

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 8, 1910.

THE FIRST PANIC MONGERS.

When we read that Mr. Asquith and his colleagues are going about the kingdom protesting that there is no basis for the anti-German scare, and denouncing Mr. Balfour for treating the danger seriously, the wonder comes whether these ministers were serious last spring, or were only trying to justify their budget measure. It was Mr. Asquith who said, less than a year ago, that Germany had contradicted his calculations by laying down or ordering eight Dreadnoughts when he was counting on such number for Great Britain. It was Mr. Asquith who announced the discovery that Britain had no advantage over Germany in the speed with which she could build warships. This statement is now said to be incorrect, but Mr. Asquith said last spring that it was "a fatal and most serious fact." Mr. McKenna, the head of the Admiralty Department, also made the confession that the Government had not known the rate at which Germany was building Dreadnoughts. It was Sir Edward Grey, head of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who uttered this note of panic: "The whole problem of national defence from the naval point of view may be entering upon a stage more grave, more serious, requiring greater care, than anything we have yet known." When a secretary of state for foreign affairs intimates that the defence of the nation by sea is entering on a graver stage than it was at the time of the Spanish Armada, or the days of Van Tromp, or the period before the victories of Nelson, he and his colleagues need not go about looking for the author of the naval panic.

It may be said that in the earlier months of 1909, the Asquith Government had political reason for stirring up the country to a sense of danger, and that at present there are party reasons for ridiculing this concern and anxiety. There may be some truth in the explanation that the danger oratory was suitable for a time when a national defence conference was to be held and the delegates from over the sea were to be impressed with the gravity of the situation. Also the statement may be made that the same tone suited the Imperial Press Conference when the editors were to be sent home charged with a solemn sense of peril. But these explanations are hardly the ones that friends of ministers would like to give on their behalf.

MR. HOLT AND THE BRIDGE.

Mr. Holt insists that the Navy Island bridge can be built for \$750,000, including land damages. The Standard has no information to the contrary except its observation that the estimates of engineers on such projects are usually far too low, and that sometimes they are multiplied by two before the work is done. Neither the city nor the other possible partners in this enterprise will be likely to commit themselves to this project on the estimate of Mr. Holt.

The engineer seems to have more than a professional interest in the undertaking, as he proceeds to discuss the matter from the point of view of public policy. Here Mr. Holt produces some calculations so remarkable that they suggest a cautious examination of his other estimates. He says that if the bridge could be built at a cost to the city alone of anything less than \$685,000 it will be making money. The money which Mr. Holt expects the city to make, is the result of abolishing the ferry passenger service. This service involves a deficit of \$10,000 a year which would be saved. In addition 1,740,000 passengers pay one cent, each, making \$17,400 a year. This revenue Mr. Holt adds to the \$10,000, making \$27,400 a year, which will pay four per cent interest on \$685,000. Mr. Holt does not make it clear how this ferry revenue is to be made available for the bridge. The people who pay one cent, to be carried across the ferry will hardly like to pay this sum for the privilege of walking over the bridge by way of Navy Island. If they use the street cars they will themselves continue to pay their one cent per trip and three cents more, supposing they buy tickets. The only ferry money that is available is the \$10,000 paid out of taxes, and if the regular ferry service should be continued, this deficit would be increased by the amount of traffic diverted to the bridge.

No doubt the people of St. John can have this bridge if they care to pay for it. But it is not worth while trying to make them believe that they can get it for nothing.

THE P. E. ISLAND SENATORSHIP.

The Prince Edward Island senatorship has been refused by the only Conservative who is likely to be offered this prize for the sacrifice of his party. It will go to a Liberal. The suggestion that Mr. J. E. B. McCready, editor of the Charlottetown Guardian, is entitled to the nomination has been well received by the Liberal press. The Moncton Transcript says of Mr. McCready:—

"He possesses the political knowledge to make him a useful member of the Senate. His knowledge of public affairs, as well as of public men, is unquestioned. It is also beyond doubt that he has rendered great service to the Liberal party in the past. Politicians on both sides are very ready to generously use the brains and ability of their journalistic friends, but not so generous in the recognition of their useful allies. Mr. McCready himself belongs to the class of those who have spun, but never enjoyed any advantage from the fabric woven."

The Amherst Press says:—"The suggestion is an excellent one, and would meet with general commendation except from the disappointed office-seekers."

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND THE BRIDGE.

The Board of Trade meeting yesterday was one of the largest ever held by that organization. It was practically unanimous in the conclusion that there is not sufficient information concerning the Navy Island bridge to justify action on the part of the city. For the same reason it was not considered advisable to take a popular vote on the subject, for if the council had not sufficient knowledge to decide the people would be in the same position. This is the view which The Standard expected from the business men of the city. It is the only safe and prudent conclusion, and is consistent with progressive action when facts are established to justify it.

If Mr. Hazen had allowed himself and his government to be stampeded by the letters of Dr. Pugsley to Alderman Scully, promising a federal appropriation which was not made when the time came, and by the clamor of the Telegraph, he would have committed the provincial treasury to the enterprise, regardless of cost, and thus almost forced the city into the scheme. It is desirable that the city should take the first action if so great a share of the cost is to be borne by the municipality. If the people of St. John want the bridge at the estimated price, or at a price not yet ascertained, it is for them to say so, before any government, provincial or federal, undertakes to thrust the project and its bill of cost upon them. There is very little doubt that the majority of the aldermen are of the same mind as the majority in the Board of Trade.

STREET PAVING.

The matter of providing permanent paving for the city streets is admittedly beset with difficulty. If we were establishing a new town the establishment of a durable system would be simple. The underground works, including water, gas, telephone and electric light plant, would all be arranged at once and adjusted to the permanent scheme. But we have a city in which these services have been established at different times by different authorities and without much regard to the general result. Some of the pipes are stricken in years, and all seem to require periodical overhauling. A pavement which may be broken up at any point and at any time lacks one element of permanence no matter what name is given to it. Even the shorter lived pavements cheerfully to these excavations. It seems to be thought that the effort to bring the St. John street up to a higher standard should begin with a careful inquiry as to the prospect that the pavement will be dug up at short intervals. The possibility of making the underground works permanent must be taken up as part of the permanent street question.

A DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM.

Mr. Whitelaw Reid, United States ambassador to Great Britain, is supposed to be a prudent and discreet diplomatist. He has been minister to France, a candidate for the vice-presidency, librarian of the House of Representatives, war correspondent, and editor of the New York Tribune. He married the heir to a great fortune, and has himself developed superior business qualities. It is not yet settled whether he has broken his hitherto successful record by conduct which will be construed into an interference with an election campaign in the country to which he is accredited.

Mr. Reid wrote a letter to a Conservative candidate which the latter has circulated as campaign literature. This is exceedingly inconvenient even if the letter had been only a private communication not intended to be made public. But notwithstanding the inconvenience the writer of the letter may perhaps justify his own course even though he permitted the publication of the correspondence. It will be remembered that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in one of his late speeches declared that there were none unemployed in the United States other than in Great Britain, and more distressed in New York than in London. Some figures were given in support of this statement. This is a matter concerning the country which Mr. Reid represents. When the ambassador is asked about the question of employment in his country, should he answer the question? Should the fact that a British election is in progress, and a British minister had made reflections upon the financial and industrial position of the United States, prevent his answer to a fair inquiry concerning these matters? If it were not election time the representative of the United States would be in duty bound to correct any false and damaging statement reflecting on the business position of his own country. He is in London partly to advertise his country and sustain the credit of the nation to which he belongs.

In the present circumstances it would be more prudent for Mr. Reid to postpone the defence, but it might be hard to show that there is any diplomatic impropriety in his giving any information to an inquirer concerning the United States only. The fact that the information could be used in a campaign might be a reason for withholding it, but would it make the disclosure an offence? This is an interesting question which could be better discussed with the text of the correspondence available. There is no question that it would be unpleasant to have a minister of the crown in England, and the United States ambassador contradicting each other in a series of speeches and letters concerning the state of business and industry in the United States.

MR. PINCHOT.

A year ago Mr. Pinchot, Chief Forester of the United States, was one of the best praised men on this continent. He deserves all that has been said for him. A wealthy man who might have sat down and lived in luxury on his inherited income, or have added to it by entering upon a business career, he became interested in the preservation of the forests and other national resources. After years of study of forest preservation at home and in Europe, he threw himself into the movement which resulted in the establishment of the reservation commission to guard for the people the woods, the irrigation water supply, and the water powers. In this position he may have been over zealous. He has come into collision with his political chiefs and has been dismissed for insubordination. It was largely through Mr. Pinchot's influence that Canada established the commission for the preservation of national resources. His lecture before the Canadian Club at Ottawa caused much enthusiasm.

Mr. Fielding is gathering in revenue fast in these days. Nine months of the fiscal year are past, and the receipts from taxes average a million a month over the returns of the same period of 1908-9. Nevertheless the net debt of the Dominion at the end of the calendar year was thirty millions more than at the end of 1908.

One week from today 64 members of the next British Parliament will be elected. This poll will give a fair idea of the feeling in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool and other great centres of population in England. Of the London ridings about a score will poll the first day.

Mr. Lloyd-George boasts that the peers are walking through the Valley of Humiliation. This suggests a retort concerning the character of the enemy whom the Lords are supposed to fight in that historic ground.

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HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK
ST. STEPHEN

Continued from page 3.

St. Stephen, Jan. 7.—There was ideal weather for New Year's day in St. Stephen, although there was not enough snow to make the sleighing good. The curlers had one of their "roarin' games, and a goodly number of spectators were present.

The speedway was the centre of attraction in the afternoon and there were some lively "brushes." The Curling Rink was opened for skating in the evening with the Maple Leaf Band in attendance. There was a fine skating at Hartford's Open Air Rink and the Union Open Air Rink.

The tower schools reopened on Monday afternoon (two weeks' vacation). There is but one change in the teaching staff. Miss Amy Young, who had a leave of absence, has returned to the school which was in charge of Miss Gertrude Leachy last term. Miss Young had a pleasant visit in the West and returns to her duties much benefited by her trip.

Miss J. M. C. DeWolfe returned to Fairville Monday to resume her position on the teaching staff.

Mr. Harry Cochran is visiting in New York city.

Miss Arthuretta Branscombe has resumed her duties as matron at the hospital after a pleasant visit with relatives in Queens county.

Mr. Emory Gay returned to Boston Tuesday.

Messrs. Merle Maxwell, Willard Sampson and William Porter have gone to Boston to take a course at the Y. M. C. A. automobile school.

Miss Florence P. Chase of Baring was the guest of Mrs. Fred Budd last Friday.

Mrs. John C. Henry returned Tuesday from Presque Isle, Me.

Miss Mabel McLeod returned from Acadia (Friday). She was accompanied by her friend Miss Mabel Gardiner to Toronto to resume her studies at Toronto University.

Mr. Hugh M. McPride, representative of Ganong Bros. in Winnipeg, arrived on New Year's day to visit his parents Mr. and Mrs. McBride.

A large number of townpeople went out on the afternoon train to Moore's Mills last Wednesday to attend the Circle supper held at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Libbey.

An excellent supper was provided and all returned home well pleased with their outing.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson of St. John, who have been the guests of Rev. and Mrs. L. B. Gibson, returned to their home Monday, taking with them their little grand-daughter Jessie Gibson.

Mr. and Mrs. James Farthing and children, of Fredericton, are visiting relatives in town.

Miss Dot McKinnon has returned to Machias after a pleasant visit at her home in Milltown.

Mrs. J. A. Sears, of Calais, is recovering from an attack of pneumonia.

Miss Pauline Clarke was hostess at a delightful bridge party Saturday evening. The guests included: Miss Mildred Todd, Miss Marion Black, Miss Lois Grimmer, Miss Edith Stevens, Miss Hazel Grimmer, Miss Andrews, Messrs. Roy Lavin, Woodland, Mr. Austin Stevens, H. Thornhill and Jack Barker.

Miss Francis Chase of Bangor, is the guest of Miss Mary Whitney.

Miss Whitney gave an afternoon tea last Thursday in honor of her friend, Mr. Harold Murchie of the Harvard Law School is the guest of his parents, Hon. G. A. and Mrs. Murchie.

Mr. Earl Gardner, student at Bowdoin College, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Gardner, Calais.

Miss Jean Allen, of Denysville, is the guest of Miss Edith Stevens.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hazen Grimmer



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Recitation, A Note to Santa Claus; Reginald Murray.

Recitation, Christmas Bells; Frank Chappell.

Solo, Old Father Christmas; Jean MacDonald.

Recitation, "The Night Before Christmas"; Elizabeth Blair.

Recitation, "Santa's Perplexity"; Lilian Thompson.

Recitation, "Poor Papa"; Blair Weldon.

Duet, "Beautiful Star"; Jean Webster.

Recitation, "A Merry Christmas"; Tommy McQueen.

Recitation, "Christmas Tokens"; Lottie Weldon.

Recitation, "Sally's Dream"; Muriel McQueen.

Recitation, "Blessed Christmas"; Donald Cox.

Reading, "The Bird's Christmas Carol"; Miss Hazel Tail.

Chorus, "Heaven's Guiding Star"; God Save the King.

Benediction.

Miss Ida Schuman and her niece, Miss Kennedy of Sydney, who have been spending some time with Mrs. J. A. Murray, Sackville, St. left town at Xmas, for the home of Mr. J. A. Murray, Sackville, St. East.

The large circle of friends of Capt. J. C. Bray are pleased to see him out after his critical illness.

Messrs Robert Murray and Leon McLennan were among Shediac people in St. John during the holidays.

Miss Mary Weldon is in St. John for the holidays.

Miss Elsie Weldon is the guest of Sackville friends.

Miss Winnie Steven is home from Sussex. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Steven of St. John, were home for Xmas.

Mr. W. A. Russell was on a trip north during the holiday season.

The Shediac skating rink with the

Continued on page 5.

N. B. Southern Railway

On and after SUNDAY, Oct. 3, 1909, trains will run daily, Sunday excepted, as follows:—

Lv. St. John East Ferry 7.30 a. m.

Lv. West St. John 7.45 a. m.

Arr. St. Stephen 12.30 p. m.

Lv. St. Stephen 1.45 p. m.

Lv. St. Stephen 1.45 p. m.

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