

# The St. John Standard

VOL. X, NO. 290.

TEN PAGES

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 1919.

FAIR AND MILD

PRICE TWO CENTS.

## Leader of Opposition Made Slashing Attack On the Government, Causing Premier an Uncomfortable Hour

Hon. Mr. Murray Canvassed the Measures Foreshadowed by the Speech from the Throne, Showing That the Government in Its Proposed Progressive Legislation Had Simply Adopted Opposition Policies—Attacking the Public Works Dept., Speaker Reveals Discreditable Practices and Evasions.

Challenged the Immediate Production of the Potato Enquiry Report, Intimating That the Commissioner Had Not Written the Report Himself—Backs up His Accusations Against Public Works Department With Affidavits—Hon. Mr. Veniot Put on Defensive and Had Nothing to Say.

Fredericton, N. B., March 10.—Although just recovered from a serious illness, Mr. Murray, Leader of the Opposition, opened the debate in the Legislature this evening, with a fine speech. Full of pungent points, which frequently caused occupants of the Government bench to squirm in discomfort, taking the offensive from the start, Mr. Murray presented an array of uncomfortable facts to which the ministers were unable to reply. His speech was frequently punctuated by applause from the Opposition, and angry interjections from the Government benches. When he finished his speech, just after ten o'clock, Premier Foster, who was evidently somewhat discomposed by the trenchant onslaught made upon his administration, and unprepared to make a defence, arose and moved the adjournment of the debate until 3 o'clock tomorrow. Mr. Murray observed that he had no objections, as he realized his friend the Premier had need to consult his advisers. Mr. Murray declared that while the speech from the throne displayed literary finish, it showed no sign of constructive legislation, and that the only legislative measures it foreshadowed had been forced upon the Government by the Opposition. He also pointed out that in matters of administration the Government had made grave mistakes except when it had followed the procedure of its predecessors.

A feature of the speech was Mr. Murray's attack on the administration of the Public Works Department. He cited instances of ordinary road work being charged as permanent road work, and when Mr. Veniot denied the connections of some of his charges, he read an affidavit to which the minister of public works had no answer to make.

Referring to the Government's delay in bringing in reports of Royal Commissions, Mr. Murray said the House and Province had a right to these reports months ago, and that the Premier was withholding them in the hope of later making political capital. Speaking for himself, after eleven years of public service, he had nothing to fear, as he had never made one dollar from the public treasury. He wanted to know, too, if the commissioner in the potato enquiry had anything to report himself. Mr. Murray showed that after making a very unsatisfactory bond issue, the Government, by following the advice of the Opposition, had been able to make subsequent bond issues at par.

Hon. Mr. Murray  
The leader of the Opposition spoke in part as follows:

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) said that he regretted that he had not been present at the opening of the House when he could have moved the adjournment. However, he had read with considerable interest an account of the proceedings and while they did not reflect credit upon the government they showed, at least, that there had been the customary military display and the usual gathering of grace and beauty. He had not heard the addresses of the mover and second of the address, in reply to the speech from the throne, but from a perusal of their efforts, had gained the opinion that they were such subservient followers as the government needed to hold it in its position. It was a matter of pleasure to him that, during recess, no breaks in the house one event of the year which he felt he must make reference to, and that was the death of one of the country's foremost statesmen, a man whose life had shown that in Canada there were reared men large enough to leave their imprint, not only upon Canada, not only upon the Empire, but upon the whole world at large. He referred to the death of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. His death had been the outstanding feature of the year, and had been a distinct loss to Canada as a whole. He said that the dead statesman left a name which will go down in history as one which any Canadian might well try to equal.

An event of interest during the year had been the resignation of an official of the legislature. He meant the resignation of the Hon. William Currie from the speakership. Mr. Currie was a man who had held the office of speaker to the best of his ability. At the time of the appointment of his successor no recognition had been taken of the fact that he was an official of the House.

His successor was to be congratulated, and he believed, would fill the office acceptably. However, he must state that he regretted that the rule of promotion had not been followed, but an outsider had been brought in. The speech from the throne had been a good literary effort, but was not a production of the government which claimed to be better than any which had gone before. In that speech thanks were given to Almighty God that for four years he had filled his place in the House while the country devoted every effort to the prosecution of the war. The sons and daughters of New Brunswick had nobly done their part. Even to the shedding of their blood and a good many of their lives. But, in this connection, he must refer to the conduct of the Premier. Could the people be

Mr. Muresean: "I rise to a point of order. I did not use the words attributed to me."

Mr. Baxter: "That is not a point of order."

Mr. Murray (Kings): "Mr. Speaker rules that I have the floor, and that is not a point of order."

Mr. Murray (Kings), continuing, said: "God help the country which had no use for royalty, for such a King and such a Queen as we have, for such a Premier as Great Britain had, for such a Premier as Canada had."

There were the problems of reconstruction. Last session he had been asked to what the former government had done in regard to land settlement for returned soldiers. He had been sneered at by the Minister of Public Works, and by the Minister of Agriculture, yet he would say that had his government remained in power he would have been in the position to do something, which his friends opposite (Continued on page 2)



HON. J. A. MURRAY  
Leader of Opposition, Who Caused Premier Foster and his lieutenants an uncomfortable hour last night.

## MINISTER OF MILITIA DESCRIBES OBJECT AND REASON FOR THE SIBERIAN EXPEDITION

At Present Time There Are 4,434 Canadian Soldiers in Siberia—The Balance of the Force Still in Canada and Will Not be Sent Forward, But is Being Demobilized as Rapidly as Possible—List of Decorations Won by Canadians in the Field.

Ottawa, March 10.—The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was resumed in the House of Commons tonight by Hon. S. C. Mewburn, minister of militia, who described in detail the object and reason for the Siberian expedition. Regarding the continuance of the expedition, he said that the signing of the armistice, he said that when the armistice was signed, the question arose as to whether Canada should continue to send her men across. After some indecision, it was decided that in view of the undertaking of the Dominion and the importance of the work to be done, the force should continue to go forward.

At the present time there are 4,434 Canadian soldiers in Siberia. The balance of the force is still in Canada and will not be sent forward, as a matter of fact, it is being demobilized as rapidly as possible. The men who were in Siberia would, the minister stated, be brought home at an early date, only those remaining who were desired to do so.

Sir Sam Hughes asked whether any of the soldiers in the Siberian expedition were submitted to the cabinet or if it was dealt with by the overseas minister. Major General Mewburn replied that he understood a number of them were, but that none of them were forced to go to Siberia.

Regarding demobilization, he said there were two phases of demobilization, first, the return to the provision of pensions, vocational training and the system of demobilization. The original idea in returning the men to Canada was to give priority to long service men and married men. Then, on the representations of the corps, it was decided to return the men by units.

Colonel Peck asked if the plan of Sir Arthur Currie in regard to demobilization was submitted to the cabinet or if it was dealt with by the overseas minister. Major General Mewburn replied that he understood a number of them were, but that none of them were forced to go to Siberia.

When the armistice came into effect, there were overseas 275,238 troops. Up to the present there had been practically 100,000 brought over and demobilized and it was expected that all the men would be back by August.

The minister of militia then turned to the matter of war medals and presented to the House a list of decorations won by members of the Canadian force in the field. It was as follows:

Victoria Crosses, 61; Distinguished Service Order, 665; Military Cross, 2,312; Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1,453; Military Medal, 7,755. The question of giving a medal to all members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was, said General Mewburn, under consideration, but it had been thought advisable to wait until the return of the corps before deciding it. He recommended that the government should issue to mothers and wives of those who had lost sons or husbands in the war, a silver cross, which might be known as the Cross of Sacrifice.

P. R. Du Tremblay asked the minister the reason why a French Canadian brigade had not been formed. General Mewburn replied that he had taken this matter up when he visited England and France last summer, but it had not been found feasible to form such a brigade. He understood that there were not sufficient French Canadians available without disgrandizing the fighting troops. He had laid the matter before the overseas authorities, and had consulted with officers in France. It was deemed advisable not to form the brigade.

Colonel Peck, V.C., wanted to know whether anything was being done to preserve the graves of Canadian soldiers which had been trampled over by the German hordes in their advance and retreat. He said he had noticed graves with their crosses broken down and the identification marks on them almost effaced.

The Minister of Militia replied that he had no definite information with regard to this, but that a large force was at present engaged in such work and no doubt it was being attended to.

## MONCTON HAS WEDDING EVENT

Romance Begun in France Ends in the Nuptial Knot Being Tied in the Railroad Town.

Moncton, March 10.—A wedding of unusual interest took place at St. John's Presbyterian Church this evening at 6 o'clock. The ceremony was performed by the pastor, Rev. T. Porter Drummond, and the principals were Miss Allison Snodgrass, of Le-

## GOV'T WILL TAKE OVER THE ST. JOHN HARBOR

All Misunderstandings and Difficulties That May Have Existed Have Been Cleared Away.

Chartered Accountant To Appraise Property

Expected That the Accountant Will be Appointed at Once and Will Proceed to St. John to Prepare His Report.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 10.—As the result of conferences held in Montreal between Hon. F. B. Carvell and Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, any misunderstandings and difficulties that existed in connection with the nationalization of the port of St. John have been cleared away, and The Standard is in a position to announce that the government will take the harbor over and pay to the city the sums invested in port facilities. Mr. Ballantyne has suggested that a chartered accountant be engaged to appraise the harbor property and report upon the amount the city actually expended, including the bond indebtedness at present standing against the city. On this basis the harbor will be taken over.

The delay was due to a misunderstanding existing in the mind of Hon. Mr. Ballantyne, who, because of illness, was unable to attend the conferences recently held between representatives of the government and the city. It was his impression that the amount of the bonded indebtedness represented the sum total of the city's investment and the government original tender to cover that. Mr. Carvell explained that the amount of the indebtedness, in the vicinity of \$1,350,000, was included in the appraisal of the harbor property made by the city, which the city's estimate of \$2,500,000 was based. Understanding this, he suggested that an accountant be engaged to report upon the actual amount of the city's investment, and agreed that, if the report was reasonable, he would recommend that the property be taken over at that valuation. This was satisfactory to Mr. Carvell, who, today, wrote to Mayor Hayes appraising him of the situation. That letter should reach his mailbox tomorrow.

It is expected that the accountant will be appointed at once and will proceed to St. John to prepare his report. Upon that report's acceptance by the Government, the necessary agreements will be drawn up, and the plan submitted to the people of St. John for ratification by plebiscite.

The Minister of Marine has always been desirous of taking over the St. John harbor facilities, as his opinion of the merits of that port is very high. The only question was, as stated, a misunderstanding as to the sum of the city's investment. Now that this has been cleared up as the result of the conference with Hon. Mr. Carvell, nothing stands in the way of a speedy acquisition of the harbor and the realization of St. John's dream to become a national port under federal government control. Mr. Carvell returned from Montreal today at noon.

## TAFT PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED

Various Delegates to the Peace Conference Giving Close Study to Ex-President's Suggested Amendments to League of Nations Draft.

Paris, Mar. 10.—(By The Associated Press).—The amendments to the draft of the league of nations plan which have been proposed by William Howard Taft are receiving the close study of the various delegations to the peace conference. The understanding prevails that the suggestions made by Mr. Taft might be adopted if assurance could be had that the reopening of the whole subject would not be involved and that further amendments would not be offered by the other nations. It is generally admitted in well-informed circles, however, that some French and Italian proposals are to be expected.

The ground is being carefully canvassed, quietly, in an effort to secure further information on the points raised by Mr. Taft anticipatory to the arrival of President Wilson, who must render final judgment on any amendments to the draft.

Mr. Murphy also quoted from a cable despatch showing that the matter had been discussed in the British parliament, winning the Military Cross and French Cross de Guerre. Major and Mrs. Anderson left on a wedding trip to Upper Canada. They will later sail for England where they will reside.

## PARLIAMENT LEAPS INTO NEW LEASE OF LIFE WITH FIGHTING SPEECHES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday's Session Began With Minister of Finance Making Two Important Statements—All Restrictions on Canadian Imports to be Removed—No Further Aid to Grand Trunk Pacific—Sir Sam Hughes Given a Drubbing by Col. Cooper Who Characterized His Utterance as Childish and Senseless.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 10.—With ministers imparting important announcements and private members making fighting speeches parliament today leaped into a new lease of life. The session began with two important statements from the minister of finance, the first in regard to Great Britain's decision to remove all restrictions upon Canadian imports, and the second in respect to the taking over of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The first statement is of exceeding importance, it practically means that the British government has put into force a temporary policy of imperial preference, as the restrictions, embracing a lengthy list of manufactured articles, remain in force against foreign countries, including, of course, the United States. In other words, it means that Canadian manufacturers of certain articles are permitted to trade where their competitors, the United States, are barred, and this, needless to say, means a very great deal to Canada at the present time.

The finance minister's second statement—that in regard to the taking over of the Grand Trunk Pacific—was very brief and explicit. The minister simply read correspondence which passed between the government and the Grand Trunk directors, the trend of which disclosed the acting premier taking a very firm position against further aid to the road until negotiations, with a view to its absorption, had reached a more satisfactory stage, and the company delicately suggesting the need for another dip into the public treasury. The company, so far as the correspondence suggested, does not seem to have had any idea that mere failure on its part to continue operation would result in the government appointing a receiver. It apparently was aware that, unless it was in actual default in the matter of meeting its interest, no law existed whereby the govern-

ment could take over the road upon its failure to continue operation, and it counted altogether without the special powers vested in the government under the war measures act. As Sir Thomas White concluded the correspondence, and briefly announced the government's action, the Unionist side showed its appreciation by a volume of applause.

General Mewburn, who resumed the debate on the address, made a very fine impression and gave the house a lot of valuable military information. He defended the sending of troops to Siberia, basing his defence upon the military situation which existed at the time, and declared that the men would be brought home at the earliest possible date.

Colonel R. C. Cooper, South Vancouver, an Irishman who came to Canada shortly before the war and fought overseas with the Seventeenth Canadian Battalion, First Contingent, made his maiden speech and contributed a desolating criticism to Sir Sam Hughes' attacks upon Canadian war leadership in France. Col. Cooper made sarcastic reference to General Hughes' war record in South Africa, sneered at his rank as an honorary one, and said that his military knowledge should be equal to that of a sergeant, "although no sergeant would have made such a foolish statement as that made by General Hughes."

Developing his theme, Col. Cooper said that instead of Canada being a tragedy, as General Hughes had tried to make out, it was really an epic, worthy to rank with the retreat from Mons and the stand of the Canadians at Ypres. He resented the spectacle of "a man who did not fight" criticizing the British army, and said that the capture of Mons, instead of being a slaughter, for the glorification of Sir Arthur Currie had only resulted in 75 casualties, and was a fitting culmination for the great deed of the Canadian corps.

## TRAINS ON C. G. R. SNOWBOUND

Today's Maritime Cancelled on Account of Snowfall—Storm Worst of the Winter.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, N. B., March 10.—Latest reports from the snowbound sections of the C. G. R. in Quebec, where considerable interruption to traffic has occurred the past two days, say that the situation is now almost back to normal. Today's Ocean Limited, from Montreal, reaching Moncton between three and four hours late, but this morning's Maritime, cancelled on account of the storm, will not come through before tomorrow morning.

Trainmen report the storm the worst of this winter. Drifts ten and twelve feet high were quite common. The storm was felt more severely between Mont Joli and Lévis. In spite of the difficulty in combatting the snow only one of the troop trains leaving Halifax Sunday was stuck in the drifts.

## FIGHTING, MURDER AND PLUNDERING CONTINUE IN BERLIN

Berlin, Mar. 10.—(By The Associated Press).—Murders, fighting and plundering continued throughout Sunday in various parts of the city. There was much sniping from the roofs. Many Spartacists were made prisoner during the day.

## ALL RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM BRITISH EMPIRE RAISED

Canadian Trade Affairs Expected to Boom Under the New Order as Their Competitor, United States, Are Barred in the New Deal.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 10.—All restrictions on imports from all parts of the British Empire to Great Britain have been raised. This announcement was made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Sir Thomas White, Minister of Trade and Customs. In reply to a question by Hon. Charles Murphy, Mr. Murphy quoted a statement in a newspaper by Mr. F. P. Jones, of Montreal, that relations with Great Britain, where he had been acting in an advisory capacity to Sir Robert Borden, to the effect that import licenses discriminated against Canada.

Mr. Murphy also quoted from a cable despatch showing that the matter had been discussed in the British parliament, winning the Military Cross and French Cross de Guerre. Major and Mrs. Anderson left on a wedding trip to Upper Canada. They will later sail for England where they will reside.

He read two cables as follows:

"From Lloyd Harris, of the Canadian Trade Commission in London: 'In reply to questions in houses this afternoon parliament, secretary Board of Trade says, 'The government has decided no import restrictions shall be or continue to be imposed on goods coming from any part of the Empire without the assent of the Cabinet which shall not be given unless some unforeseen necessity arises. It is not possible at present to remove all restrictions on all imports from foreign countries because of the state of the exchange, but all raw materials will be free from import restrictions.'"

From the Canadian Trade Commission in London: 'Board of Trade announced yesterday removal of all restrictions on imports from British Empire.'"