behind surgery, but medicine is now having its turn and may claim some of the greatest scientific triumphs of our century.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Judas Advice.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)  
The Montreal Star is offering advice to the Conservative party. The Conservative party may be in need of advice; but after all that has happened, it is not likely to be in the proper frame of mind to accept the advice that comes from the Montreal Star.

Would Be Nice, But—

(Guelph Herald.)  
An agitation is in progress in Great Britain for the restoration of penny postage, which we would like to see in Canada. With financial conditions as they are, however, the day of the return of two-cent stamps appears to be distant.

There's An Election Yet.

(Brantford Expositor.)  
It is a rather curious coincidence that Hon. Howard Ferguson, the Conservative leader in Ontario, should represent Grenville in the Ontario legislature, while Hon. Arthur Meighen, the Conservative leader in the Dominion, should be seeking to represent the same constituency in the House of Commons. If Grenville is after leadership it is not likely to feel grateful at the manner in which its requirements are being met.

Explanation Needed.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)  
It now appears that the Merchants Bank was brought to the position in which it now finds itself by the discovery of an impairment of \$3,000,000 in the reserve. Somebody in a position of authority in the bank, it seems, assumed the responsibility of advancing this money in security which proved to be worthless, and this was done apparently without the knowledge of the directors. Indeed, the discovery was not made until it was too late to avert the consequences. There is need for some frank and satisfactory explanation of how this possible public confidence in bank management is not to suffer a serious shock. It is a matter of gratification that the results are not worse than they really are; but the known facts are serious enough to warrant a demand for some guarantee against a repetition of the cause.

## THE LAUGH LINE

Wrong Account.

Miss Watson—"Did Mr. Stark say to you as I entered the drawing-room last night, Clara, 'is that the beautiful Miss Watson?'"

Clara—"Yes, dear, with the accent on the 'that'."

Chinaman's Chance.  
"Judge," cried the prisoner in the dock, "have I got to be tried by a woman jury?"  
"Be quiet," whispered his counsel.  
"I won't be quiet! Judge I can't even fool my own wife, let alone 12 strange women. He's guilty!"

He's a Gentleman.  
The little girl travelling with her mother on a Bank street car, was suddenly heard to say to the man next to her, "Da Da." The mother said: "No, dear; that is not your daddy; that's a gentleman."

Nothing to Complain Of.  
Tom—"Do you have long hours in the new place you're working?"  
Jack—"No, the usual 60-minute kind."

## A BIT OF VERSE

ETIQUETTE.

The Gossips tell a story of the Sparrow and the Cat.  
The Feline thin and hungry and the Bird exceeding fat.  
With eager, tamished energy and claws of gripping steel,  
Pursued upon the Sparrow and prepared to make a meal.

The Sparrow never struggled when he found that he was caught.  
(It somewhat slow in action he was mighty quick in thought).  
But chirped in simple dignity that seemed to fit the case,  
"No Gentleman would ever eat before he'd washed his face!"

This hint about his Manners wounded Thomas like a knife.  
(For Cats are great observers of the Niceties of Life).  
He paused to lick his paws, which seemed the Proper Thing to do—  
And, chirping derisively, away the Sparrow flew!

In helpless, hopeless hunger at the Sparrow on the bough.  
Poor Thomas glowered longingly, and vowed a solemn Vow:  
"Henceforth I'll eat my dinner first, then wash myself!"—And that's the Universal Etiquette for Educated Cats.

—Arthur Gutterman.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.  
Weather. Positively better robbery worse.  
Spartan. Puds Simkins got a punching bag for Christmas but it makes so much noise in the house when he punches it that he says he's sorry he got it in the first place on account of any being allowed to use it when nobody objects to the noise, being never so far.

Sisistery. Among those who wish they had got more and different Christmas presents are Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Sid Hunt, Mr. Leroy Shooter and Mr. Ed. Wernick.  
POME BY SKINNY MARTIN.  
Patent the idea.

If your parents doubt you washed your face  
As good as you was able front and rear,  
And you want to prove you didn't skip a feature,  
Just leave a little soap inside one ear.

Household Hints. You can plug up a leak in a water pipe with chewing gum and thus prevent a flood, but not for long.

Business and Financial. Benny Potts and Puds Simkins have formed a new partnership, both being senior members of the firm known as the Potts Simkins Co. The kind of business will be announced later as it hasn't been decided yet.

Things You Awt to Know. According to aural count Miss Kitty alaps her desk with her ruler 3 times a minute, making 280 times a hour, 4320 times a day, 3040 times a week, 12,160 times a month or 145,920 times a year by aural measurement.

## IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

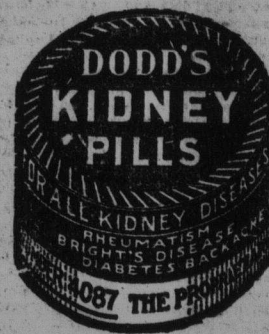
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

To the Editor of The Standard:  
Dear Sir:—While travelling on a train a few days ago I became interested in a conversation regarding the St. John Fire Department. It was said that the Commissioner of Public Safety was taking steps towards a permanent fire department for St. John. Then it was said that the city was pretty well in debt, and the word "Bond Issue" was becoming a common word in City Hall. I am sure the citizens will be adverse to any more debt, if it can be avoided.

The time for a permanent fire department in St. John is not ripe, or in other words, the city can't afford it at the present time. Perhaps there could be a few changes made in the department which would make it more efficient, but to think of getting clear of the "Call Men" and fill their places with men who perhaps would not be as efficient, would be a wrong move.

As far as I can learn there are only about one hundred call men in the whole city of St. John, and each one receives a salary of \$25, per year. They requested a slight increase some months ago and were refused. It is said, on the grounds that the city could not afford it. I have never been a fireman, but I have seen many departments in action, and I have failed to witness better fire fighters than there are at the present time in St. John, and, further more, those boys earn every cent they receive.

I think it would be a most unwise action to replace any of them and fill the places with others that would cost the city a great deal more money. I was in Halifax recently and had a chance to see the sister city's permanent department in action, and I want to say that the Halifax firemen are not doing the work allotted to him, and then it would be time to fill his place with a man who would be able to perform the work. The life of a fireman is not an easy one when it comes to fighting fire. They are at all times waiting for an alarm, and at nearly every fire they are taking their lives in their hands. The men in the St. John department are good fire fighters and should not be replaced by men who would not be any better. It is a sure fact that a fire department should be kept right up to the standard, but it would be worth while for the Mayor and Commissioners to give the matter serious thought before it burdens the citizens with a great additional



TRAVELLER

debt, by having a permanent department.  
Undoubtedly a few changes could be made to make the St. John department more efficient, but this does not mean doing away with the "call men." Thanking you for the space, and trusting that my remarks may bear some results.

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Catarrh sufferers, meaning those with colds, sore throat, bronchial trouble, etc., can all be fixed up right at home by inhaling "Catarrhone." In using Catarrhone you don't take medicine into the stomach—you just breathe a healing pliny vapor direct to the lungs and throat passages. The purest balsams and the greatest antiseptics are thus sent to every spot where catarrhal trouble exists—germs are killed, foul secretions are destroyed, nature is given a chance and the disease ends quickly. Colds and throat troubles can't last if the pure healing vapor of Catarrhone is breathed—sneezing and coughing cease at once, because irritation is removed, Bronchitis, irritation and weakness in the throat soon disappear. Use Catarrhone whether young or old. Two months' treatment \$1.00; small size 50c, dealers everywhere, or The Catarrhone Co., Montreal.



## CASTORIA

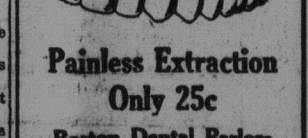
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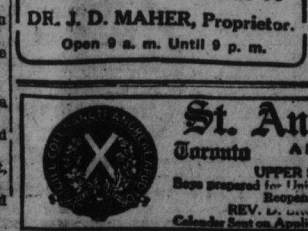
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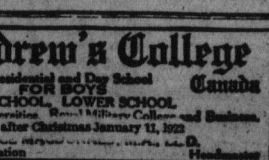


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