

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1913.

THE NEW LEADER.

In selecting Mr. McKenzie King as leader of the Liberal party in Canada, the National Convention at Ottawa undoubtedly chose the best man available. Mr. King is young. The Conservative party for years suffered under the handicap of leaders incapable, through age, of the physical effort demanded for successful leadership, and the Liberal party, despite the great personal magnetism and the boundless energy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, also suffered because of his advanced years. The sentiment which prompts the selection of a young man is a realization of the actual physical effort demanded of one holding such a position, and is in line with the tendency of the day. This was one of the reasons leading to the defeat of Mr. Fielding in Thursday's balloting. Despite his long parliamentary experience and his undoubted capabilities, age told as it always must, and the veteran had to give place to a younger though less experienced man. The second reason which influenced the vote as between these two was the circumstance that Mr. Fielding had disagreed with his party on the question of conscription, whereas Mr. King adhered to the policies of Sir Wilfrid Laurier through thick and thin. Because of this Mr. King is regarded more favorably by those who place partisanship above the country's well-being. He has, it is said, the support of Quebec which Mr. Fielding does not enjoy, and the hope has been expressed that by Mr. King's policy of dangling a hook laden with promises before the eyes of organized labor he may succeed in securing a portion of that influence.

The vote was a very small one. Out of more than eighteen hundred delegates enrolled at the convention, a scant nine hundred participated in this election, which was advertised as the main feature of the gathering. And of that nine hundred only four hundred and seventy-six declared in favor of Mr. King on the final count—less than twenty-five per cent. of the entire representation in Ottawa. This does not necessarily indicate that the new leader will fail to enjoy the support of those who favored other candidates for his position. On the contrary the majority will undoubtedly realize that the interests of the Liberal party demand the fullest co-operation and that if anything is to be saved from the wreck it is imperative that all shall stand by their leader. Some years have elapsed since Mr. King occupied a place on the floor of parliament, and these years have doubtless brought added wisdom. In former days he was inclined to be somewhat flighty, to go off at a tangent and to advocate measures as illogical in theory but useless in application. Since 1911 he has possibly accumulated a larger measure of practical common sense and should, despite the lack of experience of which his complaints prove worthy of the respect of both political parties.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

The future policy of the Patriotic Fund Committee, so clearly outlined by Sir Henry Ames, is one which must commend itself to every person in Canada. Few patriotic undertakings have been administered so conscientiously as had this work in the interests of soldiers' families. From one end of the country to the other, officials employed by the Committee and unpaid members of local organizations have, for five years, performed their duties in a thoroughly impartial manner while at the same time yielding to the demands of sympathy and of consideration for others in so far as they legitimately could. A very large amount of money has been collected, some of it through voluntary contributions and the remainder by assessment. It has been expended fairly, yet generously, so that no one with any real claim on this fund has had reason to complain of the treatment received. And the cost of administration, averaging all the numerous branches throughout Canada, and in consideration of the immense amount of detail involved, has been surprisingly low, so low indeed that one wonders how a record like this was attained. The collection and disbursement of the Canadian Patriotic Fund is an achievement which may well be regarded as one of Canada's greatest successes in the war.

A balance remains on hand, more money than will be required for the payment of the ordinary allowances to the families of men still in service. Very properly the Committee has decided that this balance shall not be returned to those who contributed—no one wants this money back—but shall remain at the disposal of the local organizations to be used for the benefit of soldiers' families who, during the continued existence of this fund, may find themselves in need. It has been possible in all these five years to exclude the idea of charity from the application of this trust. Canada assumed the obligation of looking after the families of men who went overseas, and this money raised

for that specific purpose has been paid to wives, children and other dependents, not as a gift from the people, but as their right. The same condition will prevail during the next few years, or for whatever time the unexpended balance may continue. Individual cases requiring relief will be dealt with as they arise, by the local organizations, not as charitable committees, but as men and women carrying out a trust imposed upon them in the interests of those who have given their services to the country. Canada, and every community in it, owes a deep debt of gratitude to the men and women who have so faithfully endeavored and who have so well succeeded in applying this Patriotic Fund for the purpose for which it was intended.

TO CLOSE OR NOT TO CLOSE.

Although official notification has not yet been received as to the length of time the Prince of Wales will remain in St. John, unofficial advice is to the effect that he may remain here at least until noon on Saturday. Preliminary plans made by civic, provincial and federal authorities were based on the assumption that His Highness would land in this city early in the forenoon on Friday and sail about seven o'clock that same evening. In view of that arrangement it was felt necessary to crowd into those few daylight hours everything that could possibly be arranged, but now with the Prince as our guest for an extended period—which may eventually mean Saturday afternoon—the earlier programme is subject to readjustment. Many suggestions have been offered as to what might be arranged in this time, but quite naturally those concerned are more or less in the dark. It is possible that the Prince of Wales himself may desire to do some entertaining on board ship, and until definite information along this line, and also with respect to his plans for Friday night and Saturday forenoon, is received, it is difficult for our committees to proceed with final arrangements. Naturally this involves the question of public holidays. Already it has been agreed that Thursday—Soldiers' Day—shall be a full holiday and that business houses will remain closed during the forenoon of Friday because of the reception to the Prince. The situation now arising through the possibility of the Royal visit being extended until Saturday is a perplexing one. The statement made by representative merchants that soldiers and others coming to St. John at this time are naturally planning to do a certain amount of shopping, is an entirely correct assumption, and by closing all stores for the full days of Thursday and Friday we will be depriving these visitors of the opportunity which they anticipate as well as preventing our local retailers, who are spending money to make this gathering a success, from profiting by the business thus available. No one wishes to convey the impression that St. John is seeking its own interests, but surely it is reasonable to re-open business establishments when the Prince leaves the city for the garden party at Rochesay, when visitors and others have seen and done everything there is to see and do for a day and a half, and when they will be desirous of getting through with the business affairs included in their individual programmes for this visit.

TO CLEAR THE AIR.

Sir Robert Borden will be in St. John during the latter part of next week and it is announced that the Prime Minister will, if his engagements permit, be pleased to address the members of the Canadian Club. There is one subject upon which these citizens and all others who are permitted only to hear Sir Robert. Harbor commission is a live issue today and this city is awaiting with deep interest some pronouncement by recognized authority touching the intentions of the government with respect to this port. Upon the policy to be pursued depends almost wholly the attitude of our people toward the proposal now under consideration. If, under government administration, this port can be assured of development in accordance with its requirements, and of such a nature as our importance justifies, then without exception will our ratepayers be pleased to accept from the federal government a fair price for this property. On the other hand if we are to remain without assurance of such development and are permitted only the realization that Ottawa does not care whether the deal goes through or not, very general opposition to the measure will be encountered. Sir Robert has on several occasions in the past outlined the policy of his government with respect to Canadian ports and has specifically mentioned St. John as one of the harbors to be accorded generous development. National conditions have changed since those statements were made and in the past few years the government has not felt itself able to proceed with the policies described by the Premier. Perhaps today circumstances are more favorable than they have been and it may be that the government is now

prepared to undertake new construction at this port. In any event a pronouncement by the Premier, if he feels disposed to speak on this subject, will help to clear the air.

WHAT THEY SAY

Woman's Day Has Arrived.

Springfield Republican—The unknown election of Mrs. Josephine Corlies Preston, Washington State, superintendent of public instruction, as president of the national education association, indicates that sex rivalry is not a serious matter in the ranks of American school teachers.

Touring About Home.

Philadelphia Public Ledger—It has been the experience of many whom occupation or inclination has restrained from travel to discover the charms of their own vicinity and the advantages of their own home as a summer resort.

In any direction you please, a few cents spent on a railway ticket will take you to vistas of country and woodland that need not apologize to scenery of Europe. If distance lends enchantment, it does not detract from the lure of glade and green and waterbrook to be as near as the Wisconsin. None ventures to disparage rural beauty who is familiar with it; for this familiarity must breed not contempt, but ever waxing admiration.

It is by means a misfortune to have to stay home in summer when one has in a short radius so many of the advantages that others travel hither over long distances to seek.

A Bad Start.

New York Tribune—Reports from the country indicate an increasing tendency to disregard the existing wartime prohibition law. The act is faulty permitting many sorts of evasive sales; there is no special machinery for enforcement; the court ruling with respect to 2.75 per cent. beverages is complicated. National prohibition has been given a bad start. If the new dispensation is to have a fair chance, its application might well have been deferred until there was preparedness for the habit of illegal selling is established it will be difficult to eradicate it.

Not Chatterbox Now.

Quebec Mercury—There's no need to worry over a conspiracy to deliver any political party over to another nowadays. The citizens who make up these parties are not nearly so tractable as they used to be in the hazy past. Individuals have a way of forming their own opinions that is disconcerting to the old-time party stalwarts.

If We Have to Go to Mexico.

Indianapolis News—If we are to give Mexico any military attention—and there are daily increasing evidences that this will be necessary—we shall require a much larger army than is provided for by the appropriations for this fiscal year. Before advancing oratory further toward Mexico it would be wise for the representatives to consider how such a military advance as suggested could be made. The army is being cut to little more than a skeleton, and there is no militia to speak of; nor is it certain what will result from the present programme of militia reorganization.

Must be "Made in America."

Textile World Journal—The American Chemical Society announces in its bulletin that chemists and educators have launched a movement insisting that every piece of chemical apparatus and all scientific supplies for educational purposes should be purchased in the United States. It is declared that the war has demonstrated the lack of the old theory of the supremacy of the German-made goods for these purposes, and the use of this equipment in the educational institutions tends to establish the belief among the embryo chemists in the necessity of using these imported lines. The

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

GRAMMER.

You can tell how good a grammarian a person has had by how much grammar they speak when they talk. If you was walking in back of a man and heard him say, "Them there people ain't got nothing, instead of, 'Those people ain't got anything, you would know like a wa yhe didn't hardly have any education, or else if he did he mite as well not of."

It is easier to talk good grammar than wai it is to rite it, on account of wai you talk if you leave out all the punctuation marks. For instance, if you meet somebody you know on the street you dont say, "Well comma well comma look who's heer period." Y jest say, "Well, well, look who's heer, and leave him imagine the punctuation marks of he wants to which he generally does."

Wai you come to a period at the end of a sentence, that's at the fether you can go in that sentence. Even the longest sentences never have more than one period.

A comma is a period with a tail on it and you can put all the commas in a sentence you want to, according to taist. It is dangerous to stop too long wen you come to comma on account of somebody mite think you have come to a period and interrupt you.

A question mark means that somebody has jest asked a question but there is no special mark to tell wai the answer is. This proves that many questions can be asked wai cant be answered.

ABE MARTIN



A BIT OF VERSE

PRODUCTION.

(London Morning Post.)

Physician, Heal Thyself.

"Reduce the price of living or re-

sign!"

This ultimatum, stern, abrupt, con-

dign,

To Ministers and Princes, impressive-

ly earnest

The Labor Party's thorough-going

line.

But wages Labor forces higher still,

And they're the biggest item in the

bill.

Who looks for prices falling, while

Costs grow more and more, and

Believes in making water run up-

hill.

Yet this ultimatum's only misad-

dressed,

On its authors the injunction should

be pressed.

More work, less agitation—that's the

highway to salvation.

Press that button, and Production does

the rest.

A BIT OF FUN

Medicinal Diet.

In a certain hospital the patients

were very badly fed and looked for-

ward to an inspection, when they could

lodge a complaint.

When, one day, the inspecting of-

ficer came round, one Tommy was

determined not to miss this opportunity.

"What's your complaint?" asked the

officer.

"Trench fever."

"Oh! And what is the diet?" con-

tinued the officer solicitously.

"Two sucks at the thermometer

daily!" was the answer.

His Turn.

The chemist danced and chorled

till the bottles danced on the shelves.

"What's up?" asked his assistant.

"Have you been taking something?"

"No. But do you remember when

our water pipes were frozen last win-

ter?"

"Yes but what—"

"Well, the plumber who fixed them

has just come in to have a prescrip-

tion made up."

A Bad Guess.

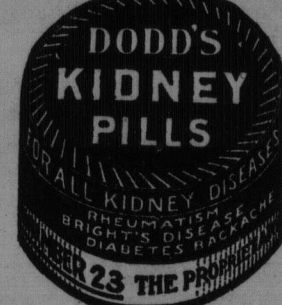
The dear old lady who ought to have

been a novelist saw a fair young girl

sitting on the quay in an attitude of

utter dejection.

"Ah!" she muttered. "I scent a tra-



gody! Such beauty! Such sadness! It breaks my heart!"

She crossed to the bowed figure, and, touching the moaning girl on the shoulder, she murmured:

"Crossed in love, child?"

"No," replied the girl, rocking herself to and fro. "Crossed in the Rock about—and what a passage. Oh, dear, oh, dear!"

Mother Goose Up-to-Date.

Bar, han, landlord, have you any

fats?

Yes, sir, yes sir, for platocatz

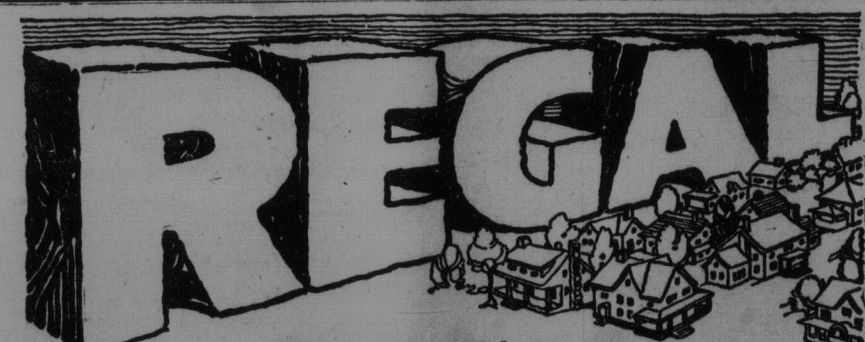
One 'er fat has three rooms, and one

that has four.

And the rental is twenty-seven hun-

dred or more.

—New York Tribune.



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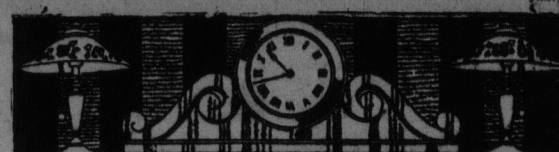
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